

Board of Trustees
May 10, 2002
Graduate Student Organization

The Graduate Student Organization (GSO) has operated the Inn Complete, a graduate student restaurant/club since the 1970s. We were originally located in Goldstein and later the Inn Complete moved to the Ski Lodge. I was told the GSO was originally charged rent on the Ski Lodge to cover the approximately \$100,000 renovation fee for the Ski Lodge. Nevertheless, the GSO continued to pay the University rent for the Ski Lodge even after the renovation fee was paid in full. The Inn Complete has been and continues to be important to graduate students. The Inn Complete serves graduate students by providing more affordable food and beverage prices to its clientele as well as offering very affordable room rental fees for graduate student organizations/departments who wish to hold events at the Inn Complete.

As of July 2001, the new Dean of Student Affairs took over as the advisor of the GSO as well as the position as acting supervisor to the Inn Complete manager. Apparently at this time the new Dean of Student Affairs was aware that she did not want to be in the restaurant business and had no intention of hiring a new Director of Student Activities, who had the ability to supervise the Inn Complete Manager. However, the Inn Complete Board and GSO Executive Board was not informed of this until late spring 2002. Although apparently conversations were held across campus with auxiliary services, campus catering and others prior to the time the GSO heard the new Dean of Student Affairs felt this way (without the GSO being invited or included in these discussions). I believe the GSO would have appreciated being apart of these discussions.

This past academic year the GSO had invested in a liquor license, credit card machine and equipment for the Inn Complete. We might not have chose to make those investments if we knew the University planned to take over the Inn Complete as of July 1, 2002. The GSO normally signs a yearly renewable contract with the University and in this contract it does state either party only has to give thirty days notice if they wish to terminate the contract. Nevertheless, I believe the University should have given the GSO the courtesy of dealing with us in a forthright manner. As soon as the University knew they wanted to take over the Inn Complete they should have made the GSO aware of that fact.

The University still wants the GSO to subsidize the Inn Complete; however, the GSO would have no authority to make decisions involving the operation of the Inn Complete. It is my understanding that a small number of graduate students would act in an advisory capacity along with an undisclosed number of other people on campus, who I assume would be administrators and staff. The amount of the subsidy the GSO would be required to make would depend on what services the GSO still wanted to offer to graduate students. For example, if we wanted to keep room rental of the Inn Complete at \$80 (which is significantly cheaper than renting most rooms on campus) auxiliary

services would come up with a cost for that and the GSO would have to pay that amount to keep that service.

The University has also informed us that they are unsure what would happen to the Inn Complete if the GSO chose not to subsidy it. In fact they suggested they might just close it down instead. This concerns me since the Inn Complete currently has a manager the GSO hired, who has been there two years. The manager has three kids and a wife to support so I absolutely have issues on how late this information was passed on to the GSO. Although some of us on the Executive Board do not like this new proposal we hesitate in making any decisions because people's lives are involved.

It is my understanding that the University is taking over because the building needs over \$150,000 in renovation and since the GSO can not pay these costs the University will have to. Therefore, the University will no longer let us run the Inn Complete operation. I thought the rent the GSO paid to the University was to cover this very thing. The Ski Lodge is not the GSO's building so why is handicap access, repairing the floor in the basement (which has been a problem, since I have been here) only the GSO's responsibility. Graduate students pay an activity fee each semester and part of those monies goes to paying for Student Activities' employees as well as the rent for the Ski Lodge. It doesn't seem like graduate students get any breaks. There is a fee for everything and no matter how much tuition is or the Ski Lodge rent there is always another fee that graduate students must bear the burden for. Even now when the University wants to take over the Inn Complete they still expect us to bear the burden of subsidizing this endeavor, though in the new proposal the GSO has no control in the operation of the Inn Complete.

I would like to reiterate that I personally am not happy (as well as others on the GSO Executive Board) about how long it took for the GSO to hear about this new development. It was not until recently that the GSO was even included in this discussion. Furthermore, the GSO Executive Board was informed that the decision to take over the Inn Complete had already been made before we even met with everyone, so all the GSO needed to decide was if we were going to continue to subsidy the Inn Complete.