

## The Graduate School- Activity Fee History

The Graduate School implemented a new, mandatory activity fee of \$60 per quarter (\$240 for 4 quarters) that began winter quarter 2007 to support new services for full-time students of The Graduate School. The services that became available January 3, 2007 include:

- **U-Pass** (a special fare card to be used on all Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) transportation for all full-time "resident" students in The Graduate School)
- **Legal services** from an attorney to assist with issues such as landlord issues, credit and debt problems, traffic violations
- **Community building activities** and professional development opportunities that will include events such as the "**TGS Night Out**"

Final approval for the fee and attendant services was received late fall quarter 2006 from the Provost, the Office of General Counsel, and CTA. The specific services covered by the activity fee were discussed in detail with the Graduate Leadership Council (GLC), who enthusiastically endorsed the fee and the services it provides at the Board of Trustee Student Affairs Committee Meeting December 1, 2006. To be clear, \$56 of the \$60 activity fee funds the U-Pass. The GLC surveys of students the last two years demonstrated that the majority of students would favor, and would pay for, access to the U-Pass as well as legal services. See 2006 GLC report for more details <http://gradconnections.northwestern.edu/images/GLC2006Final.pdf>. A benchmarking study was done which showed that many of Northwestern's peer institutions, such as Brown, Dartmouth, Duke, Cornell, University of Chicago and MIT also have activity fees charged to their graduate students for the purpose of providing additional services such as those mentioned here.