

GSA Agenda

1. Community Discussion

Should counselors be here again specifically for TAs? In terms of debriefing, the counselors would be happy to be available but It would be best to maximize use of their time.

Paul – Talked to some people who went to the TA session and they wanted to know what to do in this type of situation.

Dean Zatz – That addresses how to prepare people, which isn't something we have to do this week. This week is more aimed at helping TAs be the interface between undergrads and faculty, as well as of course helping the TAs themselves.

Lauren – Possible to upload these as PDFs to email out?

Charles – Yes, and one was emailed out front and back, but we can definitely get the other documents as well. Most of these are already online at the student affairs webpage.

Paul – People I talked to said that the violence raised concerns about what if something more severe happens, wanting a plan in place. (Particular concerns about first-floor areas in SSB, for instance, with nothing but windows.)

Dean – We'll talk about that, we just want to deal with the most immediate things first.

Violet Barton – Graduate student crisis response – doesn't mean going into a building and disarming someone, but working closely with fellow students and mobilizing people.

Charles – That's a great idea

Violet – Fire trainings, for instance, dropped death and injury rates to zero in schools.

Dean – One of the students in the classroom who had had training in his high school was able to call on that training and be so helpful

Charles – There's a lot of press on what happened outside of the classroom but none on what happened inside, which is just because the students don't want it. This young man responded to the training he'd received. I've got the name of the training program that he went through and he's also really interested in helping promote that type of training.

Violet – Maybe look into the idea that we have many different types of labs with dangerous chemicals that high schools may not have.

Paul – I have a point I was interested in talking about which is the earlier death of a graduate student. I wonder if there's anything more we can do in terms of helping people form connections and social support their first year, first semester that they get here.

Jason – It's within the scope of our position

Paul – When I got here a lot of the things JSS did helped me meet people, and we were smaller, and now that we're so big maybe it's working less well?

Maryam – For international students it's even worse. If they don't know someone here, it's even harder for them.

Violet – Need to have a space is really central for gathering people; if there is no central space, people feel disconnected.

Jason – JSS will assume some of the responsibilities for graduate student clubs, so there is going to be some restructuring and formal avenues for graduate student clubs to form and possibly receive money. We as GSA still need to talk about our role in the formation of clubs. Second to that is the formation for spaces to engage in club activities, but that is a question for every day.

Dean – So those can be associated with the different grad groups or whatever makes sense.

Maryam – Do we have a building for clubs in the 2020 plan?

Paul – Everything is mixed-use

Maryam – I just remember from my undergrad there was a building for all clubs with different rooms for each club.

Charles – There is space dedicated in the 2020 plan for that purpose. We just don't know whether it will be one building or kind of storefront space. But they know the need for that space and the amount of space necessary.

Violet – Any consideration for a safe space sooner than 2020 in light of last week?

Paul – Safe space for whom?

Violet – For students

Dean – What do you mean?

Charles – Absolutely, but we do need to consider how much a multicultural center could help here, so we're working on that

Dean – Safe space for one grad student can be very different from safe space for another grad student. I'm not sure what in different contexts would be the best safe space. I also think we need to not second-guess things that have happened.

Phil – Right now that's the main question that we are asking – how do we want this space to be shaped? Advocacy? Research? Social? All of the above? I don't want to just say it will be for advocacy, I want to respect the opinions of students.

Soheil – If clubs have a space, I think that brings people together, because in practice what happens people will use their space for eating, for doing homework, and so on, so I think that should at least be a part of it.

CM – I know there's a focus on clubs, but not everyone is a part of a club, so maybe this multicultural center could not only focus on clubs.

Charles – Since next week the campus is closed, and it's the one-week anniversary, I put together this long list of activities that will be held on campus and they're open to graduate students as well.

Maryam – I don't think the therapy dogs do as much for international or Eastern students as they do for Western students – just wanted to make sure I mention that as the international representatives.

Dean – Do you have suggestions?

Maryam – Yoga, or any social event, or even counseling. Many graduate students, most international, mentioned how much stress they are under during the crisis and that it's not really far to think that someone would get to the point of wanting to do something scary.

Paul – It would be cool to do something for first-year students in general, since they're maybe who needs the most attention.

Paul – motion to approve Daniel as the special advisor on issues of climate diversity and equity

Lauren – second

Unanimous vote in favor.

Motion to vote on SAGE – Katie

Second – Paul

Four in favor, two abstaining. Resolution carries. We are approving and supporting the SAGE proposal.

2. Time permitting:

- a. Unfinished business
- b. UCSA SAGE resolution
- c. Special advisor appointment
- d. Officer updates
- e. MC Center