



GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD
MERCED, CA 95343

September 13, 2013

Graduate Student Association Meeting Minutes

Date: September 13th, 2013

Call to Order: 10:00AM

Location: KL232

In Attendance:

Henry Pai, *President*

Eddie Gibb, *Academic Affairs Officer*

~~Jason Davis, *External Vice President*~~

Janelle Szary, *Internal Vice President*

Aaron Cowles, *Public Relations-Community Outreach Officer*

Brandon Stark, *Secretary*

~~Alisa Keyser, *Interim Treasurer*~~

Kristynn Sullivan, *Ex Officio*

Rachael Martin, *Staff Liaison*

Previous Meeting Minutes Approved via Email

Old Business:

1. Final Updates:

- a. National Day of Service
 - i. Seven people attended
 - ii. Six trees planted
 - iii. Everything went smoothly
- b. Committee Rally
 - i. Well attended (80+ people)
 - ii. Last minute change to 'Free Desert and Iced Coffee Social'
- c. Principles of Community
 - i. Previous Discussion:
 1. In Dropbox emailed from Jane Lawrence on Aug. 10th
(representing Committee on Campus Climate and the Chancellor)

- 2. No strong feelings
 - ii. Jane Lawrence asked for response ahead of schedule
 - 1. Henry replied with last consensus of 'No strong feelings'
- d. Meeting Schedule
 - i. 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM every other Friday works best for everyone
- e. Interim Treasurer
 - i. Previous Treasurer, Alisa Keyser offered to fill in

2. Ongoing Action Items (Discussed in Meeting)

- a. Committee Orientation
 - i. Old Discussion:
 - 1. Possible date (Sept 12th or 19th)
 - 2. Last year had light snacks
 - 3. Suggestion: Bring Jane Lawrence to speak
 - 4. Contact Rachael and Jen for assistance
 - 5. Suggestion: Bring a panel of previous committee members to discuss their experience.
 - ii. New Discussion:
 - 1. New date: First weeks of October, 3-5pm
 - 2. Vision of the Committee Training
 - a. Introductory Keynote – GSA
 - b. What does it mean to serve? – Charles/Jane
 - c. Explain the GSA Process – GSA
 - d. Student Panel of past committee members
 - i. Share perspective
 - ii. Q&A
 - 3. What do we want from Jane/Charles
 - a. Explain what it means to serve
 - b. Difference between individual vs. group voice
 - c. Ethical guidelines
 - d. Communication practices and guidelines
 - 4. GSA Process
 - a. Importance of returning emails
 - b. Getting information to/from GSA
 - iii. Action
 - 1. Rachael to contact Charles
- b. Welcoming Committee Idea
 - i. Old Discussion
 - 1. Proposal to help incoming graduate students acclimate with Merced
 - 2. Include helping move-in

3. Friendly Committee
 4. Proposal: Make volunteers announcement on GSA facebook page
 5. Proposal: Include the Delegate Assembly for assistance
 6. Aaron will bring up with GROW committee and will work on it there
- ii. New Discussion
 1. Aaron to bring to GSA Social Committee instead
- c. Action Item: Psychological Services Issue?
- i. Old Discussion:
 1. Jason heard that students were having difficulty with Counseling and Psychological Services
 2. In particular, there is only one psychologist able to prescribe medication and the hours are not consistent or predictable.
 3. Heard of a student who was unable to schedule a followup appointment after starting new medication.
 4. Student may not have been aware of other options, including seeing external doctors.
 - ii. Update via Email (Jason)
 1. Not sure if the email was ever sent to health services, but the student I talked about last meeting has clarified a few things for me. First, it was indeed clear that they were welcome as the off-campus office of the psychiatrist. However, getting an appointment at a new clinic always takes a few weeks -- longer than when the psychiatrist was rescheduled to return to campus. Also, they finally saw the psychiatrist the other day -- the Dr. apologized profusely, and put the blame of scheduling on the health services.
- d. GSA Social Committee
- i. Old Discussion
 1. Several people have expressed interest in getting involved
 2. Not enough committees, committees not always active
 3. Propose setting up some GSA managed committees to develop interest
 4. Proposal: GSA Social Life Committee
 - a. Social Committee to report to Aaron
 - b. Small group to help plan and manage social events for the graduate population
 5. Resolution:
 - a. Add GSA Social Life Committee
 - ii. New Discussion
 1. What items should the Social Life Committee tackle?
 2. Proposal: Propose 'Welcoming Committee' idea to the Social

Committee for implementation

3. Extra people from GROW be asked to consider Social Committee

3. Inactive Old News

- a. Last Year's Budget
 - i. Update: Still awaiting further information
 - ii. Contact Point: Connie McBride (OSL) cmcbride3@ucmerced.edu
- b. Action Item: Travel Grant
 - i. Discussion
 1. Next call for Travel Grant will go out in October
 2. Propose adjusting the rules
 3. Unable to change rules for the next round of Travel Grant (sent in October). Can change rules for the round of Travel Grants sent in January – *Katie via Kristynn*
 - ii. Resolution
 1. Look into what rules to adjust later in the semester
 2. Start prepping for October Travel Grant Announcement
- c. Versatile Ph.D. Site
 - i. Old Discussion
 1. Development for students with nonacademic job training
 2. Ann will be leaving career services
 3. May experience some further delay in information
 4. Waiting on more information
 5. Hope to receive feedback from other universities
 6. Versatile Ph.D. Site subscription already purchased
 7. Integration with MyMerced is being developed
 8. Further information to be released soon
- d. Action Item: GSA Leadership Program
 - i. New Discussion
 1. GSA Leadership Programs (Orientation, officer training, election, etc.)
 2. Under consideration: GSA Leadership event?
 3. GSA Leadership program was designed to help improve the leadership of the GSA officers
 4. Was an every other month series with keynote speakers to target specific areas
 5. Has devolved over time
 6. Proposed: Rebrand as a 'Lunch with Special Guests'?
 7. Proposed: Hot Chocolate Social for Winter Break?
- e. Grad Pad Funding/Beer Garden
 - i. Update: Charles Nies mentioned something about furniture - *Kristynn*

- ii. Action Item: Kristynn to investigate
- f. Delegate Assembly Roles
 - i. Discussion
 - 1. Suggestion: Define member's roles - *Henry*
 - 2. Suggestion: Bring small meetings with the various Deans – *Henry*
- g. Café Scientific
 - i. Discussion:
 - 1. Contact person: Erin Stacy
 - 2. GSA asked to provide monetary support
 - 3. Still looking for a suitable location
 - 4. Still looking for additional speakers
- h. Grad School Fair
 - i. No Update: Suggestion to utilize Delegate Assembly

New Business:

1. Introduced by: Henry

- a. Action Item: External Grad Div Review
 - i. Discussion
 - 1. External Grad Div Review Oct 10th
 - 2. Open Session for Graduate Students – TBD (sometime in the morning)
 - 3. Proposal: Invite the DA to the Open Session instead of a mass email
 - 4. GSA has separate meeting with the Review Team at 4:30-5:00, KL232
 - ii. Resolution
 - 1. Will continue discussion
- b. Meeting Report: Grad Division
 - i. Discussion: Grad division- Better lines of communication
 - 1. Send calendar link when schedules finalized
 - 2. Send link to website
 - 3. Iqbal (IQ) approached- professional development
 - a. Retention
 - b. Outreach
 - 4. Proposals:
 - a. Invite to a meeting soon
 - b. Work with GradDiv to sponsor 'retention' events
 - c. Coordinate with Career Services?
 - d. Maybe potential side-meeting (whoever can make it)
 - ii. Actions

1. Email new link
 2. Invite Grad Div to a meeting soon to discuss other proposals
- c. Meeting Report: ASUCM
- i. Discussion
 1. subsidize campus events for grad students (we did not pass referendum fee)
 2. Contact: Ismael Verduzco (iverduzco@ucmerced.edu)
 3. Percentage of normal ticket price? (may be difficult)
 4. Is there a staff/faculty pricing that we can fall under (hopefully less than general)
 5. What events do they hold?
 6. Consensus: No need to address this issue right now
 - ii. Action
 1. Henry to write up a delicate email
- d. Discussion Item: UAW Email
- i. Discussion
 1. Representation while bargaining
 2. Needs statement of position/interest
 3. UAW contact: Michelle Glowa (michelle.glowa@gmail.com)
 4. Campus contact(s): Eric Chiu, Josh Franco
 5. Meeting Sacramento
 6. Bargaining item:
 - a. better support for grad students with families
 - ii. No Action Needed
- e. Meeting Report: Alumni Services Meeting
- i. Discussion
 1. Heather, Chris (SAA), VC Kyle Hoffman
 2. Mainly open lines of communication for collaboration
 3. Trying to form foundation to help support graduate fellowships
 4. GSA Promise for Education?
 - a. preview.promiseforeducation.org
 5. SAA wants past a present leadership to meet up
 - a. Forward contacts?
 - ii. No Action Needed
- f. Meeting Report: Graduate Council
- i. Delegation roles and streamlining processes
 - ii. Program review
 1. Graduate course review under different senate group
 - iii. Awards review ongoing
 - iv. Dissertation publication policy ongoing
- g. Action Item: Organization Chart

- i. Discussion
 - 1. No one knows who to talk to
- ii. Resolution
 - 1. Henry to draft an organizational chart

2. Introduced by Eddie

- a. Discussion Item: Committee Appointments
 - i. Discussion: Committee slots filled
 - 1. Most slots filled
 - 2. Proposal: Kristynn or Janelle to fill Graduation Committee
 - a. Janelle willing if Kristynn is not
 - 3. IRB Appointment
 - a. Graduate Student representative on IRB not nominated by GSA
 - b. Alex nominated by Justin, former IRB rep
 - c. Proposal: Review procedure with IRB appointment - *Janelle*
 - 4. Alex nominated by Justin, not a GSA nomination
 - 5. Action Item: Henry to ask IRB about nomination process
 - 6. Eric still on TAPS?
 - 7. Proposal: Referendum Fee Committee - GSA thing?
 - a. Tabled
 - 8. GROW appointments cut down to 2
 - a. GROW can't support more members - *Rachael*
 - ii. Actions
 - 1. Eddie to send Committee Appointments with GSA account
 - 2. Eddie to ask Kristynn if she wants Graduation Committee
 - 3. Aaron to email GSA Social Life Committee
 - 4. Henry to ask IRB about nomination process
 - 5. Eddie to find out more info on Campus Climate, Culture, Inclusion
- b. Discussion Item: CAPRA Update
 - i. Discussion:
 - 1. Tom Peterson's presentation on Strategic Plan
 - 2. Physics Proposal for Establishment of a Graduate Program

3. Introduced by Janelle

- a. Action Item: Delegate Assembly
 - i. Discussion
 - 1. Seven groups have DA nominations, five still missing: BEST, EECS, ES, CogSci, Social Sciences
 - 2. Issue: Four people nominated for Applied Math

- a. Is it fair just to choose?
 - b. An issue for the delegate assembly to figure out? – *Henry*
 - c. Ask Jason?
 - 3. Issue: Do we want more than 1 per group?
 - a. Maybe only 1 voting member?
 - b. Two people for large Grad Groups?
- ii. Resolution/Actions
 - 1. Only one person per Grad Group for now
 - 2. Ask Jason for recommendation for Applied Math DA
 - 3. Figure out Dorie situation (Is she in World Cultures?)
 - 4. Henry to contact Rebecca for ES
 - 5. Eddie/Aaron to pick for BEST
 - 6. Nominate Simon Safar for EECS
 - 7. Janelle to suggest for CogSci
 - 8. Reach out to Josh Franco for Social Sciences

4. Introduced by Aaron

- a. Action Item: Trunk or Treat
 - i. Discussion
 - 1. Trunk or Treat is a volunteer opportunity to help with a community Halloween event with the local Boys & Girls Club
 - 2. Gauge volunteer interest?
 - 3. Proposal: Get a UC Merced vehicle
 - a. Support UC Merced's mission for community outreach
 - b. GSA/OSL Sponsored vehicle?
 - 4. Proposal: Reach out to more people with Facebook
 - ii. Actions
 - 1. Aaron to suggest UC Merced vehicle idea to OSL
 - 2. Aaron to continue planning for event

5. Introduced by Rachael

- a. Action Item: Branding of Rachael's work (GSS Sponsored GSA Events)
 - i. Need to brainstorm

6. Introduced by Jason

- a. Report (via Email)
 - i. Went to Berkeley this weekend for the UCSA board meeting. Nothing too exciting, filled a few positions for StARs, BOARS, etc. The dedicated staff member for grad/prof student issues at UCSA was officially hired finally. The undergrad ASU at Berkeley are pushing a vote of no confidence in Napolitano through (and this has gained some national press

coverage) -- I think it is unlikely to pass though.

7. Introduced by Brandon

- a. Discussion Item: GSR's not covered by Workers Compensation
 - i. Committee of Research managing lab safety
 - ii. Union working on proposal to address issue - Eddie

Current GSA Member Committee Appointments

- Henry- Graduate Council
- Eddie- CAPRA, Ombuds
- Janelle – Research Week Committee (work with Delegate Assembly)
- Jason- UCSA
- Aaron- Peer Mentor Program, GSA Social Committee
- Brandon- Research Council, Research Week Committee

Calendar of Events

Yearly Events		
Event	Assigned Lead	Date
Committee Rally	Eddie	Sept 3 rd
Ice Cream Social (One per Sem)		~with Committee Rally
National Day of Service	Aaron	Sept 11 th , 2013
Committee Orientation	Eddie – Coordinate with Rachael	(2 weeks after Rally)
Hot Chocolate Social		Winter Break
Open Meetings		~Beginning of November ~Middle of March
Committee Thank You	Eddie	~Spring
Delegate Assembly	Janelle	
GSA Leadership		
Elections		~April
Officer Transition Meeting		~June
Leadership Training		~Fall

Group Action Items

1. Brainstorm names for GSS Sponsored GSA Events
2. Call for Pictures from GSS/GSA events
3. Call for Bios for website

Next Meeting:

September 27th, 10:00 am, location: TBA