**Graduate Student Association (GSA) December Executive Council Meeting**

December 5, 2016

6:00 - 7:30, GradPad

gsa@ucmerced.edu

gsa.ucmerced.edu

**I. Roll Call [6:00]**

Jamin, Katie, Nicholas, & Zhixun present.

**II. Adoption of Agenda** **[6:02]**

Agenda Adopted

**III. Adoption of Minutes [6:03]**

Minutes will be adopted via email

**IV. Public Comment [6:05]**

- organize something for Jennifer

- need to wait for official word

- support family with anything they need

- poster with supportive notes

- ad hoc committee for those who know and can respond

- GSA President will know

-Where can we hang a poster?

- In the Grad Pad – Maryam will be lead for this.

-Draft email to let people know this poster is available for notes

**V. Officer Reports [6:35]**

**Ralph UCSA**

* President of UCSA
* History
  + Born out of student lobby
  + Regents have oligaric power over UC
    - But students lobbied for power (student regent)
* Meet once a month to improve the student experience
* Exchange of ideas and best practices
* Davis GSA
  + Exec committee and delegate assembly
  + Delegate assembly make exec committee more efficient
    - Imperative
* Association needs to get along well
  + Training in healthy communication
    - Facilitate workshop/conversation with someone trained
    - Embed into the culture
* Concern with DA- grad group reps might not be the best representation
  + Members of public can make public comment in delegate assembly meeting
* Conduct of GSA officer
  + Votes of no confidence by the delegate assembly
  + File grievances
  + Code of ethics?
    - Most GSAs have something like that or expectations
* How does UCSA support grad students
  + Top three prioirties: best practices with advisors, increase diversity and retention, and fair living standards for grad students
  + Facilitate ways to accomplish goals
* What areas does UCM need to improve on?
  + What is the cost of attendance? Including everything
  + Document for standards for cultural centers
  + Mentor relationships: some pushback, but they are working on it.

a. *Interim President*, Jamin Shih

* 2 UCSA meetings – students of color conference (brought a delegation), board meeting
  + Board meeting at UC Davis

b. *External Vice President*, Jamin Shih

c. *Academic Affairs Officer*, Katie Butterfield

d. *Treasurer*, Nicholas Dove

e. *International Affairs Officer*, Zhixun He

* Attended Student of Color Conference, workshops for international students
  + Manual/tips for international graduate students
    - Ex. Car accident, what to do?
    - Inclusive/comprehensive
* Games. What does this word mean? Colloquialisms etc.

**VI. Report from Graduate Dean Marjorie Zatz [6:45]**

* Advocacy for grad education on the hill
* Peer mentoring program – going well, good feedback
* Talking to grad group faculty for mentoring of grad students
  + What happens when a decision becomes difficult?
  + So many untenured faculty –reason for mentor/mentee frictions?
* New grant for humanities for community partners
* 2 NSF research grants
  + Intelligent adaptive systems – com sci
  + Innovations in grad education- IH through comp sci –interdisciplinary research
* New grant to move phd -> post-doc -> professor for HIS for diversity
* What will happen with funding/UCSHIP/international students? Will you ask?
  + We will see how far the conversations go.
  + Going to as many as she can. Walking is the biggest difficulty.
  + 3 other UC deans participating

**VII Report from Vice Chancellor Charles Nies [6:50]**

* Thursday at 5 COB2 130 public forum with Richard Cummings -2020 forum
* Student Success definition – reaffirmation for accreditation
  + Learning, growth, and retention and attrition
* How can we ensure grad needs are included in your definition of success? Professional growth and development?
  + Definition codifies commitments
  + Not about the programs
  + About what we hope students gain
  + Capturing the graduate experience in the definition
  + Looking for comment.

**VIII. Old Business [6:55]**

1. GSA Elections Process, Jamin Shih

* Email went out from Steve Leher
* Suspended by laws to have elections run by external party
* Positions:
  + President
  + Internal Vice President
  + Climate Diversity and Equity Officer
  + Public Relations/Community Outreach Officer
  + Internal Communication Officer
* Needs by the 23rd
  + Name
  + Program of student
  + Brief statement
* Voting 10 am 1/23-10 am 1/25
* Working on respectful guidelines – trying to solidify
* What happens when the respectful guidelines are not followed?
  + We don’t have the institutional power to do very much.
  + We can put out a statement if we need to

**IX. New Business [7:05]**

1. Writing Center Pilot Project, Katie Butterfield

* Looking for feedback from people developing campus writing center
* Pilot has been in place focusing on undergraduate
* Not tutoring, but workshops or a drop in center
* Style of writing might be shaped by your discipline
* What’s the pedagogical philosophy? Multipronged or one philosophy? Will this offer employment for master’s students in the humanities? TAship? Service for international students?
  + Perhaps a survey?
  + There is a component to support international students
* Are we not well-served?
  + There’s some need. Student Well-being survey.
    - UCM actually doing pretty good, but varies by program
* What’s the form?
  + To offer support and workshops
* Where is it?
  + Library
* What is it called?
  + The writing center

b. Election Respectful Campaigning Guidelines, Jamin Shih

c. Fair and Equitable Appointment Processes, Katie Butterfield

* GSA has been operating under the assumption of one response if we are lucky
* No process for picking
* 2 options:
  + 1) first come, first serve
  + 2) Review answers from questions
    - AS Pres appoints and senate approves
    - So, could engage delegate assembly
    - Selection might make sense
  + 3) Random Number Generator
* Things have not been fair; this is important.
* Committees are too important to pick randomly
  + Need to be taken seriously
* The questions are good.
* Selection process might vary depending on opportunity
* Institutionalize the templates and move them into the by laws
* First come first serve may not always be accessible to everybody
* Recognize autonomy of AAO to make final decision

**X. Adjourn [7:30]**