

## GSA Meeting 10/27/16

### Item 1: Nominations for a new GSA adviser position

At our last council meeting, we unanimously voted to create a special adviser to the council on issues of climate, diversity, and equity. This adviser would be asked to interact and consult with the council members on our actions as it pertains to these items, as well as work with existing campus-wide and system-wide committees to ensure we are implementing and following best practices. Of course, we need to find somebody to serve in this position! So, please send us your nominations to [gsa@ucmerced.edu](mailto:gsa@ucmerced.edu) -- we'll follow up with those nominated and get their confirmation. (Please feel free to self-nominate, as well as provide additional information on why your nominee is well-suited to such a position.) Those attending the meeting on Tuesday the 27th (6pm, GradPad) can then vote on and select our very first adviser.

### Item 2: New funding model for the UC Student Association

The UC Student Association is looking for alternative ways to fund its operations. It has proposed SAGE (<http://ucsa.org/sage/>) -- a voluntary, opt-out fee to all students. If passed, it may constitute a small fee increase to those not opting-out every semester (for instance, instead of \$318.50, either \$320.15 or \$321.50). SAGE would greatly enhance UCSA's ability to advocate on behalf of UC students system-wide. Read the proposal, and let us know what you think! Attend the upcoming meeting and tell us, or write [gsa@ucmerced.edu](mailto:gsa@ucmerced.edu) with your thoughts. We'll vote on our stance at our next council meeting in 4 weeks, and your input will ultimately inform our votes.

### Item 3: Travel awards

Not an item per se, but rather an announcement regarding GSA travel awards. For those who applied for summer travel awards, we appreciate your patience as we attempt to reimburse you for your travel. The UC has changed its policy regarding travel reimbursement, and we are trying to get exceptions for this past year's travel. Graduate Student Services has submitted all the proper paperwork, and we are still waiting to hear back from UCLA on the reimbursement. We will let you know when reimbursements have been accepted. (Most have been already.) In the future, we are required to adhere to these new UC policies. Unfortunately, we will need to hold off on all future travel grant applications until we create a new process that is compliant with these policies. This is why you've been seeing many calls for travel committee appointments -- we desperately want student input on how to best design procedures that are both in compliance with UCOP and UCLA travel but also remain convenient and expedient for students.

### Item 4: GradPad usage

There is growing demand on the usage of the GradPad. Is it a scholarly space? A social space? Both? At the same time? How should reservations be handled? What sort of events and activities are appropriate for the GradPad? Not appropriate? We have the authority to decide how we use the room -- if you have thoughts, please let us know.