

**GSA minutes – 3/7/16 – Discussion on proposed resolution “GSA Resolution for a
Graduate Student Cultural Space at UC Merced”**

Dean Zatz: “Clarify in background of the resolution, no separate undergraduate and graduate space. Change ‘no discussion of cultural space’ to ‘no discussion of graduate cultural space’”

Eddie: “recommend to remove the word ‘often’ from the resolution”

Maryam T.: “what about LGBTQ students”? “not just students of color”

Jamin: “prefer not to derail the conversation by pitting race against sexuality”

Lauren: “make it inclusive to everyone”

Maryam T. C.: “we have to be honest in this conversation, every time we discuss race, then the conversation has to suddenly include everyone and dilute honest conversations about race”

Eddie: “some things can go beyond race, like religion, what about those students?”

Daniel: “religion is also racialized in the United States”

Dean Zatz: “documented incidents” clarify wording, reported incidents?

Maryam T.C.: “Are there any mechanisms of automatic, anonymous online reporting of incidents?”

Daniel: “what happens when you report these things?”

Dean Zatz: “Yes there is confidential online reporting of incidents. I can personally send out notes that say this behavior is not acceptable, power of my office, conflicts for mediation, some incidents may rise up to Title IX, I can’t control what people think, however, we should be able

to control what is being said in public spaces, not that there isn't free speech, it's a line between not harming others and free speech"

Daniel: "bringing a title ix investigation brings a lot of stress, if students do not want to file a complaint, then what happens then? If there are racialized comments made but only through word of mouth and not documentation, then what happens?"

Dean Zatz: "I can step in, think through with De or Callale (Campus Climate Director and OMBUDS) about what to do"

Maryam T.: "we can make signs and put them up in the gradpad, short-term, easy, cheap. Sometimes people may be unaware of what they are doing."

Jamin: "many things go unreported"

Daniel: "I disagree with the idea that people are simply 'unaware' of what they are doing, plus its impact, not intent."

Maryam T.: "We should give them the benefit of the doubt"

Daniel: "whether or not they are aware, they have an impact"

Maryam T.: "tell them they hurt you, then there are routes for documentation, make a culture so they are aware"

Daniel: "hate-free zone"

Dean Zatz: Recommend to change the wording from "lack" to "insufficient", i.e. "insufficient graduate students of color" rather than say "lack of graduate students of color" at UC Merced.

Danielle: "But there is a lack of graduate students of color"

Dean Zatz: “you know what, just leave it, this is a student resolution”

Lauren: “what about: voting or permanent position in GSA?”

Daniel: Voting position in GSA

Maryam T.C.: “I think this should be a voting position since we are a minority-serving institution”

Maryam T.: “I agree, I think international liaison should be a voting member too”

Maria: “Graduate students of color just spent three hours trying to validate our experiences to GSA, this is disappointing that you continue to question our experiences”

Daniel: “GSA hasn’t focused on issues that affect students of color. Even this process, everyone is questioning this resolution”

Dean Zatz: “I recommend in the resolution that you add in my Graduate Dean’s Advisory Council on Diversity. Clarify that the task force of graduate students of color will do programming. Add a line about this task force and asking for specific resources, such as financial support. Is there some student fee money going towards this? Should we ask the student fee committee?”

Daniel: “Okay, thanks for your comments everyone.”