

GSA Minutes 06/08/2010

Introductions

- Henry Pai (Secretary 2009-2010)
- Josh Phillips (Secretary 2010-2011)
- Julie Phillips (Treasurer 2010-2011)
- Debye Conte (Treasurer 2009-2010)
- Kaiqi Hua (Academic Affairs Officer 2010-2011)
- Beth Hernandez (Public Relations/Community Outreach Officer 2010-2011)
- David Gravano (Public Relations/Community Outreach Officer 2009-2010)
- Kristynn Sullivan (External Affairs Officer 2010-2011)
- Alisa Keyser (External Affairs Officer 2009-2010)
- Katie Amrine (Campus Affairs Officer 2009-2010 and 2010-2011)
- Rachael Martin (Graduate Student Coordinator)

Katie Amrine – Agenda Review

Alisa Keyser – GSHIP changes

- Provider is shared between 6 campuses
- All new plans provide more coverage at a reduced cost
- UCOP wants to set up a committee of students to handle plan negotiations in the future and UCSA wants to sit in on these as well
- Dependent care much improved but is still expensive
- UC Merced campus care is poor, making GSHIP of great importance

Overview of GSA Officer Positions

- Alisa Keyser – External Affairs Officer
 - Responsible for lobbying outside of UCM
 - Meets with UCSA monthly, which votes on things like the student regents, and the GSHIP health plans, they were also consulted on the faculty walk-out last year
 - Our involvement was limited in prior years because we were not in UCSA
 - Need to discuss how to allocate funds for continuing in UCSA
 - UCSA will probably become more important for UCM if things like “differentiated student fees” are seriously considered in the future.
- Dave Gravano – Public Relations / Community Outreach Officer
 - Responsible for circulating announcements of meetings and other events held by GSA that are of interest to the community.
 - Discussed email, forums, and other communication media.

- Introduction to the STEP program, which is designed to introduce science to elementary-school students.
- Almost all STEP funding comes from the Science and Math Initiative in the School of Natural Sciences.
- We need to make sure that there is funding and support for social sciences as well as natural sciences.
- ASUCM may be willing to provide some funding with additional undergraduate participation.
- Katie Amrine – Academic Affairs Officer
 - Main responsibility is to be on the Academic Planning Committee (CAPRA), but first, the CAPRA committee has to approve the AA officer
 - Also plans and organizes the multitude of committees that need to be filled by graduate student representatives
 - Compiles information from the attendees and disseminates this information to GSA
 - Student Fee Advisory Committee and the Transportation and Parking Services Committee are two important ones so far
 - Need to establish a process for selecting among committee applicants, something less first-come-first-served in nature
 - Katie would also like to see this move into committees in the Merced community as well
- Debye Conte – Treasurer
 - Picks up ledger from the Office of Student Life
 - Keeps people informed on the state of the budget
 - Debye suggests moving to a written budget this year, with projections for future years as well
 - Handles GSA Travel Grants
 - Need to find ways to both limit the number of awards per year to individuals as well as how to handle rolled-over money from previous years.
 - Sits on the student fee advisory committee which is at the end of the year
- Henry Pai – Secretary
 - Disseminate information within GSA and to the graduate students
- Katie Amrine – Campus Affairs Officer
 - Pseudo-president, main contact and communications with different campus entities
 - Meets with the president once every three months
- Rachael Martin – Graduate Student Coordinator
 - Half-time position in student affairs dedicated to servicing graduate students
 - Works with GSA to determine how to meet graduate student needs

- Evolving position to define what “graduate student services” means

Break

Discussed various information technology resources for GSA use, including the webpages, forums, and email account (gmail).

Scheduled meeting to process travel grant applications.

Parking Discussions

- Certain faculty have led the Chancellor to remove graduate students from faculty/staff parking
- TAPS decided to move to a tiered permit system instead

Discussion on getting grad group representatives to communicate with GSA

Proposal to split some responsibilities from Katie's position to a new position and ideas on how to make this happen.

Henry covered new website building tools for grad students being developed by IT.

Beth brought up the (currently) limited SSHA involvement in GSA and ways to encourage equality in numbers and perspective.

Discussion on getting an ombudsman as a way to resolve issues between students and faculty/staff.

Rachael discussed GSA progress

- There have been big strides.
- Grad student orientation committee is a good place to put more effort. Need more participation in organizing orientation week.
- GSA participation particularly on (Aug. 16) Monday and Friday.
- Intro into grad experience by rapid mentoring.
- Then Friday might be a “behind closed doors” type of thing. Emphasize engaging with new students.
- The committee members are across all groups.
- Grad group coordinators may be best people to talk to if we want to involve other retreats into such things. (QSB retreat, etc.)

Kristynn – UCSA Meetings

- UCOP will pay for travel for Kristynn to go to UCSA meetings.

- However, it doesn't cover lodging, food, etc. So it needs to be discussed and put into the budget.
- Need to discuss the possibility of bringing two people with her in order to lobby.
- Need to look into whether their travel would be covered.

GSA-based research funds were proposed and discussed.

- Maybe modeled after materials from other UC GSA groups.

Scheduled next meeting:

- July 6 1:00pm

Thanks to Rachael and old officers for their service.