

## **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 priorities: 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]**

- a. 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 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - 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]**

- a. 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]**