UC Merced <u>Graduate Student Association</u> Executive Council Meeting

Sep 13, 2017

KL 232, 2:00-3:30 PM PST

Meeting minutes by Internal Communications Lorraine Ramos and President Sabah UI-Hasan

Attendance

Ashley, Jose Luis, Sabah, Lorraine, Nicholas, Kyle (2:03), Aditya (2:15, left at 3:08) Vice Chancellor Nies and Dean Zatz

Tessa Provins (PS), Chris Caskey (IH), Daniel Mello (PSY), Rachel Hatano (BEST), Rocco Bowman (IH), Lorenzo Booth (ES), Michelle Yeung (SOC), Rodolfo Rodriguez (~3:00, SOC), Teresa Wachira (ASUCM), Edmundo Martinez (ASUCM)

Goals of GSA Executive Council and Delegate Assembly for Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

- 1. To well represent the graduate student body and establish governance.
- 2. To consistently host events and support events led by graduate student groups.
- 3. To center our graduate student body around sustainability, climate change, and associated environmental justice impacts in scope of our UC Merced campus identity.

Agenda

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2:00 - 2:15	2:00 - 2:03	Refreshments and introductions (courtesy of Grad Div)
	2:03 - 2:05	Welcome from Dean Zatz & GSA President
	2:05 - 2:15	Who is the GSA Executive Council, and what do we each do?
		Highlights of available campus resources and relevant committees
2:15 - 2:30 Public comment		nent
	What would	you, as an observer of the meeting, like to know more about?
Teresa (ASUCM EVP)Undocumented student coalition doesn't support DACA		
Plays into dreamer narrative and labels immigrants as "good/bad"		
Comments from GSA on GCRC defacement?		
	How	will GCRC space be protected when opened Sep 25?
Dean Zatz		: Undocumented graduate students relay support for DACA
	Undo	cu graduate group resource
Rocco (IH)	Raises concerns of divisive language & behavior in student body	
Chris (IH)	Raise	es concerns of students working as TAs not paid on time
	How	do we communicate these concerns and find explanations?
VC Nies & Dean Zatz Reply: 40 students affected (humanities)-emergency money given		
2:30 - 3:05 5 min each Updates - What's going well, what needs greater support?		
	(1 mii	n will be updates, 2 min on what's going well, 2 min on needs)
President		UCoP, MIST, UAW, GradPad
UCoP conversations have been initiated, topics for discussion TBD		
GSA Executive Council giving comments on fees for a new Master's program (MIST)		
UAW seeking participation and input as it undergoes review		
GradPad space cleanliness needs to be held to a professional standard by students		
Internal Vice President Delegate Assembly		
IVP is the internal lead of the Delegate Assembly		
		currently drafting its own by-laws
External Vice President UCSA (Merced host)		
Debate on leaving or staying the UCSA, a decision needs to be made (see below)		
15% of GSA budget is spent on EVP travels & could instead be used for GSOs/awards		
Academic Af		Committees & Student Rights
26 committees posted on the <u>GSA website</u>		
Completion of the Student Bill of Rights will be intended for the end of September		

Internal Communications Officer Graduate Council No updates from Graduate Council as of yet Resignation due to personal health concerns Treasurer Budget and funding policies Budget looks similar to last year, majority spent on travel awards & GSOs Establishing funding policies for travel awards and GSOs as campus continues to grow Public Relations & Community Outreach Officer Fall 2017 Events (on / off campus) Two positions available on the social planning committee Intending to have one event on campus (academic), one off campus (social each month GSO leadership has been reached out to for updating their events on the GSA calendar GradPal. DACA resolution International Affairs Officer GradPal is a program to help transitioning international graduate students, underway DACA - all undocumented & international students are seeking an event for info/support Dean Zatz - working with other UCs, VC Nies - Know Your Rights workshop offered Climate, Diversity and Equity Officer **Diversity Council. PD committee** Applications are available for the Dean's Advisory Council on Diversity A Police Advisory Board is now available (contact Elisabeth Gunter) GCRC defacement statement in progress 3:05 - 3:10 **Public comment** Daniel (PSY) Inquiry about looking at the budget and GSO funding (available online) Letter-writing session for bringing people together. Working with Gov Rel. VC Nies Rodolfo (SOC)UAW representative & interest in better collaborating with the GSA (reciprocated) Raises concerns for TAs paid on time and action for hateful graffiti of the GCRC 3:10 - 3:35 Motions to vote Unanimous DACA Resolution - Aditya Ranganath, International Affairs Officer Unanimous 2017-18 GSA Budget - Nicholas Dove, Treasurer Funding Policy for Travel Awards - Nicholas Dove, Treasurer Unanimous Unanimous Funding Policy for Graduate Student Organizations - Nicholas Dove, Treasurer Vetoed by Delegate Assembly, reason unclear. Resolution developed for Oct meeting Funding Policy for Sponsored Events Fund - Nicholas Dove, Treasurer Unanimous

Tabled to Oct UCM GSA status within the UCSA - Jose Luis Rincon, External Vice President Request for referendum amongst the graduate student body (TBD)

Motion to extend meeting for coming to a consensus, seconded and passed

Unanimous Put out a call on Internal Communications position to decide before next meeting

3:35 - 3:39 Closing remarks by Sabah UI-Hasan, announcements, adjourn Disaster fundraisers, peer accountability, professional development Any upcoming graduate student organization events, needs, etc?

Fall 2017 Executive Council Meetings (KL 232) Sep 13th 02:00 - 3:30 PM Oct 3rd 09:00 - 10:30 AM Nov 1st 03:00 - 04:30 PM

Justifications for UCM Graduate Student Association Staying in or Leaving from the UCSA EVP Jose Luis Susa Rincon

Overview

The <u>University of California Student Association</u> advocates for over 240,000 students (undergraduate, graduate, and professionals) across the ten UC campuses. Each UC student body government has representation in this advocacy, for example the UCM GSA External Vice President Jose Luis Susa Rincon. An additionally appointed OD (organization director) and a LD (legislative director) can also attend as advocates. Current member dues per student advocate are \$4,707 + travel costs for an advocate attending each monthly meeting at a different UC campus. UCSA meetings occur for two days each month. Staying

- Already established access to the UCoP and Janet Napolitano
- Already established voice on system-wide issues and networking opportunities
- Already possess (3) dedicated staff
- Already established student lobby conference
- EVPs can vote for UC Student Regent candidates
- 60 undergraduate and graduate students from all UCs in one room

Leaving

- UCSA conversations are dominated by undergraduate-associated topics. Graduate students have unique needs tending to topics such as Teaching Assistantships or research (60 is too many to have a productive discussion and most representation tends to be undergraduate).

- A leave from the UCSA wouldn't remove contact with the UCSA.

- Although it would take some time to establish the same strengths already featured in the UCSA, all above reasons for staying are feasible as a separate graduate student focused group.

UC graduate student governments that have already left UCSA: <u>UCR, UCSD, UCSC, UCLA</u>
 The UC Merced GSA spends 15% of its budget, which are retrieved through graduate student fees, on UCSA participation and travel costs. This is comparatively higher than what other UC graduate student governments spend with respect to their total budgets.

- Thus far, UC Merced GSA and ASUCM (undergraduate student government) have carried out good communication with each other.

Options

1 - Stay in UCSA (current)

Recent updates have been made to the UCSA bylaws to better include graduate students, but requirements to vote are physical presence which costs 15% of UCM GSA funds.

2 - Stay in UCSA (dues \$670/yr), but not travel to meetings (not pay for lodging \$1500/yr)

This option saves the graduate student body money while still supporting UCSA, but would likely cost the ability to vote due to not being physically present.

3 - Leave UCSA and join a new grad-only system-wide organization

This is a good idea based on current UC Merced graduate student needs, but at what time point will we be at the same point as where the UCSA is now?

4 - Leave UCSA without joining a new organization

As it currently stands, while the UCSA is certainly useful to UC student governments overall, the UCSA hasn't benefitted UC Merced graduate students in the percentage we are paying to be a part of the UCSA in fees proportional to our total budget when compared to what other UC graduate student governments pay the UCSA in proportion to their total budget. We may be able to use these funds in a way better supporting our graduate students while awaiting for the new grad-only system-wide organization to strengthen.