

**UC Merced Graduate Student Association
Executive Council Meeting**

gsa@ucmerced.edu

Oct 3, 2017

KL 232, 9:00 – 10:30 AM PST

Meeting minutes by Internal Communications Rocco Bowman

Attendance

Rocco, Kyle, Jose Luis, Sabah, Nicholas (10:01)

Dean Zatz

Maryam Crogman (PSY), Danielle Bermudez (~9:22, IH), Maria De Jesus Mora (~9:22, SOC), Morgan Barnes (ES)

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.

Recap of Sep 13 (chronological order)

DACA resolution written and passed

Funding policy for travel awards written and passed

Funding policy for sponsored events written and passed

All Executive Council and Delegate Assembly positions filled

GCRC defacement statement written and distributed

Agenda

9:00 - 9:05 Refreshments and introductions (courtesy of Graduate Division)

- No quorum yet, 9:05

9:02 - 9:04 Welcome from GSA President

9:04 - 9:05 Moment of silence for shooting and disaster victims

No quorum at 9:05, EC updates begin

- Welcome and updates begin despite no quorum, 9:07

9:07 – 9:35 Executive Council Updates

9:07 - 9:08 President

Regents, UAW, Graduate Council

- 3% increase in admin pay from tuition
- Regents lobbied against increase
- Union preparing for contract negotiations and need help, look for calls
- Psych and QSB to be reviewed this year, only ES has been reviewed so far
- Interdisciplinary academic instructors looked for
- Everyone has been paid related to the mess up earlier
- Holley Moyes argued that there should be better communication between staff (correction by Zatz) and students, more direct line of communication and more direct line between accounting and grad students
- Should be more clear about differences in funding and procedure for GSRs and those on fellowships
- Zatz – Program reviews are an 18 month process, visitors will be here in 2018-2019

9:08 - 9:09 Internal Vice President

Delegate Assembly By-Laws

- Working on bylaws, Kyle Hamilton sent out a google doc to determine structure by next meeting there will be something to vote on
- Identifying people in DA to do groundwork

9:09 - 9:17 External Vice President

UCSA Decision

- Last week was the meeting between all EVPs of GSAs to vote on leaving USCA and start a new org.
- Previous meeting, we said that we would not have a vote until informing people about the issue
- All grad students want to start a different organization just for grad students that works similarly to USCA
- Two main goals, one, to have freedom to manage budget that will ensure more advocacy and only focus on grad students. Two, identity is important to grad students. We are not undergrads and not just students, UCSA does not fit our identity and unique needs.
- New association is being built from scratch (bylaws, budget, grants, voting for a new board), will take a lot of time and depends on volunteer work and creating a new structure of payment and account
- This GSA abstained voting last meeting until we could talk to students
- Sabah UI-Hasan, idea of referendum but we decided to abstain
- Jose Luis Rincon, we can run the referendum, recommended since we can't be left behind in UCSA
- Other campuses were going to leave no matter what and all UCs have agreed to go with the new association (amongst grad students)
- Sabah UI-Hasan, while work being done to set up, UC Merced is not giving as much but relatively we are giving a lot more in travel. Is there an opportunity for UC Merced to waive financial support?
- Jose Luis Rincon, cost saving tactics can be used to reduce the cost of trips by at least half. Phone meetings can help us with budget. It will be beneficial for us.

9:17 - 9:18 Academic Affairs Officer Committees & Student Rights

- **Sabah UI-Hasan on behalf of Academic Affairs Officer**
- Ashley has done work filling up committee positions
- Should be done by the end of the month
- Student bill of rights moving forward
- Vote for appointment for internal communications due to health problems

9:18 - 9:19 Internal Communications Website & Events Calendar

- Internal Communications position filled and functional

9:19 - 9:21 Treasurer Travel Awards & GSO Resolution

- **Sabah UI-Hasan on behalf of Treasurer**
- Passed funding policies for grad student events
- Funding policy approved for travel awards
- Only funding policy vetoed was grad student policy

9:21 - 9:23 Public Relations & Community Outreach Officer Sep 2017 Event Update + Oct

- **Sabah UI-Hasan on behalf of Public Relations & Community Outreach Officer**
- Officer of Outreach and Diversity and Equity will be late to meeting
- Officer tried to organize an event but was turned down by Grad Division due to fears of offensive content
- We are interested in what is offensive and passable, we would like suggestions for locations so we can better understand, we want to work towards events
- Working towards events with Jonathan Grady, new dean of students, on campus

9:23 - 9:30 International Affairs Officer GradPal, Inclusion

- **Sabah UI-Hasan on behalf of International Affairs Officer**
- GradPal at beginning of year helps how to find where to live
- Iqbal working with to establish communication and more effective program, better addressing some students who feel more alienated
- We will create a survey and work with Grad Division to better understand conflicts and to reach out to international students to understand needs (cultural understandings, harassment, fear for ESL students and cultural boundaries)
- Will help with a future event centered around cultural adaptation

- Jose Luis Rincon, international office published a survival guide to go to San Francisco, finding housing in Merced, phone numbers, bank account, health care, social security number, etc. to get started in the first month
 - We will put it on the GSA website
 - Sabah UI-Hasan, what about taxes? Unsure if that is a tip listed.
- 9:30 – 9:35 Climate, Diversity and Equity Officer CACSW, Diversity Council, ABGSU
- Diversity Council, BSU, updates related to #Dropthecharges and issues in country at large
 - Grad students interested in police advisory board, Elizabeth Gunter leading the board
 - We are working towards having a committee created for UCM and City police department

9:35-10:02 Suspension of business until quorum is met

Treasurer arrives at 10:01

Quorum met

President motions to begin meeting at 10:02

Meeting rejoined

10:02 - 10:30 New Business – determining decision dates (included in meeting minutes)

1. Delegate Assembly by-laws completion Internal Vice President
 - Nicholas Dove, Put forward policy for grads student event fund, vetoed,
 - Kyle Hamilton, it was a working document and it was vetoed because it was believed to be an incomplete document
 - Grad student led events fund, October 18th is deadline for submissions
 - Vote for resubmission: unanimous
2. GSA stance on UCSA and associated Funding External Vice President
 - Nicholas Dove, Lodging and travel between campuses is not equitable given distance. UCSA should pay for that through increasing dues. EVP should be able to vote by phone or increase fee, or more equitable distribution, to cover all GSA budgets on travel.
 - Sabah UI-Hasan, grants are spread thinner now than in the past
 - Jose Luis Rincon, phone votes can help, or shared rooms with other UCs, also reduce the number of meetings by half.
3. Committee fills and Student Bill of Rights Completion Academic Affairs
4. Website update completion Internal Communications
5. Delegate Assembly GSO Resolution feedback Treasurer
6. Fall 2017 Semester events and associated budget Public Relations & Community Outreach
7. International and inclusion needs and event support International Affairs
Climate, Diversity, & Equity

President motions for public comment until 10:10

- Maryam Krogman, surprised about refusal to program at certain places, grad students have had events at similar places before, we should figure out what the reasons are for the refusal
- Danielle Bermudez, USCA decision, heard there was a vote to leave and wondering whether UCM is leaving UCSA also. Offers to send statement on approval of staying with UCSA and has a history of inclusive, collective advocacy which has campaigned for inclusivity, housing campaigns, etc. We know there are issues and disagreements that can come up and that there were issues about grad student voices, but overall UCSA has been beneficial despite UCM's less resources and has helped to send students to Sacramento and DC. Starting a whole new association will take a lot of work and extra effort to make sure the new organization will succeed. Importance and privilege of access to Regents Meetings including speaking time and access to documents. Insights into collective bargaining rights and practices. Concerned that students have not heard enough about UCSA and the issues.
- UCSA 10:11-10:20
 - Jose Luis Rincon, all other gsa have agreed to leave
 - New organization will have all the advantages of UCSA including time to speak to Regents.

- Office of President will pay for travel the same way
- Issue was live for six months so far
- Budget forwarded, a couple grants to regain but the rest of the money should be the same. Not the same at the beginning but we can get the money back eventually
- Goal is to create an identity as students/workers/researchers that serves this group
- Kyle Hamilton, in previous years, it was difficult to meet with the President which could be a good reason to stay but otherwise it has improved.
- Sabah UI-Hasan, a big issue that came out of the previous UCSA meeting at UC Merced is that there was a want for an identity and UCM has good grad student and undergrad
- Kyle Hamilton motions to approve items 1-7 on agenda
- Seconded

10:20 - 10:25 Motions to vote

Funding policy for graduate student organizations

Treasurer

10:25 - 10:28 Closing remarks

- Disaster fundraisers, peer accountability, professional development
- Sabah UI-Hasan, willing to share information on resources and charities. If there are ways to include events that are more mindful of academic goals is welcomed
- Jose Luis Rincon Motion to vote on UCSA staying or leaving
- Motion to adjourn meeting, Kyle Hamilton seconds 10:28

Fall 2017 Executive Council Meetings (KL232)

Sep 13th 02:00 - 3:30 PM

Oct 3rd 09:00 - 10:30 AM

Nov 1st 03:00 - 04:30 PM