

**UC Merced Graduate Student Association** gsa@ucmerced.edu  
**Executive Council Meeting**

Mar 14, 2018

SSB 350, 3:30 – 5:00 PM PST

**Meeting minutes by Internal Communications Rocco Bowman**

**In attendance:** Le'Trice Curl, Dean Marjory Zatz, Rocco Bowman, Jiba Dahal, Ashley Valle, Jose Susa, Peter Reschke, Sabah Ul-Hasan (via Skype), Nicholas Dove (via Skype).

**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.

03:30 - 03:33 Refreshments and introductions (courtesy of Student Affairs)

03:33 - 03:35 Welcome

03:35 - 03:00 Executive Council Updates

**3:35 – 3:37 PR/CO Jasmine recaps GSA objectives and Fall accomplishments**

- **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 CRC defacement statement written and distributed**
- **Funding policy for graduate student organizations written and passed All sponsored events applications (5) received some percentage of funding EC Peer Accountability Document written and passed Statement on CoR “free speech” claims written and distributed**

3:37- 3:38 Latrice Curl, introduces self, sitting in for Graduate Dean

3:38 – 3:38 **GSA introductions**

03:38 - 03:47 President: UCoP meet Mar 8 update, feedback survey input, GSA team and transitions

- **(UCoP) Bargaining with tuition, conversations ongoing**
- **(Feedback survey), GSA survey had 12, now 22 participants**
- **Encourage other graduate students to complete the survey**
- **Need another EC and DA member to look at raw results**
- **Rocco accepts to be other EC member to view results**
- **Aiming for 100 results, less than 100 would be statistically insignificant**
- **Next GSA can use feedback to shape future GSA agendas**

- **(Transition) held off until later**

03:37 - 03:48 Internal Vice President: Delegate Assembly By-Laws

- **No quorum last DA meeting, held closed section to tackle By-laws and Peer Accountability document**
- **Delegates have been assigned to send out by-laws to their respective programs**

03:48 - 03:51 External Vice President: UCSA (then) and UCGPC (now), formal UCGPC transition

- **UCGPC, formally an association, will start paying fees for it**
- **Climate Conference (posted on website), currently no UCM representatives**
- **Sabah, perhaps putting it out to graduate student organizations for representatives**

03:51 - 03:53 Academic Affairs: Bill of Rights updates, committee progress

- **Update on bill of rights**
- **Received comments from everyone in EC**
- **Meeting tomorrow with Dean Zatz for final confirmation before approval**
- **Committee updates: Sent out email to grad students, received applications for grad student committees, received 5 or 6 apps**
- **Updating website with new students**

03:51 - 03:56 Internal Communications: Website migration and events calendar self-service

03:56 – 4:01 Treasurer: Updates on stipends for EC and DA and posed budget for 2018-2019

- **Secured \$1,000 through graduate division through 2020 for EVP travel**
- **Looking to pay executive council members \$100 per semester, written into tentative budget, hopefully entice people to give more time**
- **For executive officers only, not DA**
- **Sabah, perhaps discuss DA payment as program reps**

04:01 - 04:02 Public Relations & Community Outreach: Spring 2018 events recap and direction

- **Books and Brews was lightly attended**
- **Barriers for event planning**
- **At least one more event before the end of term**

04:02 - 04:10 International Affairs: Updates on assessment of international student needs

- **Meeting with Daniel Rios, UAW organizer**
- **Dean Zatz, 4% increase in tuition from the Governor, governor gave 2%, asking for remainder**

- **Gone to legislature to provide difference, where is the money going to come from**
- **UC System is planning to raise tuition for all students different amounts for out of state and international students**
- **International students would be impacted the most**
- **Planning to meet with Dean Zatz on tuition hike and other items**
- **Persian students are celebrating Nowruz March 17th**
- **Indian Student association organizing Holi Festival March 18<sup>th</sup>**
- **Can advertise via Facebook and website for international group events**

04:10 - 04:18 Climate, Diversity and Equity Officer Council: Election timelines & nominee code of conduct

- **Tashelle could not make it today**
- **Attended GDACD meeting**
- **Discussed concerns from College Republican tabling and protecting students of color and undocumented students**
- **How to attract more students of color**
- **Campus conversations about free speech and gun violence**
- **Sabah, we will go forward with nominations for March 19<sup>th</sup> 3 weeks for nominations, week of voting, and another week for counting votes**

- **March 19<sup>th</sup> will open nominations for elections for GSA**
- **A lot more positions are open in graduate student leadership**
- **Decorum requirements for election complaints**
- **CCI might arbitrate problems in election**
- **Zatz, Nies can provide support for Steve Lehrer**
- **Le'Trice, undergrads have an elections commissioner but nothing exists for GSA**
- **Look to build in a process and people into election process to address issues**

04:18 - 04:25 Clarification questions and discussion between officers

- **Sabah, what are the remaining events?**
- **Voting party is in the works**
- **Update on vernal pool event, grad student tour April 16<sup>th</sup>**
- **Want graduate student guides, especially those with research in Vernal pools to talk about their work**
- **Jasmine, will send out publicity for vernal pools event**
- **Upcoming event ideas in progress**
- **Last year was a GSA sponsored election party, but those running the party were candidates causing problems**
- **Peter, make a stipulation that those running the party cannot be a candidate**
- **Jiba, voting part is Wednesday of the week of voting, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

04:25 - 04:59 Motions to vote Tentative 2018-2019 GSA Budget Fairy Shrimp Resolution

- **Nick, Trying to pay GSOs from Spring to Fall over the summer**
- **Budget the same as last year, but new GSA has to ratify and pass the budget anyway so things can change**
- **Only reason why we are doing this is only to pay GSOs over the summer**
- **Sabah, no current criticisms of the tentative budget**
- **Peter, can next GSA backtrack on summer funding?**
- **Nick, next GSA could backtrack it but they would need to be really organized to do it**
- **Sabah, new (up to) \$12000 revenue item**

4:30 Motion to vote for budget, seconded

- **Motion passed for budget 1 nay 5 yeas**
- **Peter, would have preferred more input. Delegates can reach out for more input**
- **Nick, budget has been public for a month for input, if it doesn't get passed GSOs won't have money over the summer, as it stands, any outstanding funds gets put back into GSA general fund. This is new because GSA has never given funds to GSOs before**
- **Sabah, Fairy Shrimp Resolution is tabled in interest of input**

- Nick, no comment has come in despite it being public
- Sabah, ethical symbol and should be put to referendum
- Nick, what's ethical should be done, not everything needs a referendum. Protecting biodiversity is a global problem
- Peter, will the mascot be effective if pushed through rather than taking a long road towards legitimacy
- Sabah, that's a legitimate concern
- Zatz, idea will go to chancellor?
- Nick, yes it will go to chancellor and become a co-mascot
- Zatz, you are proposing something to be identified for grad students, all grad student should be involved
- Jose-Luis, it has been public though
- Sabah, want support
- Jiba, talked about this last meeting, which changed it to co-mascot or fairy shrimp day in representation of the ethical message, to build up
- Rocco, agree with Jiba that Fairy Shrimp day could build support for the idea before a top-down approach, apathy from wider grad student community speaks to it as an important/legitimate mascot
- Peter, need to convince constituents of DA to drum up support or opinions so that it can pass DA
- Sabah, proposes resolution as a point of reference to develop environmental sustainability committee
- Nick, maybe it could be a referendum for the election and spend the next month really getting the word out
- Peter, vote to pass it in EC, send it to DA for approval, if it doesn't pass, send it to referendum

4:54 Motion to vote on referendum Peter, seconded

- Sabah, appends, if passes, clearly state that passing is a conversation piece for DA
- Nick seconds the amendment
- Approval 6, 1 abstain
- Passes
- Le'Trice, there used to be a fairy shrimp festival, maybe was folded into Earth Day, contact Steve about the history of Fairy Shrimp as a symbol, might be a communications issue as well in retiring the old mascot, find out what the barriers and opportunities are to better inform your constituents

04:55 - 05:00 Closing remarks for meeting by Jiba Dahal, announcements, adjourn

- Peter, definitely check with policies regarding the mascot
- 5:00 Sabah, motion to adjourn
- Peter seconds

**Spring 2018 Executive Council Meetings (SSB 350)**

**Feb 13th 01:30 - 03:00 PM**

**Mar 14th 03:30 - 05:00 PM**

**Apr 13th 10:30 - 12:00 PM**