

UC Merced Graduate Student Association gsa@ucmerced.edu

Executive Council Meeting

April 13, 2018

SSB 350, 10:30 – 12:00 PM PST

Meeting minutes by Internal Communications Rocco Bowman

In attendance: Sabah Ul-Hasan (skype), Nicholas Dove (skype), Jazmine Kenny, Tashelle Wright, Jiba Dahal, Peter Reschke, Sarah Alnahari, Christina Acosta

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 Fall 2017 (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 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
- Input Survey and Feedback
- Motions for stipends for EC and DA

Agenda

10:30 - 10:33 Refreshments (courtesy of Student Affairs) and introductions

10:33 - 10:35 Welcome

10:36- 10:40 Review of GSA objectives and passed resolutions

10:35 - 11:00 Executive Council Updates

10:40 - 10:42 Internal Vice President

- Met as DA last month
- DA voted to reject Fairy Shrimp Resolution and proposed budget
- Reasons sent to be addressed in EC

10:42 - 10:43 Internal Communications

- Still working on website checklist
- Advice still pending on grad pad reservation system

10:43 - 10:47 President

- Meeting with UCOP, ASUCM President went in absentia
- Meeting minutes will be put on GSA website
- Discussions on the table for tuition increase and where it will go
- We set these goals as GSA because 1 and 2 were not being accomplished, I think these were successful
- We should, going forward, to support graduate student voices
- Continue to be involved in committees
- Look back at the feedback survey to find which committees still need graduate student voices
- GSA stipends should be an important agenda topic going into the future and should encourage incentivizing GSA participation
- We dealt with issues and disagreements well, future GSAs should have difficult conversations to figure out problems and benefit graduate students as a whole rather than siloing

10:47 – 10:48 Climate, Diversity and Equity Officer Council

- Voting Party successfully organized
- Diversity Events: keep them in mind
- Marven Mulch, April 24th Multicultural Arts Center downtown, flyers are up and on facebook
- Elections close the 19th, encourage people to vote
- Make sure to look at statements by candidates
- Thanks to Steve Lehrer

10:49 – 10:49 Public Relations & Community Outreach

- 46 attendees at the voting party
- All logistics taken care of
- Everyone seemed excited

10:49 – 10:51 International Affairs

- Met with Dean Zatz, talking about new event ideas
- Sabah, more support for international students
- Jiba, housing for international students
- Later on, more funding will be made available for international students and support

10:51 - 10:53 Treasurer

- Budget did not pass but changes made
- Uses this year's budget to pay into next year's GSA, pays summer funds with next year's budget

10:53 - 10:55 External Vice President

- Sabah on behalf of Jose-Luis Rincon,
- Transition to graduate student association has been positive
- Concerns with changing have been alleviated and there have been no more comments
- Establishing all the same rights as UCSA, will be happening in the coming months

- 10:55 - 10:59 Academic Affairs
- Sabah on behalf of Ashley, any updates from Dean Zatz
- Dean Zatz, Ashley was going back to EC
- Must go through grad council for approval
- If a different document is wanted, it will take at least a year to go through senate committees
- Faculty position will be dependent on faculty code of conduct which determines issues relating to faculty
- Might be an issue to discuss with other campus GSAs
- Other documents are similar in being aspirational, ours is most successful by outlining resources besides being aspirational
- Sabah, my understanding is that people were concerned with repercussions and consequences when guidelines are violated; graduate students might not read through bill of rights unless they need to read it
- Working with the union can improve the document related to consequences and protections rather than going through many channels
- Zatz, these are similar issues with other GSA bill of rights, should talk to them about it
- Nick, I understand other GSAs want to do something similar, should leverage networks
- Sabah, survey reflected opinions that people wanted connections with other GSAs who have dealt with similar issues

10:59 - 11:26 Public comment

- Peter, TAPS committee passed communications to Vice Chancellor about raising parking rates
- Sabah, what are your opinions of grad student voices being heard
- Peter, TAPS committee takes input very seriously and strong representation
- Been able to postpone parking rate increases for 2-3 years but it is inevitable
- 70% of students drive alone to campus, there should be incentives to use bus and carpooling which is another job of TAPS committee
- Price incentives for people who drive zero emission vehicle, used to be low-emission but new MPGs mean TAPS was not making enough revenue
- Sabah, Police Advisory Committee with no significant complaints or problems
- Interest in environmental sustainability committee
- New committee for more formal emergency resources for graduate students
- Tashelle, things going well with grad dean's advisory council, meet every month
- Police advisory Board, meet often and have moved to town hall meetings
- Interesting to see intersections between community and student experiences
- Chancellor's advisory committee on the status of woman had a great speaker last month
- Jasmine, held positions on 2 committees including Social committee
- Amber Arroyo has provided a lot of help, ex voting party
- Student Health Advocacy Committee, tough because of time commitments, interim period reveals that more support is needed
- Sabah, in the past, a lot of the EC were serving on all the committees, same voices represented in the committees

- Committees are more on the radar now though, maybe DA members should be serving on committees too
- Christina recording secretary for the Union, Union is having an event
- Marvin Mutch, used to be part of Black Panthers, was imprisoned for a number of years and now he lectures on social justice, will be speaking at Multicultural Center on the 24th
- Tashelle, Union has asked for supporting funds for this event
- Union will have an event in SE2, lunch and bargaining information event, bargaining meets occur every two weeks, flyer will be shared
- Sabah, this is an important event and should be supported, can emergency funds be used?
- Jasmine, what about PR community outreach funds? There is still a lot there.
- Nick, these funds are meant for events that are co-hosted and could work
- Tashelle, we can co-host the event and I can go to represent GSA and articulate why it is important that GSA supports it
- Peter, how many organizations were not funded that applied for funding
- Nick, we always fund all orgs that ask, but at different levels depending on DA rankings
- Peter, it seems like nobody would have a problem then
- Nick, people will always complain, and that's fine, but they should recognize that this is a good thing and is more fair than it might appear to a small group of people
- Tashelle, should we vote on this?
- Sabah, as long as we are co-sponsoring, we can do this ourselves
- Sabah, Vernal Pools guided tour, from 1-3pm on Monday
- Should be someone from GSA or DA there to represent
- Jasmine, I can be there around 1:30pm
- Tashelle, I can go until Jasmine gets there, we can put it out to the EC and DA for anyone who might want to be there the whole time
- Sabah, I had a meeting with the organizer and organizing is going well including administration and faculty representation
- There will be pictures and videos, good opportunity to learn about wildlife and take a break
- Jasmine, rain in the forecast for Monday
- Sabah, event will be canceled if it rains, will remain ongoing and will only cancel at 9-10 am if raining
- Sabah, fairy shrimp resolution opinions reflected on survey
- Interest was bimodal, some people had a lot of interest in either opposing or supporting, sustainability events are upcoming and environmental justice will remain an important topic

11:26 – 12:00 Motions to vote

- Tashelle motions to vote
- Sabah, seconds
- **Summer GSO Funding**
- Nick, budget did not pass
- 1000 dollars left in GSO budget at the moment, lets use this to pay GSOs over the summer; must be spent by October 1st
- Gives next GSA a chance to make a budget knowing GSOs will be funded until then

- 11:27 Peter motions to vote
- 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
- Budget passes unanimously
- Nick, ASUCM passes next year's budget before the next semester which seems like a good model
- Sabah, next GSA might want to consider a formal amendment regarding this

Graduate Student Union Event (100 dollars for food)

- 11:30 Tashelle motions to vote
- Peter seconds
- 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
- Unanimously passed

Summer GSO Applications

See above: "Summer GSO funding"

Foosball Table

- Sabah, great donation but question, we have limited space in grad pad
- When will there be more space for graduate students?
- Nick, the question should be what is the space used for?
- Sabah, will it be cluttered?
- Peter, it is a low risk proposition and if people have problems it can be removed
- Nick, survey revealed that many students use the grad pad for recreation
- Tashelle, table can be placed in the corner, and it can always be removed
- The table is technically owned (being donated by?) by QSB
- 11:36 Sabah motions to vote
- Peter seconds
- 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention
- Motion passes
- Rocco, need more information given physical clutter but also noise levels
- Sabah, there are other spaces on campus for quiet meetings
- Zatz, there will be spaces in the new buildings; looking for temp space in library but has not been ideal, I am always harping on need for grad space
- Sabah, Dean Zatz, what are the logistics of having the table moved
- Zatz, I'm not sure and there isn't clear information about funding for paying facilities to move it
- Sabah, after we let QSB chair know we have approved the moving it to Grad Pad, logistics can follow.
- Peter, foosball tables are usually not difficult to move

Response to decreased summer funding for graduate students

- Peter, DA never came to agreement on what to do, Dean Zatz can provide her input
- There has been increasing concern with summer funding
- Zatz, Grad summer funding is not UC-wide and heterogenous

- USAP funds are usually more than required, but funding is tight on this campus and will be for years to come
- The pot was growing for some years but has been stagnant for the past few years; growth in grad students has exceeded growth in grad students
- We cannot be relying on TAs and USAP only as sustaining, students need to apply for external fellowships and professors need to hire GSRs, we need a new model for funding
- Peter, this is helpful information. We thought perhaps this was a symptom of a new campus and we established the expectations of easy summer funding
- Many students do not know what to do other than apply for summer funding with USAP funds
- Zatz, every student with external or fellowship funding frees up funding for someone else
- Peter, a meeting with Dean Zatz would be productive
- Zatz, this is why I want to meet with delegate assembly to get more graduate student input
- Bringing in more training grant money, more oversight of hiring GSRs
- It is up to the grad groups on how to use the funds, we should meet and talk about it

EC Stipends

- Sabah, students overall support stipends through increasing student fees (avg. \$3-4)
- We are behind as other programs and campuses see stipends for GSA officers
- Nick, we need to make the point that none of us are running next year so no conflict of interest and we are not going to get people to run for these positions without incentive; we need to be getting the best people (or most motivated) for the job
- The resolution should be making a recommendation that next year's GSA should make room in the budget for stipends
- Peter, does this recommendation include raising student fees or is that issue separate?
- Sabah, they are separate and the stipend might create an incentive for additional revenue
- Peter, softening the resolution to a recommendation is a good thing
- 11:58 Peter motions to vote to recommend next year's GSA to pay EC and DA reps 100 per semester and that they should pass these stipends as an amendment in the by-laws
- Nick seconds,
- 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
- Unanimously passes

Graduate Bill of Rights

- 12:00 Sabah, motions to approve
- Peter seconds
- 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
- Passes unanimously

12:01 - 12:02 Closing remarks for meeting by Sabah Ul-Hasan, announcements, adjourn

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