Wed, Sep 19, 2018

Attendance:

- Thaddeus Seher
- Lauren Stark
- William Delmas
- Lorenzo Booth
- Katherine Shurik

Agenda:

1) We need to send a call for nominations to the following
   o Open Executive Council positions
   o Open Delegate assembly positions
   a. Need to set a deadline to give to the graduate groups for choosing their GSA Delegate. Have them appoint someone by Friday Sep 28. If they don't pick someone, then we'll host them
   b. Thad will send 2 emails:
      i. one to the Grad group chairs asking them to approve volunteers (e.g. "Hey, we're soliciting volunteers to the GSA. If someone contacts you about being the GSA delegate, can you approve them? Thanks"
      ii. a direct solicitation to the entire graduate body asking them to volunteer
2) We need someone/something to host the "special" election and process the ballot
   a. Need a way to identify which graduate groups grad students are in.
   b. Tawana Parks – New ASUCM advisor. Talk to for hosting CatLife digital poll for election/nominations.Lorenzo sent an inquiry via email (on Sep 10, 2018) to Tawana asking if they can host a digital poll for us.
3) Need an agenda for the first Delegate Assembly meeting to talk about
   a. Budget approval – still waiting for information from Mayra Chavez-Franco from Grad Div about possible budged adjustments
   b. Talking point: Invite Marjorie from Graduate Division to talk about funding opportunities: More students every year means proportionally less funding from USAP (University Student Aid Program). Grad students can't rely on this.
   c. Need to choose "Election Officer"
   d. Tell them about the GSA Action survey (see below)
4) Update on Committee Appointments (Sona Absent, so this wasn't fully addressed)
   a. William: meeting with UCGPC On Saturday 9/22/2018. (meeting with the VPs of all UC GSAs)
   b. Need someone ASAP for: Graduate Council
   c. Need someone ASAP for Police Advisory Board
5) Any new needs for the GSA website?
   a. Add photos of Executive Council members to website (we should each take a picture in front of the same background, with the same lighting conditions)
   b. Lauren- change website travel award dates
6) Finalize GSA 2018 Action Plan survey

a. Action items that will be included
    i. Get a breakdown for how the "recreation" fee is broken down: building, equipment, sports fields, etc. Possible work to remove some of them. "Reduce semester fee for gymnasium". (Notes on amending GSA fees: remove "recreation" fee. – Lauren looked at the Student Fees Advisory Committee documentation. Found no mention of how to amend it for Graduate Students. Documentation is for adding fees. To reduce fees, we need to talk with the Chancellor.)
    ii. Price normalization for vending items (i.e. feminine products/snacks/etc)
    iii. Increase recognition to Students for their research, outreach, etc. i.e. Graduate student spotlights. Perhaps collaborate with the Library as done in a previous year.
    iv. One-time events: Barbecue, gaming party, movie night, etc
    v. Hosting get-togethers for people interested in joining/starting Grad Student clubs: (e.g. Oratory club: Moderated forum discussions, Tabletop gaming club, etc)
    vi. Bicycle sharing program (Talk with TAPS to judge feasibility and communicate Grad student desire)
    vii. Ride-sharing/carpool service for grad students with dedicated parking spaces on campus. Rides to/from defined places in Merced to campus as well as to/from Merced and various airports
    viii. Other (fill in the blank)
b. Items not included, but GSA will continue to advocate for:
    i. Better grad-student parking
    ii. Grad student desks (quiet space for working). Advocate for more Graduate student-only spaces
    iii. Laptop theft
7) We need to implement an easy suggestion system so grad students can make anonymous suggestions. We will focus on this after the elections have been figured out
8) Hold a real GSA 1st open EC meeting.
    a. Will need to choose temporary members for GSA EC
    b. Date and time will be: Tues October 2 from 3-4pm
    c. Thad will send a save-the-date to the student body.