

Monthly GSA-Graduate Division meeting

September 25, 2018

Attendance:

- Thaddeus Seher
- Dean Marjorie Zatz

Thad and Dean Zatz talked about the ICGE and their summer fellowships.

Thad talked about filling GSA EC and GSA DA – current challenge is finding someone to host the web poll.

Thad talked about GSA Action Survey.

Dean Zatz briefly reviewed some Graduate Division activities for grad students this academic year

- Downtown art festival (past year)
- grad harvest event (October)
- winter tea party
- grad slam
- dissertation boot camp
- research week
- grad appreciation week
- national lab day (some people from national lab come in and talk)
- humanities day

Does GSA want to help/staff/co-sponsor any of these?

Dean Zatz showed a summary of the Grad Div summer survey. The Grad Div Grad student survey identified issues with the following:

- grad students want more advice with grant proposals
- career options outside the academy/professional contacts outside grad program
- tensions between faculty are affecting grad students
- ethics - how comfortable are you in reporting problems (do you trust the university would respond appropriately)
- food availability (some students may live paycheck-to-paycheck), and don't have enough money to get food

Can GSA put together a list of recommended actions that the school/Grad Div needs to be doing to address these things?

Example: Some grad students have reported a problem with disruptive, bullying undergrads. However, some workshops exist to address teaching issues like this. Can GSA help bring more informative about these existing resources to grad students?

Dean Zatz keeps trying to get funding for a grad student psychologist (help grad students deal with mental health issues, specifically relating to their work with their PhD advisor)(at UC Irvine and UCLA

they say this is helpful) –the goal is to hire someone who knows a lot about grad student-faculty interactions (thus, not the same as going to CAPS). Can the GSA ask grad students how much they would like this or if they would support this?

Actionable items:

- Before next open EC meeting, make sure to invite Dean Zatz and schedule it so she can attend.
- ASAP need a Grad Council representative