Note taker:
1:00-1:07 pm: Introduction - Ritwika and Brandon
1:07-1:13 pm: Budget vote and discussion
1:13-1:20 pm: By laws vote and discussion
1:20-1:22 pm: Switching Applied Math to having our delegate be elected rather than "chosen by respective graduate student club" (Phoebe)
1:22-1:32 pm: Delegate updates (precedence to those who need to leave early)
1:32-2 pm: Flex time + tentatively talk about/try to schedule next meeting

Note: Ritu would, at some point, like to talk about grad students experiencing harassment in case they are more comfortable talking to delegates


NOTES:

- Present: Janice, Ritu, Taylor, Ekta, Houa, Phoebe, Albert, Farhana, Shannon
- Overview and introductions (Ritu): What is the function of the GSA (EC and DA) (see constitution and bylaws for details)
- What are events sponsored/organised by GSA: Ritu was only aware of voting parties organised by previous GSAs. However, in general, in the past, the GSA has sponsored a number of social events. At the moment the EC is planning a conference proposal for the Spring.
- What happens to carry over money from GSA budget? Suggestion: this extra money be labelled as such so that it may not be repurposed during the academic year (Note that any such repurposing would require a DA vote, however).
- Suggestion: increase the funding for events based on how many organisations exist and apply for funds. (GSA treasurer, Shayna, will be at the next DA meeting to answer budget related questions)
- What about orgs that do more than one event per year
- Can we quickly update the GSO/Spon events fund details v. quickly before apps are due? The website does not have all the latest information on these processes but we are in the process of updating the website.
- Can sponsored events fund be used to fund non-catlife registered orgs' events? In short, yes. More details: Cat-Life is the system to host organizations through the Office of Student Life (OSL). Being cat-life registered gives these organizations the ability to request money from OSL and the undergraduate student government (ASUCM). Graduate students do not pay fees to OSL and are not eligible to receive funds from OSL (unless the organization also has undergraduate membership). For this reason, it is not necessary for graduate student organizations to be registered in cat-life. Funding for GSA funded groups is a percentage of graduate student tuition returned to graduate students by Grad Division through the GSA. The GSA

has no connection at all to OSL. There is a rubric that the DA uses to approve GSA funding requests it can be found at the below link. Under "Application Process" there is a link titled "GSO Fund Policy." Clicking it will open a document with the rubric.
http://gsa.ucmerced.edu/funding/GSO-fund

- Previous years budgets: the treasurer will have more information about this
- Bylaws don't detail the steps to be taken for all situations. Eg. when budget is not passed. Perhaps there needs to be a more comprehensive re-write?
- The budget to a vote till concerns are addressed
- **All in favour of approving by laws - passed!**
- Proposal: new EC appointments (by EC), when made (for circumstances as detailed in the by laws) for eg. solidarity officer be approved by DA. This needs to be formally proposed and voted on at a later meeting, and once passed, needs to be brought to EC for approval.
- Filling open positions: This will be discussed at GSA general meeting on Oct 31.
- **Applied math be taken off the list of people getting appointed by grad group + figure out how each grad group appoints/elects delegates, and for groups with appointments, do these appointments happen?**
- Funding sources for grad students through employment on campus outside of TA or GSR. Several terminal master's programs have no payment classification for their students: The master's program in the management program was designed with the intent that those students are not allowed to hold employment. Questions about why some of those students might hold employment must be directed to the grad chair of that program. There are three classifications of Master's degree programs in the US. Funding of students and offers of employment are controlled through state and federal laws related to each of the three classifications. While it is not optimal to have students who cannot afford the programs they are in and have no employment choices to subsidize their education, the GSA has zero leverage in addressing this issue. Master's students with such questions are to be referred to their grad chairs.
- TAs office hour spaces: SNS has had issues with responding to scheduling emails timely, due to the relevant office being understaffed? Do other non-SNS departments have this issue: SSM used to have a system of renting offices but that doesn't exist anymore
- Concerns about mental health access: CAPS sometimes only gives 3 sessions; other option: LiveHealth