

GSA Delegate Assembly Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2020
4:00pm-5:00pm
COB 322

Minutes prepared by Cerena Lee with meeting chaired by Cerena Lee.

Call to Order: 4:05pm

Members in Attendance

- Cerena Lee (Internal Vice President)
- Phoebe Coy (Applied Mathematics Delegate)
- Shannon Proksch (Cognitive Sciences Delegate)
- Albert Dibenedetto (Physics Delegate)
- Houa Vang (Sociology Delegate)

EC Meeting Updates

- Summary of the EC Meeting including clarification about the EDI proposal.

Voting on EDI Proposal

- Discussed that the EDI proposal was for GSA to agree to help with marketing (like flyers and promotion).
- This was voted on and passed unanimously (results below).

Confirm Brandon as Election Commissioner or elect different commissioner

- It was discussed in the GSA general meeting that Brandon has volunteered to be election commissioner.
- Brandon was chosen as the election commissioner with a unanimous vote (results below)

Fee Referendum

- Phoebe is on the fee referendum committee and this is the report:
 - Fee increase due to establishing a food pantry (proposed by a student)
 - About \$8 increase
 - Had to be approved through GSA because it was a student proposal
 - Fee increase due to athletics
 - About ~\$50 per semester for both graduate students and undergraduate students
 - GSA did not have to approve this increase
 - Fee increase to support undergraduate athletics programs at UC Merced to grow and sport facilities

- Less relevant for graduate students, but the same increase is applied for both graduate and undergraduate students
- **The DA would like the GSA to properly educate the graduate student population about this fee increase, as it may be unclear where this money will be spent when voting.**

Julio Gallo School of Management

- Creation of a new school by these three disciplines:
 - Management of Complex Systems
 - Economics and Business Management
 - Cognitive and Information Sciences
- There's already a relationship between these disciplines, as many of the faculty work together on multiple projects across them.
- Proposal slides are on the website that Shannon has linked (<http://mist.ucmerced.edu/gsi-pointers>).
- Benefits:
 - Centralizes the three departments
 - Framing for grant money would change
 - Projection of being able to recruit more graduate students
 - Helps data science efforts
 - Creation of new minors, including sustainability
- Cons:
 - May be confusing for incoming students of Cognitive Sciences having to apply under a school of management
- This change does not affect SSHA being the biggest school, nor does it take from the budget.
- There were some concerns about whether Cogsci would fit in a school of management during the meeting. It was mentioned there was no strong dissent within the Cogsci department.
- **They would like a letter of support from the GSA for this program. The DA has voted in favor of writing this letter unanimously (results below).**

Language in Emails on Voting

- When asked to vote on the statement, the email specifically said the EC members should vote, even though DA delegates could also vote
- The DA asked that, in future, language around who can vote for what items should be purposeful and inclusive.
 - Not just GSA, but EC and DA wording included so there is no confusion.

Items Voted on (3 items)

- EDI Proposal
 - GSA supporting the EDI event with marketing
 - In Favor/Against/Abstaining: 2/0/0

- **Passed**
- Election Commissioner
 - Brandon Batzloff as Election Commissioner
 - In Favor/Against/Abstaining: 2/0/0
 - **Passed**
- Julio Gallo School of Management
 - GSA writing a letter of support for the creation of the Gallo School
 - In Favor/Against/Abstaining: 4/0/0
 - **Passed**

Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.