

GSA Meeting notes  
07/05/2019

Independence of Executive Positions:

If you need to work on stuff and email student body, go ahead and do that. We just don't want to email multiple times a week out of GSA email. Anything that has to do with budget or require a vote then we will talk about it!

Officer Updates:

Matt:

- Trying to fill different committees. Needs help with how to recruit people for filling committee spots.
- Emailed ECEC committee, they were unsure what Matt was talking about, there's a ton of information that is not on the website, and it's not clear what the committees even are.
- IRB committee - Leslie Teixeira hasn't heard from her, been emailing with no response. People he does reach out to aren't aware of what's going on. No systematic way to do it.
- It was suggested we should follow up with Charles Nies; he said he would compile a list of committees.

Alex:

- UCSA page update on GSA website? Updated current officers and current DA members on website.
- Needs to update the link for UCSA - changing to something that the Council of presidents have been talking about.

Ahmed:

- International students - need to rewrite page. Will meet with Feng to update that
- It was suggested to talk about new grad student orientation for international students - would be good to have a presentation from GSA or get input on planning that out

Shayna:

- Still waiting on Cassidy - need to know how much expected income we will have so budget isn't finalized yet but will be focusing on different events that we have planned. Have updates on process for reimbursement.

Maria:

- Question for Zatz - UndocuserVICES, would it be possible to include a flyer for UndocuAlly in GROW training? Yes! Meeting with group working on undocumented students issues next week and will have updated information on what we can do.

Brandon:

- Ritu and Brandon have been working with formal organization of Council of Presidents. Quarterly meetings with President Napolitano. Organization is becoming formalized.
- Working on constitution - only thing that we need info on is budget information from Shayna - do things need to be in bylaws.
- Thanks everyone for signing up for updating the website and taking over internal communications. Please sign up for open spaces.

Dean Zatz:

- Chancellor search committee: ramping up on chancellor search. Will be campus day - will be getting memo from Luanna Putney - either Sept 10 or 24 - talking to different constituents Oct. 22 Town halls.
- On campus day - ASUCM and GSA will have a meeting with the search committee: want to make sure that room is full - think about who you'd like to invite to it. 60 - 75 people in that room.
- Who is going to be the speaker - for every student who is present during that session, want to have a bio of 150 words or less, with basic information about role (not sure if this is for just the speaker for everyone), narrative of groups initiative, picture.
- What do we want the chancellor search committee to be focused on? Recommending improved funding for graduate students. Find ways to better support graduate students.
- Not a surprise to UCOP - this year the grad council sent an email to vice provost and chancellor about graduate funding - need to put more money into graduate education and find a new motto. Lot of momentum moving. It would be great to stress that to the search committee - get a different model to the budget so that there is more attention to graduate students. Issues like mentoring, basic needs, marketing of larger campus, increased research visibility, provide more opportunities for grad students so they aren't just TAing all the time.
- Hoping that next chancellor is a respected academic who drives us into a R1 university. This probably reflects view of other deans. Will be asked for this information by July 24th. Will have 1 individual who will present initiatives, challenges, and opportunities. Search committee is surprised that president wasn't on search committee. Campus day is important because this informs search committee who they are going after. Memo isn't ready to be sent out, just wanted to give heads up.
- It was suggested that the GSA should invite the delegate assembly, advisory committee on diversity, etc. We control how many people we will be inviting, and they want to know who will be coming. We might want to pull people from the list of last year's committees, hopefully they haven't graduated. Dan Zatz can help with that. Think

about who you want representing the grad student population. It's a very scripted event.

Update on GSA Budget (Shayna):

- Tentative budget for 2019-2020. Some of the line items are still waiting on confirmation for some line items with Cassie. GSA events - will be funding the shuttle service for international students, and any events that are like that. Want to make sure to have that built into budget.
- Will have carry over of about 10,000. Depending on expected income, will be about 15,000. It is not known if a limit or expiration on carry-over funds exist. This excess has existed since 2016 based on data by Nicholas Dove. At that point it was about 20,000. It was pointed out that by factoring in inflation, we lost 6,000 over the years.
- These funds can be used to host events specifically by GSA, including shuttle service. These funds can be used for incidentals. For example, a microwave in the GradPad, food for GSA events, etc. There was a concern about digging into that overage. How far can we go into this overage and how will this negatively impact future years?
- It would be nice if we found more funding for GSA - Lauren Stark was working on raising fees to fund GSA better.
- Knows that we get 10 dollars per semester per student. May be the lowest out of all the UC campuses. Knows know that within next 2-3 years, if the number of students incoming steadily increases, then we will be able to balance budget without relying on carryover.
- There was a suggestion to increase fees at some point because there could be a long-term plan to fund a salary for executive council members - to offset teaching or GSR costs.
- We should be able to balance the budget, but as number of students increases, we might want to provide more travel awards. Might want to increase fees but may also want to demonstrate that GSA is running smoothly and is benefitting the students.
- DA last year was talking about increasing sponsored events funds - because there is so little money for grad students who organize these events. But, in the end people weren't willing to increase that amount very much.
- Budget Projections - If we know we have extra money and that we will have a balanced budget in three years, we should make the case that we are good stewards of this money and of the grad student community. Carrying around this much carry-over is not beneficial. In the past though, having that carryover has been helpful in balancing the budget. If we can up the budget and have 3,000 that we are pulling over the next 3 years, keeping the current rate of 10 per student, will be able to balance the budget in three years but might be good to have a little bit of carryover left over.
- Travel awards – One of the only ways that people know that GSA exists. Increasing travel awards isn't feasible yet. Need 5,000 to increase that fairly and is not something we can do yet. Increasing funding for sponsored events and GSO funds would be more feasible. Other officers were suggesting to decrease travel awards as it shouldn't be the

only thing the GSA is known for. It was suggested that we consider redistributing that money so that the GSA becomes more public facing. Could there be two types of awards, such as having one for underrepresented students? Not sure that decreasing funds for this right now will help benefit our cause, but we like idea of trying to target students who actually need the funds.

- There was a suggestion to come up with ideas for a yearly fellowship. Organization of events allocate a small amount of money to help smaller groups of students. We should try to use the money.
- There was a suggestion to have 1,000 for emergency funding; Charles Nies has that funding. Money from the union can only be used for TAs.
- Consider looking at funds through schools. Two students per school are chosen for the award. Easy to say that one student should identify as high-need, and then one person from everyone else. Makes sense to have two per school, because numbers across schools were pretty much the same. It was suggested that we might want to look into dispersing those funds equitably across schools as the student population changes. Dean Zatz is trying to push increasing the money going to graduate students - trying to increase the amount of money per student. She wrote a grant that is funding 8 students per summer. Mellon grants have made these students funded but stated she can't be the only one writing these grants. As more natural sciences are being supported by grants, their travel will be funded, and this won't be the same for humanities students.
- The council of presidents is formalizing an annual conference in September and would require presidents to have a travel fund. Don't want to impose on other budget items when there is already deficit spending.
- The discussion on travel awards was tabled until next meeting.

#### International Student Shuttle Service (Ahmed):

- With current amount in our funds, will that be enough to cover enough for international students and events this fall?
- The cost is about 500 for shuttle, we don't know about housing for international students, so not sure how much we will have for fall.
- One of the plans that we would like to consider is to establish a weeklong shuttle service for international students - establish this in advance a whole week in concert with international office. For next year, we can know that we can save this amount for next year. Grad Div said they cannot do the shuttle this year, and so the GSA must organize this.
- Ahmed has been in touch with Will and Jen over email. Jen is in touch with students for GROW planning. Some years Grad Div has done buddy system with grad students, show them where to look for housing, etc.
- Meeting on the 2nd with Grad Div to be guided through process on how to secure fleet vehicle. Following feedback on Arrival's day - have 15 incoming students, and only one person to cover all of them. We will have one student arriving on 7th, a couple arriving

on 8th, Becky will take care of the 12th. Considering pushing the days forward because of late arrivals. Perhaps put these students together?

- Have 2 volunteer drivers - in order to fill the application, need to provide them with name and info of drivers. We still need one or two more drivers. There was a suggestion to ask Ann Diep from Union if there is anyone who would be willing to drive. Also, posted on Facebook, wrote to ASUCM vice president- no replies.
- Shuttle service cost is about 175 for a week rental, and then whatever gas comes out to. Approved up to 300 in gas, but not expecting that we need that much. That will cover going to SFO and back every day for a week. We could get a refund for the days that we don't use it - only if we return the van early.
- Since this is not a line item in the GSA budget, this is discretionary funding and does not need DA approval. Cassie did not have any issues with this.
- Regarding housing, Feng got in touch with someone from his program - willing to provide 45 dollars a night temporary housing. Don't have details, but we don't know if this will only be offered for incoming students from his program or not. Pushing a bit forward for thinking about temporary housing. Email Charles Nies because he talked about housing - having temporary housing for a night or two.
- Maria suggested to send a quick email to department heads if they're having international students come in and if they'd be willing to provide funding for them. This could be a great use of that money for temporary housing. Could also be helpful for finding additional drivers.
- Ahmed sent a letter to GSA - should we include just students or expand it to other professors / faculty. We need drivers for the 13th and 14th. We should plan ahead for next year to allocate money for this. It was suggested that Grad Div should be the one doing this. Should this be added to the GSA budget?
- A final proposal for a budget is generated, then given to DA for them to approve, creation of final budget can be at discretion of EC.

#### Being a Public-Facing GSA (Maria):

- Making sure that they get to meet the executive council - have tea/coffee /cookies with meet and greet with GSA so that they know who are here representing them. Could make a big impact. Make sure that we're approachable to students. Would be helpful before the campus day visit - so that they know that we can pass along any concerns or issues that students have.
- Idea from Dean Zatz: August 15th - barbecue for new students. One month later: evening with leadership event in early September, could give us a few minutes to introduce yourselves. Grad students tend to come to that
- The GSA has an office in the GradPad, and it was suggested by everyone that the GSA should have office hours here.

#### Update on TAPS Parking System, Website (Matt):

- History was - we were told we had to check in with TAPS early on. Meetings were trying to be scheduled - didn't line up with Karin's timeline. They were putting the responsibility on GSA for delivering information on how permits and parking was going to work. Basically, grad students couldn't use online system, not clear what was going on. Matt spent two days crafting their message to grad students with Karin.
- Big problem is that TAPS expects us to do work for them – Matt has gone through their website - looked at fees, online website hasn't been updated.
- Karin said that there were no grad student members on committee. Worried that this is why GSA has had issues in the past getting their job done. Upset that students on fellowships and other graduate students are having a hard time. It's not acceptable that we needed to craft their message to graduate students. Should be on the lookout for organizations pushing their responsibilities onto us. Not sure what Karin is going to do about the situation. Doesn't look good from prior history.
- Karin was saying that "we're passionate about serving customers" but there isn't any information on website in permanent place.
- The people that double-pay are getting refunds. Those who haven't paid yet are getting grandfathered in until August and then will pay for their permit then. It's not systematically done for students. Even if there are students getting grandfathered in - it's not for all students who are going through this. Right after initial meeting Brandon emailed Karin asking how groups of grad students will be hit with this (divided by how they're getting paid) but has not received a response. It was suggested that we put pressure on TAPS and Student Business Services to help find a solution.
- Dean Zatz is trying to get it to where if you have a fellowship then you get paid once each semester. She agrees with Matt's critique. By the time the situation is known, they have already become problematic and now just trying to help mediate. TAPS issues are being solved on a case by case basis, or they just stop responding. Is it GSAs responsibility that this is getting carried out systematically? Dean Zatz noted Grad div may be able to help interface with them. GSA can take on whatever they need to. If you hear things, pass them onto Eric. A long-term solution is working on how these fellowships are distributed.
- There needs to be a statement released from Grad div, GSA, or TAPS to quell tension. Students really don't feel like they're being heard. Climate really needs to be addressed. The GSA can send out a message this weekend to graduate students about TAPS situation.

#### Summer programming (Maria):

- Mostly everyone responded with not wanting to scramble and put together an event this month. Grad div BBQ turnout was great. Think we should focus on international students. In the fall, focus on social events and meet and greet event and build community.
- If there was an event early on in the semester then we might get a great turnout especially if we have food.

### UndocuAlly Training (Maria):

- There are 600 undocumented students on campus; this number is expected to grow this upcoming year. Given the climate, ASUCM has decided that they're all participating in UndocuAlly peer training. GSA should strongly consider this as well.
- Setting up doodle poll for DA and EC to set that up. This is something that they wanted to mention to Dean Zatz - would it be possible to include an abridged version during GROW? Dean Zatz noted that a diversity session is required. It is possible to have a half-hour session, but not an hour and a half. There is a quick crash course on services and resources for grad students. If we include a flyer they can sign up for the whole thing. This can be part of diversity training. At lunchtime they have a resource fair, could have a table for UndocuAlly training and resources for undocumented students.

### Online Communication:

- We probably shouldn't have Zatz or Nies for entire meetings but will announce when they're coming. ASUCM operates the same way so we should too. We have one email for GSA - whoever is checking email is sending information to relevant parties. Council of presidents organizing is contentious - Ritu and Brandon were heavily chastised because they don't have emails for their office.
- Shayna suggested having separate folders for each officer is better. We can drag emails into a folder instead of having it forwarded.
- Brandon noted that Slack went public a few weeks ago and may not be appropriate to use for future communications. Might be nice to have each person have a separate channel - weekly report on what everyone has done that week. If asking for input, you can have discussion on your own channel. It was suggested that each officer have their own Slack channel and can be deleted once discussions are over.
- TAPS invitation - convo between Karin and Brandon about the current students on the committee.