

# GSA Executive Council Meeting Minutes

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

SSM 117

Minutes prepared by Jordan Collignon

Meeting moderated by Ritu VPS

## In Attendance:

- Ritu VPS (Co-President)
- Shayna Bennett (Treasurer)
- Jordan Collignon (Internal Communications Officer)
- Joseph Dube (Public Relations Officer)
- Alexandria Pabst (External vice President)
- Taylor Fugere (Management of Complex Systems Delegate)
- Shannon Proksch (Cognitive Sciences Delegate)
- Phoebe Coy (Applied Math Delegate)
- Okan Ciftci (Material Science & Engineering Delegate)

## **Review of Process for Appointing Executive Officers**

- The GSA opened a new executive position, Solidarity Officer, through constitutional amendment and is looking to fill this position as soon as possible. The bylaws state that the executive council has the option to fill a new executive position by appointment or by election. This was attempted in the special election last month but was left unfilled. Therefore, our other option is to appoint someone from the general membership to fill that position.
- The positions for Internal Vice President and Academic Affairs Officer are still vacant after the special election. The bylaws do not state anything about what the GSA can or can't do in this situation. Since the elections process as stated in the bylaws has concluded, the GSA can start its own process to fill the remaining positions until the next election. As such, the GSA sent out a call for applications in order to find students interested in filling the remaining executive officer positions.
- Applicants were asked to list the three positions in their order of interest. Since the number of applicants was low, the GSA could skip to the interview phase. Interviews with the candidates are schedule to take place during this meeting.

## **Executive Officer Applicant Interviews**

- The candidates for the positions of Internal Vice President, Academic Affairs Officer, and Solidarity Officer, were held during this session. Each candidate was given approximately five minutes to explain why they were interested in the positions they applied for and answered questions from the current executive officers that were present at the meeting.
- The decision to vote on who fills these positions was pushed to the general membership meeting later today.

## **Officer Updates**

### Ritu:

- Had a meeting with Dean Zatz
- Internal fellowship funding does not match GSR salary
- Office hours: no one is showing up. Will talk to Cassie about ways to get people to come to office hours. Jordan will talk to Cassie about adding GSA office hours to the Graduate Weekly Digest.
- Planning for International Week
- UCOP is giving fellowships of \$30K + \$10K for professional development programming
- Fellowship deadlines moved to Spring
- New academic counselor starts on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- UCPath updates: not taking responsibility for the delay in students receiving paychecks.
- Need to draft GSA semester newsletter, Jordan will start a shared document.
- Polling place on campus

### Shayna:

- GSO funding applications have closed. Awardees have been notified.
- Travel award application deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup>. GSA website will be undergoing a transition, and so travel award applications may be lost in transit. Consider a temporary halt on new applications until after the transition is finished.

### Alex:

- Attended the Regents meeting at UC Riverside
- Cohort-based tuition not likely to happen at the graduate level but is still being discussed for undergraduates.

- Met with CAPS
  - New interim director
  - New walk-in hours
  - No 3<sup>rd</sup> party services in Merced
  - New space coming in 2020, and thus more employees

Jordan:

- Regained admin access to the GSA Facebook page. Will share with the rest of the EC to use as a method of communicating with the grad student population.
- Website content overhauled, fixed broken links, tried removing and updating content from years ago. Resources corrected and extended. Website transition is just about ready to begin, notified officers that no new updates can be made until the transition is complete. Should take about 2-3 weeks.

Joseph:

- Would like to plan a party for graduate students before the semester is over. Will try to reach out to see what students want.
- Would also like to start planning events for next semester and to have a meeting with students who want to assist.