

GSA Open Meeting, September 26, 2019

Officer Updates:

Joseph:

- Someone emailed about a position in the GSA.

Alex:

- Attending a voting summit at UCSD; register and rally for upcoming election(s)
- Next UCGPC meeting coming up soon.

Ritu:

- TAPS summary: working on getting bigger busses to accommodate larger student body but there may not be an updated schedule; trying on integrating services with county.
- Graduate peer mentor program - senior grad students mentoring incoming grad students; paid appointment, only open to PhD students, some discussion for opening to MS students.
- New updates to UCM website overall, could GSA website be upgraded too?

Ahmed:

- He and Shayna went to Central Valley international student meeting; some discussions there.

Maria:

- Mental health access for students; Vice Chancellor Nies is putting together an action committee, where we as GSA would have a representative. Reached out to UCLA, UCSC about action days with legislators. The UCSC GSA is really organized about these things, according to Brandon, so it may be worth talking to them about.

Shayna (on behalf of Brandon):

- Budget has been created; sent a copy to Vicky for DA meeting. Application deadline for GSO is October 18th; call will be sent out for application on October 1st. No travel award changes proposed.

Brandon:

- Thank you to everyone who was at the campus day! Everyone did very well in their presentations, including undergrads.
- Grad council meetings (biweekly) - funding issues, proposing new models for better flexibility in applying to external fellowships and getting UCM to R1 status.

Valara Villanueva, Office of the Ombuds

- Assistant Ombuds
- Gave info on service of the Ombuds Office (There will be brochures in the GradPad)
 - Four principles: confidential, neutrality/impartiality, informality and independent.
 - Conflict resolution, formal grievances not filed here.
 - Anonymity preserved. General reporting. Annual reports on their website. Can also do mediations. Voluntary approach.
 - Common concerns: academic dishonesty, interpersonal difficulties, performance feedback, ethical dilemmas, disciplinary matters, unfair treatment, bullying/civility/ respect, workspace conflict, project 2020.

Taylor, Queer/Ally program

- Faculty and staff, expanding to include graduate students.
- Brandon referred Taylor to other possible people

Brandon, Handling Resignations in the GSA

- Vicky: organizes DA, but this one is more critical
- Matt: not as critical, but essential for student involvement
- Options from by-laws (Vicky's position): people can be appointed in a temporary role OR person in the next lower office takes that position.
- Proposal: be offered to fill the position; have an election; also hold another special election.
- Multiple people interested in being internal communications officer as well.
- Internal Vice President: 4/4 vote for helping appoint a new one.