

GSA General Membership Meeting Minutes  
February 25, 2020  
3:30pm-4:30pm  
SSM 230

Minutes prepared by Jordan Collignon

**Members in Attendance**

- Brandon Batzloff (Co-President)
- Ritwika VPS (Co-President)
- Cerena Lee (Internal Vice President)
- Alexandria Pabst (External Vice President)
- Jordan Collignon (Internal Communications Officer)
- Shayna Bennett (Treasurer)
- Mark Seelos (Solidarity Officer)
- Jonathan Anzules (Academic Affairs Officer)
- Maria Ramirez Loyola (Climate Diversity & Equity Officer)
- Ahmed Correa (International Affairs Officer)
- Phoebe Coy (Applied Mathematics Delegate)
- Shannon Proksch (Cognitive & Information Sciences Delegate)
- Marjorie Zatz (Dean of Graduate Studies)
- Maria Nishanian (Graduate Academic Counselor)
- Anh Diep (UC Merced Representative of UAW 2865)

**Overview of Agenda, New items**

- There was an EDI proposal in the draft agenda. This item was removed since the proposal was not finalized in time for the meeting.
- Feedback on the academic strategic planning document.
- Info and updates about the letter sent to Mark Cunningham.

**Voting Information**

- GSA officers would like to create a voting lounge where students can learn about how to vote, and who they would be voting for.
- UC Merced has a polling station on campus that will become available close to voting deadlines.

## **Amendments Committee Update**

- Several proposed amendments to the GSA constitution and By-Laws are being considered. They will be sent out to the entire graduate student body. The DA will not be able to vote on any of the proposed by-laws since the existing by-laws state that the proposed amendments should be sent at least 14 days for the general student body to comment on the proposed amendments. Any by-laws amendments to be considered will be voted on by the DA at the first meeting in April.
- The GSA constitution states that quorum is defined in the by-laws, but the by-laws state that quorum is defined in Robert's Rules of Order. However, Robert's Rules state a list of procedures to follow, where quorum is not specified alone. It is up to the organization to establish quorum. The GSA Executive Council has operated on a quorum where at least 50% of the officers should be present. However, the DA does not have a quorum; one reason for this is because most of the DA is unable to attend meetings. Establishing a general quorum for the GSA may burden the DA. Suggestions were offered on how the GSA can establish a quorum.

## **Status on Letter with Mark Cunningham**

- A request to meet on March 2<sup>nd</sup> is scheduled regarding the issues that were discussed in the letter that was sent out last week.

## **Election Committee**

- The GSA is in the middle of forming an elections committee in advance of the upcoming election.
- The time commitment for the elections committee during the interim election in the Fall was not demanding. However, expect the commitment to be greater during the general election.
- 20% of the graduate student body should vote in order to consider passing referenda.
- No one has volunteered to join the elections committee prior to this meeting.
- **Election timeline draft:**
  - **The nomination period for potential candidates is set for March 30 to April 3<sup>rd</sup>.**
  - **If needed, the nomination period can be extended to April 10<sup>th</sup>.**
  - **The nomination acceptance period is set for April 13-17<sup>th</sup>.**
  - **The slate of candidates will be produced before April 20<sup>th</sup>.**
  - **Voting for the candidates will occur between April 22-29<sup>th</sup>.**
  - **The winning candidates will then be announced on April 30<sup>th</sup>.**
- **The GSA has voted unanimously to approve the above election timeline.**

- As for the elections committee, no one has volunteered to join this committee since this meeting. Phoebe has volunteered to join this committee.
- **Brandon is volunteering to be the elections commissioner. The DA has to vote to approve this at the next meeting.**

### **Graduate Division Planning Document**

- Marjorie has sent a draft of the goals section in the academic strategic planning document and has requested the GSA's comments. Any comments on this document should be emailed directly to Marjorie.

### Items voted on, or to be voted on (2 items)

- **The GSA has unanimously voted to approve the timeline for the GSA election happening in April.**
- **Brandon has volunteered to be the GSA elections commissioner. The vote to approve this goes to the DA.**

### Items Slated or Tabled for Later

- Working Group - An email will be sent out to GSA officers regarding this item. Voting will take place online.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31pm.