

GSA Delegate Assembly Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2020
4:00pm-5:00pm
Zoom

Members in Attendance

- Adam Binswanger (Applied Mathematics, Interim Chair)
- Ben Falandays (Cognitive & Information Sciences)
- Yulissa Perez Rojas (Environmental Systems)
- Hugo Lopez Chavolla (Interdisciplinary Humanities)
- Christopher Bernal (Management of Complex Systems)
- Angela Macedo Andrade (Materials & Biomaterials Science & Engineering)
- Anuvetha Govindarajan (Physics)
- Shaina Sta Cruz (Public Health)
- Yumary Vasquez (Quantitative and Systems Biology, Life & Environmental Sciences)
- Jay Colond (Sociology)
- Jordan Collignon (Internal Communications Officer)

Opening Remarks

- We will start with giving department updates, then vote on the first five bylaws amendments. We will use the remaining time to review the events schedule. Carlisha is unable to make this meeting so we probably won't spend a lot of time on this item.

Department Updates

- Applied Math
 - Started a grad student slack channel to check in and see how everyone is doing. This is also used to advertise the weekly coffee hour.
- Management of Complex Systems
 - Delegate is also an EXCEL mentor
 - Questions were added to the survey in the google doc
- Cognitive Science
 - Will be starting a Masters program
 - Will be hosting the group's annual party on Gather
- Materials Science

- Recently had monthly brown bag lunch with grad chair.
- Grad Div recently analyzed data on its own survey and will be sharing the results with departments soon.
- Also adding questions to the survey on Google. We should talk more about our survey in the next meeting.
- Physics
 - Continuing to host weekly Friday colloquium seminars. Students are invited to have lunch with the seminar speaker.
 - Weekly coffee hour was cancelled. A suggestion was made to host a game night 2-3 times during the semester. The first is scheduled for the end of September.
 - Students in the experimental subdivision of Physics have been moved to the 2nd floor of the ACS building. Once the move is finished all Physics student will be in the same building.
- Environmental Systems
 - The ES faculty will be meeting Monday to evaluate the department's goals for the year. They will get an idea of the students' situations, see what may be going wrong, and find ways to address issues.
- Public Health
 - Students still trying to get situated this semester.
 - Will soon be meeting with other grad students and chair of the department. It was also suggested that we poll students to get an idea of how everyone is doing.
- Quantitative & Systems Biology
 - Recently met with the department chair. Concerns were raised about the system that manages internal fellowships. Students are not being notified on the status of their application, not even a rejection. It was also noted that some of the fellowships lists on the website may be out of date and/or may no longer exist.
- Sociology
 - Will be having semester meeting next week with the department chair. Will also work on helping students to mobilize.

Voting on Bylaws Amendments

- Ten bylaws amendments were proposed by the amendments committee. An email was sent out last week reminding everyone to send any comments to delegates before a vote is held. The agenda gave the impression that only the first five amendments will be

voted on in this meeting, which is why the email set a deadline for comments on the first five amendments only. The first five amendments will be put to a vote today since these involve critical functions of the Executive Council that require constitutional amendments to be valid. The other amendments will be put to a vote in the next meeting.

- Amendment 1: Responsibilities of the External Vice President
 - The update is primary to reflect the GSAs involvement in the UCGPC. The GSA left the UCSA in 2017 and has ever since been members of the UCGPC.
 - What is the actual cost of membership with the UCGPC? We don't have an exact number, but the amount is much less than the costs incurred being UCSA members.
 - Approving this amendment would be the same as approving what are already responsibilities that have been fulfilled for the past couple years.
 - The DA has voted to approve Amendment 1
 - 8 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention
- Amendment 2: Responsibilities of the Legislative Affairs Officer
 - The DA has already approved the constitutional amendment for creating the Legislative Affairs office and has agreed with these new responsibilities in the previous meeting. No other concerns were raised in the current meeting.
 - The DA has voted to approve Amendment 2
 - 8 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention
- Amendment 3: Order of succession
 - The DA has already seen this amendment and have not raised any concerns.
 - The DA has voted to approve Amendment 3
 - 8 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention
- Amendment 4: Responsibilities of the Internal Vice President
 - The DA has already seen this amendment and have not raised any concerns.
 - The DA has voted to approve Amendment 4
 - 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
- Amendment 5: Have the chair of the Delegate Assembly be a Delegate instead of the Internal Vice President
 - The DA had a discussion on this topic in a previous meeting. No additional concerns have been raised.

- The DA has voted to approve Amendment 5
 - 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Fall Events Plan

- Carlisha notified the DA that she couldn't make it to this meeting. An email was sent shortly before the meeting with a draft of the events calendar.
- Many of the events can be moved to different days if needed. Those labeled with an asterisk have a fixed date and time. Some events like the Harvest Fest on October 22nd are hosted by Grad Div. If anyone is interested in hosting an event for GSA or Grad Div, please let Carlisha know ASAP. A sign-up sheet and event details will be sent out soon.
- The GSA also needs help with advertising. Carlisha would like delegates to invite students from their grad group or help with creating flyers.

Next Meeting and Fall Meeting Times

- It is extremely difficult for everyone to attend a single meeting. Work as a graduate student is practically a job on its own, and therefore demands a great deal of time and effort. We can still try to find the best time that fits best for most people. Having monthly meetings after work hours is a plausible option, but people may be too tired in the evenings.
- Plan for the next DA meeting to be on the 1st or 2nd week of October.
- What will we be doing for the next meeting? We will talk about the survey and vote on the other bylaws amendments.
- What about future meetings? Can we set up a meeting with the Chancellor? We can also invite the Grad Dean.

Items Voted on

- Bylaws amendment 1 to modify the responsibilities of the External Vice President was approved.
 - 8 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention
- Bylaws amendment 2 to establish the responsibilities of the Legislative Affairs Officer was approved.
 - 8 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention

- Bylaws amendment 3 to add the legislative Affairs Officer to the order of succession was approved.
 - 8 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention
- Bylaws amendment 4 to modify the responsibilities of the Internal Vice President was approved.
 - 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
- Bylaws amendment 5 to change the current chair of the Delegate Assembly to be a currently elected Delegate was approved.
 - 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Meeting adjourned at 4:51pm.