

GSA Delegate Assembly Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2021

12:00-1:00pm

Zoom

Members in Attendance

- Adam Binswanger (Applied Mathematics, DA Chair)
- Jay Colond (Sociology)
- Melissa Baker (Political Science)
- Aislinn Beam (Psychology)
- Ben Falandays (Cognitive Science)
- Yulissa Rojas (Environmental Systems)
- Maryam Khazaei (Computer Science)
- Shaina Sta. Cruz (Public Health)
- Anuvetha Govindarajan (Physics)
- Shayna Bennett (President)
- Benny Nguyen (IVP)

Opening Remarks

- Reviewed agenda

GSA Election

- Preliminary Calendar for 2021 election: Voting begins April 5th, winners announced April 12th, more details and confirmation soon!
- General election note, tell your constituents!: On the GSA ballot there will be a referendum for an additional \$55 fee athletics/recreation fee. Potentially, if this is voted down, a membership fee for certain facilities (e.g. the pool) will be required. The next GSA general meeting will discuss this, with further and more concrete details.
- Please remind students in your departments to vote, we would really love to fill all the GSA positions in this election!
- Vote to approve the following persons to sit on the Election Commission...
 - Shayna B. : 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain
 - Ben F. : 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain
 - Adam B. : 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain
- Vote Adam B. as Election Commissioner : 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain

Opportunities/Calls for Participation.

- The Basic Needs Workgroup, led by Zunaira I. (zqbal2@ucmerced.edu) will meet this Friday, 02/25 at 10 am. Please email her to get involved. They are currently addressing

issues such as creating a more useful + efficient bus route, getting on-campus graduate housing, among other concerns.

- The GSA has been tasked to review and revise the Graduate Students Rights & Responsibilities. This will be a small task (~1-2 meetings), nevertheless, Karla S. is looking for participation from the DA to contribute and help. Please email her at kseijas@ucmerced.edu to participate.
- Betsabel Romero, the Legislative Affairs Officer, is looking to create a team to review legislation (proposed bills) relevant to graduate students. There is a UC-wide effort to document these bills and their progress. Betsabel/UC Merced has volunteered to investigate bills relevant to basic needs. This team needs to be formed ASAP, as there is a mid-March deadline for consolidating this information. Once this project is complete, information will be shared among the UC-campuses. Please consider getting involved and helping Bestabel (bchicanaromero@ucmerced.edu).

Utilities Stipend

- The Physics delegate/dept. sent out a survey about the need for a stipend to offset increased utilities due to remote learning, around 15/~50 students responded. The results of this survey, and an expression of need was sent and eventually forwarded to Dean Chris Kello (see email forwarded by Anuvetha G.)
 - Review 02/25 email from Benny regarding next steps and how to get involved.

Diversity Workshop

- Larisa G. + Adam B. met w/ Dr. Asmeret Berhe. She will hold a workshop on harassment + discrimination in the academia, date, and time forthcoming.
 - DA will work on advertising and promoting this event

GSO & Sponsored Event Funding Rubrics

- If you have not done so already already, please submit individual scores for the GSO & Sponsored Events funding applications.
- There was a general agreement that the application rubrics and application form needs to be updated; this will be further discussed in the next meeting.
 - Before then, Benny will confirm whether the DA can change the application.
 - The rubric is certainly under the purview of the DA to change, the current rubrics were created by a previous DA.
 - Specific comments:
 - Suggestion: Ratio of number of students impacted to cost per person
 - Do we want to value speakers over food?
 - The rubric does not value outreach, is that intended?
 - How to handle auctioning?
 - Need more consistent information from applicants.

Meeting adjourned at 12:51pm

The next Delegate Assembly Meeting will be Tuesday, March 16th, 12:00pm.