

GSA Delegate Assembly Meeting Minutes

April, 20th 2021

12:00-1:00pm

Zoom

Members in Attendance

- Adam Binswanger (Applied Mathematics, DA Chair)
- Jay Colond (Sociology)
- Aislinn Beam (Psychology)
- Ben Falandays (Cognitive Science)
- Maryam Khazaei (Computer Science)
- Benny Nguyen (IVP)
- Yulissa Perez Rojas (Environmental Systems)
- Angela Macedo Andrade (Public Health)

Opening Remarks

- Last official meeting! Reviewed Agenda

Department Updates

- Sociology: Dept. is potentially introducing TA Evaluations (IORs reviewing TAs); Is this the case in your department?
 - Psychology has been doing these reviews for a while.
 - Other departments do not have or are unaware of such evaluations.
- Psychology: Dept. reached out to students whether they want or are considering medical leave for if/when campus opens in Fall 2021 (if they feel it is unsafe for them to return in-person).
 - Unsure how taking the leave will impact TA/fellowship/etc.
 - Perhaps look into whether this is being considered in your dept.

Updates on Letters

- Utility Letter is ready to be disseminated, please refer to an email from Ritwikia VPS (ritwika@ucmerced.edu) on 04/06 regarding details. The form to gather support is in this email. If you have any trouble email Benny (bnguyen255@ucmerced.edu)
- Please contact Benny about the IH Letter Updates: bnguyen255@ucmerced.edu

Voting on By-Laws

- Article III, 3a: Removing IVP's duty to hold election for DA vacancies
- Article I, Section 1: Changing meeting time requirement (10 days after EC meeting) due to changes in EC and DA meeting frequency

- Vote to approve both changes: 7 Yea, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain

Discuss Transition to Incoming DA Cohort

- How to pass on expectations?
 - Collectively decided to individual orient the new delegate for our departments.
 - A written document would be best for documentation, consistency, and longevity.
- Summer: Delegates should feel comfortable passing on duties to the new delegate, if the delegate position is vacant, please resume duties until the Fall special election.

GSR-SR Union

- Context: We have a TA-Union, but no protections for other types of student employees (GSRs, etc.).
 - 8000+ cards in support of SR-Union; need ~8400 signatures
 - Need ~20 more GSR signatures from Merced for a Merced majority.
 - Will submit at the end of May
- GSR-SR Resolution:
 - Keeping the GSA and DA on the same page
 - Open support of Union from GSA
 - Consistent messaging between Union & GSA; GSA not leveraged to union-bust
- Questions:
 - What role do int'l students have?
 - This SR-Union will be able to advocate and lobby for int'l students
 - One of the few options int'l students have for political power; extensions to OPT,
 - Do only GSRs signatures of support (cards) count?
 - Only GSR signatures will be counted towards the total for establishing the union, however, support from all persons is helpful.
 - Includes trainees + fellows
- Vote to approve SR-Union: 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstain

Thanks for your service + participation through a strange + trying year!