

GSA Executive Council Meeting Minutes  
September 28, 2020  
5:00pm-6:00pm  
Zoom

Meeting moderated by Shayna Bennett

Minutes prepared by Jordan Collignon

**Members in Attendance**

- Shayna Bennett (President)
- Benny Nguyen (Internal Vice President)
- Zunaira Iqbal (External Vice President)
- Taylor Fugere (Academic Affairs Officer)
- Jordan Collignon (Internal Communications Officer)
- Quy Lam (Treasurer)
- Carlisha Hall (Public Relations Officer)
- Ritwika VPS (International Affairs Officer)
- Larisa Gavrilova (Climate, Diversity & Equity Officer)
- Karla Seijas (Solidarity Officer)

**Updates and Announcements**

- There are a couple things that the Executive Council should talk about as a collective.
- Ritu sent an email to Chris regarding campus-based fees and why students have to pay despite not being able to go to campus.
- Charles Nies would like to talk with the GSA about spring fees. It was suggested that he come to speak at the general meeting on October 7th. If this time doesn't work we can have a separate meeting.
- Will there be a refund for fall campus-based fees? We should ask Charles since he will have info on this. Shayna will contact him later through email.
- Has there been an ongoing conversation about student housing? We hope to continue this conversation directly with admin this semester.
- Flu shots have been added to the list of required vaccinations. All students must submit a record of a flu vaccine by November 1st.

- Info about the required vaccinations is not up on the health services website yet. We should send an announcement about this through our email as well as social media.
- Flu shots are being given at the campus health center, but you will need to schedule an appointment. The announcement from UCM requiring the flu vaccine also mentioned that vaccine clinics will be held on campus. It is concerning that vaccine clinic dates have not yet been announced with only a month before the deadline.
- Are there places for students to park just to access the health center? It was pointed out there are about 10 parking spaces available for those who need quick access to the health center and do not require a parking permit.
- Multiple officers raised concerns regarding if students will be prevented access to the student health center for a flu vaccine if they cannot show proof of approval to be on campus. A similar concern was raised about being barred access to the student health center to get a COVID-19 test for the same reason. The ability for all students to access the campus health center for either a flu vaccine or a COVID-19 test is at odds with policies governing access to campus property during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- For the next meeting we need to have the first agenda approved by the Delegate Assembly. Quy will be provided information on the GSA budget and the amount of funding will be used. Officers planning to use funds should provide an estimate to Quy by October 6th.
- The previous GSA cohort started drafting officer handbooks that outline the responsibilities of each officer and how to fulfill them. Each new officer will update their own handbook so that the next person knows what their position will entail.
- A constitutional amendment was passed that removed the Internal Vice President as chair of the Delegate Assembly. Previous IVPs resigned early over the last couple years, leaving the Delegate Assembly with no leadership. To prevent the DA from stagnating, the chair will be a delegate chosen from among members of the DA. This year we hope to better define the roles of the IVP and reform the bylaws to solidify these roles.
- Regarding the current GSA constitution and bylaws, rules governing the EC and DA are inconsistently placed. While the DA bylaws govern the DA, the GSA bylaws govern both the EC and DA, with many provisions not being consistent across both documents. A goal this year will be to rewrite the bylaws by separating them into multiple documents so that it's clear which bylaws apply independently to the EC and DA.

- The president is required to send a newsletter to the graduate student body at least once per semester. The next issue is estimated to be released later in this semester, and more details will be sent to us soon regarding what should be in the newsletter. A current suggestion is to have each officer write a summary of their office and what they do in the GSA.
- We will continue to engage in the basic needs conversation. At this moment transportation is one of the worst problems facing students; the pandemic has caused a significant lack of access to alternative transportation both on and off campus.
- We need an officer to represent the GSA at the Graduate Council. Shayna will not be able to join because the meeting time conflicts with classes. The Grad Council makes decisions on how grad programs are run, discusses how to best serve students, and reviews department policies & procedures. The representative will give the graduate student perspective on important topics. While the GSA has an ex-officio position on the Graduate Council, we need someone to be at the meetings to listen closely to their discussions.
- All constitutional amendments have passed during the election. One of these amendments establishes the officer of the Legislative Affairs in the GSA. How are we going to fill this new position? It was suggested that we have a subset of the Executive Council conduct interviews with potential candidates. Since this position has responsibilities similar to the EVP, the EVP should be involved in the selection process. Karla will be able to serve on this selection committee.

## **New Officers**

- Introductions made by new officers (Zunaira, Benny, Karla, Quy). What is one superpower you would want?
- Introductions made by current officers (Shayna, Taylor, Jordan, Larisa, Ritu, Carlisha)

## **Officer Updates**

- Carlisha:
  - Has been updating the events calendar, keeping track of who will be hosting upcoming events.
  - Many officers have been alternating in leading scheduled events. We are still looking for more officers to sign up to be a host. Let Carlisha know if you are interested in hosting an event on the calendar and your name will be added.

- Taylor:
  - Email to be sent about applying for committees. There needs to be students on the Chancellor's Advisory Committees. Student parents are needed for the ECEC committee. The Division of Finance and Administration is looking for 2-3 potential candidates. Preparations for Research Week will soon be in full swing, so students are needed here as well.
  
- Ritu:
  - Had a meeting with Services for Undocumented Students for having an undocumented affairs officer. It was preferred that a student of mixed status should take the position; mixed status meaning this person is at most "related" to someone who is undocumented.
  - First International Student Hangout will be on October 14th.
  - Figuring out the airport shuttle pickup program for Spring 2021.
  - Over 1,000 Chinese visas have been revoked. None of them were UCM students.
  - The Department of Homeland Security proposing a plan that would effectively eliminate OPT and STEM-OPT. These are critical programs that international students rely on to study in the US. There is a period for comment which will close in late October. The Office of International Affairs is spending a lot of time understanding what the outcomes will be and the avenues that students can take.
  
- Jordan:
  - Made a couple changes to the website. Information from the events calendar has been included in its own page and will be updated over time. Announcements sent out through email are also being added to the website so students won't have to sift through emails to find them. The minutes from previous meetings have also been made accessible to the public.
  - Added the new officers to Microsoft Teams. This will be a shared file storage for our cohort. We will be able to edit documents simultaneously. A planner is included to help keep track of what tasks each officer will be working on.
  - Everyone should now be able to access the GSA email.
  
- Larisa:
  - Facilitating the TA Institute with the Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning
  - Haven't heard back yet from the Chancellor's committees

- We need to be using our social media more often. If we have flyers we should post them too.

## **Planning for Future Meetings**

- It seems that about everyone in the EC is free from 5-6pm on Mondays. Most of the DA is also free during this time. The EC meetings cannot take place simultaneously with the DA meetings. The IVP has to be present for both meetings.
- It was suggested that because the EC has a lot of work this year we schedule our meetings for every other week. The next EC meeting will be scheduled on October 12th from 5-6pm.
- The general meeting will be happening next week on October 7th.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.