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**GSA Executive Council Meeting Minutes**  
October 12, 2020  
5:00pm-6:00pm  
Zoom

This meeting is moderated by GSA President Shayna Bennett. Minutes of the meeting have been prepared by GSA Internal Communications Officer Jordan Collignon.

**Members of Executive Council 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)
- Ritwika VPS (International Affairs Officer)
- Larisa Gavrilova (Climate, Diversity & Equity Officer)
- Karla Seijas (Solidarity Officer)

**GSA Council Agenda**

- Item 1 covers tasks meant to improve functionality of the GSA. Item 2 lists ways we can encourage students to become actively involved in the campus community. Item 3 list how we can encourage involvement of students in their local community outside of the campus. Item 4 lists the goals from our solidarity letter. Item 5 lists basic needs issues that have become exacerbated due to COVID-19.
- Regarding item 5, we should also consider food options for graduate students on campus; the current dining options are not suitable for many graduate students who work on campus. Many graduate students work in locations that are very far from the dining centers on campus and don't have enough time between work times to eat a full meal. The Pavilion is a one price, all you can eat location which is too expensive for students just looking for a quick bite. Many students used to go to food trucks on campus because they were closer to where they work.

- We should also continue the conversation regarding off-campus housing projects for graduate students.
- Add to item 2: Greater graduate student involvement in the community
- Add to item 4: We want to better serve undocumented students, which we will need to do in collaboration with Services for Undocumented Students. Our goal can then be to build and maintain a relationship with Services for Undocumented Students.
- We should also add that we are working with CETL to create a community of teaching assistants.
- Modify the point in Item 4 to “a call” to ensure retention of Black graduate students.
- Make sure students are signed up to vote in the upcoming election and vote on the propositions on the ballot this year. Mail in ballots are still being sent out. The voter registration deadline is on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Zunaira can reach out to group creating pamphlets. There is also literature we can reference to let people know where they can learn about each proposition. It was also pointed out that international students should not be involved in campaigning.

## **GSA Budget**

- A breakdown of where funds will be spent has been presented for approval by the Executive Council.
- Comments:
  - Are the UCGC membership fees normally this amount? It was pointed out that the membership fee depends on how many graduate students we serve.
  - What events are in our purview? We host trivia nights, writing groups. The total budget for the year allows for \$2,000 in GSA event funding, and we currently have \$750 allocated this semester. We should consider more outdoor events for later.
  - When will students be applying for GSO funding and sponsored events funding? The page on the website shows that the deadline was October 19<sup>th</sup> of last year. We don't have any information on an application process yet, so the page has been left untouched since the last application deadline.

## **Motions to Approve GSA Budget and Agenda**

- Motion to approve initial budget proposal has passed.

- 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
- Motion to approve initial list of agenda items for the year has passed.
  - 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

## **Status of Legislative Affairs Officer Search**

- We currently have two candidates for Legislative Affairs Officer. Interviews will be held with both candidates this Friday.
- It is estimated that by Monday the search committee will have made its selection.

## **Discussion on Climate Officer's Appointment on the GDAC**

- There is a dispute about whether the Climate Officer is automatically guaranteed a seat on the Graduate Deans Advisory Council (GDAC). The instructions state that six students are selected from a pool of applicants, and a seventh is selected among the executive officers of the GSA. The Graduate Dean can pick which graduate students can serve on GDAC including the option to confer the GSA's representative on GDAC.
- Our bylaws state that the Climate officer has to serve on GDAC. Why does this bylaw exist if it can't be upheld? In the future we may have to consider an amendment to resolve this conflict. Graduate Division's own selection criteria is that one of the members is among the Executive Council of the GSA, but that member is not specifically the Climate officer.
- If Graduate Division wanted someone from the GSA, then there is the possibility that any of us could step in. However, if everyone except Larisa declines the appointment, then Larisa would be the only candidate from GSA. We need an internal agreement about who in the GSA will serve on GDAC.
- About a week after the dispute was brought to our attention, Graduate Division conferred that Larisa would be appointed.

## **Letter Concerning the Privatization of the ECEC**

- The GSA received an email from a student about whether there has been a discussion of a campus plan to privatize the Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC). There appears to be no public information about this move to anyone who currently uses the ECEC, no do we know about the company that is supposedly involved with UC Merced in the deal.

- The private phase has already begun as of this month. It may appear that the deal is already done after quickly moving through the process without being noticed. The same thing happened at UC Santa Cruz last year.
- FWAF was scheduled to hold a Zoom session on the future of the ECEC last week. This information came out so late that not enough people noticed that this session was happening. Taylor knows someone on FWAF and has contacted this person for more information.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13pm.

Next Executive Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 26th, 5-6pm.