



GSA Executive Council Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2021
3:30-4:45pm
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)
- Larisa Gavrilova (Climate Diversity & Equity Officer)
- Ritwika VPS (International Affairs Officer)
- Karla Seijas (Solidarity Officer)
- Betsabel Chicana (Legislative Affairs Officer)

President Updates

- The Council of Presidents is looking for students to be on the Student Regent selection committee. The process will involve sifting through applications over the course of one day. This is likely to take place on April 9th or 10th. Shayna must nominate someone to be on the committee no later than tomorrow. Betsabel has expressed interest.
- In the CAPRA committee, there is discussion about a systematic review of the UC policing system this will include changes in use of force and other protocols.
- Meeting with Graduate Dean - Graduate student housing is coming to the new complex at the end of Lake Road. We're trying to get a better understanding of the dimensions for each unit. First impression suggests that these units are going to be small. We've reached out to Charles to see if he has information on the size of the units but is unable to provide this to the GSA.

- GSA Newsletter - Everyone who wanted to write an article has submitted one. Thank you to Benny and Jordan who will be assisting in crafting the newsletter. We will also consider advertising the new officer positions and March 13 coffee event.
- Election Commission – Adam from the DA is confirmed as the chair of the Election Commission. Ben Falandays and Shayna Bennett are also confirmed commissioners.
- Spring Awards - After a meeting earlier this week it was decided that we put the spring awards on hold until next year. A couple other departments on campus are already soliciting nominations for leadership and service awards. More planning time is needed to have a series of awards offered to graduate students. The next cohort will be given recommendations on how to move forward with this process.
- Officer Handbooks – The new deadline to have a first draft of the officer handbooks is now April 1st. Too many arduous tasks were added to our plates, making it difficult to get this task started before the end of February. Final drafts will be due on April 12th.

Other Tasks

- A fee referendum is coming. We should once again write a letter stating our stance once we know about its final language.
- What to do for the general meeting in April? An idea was to have all nominees come and state why they are running for the GSA. We could also suggest they attend future meetings to get an idea of what the current cohort is doing.
- Should do something for incoming/outgoing officers? Ritu has suggested that we run the outgoing officer series again this year.
- Expectation of progress to degree? Shayna will discuss this with Hrant and the rest of Grad Council. If possible, Ritu will be able to attend a portion of the meeting on Thursday.

Officer Updates

- Karla announced that the call for Graduate Students interested in being a part of the Committee who will update the Graduate Student Rights & Responsibilities document has been sent out. Thank you for Jordan for sending it out and Benny for informing the delegates!
- Zunaira had the first Basic Needs committee meeting which will be tackling the utilities stipend, transportation, housing, and the recreation fee referendum.

- Betsabel is putting together our advocacy team. So far we are going strong!
- Larisa is putting together the mental health group. Two people expressed interest. The first meeting is expected to take place next week.
- Ritu is working on the utility stipend letter, plus wanted to propose (already getting one resources for this) putting together a tenant rights doc for students to peruse in our resources page.
- Benny sent delegate scored funding applications to Quy. The DA and Ritu are organizing to write a letter about getting a utilities stipend; They will update soon on next steps. A Google form is expected to be distributed via delegates to gather signatures. The draft of the spring newsletter to be sent today/tomorrow.
- Jordan indicated that the proposed bylaws will be sent out tonight after the committee does a final read-through. He also attended the monthly UC disability committee meeting a couple weeks ago. The committee is planning to rebrand itself as JADE (Justice, Awareness, and Disability Education) which is the umbrella for all six subcommittees. He's a new member of the emergency planning subcommittee of JADE, but due to lack of communication from other members, meetings have not been scheduled yet.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

The second General Membership meeting will be on Wednesday, March 3rd from 4-5pm.

The next Executive Council meeting will be on Tuesday, March 16th from 3:30-4:45pm.