

GSA Leadership* Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2021
12:00am-1:30pm
Zoom

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

* Leadership includes both the Executive Council and Delegate Assembly members

Members of Executive Council in Attendance

- Jordan Collignon (President)
- Aislinn Beam (Internal Vice President)
- Zunaira Iqbal (External Vice President)
- Benny Nguyen (Internal Communications Officer)
- Arya Rajan (International Affairs Officer)
- Binod Bhattarai (Academic Affairs Officer)
- Sara Downs (Treasurer)
- Arabi Seshappan (Solidarity Officer)

Members of Delegate Assembly in Attendance

- Deseret Weeks (Management of Complex Systems)
- Devika Sudha (Physics)
- Ariell Smith (Materials, Biomaterials Science, & Engineering)
- Tyrome Sweet (Quantitative Systems Biology)
- Abigail Bolter (Psychology)
- Yulissa Perez Rojas (Environmental Systems)
- Saima Sumaiya (Mechanical Engineering)
- Deepika Gunasekaran (Quantitative Systems Biology)
- Eddie Lucero (Political Science)
- Jay Colond (Sociology)
- Andrew Proulx (Cognitive & Information Sciences)

Purposes of Student Governments

- As GSA, we are to represent graduate student opinions and interests to university administration. Our primary goal is the betterment of graduate student experience.
- We are in solidarity with the Union, having an explicit agreement of aligned communication and messaging.

Microsoft Teams

- We will be using Microsoft Teams to house files and to communicate amongst ourselves.
- Create 'channels' for any subcommittees/working groups as needed (Option under the three dots next to the Team name, currently there is only one channel, 'General').

- Email Internal Comm.s, Benny (bnguyen255@ucmerced.edu) for any Teams questions.

Roles of Executive & Delegate Assembly

- Delegate Assembly Duties:
 - Pay close attention to what your department is doing (e.g. what the faculty representatives are interested in such as finding funding, hosting events, etc., what events students are organizing) and try to build intra-department connections.
 - Communicate intra-department efforts or concerns to the rest of the Delegate Assembly for inter-department collaboration, discussion, and problem solving.
 - Represent the interests and concerns of your department.
 - Early in the year, the DA will need to approve the budget for the fiscal year. This budget will be prepared by the Treasurer, Sarah Downs.
 - If a delegate existed for your department in the 2020-2021 academic year, you should have received some communication about delegate duties and expectations, specific to your department. If there was no delegate or no communication, feel free to reach out to the IVP, Aislinn Beam (abeam@ucmerced.edu), with any questions.
 - If there are ever any points of discussion, or ideas you want to communicate, please feel free to add such items to the agenda. The agenda will be prepared by the Delegate Chair (TBD) and the IVP, Aislinn Beam.
- Executive Council
 - Communicate with administration and departments that are not directly connected to a graduate program (e.g. Graduate Division).
 - Specifics of each role outlined in the by-laws, and each officer should have received an officer handbook with further detail.
 - If there are ever any points of discussion, or ideas you want to communicate, please feel free to add such items to the agenda. The agenda will be prepared by the President, Jordan Collignon.

Ongoing & Proposed Projects

- See file attached titled 'GSA Initiatives' in the email. These initiatives were started by the previous GSA cohort(s), which may be pursued by this year's cohort.
 - This list of initiatives serves as example and inspiration for any initiatives this cohort is interested in pursuing. Please feel free to communicate your ideas at any time, whether that be during meetings or via email.
 - Benny tried to fill in contact information where known, please reach out with any further questions.
- Eddie Lucero proposed the idea of having Standing Committees for long-term, ongoing issues, to build institutional knowledge which'll guide future efforts, provide evidence of persistent issues, and ease future cohort transitions.

Delegate Assembly Chair

- At the first Delegate Assembly Meeting, IVP, Aislinn Beam will discuss the duties of the Delegate Assembly Chair.
 - Briefly, the Chair (possibly in collaboration with the IVP) will prepare the meeting agendas.
- The previous Delegate Chair was, Adam Binswanger (abinswanger@ucmerced.edu)

Meeting adjourned at 1:21pm.

Please look out for & reply to any scheduling surveys sent by Jordan and/or Aislinn.