

GSA Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2021

4:00-5:00pm

Zoom

Members of Executive Counsel in Attendance:

Jordan Collignon (President)

Aislinn Beam (Internal Vice President)

Zunaira Iqbal (External Vice President)

Arya Rajan (International Affairs Officer)

Sara Downs (Treasurer)

Azin Shamshirgaran (Climate, Diversity, Equity Officer)

Arabi Seshappan (Solidarity Officer)

Introductions:

- Dean Kello is joining us today

Updates:

- Jordan:
 - o Office of the chancellor is looking for two grad students to serve on two committees
 - o Aislinn will reach out to DA about these committees (hard deadline, needs to be decided within a week and a half)
 - Search advisory committee
 - Academic senate and ASUCM and staff
 - Time commitment: 12 hours, 4-6 zoom sessions across 4-6 months
 - Climate and diversity search committee
 - Looking for someone to take over this position
 - Can reach out to dean's advisory on climate and diversity
 - o Vaccine mandates
 - UCs place to mandate these when not FDA approved?
 - But will talk about this at a different time
- Arabi
 - o Working with the union

- Has not attended union meeting yet, but will soon
 - Will reach out to Carla
- Azin
 - TAPIA conferences for diversity
 - Grace Hopper conference and scholarships
 - Might be good idea to fund some students to go to this conference, because this year the scholarship only covers the registration, not other fees
 - Dean Kello: mentioned that it is a great conference, funded a student before as a one off, might need individual departments fund or use GSA funds this
 - Sarah: Could restructure travel funds to score and include “points” for diversity
- Sarah
 - New fiscal year
 - Travel award is coming up
 - Right now July 31st deadline
 - Wants to make start date 2 weeks before around July 19th (when email out about it)
- Zunaira
 - Working with CalFresh
 - Emailed TAPS about discussing the survey results
 - TAPS said they would schedule something once have results
 - Zunaira will send follow up email
 - UCPGC
 - We received 3 bills from them from 2018-2019 recently
 - Zunaira will reach out to them about this
 - Sarah: Cassie has a ledger with past info from the GSA, and Sarah can reach out to her about that
- Arya
 - Main focus is transition for international students
 - Diversity training modules to make transition easier especially during the pandemic
 - Jordan: Is there a department that could collaborate on this?
 - Can ask around about that
 - Dean Kello: Where is training needed?
 - Help international students transition to things like housing and transportation here
 - Help beyond what learn at orientation
 - Dean Kello would like to help the school with this issue so that they can handle it before or during orientation
 - Many different things that are already occurring at the school, such as housing department, transportation, and diversity training

- Jen Quiralte in Grad Div is the housing contact
 - Has discussed idea of connecting students for housing
 - For Transportation: international students don't necessarily know how to use the bus system/cat tracks
 - For example: Schedules, routes, name
 - An info sheet might help
 - The website isn't easy to understand
 - All routes on the city buses are free to students
- Betsabel
 - Trying to get ready
 - Email to endorse the Eagle Act
 - Approved by diversity officer
 - It is to support the Eagle Act, which would provide employment visas to international students
 - Students who have gone to school here can't necessarily work here after they graduate
 - Based on merit, not country of origin
 - If we approve we can sign it on behalf of the school
 - Need to sign by July 9th
 - Betsabel will send out online vote, please vote by Friday
 - Here is the letter:
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xXTEPwubFaabOyg-OmjfzP04520mUEdRsCOH857-Bik/edit>

Peer accountability will be at next meeting

GSA activities

- Sarah: we will have about \$1,800 for the year and Cassie said that we can partner with Grad Div this year to pay for things
- Cassie and Jen Q are the contacts for these
- Jordan has added more ideas
 - Grab and go things downtown
 - Free coffees
 - Pet photo contest (popular last year)
 - Trivia nights
 - Suggestions: pumpkin contest, something crafty
 - Professional development activities
- Can send out a survey to see what people prefer, either in person or on zoom and what categories they would prefer
 - Might be a good idea to have a small team that specifically focuses on this
 - Make survey and send out the survey
 - And then send out for others to approve

- Zunaira will take the lead on this
- Small groups to handle events: Committee that is event focused
 - Committee would plan things, does not necessarily have to host
 - Sarah: Treasurer might need to be on it because relates to money/funds
 - Jordan moves to create this committee
 - Zunaira seconds
 - The ayes: Sarah, Zunaira, Aislinn, Arya, Arabi,
 - Aislinn will email DA about getting involved in these events

We have an expected commitment to be part of committees and activities beyond elected positions.