

GSA EC Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2021

4:00 pm - 5:00pm PST

Zoom

This meeting is moderated by Interim GSA President Benny Nguyen. Minutes of the meeting have been prepared by GSA Treasurer Sarah Downs.

Members of Executive Council in Attendance

- Benny Nguyen (Interim President, Internal Communications Officer)
- Sarah Downs (Treasurer)
- Aislinn Beam (Internal Vice President)
- Arya Rajan (International Affairs Officer)
- Azin Shamshirgaran (Diversity & Inclusion Officer)
- Arabi Sesshappan (Solidarity Officer)
- Betsabel Chicana Romero (Legislative Affairs Officer)

Officer Updates

Benny

- Being Interim President
 - Benny is acting president though GSA election, if no one runs then we will go down the order of succession as outlined in bylaws. Should everyone say no, then the position will be open and anyone in the graduate community can take it on without an election.
- We will split the duties of president including
 - Council of Presidents meeting (monthly on 1st Monday)
 - Standing meetings with Chris Kello and Charles Nies (unsure on frequency)
 - Grad Council (meets every 2 weeks). Need to approve members so whoever does this will need to formally submit

- President Drake Meeting Oct 25 (if no one elected by then)
 - Need to think of questions to ask the president
- Where we are with election
 - Nominations closed on Friday, currently in acceptance period. Voting will start week of Oct 4.
- Last weekend there was a retreat among presidents in UCGPC
 - UCGPC is changing their funding process, so we don't have to allocate GSA funds to be a member
 - UCGPC wants to work more with individual GSAs since they feel like they don't know what happens at individual campuses

Azin

- Created document about conferences focusing on diversity in engineering (want to expand it to other fields as well); Perhaps can collab w/ Aislinn/DA
- Want to see if GSA or departments can sponsor students to attend conferences

Sarah

- Went over Travel award ideas
 - Got comments, will have a formal proposal to vote on by next meeting
 - DA will need to vote as well, they meet Oct 14.
- Events
 - We have money, can plan events that have money
 - Starting to plan things, want to go more low key such as trivia night, international student meet-ups, first/second year meetings, coffee meet-ups, etc
 - Will send minutes from meeting with Grad Div about what events they are planning

Betsabel

- Having health issues so not always here, doing her best
- Housing City Council meeting (09/07)
 - Need to designate areas for urban residential zoning
 - SB35 (GSA tried to support last spring) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB35) . Bill tries to expedite building process for building affordable housing
 - What can happen right away? Shelters, expanding occupancy (from single residency to multi-family)
 - Trying to be more flexible for standards on sub-division development (so people can expand)

- Trying to expedite process for building permits
- Shortage of construction supplies (only presented problem no solution)
- Trying to build city more and expedite it, but got the feeling that nothing is going to happen right away

Arya

- Someone reached out after newsletter about Progress toward degree – can we talk about this at a general meeting or in another forum?
 - Weighing how much a student is Taking against their degree progress
 - Can we hold a forum to figure out the needs and interests from students in various fields
 - Can we modify the scoring process for internal fellowships to make sure they are fair to students who have had to TA allow
 - Ask to push expected graduation from 5 to 6 years (for students who have to TA all the time)
 - Adjust publication requirements that programs have. Weigh teaching and service
 - Need to talk to GC chair to see what can happen
 - Ritu would like to be a part of this (and kept in the loop about this)
- Arya would like to host an international student hang-out
 - In-person, 1x per month
 - Needs a co-host: Benny will help, Azin can help as well
 - 2-3:30pm on third Thursdays

Arabi

- Rights and Responsibilities document
 - A student has the right not to be treated poorly
 - About what our rights are as grad students—needs to be reworded to make sure things are framed this way
 - Wanted to submit by next grad council meeting but now needs to be re-vamped

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM

Next meeting 10/12 at 4 - 5PM, Virtually