GSA EC Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2022

5:00 pm - 6:00pm PST

Zoom

This meeting was moderated by GSA President Violet Barton. Minutes of the meeting have been prepared by GSA Internal Communications, Benny Nguyen.

**Members of Executive Council in Attendance**

* Violet Barton (President)
* Aislinn Beam (Internal Vice President)
* Arabi Seshappan (Solidarity Officer)
* Azin Shamshirgaran (Climate, Diversity and Equity Officer)
* Md. Mehdi Masud (Public Relations Officer)
* Benny Nguyen (Internal Communications Officer)
* Edgar Perez-Lopez (Undocumented Affairs Officer)
* Arya Rajan (International Student Affairs Officer)
* Destina Bermejo (Social Media & Graphic Design Specialist)
* Betsabel Chicana Romero (Legislative Affairs Officer)

**Officer Updates**

General

* Committee Openings
  + Police Advisory Committee
  + Search Committee for the Dean
  + Review the document about proposing
* Hybrid Petition
  + Petition for hybrid-options, most especially for students who are disabled and/or at-risk of long-term or significant health complications
  + Invited Jeremy to present at our next General Meeting

Sarah (Treasurer)

* The fee referendum committee is working to schedule a time to meet either next week or the week after. They have said there is only one referendum to discuss, but no further details have been given.
* Travel awards for the most recent cycle were given out last week. We had 40 applicants, which is the most I have seen! I did get a few emails from students upset that they have applied multiple times and never received an award—I explained how awards are picked and told them we are always open to hearing feedback if they have new ideas for how we should select awardees.
* Other than travel awards and GSO/SEF funds, we basically did not use our budget last semester. I really want to encourage that we buy food, give gift cards/prizes, or use funds in other ways, but I will need a 2 week heads up to be able to spend funds!

Aislinn (Internal Vice President)

* First DA Meeting last week: DA Chair, interest in the leadership training (pre-recorded session)

Benny (Internal Communications Officer)

* UCGPC Meeting:
  + Highlights: Apply to be Regent, Looking for StARs, Marlenee Blas Pedral & Undocumented Grad. Student Experiences, Housing Survey, Policing @ Merced
* Housing Survey will start this week!
  + Will contact Bavneet
* Email about Graduate R&R Open Comment going out tomorrow morning
* Talked to Butovens about Salsa in April, Need to give him some soft deadline.
  + Can easily reserve outdoor space, need to rent Speakers, possibly serve food

Arya

* Leading the letter regarding unbalanced demands for int’l students (Draft by next meeting) [Azin assist]

Edgar

* Attending a conference about undocumented student funding and lack of engagement/support (March)
  + Leading the letter detailing these issues

Azin

* Leading the podcast effort:
  + Need help with making a Graphic, music, a lot!
  + Equipment-wise: Using Zoom recordings
    - Perhaps can use the room+equipment that RadioBio uses (Betsabel will find how to reserve the room)

Arabi

* Volunteer to work with Graduate Div. for tea & coffee events [+Arya assist]

**Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM**

**Next General Membership Meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 22nd 4 – 5 PM via Zoom**

**Next meeting Tuesday, March 1st, 5 – 6 PM via Zoom**