GSA EC Meeting Minutes

April 05, 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)
* Benny Nguyen (Internal Communications Officer)
* Edgar Perez-Lopez (Undocumented Affairs Officer)
* Destina Bermejo (Social Media & Graphic Design Specialist)
* Sarah Downs (Treasurer)
* Azin Shamshirgaran (Climate, Diversity & Equity Officer)
* Betsabel Chicana Romero (Legislative Affiars Officer)
* Md. Mehdi Masud (Public Relations Officer)

**Guests**

* Victor Wang (Council Chair, UC Graduate & Professional Council)

**Updates**

**Victor Wang Presentation**

* UCGPC (all UC campuses except UC, Santa Cruz who opted not to join): ucgpc.org
* Independent non-profit organization incorporated in 2018
  + Independent = UC has no oversight
* Sister organization/undergrad. Counterpart: UC Student Association (UCSA)
  + Split from UCSA to address G+P issues
* Represents UC Grad. + Prof. Students internally + externally
  + Legislative Advocacy (e.g. CalFresh eligibility expansion)
  + Communicate w/ Regents, President
  + 3 guaranteed spots to bi-monthly Regents meetings
    - Guaranteed public time
  + Coalition building (e.g. UC Green New Deal, UC Access Now)
  + Surveys (Housing, Cost of Attendance)
* Board Members of UCGPC: VP External Affairs
* Currently:
  + UCGPC funded by membership dues, ~$40k, $1.30/represented student
  + Depending on UC Office of President to fund travel + projects
  + Student-run, no staff, no physical office
  + Unequitable funding model (doesn’t address funding disparity across UCGSAs)
* Proposal/New Fall 2022:
  + $7/year, to be covered by tuition remission
  + Opt-out option available
  + Collection begins Fall 2022
  + Contributes to: staff, advocacy travel (replace UCOP funding, fin. Independence), student conferences (showcase work, but also on G+P student issues), media campaigns, system-wide committee compensation
  + Benefits:
    - More G+P student involvement in legislative advocacy
    - UCGPC can advocate for more issues/policy areas
    - More access to committees/decisionmakers
* Next Board Meeting in person April 9th, 2022, UC Riverside
* Disseminating widely

**Election Commission**

* Azin will help
* Tentative timeline forthcoming later tonight (Trying to elect new GSA by May)
* Enrique Guzman will help with creating the Prescence form (and department filtering)

**Violet Barton (President)**

* On the Student Regent Selection committee, reviewing + selection in-progress
* Meeting with Pres. Drake this week
  + Semesterly meeting with Pres. Drake + UCOP
  + Raise any UCMerced specific issues for Violet to bring forward
* Padlet boards! Bobcat Babies and Pet Week! Share widely + participate
* Podcasts up and running! 2 Interviews conducted
  + Still looking for interviewers + interviewees!
* Library Exhibition to be up soon
* Time capsule has some traction and interest from collaborators

**In-person DC advocacy work**

* Neither Betsabel nor an agreed upon grad. Rep. (Noelle) is able to attend in-person

**Students R&R**

* Will be edited tonight

**Letter for Undocumented Student Issues**

* Waiting for UCLA’s Letter to base our position

**Student Athletics Fee Referendum**

* Want data of graduate student facility use
* Disseminate pros and cons

**Misc.**

* Benny going to Meeting with UC Basic Needs Committee Co-Chair this Thursday
* Sarah interested in being on the Planning Working Committee

**Meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM**

**Next EC meeting Tuesday, April 19th, 5 – 6 PM via Zoom**

**Next General Meeting, Tuesday, April 26th, 4 – 5 PM via Zoom**