

GSA EC/GA Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2023
5:30 pm - 7:00pm PST (COB2 392)

This meeting was moderated (both in person and zoom) by Edgar Perez Lopez (GSA President). Minutes of the meeting have been prepared by Md Mehdi Masud (GSA Internal Communications Officer). Necessary revision(s) have been performed by Edgar and Lorenzo (Internal Vice President).

Attendance

1. President - Edgar Perez Lopez
2. External Vice President - Arabi Seshappan (Zoom)
3. Internal Vice President - Lorenzo Booth
4. Internal Communications Officer - Md. Mehdi Masud
5. International Affairs Officer - Mohit Saraswat (Zoom)
6. Climate, Diversity, and Equity Officer - Koton Babaguchi
7. Solidarity Officer - Jarrod Brown Jr. (Zoom)
8. Undocumented Affairs Officer - Yulissa Perez Rojas
9. Treasurer - Aneelman Brar
10. Public Relations / Community Outreach Officer - Destina Bermejo
11. Social Media and Graphics Design Officer - Maia Powell

Grad Students: Jordan Collignon, Jorge, Ken, Jordan Jensen (Zoom)

Undergrad: Luis Holguin

Officer Updates from shared box link

Officers shared their updates in Edgar's shared box link. The key updates are in brief:

- TEDx event will be sponsored GSA
- Working on a clothing closet for graduation regalia

Discussion/Action Items:

UROC research graduate student mentor program:

- They are hiring for the summer graduate student mentor program.
- Feb 27 is the deadline for early review. There is a healthy amount of interest and the process is competitive. Late applicants will be considered if there is remaining room, apply now!

- Pay is comparable to a TA appointment (50%) UROC research week graduate student presentation opportunity

- Mehdi and Maia will be sharing UROC research sharing news.
- For UROC research, early deadline can be set to share research.
- Application deadline: March 05, 2023
- Will ask DA for tabling help in research symposium (Yulissa)

UC Lobby Day:

- March 27-29, Sacramento (Arabi)
- Aneelman will check about who can be funded from GSA officers (seems to be only EVP)

General election:

- General consensus to hold election earlier than later. Proposed election is on April 2023. Ideally nominations mid March and while voting would occur before and during spring break.
- Some DA can switch to GSA. Solicit involvement from DA or from other grad students.
- Lorenzo will check with DA.

Office of student involvement (OSI):

- Three people from GSA are needed for serving the election commission.
- Edgar, Lorenzo and Mehdi are interested.

DEI survey and next workshops/events:

- Graduate student survey done by Koto, and report shown in meeting
- Koto, Arabi and Destina will team up to arrange diversity workshop
- Koto want to team up with Mohit to arrange some international/heritage events
- Cultural trivia might be planned (Koto)
- Food culture event can be planned where students can represent their culture (Aneel)

Mixer event:

- GSA can collaborate with mixer event (Mohit)
- Discuss with Casie (Koto)

Travel awards:

- 6 students/per school will be awarded for travel (Aneel) (\$1000 per student)
- External VP or Legislative officer can be funded for Sacramento workshop related travels.

USDA food distribution:

- Will be sending email about that (Aneel)

Graduate student appreciation week:

- Destina will work on event ideas and will share plan

Public comments period:

- Graduate student support group
 - are held by CAPS but are an environment for graduate students to just meet and talk with themselves about anything. A general support group!
 - Current utilization is very low. CAPS has identified a new time that more people would be able to attend (5-6PM), however CAPS will no one attends.
 - The survey for choosing a date was in the latest graddiv weekly newsletter
 - (Audience suggestion to rename from support group to something more casual like hangout and for GSA to pay for food at these groups)
- Luis (undergrad) proposal to GSA about giving a talk on grad admission process:
 - Can GSA give talk about grad school, application process, how it works, etc.
 - Email: lholtiun@ucmerced.edu

EC-DA members stipend decision finalization:

- Aneelman will give a link to make the eligibility criteria final.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

Next EC-GA Meetings on: 03/14/23