

GSA EC Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2023
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
ZOOM

The meeting minutes has been prepared by GSA Internal Communications Officer Morgan Lavenstein Bendall.

Members of the Executive Council in Attendance

- Destina Bermejo (President)
- Kotono Babaguchi (External Vice President)
- Adam Binswanger (Treasurer)
- Claudia Johnson Madrigal (Academic Affairs Officer) late
- Morgan Lavenstein Bendall (Internal Communications Officer)
- Mykael Pineda (Candidate for Public Relations/Community Outreach Officer)
- Genevieve Egbunno (International Affairs Officer) LAte
- Jullanar Williams (Climate, Diversity, and Equity Officer)
- Arabi Seshappan (Solidarity Officer) **ABSENT**
- Mohit Saraswat (Candidate for Legislative Affairs Officer) **ABSENT**
- Elsie A. Cortes (Social Media and Graphic Design Officer)
- Jai Mica Vaca (Undocumented Affairs Officer)

Members of the Delegate Assembly in Attendance

- Jordan Collignon (Applied Mathematics)
- Kunle Adewole (Chemistry and Chemical Biology) **ABSENT**
- Rachel Casper (Cognitive and Information Science) **ABSENT**
- Zachary Malone (Environmental Systems)
- Emily Cobbs (Interdisciplinary Humanities)
- Ariell Smith (Materials and Biomaterials Science and Engineering)
- Sameen Yunus (Physics)
- Hunter Prout (Sociology) **ABSENT**

General Assembly Member

- Sharon Tafolla

Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of this meeting is to have our monthly general assembly meeting. We will discuss funding GSO and Sponsored Events, meeting structure, semester newsletter, and sponsoring events outside of GSA.

Meeting Agenda

11:30 am - 11:40 pm: Welcome by the GSA President (10 minutes)

11:40 am - 11:55 am: GSO and Sponsored Event (15 minutes)

11:55 am - 12:25 pm: Graduate Student Concerns (30 minutes)

12:25 pm - 12:35 pm: Semester Newsletter (10 minutes)

12:35 pm - 12:45 pm: Election Organization (10 minutes)

12:45 pm - 1:05 pm: Committee Discussions (20 minutes)

1:05 pm - 1:15 pm: Meeting Structure (10 minutes)

1:15 pm - 1:30 pm: Sponsoring Events Outside of GSA (15 minutes)

Note: 11:30 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm the DA will be available

Meeting began at 11:30 am

Welcome by the GSA President and Delegate Chair

- **Announcement:**
 - By-laws being approved by the Delegate Assembly
 - Status of ReGROW
- **List of votes for the meeting:**
 - GSO Fund Budget
 - Sponsored Event Fund Budget
 - Individual applications for GSO and Sponsored Event Fund
- **GSA Action Items:**
 - Meeting structure
 - Link to next month
 - Ask for availability
 - Semester Newsletter
 - Every EC officer reviews officer responsibilities stated in the by-laws
- **Next Semester meetings:**
 - There will be a Slack/email asking for everyone's availability to schedule meetings.
- **Winter Break meetings:**
 - Destina will be holding open Zoom meetings to plan events and work on other GSA organization matters for next semester.

GSO and Sponsored Event led by Treasure

- Reports of the proposed budgets for the GSO and Sponsored Event Fund and who applied are posted in the Slack channel
- We went over all the organizations and sponsored events that applied

- The only concerns were with one organization and one sponsored event
 - We are unsure how many graduate students participate in the Young Democratic Socialist of America group.
 - Adam is going to ask for clarification on how many graduate students are involved.
 - We need the Writers Happy Hours to re-submit the budget so it only has Spring 2023 dates.
- Travel Award selections were made. Adam will speak with Cassie about dispersing funds.
 - Recommended that we look at the amount of people applying from each department/school.
- Votes
 - A quorum was met for both the Executive Council (10 out of 12) and the Delegate Assembly (5 out of 8).
 - GSO Budget Approved
 - EC: Yes (8) and No (1)
 - DA: Yes (4) and No (1)
 - Yes (11), No(2) - approved
 - Sponsored Event Budget Approved:
 - EC: Yes (10) and No (0)
 - DA: Yes (4), No (0), and Abstain (1)
 - GSO Events:
 - Funding Young Democratic Socialist of America Approved
 - If the quota for the amount of graduate students involved is not met, then this will be revoked.
 - EC: Yes (9) and No (1)
 - DA: Yes (4) and No (1)
 - Funding Graduate Pedagogy Association Approved
 - EC: Yes (10) and No (0)
 - DA: Yes (4), No (0) and Abstain (1)
 - Funding SIAM Student Chapter Approved
 - If the quota for the amount of graduate students involved is not met, then this will be revoked.
 - EC: Yes (6), No (0), and Abstain (4)
 - DA: Yes (4), No (0), and Abstain (1)
 - Funding Ground State Approved
 - EC: Yes (8), No (0), and Abstain (2)
 - DA: Yes (5) and No (0)
 - Funding Black Student Coalition Graduate Division Approved
 - EC: Yes (10) and No (0)

- DA: Yes (5) and No (0)
- Sponsored Events:
 - Writers Happy Hour Approved
 - Need to update budget
 - EC: Yes (9), No (0), and Abstain (1)
 - DA: Yes (3), No (0), and Abstain (2)
 - 9th IH Annual Graduate Student Conference Approved
 - EC: Yes (10), No (0), and Abstain (0)
 - DA: Yes (3), No (0), and Abstain (2)
 - SIAM Central Valley Conference Approved
 - EC: Yes (6), No (0), and Abstain (4)
 - DA: Yes (3), No (0), and Abstain (2)

Graduate Student Concerns

- Graduate Group Concerns from the Delegate Assembly
 - None brought up
- Individual Students
 - Sharon Tafolla from Public Health Department
 - Asked if there are other departments with conflict resolution plans to deal with the balance of working with IOR and having them as advisors/committee members.
 - Responses from GSA:
 - Claudia:
 - The Union might be a good resource to work out grievances.
 - Sharon has talked to the union but has not received help since they are overburdened.
 - Possible other resources:
 - Academic Affairs
 - Students' Rights and Responsibilities
 - Would be happy to talk offline about this issue.
 - Jullanar
 - Has some ideas around this topic.
 - Would like to help with this issue.
 - Jordan
 - Previously there was a conflict resolution committee that made a document.
 - Will look for it in the Box folder.

- Destina
 - Could talk to the graduate dean about this issue, but it would not be confidential
 - Ombuds is another possible resource.

Semester Newsletter led by Destina and Morgan

- To follow the by-laws, we need to send this out this semester.
 - Jordan would like to see this happen with a call to action to have an idea of graduate student engagement.
 - We are going to say that the Fall 2023 newsletter is the survey that will be emailed out next week (Monday, December 4 at the latest) with a brief summary of what the GSA has done.
- Over winter break, we are going to work on a welcome-back newsletter for Spring 2024.
 - Destina will ask for more information of what individuals have been doing.
- Committee: Destina, Elsie

Election Organization

- Sarah has resigned from her position and sent an email with her election progress. It seems like it is difficult to set up.
- We need to get this done by March or April.
- Committee:
 - DA: Jordan, Sameen
 - EC: Destina

Committee Discussions led by Claudia

- Claudia pointed out that there is a spreadsheet of committees. They are hoping to get an active and inactive status for all of them by early spring.
- Destina was informed by Graduate Division that there are committee positions that we need to fill. They are on the UCM Senate committee page. The following are the committees mentioned:
 - Committee on Research (COR)
 - Library and Scholarly Communications (LASC)
 - Elsie and Emillie are interested
 - Admissions and Financial Aid Committee (AFAC)
 - Graduate Council (GC)
 - Budget review with the Graduate Division
- Jordan noted that the UCM Senate Committees ask for a CV and being accepted onto a committee is not simple

- We would like to ask for vacant committee positions to be filled by the DA, which would fulfill their one-committee requirement.
- By-laws and Constitution Committee
 - Since we no longer have the special election, the constitution will not be amended until the next election.
 - We can make more changes to the draft.
 - Responsibilities of officers may be obsolete and could be taken as committee opportunities of the DA
 - Delegating tasks to the committee
 - *Action Item:* We would like every EC officer to review their own responsibilities stated in the bylaws as they stand. The committee would like to know whether some responsibilities are up to date and others that may no longer apply to the position. Think about what can be added or struck from your position, this will be useful for the bylaws committee as more revisions are proposed. Next, think about how a group of individuals in a committee may better handle responsibilities. If there is something that is still useful for GSA but is difficult for anyone to manage, this may be something that the DA could take over in the future.
 - The committee would like to know between now and the next election.
 - Destina asks for officers to document what they are doing and be mindful of how much work they are doing.
- Potential reinstatement of the TAPS advisory committee
 - We have the right to add a member to this committee, which focuses on transportation and parking concerns
 - This committee went away with COVID-19 and should be reinstated to have a say in bus routes and equitable parking pricing.
 - It would be useful to have someone survey buses.
 - Union reps met with Management and TAPS on Tuesday and are eager to work together.
 - *Action Item:* The TAPS director would like to have the names of 1 or 2 graduate students who are eager to engage with TAPS, consulting partners, and key stakeholders in making improvements to bike safety and alternative transportation projects.
 - Work is expected to start in early spring 2024.
 - Destina is interested in being involved in this committee but will confirm later.
 - Call to be on this committee
 - We will email this position to all students.

Emails

- We need to email about basic needs on-campus
- We need an email about asking for cap and gown donations
 - Elsie has drafted a poster.
 - Morgan and Elsie will talk about sending this email out
- We need to email about recruiting people for the TAPs committee.

Meeting Structure

- The EC and DA are now combined in the by-laws and will be attending the same meetings.
- Destina asked if we should continue having monthly meetings (2 hours) or change it to bi-weekly meetings (1 hour each).
 - This will depend on availability for next semester.
- We want to set priority topics for meetings and focus on action items.
- It is useful to send updates before meeting.

Sponsoring Events Outside of GSA led by Morgan and Jordan

- Brought up by Morgan last meeting, we discussed supporting different causes on campus and how we should share through email and social media. We talked about how this would be based on “good judgment.”
 - There is disagreement with having an undemocratic process of supporting groups on campus on behalf of the whole GSA.
 - Jordan showed that it is implied in the by-laws that we need a majority vote before posting material on behalf of the GSA.
- What process should we implement to help support groups on campus?
- What are the goals of the GSA concerning political issues?
 - From the constitution:
 - To provide a forum where matters of concern to graduate and professional students may be discussed.
 - To foster and promote diversity and inclusion among graduate and professional students.
 - To create a safe and healthy campus climate where all members of the Graduate Student Association, but in particular, historically underrepresented students thrive.
- We need to vote to sponsor an event that is political or has a political agenda.

Graduate Division Update

- Destina said that the graduate division talked to her about approving posts on behalf of the whole GSA is not okay. She will be making her own statement about the matter on her personal account.
- Destina expressed that her feelings are hurt that the person who contacted the Graduate Division did not go through the other means.
 - Morgan pointed out that there was a disregard for their feelings from the statements posted on the Slack channel when trying to remain neutral.
- Claudia recommended that we have some professional development training.
 - Destina says this is a good idea.
- We need to have a conflict resolution policy with accountability.
- Destina says that ReGROW is moving forward and will be happening on January 11th, 2024.
- It was always brought up by Cassie that there would be a mid-year retreat.

Meeting adjourned at 1:26 pm