

GSA EA & GA Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2024
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
HYBRID

The meeting minutes have been prepared by GSA Internal Communications Officer Morgan Lavenstein Bendall. Notes were taken by Elsie A. Cortes and Morgan Lavenstein Bendall.

Members of the Executive Council in Attendance

- Destina Bermejo (President)
- Kotoño 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)
- Jullanar Williams (Climate, Diversity, and Equity Officer)
- Arabi Seshappan (Solidarity Officer)
- Mohit Saraswat (Candidate for Legislative Affairs Officer)
- 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)
- Rachel Casper (Cognitive and Information Science)
- Zachary Malone (Environmental Systems)
- Emily Cobbs (Interdisciplinary Humanities)
- Ariell Smith (Materials and Biomaterials Science and Engineering)
- Sameen Yunus (Physics)
- Hunter Prout (Sociology)

Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of this meeting is to have our monthly general assembly meeting. We discussed the committees, semester newsletter, GSA elections, and Fee Referendum.

Meeting began at 2:22pm (Delay from Technical Difficulties)

Welcome by the GSA President and Delegate Chair - Destina and Jordan

- ***Announcement*** (*Issues that concern the General Assembly directly*):
 - Cassie Gunther has a new position, so connection with Graduate Division will be changing going forward
 - Communications primarily with Ashley (Hrant's assistant) currently
 - Lunch with the Chancellor - looking for members of the GSA interested in attending, as well as students with fellowships (Chancellor's fellowship in particular)
 - Cap and Gowns - office space measurements, where they are being stored
 - GROW - Between April and May for the Fall semester, want ideas from the GSA (may be new representatives who speak on this depending on timeline from elections)
 - Paychecks and Financial Aid - need to let incoming students know of important deadlines or inquiries to submit to receive first paychecks in September
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- ***List of votes for the meeting:***
 - None
- ***GSA Action Items:***
 - Send out semester newsletter
 - Prepare election materials, push for referenda
 - Volunteer to help facilitate upcoming campus activities

Graduate Student Concerns

- Graduate Group Concerns from the Delegate Assembly
 - None
- Individual Students
 - None

Election Organization

- We are still waiting for communication with Graduate Division, but they are slow to get back to us.
- OSI has recently contacted us, but we are waiting for more information about what they need from us to start the election process.

Committee Discussions - Claudia

- Call for Student Health and Wellness and Activating Outdoor Spaces Committee

- For committees on the Academic Senate - they have responded at this point and are confirmed active.
- Put out inquiry for initial interest of who may like to join which committees from the Executive Council and General Assembly.
- Request for a graduate student representative for the Student Advisory Board for Student Health and Wellness and Activating Outdoor Spaces (open to all students)
 - Members asked to join 2 virtual engagements (1 hour) taking place at soon-to-be determined dates in February/March

Semester Newsletter - Destina and Elsie

- Newsletter mostly complete - awaiting final items, including list of committees from Hrant. If still missing by this week, newsletter will move forward with what we have.

By-Laws Committee - Jordan, Claudia, and Morgan

- Working on Article 3 - about responsibilities for the officers.
 - Looking for feedback from each officer about their duties
 - Link for Officers to provide feedback:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g0aXVOfmzd9w8Keb13HP8gjDjZkvip-T/edit#heading=h.ms0iot8t9m17>

Summits/Meetings

- Destina attended CHEBNA this prior week
- Summits such as this are available for officers to attend for meetings (UCOP funded) if interested.

Executive Oversight Board

- Jai has attended prior meetings with the Executive Oversight Board since November, learning about upcoming votes regarding subjects such as UCSHIP.
- For UCSHIP, premiums are going up across UC campuses - if votes against certain programs go through, costs will go down to keep premiums for going too high.
- Graduate student feedback so far is low - suggest a member sits on the board regarding UCSHIP to address graduate student needs
- GLP1 medications and fertility medication coverage are some of the kinds of medication the board is looking to vote against.
- Mohit is the current representative for this board - going forward, need to emphasize importance of sitting on this board due to the kind of decisions being made by the EOB.

- With premium increases, student copays will also increase.
- Email Jai about anything related to this issue.
- There's a representative by every UC campus on this committee.

GSAC - Jullanar

- They aren't providing virtual options that are making it hard to attend most meetings for the positions. They also haven't been able to get notes from the meeting as well.
- Hrant wanted to get perspective of graduate students with dependents to find out what they need such as rent burden. GSA has a problem with him not relying on us, only the people that shows up the that particular meeting.
 - Jullanar will create a survey to be emailed to get feedback and provide at the next meeting.

Qualifying exam workshop

- This is a test workshop that Graduate Division is hosting during spring break. There are only 10 spots available (40 applied).

E-bikes

- There are working agreements with Kevin Bikes to provide free bikes.

Events - Mykael

- The Research week symposium is next week. There will be a signup sheet sent out for GSA tabling. We are giving out poster tubes for graduate students participating in the poster session.
- The Cultural Show Case will be on April 13th where food will be provided.
- There is a plan to create a Grad Slam watch party.
- We are planning on having a transition meeting, but it is dependent on election.
- We are planning on having a Yosemite BBQ.
- Planning on hosting a volleyball event every friday in April at Yosemite Lake. We might look at Apple Gate since there are nets there.

Transit survey - Jordan

- There is currently a transit survey that the city bus and cat track are conducting. They are trying to see what times people need public transit.
- We will send out an email with the QR code so more people can take the survey.
- People who complete the survey will be in entry for a \$100 Raley's giftcard.

What to do for next weeks?

- We are planning to have the constitution revisions done in the next two weeks.

- We are going to revisit and send out an email about cap and gowns.

How to handle the referendum?

- We should know by the next meeting if the referendum was cleared to start open forms on. It is currently in the review process. We should know by next meeting what is happening.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm