

GSA Before and After UCSA

For years UCSA has been the gathering point for all student representatives. It has been the voice for undergraduate and graduate students to advocate for students' needs and it has been the main ally to defend our rights and bring our ideas to the highest levels. However, during previous years the graduate community has studied, discussed and analyzed the idea of creating a new association tailored for graduate and professional students of the UC System. Several discussions and meetings were held to define the heart and body of a new association that will pay more attention and focus on the problems we face as graduate students. The new coalition called "University of California Graduate and professional Coalition – UCGPC" was born in 2017 supported by different UC campuses, including UC Merced.

Today we would like to summarize the experience with UCGPC and its value for all graduate students and specifically for our campus.

- UCGPC approved and published its bylaws to guide and lead the coalition.
- UCGPC is formally constituted to serve the graduate and professional student community and can invest funds for graduate and professional students' campaigns.
- UCGPC has consolidated communication channels and funding with the office of the president, the regents and all the other groups that worked previously UCSA.
- The UCGPC meetings now only focus on graduate and professional students' needs.
- All the GSAs have reduced the expenses for meetings conducting only one meeting in person every two months and one virtual in between. The GSAs have more money to invest in graduate students and less in member travels to these meetings.
- UCGPC is working on different campaigns and some lobby trips to DC
- UCGPC organized the first UCGPC Campus Climate Conference to be held the 28th April at UC IRVINE.

This is a great start for a young but strong organization that will have years of service to our graduate community. For the upcoming years, some new and committed graduate students will have the opportunity to become members and lead the UCGPC to a greater future.

Cordially,

External Vicepresident.

University of California Graduate Student Association.