

**GSA EC/GA Meeting Minutes**  
**August 30, 2022**  
**5:30 pm - 7:00pm PST (SSB 350: Grad Pad)**

This meeting was moderated by GSA President Edgar Perez Lopez. Minutes of the meeting have been prepared by GSA Internal Communications Officer, Md Mehdi Masud with necessary revision(s) from President Edgar, External Vice President Arabi Seshappan and Internal Vice President Lorenzo Booth.

**Members of Executive Council in Attendance**

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

**Graduate Students in Attendance**

Steven Sun, Jordan Collignon

**Welcome by the GSA President**

GSA president Edgar welcomed all the participants of this meeting and introduced the meeting agenda with all.

**Recall 08/15/22 meeting minutes**

1. Discussion held about special election to fill empty positions in EC.
2. Travel award to be given by 2 (two) students from each department, instead of one. And it will be increased to \$500 per award. Aneelman to meet with Cassie and Edgar for this.
3. Committee list will be reviewed by EC members by this week to choose 1 per position, until we have GSA volunteers to fill positions.
4. Maia made the flyer for social media ('How to get involved' event).
5. Banner and nametag have been shown in meeting and all participants agreed on those.
6. Mehdi updated GSA website, particularly the EC/GA meeting news and UCGPC hiring news. The bio is partially updated, as he is waiting for few other bios from the EC members who are about to submit theirs.
7. Destina and Edgar will be meeting Cassie for organizing Fall events (knowing Grad division and other organization planning).

## **UC Merced Student Concerns/Comments**

1. Some students mentioned that they don't have catcard access to Grad Pad.
2. GSR and TA salary structures for UC Merced students should be clarified on a website.
3. Potential discrepancies in PhD students and candidates salaries depending on the semester. Example: summer salary is stagnant at 60-70% although they are full time engaged in research. Can it be increased to 100% in summer and at least 70% for other semesters?
4. Remark for clarification about full-time intern students' need to pay tuition and health insurance to UC Merced. This is burden for them and need a solution.

## **Officer Updates**

Officers provided updates resulting in the following action items:

### **Votes:**

1. Voted to change parliamentary procedure from Robert's Rules to casual discussion with majority vote (EC only) - PASSED

### **Action items:**

1. Empty EC positions need to be filled by special election. Need volunteer for the election. Lorenzo has offered to look into this
2. Invite a speaker from the campus administration to next General Assembly meeting to discuss pay rates across campus + International student fees related to internships (maybe from Grad Funding?): Lorenzo
3. UCGPC updates (before legislative officer position is filled in): Arabi
4. Communication to organize TAX workshop: Arabi
5. Aneelman, Destina and Edgar need to meet grad division soon for event planning and funding
6. Edgar will be sending a list of orgs that are present on our campus
7. Edgar will be making a list of committees that need student representatives
8. Edgar will be meeting with Dean tomorrow (8/31) for event planning
9. Setting up GSA office hour (doodle poll): Edgar
10. Each EC member should add office hour information to their bio—send to Mehdi once decided
11. Investigate renovating Grad Pad: further discussion once budget is clarified with Grad Div
12. Investigate increasing travel award to two persons per department (from one person), and the amount by \$100 (total \$500 per person)
13. DA meeting tomorrow (8/31): Lorenzo
14. Checking GSA bylaws and will be suggesting about student representatives from GSA: Lorenzo

15. Updating GSA website with all bio and image: Mehdi. Update future meeting date in the event section.
16. People pantry, Bobcat pantry information needs to be in GSA website: Mehdi
17. Undocumented students will have a meet and greet with grad students (8/31): Yulissa
18. Union updates by Jarrod. Guest speaker at UAW meeting from Santa Cruz.
19. Investigate catcard access for all/new graduate students.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM**

**Next EC meeting: 09/13/2022**