

GSA EC/GA Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2022

5:30 pm - 7:00pm PST (KL 232)

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. Undocumented Affairs Officer - Yulissa Perez Rojas
6. Treasurer - Aneelman Brar
7. Public Relations / Community Outreach Officer - Destina Bermejo
8. Social Media and Graphics Design Officer - Maia Powell

Graduate Students in Attendance

Susana Tejeda-Garibay, Jordan Collignon

Welcome by the GSA President

GSA president Edgar welcomed all the participants of this meeting and introduced the meeting agenda with all. Edgar also announced the big news of a total \$30k grant approval (to be equally distributed for three years) for GSA from Scholar Transformation Impact Funding.

Recall 08/30/22 meeting minutes

1. Special election: Lorenzo will be meeting on this Friday for DA and will seek representative.
2. Salary concerns: Edgar will be sending to union. Additionally, if there is salary/payment error, graduate students are advised to email immediately to grad-chair as well.
3. UCGPC more updates: Arabi attended a four-hour meeting. A speaker may come in November.
4. Tax related help: Susana sent the tax expert request letter to GSA email.
5. Edgar met with Dean Hrant for tax and financial literacy workshop planning for all graduate students.
6. Destina met with Cassie for organizing events. Smaller events (movie, trivia etc) doesn't necessarily need a month notice (bigger events does).
7. Grad Pad will be renovated with around 50k budget.

8. Travel funding: Aneelman suggested to bring ideas to avoid issues regarding travel funding application – whether application date or conference date will be considered. A channel has been opened in slack to solve this along with more FAQ.
9. DA meeting held at 8/31 (host: Lorenzo).
10. EC-GA meeting minutes (08/30/22) and DA meeting minutes (08/31/22) have been posted in GSA website. Received bio's of the EC members have been posted in GSA website. (Mehdi)

UC Merced Student Concerns/Comments

1. Student salary: students get payment differently. Professors decide proportion of payments (they are kind of individual company). They can choose some fellowship money as well.
2. Student loan: Financial aid is affected by how much money students receive from loans, too many students are taking out too many loans.
3. Regarding travel fellowship, one of the students application was missed.
4. EC and DA should monitor each others progress, as we have lot of plans with shorter time periods.

Officer Updates

Officers provided updates, and the successive discussion results the following action items:

Action items:

1. Tax and fellowship information: Susana, Edgar, Arabi.
2. Increasing number of people for travel funding or increasing award money – to finalize: Edgar
3. More information on grad student salary from Union: Destina
4. GSA event organizations. Emailing to Cassie (snacks for GSA from Grad div, foods and catering for GSA events): Destina
5. FAQ documentation for TA/GSR/Fellowship amounts – to be accessible by all grad students: Lorenzo
6. DA meeting- tomorrow or to postpone?: Lorenzo
7. Travel application – to make more informative and clearer. A slack channel to open for discussion: Aneelman
8. T-shirt design and sending all officers for voting: Maia. Collecting information and helping for ordering: Aneelman
9. GSA meeting information to advertise online: Maia, Mehdi
10. Send union documents to Mehdi to share in GSA website: Mehdi
11. Painting event. Food (Costco pizza). Asking VC Nies about funding for student affairs events: Yulissa

12. Participating in Union meeting on 14 September and updating (informed via email):
Jarrod
13. Union meeting document sending: Jordan
14. Student Involvement can help GSA for Fall 2022 special election. Reach out to Enrique.
Jordan can also help if needed.
15. Scholar transformation impact fund: how to allocate money in different proposed sections
(as the received grant is lower than the proposed grant). Slack channel to open for
discussion on budget: Edgar

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM

Next EC meeting: 10/11/2022