

UC Merced Graduate Student Association gsa@ucmerced.edu
Executive Council Meeting
Nov 1, 2017
SE2 302, 12:00 – 1:30 PM PST

Meeting minutes by Internal Communications Rocco Bowman

In attendance: Morgan Bames (ES), Alan Cai (ES), Tashelle Wright (PH), Jazmine Kenny (PH), Michelle Yang (Soc), Taylor Fugere (Staff), Daneil Rios (IH), Katie Coburn (Pych), Laura Martin (Staff).

Goals of GSA Executive Council and Delegate Assembly for Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

- 1. To well represent the graduate student body and establish governance.**
- 2. To consistently host events and support events led by graduate student groups.**
- 3. To center our graduate student body around sustainability, climate change, and associated environmental justice impacts in scope of our UC Merced campus identity.**

Recap of Sep 13 and Oct 3 (chronological order)

- DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) resolution written and passed
- Funding policy for travel awards written and passed
- Funding policy for sponsored events written and passed
- All Executive Council and Delegate Assembly positions filled
- GCRC (Graduate Cultural Resource Center) defacement statement written and distributed
- Funding policy for graduate student organizations written and passed
- All sponsored events applications (5) received some percentage of funding

Agenda

12:00 - 12:05 Refreshments and introductions (courtesy of Graduate Division)

12:05 - 12:04 Welcome from GSA (Graduate Student Association) President

- Graduate Council meeting update: Conversation about late payment, plans of interim SSHA (Social Sciences Humanities and Arts) Dean (will be covered later in the meeting)
- UCOP (University of California, Office of the President): Meeting with President Napolitano, President of UCSA (University of California Student Association), we are following up and will post meeting minutes on the GSA websites
- GSA International Affairs Officer will be graduating soon and we are seeking an officer, preferably female. It is an important role and transition of international students is an important topic that is on-going
- Seeking to upload transitioning document which will help students with their transition here

12:04 - 12:05 Moment of silence for disaster victims

12:05 - 12:05 Executive Council Updates

12:05 - 12:08 President Graduate Council, UCOP, Positions

12:08 - 12:09 Internal Vice President Delegate Assembly By-Laws

- Working out the kinks of funding proposal, more delegate assembly input for committees
- Organization can function but building the structure is ongoing

12:09 - 12:13 External Vice President UCSA Update

- Not much to add to UCSA issue
- All grads have left UCSA and they are waiting for our vote
- EVP in a bind because he cannot go to both meetings
- Hopes we can start meeting with the graduate student associations

- Sabah Ul-Hasan: we received a letter from previous EVPs on the UCSA issue
- Jose-Luis Rincon: We received a letter; however, I was not contacted by them. They believe we are leaving for ulterior reasons and we are keeping people in the dark. Staying in UCSA would mean only staying with UCLA grads and then the rest undergrads.
- We would like to have a proxy to go to UCSA meetings while EVP officially goes to Grad meetings. We can join but we can have an opening for proxy.
- Ul-Hasan: call for vote on one-page document on an update and our position to attending both meetings in some form.
- Kyle Hamilton: Email vote for this document, publication will follow consensus vote
- Agreed by council
- Announcements going out following meeting

12:13 - 12:16 Academic Affairs Officer Committees & Student Rights Update

- Asking for help related to student representatives for committees while working on qualifying exams
- Applications are being processed for committees
- Hoping we will have more students on committees in the near future
- Will be meeting with Dean Zatz, keep reviewing Student Bill of Rights
- Ul-Hasan: PR has done a good job so far organizing committees and we can always use more help

12:16 - 12:18 Internal Communications Website Update

- I will keep the agendas and minutes updated in real-time
- Send in meeting minutes and agendas to be posted on GSA website on its own page
- Ul-Hasan: We would like organizations and any knowledge on graduate student events to post

12:18 - 12:26 Treasurer Sponsored Events Update

- Successfully distributed \$1000 to 4 different events: Merced Indian Grad student association for Diwali event, \$100 to 30th Anniversary of Toni Morrison Beloved events, \$100 to UCMERCED chapter to SIAM, \$112 to envirolunch, \$588 to bio tech event.
- This is for the entire academic year
- Application closed for GSA Fund. 4 applicants. Less than expected. We reached out to a rep from each organization.
- Final amount that was requested was \$2429 out of \$3000
- Options: Came in under budget, carry over, reappropriate to something else, or another call for proposals and distribute the rest
- Hamilton: do a second call for spring
- Ul-Hasan: Put remaining amount on pause for Spring. Some adjustments related to EVP travel. We can announce in February and have deadline in March or April.
- Could give clubs all the funding they asked for. We originally came under budget.
- Ul-Hasan: We can take another look to readjust and allow for 1000 for the spring.
- Hamilton: We can have DA score them again, like it was done for the other event fund, to help some clubs get more money for the Spring.
- Nicholas Dove: Should we have a cut-off with the scoring being transparent/
- Hamilton: Groups scored very high from DA members and some low. If a technical reason made the app weak, we can work with them.
- Ul-Hasan: Having scoring is important. Giving money now could be detrimental later.
- Dove: We have allocated the money for this fund, if we reduce the funding means amending the budget and voting on it

- UI-Hasan: We can keep the current budget but keep it within the org funding.
- Dove: Agreed that's an option.
- Hamilton: I was just saying DA (Delegate Assembly) should have a say. The input from DA is important and more transparent.
- Dove: Motion to vote for using 2000 this semester and apportioning \$1000 for next semester.
- UI-Hasan seconds the motion.

12:28 - 12:33 Public Relations & Community Outreach Officer Fall 2017 Events Update

- Some difficulties about finding event venue and ideas
- One idea for Nov. 9, 4-8pm tentative (Work hard play hard, books and brews) Work at coffee bandits from 4-6 and then the remaining time at 17th street pub. Will be working with those business for coupons for grad students. Working close with Cassie, she assures that its flexible. Looking at new venues and supporting local businesses
- Winter Social: Ugly Christmas Sweater Party? Dec. 1, hosted at Grad Pad or other large venue. Some budget used for coffee, cookies, etc.
- Grad Division, Winter Rest. Dec. 7 from 3-5, already standing. No school the next day.
- Sabah: Any more details about offensive places
- I'm not trying to be offensive or make things exclusive; trying to be inclusive. Come to me if you have issues or suggestions. We can make progress of inclusive and also fun events.

12:33 - 12:32 International Affairs Officer International Student Survey

12:33 - 12:36 Climate, Diversity and Equity Officer Council and Committee Updates

- Updates: If I find out about events diversity related I will post to facebook page
- Grad deans council on diversity: More updates after this month's meeting, only met once. Meeting with Zatz regarding diversity issues on campus.
- Once we have a proposed ideas, I will report
- Beloved event is Dec. 6 2:30- 4 Bobcat Lair 169
- If there is anything happening in your department diversity related, contact us and we can publicize it

12:36 - 12:38 Clarification questions and discussion between officers

- Again, we are looking for an IAO (International Affairs Officer), preferably female, only 7 hours of work per month. Welcome to speak with Aditya on carrying over work on improving GradPal. Survey on what international students need.

12:38 - 12:38 Public comment

- No comments

What would you, as an observer of the meeting, like to know more about today?

12:39 - 12:51 Motions to vote

UC Merced GSA Status on fund contributions for UCSA/UCGPC EVP

Appointment or referendum of International Affairs position President

- Vote on UCSA document on UCM status (yes for joining new grad student association and opening of proxy position (unpaid for all meetings, only some), no is staying with UCSA)
- UI-Hasan: Less meetings, more free funds to use for similar or different purposes, inclusion of proxy to UCSA, can always rejoin later
- Dove: Can UCSA advocate for grad issues if only one graduate group exists there?
- If vote is yes, proxy must talk to EVP Rincon
- Vote: Unanimous yes

- Also voting for appointment or referendum for International Affairs position: Can vote for appointment or referendum
- Hamilton: Proposal for conditional vote. If enough people apply, have referendum. If not, interviews and appointment.
- UI-Hasan: Internal communications position was filled by appointment. Since only one person applied, that person filled the position.
- Hamilton: If there are more than one person expressed interest, DA can be opined for opinions and preferences.
- Teshelle Wright: We can ask DA
- Vote for sending call for 2 weeks for interest for IAO, if only one they get it, more than one deferment with DA: unanimous
- Also voting on split on call for two different calls for GSA Org Fund for Fall and Spring (1000 dollars) with DA ranking which groups get what amounts. Everything else will operate the same as current funding policy
- UI-Hasan: organizations who already applied for fall they will not receive preference
- Hamilton: Organizations that already got funding will be bottom of the list
- Vote (yea means 2000 and 1000 split, old orgs get lower priority)
- Unanimous yes vote

Sabah: Motion for 5 minute snack break

12:55 – 12:55 Guest Speakers

- UI-Hasan welcomes guest speakers

12:55 - 1:06 Laura Martin

Executive of academic senate

Reapplication for accreditation for the past 2 years

There has always been a GSA on the steering committee, would like one

Last year of reaffirmation process

Submitted application to WASC commission, will reaccredit for 4, 6, 8 years

Offsite review, reviewed institutional report and accreditation history

- Set of commendations: good things accreditation.ucmerced.edu
- Lines of inquiry: Meet with campus constituents, want to know more about
- Inquiry:
- Additional documents wanted due on dec. 19
- Individuals or groups they want to meet, faculty and staff committees, holding open sessions will provide opportunity for grad students
- Campus character and identity: efforts to develop unique identity
- Student success: goals and plans for strengthening graduation rates, plans for reaching 10,000 students
- Professional development activities, help faculty to adjust to changing needs
- Program assessment, how has assessment changed how things are done. Which program and performance data has the most value, engage non-senate faculty in promotion
- Financial success and sustainability: 2020 project resources and balance between teaching and building
- Terms of meetings with team is up to the team but there are other ways to interact with the team before the visit, email sent out beforehand, all will be read but not replied to (if you can't go to a meeting)

- Team will produce a report, will then go together with a confidential recommendation, look at institutional report, commission determines length of term of reaffirmation, letter released in July
- UI-Hasan: Is this the first time to be reaffirmed?
- Martin: we were accredited 10 years ago but this is the first reaffirmation. Institutional accreditation is important, federal government requires it to provide financial aid, other institutions will not accept students into programs without accreditation. All higher ed institutions must be accredited.

1:05 - 1:16 Taylor Fugere

- From CARE office
- Handed out resources
- Confidential resources for stalking, sexual assault, etc. as well as just to find out about resources for others
- Prevention: Many events throughout the year for folks to learn more about preventing violence, stalking, sexual, and domestic violence awareness months
- Want to engage more grad students and learn new ways to collaborate
- Today will begin applications for students to join Vagina Monologues, contact Taylor to know more about the event
- Trying to do one event a month specifically for grad students for confidentiality issues vs undergrads
- 20th November cob 272 12-1, around lunch time, discussion about healthy relationships
- 4th December cob 272 12-1
- Would be happy for grad students to get involved
- Rincon: Will UC Merced increase the staff for CAPS?
- Fugere: CAPS has been separated from CARE which means funding is separate. CARE can see people within 20 minutes related to sexual violence but CAPS might still be more relevant.
- UI-Hasan: has there been any comments by Grad students?
- Fugere: Undergrad presence creates hesitation. Can meet with people in office or off campus. Also have certain times of the week when undergrads will not be there. Entrance and exit reduce the amount of visibility.
- UI-Hasan: Recommendations for other resources through other UC offices?
- Fugere: Advocate that provides crisis counselling or accommodations with not a UC employee and paid through Valley Crisis Center, cannot be told to do anything against the values of her organization which adds another layer of confidentiality. Identity preferences are valued and the best possible advocate will be assigned from the center.

1:16 - 1:28 Daniel Rios

- Fall organizer for Union
- This January 2018, new contract negotiations, determines for the next 4 years related to pay, work conditions, parking permits
- UC has lawyers and UAC has lawyers, two meetings, bargaining units communicate needs
- We want grad students to participate whether they are members or not
- Bullet point list of rights can be accessed at www.uaw2865.org
- Bargaining surveys can be accessed online as well, you can specify which issues are more and less important to you
- Childcare reimbursement credit can be accessed online as well

- Another campaign is related to GSR (Graduate Student Researchers) being included in union rights and protections. Should GSRs be on a separate contract. Next year will determine the exact structure.
- Another aspect of the next year's movements is to add more members
- Trying to reach out to departments to get people looped in, the more members the stronger the bargaining, there will be a follow-up in January
- People should participate because we can lose stipulations
- Next week on Thursday, second to last monthly membership meetings
- Rincon: Are GSRs in the contract yet? Will there be a new contract for GSRs
- Rios: Joint Council, conversations are happening to determine GSR inclusion in next contract. Need 70% (8000-9000) of all GSRs in UC system in a given year to pledge in order to be included. Difficulty, is people become GSRs temporarily.
- Hopeful that union can get the ball rolling in the next few months.
- Current contract is mainly focused on TAs, Readers, GSAs

Remaining time available for public comment

1:29 - 1:30 Closing remarks for Fall 2017 meets by Ashley Arevalo, announcements, adjourn

- Last meeting of Fall!
- Minutes will be posted soon
- Ul-Hasan will send emails to set up meetings for Spring semester

Spring 2018 meetings, disaster fundraisers, peer accountability, professional development

- Be cognizant of tragedies
- We have peer accountability document but would prefer more comments
- Professional development: how do we transfer our skills to professional development and make it easier for others.

Fall 2017 Executive Council Meetings (KL232) Sep 13th 02:00 - 3:30 PM

Oct 3rd 09:00 - 10:30 AM

Nov 1st 12:00 - 1:30 PM *SE2 302