

**Graduate Students Association
Cabinet Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2007 6:00 PM**

Members Present: Monica Sanchez (President), Mac Marston (Vice President Internal), Janet Cummings Link (Vice President Academic), Arpi Siyahian (Director of Discretionary Funding), Nurit Dragitza Katz (Director of Environmental Coalition), Amanda Parham (Director of Communications), John Paul Slifko (Director of Elections), Erica Saenz (Director of Community Service), Oiyana Anita Poon (Legislative Liaison and Researcher), Na'Shaun Neal (Director of Campus Organizing), Nanthia Suthana (Director of Publications), Jerry Mann (ASUCLA Representative), Guest: Judy Smith (Vice Provost), KC (Staff), dictation by: Shazrae Mian (Staff)

Member(s) Absent: Justin Wolske (Director of Graduate Student Events), Amy Adrion (Director of Melnitz Movies), Cindy Mosqueda (Vice President External)

I. Call To Order 6:15 PM

II. Amanda Parham, Director of Communications

- a. Amanda has been working on the newsletter for Spring quarter. If any one would like to submit anything for the newsletter, please do so within the next week. Also, for the recognition column – Amanda is still accepting suggestions.
- b. We got a lot of submissions for the logo and most people had multiple submissions. Amanda narrowed it down to 12 submissions, which she passed around during the meeting. Since Amanda wants the selection to be representative, she will be presenting them at forum as well for input and suggestions. Five of the top twelve logos were from the same person, who submitted all logos in black and white as well.

III. Mac Marston, Vice President Internal

- a. Motion to approve Cabinet Minutes from February 28, 2007
 - i. Mac
 - ii. Arpi
 - iii. Approved with unanimous consent.
- b. Forum next week will be packed. There will be five minutes allotted for each officer report. We will have two huge presentations, and an elections update planned. Mac suggested that logo submissions be presented via powerpoint.
- c. Mac encourages everyone to attend forum next week because there will be a presentation from CCLE regarding class management, Chancellor's Committee on Student Disabilities, and a presentation regarding orientation in September.

IV. Monica Sanchez, President

- a. Monica announced that viceprovost will be coming in during cabinet meeting. She would like to get feedback on the best way to increase awareness of the process.
- b. Monica announced that Cindy and her will not be at forum on April 18, 2007 because they will be attending a conference in Washington, D.C.
- c. If anyone needs to get in touch with Monica, the best way to contact her is via cell-phone.
- d. On Saturday, Monica will be conducting interviews for the UC Student Regent positions. Monica also announced that she will be running for V.P. External.

V. Judy Smith, Vice Provost

- a. The United States is divided up into sections, and we are part of the western region. She works for the university division of The Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Accreditation is required by federal government for federal funding. The commissions responsible for accreditation bridge the university standing with federal government and its goals of "No Child Left Behind". The six accreditation commissions have resisted federal interventions.

- b. Before accreditations were simple, because universities had to only demonstrate that they were in compliance and were using funding appropriately.
- c. In the early 90's, UCLA and others in the UC systems went to WASC and reported that the accreditation process was a waste of time. Therefore, WASC then started working with universities to help make the accreditation process more helpful. Three topics: diversity, general education, measures for budget allocation - were chosen and UCLA was one of the first universities to go through this new process. WASC started looking at challenging issues of diversity. This took place while the new G.E. program was being planned. The third topic regarded performance indicators to be used when trying to determine distribution of budget.
- d. The process we are in now, 8 yrs later – we have written an institutional proposal which has now been approved. It sets out how we are going to go through the whole process of accreditation. The faculty committee picked the theme approach and selected the following topics: capstone experiences, interdisciplinary education and research, and educational technology. The second stage of this process: the Capacity Preparatory Review, deals with how we can prepare ourselves and do we have the capacity to deal with complex issues. We had to write reflective essays that demonstrate that we have developed evidence of culture. These essays form a capacity performance review. The essays form a review which actually is a report, and then review is done by site visitors – which will take place in March, 2008. The last stage – Education Effectiveness Review – this review is continuously changing. Based on the theme selected, will we be able to effects undergraduate learning.
- e. Virginia has learning outcome assessments that test students for competency in math, English, speech, and history. Therefore, they have to demonstrate that students are tested and the distributions are posted. WASQ is being pressured from federal government; therefore, they recommend testing. However, WASQ disagrees would like to look at learning outcomes through the EEMR review. One of the three components of it are: capstone – each undergraduate would have to complete a research capstone experience which maybe part of the major, or minor. Capstone can also include projects because it is rather difficult to include all undergraduate students in research. As the university changes and new disciplines are formed such as neuroscience, we need to establish how we can provide funding for these interdepartmental disciplines. The interdisciplinary committee addresses challenges and potential solutions in a written report. Challenges are so profound that it is really hard to make progress.
- f. Monica added that GSA is working the Diversity Committee to create a council for graduates and reform our structure.

VI. John Paul Slifko, Director of Elections

- a. John reminded cabinet that luncheon is scheduled in the Health Sciences building and an evening affair is scheduled in Kerchkoff. We are deciding on how much time to allocate to each candidate for presentations.
- b. We need to have greater public outreach regarding what is happening with the Elections Board. So, I am requesting that staff take minutes at our next board meeting.
- c. He will pass out VoteNow posters at forum next week.
- d. Mac added that he has been working with John to send out emails. An email will be sent to the graduate student body on Monday, the day when voting will begin. Mac requested that a draft of the email be given to him by tonight so that he can add it to the forum packet.
- e. Na'Shaun asked whether daily bruin will be providing coverage for candidates. He suggested that all updates and links to articles published in Daily Bruin be listed on the GSA website.

VII. Janet Cummings Link, Vice President Academic

- a. Week 10 of last quarter, Janet found out that surveys had been emailed out to grad divisions that were under review and no body ever contacted her to tell her that they were gone out. Since the response rate was low, Janet had the survey extended to April 13th. She started hearing back from people last week. Also, Janet emailed SAOs and department chairs of divisions with low responses. Timing would not have been bad, if the forum representatives were aware that the email was going out.
- VIII. Erica Saenz, Director of Community Service**
- a. Erica is planning a book drive with the Library Students Association and other student groups in mid-April or beginning of May.
 - b. Erica might also collaborate with another student group for Special Olympics Day event in Santa Monica. They might need funding or volunteers for the actual event.
 - c. Today is the deadline for the Charles E. Young Humanitarian Award application.
- IX. Na'Shaun Neal, Director of Campus Organizing**
- a. Na'Shaun recently returned from a two week research special project with Professor Kimberly Crenshaw. The project will be presented this Friday and Saturday in Los Angeles.
 - b. Na'Shau is sitting on the university wide Committee on Diversity. We are working on our first draft for professional schools which should be ready by mid-May at the Regents meeting.
 - c. UCSA Board Meeting will be held this week at UCR. Cindy, Oiyen, and Na'Shaun will be attending the meeting on different days. We will be talking about what we can do against the mayor's revised budget.
- X. Arpi Siyahian, Director of Discretionary Funding**
- a. We have been doing very well. We have had more money available and more requests as well for funding.
 - b. Arpi will have to make a deadline for the latest round of applications for Week 6 or 7 of the quarter because SGA will be getting last of the requisitions on May 31st.
 - c. Arpi recommends for next year that allocations take place two or three times per quarter instead of at all times because then SGA will not be backed up with paperwork and the director can have the account numbers available sooner.
- XI. Nanthia Suthana, Director of Publications**
- a. We have more applications that were submitted. We are successfully reallocating funding from groups that have been inactive.
- XII. Adjournment 7:33PM**