

UCLA Graduate Students Association (GSA)
Forum Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2002
417 Kerckhoff Hall, 5:00pm

Members Present, Golnaz Tabibnia (BSC), Grace Chang (BSC), Naser Hamdi (EGSA), Chander Radhakrishnan (EGSA), Susie Kim (Health Professionals), Josephine Yu (Health Professionals), Jeff Spisak (Hum.), Claire Gallou (Hum.), Toby Bordelon (Law), Jerome-Ieronymos-Zoidakis (MPSC), Marie Fox (MPSC), Caer McCabe (MPSC), Melinda Kwan (Pub. Health), Lawrence Culver (SSC), Amy Woodson-Boulton (SSC), Sara Hendren (SSC), Deborah La Torre (Ed), Jennifer Bazilius (AIGSA), Kerry Muhlestein (UASRA), Rebeca Burriciaga (RAZA), Jerry Mann (Admin), Charles Harless (GSA), Dorothy Kim (GSA), Alain Dang (GSA), Hanish Rathod (GSA), David Johnson (BOD), Darrel Menthe (BOD), Marilyn Gray (BOD), Randall Hall (BOD), Marilyn Gray (BOD), Pat Eastman (ASUCLA), Martin Griffin (Comm Board), James Caufield (Comm Board), Arvli Ward (Student Media).

- The meeting was called to order at 5:11pm.
- The meeting started without quorum, Dorothy decided to skip the first two items on the agenda and start with special presentations.

I. Special Presentation- ASUCLA Board of Directors: Marilyn Gray, Randall Hall, David Johnson, and Darrel Menthe

Hall, , Johnson, Menthe, and Gray introduced themselves and began to give forum an over view of their positions and what they are responsible for as Board of Directors of ASUCLA. As Directors their job and duties are to oversee Ackerman Student Union, ASUCLA stores, and Food Services on campus. Toward the end of last year ASUCLA began to face financial challenges mostly attributed to September 11th. The present goal for the ASUCLA Board is to improve Ackerman Student Union by going and surveying student unions on other campuses. Jerry Mann also mentioned that there has been a yearlong process of reviewing other student unions that may suggest a number of improvements to increase academic presence in Ackerman Union. Several new projects are being considered such as a Pub to replace the Cooperage and turning the bomb shelter into an Outdoor Patio area but there are financial costs that must be ironed out first.

Questions:

- Naser asked from what areas does ASUCLA get its source of income? Hall responded that the ASUCLA stores, campus restaurants, and Trademarks and Licensing are ASUCLA main source of revenue.
- Naser asked what's ASUCLA most profitable source of income? Menthe and Hall responded that the Trademark and licensing has the most lucrative sales.
- Naser asked how could forum get a copy of the ASUCLA budget? Hall responded that forum could request copies of the budget from the Executive Director.
- Dorothy suggested a need for cheaper and a better quality of Asian Food in Ackerman Union, ASUCLA should also think about opening up study lounges, and the Post Office needs to be expanded. Hall responded that ASUCLA has offered to increase the space of the Post Office if and only if the Post Office would employ another full time employee.
- Naser requested that a drop box be added at the Post Office. Hall responded that it would be unlikely if his request were honored because of September 11th.
- Naser asked if ASUCLA ran the cooperage? Hall, yes ASUCLA runs the Cooperage.
- Naser the quality of food is very low at the Cooperage. Menthe responded that changes regarding the Cooperage are of ASUCLA's top priorities.
- Lawrence asked how much influence would the Westwood Merchants have on ASUCLA placing a Pub in Ackerman Union? Johnson responded that Westwood Merchants has no opposition to the idea of placing a Pub in Ackerman Union.

-Amy commented that Café Roma is very nice and really wished there were more places on campus with the same atmosphere. Menthe responded that ASUCLA is hoping to make more places similar to Café Roma on campus that are Grad Student friendly.

-Rebeca asked who controls Rubio's and is there any way to influence the labor-contracted businesses in Ackerman Union. Hall, ASUCLA is indeed concerned with the labor issues at hand and will take them into account when renewing their leases.

-Dorothy thanked Hall, Menthe, Johnson, and Gray for their presentations.

II. Special Presentation: Pat Eastman, Executive Director of ASUCLA

Pat Eastman has been in the position of Executive Director for the past five years, and had barely come right after the placement of Financial Recovery for ASUCLA. Eastman passed out handout that summarized ASUCLA business ventures, profit, and mission statements. Eastman went over the structure of ASUCLA and brought to forums attention that the bulk of discussion and time is spent on the Enterprises & Services, which is composed of the student governments on campus. Revenue from the Trademark & Licensing, Food Services, Student Union Fee, all go towards financially supporting Ackerman Union.

Questions:

-Jim Caufield asked how long has ASUCLA been contracting employees. Pat Eastman responded since 1995.

III. Approval of Agenda

Dorothy Kim announced that quorum had been met and informed council that the attachments on the agenda were out of order.

Motion to approve-1: Jeff 2: Jerome. The motion passed with unanimous consent

IV. Approval of the minutes from April 17, 2002

Motion to approve-1: Melinda 2: Grace

V. Officer's Report-Charles Harless, President

Charles announced that it was time for Appointees and Awards nominations. The awards are Stipend Appointees, Non-Stipend Appointees, and Representative to G.S.A. Awards are for G.S.A. faculty, staff, and administrators that have been phenomenal in serving Graduate Students. Lastly, there is an open call for Appointments on the G.S.A., Friday, May 17, 2002 is the deadline. Interview for appointments tentatively scheduled for 15th and 16th of May. We also need delegates to sit on the appointees board 5:00-7:00 on these days, food will be served. A reminder, the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs needs to be filled.

Questions:

-Naser asked what is the communications board. Charles responded that the communication board could answer that question through their presentation.

VI. Special Presentation- The Communications Board: Martin Griffin, James Caufield. Student Media: Arvli Ward.

The presentation started with students presenting themselves and sharing with forum their many different roles in the communication board. They also noted that they are not responsible for day to day management of student media, neither do they have editorial responsibility in Student Media. The General Graduate Student involvement in the Daily Bruin is close to none. Their goal for this year is to reconfigure the evaluation process for student media director. James Caulfield, the Senior G.S.A. appointee, reports that financially the Daily Bruin revenue has fallen significantly after September 11th. The format of the Daily Bruin has changed to enhance the newspaper and extra space for more ads, which generates a higher profit. The Daily Bruin alone generates the bulk of the profit to support student media.

Questions:

-Marie asked has student media taken into consideration that the 60-70 percent raise in Ad prices for the Daily Bruin does indeed hurt student group publicity on campus? Ward responded that there have been only select increases in Ad prices. There has only been a modest increase in order to further fund the Daily Bruin. We work very hard to keep campus ads as low as possible; the price on ads has not been increased by 60-70 percent. But if the price of ads has increased it is because of the larger size of the page not due to the Daily Bruin new format.

-Naser asked if there is any way to give better exposure to G.S.A. through the Daily Bruin or at least have a block for Graduate Student Events? Martin responded that as Communications members they have little to do with how the paper is put together. If graduate student wish to have a hand in putting the

newspaper together then a graduate student should join the Daily Bruin staff. We encourage any suggestions and questions be taken to the Daily Bruin directly.

-Naser asked what influence does the Communication Board have over the Daily Bruin. Martin responded we appoint the upcoming Chief of Editor for the Daily Bruin and set policy on virtually every level of media.

-Marie asked could Graduate mailrooms have a slot for the Daily Bruin and also at the bus stops? Martin responded that the newspaper is widely dispersed already around campus and in the surrounding Westwood areas.

-Naser asked if the Café in the school of Engineering have a slot for the Daily Bruin? Martin responded that he would try to see into it.

-Jennifer commented that is online access to the Daily Bruin.

-Chander asked what do the Graduate Students getting out of the campus radio and TV. Stations? Ward responded that there are expanding opportunities for all students with original programming ideas including graduate students such as radio and TV talk shows.

-Dorothy asked have the Student Media done any outreach to the Graduate Students. Ward responded that there are several advertisements in the Daily Bruin. Griffin suggested that we established a resolution for more Graduate Student involvement in the Daily Bruin or physically shows interest by going down to the Daily Bruin.

-Dorothy asked are there any advisors that oversee the Daily Bruin editors? No, the mistakes made by editors and staff results from time constraints so they have cut a few corners to save time. Ward responded that the Student Media could take two quarters off for training, but would that be very beneficial to the Daily Bruin? Workshops are taught by the Los Angeles Times on the basics of reporting which last over a time span of four Saturdays. Then they are turned into intern for the paper and eventually hired as full time staff for the Daily Bruin. Basically we have an open-door policy for the Daily Bruin welcomes journalist whoever has the desire and passion to write.

-Marie asked does the Daily Bruin employ “fact-trackers”. Ward responded that normally newspapers don’t employ “fact-trackers”, but we do have editors on staff.

-Dorothy asked does the Student Media have any control over editors? There are serious problems with targets made by editors. Also, why doesn’t the Communications board have more control over the Daily Bruin staff? Ward we basically have no control over the Daily Bruin Editors. Some of the editors tend to take a risk with the language, but the Communication board will not shy away from major problems.

VII. Officer’s Report (con’t)-Alain Dang, External Vice-President

Dorothy, Shane, and I went to Sacramento to Lobby for the University to fully fund the University of California, also support the student fees remain as are, and to promote student programming. We are also in the process of collecting thousands of letters to support these issues.

Alain went over Attachment B: “Racial Privacy Initiative” which is a hindrance in much way to student educationally and racially.

-Naser asked ethnicity data is crucial, but at the same time, if a person is forced to put ethnicity on a form can you be discriminated against in that manner? Dang responded that ethnicity on form is only for data surveying and is also optional.

-Lawrence asked who provides money for signature collection? Dang responded that the American Civil Rights Coalition provides funding for signature collection.

-Golnaz commented that there is nothing that can stop from classifying ethnicity data. Dang responded that couldn’t be challenged until the proposal is actually voted on, then and only then can it be challenged and thrown out in court on the basis of illegality.

Naser moved to approve to the resolution for the “Racial Privacy Initiative”. Claire seconded the motion. Toby abstained. The motion was passed with abstention.

Alain proceeded with the next proposed resolution on “Abercrombie& Fitch” for their discriminatory action on the recent line of shirts directed towards Asian Americans. The resolution encourages the company to be pro-active in mending their relationships with Asian Americans, to increase corporate sensitivity towards cultural diversity.

Questions:

-Naser asked why shouldn’t we ask the board to include different ethnic backgrounds. Dang responded that we could amend to broaden and include all ethnic groups.

Naser moved to change the “Abercrombie& Fitch Resolution”: In Addition, we request that A&F create and hire a new consultant team on racial diversity to ensure sensitivity to Asian Pacific Americans and other ethnic groups. Golnaz seconded the motion.

Naser moved to approve the “Abercrombie& Fitch Resolution”. Golnaz seconded the motion. Claire and Toby abstained. The motion passed with two abstentions.

VIII. Cabinet Reports:

Election Report

Mike Moradian, Director of Elections & Charles Harless.

The results of G.S.A. were handed out at the meeting as Attachment D. The Election results were certified unanimously under the G.S.A. code by the elections board.

-Marie moved to certify the elections results. Toby seconded the motion. The certification of the election results was passed unanimously.

Charles informed forum that due to the many complaints regarding the G.S.A. elections I have implemented “work groups” to solve problems that may occur in future elections. Also to propose changes to the election codes, if any of you are interested please e-mail me. Also forum has to decide what to do with the third referendum on how the student interest board should operate, and maybe establish a constitution. What changes could we make to ensure that the student interest group board is up and running by fall quarter.

IX. New Business:

Proposed Budget for 2002-2003

Charles Harless and Jerry Mann

The proposed budget for 2002-2003 was included in the agenda packet as Attachment E. Forum has to approve the budget for next year and the increase on student fees. All councils o up an extra dollar for each student. Also the officer stipend went up since we added a new officer, Vice President of Academic Affairs. There are four discretionary accounts for the four (4) officers; the accounts were created so that the officers would not tap into cabinet discretionary when emergency funding is needed.

Questions:

-Naser asked when discretionary accounts are given who oversees the account? Dorothy responded that the offices have to receive two additional signatures from the other officers to even turn in a requisition. S.G.A. also looks over every reimbursement for legitimacy and appropriateness.

-Naser asked could forum be given a quarterly expense report from all the officers? Charles responded, Why not? There is no problem with a quarterly expense report from each officer.

-Jennifer asked do you think its possible to get a budget for the student interest board? Charles responded that the student interest board already has an existing account the “Student Interest Board Discretionary”
Jeff moved to approve the opposed budget for 2002-2003. Toby seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

X. Announcements:

Dorothy Kim, G.S.A. Internal Vice-President

There is an upcoming Grad Bar on May 9th mark your calendars and please plan to attend the last Grad bar of the school year. Don't forget about the donations needed for the EC Project for the Tijuana Orphanage. The agenda packet also includes the council budget, which can be found as Attachment F. You have until June 14th to turn in any reimbursements to Student Government Accounting.

XI. Adjournment:

Golnaz moved for the forum meeting to be adjourned. Toby seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.