

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

**Members Present:** Christine Heiden (A&A), Golnaz Tabibnia (BSC), Amanda Kesner (BSC), Grace Chang (BSC), Naser Hamdi (EGSA), Chander Radhakrishnan (EGSA), Jeff Spisak (Hum.), Claire Gallou (Hum.), Monica Schaul (Management), Jerome-Ieronymos-Zoidakis (MPSC), Marie Fox (MPSC), Rebecca Nelson (MPSC), Melinda Kwan (Pub. Health), Lawrence Culver (SSC), Deborah La Torre (Ed), Jennifer Bazilius (AIGSA), Kerry Muhlestein (UASRA), Jerry Mann (Admin), Mike Cohn (Admin), Charles Harless (GSA), Dorothy Kim (GSA), Mike Moradian (GSA), Hanish Rathod (EVP candidate), Mike Foraker (Housing), Alan Hanson (ORL), Glen Winans (Grad Division), Dana Landis (Career Center), Alyssa Scullion (CALPIRG), and Erin Hardee (CALPIRG).

- The meeting was called to order at 5:10pm. Dorothy announced that campaigning for GSA elections would not be allowed during the meeting or dinner afterwards.
- The meeting started without quorum.

**I. Special Presentation – Housing and Office of Residential Life, Graduate Student Housing Update**

Mike Foraker, Alan Hanson and Glen Winans

Foraker, the Director of Housing, thanked GSA for the invitation to give an update on the campus planning process, which has been in planning mode for approximately 3 years. The background comes from the need to solve a shortfall of housing for undergraduates. This week they just added 650 beds in 192 additional units to benefit mainly graduate students. The top priority for Housing is to solve the shortfall of housing for single grad students. This is the largest project for grad housing in the history of the UC system. They announced the bid on Phase 1 of the project last May. Since the bids were higher than expected, none were accepted, because it was more than the project was budgeted for. So, they went back to the drawing boards and removed certain elements (i.e. balconies) without affecting bed spaces.

Foraker referred to a handout with facts about the Southwest Campus Housing and Parking project. The 2,000-bed space project will be constructed in two phases with a similar number of subterranean parking spaces. In Phase 1, seven residential communities will be constructed. Each building will accommodate 180-224 students. The contractor specializes in courtyard housing. There will be a bus kiosk on Weyburn. The type of units will be a 1-bedroom/1 person. Privacy is an important option priority for grad students. Some important dates to note: the site work bid date is July 10, 2002; housing package bid date will be on August 10, 2002; and bid opening will be October 27, 2002. Warren Hall will be torn, but it must stay in operation until 2010, or maybe earlier 2007. Other facts are that for parking it is almost a 1:1 ratio (1,387 bed spaces and 1,211 parking spaces).

**Questions:**

- Naser asks if they are going to build all the buildings at the same time. Foraker responded that some will be built before others. With the current schedule, all will be built by 2005.
- Jerry Mann asked when they will break ground. Foraker responded that they will break ground in early 2002.
- Charles asked if the parking spots would be rented out to other students since not all who live there will need parking. Foraker responded that the spots will be available.
- Amanda asked about who would have priority in the new buildings. Winans addressed the question and said that a change in the student housing master plan calls for guaranteed housing first year graduate students. This guarantee could be used in recruiting for departments. The priority will be first year students. He added that grad students have never had this policy like undergraduates. Mike added that when they were developing the student housing master plan, the committee was heavily weighted on the academic side. The units could be arranged by different academic units, but that will not be decided until ground is broken. Glen continued that Claudia Mitchell-Kernan will compose that committee. Currently, Anderson students do not need housing.
- Grace asked if they will house grads before undergrads. Mike said that late in the planning process upper division undergrads were added to the eligible students for the new housing, but the priority is still single grad students. Glen added that some faculty members thought that it would never be filled, but grad division thought it would be filled and there would be no need for undergraduates to fill up empty spaces.
- Lawrence inquired about the projected payments for students. Mike said that the rates would be different for furnished and unfurnished units. The opening day average rate is \$735 to \$750 a month. The rates are driven by debt service, and housing is not subsidized by the state.

- Kerry from UASRA asked if people in grad housing right now were paying for the new buildings. Foraker replied that the rates are tied directly to the undergrad housing system. The rates will increase aggressively for the next 3-4 years with 4,000 new spaces.
- Marie asked how many graduates are currently living in UCLA housing and how many were on the waitlist. Foraker responded that there are 1,100 units for families of which 98-99% are occupied by grad students. The Keystone/Mentone, Rose, Venice/Barry apartments are mainly grad students. The total is about 2,000 grad students and 900 on the waitlist throughout the year.
- Charles asked about housing for postdocs and affirmed that GSA does not represent postdocs. Foraker replied that they currently house about 400 postdocs. Once the Master Plan is implemented, postdocs will not have guaranteed housing.
- Kerry asked how UASRA could be more involved in the decision-making process and if students are subsidizing faculty. By law, students cannot subsidize faculty housing, Mike responds. Kerry goes on to ask why increase in UCLA housing rates per year is much higher than the national average increase of 2.2% to 4%. Mike refers again to debt service and notes that Housing does work with UASRA representatives. He suggested possibly forming a budget subcommittee and said that elected officers already received copies of the proposed budgets. However, there's always a danger with this because the numbers are constantly changing.
- Jerry Mann commented that since all students are tied to Housing, they all share the burden of debt service.
- Amanda asked if there were any plans to work on older properties. Mike replied that there is a 5-year plan for maintenance. They are determining costs for replacement, its part of the budgeting process.
- Charles asked what would be in the Commons building. He added that it is important for a sense of community and wondered what role ORL would play. Hanson replied that ORL will have a very modest role. Cost and staffing is a concern, though not much staff is needed. Since it is on-campus housing, they do need to develop a sense of community. Foraker added that there might be a convenience store in the Commons, offices for student government and maybe multipurpose meeting room space. It might be on the MR lot. Charles commented that the center would be more beneficial if it is closer, rather than across Weyburn. Hanson also added that the director of health and recreational affairs will contribute by adding a small building for workouts.
- Foraker continued that they would like to return after the bid openings.
- Winans adds that there are a series of policy decisions that Foraker and Hanson must implement. This is a \$100,000 million project and bids were way over.
- Dorothy thanked Foraker, Hanson and Winans for their presentation.

## II. Approval of Agenda

Dorothy noted that Tracy Davis cancelled, and removed Davis' report from the agenda. She also moved Mike Moradian's elections report before the special presentation from the Career Center.

Motion to approve - 1: Jennifer (AIGSA) 2: Monica (Management). The motion passed with unanimous consent.

## III. Approval of the Minutes from March 6, 2002

Motion to approve - 1: Jeff (Humanities) 2: Golnaz (BSC). The motion passed with unanimous consent

## IV. Cabinet Report: Mike Moradian, Director of Elections

Mike reported that elections have already begun and asked for all Forum members to please vote through Monday. He added that a few councils are not present at E-board meetings. He asked Forum to pass out bookmarks and posters for publicity. He emailed grad students but approximately 1,000 were invalid addresses.

- Naser asked if E-board saw the ballot before elections began. Mike said that even he did not see it. Naser contends that the E-board did not follow the procedures in the GSA Codes. He could call for an investigation. He continued that he was shocked that the EGSA representative to E-board did not get to see ballot. Naser distributed a memo to Forum from EGSA.
- Jerry said that all fee-based referenda goes on the ballot at the approval of the Chancellor.
- Mike added that the referenda were approved at GSA or by collecting signatures.
- Naser asked about the pro and con statements. Charles replied that they were not on the ballot. Naser went on that they were linked and he would have expected them to be approved.
- Mike said that E-board did not approved language by anyone, it is a matter of free speech.
- Marie asked if Mike looked over the statements and if there was any misrepresentation.
- Mike replied that he did read the statements and invited those with questions to call or email him to discuss election matters further.

#### IV. Special Presentation – Dana Landis, Coordinator of PhD services, Career Center

- Landis passed out a flier from the Career Center with a good overview of services for grad students. She began by talking about the resources from grad students. The problem is that doctoral students don't seem to recognize the Career Center as a resource; they do better with master's students. They try to get information from grads directly in informal focus groups. The feedback led to some changes. In the past there were a big biannual career panels by doctoral alumni. These programs are great for some grads. One thing they were told consistently was that if they were not doing programming through the department, then they would not go. As a result of this, connections with grad advisors for some departments were developed.
- The Career Center also provides counseling in the form of drop-in services or long-term counseling to help grad students make the transition. Landis also networks with professional associations and is a member of the Graduate Career Consortium (a national association). She just had an all UC meeting with grad division and career centers to put resources together.
- Questions:
- Amanda asked about the location of the Career Center. Landis replied that the Center is at the corner of Strathmore and Westwood. Students should enter through the north side on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The Center is open from 9-5 p.m.
- Marie asked why the Center limits counseling sessions to five 50-minute sessions per year. Also, what are their current methods of outreaching to graduate students? Landis said that a staff of 13 must serve the entire campus. She also contacts grad advisors; they meet and discuss ideas for a program and student needs.
- Chander asked about department specific consulting, as in engineering. There is a satellite of the Career Center in one of the engineering buildings.
- Lawrence asked about the process of trying to get someone a tenure track job. The Center holds academic interviewing panels and invites recent hires. They talk about how they approached the interview. At the last one in the fall there were 6 professors, but only 3 grad students.
- Marie asked if there was a mailing list for upcoming events and announcements. Landis replied that she emails the grad advisors and they will soon have a listserve.
- Hanoush commented that the form for visits takes long to fill out. Landis said that as long as you have name, student ID number and date that is all that is needed. A good time to go is around 9 am in the morning when it is not busy.
- Jennifer suggested publicizing at GradBar.
- Landis suggested emailing her with further questions or comments.

#### V. New Business

##### A. GSA Awards- Charles Harless, President

- Charles referred to attachments B and C in the agenda packets. GSA has an award for service, but it has not been given out the past few years. There is one for a representative to GSA (Forum delegate), another for a non-stipended appointees and the last is for stipended appointees. The award was established as a memorial for the VPI in 1989-90.
- James LuValle Award is for non-students and is given in three categories, faculty who advise grad students, staff and administrators (department chairs and up). Grad students nominate and the outgoing officers choose. The applications will be on the GSA website, and the deadline is no longer April 26.
- Monica (Management) moved to approve the LuValle Award. Jennifer (AIGSA) seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

##### B. Academic Calendar – Charles Harless, President

UCLA is currently looking into the switch from the quarter to the semester system. Currently Law and Medicine are on the semester system. UC Berkeley is also on the semester system. The joint Academic Senate and Administrative Committee approached GSA. They want to vote on it this year, but that is not likely. The earliest date for a switch would be 2004. Charles is asking for input from Forum, the question is also on the ballot and GSA is conducting small focus groups.

- What are some of the issues in regards to curriculum, flexibility, workload, and time to degree related to the switch?
- Lawrence said that a lower number of classes per year would increase the time to degree. For his undergrad education he went to a school where they made the switch and the transition was terrible.
- Amanda said that the switch would make learning manageable.
- Monica added that Anderson will switch, and they will have ½ semesters for some topics. They are at a disadvantage schedule wise for corporate recruiting.
- Jennifer commented that she had taken some law classes and it was not too bad.

- Christine said that it is tough to look for a summer internship because all the firms have filled their positions. An internship is required for the program in architecture.
  - Charles asked about the work for TAs.
  - Rebecca commented that the advantage of being on a quarter system is that if you are TA-ing a horrible class it is done sooner.
  - Kerry added that you can spread them out more. There would be more chances to get a position since there is more work for TA's in the quarter system. He also said that archaeology students would despise a semester system because it gets too hot in the summer to go on digs.
  - Rebecca said that in the quarter there are more hours, but fewer classes, you can focus more.
  - Marie asked if there would be more courses, how would it affect room space. Charles replied that more classes would be taught in a semester system, but for less time. Marie added that there is more information for semester classes.
  - Charles will take the concerns to a meeting on May 10.
  - Monica noted that a switch would mean a huge curriculum review.
  - Jeff asked why there was a change in the 1960s. Charles responded that a full 4 quarter year was implemented for a couple of years, but the UC lost money, so the summer quarter was lost.
  - Jennifer asked why the change is an issue now. Charles responded that its about undergrad education and has to do with the increase units and re-unitting. The faculty and administration are concerned about the workload for undergrads.
  - Charles ended the discussion by asking Forum delegates to email him with comments and concerns.
- C. GSA and USAC Resolution for Expand BruinGo! – Dorothy Kim
- Dorothy said that GSA is working with USAC to pressure the Chancellor. The resolution contains a way to pay for BruinGo!
  - There was a change to the resolution in the last 'Whereas' "Transportation Services' daily wage workers" should be replaced with "university employees."
  - Marie asked what actions were being taken. Dorothy replied that it is the first time for GSA and USAC to work together. There will be a rally and possibly an action with Don Shoup and possibly others such as Allison Yoh, an MTA Board Member and Urban Planning student.
  - Amanda has already collected emails in support of BruinGo! and will forward them to GSA.
  - Monica asked if there was sufficient demand. Dorothy answered that there was demand. In addition the Culver City bus line is ready and the MTA will soon have SmartCard boxes.
  - Lawrence asked about how many universities support similar programs. Charles said that we have to be careful with such a comparison.
  - Dorothy asked for Forum delegates to email her with more comments, she will incorporate them into a Viewpoint she will be writing.
  - The fliers for the rally at 12 noon on Wednesday April 24 will be in the GSA office. You can also see the study from urban planning on the program there.
  - Jeff (Humanities) moved to approve the joint resolution between GSA and USAC to expand BruinGo! Amanda (BSC) seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- D. CALPIRG Report – Alyssa Scullion (State board chair) and Erin Hardee (UCLA chapter chair)
- They handed out the 2000-2001 annual report for the UCLA chapter of CALPIRG. The mission of CALPIRG is teaching, research and service, the same as the university's.
  - Erin spoke about some the highlights last year, such as campaign to protect the Arctic refuge which led to a UCLA voice with British Petroleum. They also had a river clean up in Cudahay with 200 students and community members. It was hosted by Assemblyman March Antonio Firebaugh. The budget is in the booklet.

## VI. Announcements

- A. GradBar on Thursday evening, go!
- B. Applications for UC Systemwide Committees are available. Dorothy is currently on the Coordinating Committee for Graduate Affairs. UCOP pays for travel, and the meetings are monthly, or less.
- C. Environmental Coalition trip to Hogar Infantil – it's a community service project to La Gloria, outside of Tijuana. The EC needs funds and can't pay for it through their funds because of the restrictions with student interaction fund. They need educational and art supplies as well as food to cook a meal for the children ages 3 to 13. They are also inviting others to join them. They are asking for donations, of about \$50 from the councils. The trip is on May 18. Jerry suggested looking into Community Service Mini-fund.

## VII. Adjournment

Monica (Management) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Lawrence (SSC) seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.