

**UCLA Graduate Students Association (GSA)**  
**Forum Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 17, 2001**  
**417 Kerckhoff Hall**

Call to Order: 5:25pm

In Attendance: Vlasios Tsiatsis (Int'l Grads), Curt Schurgers (Int'l Grads), Heath Izenon (Manag.), Christine Schwartz (SSC), Jenn Bazilius (AIGSA), Jerry Mann (ASUCLA), Naser Hamdi (EGSA), Anu Desai (EGSA), Jeff Spisak (Hum), Melinda Kwan (Pub Health), Anita Revilla (RAZA), Amina Humphrey (BGSA), Brendesha Tynes (BGSA), Grace Chang (BSC), Marlene Elias (EC), Shane Smith (Grad Interact), Jonathan Katz (MPSC), Marie Fox (MPSC), Golnaz Tabibnia (BSC), Julia Harps (UASRA), Mike Cohn (CSP), Jerome Zoidakis (MPSC), Toby Bordelon (Law), Lawrence Culver (SSC), Celeste Drake (Law), Patrick Goroski (Health Pros), Ka Ling Lim (Pub Health), Victoria Irigoyen (Melnitz), Charles Harless (GSA Pres), Dorothy Kim (GSA IVP) Marjorie Hernandez (DB), Alain Dang (GSA EVP), Grace Gillespie (GSA),

- I. Approval of Oct. 17 Agenda
  - A. 1. MPSC 2. MPSC Unanimous
  
- II. Approval of Minutes of May 30
  - A. 1. SSC 2. Hum.
  - B. Abstained: Jonathan Katz
  
- III. Presidents Welcome: Charles Harless
  - A. What is GSA? There are 2 governing bodies: Cabinet, which is appointed positions who take care of day today business, and then the Forum which is made up of representatives from 11 academic councils and 6 special interest groups. Forum meets 3 times per quarter to discuss grad student issues and pass resolutions regarding them.
  
- IV. What is Forum and How to Get your Money: Dorothy Kim
  - A. Some highlights from the accomplishment list were as follows. Regarding the LGBT housing issue, the letter that GSA sent to the Chancellor last year was sent to the Council of Chancellors, which has asked the Regents to make a standard policy regarding grad housing policy. In November the decision will be made which will include something regarding grad students and their adult companions. Also, the transportation issue will be discussed again this year.
  - B. Please spend your money! Last year many councils did not use the funding that is set aside for them and consequently lost their funding in a roll over at the end of the year. The procedure regarding reimbursement paperwork was reviewed, and Jerry Mann pointed out the reimbursements are not the only way to pay for something. There are also PO's and pre printed checks that can be used in the case of on campus vendors or large orders.
  
- V. What is UCSA: Alain Dang

- A. UCSA is a group made up of the undergrad and grad student government representatives from all 9 UC schools. Alain is the grad rep for UCLA. Some of his plans for this year include setting up legislative dinners, the first of which will hopefully be with Herb Wessen who is the new speaker to the assembly and who represents Culver City and UCLA. On another note, there are still UC committee positions open; the list will be emailed out to councils. These positions usually meet in committees once per quarter in Oakland and all travel expenses are reimbursed. Alain is also in the process of resurrecting the APA GSA and would like help from the councils.

VI. Budget: Jerry Mann and Charles Harless

- A. Forum is the governing body that must approve all budgets (preliminary and actual) including the GSA central office, Melnitz Movies and the Environmental Coalition (which will be presented later). They do not approve the council budgets because that number is based on the number of students in each council, nor do they have any control over the PAB funds (discretionary and publications) because this is a contractual sum set by ASUCLA. Any surplus council money goes into the Forum discretionary account. Because of the referendum last spring, which increased the student fees, the councils got much more money this year, budgets for each council will be given out later. Naser requested that next time the budget include graphs showing percentages of how much money each line item gets. Jonathan asked if there were any major changes from the preliminary budget that was approved in the spring. Jerry explained that this year's budget is in better shape than ever before because of a large surplus that was found. Some of this surplus is going to help buy a new accounting system for SGA (the price being split proportionately with USA). The administration and support services line item covers the SGA expenses. Celeste asked about funding for Calpirg but Jerry explained that their funds come from a pledge campaign. Regarding the UCSA contribution, \$.50 of every student fee goes to UCSA's operating costs. The PAB funds also take out a large some of money to be redistributed to independent student group projects, events and journals. Both Discretionary and Publications funds have much more money in them than last year, and both directors of those funds will be at the next meeting for further explanations. Mike noted that to apply for these funds the student groups must be registered through the CSP office. Jonathan asked how Melnitz's budget was looking and Victoria said that there was a surplus from last year that went to fund this fall's projection fees which was a big help. For the student interest groups there is an Article 5 Section B Discretionary Fund set up which currently has \$2000.

B. Approval of Budget

1: MPSC 2: EGSA Unanimous

- C. Another reminder – councils and student groups please pick up your mail from the GSA Central Office as it contains an audit trail from every week.
- D. Ideas of how to spend your money – food for meetings or events, help sponsor a gradbar or a Melnitz Movie.

VII. Officer Reports

A. Charles Harless: What I did on my summer “vacation”

1. For the most part lots of office cleaning and organizing. Meeting with Cabinet and other officers to plan for the year.
2. September 11 brought up many issues on campus. GSA met with many university officials discussing campus safety and security and is now considering holding workshops for grad students (especially international grads) regarding legal rights.
3. The final round of selecting stipended appointment positions took place and those need to be ratified.
4. Approval of appointments: 1: SSC 2: Hum. Unanimous  
Question: what is the student fee advisory committee? This committee makes recommendations regarding the allocation of student registration fees for example, to the Marching Band, or Student Health facilities.
5. Hired 3 staff members Cindy, Grace, and Tamika (new)
6. Presidential meetings with the Chancellor, Winston Doby, Bob Naples, Pat Eastman, Directors of Student Health, Ombudsman. Most of these people will attend subsequent forum meetings.
7. GSA was approached by Chris Brown, a former doctoral student at UCSB who is involved in a lawsuit *Brown vs. Li*. He had written a “Disacknowledgement Section” in his dissertation and the university at first refused to give him his degree, and then refused to keep his dissertation in the university library. He claims that this violates his first amendment right and asked for GSA’s support in this matter. The cabinet made this decision because Forum was not in session. They signed on alongside the Berkeley student association.
8. The GSA cabinet had a retreat to learn how to work together better and discuss issues and events for this upcoming year.
9. There were meetings with the different appointees to make sure there were accurately representing grad students on their respective committees. Interesting result – the ASUCLA BOD is supporting gradbar!
10. There are still non-stipended appointments open including 6 seats on the Wooden Center Board. There will be an appointee reception in November to which Forum is invited.
11. At the UCSA meeting all of the presidents of each UC school met to discuss individual issues.
12. The graduate student bill of rights was discussed with the Grad Division and will be resurrected by the academic senate, grad division and GSA. This deals with requirements specific to each academic program. When a department does not follow regulations, their admissions rights are taken away. Seats on the Academic Senate committee are still available.

B. Alain Dang: UCSA Action Agenda and Budget

1. The top 3 priorities that UCSA is going to focus on this year are:
  - Divestment / investment of funding in education: UCSA will be lobbying the state legislature to prioritize their funding to help things like tidal wave II, opening new universities, and issues

regarding grad student support such as easier access to loans, non-taxable stipends, and student initiated outreach.

- Housing issues: There was recently a small survey done at UCLA and larger ones will follow. Assembly Bill 1611 recently passed allowing non-profit community organizations to build housing that will be tax deductible.
- Admissions reform: lobby for a more holistic and comprehensive approach to admissions possibly taking away requirements for SAT, GRE and other standardized tests. They are hoping to increase diversity in the schools, especially among grad students.
- Questions:

Jonathan – make sure to remember that prop 209 is not the only reason for the decline as well as outreach

Jennifer – agreed that more outreach needs to be done fro grad students.

Naser – asked about the relationship between ASUCLA and housing, Jerry answered that these two are separate entities that have no relationship. Housing must be entirely self-sufficient and is not connected to the university in any way. ASUCLA is a non-profit organization that deals with student services such as government.

Marjorie – How high is the demand for housing? Very high, currently only 13% of grad students make up grad student housing. The project for the Northwest housing complex will only make a small dent.

Naser – noted that the high rent rates in the West LA area affects admissions.

Shane – argued that the GRE is a fairly decent standardized test that does help many students get in. Alain responded that UCSA would like to see something more subject based, not aptitude.

2. Approval of UCSA Action Agenda: 1. EGSA 2. BSC Unanimous
3. UCSA Budget: the income that UCSA receives is from contributions from each UC school. UCLA makes more money per student and pay about \$150 per year per student. UCLA has the largest grad student population of any of the UC's.
4. Approval of UCSA Budget: 1. MPSC 2. MPSC Unanimous

## VIII. Cabinet Reports

### A. Melnitz Movies: Victoria Irigoyen

1. This year the wish list includes Monsters Inc., Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings. Melnitz will also be working on bringing in directors such as Baz Luhrman from Moulin Rouge. Tonight's movie is Romeo and Juliet. All movies are free and the schedules will be posted on the website. There will also be a fall calendar in the Daily Bruin soon. Movies are Wednesday or Friday and sometimes Monday in the James Bridges Theater that is located next to lot 3. They are looking at doing a special on cultural films in the winter. If councils would like, they can sponsor a film reception. There were also 4 staff members recently

hired to help with productions. The Ackerman films are different as they are put on by the Undergrad campus events commission and cost \$2.

2. Budget: They started out with \$26,000. Some of the premier productions are free which helps mediate costs. Naser asked about the programming line item, this covers the cost of the film and projection rentals. Jonathan asked about grad student priority at premiers and about advertising costs in the Daily Bruin. You do have to be a student to get tickets to the movies, but you can bring guests. Jennifer asked how the films are chosen and Victoria replied that it depends what is available.
3. Approval of Melnitz Budget: 1. MPSC 2. SSC Unanimous – with the stipulation that advertising not be restricted to the Daily Bruin.

#### B. Grad Interact: Shane smith

1. Its music, alcohol and friends on campus. Last year there was an average of 500 students at each one. The first one this year will be held on Halloween in the Kerckhoff Grand Salon. They are looking at getting a permanent space for grad interact events as well as other sources of funding. Please spread the word that the committee needs people to help organize the events as well as work on the political aspects. Councils may also help sponsor Gradbars by giving out free drink coupons to members of their council. Victoria reminded everyone that Melnitz will be showing the Rocky Horror Picture Show on that same night. Naser asked if Gradbar could save money by having students run the bar, but that violates the University Alcohol Policy. There is a liability issue and the need for a liquor license.

#### C. Environmental Coalition: Marlene Elias

1. There were packets in each council mailbox explaining the purpose of EC. There are lots of great campaigns going on this year including free Burma and Food not Bombs. Jonathan asked about the telephone expenses on the budget, this cost depends on the UCLA phone system. The graphics line item covers photocopying and posters.
2. Approval of EC Budget: 1. AIGSA 2. SSC Unanimous

### IX. New Business: Alain Dang

#### A. Youth Vote

1. This is an effort to encourage young people (college students) to vote by letting them register to vote on the day of the election. They are asking GSA to support their effort by the resolution attached. They want local legislature as well as student support their effort to increase awareness of politics. Naser asked about how to make UCLA a more political campus and Jonathan suggested that he talk to EC. Golnaz asked about voting booths on campus. They put voting booths near where people live, not work. There are some in the residence halls. Celeste proposed a friendly amendment to correct a grammatical error in the resolution and remove the word “due”.
2. Approval of Youth Vote Resolution: 1. MPSC 2. BSC Unanimous

#### B. Southworth Guidelines

1. This resolution deals with the allocation of student fees for ideological and political causes. If the University allows funding by student fees, it must be for all things including political causes, but it must be allocated on a neutral viewpoint basis. This doesn't directly affect GSA. Our GSA funds are not under this because GSA, councils and student interest groups have their own constitutions. This mainly affects the undergrads but the idea is to present a united front of student governments on this issue. Naser asked if lobbying meant campaign donations. Alain assured him that no student fees go towards contributions; it is simply meetings and resolutions.
2. Approval of Southworth Resolution: 1. EGSA 2. Law Unanimous

X. Adjournment 7:25

A. Approval: 1. MPSC 2. SSC Unanimous