

**Graduate Students Association
Forum Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2003 5:00pm
Ackerman Union 201**

Members Present: Catherine Fountain (Humanities), Claire Gallou (Humanities), Jerome Ieronyms-Zoidakis (MPSC), Marie Parkes (MPSC), Candice Taylor (Public Health), Fiona Galvin (SSC), Christopher Bates (SSC), Jacqueline Loza (SSC), John Teeple (SSC), Norah Haldeman (A&A), Laura Keplinger (A&A), Haig Hovsepian (BSC), Grace Chang (BSC), Naser Hamdi (EGSA), Sierin Lim (EGSA), Jim Springstead (EGSA), Gina Moody (Health Pros), Jeff Wheat (Health Pros), Danielle Waters-Babgun (Health Pros) Mauna Mana (Ed), Heesun Hall (Ed), David Neal (SIB), Jerry Mann (ASUCLA), Mike Cohn (Admin), Charles Harless (GSA Pres), Dorothy Kim (GSA VPI), Hanish Rathod (GSA VPEX), Dennis Tyler (GSA VPAA), Melanie Ho (GSA Elections), Mike Moradian (GSA Research), Eleanor Brewer (Alumni), John Pipan (guest), Larry Rubin (ASUCLA BOD), Grace Gillespie (GSA Staff).

I. Call to Order 5:10pm

II. Adoption of Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day

A. Changes to the Agenda:

1. Mike Cohn has an announcement at the end
2. Naser asked if there was a forum meeting 9th week of Fall quarter, and said he never received an email.

B. Approval:

1. Norah Haldeman (A&A)
2. Laura Keplinger (A&A)
3. Approved with Unanimous consent.

III. Approval of Minutes from the last Forum Meeting, 12/4/02

A. Approval

1. Jerome Ieronyms-Zoidakis (MPSC)
2. Laura Keplinger (A&A)
3. Approved: all in favor with one abstention.

New Business

IV. ASUCLA Update: Jerry Mann, Student Union Director

- A. The purpose of the student union is to fully enrich the lives of students, faculty and staff. When the Chancellor approved the ASUCLA 5 year budget forecast, he also asked that there be a comprehensive review to determine how and where services get delivered, and how they can be approved. ASUCLA makes money in many different ways including the student store, food services, trademarks and licensing, student union fees (which are relatively low) and student union leasing operations. This income is used for the building itself, student government, student programming and student media. ASUCLA is a \$75million enterprise and

is governed by a 10 member board comprised of 6 students. The mission of ASUCLA is to provide products, services, well maintained facilities, educational information, cultural programming, student voice and social responsibility. Students can petition business practices and some changes have been made recently such as the no sweatshop policy and option fair trade coffee.

B. For the comprehensive review, each member of the board examined one aspect of the union and determined what could be done better.

1. In terms of the whole student, there will be an academic enrichment program beginning in the spring called Professor in the Union. There will also be more support and communication by ASUCLA to student government and leadership.
2. In terms of the union as a place, they are looking at adding more computer labs with internet access, more meeting rooms, marketing workspace and more offices for student groups, a pub, more study space, and more recreation space.
3. The Future Vision is to expand the south end of Ackerman Union and putting in a theater, meeting rooms and student organization space. This would cost approximately \$60/year/student.
4. Intermediate Action Items include a student organization marketing workspace which will be possible when space opens up when groups move over to the men's gym next year. They are also looking towards enhancing programming.
5. Current Action Items include the Professor in the Union program where students recommend a professor they would like to hear speak, and the lunch time activity would be advertised in the daily Bruin. There will also be some Leadership Development Programs with the student government and ASUCLA student employees. Also some increased internet access with more computer stations, or laptop checkout services. They are testing out a wireless plan for the union. Lastly, they are planning to convert the Cooperage into a mixed use space for recreation, dining and a pub.
 - a. Revitalizing the Cooperage includes: enhancing the quality and selection of food, beer and wine through a casual dining area. There will also be an emphasis on quiet recreation by taking out the arcade and adding billiards and TV's.

C. Questions

1. Laura: *What kind of tutoring program will be instituted?* The union tutoring program will be modeled after the Covell tutoring and the Learning Center in Berkeley. Some of the difficulties in implementing this are the expense of hiring tutors, and not wanting to step on the toes of other tutoring programs already in place at UCLA.
2. *In terms of revitalizing the Cooperage, who will do that, is it in-house or contracted out?* Contracting out is limited because ASUCLA wants to maximize student employment. However, students now have less desire to work in the union, especially not in food services. This has lead ASUCLA to contract out and hire temporary employees. Some of these

employees ended up working 3-4 years. Their workers union was upset and ASUCLA had to hire them on as full time employees with benefits. This cost ASUCLA ¾ million dollars and the budget had to be re-arranged. Another consequence was that other workers unions became involved, and it made contracting out very difficult. They will probably be looking into contracting out part of the Cooperage, such as the pub, but self-running the dining.

3. Eleanor: *Is ASUCLA breaking even?* Yes, although textbook sales are down and the slow economy, and bad athletic seasons are starting to effect them, the budget still looks ok.

V. ASUCLA BOD Update: Marie Parkes and Larry Rubin - GSA BOD Representatives

- A. The ASUCLA Board of Directors has 5 subcommittees including services which include food service, finance which controls the budget, leadership which is an ad hoc committee this year looking to improve relations with student government, executives, which are the chair and vice-chair, and the joint operating committee which consists of the finance committee, the executive committee and the administration. The grad student role on the committee is to criticize and to build services in the union. Each member brings to the board their own diverse fresh ideas and experiences.
- B. In terms of food services, the current problems are that the facilities are outdated and the food selection is repetitive. Panda Express will be remodeling its area, and Jamba Juice will be adding a venue next to Taco Bell. They will also be constructing more seating next to Bruinwalk and a small Bruin Marketplace with snacks and drinks. The Cooperage will be converted into a pub with casual dining, and an upscale restaurant. On the first floor, they will be putting a salad bar where Tropix currently is. The Bombshelter on south campus will be entirely renovated with 3 eateries inside, inside seating and rooftop seating. The north campus area will be turned into a “food blvd” – a walkway with Mexican food, Italian food, hamburgers etc. Construction on all of these projects will begin next summer, but will take a bit of time to complete.
- D. Questions
 1. Naser: *It all sounds like a great investment, but what about the quality of the food?* With the remodeling of these facilities, the kitchen and prep areas of the eateries will be updated as well so that there will be better food and more individualized service.
 2. *Will the price of the food increase and who controls pricing?* The current price of food is competitive, but below market value. It is a very delicate balance, as ASUCLA employees are paid more than minimum wage, which already increases the overhead cost.
 3. Larry asked that any specific suggestions regarding food services are welcome. Dorothy recommended Panda Express’ Japanese food concept.

VI. Graduate Student Research: Pam Taylor – Grad Division Research Director, Mike Moradian – GSA Research Director

- A. Mike: Pam is here to tell us how grad students can improve their communication with the administration and how GSA can work better with Grad Division. Also, there will be a town hall meeting with the directors of student health and the SHAC committee in early February, a meeting with transportation services at the end of winter quarter, and a meeting with housing administration in the spring.
- B. Pam: The research department of Grad Division has 3 primary functions:
1. Research Data on Grad Students - They have every dissertation filed since 1938 in their office. They also have all graduate student admission applications and financial records since the early 1990's. They use this information to understand graduate student needs and produce an annual report. They also give this information to private research companies.
 2. Communication and Dissemination of Information – The “Graduate Quarterly” publication is under new management and the Grad Division website will be re-designed soon.
 3. Evaluation of Recruitment and Outreach – They distribute IRIS surveys upon doctoral exit (collected with dissertation) and have a 94% response rate. They are going to implement a grad council survey for the Academic Senate and a Doctoral Placement survey as well. In winter 2002 there was a higher education data sharing agreement between institutions. The key findings will be summarized in an article and feedback will be requested. It seems like the overall experience of grad students has been good, although some areas need some work. In general, the academic experience was said to be better than the social one. Another complaint was a lack of career resources. The career center has already been informed of this and is working on it. The bookstore and the campus shuttle were praised, while things like housing, health and parking were criticized. If you have any questions about the surveys or the data, send her an email.
 4. Questions:
 - a. Eleanor: *Do you have comparison data for any of this because some of the figures seem terrible.* Yes there is comparison data with MIT, Kansas, Brown, Syracuse, UCD and UCSB. The numbers were comparable within their categories, and remember this was a voluntary survey. They will be changing some of the response categories this year. Some of the subjects such as adequate research training (38%), recommendation (38%) and wishing that they had not gone to grad school (38%) no school seems to do well in. These responses may be because students are stressed out from just finishing their programs. The responses would be different if you survey the students mid-program.
 - b. Mike Cohn: note that on page 3 some figures are transposed.
 - c. Chris Bates: *What about leading questions on the survey?* Yes that is a problem, but it is compared with other schools who ask the same exact questions. They will look towards changing the questions.
 5. Pam: In the next couple of weeks there will be an online grad student financial aid survey so that grad division can adjust its policies. They want to accurately assess the actual grad student expenditures and implement changes in Fall 03. The current analysis does not include costs such as child care, professional organization fees, conference travel, or health care. Please spread the news about

this survey. In the future there will also be an exit survey for terminal masters students, as there is currently no information from those students.

6. Mike: Another possibility is creating a monthly newsletter including GSA, forum and council announcements. Grad division will fund this if students are willing to regularly send in info. Please email Mike regarding this. GSA can also request to add in questions on the Grad Division surveys, just send them an email. They are also thinking of sending out a survey to entering students in order to examine incoming student's expectations and preparations. If it was implemented over the summer, the data could be ready by the fall reception.

Officer Reports

VII. Charles Harless – GSA President

A. Attachments

1. The ASUCLA program called "Law in the Union" which will help students 2 times a month with legal issues.
2. The Daily Bruin Article regarding some comments that Regent Ward Connerly made regarding segregation and racism.
3. A message from Chancellor Carnesale regarding the student fee increase, which is especially high for professional students. The UC Regents may raise student fees again in the fall. Someone asked if student fees will ever go down, this is rare, but it did happen once in the early 90's. Most likely, once fees are increased, they will remain high.

B. State of GSA and Campaign GSA - Charles will be sending out a letter with a list of GSA projects and activities and how students can get involved. If councils want to send information with that letter, email Charles. The email will be sent to all grad students who have released their email addresses, approximately 6,000 people. Also, GSA is looking for a new logo, there will be a competition with cash prizes.

C. Tax issues – this will be skipped and reviewed at the next forum meeting

D. GSA Report – The Chancellor has asked GSA to prepare a report regarding the pros and cons of the academic calendar, as they are considering changing the system from quarters to semesters. Please ask your council members why they prefer either system. We need information on how the calendar affects grad students and their work. Dennis will be holding a Town Hall Meeting regarding the academic calendar issue on February 10th.

E. Applications - For the Collegium of Teaching Fellows are available in the GSA office.

F. Employee Discount Cards - Still available, if you do not have one, send your name and student id number to Charles and he can add you to the list by the end of the week. You can pick up your cards in Kerckhoff 219. The card is valid for the rest of the year.

G. GSA Codes – Charles is proposing modifying 3 sections of the GSA Codes. The proposed changes are presented today and will be discussed at

the next forum meeting. Please read over the changes in the Councils, Forum, and Elections sections, and Charles will put a pdf version on the GSA website.

VIII. Dorothy Kim – GSA Internal Vice President

- A. Council Constitutions – Please bring a copy of them to the next forum meeting. If your council does not have a working constitution or you would like to revise yours, please come to GSA to get some advice and see some examples. Currently we do not have any record at all of a constitution for the Education or the Law Councils. Also, please email your schedule of council meetings to GSA so that these can be posted on our website.
- B. Question: John Pipan – *EGSA has no constitution, correct?* Jim Springstead replied that he is not sure. John said that there is no acting constitution on the website and he would like Mr. Hamdi to get back to him regarding this issue.
- C. Tax Workshops – Matt Hopper and Dorothy had been discussing having a series of meetings for grad students to get help with their taxes. *Is anyone interested in this?* Sarah mentioned that VITA (the student run workshop) was helpful, but Dorothy argued that it was not when students have many different loans and fellowships that complicate their taxes. Chris recommended that if taxes were that complicated, then it might be best to go to a professional accountant, because you would probably save quite a bit of money.

IX. Hanish Rathod – External Vice President

- A. New Forum Member – Welcome to Eleanor Brewer, who is the representative from the Alumni Association. She graduated from the Anderson Business School and will be a non-voting member.
- B. UCSA Budget – UCSA is a student body comprised of the EVP's of both graduate and undergraduate student governments from all of the UC schools, and addresses issues at the state and federal level. UCLA pays \$14,800 each year in dues. The original UCSA budget had a \$17,001.20 deficit, but it has been revised as some schools, including UCLA refused to approve that. The new deficit is now \$1,644.66. Some of the major changes include sharing the fourth staff person with CSF, so now UCSA pays 60% of the salary and CSF pays 40%. They also switched phone services, cut postage expenses by using email more, made travel more cost efficient and reduced the budget for legal advice as this was not used frequently.
- C. Questions:
 - 1. Marie: *The allocation for staff travel is still high, is that necessary?* The 3.6 staff people go to 10 meetings each year which are held at the different UC campuses and usually last 3 days, we can look into how much money is actually spent.
 - 2. *What are employee benefits?* This helps the staff pay off their student loans, it also helps attract people to the position, we can look more closely into the specifics of this as well.
 - 3. *What is the cell phone stipend?* That is for the Field Director when he travels.

4. Haig: *Why did the EVP stipend not get cut, even though that was one of the reasons that forum did not support the original budget?* This has been a very tough issue, and the Vice Chair, UCLA's EVP stepped down from his position, possibly because of this. Other schools objected to this stipend as well, but most of the other EVP's thought it was necessary because of all of the work and time that goes into the position.
5. *Why do they need more money, their travel expenses are paid for correct?* Yes, but it is for the extra time and effort that the position requires. The stipend is only for this years EVP's to see if it works, if not, they may possibly not allocate it next year.
6. *How do you determine if the stipend works?* For example, it prevents the EVP from having to find another job in order to pay for school, they can spend more time working for UCSA. Historically though, the position has never been stipended.
7. Jim: *What does staff recruitment include?* The staff positions in UCSA have a high turnover rate because it is usually considered a stepping stone to other positions. This item includes the cost of bringing in the interviewees into Oakland. Most likely 3 of the 3.6 staff members will leave this year.
8. Charles: *What should GSA do?* Do what you think, because the year is half over already, it might be better to just leave this issue alone and focus on making next years budget more sound. Norah agreed saying that they have managed to keep a small deficit even with the stipends, so they should keep them. Fiona argued that the problem is that the people receiving the stipends are double dipping, and that once the stipend is placed in the budget, it is unlikely that it will ever be removed. Hanish said that this issue will be addressed again with next year's budget. Now, with the current board sentiments it is kind of a taboo issue and they don't want to talk about it, however they did make progress in cutting the budget further.
9. Dorothy: *If we don't pass their budget, what happens?* Technically, the original budget did pass even without UCLA's support, but Hanish had asked that it be looked at again because of the lack of support from some of the schools. Pushing this issue farther may not be very effective. Chris agreed that forum should not waste time with this issue if it would not be effective. Mike noted that the UCLA contribution is the largest in the system, so if UCLA does not support this matter, it doe carry some weight. Hanish mentioned that GSA does have a say in how much we contribute, and we can choose to scale back our contribution if we are not happy with things. Charles added that if we do not contribute to UCSA, then we are no longer members, but the money we do not contribute can not be used for anything else. Hanish said that we could just contribute less, and

Charles explained that the minimum contribution is \$.75 per student per year, but UCLA pays \$1.50.

10. Dorothy asked for a motion. Fiona suggested that no action would send a message to the board members. Haig suggested that we approve the budget but have Hanish take Forum's feedback to UCSA, but Jim said that we should not pass it if we do not approve because we are members. Hanish suggested that we defer approval and have the chair of UCSA as a guest at the next forum meeting. Marie motioned that the budget be approved and not discussed again.
 1. Marie Parkes (EGSA)
 2. Laura Keplinger (A&A)
 3. Motion Approved: 2 opposed, 11 in favor, 3 abstained.
- D. DC Conference – 6 representatives from GSA will be going to lobby for tax exempt student fellowships and scholarships. Haig asked: *Who are these 6 people and what are they contributing?* Hanish Rathod, Dorothy Kim, Dennis Tyler, Lynn Itagaki, Matt Hopper and Melanie Ho are going and each brings with them different experiences from different undergrad institutions, different departments on campus and different backgrounds.
- E. Michigan Case – Just so you are aware, the University of Michigan is fighting for affirmative action. They awarded admissions to 20 minority students and a lawsuit was filed against them. The case is now in the supreme court and president bush has made a statement against the Michigan form of affirmative action. UCSA so far does not want to say anything.
- F. Fee Increase – The governor has decided that there ne a 35% increase in student fees which would be about \$1,000 more per student. UCSA will be starting a “no more tuition increase” campaign.

Cabinet Reports

X. Melanie Ho – GSA Elections Director

- A. Elections Board – The elections will be held in mid-April and the board will need one representative from each council. If you are thinking about running, or know someone who is, please talk to Melanie, or the other officers. Any referendum needs to be presented and approved at the next Forum meeting to be placed on the ballot. All the information is posted on the website. Charles added that councils are required to have a representative on the elections board, and there are consequences if they do not. The position is not a huge time commitment.

XI. Announcements

- A. Mike Cohn – Student Regent applications are available and due February 20th by 5pm. Recently 2 UCLA grad students have been the UC Student Regent.
- B. Charles – Vonda is the Daily Bruin reporter in charge of Grad student articles, if your council wants an event covered, or an article about grad student issues, please talk to her.

XII Adjournment: 7:38

1. Fiona
2. Marie
3. Approved with Unanimous consent.