

UCLA Graduate Students Association (GSA)
Forum Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 6, 2002
A-201A Ackerman Union, 5:00pm

Members Present, Emily Kanter (ASA), Fiona Galvin (SSC), Catherine Fountain (Hum.), Haig Hovsepien (BSC), Richard Kahn (SSC), Mike Cohn (Admin), Kim Hager (A&A), Dolores Rivera (A&A), Courtney Johnson (BGSA), Claire Gallou (Hum.), Antonio Sandoval (SFAC), Heather Onuma (PHSA), Chander Radhakrishmn (EGSA), Caer McCabe (MPSC), Kim Ushton (BSC), Lawrence Lokmen (Asst. V. Chan.), Marie Parkes (MPSC), Naser Hamdi (ESGA), Candice Taylor (Pub. Health), David Neil (University Apartments), Paulette Fonches (SHAC), Christopher Bates (SSC), Patricia Eastman (ASUCLA), Dorothy Kim (GSA), Charles Harless (GSA), Lynn Itagaki (GSA), Debra Simmons (SGA), and Dorothy Augustyniale (Bruin Daily).

- The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.
- The meeting started with quorum

- I. Adoption of Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day
Motion to Approve-1: Haig 2: Fiona. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
- II. Approval of the minutes from October 16, 2002
Motion to Approve-1: Marie 2: Caer. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
- III. Special Presentation- Introduction of the new Assoc. Vice Chancellor of Communication, Lawrence Lokman

The executive director of ASULCA, Patricia Eastman, introduced the new Vice Chancellor of Communication, Lawrence Lokman, to all the Forum delegates. The Assistant Vice Chancellor talked about his responsibilities and emphasized that his department did not pay enough attention to the graduate students and how he was looking forward to changing this.

Q&A

-Patricia asked what kind of things would you be interested in knowing about graduate students and how would you get this information. Lawrence responded competitive packages, interesting stories, putting graduate students in the spotlight, meeting with graduate students and attending various graduate student meetings.

-Emily asked how do things get addresses in your publication. Lawrence responded by saying that his folks will talk to individuals about certain issues, pull groups together and brainstorm, and invite people to contact them directly.

-Fiona asked if this was related to the alumni magazine and who was the magazines readership. Lawrence responded the alumni magazine is a completely different magazine and the readerships are alumni. Our magazine goes out ever quarter.

-Fiona asked do you publish articles submitted by graduate students. Lawrence responded we would be happy if graduate students submitted material.

-Heather asked do you collect email addresses for your distribution list. Lawrence responded no.

- IV. Officer's Report- Charles Harless, President

Charles explained that that the offices for Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Director of Elections have been appointed. The new Vice President of Academic Affairs is Dennis Tyler, a first year English student. The new Director of Elections of Elections is Melaine Ho, a first year English student. Charles asked forum for a final approval of the new appointments.

Q&A

-Naser asked about the council's right to participate in the appointment process. Charles responded all councils are required to participate and that the only councils that are excused are Arts & Architecture and Humanities. The councils that should have been there but were not are Management, Law, Public Health and Biological Sciences. Charles also stated that there shouldn't be any confusing with the dates because they are

mentioned in forum and emailed to each council ahead of time and a hold could be put on councils funds if they do not attend meetings.

-Emily asked is there a calendar we can look at with all the dates on it. Charles responded there is a calendar on the web site.

-Charles stated that it is the council reps. responsibility to take information back to their council president and that we also contact the council presidents.

-Dorothy stated that all council representatives are supposed to attend all forum meetings but we understand that there are certain circumstances that might keep you from attending.

-Marie stated that the dates for the appointment board were posted on the web

-Mike suggested that we utilize board behind us.

-Candice stated that it wasn't what Charles said that was harsh but the way that he said it. Hiag responded that he has every right to be hostile because we should have been at the meeting.

-Naser stated the issue isn't with not everybody attending; the issue is that there is not a quorum. We should pass some resolution that goes beyond freezing the funds for lack of attendance.

Motion to approve the Appointments-1: Fiona 2: Candice. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

Charles presented a resolution to modify the GSA codes

Codes can only be modified if the forum delegates vote for a change with the governmental document. Charles mentioned that the he only wanted the delegates to review the modifications until the next forum meeting. The section that he is proposing to modify is 4.1.7., and he also mentioned that this would make Mikes and Jerry's positions formal.

Q&A

-Marie asked this did not exist.

-Naser asked what about the issues that comes up with reforming the codes (working with councils, and student interest group boards). Charles responded this will be on the next agenda.

Charles presented a resolution for an ASUCL

-Charles stated that the GSA central office was flooded with emails after people found out that the GSA didn't want to support a pub.

Charles turned over the discussion to Mike to discuss a survey he did no a pub. The survey consisted of 4 questions and within the first hour and a half 173 surveys were filled. The charts that he presented were divided into age groups and 95% of the graduate students that attended GradBar were in support of a pub.

Q&A

-Hiag asked was there an attempt to survey students that did not attend the GradBar. Matt responded that the students who attend the GradBar will be the students that attend the pub.

-Mike suggested giving the surveys to the council members so the could survey within there councils.

-Fiona asked how would we know there's not repetition. Hiag responded it's an independent study.

-someone suggested emailing all the graduate students. Dorothy responded we only have a certain number of mass emails we can send before we start to get charged

-Fiona asked whether grad students should get their own pub and do they want to have their own pub.

-Charles disagreed with the council about having undergrads at the pub with the grads. Then he read some of the emails the GSA office received about having a pub.

The resolution that Charles is presenting is that the graduate students support ASUCLA in creating a pub and the grads helping with the decision making.

-Mike suggested that we should look to the councils for input and ask them what do they think is the best route for graduate students.

Motion to approve the resolution for a pub-1: Naser 2:

Further Discussion

Q&A

-Emily asked is GSA going to support the pub as being a GradBar, hopeful with giving support we'll have an input too.

-Pat stated that the GSA has been interested in acquiring a pub for many years, and that there has been a lot of strategic planning over the past year to get a pub on campus. She also mentioned that the pub would be an excellent student union possibility and that we were one of the few UC campuses that did not have a pub. Pat said that no matter how much she wants this to happen the only way to get the pub up and running is to get the chancellor to say yes and it would be really good to get support for the pub before she goes to the chancellor with the idea. She's working with the Student Affairs Office to get the idea out to other groups on campus especially groups that oppose the pub and present them with positive data. GSA support is very important in the formation of a pub and Pat stated that she needs the GSA to help her get into contact with various groups that oppose the pub.

-Claire stated that underage drinking is what bothered her the most.

-David asked will people be able to bring their families and if so does that mean that there will be food. Pat responded it would be like a restaurant or a gathering place and that bar food would be served. But it's not really a family place, it will not exclude people under the age of 21 and there would be tight control on drinking.

-David stated that he liked how Pat represented the pub and that he does not like the idea of a place just for drinking.

-Marie responding to Claire it is not GSA's responsibility to decide the form the pub is going to take.

Naser withdrew his motion to approve the resolution for a pub

Further Discussion

Q&A

-Richard stated that the graduate student community lacks at UCLA and that if GSA approves this resolution we lose our political clout to get a grad student place, we need a space of our own.

-Richard asked how are we going to address graduate student space. Mike responded ASUCLA is not in the position to guarantee grad student space.

-Claire stated that she like the idea of a graduate community

-Matt stated that we can support both the GradBar and a campus pub.

-Naser asked if the graduate students don't support a pub are we only going to have it for the undergrads. We need to support it or it won't go anywhere.

Motion to approve the resolution for a pub-1: Fiona 2: Catherine Abstained: Claire, Naser, Richard, Emily, Candice and Marie

V. Officer Report (con't)- Dorothy Kim, Internal Vice President

Dorothy passed out the Council Account numbers and told the council delegates that the budgets for the council were now split between two funds: the carryover and the current budget funds.

Q&A

-Mike stated that at the beginning of the school year there was a 10 or 12 minute PowerPoint presentation on how to fill out all the forms.

-Naser asked which funds we should use first. Dorothy responded use the current budget fund first.

-Fiona asked should we use one number over the other.

A break down of the GradBar budget was presented to the council for approval

Motion to approve the GradBar budget- 1: Emily 2: Caer The motion passed with unanimous consent.

VI. Officer's report (con't)- Hanish Rathod, External Vice President

Hanish presented the UCSA budget to the council for approval. He noted that the council is approving the budget to continue the universities membership in the UCSA and that each university has to approve the budget. The budget has a deficit of \$17,000, \$25,000 in allocated funds (only used for educational services) and the organization also wants to set up a

stipend of the chair, Steve- UCSD, External VP, and the co-chair, Chris Neal- UCLA undergrad officer.

Q&A

-Charles asked are there guidelines to receiving stipends, can one person receive two stipends at the same time.

-Caer asked if the UCSA had two offices. The answer was yes there's an office in Sacramento and an office in Oakland.

-Caer responding to Charles probably not illegal.

Hanish noted that if we don't approve the budget it will go down that UCLA did not approve the budget, but if 1/3 of the universities don't approve the budget the organization has to go over and revise the budget.

Q&A

-Naser asked what does the UCSA accomplish with half a million dollars a year. Hanish responded that very little gets done.

-Naser asked why is UCLA the major contributor. Hanish responded we're the largest school.

-Marie asked what the numbers in the second column represent. Hanish responded the changes in the budget.

-Marie asked where the stipend at is, I don't see it. Hanish responded it's on the new budget.

-Naser stated that he serves on SFAC and that they have to justify what they are spending money for and that the budget that Hanish has present is not justified.

Motion to not approve the UCSA Budget-1: Naser 2: Marie. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

The council agreed to send a letter along with the budget back to the UCSA stating why the budget was not approved by the council.

VII. Cabinet report- Lynn Itagaki, Director of Discretionary Funds

Lynn introduced herself to the council as the Director of Discretionary Funds. She noted that there's less money in the funds than last year, a max of \$750 for groups that are approved for funds. She also noted that the funds do not go to people funding individual research trips/events. The discretionary funds are open to all graduate students and it's better to get the request in ASAP, because the funds are low.

Q&A

-Marie asked what the total amount of money for the budget is. Lynn responded \$15,000.

-Chander asked what do you do about grad events in the summer. Lynn responded nothing really because it's not apart of the regular school year.

Applications are available online and almost all the groups are approved.

VIII. Report from SFAC- Naser Hamdi and Antonio Sandoval

Antonio Sandoval, 1st year planning, and Naser Hamdi, President of Engineering Council, advise the Chancellor on fees for graduate students. Antonio notes that some of the things SFAC deals with are: center for women and men, student fee increase, student affairs budget commission, website fee (which were increase by \$0.75) and budget cuts. Naser noted that usually they have a pool of money to approve or disapprove and financial cases to deal with, to allocate more money by cutting programs and looking into others. However, the state says that they don't have any money for schools so UCLA has to charge the undergrads more money, while they're spending a million dollars a year to update the website. He would recommend that the fee increase not be approved.

Q&A

-Marie asked who determines the level of stipend received by all the members to be \$2000 a year except for the members on SFAC who receive \$3000 a year

They also noted that the things they advise the chancellor on are very important and that when a person is on SFAC the also serve on two subcommittees and go to sights.

IX. Report from CPC- Candice Taylor

CPC provides funding to students and Mike added that the group the students in needs to be an officially recognized organization. The events that are funded are either conferences are

cultural and the minimum amount of money a group can receive is \$1000 and maximum is \$8500. Charles noted that GSA can sponsor groups

Q&A

-Chander asked how much money we get.

-Claire asked do u have contact information. Candice responded the chair is Henry and we are located in 105 KH.

X. Announcements

Christopher Bates and Fiona Galvin of the SSC brought up a problem dealing with the vending machines near Bunch Hall. Some of the faculty members are complaining that the vending machines distract them when they are working at night and would like for them to be moved, but this would be bad for the students that are there during the night because then they would have to walk all the way to Haines to use vending machines. Fiona pointed out that tearing down the vending machines would cost \$2500.

Q&A

-Naser stated writing a letter would be an appropriate response, and we should write to more than just the chancellor. It should be appropriate language especially when there is a lack of funds and safety issues.

-Mike suggested we also write to the Academic Senate

Fiona noted that there was an email sent to the staff and faculty in Bunch and that they know what's going on.

Motion for Charles to write a letter-1: Claire 2: Naser

If there are any comments for the letter let Charles know.

XI. Adjournment:

Naser moved for the forum meeting to be adjourned. Fiona seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.