

To: GSA Cabinet
From: Anita Garcia
Date: February 9, 2005
RE:UC Student Association Lobby Conference Report

UC Davis, Sacramento February 4-7th, 2005

UCLA Graduate Student Delegation:

Eric Lai, Public Health

Omid Toloui, Public Health

Monica Sanchez, PHD Education

Anita Garcia, Law

Conference Activities:

- Delegation attended workshops on Budget Process, Master Plan, How a Bill becomes a law, Legislative Advocacy, Outreach and the Lobby Clinic.
- Anita facilitated a Legislative Advocacy workshop and a Lobby Clinic.
- The legislative advocacy workshop also emphasized the importance of graduate students to the undergraduate education and to the pipeline for professors within California.

Lobby Day:

- Anita spoke on behalf of the Graduate Students about Professional School fees at the Press Conference. Assembly Member Laird, Chan, and Liu attended, there were staff, and about 100 students.
- 49 Debt Checks were collected from the law school totaling over \$4 million in debt- the check was part of the protect action and was printed on checks for the Governor.
- There are 32 Senate and Assembly members in the LA delegation.
- Appointments were made with 24 offices. The Graduate Student Delegation were part of 10 visits. Anita met with 5 staff members and with 5 members, focusing on some of the offices where appointments were not able to be scheduled and where appointments were made with staff instead of members.

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March 16-17th at UCLA

- Michelle Sugi should whitenline, sit with the Regents during their meetings to have informal discussions about the effect of the public health professional fee increase in particular.
- Students from the professional schools should be put on the list for public comment- the meetings start off with 20 minutes of public comment with 3 minutes per student.
- The students who sign up can pool their time and have one speaker for a group of them so that speaker has more time to make their comments.
- There will be a focus on public health in CA at the March meeting and so we should develop talking points for public health graduates on the effects of the fee increase on public health students.
- We may also want as many graduate students to show up and we can develop a protest action to show that graduate students are active on the fee issue.

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/regents/meetings.html>

***Although we knew the Regents would be voting to increase the professional student fees in November we did not know they would be adding public health and public policy to the professional school category. In anticipation of the raise on professional school fees we did have law students testify at the November meeting and were picked up in the LA times.