

**Graduate Student Association
Forum Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2005, 5:35 pm
Ackerman Union 201-A**

Members Present: Melissa Morales (A&A), Stephen Crosely (A&A), Natatlie Kozak (BS), Scot Liu (BS), Gene Gurkoff (BS), Richard Webster (Dentistry), Khanh Nguyen (Engineering), George Scarlatis (Engineering), Jim Springstead (Engineering), Duo Liu (Engineering), Lauren Mason (Humanities), Alexandra Murray (Law), Patrick Hammon (Law), Marissa Harris (Management), Nicole Lampsa (Management), Julie Orf (MPS, ASUCLA BOD), S. Alex Smith (MPS), Bryan Hyler (Medicine), Jayne Joo (Medicine), Kim Woodhaise (Medicine), Sarah Terribilini (Nursing), Eric Lai (Public Health), Janet Cummings (Public Health), Mac Marston (Social Sciences), Alejandro Rodriguez (Social Sciences), Tiffany Nurrenborn (Social Sciences), Deborah La Torre (Education), Aletha Harven (Education), Haig Hovespian (S.I.B.), Jerry Mann (Admin Reps), Mike Cohn (Admin Reps), Vincent Gau (Alumni Rep), Pamela Taylor (Grad. Division), Michelle Sugi (VPAA), Marilyn Gray (VPI), Amanda Moussa (VPEx), Jared Fox (Pres), Golnaz Tabibnia (Elections), Scott Friedman (Community Service), Hoi Ning Ngai (ASUCLA-BOD), Dorothy Kim (ASUCLA-BOD), Charles Harless (ASUCLA-BOD), Robert Williams (ASUCLA IED), Tamika Hunter (GSA Staff).

I. Call to Order 5:31

II. Adoption of Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day

A. Motion to approve Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day:

- a. Julie
- b. Alejandro
- c. Approved with unanimous consent

III. Approval of Minutes from the last meeting, February 16, 2005

A. Motion to approve the minutes from February 16, 2005 (with one minor edit).

- a. Sarah
- b. Julie
- c. Approved with unanimous consent

IV. UCLA Alumni Association, Eleanor Brewer, Marci Weisblatt, Vincent Gau

A. Eleanor gave an overview and mission of the UCLA Alumni Association with a prepared handout that was distributed. The Alumni Association is a non-profit organization of Alumni volunteers in our 69th year of existence. What has the Alumni Association done for Graduate students? The UCLA Alumni Association has lobbied against a fee increase and incorporated graduate students into the strategic planning and budgets. The UCLA Alumni Association has a strategic plan that includes: Collaboration with UCLA, Alumni, Students, Infrastructure of the UCLA Alumni Association, and Philanthropy. The UCLA Alumni Association is focusing on accomplishing this plan to improve the productivity of the organization.

-Marilyn asked Eleanor to clarify the relationship between the UCLA Alumni Association and the departmental alumni associations. Eleanor responded that they are separate but affiliated, and that they meet with the school presidents together as well as vice chancellors. The Alumni Association has discussed as a group professional school fees. They also talked about special interest groups such as Black Alumni Association,

Latino Alumni, as well as regional groups. The Alumni Association has started partnering with the professional groups to help broaden cross campus relationships.

-Charles asked how many members of the Alumni Association have graduate degrees from UCLA? Marci responded that they keep track of several categories – undergraduate only, undergraduate and graduate, and graduate degree holders.

V. Officer's Report

A. GSA President, Jared Fox

There were three things on the agenda Jared discussed, two of which required forum's approval by vote. There is have a new spot on the transportation advisory board, if you have any questions on this please contact Jared via-email. The second matter is the bylaw change for the cabinet members. Because the cabinet members meet three times a quarter, the 75% attendance rule is really a 100% attendance rule, which is not realistic. The officers do not want to make cabinet come to forum to request their stipend for missing just one meeting. However, GSA does need the bylaws to state that their stipend is subject to both the performance of their duties and the attendance requirement in 10.7.3 (one needs to reference the other; otherwise a cabinet member might not be aware of this rule).

1.) Motion to approve the cabinet bylaw change:

a. Alex

b. Marc

c. Approved with unanimous consent

MY.UCLA cannot provide GSA data with the data in a format that permits the use of the "Instant Runoff" methodology described in the election codes, so Jared suggested along with Mike Cohn and Jerry Mann that GSA add some additional language to give the Elections Board the ability to use an alternate voting tabulation method in the event that Instant Runoff Voting is infeasible to implement in a way that ensures a fair and impartial election. Please note that this change will only impact races with more than two candidates.

2.) Motion to approve the election bylaw change:

a. Alex

b. George

c. Approved (21-0-0)

B. GSA VPI, Marilyn Gray

Marilyn said that she had all but one Council constitution. However she hasn't gotten the minutes from a lot of the councils, and it is in the bylaws that councils must submit their minutes to the GSA central office. Marilyn made a deadline that councils must email minutes to her by the first week of spring quarter, and if a council does not meet the deadline, she will have to stop signing that council's requisitions. In the minutes, it must be noted when councils approve budgetary expenses and council elections. If any of you have questions or comments, please email Marilyn.

Another reason to have minutes turned in and posted is that they are required attachments for requisition. The websites will help the GSA office and Councils keep up with each council's minutes (although copies of minutes must also be submitted with the requisitions). The web pages for the councils also empower the councils to contact and interact with each other.

The Graduate Student Resource Center strategic planning committee had its first meeting on Monday and it went very well. Christine Wilson, the center's coordinator, will be presenting the center's strategic plan at the next forum meeting in April in order to get feedback from Forum.

Marilyn asked those present to fill out the end-of-the-quarter Forum food survey to help with next year's food ordering.

C. GSA VPEX, Amanda Moussa

The Regents meeting is next Wednesday and Thursday, March 16th and 17th. Amanda presented some fliers that Anita put together, who asked her to pass them out so that Forum reps can spread the word and put them up in various places on campus. Amanda encouraged people to participate and to refer to the attachment in the forum packet and/or contact Anita via email with any question or concern. At the Regents meeting, the audience doesn't comment, so Michelle will be white lining so that graduate concerns will get out to the regents. The idea of the protest is to wear black and to show the Regents that graduate students are informed and do care about the issue of fee increases.

D. GSA VPAA, Michelle Sugi

Michelle talked about departmental review surveys and how they provide a unique student perspective on the department, so if graduate students receive a departmental survey, they should definitely fill them out.

-Tiffany asked what kind of access do students have to the results. Pamela (Graduate Division) responded that comments are sent to the review team, the department, and Luisa Crespo, the program manager for Graduate Council, so students can contact her.

VI. Cabinet Report

E. Elections, Golnaz Tabibnia

Golnaz gave some back ground to the elections runoff method issue. Last year was the first time that there were more than two candidates for the position and that one candidate did not receive more than 50% of first choice votes. There are two elections methods, and the one used last year was between the instant-runoff and Borda count. We finally got the raw data to analyze using both a straight Borda Count and the Instant Runoff method. Michelle Sugi was the winner using both methods. Due to the inability of My.UCLA to provide the data in a way to do the Instant-Runoff correctly, the Elections Board has decided to go with the Borda account method, which needs to be approved by Forum.

- 1.) Motion to use Borda account method for races with more than two candidates.
 - a. Marc
 - b. Alex
 - c. Approved (21-0-0)

VII. ASUCLA Fee Referendum, Charles Harless, Dorothy Kim, Hoi Ning Ngai, Julie Orf (ASUCLA GSA BOD reps)

The ASUCLA Board representatives, after having made several earlier presentations at Forum on the ASUCLA fee referendum, request that GSA Forum endorse the ASUCLA S.A.F.E. Referendum.

- 1.) Motion to endorse the ASUCLA S.A.F.E. referendum:
 - a. Jim
 - b. Lauren

c. The motion passed unanimously (18-0-3)

The ASUCLA Board reps told Forum members that they could go to the ASUCLA's website to view the S.A.F.E. referendum.

VIII. Announcement, Marilyn Gray

Marilyn reminded Forum to fill out the end of the quarter food survey and the community service survey, and for councils not to forget to turn in your minutes.

IX. Adjournment, 7:35

A. Motion to Adjourn forum Meeting

a. Alex

b. Marc

c. Approved by unanimous consent