

**Graduate Students Association
Forum Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2005 5:30pm
Ackerman Union 201-A**

Members Present: Cynthia Lee (A&A), George Scarlatis (EGSA), Duo Liu (EGSA), Jim Springstead (EGSA; Elections Board rep), Steve Fang (EGSA), Tonya Kane (BSC), Scot Liu (BSC; Elections Board rep), Gene Gurkoff (BSC), Talar Chahinian (Hum.), Richard Webster (Dent.; Elections Board rep), Jen Arechiga (Nursing), Nicole Lampsa (Man.; Elections Board rep), Mark Trang (Man.), Julie Orf (MPSC), Alex Smith (MPSC), Erin Smith (MPSC; Elections Board rep), Bryan Hyler (Med.), Niraj Mehta (Med.), Jonathan Wu (Med.; Elections Board rep), Janet Cummings (Pub. Health), Omid Toloui (Pub. Health; Elections Board rep), Mac Marston (SSC), Tiffany Nurrenbern (SSC; & Elections Board rep), Eurie Chung (SSC), Jerry Mann (ASUCLA Rep), Haig Hovespian (AGSA), Mike Cohn (Admin. Rep), Vincent Gau (Alumni Rep.), Jared Fox (GSA Pres), Marilyn Gray (GSA IVP), Amanda Moussa (GSA VPEX), Michelle Sugi (GSA VPAA), Anita Garcia (GSA LL), Scott Friedman (GSA CSC), Pamela Taylor (Grad. Division), Hoi Ning Ngai (ASUCLA-BOD), Dorothy Kim (ASUCLA-BOD), Cynthia Mosqueda (SACBOG / VPEX-Elect), Monica Sanchez Rivas (Elections Appeal), Antonio Sandoval (Rivas' Campaign Manager), Lynikka Bernard (GSA Staff).

- I. Call to Order 5:30**
- II. Adoption of Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day**
 - A. Motion to approve amended Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day:
 - a. Bryan
 - b. Mac
 - a. Approved with unanimous consent
- III. Special Presentation, Albert Carnesale, UCLA Chancellor**
 - A. Chancellor Carnesale came to Forum and addressed questions that some of the graduate students had. He started off by stating that graduate students are part of every part of the universities mission (education, research and service). He mentioned that the University of California is a research institution and then talked about the benefits and hardships of being a research institution. One question in particular was about his position on the fee increases. Some graduate students thought it was odd that he mentioned that he was for the fee increases when they were fighting so hard against them. To clarify his statements he said that we are one of the major public research institutions and in order to compete with the private institutions we have to generate more money (see the handout he brought titled "UCLA and the Future of Public Higher Education").
- IV. Special Presentation, Jodi Anderson, UC Student Regent**
 - A. For the past year and a half, Jodi has been working as a Student Regent. As part of this role, she meets with university officials and the administration at the system-wide level, etc.
 - B. She followed up on some of the points addressed by Chancellor Carnesale, including the issue of professional fee increases.
 - C. She mentioned that the Regents don't really hear the opinions of the students and that it would be good to write more letters and show up to the Regents meetings if possible, so that the students' voices can be heard more.
- V. Approval of Minutes from the last Forum Meeting, April 20, 2005**
 - A. Motion to approve the minutes from April 20, 2005:
 - a. Jim
 - b. Mac
 - c. Approved with unanimous consent
- VI. Election Appeal, Monica Sanchez Rivas**

- A. Monica started off by thanking the GSA representatives that sponsored her appeal and that she has no personal animosity for Mac. The purpose of her appeal is to address her concerns to a fair forum in order to seek remedy regarding the recent GSA election results of the office of Vice President of Internal Affairs. She expressed her desire for the GSA Codes to be upheld in order to insure integrity for this and following years. Her appeal is that Mac Marston was allowed to run as a candidate even though he served as a member of the election board (attachment appeal to forum). This is a violation of the election codes 9.2.5 which states: Any member of the GSA Elections Board or any of its committees shall be ineligible from becoming a candidate for election to any office of the GSA in that year. The GSA Elections Board allowed Mac to run for office after his resignation from the elections board only two days prior to submitting his application which violated election codes 9.4.7. She believes that allowing Mac to run didn't provide for an efficient election, that the ruling conflicted with current election codes (9.4.1, 9.2.5 and 9.4.7), and that the ruling caused an unfair election that put candidates like Monica at an unfair disadvantage.
- B. Dorothy pointed out the fact that Monica's complaint was not valid because she didn't make the deadline, which is 24 hours after the close of balloting, that she didn't follow the right procedures for this grievance. Dorothy mentioned that one is first supposed to file a formal complaint to the elections board and then appeal to forum. Monica answered by stating that they are two different appeal processes and that this was an appeal and not a complaint; one is independent of the other. However, the GSA elections codes state that complaints must first go to elections board and individuals can only appeal to Forum the decisions of Elections Board. Forum decided to allow the complaint to continue because Monica had found the required number of Forum sponsors. The Forum sponsors wanted it to be clear that they sponsored the appeal to continue to ensure a transparent election process and not necessarily because they agreed with the appeal.
- C. The Elections Board explained that after Mac resigned from the Board to run for office, the way they interpreted the codes was that one couldn't be on the Elections Board and run for office at the same time. Furthermore, they had determined that his having served on the Board prior to running for office had not put him at an advantage; his vote never swayed any decision, as all the decisions made by the Board up to that point were either unanimous or near unanimous.
- D. Motion to deny the appeal of the 2005 GSA election results on the grounds of an elections code violation by GSA candidate John Marston:
 - a. Julie
 - b. Alex
 - c. 10 approved, 3 opposed, 5 abstained

VII. Cabinet Report, Golnaz Tabibnia, Director of Elections

- A. Golnaz passed out a handout with the breakdown of the voter turnout by council for the 2005 GSA Elections for the Form members to look over.
- B. Motion to ratify the election results:
 - a. Julie
 - b. Alex
 - c. 15 approved, 4 opposed
- C. She then gave notice to the Forum members of bylaw changes to the Election Codes to be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting.

VIII. Cabinet Report, Anita Garcia, Legislative Liaison

- A. Anita passed around letters to all the Forum members for them to sign and turn in to her. She also passed around bylaw changes for her position.

IX. Cabinet Report, Scott Friedman, Director of Community Service

- A. Scott mentioned that on the 20th of May there is a community service event with Habitat for Humanity from 8am to 4pm and that there is still room if people would like to participate.

- X. Officer Report , Jared Fox (President), Marilyn Gray (Vice President Internal), Amanda Moussa (Vice President External), Michelle Sugi (Vice President Academic Affairs)**
 - A. The officers tabled there reports until the next meeting.
- XI. Announcements, Marilyn Gray, Internal Vice President**
 - A. ASUCLA BOD reps thanked GSA for their support of the SAFE referendum.
- XII. Adjournment, 8:30pm**
 - A. Motion to Adjourn**
 - a. Alex
 - b. Tiffany
 - c. Approved with unanimous consent