

**Graduate Students Association  
Forum Meeting Minutes  
October 19, 2005 5:30pm  
Ackerman Union 201-A**

**Members Present:** Melissa Morales (A&A), Amy Frishkey (A&A), Gene Gurkoff (BSC), Natalia Kozak (BSC), Jossein Shahaugian (Dentistry), Dimpal Jain (Edu.), Hau Chung (Edu.), Winston Wu (EGSA), David Wozny (EGSA), Patrick Sislian (EGSA), Kirk Sides (Hum.), Nikki Brown (Law), Matt Gutierrez (Law), Andrea Luquetta (Law), Ohad Zeira (Man.), Stephan Chan (MPSC), Alex Smith (MPSC), Ersne Eromo (Med.), Niraj Mehta (Med.), Sean Esmende (Med.), Amir Ghaffari (Med.), Mincin Gomez (Nursing), Maurie Maitland (Nursing), Allison Martinez (Nursing), Corinne Santos (Nursing), Ashley Peterson (Pub. Health), Janet Cummings (Pub. Health), John Tan (SSC), Michael Benson (SSC), Kimberly McNair (BGSA, SSC), Haig Hovsepian (AGSA), Jerry Mann (ASUCLA Rep), Mike Cohn (CSP Rep), Ted Ramirez (Alumni Rep.), Cherie Francis (Grad. Division), Jared Fox (GSA Pres), Mac Marston (GSA IVP), Cindy Mosqueda (GSA VPEX), Linh Ho (GSA LL), Scott Friedman (GSA VPAA), Arpi Siyahian (GSA Discret. Fund), Andrea Jones (GSA Pubs Fund), Nurit Katz (GSA EC), Lisa Linehan (GSA Graduate Interaction), Amy Sloper (GSA Melnitz), Monica Sanchez Rivas (GSA CSC), Hoi Ning Ngai (ASUCLA-BOD), Lynikka Bernard (GSA Staff).

- I. Call to Order 5:49**
- II. Special Presentation, Mac Marston, GSA Internal Vice President**
  - A. Mac started the Forum meeting by introducing the officers and non-voting members of Forum.
  - B. He then went over the procedures and role of Forum. He also described who is and isn't a voting member.
- III. Adoption of Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day**
  - A. Motion to approve amended Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day with the amendment made by Jared to include attachment E:
    - a. Alex
    - b. Hau
  - a. Approved with unanimous consent
- V. Approval of Minutes from the last Forum Meeting, June 1, 2005**
  - A. Motion to approve the minutes from June 1, 2005:
    - a. Janet
    - b. Stephen
  - c. Approved with unanimous consent
- VI. Officer Report, Jared Fox, President**
  - A. Jared mentioned that his officer's report is a summary of the things that he accomplished during the summer. He went on to say that he new a lot of the undergraduate officers from being in the position last year and that he spent a lot of time with them talking about different issues and developing cooperation with him and the undergraduates. There was a joint council meeting held with the USAC Council and several GSA Cabinet members. In his handout he mentioned that he worked with the undergrads with issues concerning the UC Student Association Congress; one of the main issues being fee increases.
  - B. He went on to mention that there were some resignations from stipended positions. The Director of Melnitz Movies was replaced by the alternate Amy Sloper, the Legislative Liaison and Researcher was also replaced by the alternate Linh Ho. Two members resigned from the Student Fee Advisory Committee and an appointments board was held on October 18<sup>th</sup> to replace one of the members; one of the members resigned after the appointments board was completed so the alternate that was picked

will start serving on the committee. At this meeting, it was decided to change the Director of Melnitz Movies to a co-director position.

Alex asked what does SFAC advise, it seems like most of the advice is ignored. Jared mentions that this committee advises the Chancellor about how a specific portion of student fees is spent.

C. He mentioned that GSA now has more office space in Kerckhoff, two rooms, so now we have a space to house a few of our directors and interest groups (Jerry Mann is helping with getting furniture for these locations). He wants the interest groups to have a stable home and a place that they can meet.

Jossein asked what are some of these interest groups that get these spaces. Jared answered by saying that any graduate group can become a GSA Interest Group if they petition for it. Mac added by telling Jossein to refer to attachment A, which shows the current GSA sponsor interest groups.

Michael asked is there any way or plan to monitor the space to make sure that it's being used. Jared mentioned that he doesn't think there would be a problem with a lack of use of the space.

D. Jared along with Mac and former GSA president Hanish Rathod are trying to revitalize the International GSA. In addition to this, he is working with ORL to help the Weybrun Terrace Residents Association take off last year (there were various problems with the living conditions). (refer to attachment c for more information)

E. Over the summer, the UC President placed two fee increase measures for professional students on the Regents agenda for the July meeting. He mentioned that at this meeting he white lined, wrote letters and made public comments. This agenda item was postponed but in the end both fee increases were approved. (refer to attachment c)

Alex asked at the Regents meeting why weren't the students able to speak, is there some legal requirements. Jared answered that during the deliberations there is no student input. Students are allowed to speak at the beginning of the meeting for twenty minutes at a public comment period, which most of the Regents don't attend, and each person is allowed to talk for one minute.

F. He talked about that the New Graduate Student Association was a success and that it will be better coordinated next year. Some of the other officers were sent to other orientations that conflicted with GSA's.

G. Lastly he mentioned that Chancellor Carnesal will be stepping down in June and that he wants the UCLA Graduate Students to have input on who is selected to be the new Chancellor.

H. Motion to approve the Non-stipended Appointments made by Appointments Board:  
a. Stephen  
b. Alex  
c. Approved by unanimous consent.

I. Motion to approve SFAC and Cabinet Appointments:  
a. Alex  
b. Kim  
c. Approved by unanimous consent

J. A notification of Bylaw changes to section 10 and 5 was made (see attachment f for more information). The Forum members will vote on these Bylaw changes at the next meeting.

K. Motion to approve the allocation of new space:  
a. Nikki  
b. Natalia  
c. Approved by unanimous consent

#### **VII. Officer Report, Mac Marston, Internal Vice President**

A. Mac mentioned that he has been working with the councils and that prior to the Forum meeting he had a meeting with the council presidents and treasurers. In this meeting he talked about GSA financial policies and how funding is proportioned. A student interest board meeting was held on October 10<sup>th</sup> and there was membership

from three of the organizations. He mentioned that there are now four officers for the International GSA who are going to be working towards building membership, getting funding and working towards a constitution so they can have officially elected officers. He also stated that, as Jared mentioned, he wants to get the Weybrun Terrace Residents Association up and running and that he also wants them to become a member of the Student Interest Board. He mentioned that currently there are two inactive Student Interest Groups, the Asian Pacific Islander GSA and the American Indian GSA, and if someone wants to work with him to re-found one of these groups they can contact him. Lastly he mentioned that he also serves on the Student Activity Center and the Wooden Center Board of Governors. (For a summary of Mac's activities over that last three months see Attachment H)

**VIII. Officer Report, Cindy Mosqueda, External Vice President and Amanda Martin, University of California Student Association Field Officer**

- A. Cindy started off by presenting her summer report to the Forum members (which is outlined in Attachment I).
- B. UC Hastings is now apart of UCSA.
- C. Amanda Started off by describing what the UCSA is and how it operates, which is outlined in the UCSA brochure that was passed out. She wants to let the Forum members know how this organization deals with graduate issues. She first mentioned that in 2005 UCSA along with law students successfully sued the regents to refund over six thousand dollars to individual professional students. In 2004, when the Regents proposed a 40% increase to graduate education fees UCSA lobbied the Regents and were able to reduce the fee to 20%. In 2005, the graduate committee that works within UCSA issued a report to the Regents on graduate education affordability and from that report was able to form a committee to look at graduate student financial aid and affordable education for graduate students. This year at Congress it was talked about UCSA forming a campaign to work on a loan forgiveness program or introducing legislation within the legislature to prolong forgiveness for professional students who wanted to go into public interest fields. Lastly she mentioned the Cindy is the UCLA graduate rep for UCSA.
- D. Amanda announced that UCSA is starting a campaign to stop the fee hikes and save financial aid. She passed out a piece of paper for graduate students to sign that would be sent to Speaker Nunez and on this handout/piece of paper students could sign up for three other campaigns; to volunteer for voter registration (20,000 student goal), GOTV or to be 1 of 1000 students at the November 16/17 Regents meeting in Berkeley (UCSA is trying to get people to go for Thursday). Lastly a testimonial was also passed out for graduate and professional students to sign.

Janet asked if there were different strategies in working on the fee increases for graduate and undergraduate students. Amanda answered by saying that graduates can white line and the UCSA Graduate Committee work on different techniques and messages to create that would win specific Regents.

Janet asked are there times when the Regents put undergraduates against graduates, who do you lobby for. Amanda answered yes but we set it up to show that what ever decision is made affects all parties. Cindy mentioned that there are times with Ph.D and Masters students are put against professional students.

It was mentioned the Andrea, a UCLA law student, is one of the many advocates for graduate students.

**IX. Officer Report, Scott Friedman, Academic Affairs Vice President**

- A. Scott started off by mentioning that he is the graduate student liaison to the Academic Senate. He also mentioned that applications for the Academic Senate were due in early September.
- B. Attachment K shows the departments of all the individuals the applied to the various committees. This handout also shows the individuals preferences and whether or not they were appointed to the position they applied for. There was an orientation for the individuals the receive appointments two weeks prior to this meeting.

- C. Scott mentioned that the College Faculty Executive Committee has asked him to appoint a graduate student to serve on this committee. He wants the Forum representatives to notify students within their departments of the opening in this position. The application for this position is located on the GSA website and that the application is due on Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. The applicant must be currently enrolled in the College.
- D. Scott stated that he is working with the Undergraduate Student Associations Academic Affairs Commissioner to put together a comprehensive course evaluation guide to courses that are given on campus, which is going to effect professional students more than Ph.D students.
- E. Lastly he mentioned that the Academic Senate through Graduate Council conducts a review of certain departments. Usually departments are reviewed ever eight years but that can vary. Student surveys are conducted the year before the review is held, high student response rate is very important.
- F. Motion to approved the Academic Senate Appointments:
  - a. Gene
  - b. Stephen
  - c. Approved by unanimous consent

**X. Budget, Jared Fox, President**

- A. Jared mentioned that GSA has its budget approved in the spring for the upcoming year and the money is allocated based on projected enrollment; thirteen dollars per student per quarter goes to the GSA fee and five dollars and fifty cents goes back to the student's council, approximately six dollars goes to GSA Central Office and the remaining goes to the UCSA. Due to fugal spending last year there is a pretty decent surplus of funds that were not spent last year. Jared went over the changes made to the budget with the allocations of add surplus funds. (Refer to Attachment M for more information)
- B. Motion to approve the 2005-2006 GSA Budget:
  - a. Nikki
  - b. Ersne
  - c. Approved by unanimous consent

**XI. Cabinet Reports, Amy Sloper, Melnitz Movies**

- A. Amy presented her budget to the Forum members. She mentioned that she is going to stop advertising the movies in the Daily Bruin because more undergrads than graduates seem to show up to the more popular movies. She stated that the projectionist/theater rental fee is an estimate for having two movies a week for nine weeks each quarter; it's approximately 600-700 dollars per screening.  
Janet asked what is travel for. Amy answered by saying that it's for the two directors to go to the Sundance Film Festival to try and get free movies.  
Phone: this is for a cell phone that was purchased and an office phone.  
Film Rental: this is to purchase archive films.  
Most of the showings were pretty full, if not sold out.
- B. Motion to approve the Melnitz Movies Budget for 2005-2006
  - a. Gene
  - b. Natalia
  - c. Approved by unanimous consent

**XII. Cabinet Reports, Lisa Linehan, Events**

- A. Lisa mentioned that she add a few new events to the budget this year, with the help of a graduate student survey that was up on the events website. She mentioned that group the mixers according to councils, basically she mixed and match the council and tried to balance out the events. She passed out flyers to the Halloween GradBar. Lisa wants the Forum members to ask members of their departments if they would like to help out at some of the events or be trained to be next years Director of Events.
- B. Motion to approve the Graduate Student Events 2005-2006 Budget:
  - a. Janet

- b. Amir
- c. Approved by unanimous consent

**XIII. Cabinet Report, Nurit Katz, Sustainable Resource Center**

- A. Nurit started her report by giving the Forum members a little background information about the Environmental Coalition and stating the fact that it was mostly run by undergrads (Attachment P). She then went on to say that she would like to change the name and forces of the Environmental Coalition; that she would like to change it to the GSA Sustainable Resource Center, an outline of the centers mission statement and goals is presented on attachment P. Lastly she presented her budget for the year to the Forum members.
- B. Motion to approve the change from the Environmental Coalition to the Sustainable Resource Center:
  - a. Amir
  - b. Nikki
  - c. Approved by unanimous consent
- C. Motion to approve the Budget for the Sustainable Resource Center:
  - a. Stephen
  - b. Sean
  - c. Approved by unanimous consent

**XIV. Cabinet Report, Monica Sanchez Rivas, Community Service**

- A. Monica mentioned that she wants to start a community service commission made up of one person from each council. That would meet once or twice a quarter to discuss various community service events going on in their departments and what they or the members of their departments want to see her put on. Monica stated that she wants someone other than the council presidents or Forum members to be on this commission. She mentioned that the first Community Service Commission meeting will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to 6pm. Lastly, Monica presented her budget for the upcoming year.

Hoi Ning asked what is the time commitment for this position. Monica answered no more than 5 hours a week and this will vary.

Janet mentioned that the budget was unclear. She asked what was the purpose of meeting hospitality, conferences, promotional items and etc. Monica answered by saying that she would like to have food at her meetings so that's the reason for the hospitality line item. Once or twice a quarter she would like to attend conferences on issues dealing with or related to community service and she that she would also like other graduate students to attend; this money is pay for the conference fee if there is one. Lastly promotional items are things, like t-shirts, that she gives out at her various events.

- B. Motion to approve the GSA Community Service Commission Budget for the 2005-2006 school year:
  - a. Sean
  - b. Amir
  - c. Approved by unanimous consent

**XV. Cabinet Report, Arpi Siyahian, Discretionary Funding**

- A. Arpi mentioned that GSA has funded 5 student groups since the beginning of the year and that at the moment everything looks good. She then presented 12 funding guidelines that she created. After she went over these guidelines Mick suggested that she make some changes to the wording of a few of the guidelines. (Attachment S)
- B. Motion to approve the Funding Guidelines with the changes proposed by Mick Cohn
  - a. Nikki
  - b. Janet
  - c. Approved by unanimous consent

**XVI. Special Presentation, David Attanasio, Resolution to Support UC Sudan Divestment Taskforce**

- A. David presented a Resolution on Divestment from Sudan to the Forum members, a Resolution that he wants GSA to endorse (Attachment T). He briefly went over what

the Resolution was and mentioned that this attachment only mirrored the actual Resolution; the actual Resolution can be viewed online.

- B.** Motion to approve/endorse the Resolution on Divestment From Sudan:
  - a. Michael
  - b. Matt
  - c. Approved by unanimous consent

**XVII. Announcements**

- A.** If anyone would like to present something at Forum please contact Mac.
- B.** Handouts where giving out (GradBar, UCLA library, UCLA Career Center, Graduate Student Resource Center)
- C.** One spot needs to be filled on the GSRC Oversight Committee. There is also going to be a programming committee and there will be one representative from each academic council on this committee (want programming to benefit everyone on campus).
- D.** Cindy is looking for some to take on the position of Campus Organizing Director, which is non-stipended.
- E.** There is a Fundraiser Saturday for Hurricane Relief.
- F.** Halloween GradBar on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- G.** GradBar/Toy Drive December 1<sup>st</sup>. (Events and Community Service Commission joint event)

**XVIII. Adjournment, 7:48pm**

- A.** Motion to Adjourn
  - a. Nikki
  - b. Michael
  - c. Approved with unanimous consent