

UC REGENTS MEETING

November 15-16, UCLA Covel Commons

I “white-lined” at the UC Regents meeting on November 15th. I spoke to regents about the need to increase academic preparation funding and urged them to increase funding for academic preparation to \$33 million. After the presentation of the budget by VP of budget, Larry Hershman, several regents (Ruiz, Ledesma, Island, Johnson and Brewer) spoke out about their displeasure with the budget that was presented and the low priority given to academic preparation considering it was a key mechanism for increasing diversity at the UC. The incoming board chair, Regent Blum, also expressed disappointment with a piecemeal budget process. The budget was ultimately approved, but with the understanding the proposal could be re-examined and increases could still be made to academic preparation funding.

The regents did not increase fees for 2007-08 and are expected to wait until the Governor releases his budget in January.

The president of UCSA, Bill Shiebler (UCSB undergraduate), gave a well-received presentation on the importance of academic preparation programs.

A few graduate students also white-lined specifically on the issue of non-resident tuition for international students. The UCSA graduate/professional committee is tackling this issue and doing a lot of research to present a strong case to eliminate NRT for international students earlier than advancing to candidacy. Responses from regents were positive and quite supportive, but some also wanted additional information.

During a regents-only session, a few UCSA students and Felicia Cruz (UCSA university affairs director) met with Larry Hershman to discuss things such as the likelihood of a fee increase for next year. While NRT fee will not increase, it is likely that if the Governor does not allocate the \$71 million to buy out fees, we’ll see another fee increase (7.5%, 8% and up to 10% for undergraduate, graduate and professional students respectively).

Next steps:

- We have until January to meet with the regents and inform them of our requests. Regents will have the ability to make formal recommendations and changes to the budget.
- In regards to NRT, we’ll have to follow up with additional information and setting up meetings with Regent Marcus (one of the regents most concerned about graduate students).
- We’ll need to lobby the governor and regents to not increase fees.

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Diversity in Admissions

As UCSA had requested, there were more students appointed to the Regents’ study groups on the impact of 209.

Student Compact

See above recap of the UC Regents meeting for more info on the next steps in this campaign. UCSA will also lobby for an increase to the Cal Grant B.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

UCSA Students of Color Conference (November 17-19, UC Berkeley)

The focus of SOCC was on the impact of Proposition 209 on each campus. Over 600 students (target goal) from all 10 UC campuses attended the two-day conference. UCLA graduate students presented three workshops and facilitated a few caucuses, all of which were well received. We originally planned to take 13 students, but at the very last minute a few backed out. Nevertheless, we were one of the campuses with the most vocal and active graduate students. We'll submit recommendations to the UCSA board at our next meeting regarding ways to improve the conference in future years.

UCSA November Board of Directors Meeting (November 17-18, UC Berkeley)

UCSA held a truncated meeting of its board of directors. We elected a new chair of the board, Louise Hendrickson, a graduate student at UCR. The previous chair resigned last month. We also elected a new chair for the graduate/professional committee, Doug Jorgensen (UCSD), who filled the position vacated by Louise.

In addition to elections, the board also considered a resolution condemning recent incidents of police brutality at UCLA and UCSC. If you would like a copy of the approved resolution, please contact Cindy.

Finally, thanks to the undergraduates at UCSB who recently passes a referendum increasing their dues, UCSA now has more money to spend for the academic year. Possible uses for the additional funds include adding another field organizer, or staff member dedicated to communications.

UPCOMING

UC Regents Meeting (January 17-18, 2007, UC San Francisco)

Expect a discussion on fee increases!

UCSA January Board of Directors Meeting (January 19-20, UC Santa Cruz)

On the Friday prior to the meeting, the executive committee will meet with administrators in the UC Office of the President in Oakland.

UCSA Student Lobby Conference and Lobby Day (February 24-27, Sacramento)

We will begin recruiting our GSA delegation for the lobby conference next quarter. We expect to take about 8 students.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email any of the GSA External Affairs team.

Respectfully,

Cindy Mosqueda,
VP of External Affairs
vpex@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu

Na' Shaun Neal,
Campus Organizing Director
cod@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu

Oiyan Poon,
Legislative Liaison & Researcher
leg@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu