

**Graduate Students Association
Forum Meeting Minutes
March 07, 2007 5:36 PM
Ackerman Union A201-A**

Members Present: Tonya Kane (Biological Sciences), Samuel Strom (Biological Sciences), Joy Holland (Arts and Architecture), Miguel Lopez (Education), Bill Sovich (Education), Jared Fox (Engineering), Bart Bortnik (Engineering), Nathaniel Isaacson (Humanities), Dani Nguyen (Law), Andy Shawber (Law), David Wible (Management), Elizebeth Bruch (Management), Brett Ramos (Management), Hem Wadhar (Medicine), Sean Esmende (Medicine), Amir Ghaffari (Medicine), Samta Bhakta (Nursing), Bahar Khanjari-Navab (Public Health), Olivia Ross (Public Health), John Tan (Social Sciences), Lindsay Gervacio (Social Sciences), Hoi Ning Ngai (ASUCLA BOD), Jerry Mann (ASUCLA Rep), Mike Cohn (URSA Administrative Rep), Cherie Francis (Grad Division) Monica Sanchez (GSA President), Mac Marston (Vice President Internal), Cindy Mosqueda (GSA VP EX), Janet Cummings Link (GSA VP Academic), Arpi Siyahian (Dir. Discretionary Funding), Nurit Katz (Dir. of Sustainable Resource Center), Amy Adrion (Dir. of Melnitz Movies), John Paul Slifko (GSA Dir. of Elections), Erica Saenz (GSA Dir. of Community Service), Amanda Parham (Dir. of Communication), Justin Wolske (Dir. of Graduate Student Events), Robert Williams (ASUCLA Executive Dir.), Tina Arora (UCOD Rep.), Tom Bourdon (Assistant Director, LGBT Center), KC Souza (GSA Staff),

I. Call To Order 5:36 PM

II. Special Presentation: LGBT Resources for Graduate Students at UCLA

- A. The LGBT Center offers educational workshops and training seminars for classes, campus agencies, and departments about LGBT lives and issues.
- B. LGBT Center is located behind the stage in Westwood Plaza. The office is open Mon-Thurs 8:30am-8pm and Friday 8:30am-6pm
- C. The center has a full staff and someone there to help answer questions at the front desk. Also there are several discussion groups available.
- D. The LGBT Campus Resource Center has a library of over 4000 books, films, and magazines. Also the center has a computer room and lounge.
- E. Their mission is advocacy, outreach, and education
- F. Other resources LGBT provides include sitting and speaking to students about personal issues and providing them with information about additional resources.
- G. LGBT has both undergraduate, graduate school, and alumni organizations. Some of these include Queer Alliance, BlaQue, UCLA Lambda Alumni Association, UCLA Lambda Graduate Student Network (LGSN), UCLA Law School LGBT Organization, and many more.
- H. In the past there has been mentoring programs.
- I. Drop-in counseling is available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- J. More information regarding the LGBT Campus Resource Center can be found at WWW.LGBT.UCLA.EDU

III. Adoption of Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day

- A. Motion to approve Adoption of Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day
 - a. Jared
 - b. Bahar
 - c. Approved with unanimous consent

IV. Approval of Minutes from the last Forum Meeting, February 14, 2007

- A. Motion to approve the minutes from February 14, 2007:
 - a. Jared
 - b. Bahar
 - c. Approved with unanimous consent

V. Officer Report, Monica Sanchez, GSA President

- A. Monica stated that she attended the UCSA Lobby Day and Conference with the GSA External affairs team. Of the UC graduate students, UCLA had the largest delegation

of graduate students in attendance. She visited the office of three assembly members and one senator who represent districts in Los Angeles County.

- B. The CCLE (Common Collaboration & Learning Environment) project proposed a uniform environment in which would replace courses/enrollment/teaching/researching websites.
- C. Monica made an announcement that in early April there will be a forum in which UCLA graduate students and the general public will be able to discuss educational policy issues relating to graduate student fees at the UC.
- D. Motion to approve Non-Stipended Appointment.
 - a. Miguel
 - b. David
 - c. Approved with unanimous consent
- E. Motion to approve Cabinet Attendance Report
 - a. Bahar
 - b. Miguel
 - c. Approved with unanimous consent

VI. Officer Report, Cindy Mosqueda, GSA Vice President External

- A. Cindy announced that 11 students attended the UCSA Student Lobby Conference and Lobby Day. The lobby groups, which were comprised of graduate and undergraduate delegations lobbied on three key issues.
 - a. Fee freeze 2007-2008, which would cost \$71 million for UCs and \$150 million for all public institutions
 - b. Financial aid bills AB 175 AND AB 302, which address increasing the Cal Grant B award
 - c. To increase academic preparation budget to the same levels of 2002, which was \$33 million
- B. Cindy presented a workshop on loan repayment assistance programs and spoke during a lunch panel on students' view on the climate of public education in California.
- C. Oiyen facilitated a legislative briefing and lobby clinic
- D. UCSA presented Regent Eddie Island with the Advocate of the Year award. They also presented Assemblyman Curren Price with the award for legislator of the year.
- E. UCSA held their directors meeting on February 23. On March 14-15 there will be a rally at UCLA.
- F. On February 27, Cindy met with the Student Fee Advisory Committee to discuss GSA and UCSA's stance on the Student Mental Health Report, possible registration fee increase, and other graduate student needs.

VII. Officer Report, Mac Marston, GSA Vice President Internal Affairs

- A. Mac began by announcing that on February 27, 2007 the Graduate Student Resource Center Oversight Committee met to discuss their new goals for the future. They are in the process of hiring a new Graduate Writing Center director.
- B. On February 23, Mac met with members of the Alumni Association to discuss how they will serve the graduate students in the coming year.
- C. Mac, Roz Scherer, Christine Wilson, and John Taborn will be working together to establish a long-term cosponsored programs.
- D. In the next year, some upcoming events include a social event with Blue and Gold week and social networking opportunities through the Dinner for 12 strangers program.
- E. Mac announced that they yet again have not been able to convene quorum for the Student Activities Center Board of Governors. For this reason they have been unable to have a chair, schedule rooms, and make changes to the operating charter.
- F. Mac stated that he will not be running for a GSA position for next year and is currently looking to recruit qualified candidates to run for the position of Vice President Internal.

VIII. Officer Report, Janet Cummings Link, GSA VPAA

- A. Janet announced that during the first week of next quarter she will provide the various departments with an informational session to discuss the online student survey review process.
- B. There are still a few departments that still need departmental representatives (i.e. ACCESS, Italian, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, and Women's Studies)
- C. Highlights from Academic Senate Committee Updates:
 - a. The Academic Freedom Committee met on Jan. 16 and discussed the draft proposal on the relationship between vendors and clinicians. They critiqued the proposal and submitted it to Academic Senate Executive Board. They are also working to draft principles in regards to "Student Freedom of Scholarly Inquiry," which is a document concerned with student rights.
 - b. The Committee on Diversity and Equal Opportunity met on Feb 2 to discuss the need for a "diversity" button on the UCLA home page.
 - c. Graduate council met on January 26 to discuss the upcoming conference on Graduate Student Support, which is scheduled for April. Some of the issues it addresses is the lack of state investment in graduate education, state fiscal crisis which is affecting graduate funding, and the declining graduate student recruitment funds.
 - d. Council on Planning and Budget met on Jan. 22, Feb. 5, and Feb. 26. They discussed the budget of the university and our relationship with the state government in Sacramento, increases in student fees, and policies regarding hiring and retention.

IX. Cabinet Report, John Slifko, Elections

- A. John announced that at the luncheon and dinner, candidates will come and make a presentation. The luncheon will be located in the conference room, but the location for the dinner has not been specified yet.
- B. Motion to approve Elections Calendar with assumption that dinner and luncheon dates can be changed.
 - a. Bahar
 - b. Jared
 - c. Approved with unanimous consent
- C. Motion to approve Elections Budget
 - a. Nathaniel
 - b. Sam
 - c. No unanimous consent, so it was put to a vote.
 - d. Yay: 12
 - e. Nay: 1
 - f. Abstain: 5
 - g. The motion passed

X. Cabinet Report, Amy Adrion, Dir. of Melnitz Movies

- A. Amy stated that Winter and Fall quarters have been successful for Melnitz Movies. They have had film screenings twice weekly.
- B. The website has been redesigned and has updates on films that will be screened along with additional information about Melnitz Movies.
- C. Attendance of Melnitz Movies has been very high, 2/3 full or more. The films that have been screened represent a wide diversity of programming for a diverse student population.
- D. Many film makers have come in for Q&A during the screenings.
- E. Melnitz Movies has received increase coverage in the Daily Bruin

XI. Cabinet Report, Erica Saenz, Dir. Of Community Service

- A. Erica stated that they plan to Co-sponsor a book drive with the American Library Association. This book drive is scheduled for next quarter.
- B. Erica mentioned conducting a community service program with Aids Project LA, which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, 2007 from 6-8pm. Aids Project LA

provides groceries for low income individuals with AIDS. They are still in need of 13 volunteers to help sort the food.

- C. The Center for Community Learning and Partnership is providing students who are already involved in community service with a scholarship for putting in volunteer hours. The scholarship is for \$1000.

Committee Reports, Burt Cowgill and Kristin Yarris, GSA Rep.

- A. Burt Cowgill and Kristin Yarris discussed the proposed changes to the UCLA Student Health Advisory Committee bylaws.
- B. Kristin Yarris explained that the bylaws have not been revised since 1998. For this reason it is time to update the bylaws in order to address the changes that have taken place within SHAC over the years.
- C. The first change is of that made to the written mission of SHAC. The changes are meant to bring SHAC into line with the Vice Chancellors mandate for restructuring of student affairs programs. The mission now mentions other administrative bodies associated with student health and wellness.
- D. Changes have also been made to points one and two under the Terms of Service section of Article II. It now states that GSA and USAC must get representatives appointed in a timely manner to SHAC. The term of service of the representatives would begin from the end of spring quarter in one year to end of spring quarter two years later.
- E. Under point two of Article II, no SHAC student member will serve on SHAC for more than two years.
- F. Everyone agree to take a vote on the Student Health Advisory Committee bylaws changes with the knowledge that in the future, minor changes can be made to the bylaws and it can be brought back as an agenda items.
- G. Motion to approve Student Health Advisory Committee Bylaws Changes
 - a. Jared
 - b. Bahar
 - c. Motion for roll call vote
 - d. Yay: 16
 - e. Nay: 0
 - f. Abstain: 0
 - g. The motion passed

XII. CALPIRG Report, Sarah Dobjensky, CALPIRG Chapter Chair

- A. CALPIRG is a statewide student funded and student directed organization that works to solve social issues. The program was started 30 years ago to deal with issues such as global warming, poverty relief, protecting wildlife and so much more.
- B. In the fall their biggest project was the voter registration drive to encourage students to vote.
- C. Other campaigns include hunger and homelessness and projects to combat global warming.
- D. This weekend they will have a Challenge Summit in UC Berkeley to discuss and provide workshops on issues such as global warming.
- E. In April CALPIRG students will volunteer as part of Hunger Cleanup. Usually they raise \$100,000 to fight poverty.

XI. Adjournment

- A. Motion to Adjourn Meeting
 - a. Jarred
 - b. Bahar
 - c. Approved with unanimous consent
- B. Meeting Adjourned: 7:38 PM