

UCLA Graduate Students Association

316 Kerckhoff Hall, 308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90024

May 7, 2007

To: GSA Forum
From: Monica Sanchez, GSA President
Re: Officer Report

This report is intended to highlight a few key developments relating to my position since my last report to forum. I had the opportunity to attend the UCLA Government and Community Relations Lobby Day in Washington, DC on April 17th – 19th. I attended six congressional visits including visits to the offices of Senator Barbara Boxer, Hilda Solis, and Grace Napolitano. The focus of the lobby visits were to advocate for increased support to federal student aid programs.

I was glad to have opportunity to advocate on behalf of graduate students and share my experience and opinions in relation to federally funded student loans and other federally funded forms of aid. As you all know, with the rising cost of public education, the issue of student loans has become a more visible and important issue at the national level.

I hope to work to continue to work more on these issues surrounding the outrageous UC annual fee increases that graduate students have been experiencing, coupled with flailing graduate financial support. Although I will be transitioning out of my role as GSA President, I am proud to announce that I will be serving as your 2007-08 GSA Vice President of External Affairs. I look forward to working toward addressing these issues more in the coming months with our new GSA President Nurit Katz, incoming Chancellor Block, UC Regents, UC President Dynes, the Grad Division, and UCSA.

We are now accepting applications for all stipended positions. Applications and descriptions for all positions are available online at <http://gsa.asucla.ucla.edu> Stipends range from \$600 to \$1300. I encourage all of you to apply for a position and please encourage members of your councils to apply as well. No prior GSA experience is necessary. Applications are due May 15th by 5 pm and interviews for these positions will be conducted on May 22nd – 24th.

On April 26th we held our first Graduate Diversity Council meeting with representatives from the campus-wide Chancellor's Committee on Diversity, GSA representatives, and repetitive from the Grad Division. Items that will be addressed in the near future by the Grad Diversity Council include, the co-creation and implementation of a graduate campus climate survey, planning for a Grad Division/GSA sponsored New Graduate Student of Color Luncheon/BBQ, WASC reports surrounding graduate student diversity and workshops for students of color at the GSA New Graduate Student of Color Orientation.

Our next Graduate Diversity Council meeting will be held in the Student Activities Center conference room on May 21st at 4pm. I have included a letter with more information for anyone who is interested in serving on this Diversity Council. Please contact me if you have any questions at my office hours, via phone or E-mail.

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May 9, 2007

Dear Graduate Student Group Representatives,

We are writing to invite you to participate in the Graduate Diversity Council, a group that is devoted to the development and planning of campus-wide events and projects focused on supporting diversity at UCLA.

On Monday, May 21st @ 4:30-6:00 pm we will be holding a meeting in the Student Activities Center Conference Room 2 to discuss planning for the following events (Dinner will be provided):

- Bruin BBQ, the annual BBQ for students of color at the beginning of each academic year*
- Workshops for students of color at the New Graduate Student Orientation on September 21, 2007*
- Discussions about graduate issues of diversity at UCLA that should be highlighted and focused on by the Graduate Diversity Council and the Chancellor's Committee on Diversity*
- An information session/seminar about proposition 209 - defining and describing more about the proposition, discussing strategies and recommendations for continuing to address issues of diversity at UCLA*
- Other ideas that you have...*

If you are interested in being a part of the planning process, or just want to learn more about efforts to address issues of diversity related to graduate education at UCLA, please join us on May 21st.

If you are unable to join but would like to stay informed about activities and events sponsored by the Graduate Diversity Council, please reply to Netta Avineri at navineri@humnet.ucla.edu with your current contact information. Thank you also for passing this information along to other students and student groups who you think may be interested.

Sincerely,

*Monica Sanchez
GSA President*

*Netta Avineri & Jennifer Lucky
Graduate Diversity Council Representatives*