

**Graduate Students Association  
Forum Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2007 5:36 PM  
Ackerman Union A201-A**

**Members Present: Tonya Kane (Biological Sciences), Samuel Strom (Biological Sciences), Fanny Yeung (Education), Jared Fox (Engineering), Shane Markstrum (Engineering), Matt Beaumont-Gay (Engineering), Nathaniel Isaacson (Humanities), Michael Morrison (Management), Brett Ramos (Management), Chris Cooper (Math & Physical Sciences), Alaina Henry (Math & Physical Sciences), Ersne Eromo (Medicine), Dawn McGlothlin (Nursing), Olivia Ross (Public Health), Becky Lee (Public Health), John Tan (Social Sciences), Lindsay Gervacio (Social Sciences), Jerry Mann (ASUCLA Rep), Mike Cohn (Administrative Rep), Cherie Francis (Grad Division), Mac Marston (GSA Vice President Internal), Monica Sanchez (President), Liz Hall (UCSA Executive Director), Cindy Mosqueda (GSA External Vice President), Janet Cummings Link (Vice President Academic), Arpi Siyahian (Dir. of Discretionary Funding), Nuritz Katz (Dir. of Sustainable Resource Center), John Paul Slifko (GSA Director of Elections), Oiyen Anita Poon (GSA Legislative Liaison and Researcher), Amy Adrion (GSA Director of Melnitz Movies), Gabriela Birhane (GSA Staff)**

**I. Call To Order 5:36 PM**

**II. Adoption of Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day**

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

**III. Approval of Minutes from the last Forum Meeting, May 9, 2007**

- A. Motion to approve the minutes from May 9, 2007:
  - a. Dawn
  - b. Nathaniel
  - c. Approved with unanimous consent

**IV. Closed Session**

- A. Motion to go into closed session
  - a. Tonya
  - b. Nathaniel
- B. Closed session entered at 5:39 PM
- C. Closed session exited at 5:52 PM
- D. Re-entered meeting at 5:54 PM

**V. Officer Report, Janet Cummings Link, GSA VPAA**

- A. Janet passed out a notice for bylaw changes for the Judicial Review Board. She stated that will go into further details about the bylaw changes at the next meeting.
- B. The online student survey component for graduate program reviews was closed on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The response rate for the departments surveyed was up 8% from last year. Eight of the departments had response rates of over 50%.
- C. The GSA Awards Banquet will be on May 22 from 2-4pm, at Kerckhoff State Room. The awards recipients will be notified through email.

**D.** The Graduate Writing Center is now accepting application for the Dissertation Institute, which will take place from June 27-July 25. The deadline for the application is May 11. More information can be found at [http://gsa.asucla.ucla.edu/gsrc/Events/Dissertation\\_Institute\\_07.htm](http://gsa.asucla.ucla.edu/gsrc/Events/Dissertation_Institute_07.htm)

**E.** The Graduate Writing Center will also be offering a prospectus/proposal boot-camp in August. More information can be obtained at <http://gsa.asucla.ucla.edu/gsrc/gwc/index.html>

#### **VI. Officer Report, Officer Report, Monica Sanchez, GSA President**

**A.** Monica announced that she attended the UCLA Government and Community Relations Lobby Day in Washington, DC on April 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

**B.** She attended six congressional visits including the office of Senator Barbara Boxer, Hilda Solis, and Grace Napolitano.

**C.** Though attending Lobby Day, Monica was able to advocate on behalf for the graduate students on the issues of federally funded student loans and other forms of aid.

**D.** In 2007-2008 Monica will be serving as GSA Vice President of External Affairs.

**E.** Applications for stipended positions are currently being accepted. The deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup> by 5pm. The positions range from \$600-\$1300. Interviews for these positions will take place on May 22-24<sup>th</sup>.

**F.** The first meeting of the Graduate Diversity Council took place on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from the campus-wide Chancellor's Committee on Diversity, GSA representatives, and representative from the Grad Division attended the meeting. Currently the Council is co-creating the graduate campus climate survey, planning for a Grad/Division/GSA sponsored New Graduate Student of Color Luncheon/BBQ, and WASC reports surrounding graduate diversity and workshops for students of color at the GSA New Graduate Student of Color Orientation.

**G.** The next Diversity Council meeting at the Student Activities Center room on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 4pm.

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

**A.** Mac announced that he attended the Student Activities Center Board of Governors on April 30<sup>th</sup>. They elected Erica Saenz and approved some changes to the charter.

**B.** Changes to the charter include:

**a.** Specifies how GSA will make appointments to the Board: GSA Internal VP, a member selected by the GSRC Oversight Committee, a member selected by the GWC Oversight Committee, and an at-large member, appointed by the GSA President.

**b.** An alternate will be designated to each position, so that quorum can be met even if everyone can't attend the meeting.

**C.** Mac submitted an end of the year report to the Wooden Center Board of Governors. His task group was in charge of investigating the jump-starting construction on a community building at Weyburn Terrace. The estimated cost of the building as of today is around \$8-10 million.

**D.** The Graduate Students Association has issued a formal request to Housing and the Chancellors office that the planning for construction of the building begins as soon as possible.

**E.** Arpi Siyahian will be the new 2007-2008 GSA Vice President of Internal Affairs.

**F.** Mac also announced that the council reqs are due May 30<sup>th</sup> by 5pm

#### **VIII. Cindy Mosqueda, GSA Vice President External**

**A.** Cindy introduced Liz Hall, who is the executive director of UCSA.

**B.** Cindy mentioned that Oiyana and Na'Shaun attended the UC Riverside meeting. The outcomes of the meeting included a decision to support or not support legislative bills affecting

higher education as well as plans for May week of action. During May week of action they are campaigning with the slogan of “don’t gamble our future away” they will give away gummy dice and playing cards.

**C.** Cindy went to UC Santa Barbara, at the meeting they reviewed 10 applicants and forwarded three students to the UC Regents. During the meeting they:

- a. Discussed and approved bylaw changes. The changes were a result of certain graduate associations who did not feel invested in UCSA’s campaigns on student fees and diversity.
- b. Finalized plans for May week of action (May 7-11)
- c. Appointed four graduate students to system wide Academic Senate Committees.

**D.** Cindy went to Washington D.C. with Monica and lobbied members of the House of Representatives and Senate. They discussed the need for increased federal financial aid.

**E.** After Cindy finished her announcements, Liz Hall discussed UCSA Budget for 2007-2008 and the upcoming UCSA events.

- a. She mentioned that student fee reduction is still on the table, so they are using the tactics of letter writing and making phone calls to demand strengthening of academic preparation in the budget.
- b. She mentioned that the 2008 primary elections are coming up, so they are entering the planning process. They are also going to go to the various AS’s GSA’s at other campuses and taking surveys as to the issues they would like advocated.
- c. They are currently hiring for 4 positions, two field organizers, organizing director, and a university affairs director
- d. Someone asked about UCSA’s position on the student fee increase. Their stance is that student cost of education is unaffordable, so they are asking for a full fee buyout, but they may just get a partial fee buyout to 2.4%, which is what the legislative analyst office recommends.
- e. Jared asked why the NSGPS is being zeroed out in the UCSA 2007-2008 budget. Liz explained that the reason NAGPS is zeroed out is because a few years ago a delegation of students from UCSA went to the National legislative conference on lobby day for NAGPS, but the conference was cancelled and they were never notified by NAGPS. So the students were by themselves lobbying legislators. That year they tried to contact NAGPS, but could not get in touch with them to pay dues. This year NAGPS contacted UCSA once requesting \$250 sponsorship for their conference.
- f. UCSA has decided to first pursue a relationship with NAGPS by sending students to their conference in September before joining with them. Thus, once UCSA has faith in them they will become members with NAGPS.

**F.** UCSA Budget 2007-2008.

Motion to not approve UCSA budget for 2007-2008

- a. Jared
- b. Shane
- c. No unanimous consent, so it was put to a vote.
- d. Yay: 2
- e. Nay: 9
- f. abstained: 5
- g. Motion fails

Motion to approve UCSA budget for 2007-2008

- a. Nathaniel
- b. Dawn
- c. No unanimous consent, so it was put to a vote.
- d. Yay: 9

- e. Nay: 2
- f. abstained: 5
- g. Motion Passes

**IX. Cabinet Report, John Slifko, Elections**

**A.** John described the results of the 2007 GSA elections. The total number of voters was 997, the total number of eligible voters was 10,709, and the percentage that voted was 9.3%.

**B.** Voting Results:

- a. President: Nurit Katz
- b. Vice President Internal Affairs: Arpi Siyahian
- c. Vice President  
External Affairs: Monica Sanchez
- d. Vice President Academic Affairs: Janet Cummings Link

**C.** Motion to Ratification of Elections Results

- a. Jared
- b. Nathaniel
- c. Approved with unanimous consent

**X. Cabinet Report, Arpi Siyahian, Dir. of Discretionary Funding**

**A.** Arpi announced that about \$30,000 of discretionary funding was spent this year.

**B.** Arpi has made changes to the 2007-2008 GSA Discretionary Funding Guidelines by specifying the application deadlines. The deadline dates will be posted online.

**C.** The deadline for discretionary funding applications will be the first Monday of the month prior to the month of the event.

**D.** The Discretionary Funding Guideline is essentially the same as the original, with the main change being the deadline of the applications.

**E.** Mac made a request that the guidelines be amended to state that the GSA logo to be displayed on all promotional material.

**F.** Motion to approve 2007-2008 amended Discretionary Funding Guideline

- a. Jared
- b. Nathaniel
- c. Approved with unanimous consent

**XI. Adjournment**

**A.** Motion to Adjourn Meeting

- a. Jared
- b. Nathaniel

**B.** Meeting Adjourned: 7:01 PM