

**Graduate Students Association
Forum Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2008 5:30 PM
Kerckhoff 131-135**

Members Present: Dana Keithly (Arts & Architecture), Kelsey Retting (Biological Sciences), Shannon Mumenthaler (Biological Sciences), Miloni Gandhi (Education), Diane Budzik (Engineering), Patrick Sislian (Engineering), Karen Law (Law), Yasmin Elhady (Law), Brett Ramos (Management), Sachin Patel (Management), Alejandro Cantarero (Math & Physical Sciences), Ben Greenhagen (Math & Physical Sciences), Barkha Gurban (Medicine), Meghan Wood (Medicine), Jessica (Nursing), Lindsay Gervacio (Public Health), Lisa Dooley (Public Health), Melissa Cohen (Social Sciences), Dustin K. Ancalade (Social Sciences), Lance Menthe (Alumni Rep), Ellen Stolzenberg (Grad Division), Nurit Katz (GSA President), Arpi Siyahian (GSA Vice President of Internal Affairs), Monica Sanchez (GSA Vice President of External Affairs), Cynthia Pineda (GSA Director of Elections), Eunie Kim (GSA Legislative Liaison & Researcher), Tamar Tomassian (GSA Director of Discretionary Funding), Nanthia Suthana (GSA Director of Publications), Oiyen Poon (GSA Director of Campus Organizing), Shazrae Mian (GSA Staff)

- I. Call To Order 5:40 pm**
- II. Adoption of Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day**
 - a. Arpi made one correction to the agenda; she asked that everyone approve to move Elections Calendar and Budget Report by Cynthia Pineda to 6:40 pm.
 - i. Motion to approve Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day as amended
 1. Miloni Gandhi
 2. Karen Law
 3. Approved with unanimous consent.
- III. Approval of Minutes from the last Forum Meeting on Wednesday, January 23, 2008**
 - a. Motion to approve minutes from the last forum meeting on January 23, 2008
 - i. Melissa Cohen
 - ii. Shannon Mumenthaler
 - iii. 0 nays, 1 abstentions
 - iv. The motion is approved.
- IV. Special Presentation, John Taborn, Associate Director of UCLA Career Services Center**
 - a. John explained why serving the graduate students is crucial to the existence of UCLA Career Services Center. The center helps with writing dissertation, and provides advice on how to move forward in the job field after graduating; therefore, part of the programming addresses academic and nonacademic markets.
 - b. John passed around a schedule of Winter Quarter programming being done for graduate students.
 - c. The career center is located at the corner of Strathmore and Westwood Plaza. There is also a more convenient location, in Graduate Students Resource Center in Students Activity Center from Mondays to Thursdays. Students can always drop in and contact any counselor during general counseling hours. A full array of counseling is offered to graduate students. The students are advised from the minute they walk on to campus as graduate students to the point when they finish their dissertation. A few segments of the graduate student body are not served through the career center because of other services available to them, such as the Management students and Law students.
 - d. Services are for students who are and are not paying registration fees. So if you encounter a problem where your needs are not met by the career center, please contact me personally so that I can take care of it.
- V. Special Presentation, Renee A. Fortier, UCLA Transportation**

- a. Renee talked to forum about how new parking is being generated for UCLA community. She also discussed the basis for parking fee increases.

VI. Cabinet Report, Cynthia Pineda, Elections Calendar and Budget

- a. Cynthia informed forum about E-Board. Each year the Elections Board organizes and oversees the annual GSA elections. Each Academic Council is responsible for appointing an Election Board Representative to serve on the GSA Election Board. The Election Board Representative serves as the liaison between GSA and each department. Representatives are responsible or attending all meetings.
- b. At the last E-Board meeting, there were only four council representatives instead of thirteen. She passed out document listing E-Board attendance for each council. If a council missed more than one meeting already, they were informed not to miss any more for the rest of the year because they are at risk of losing their funding. The document listed dates and times of E-Board meetings for this year.
- c. Cynthia handed out a document with the breakdown of E-Board expenditures.
- d. Cynthia announced that Assembly will be getting an email soon regarding special elections for Vice President of Academic Affairs. In the application, applicants are to include a list of previous experience, candidate statement, and a photo. Cynthia will create a pdf version of the ballot and distribute it to assembly via email. Voting will be from this Friday to the following Wednesday morning. So please make sure to check your email during that time frame. This election process is only open to Assembly members, who are representatives of departments.
- e. Motion to approve Elections Budget for 2007-2008:
 - i. Miloni Gandhi
 - ii. Brett Ramos
 - iii. Approved with unanimous consent.

VII. Officer Report, Nurit Katz, GSA President

- a. Based on Forum's approval from last time, Heather Wozniak has accepted the position as Interim Director of Communications. She is putting together a GSA newsletter this week and has created a GSA communications policy, helping us ensure consistency in our communication with the student body.
- b. The Vice President of Academic Affairs position has been announced. Applications are due tomorrow.
- c. Nurit announced that on February 28, 2008 the Academic Advancement Program (AAP) will be celebrating its 35th Anniversary. AAP promotes academic achievement and excellence through academic advising, collaborative learning workshops, and mentoring to prepare for graduate studies. GSA will officially cosponsor the event. The event will include an award ceremony, student performances, and a video.
- d. Nurit has been working with Professor Charles Corbett on the development of the Leaders in Sustainability interdisciplinary graduate emphasis. Currently students participating in the program are from Business, Public Policy, Law, Urban Planning, Public Health, Geography, Oceanic Sciences, Psychology, African American Studies, and Architecture. Nurit can be contacted if anyone has questions about the program or are interested in joining.
- e. There are some great GSA events coming up on February 22nd with logistics provided by HurryDate.com and an international themed Grad Bar cosponsored by IGSA.
- f. We had an opening on the Community Activity Commission. The alternate assigned to that stipended position was contacted but he can't do it. So we contacted Jessica Importa, the alternate assigned to the Community Programs Committee. She is willing and able to sit on CAC.
 - i. Motion to approve assignment of Jessica Importa to Community Activity Commission

1. Karen Law
2. Dustin K. Ancalade
3. Approved with unanimous consent.

VIII. Officer Report, Arpi Siyahian, GSA Vice President of Internal Affairs

- a. Arpi made several announcements. First, she announced that each council must turn in a roster. She is missing rosters from Management and Nursing. These rosters are crucial in determining composition of Assembly.
- b. GSA Council President's dinner is scheduled to take place on Monday, February 25th, at 6:30 pm at Gardens, Westwood.
- c. Student Interest Board met on February 11th. A possibility of having a SIB year end reception using funds available through SIB discretionary was discussed.
- d. Students Activities Center Board of Governors has special meeting two weeks ago to discuss the finances of Students Activity Center. There is a possibility that SACBOG will help finance the construction of the south campus student activities center. The board will be meeting regularly through out the quarter to discuss potential projects.
- e. Graduate Student Resource Center is working on the strategic planning for GSRC. The coordinators of both GSRC and GWC will be presenting to Forum this quarter.
- f. GSA Appreciation Banquet is scheduled for February 20th at Alco Pulco. The banquet is going to cost \$3200.00 . The GSA Cabinet approved \$2000.00 out of its discretionary to be spent on the banquet. Arpi request Forum's approval to use \$1200.00 out of its discretionary to cover the remaining expenses of the banquet.
 - i. Motion to approve budget for GSA Appreciation Banquet
 1. Patrick Sislian
 2. Melissa Cohen
 3. Approved with unanimous consent.

IX. Officer Report, Monica Sanchez, GSA Vice President of External Affairs

- a. Monica started out by talking about the UCSA Lobby Day. Nine UCLA Graduate Students will be attending Lobby Day. We also have three students attending UC Day, the UC-Wide lobby day in Sacramento on March 3-4th. We will provide with updates upon return from lobby visits and conference.
- b. February 3rd was the California primary election where UC students were among the highest to register to vote and to actually turn out to vote. We are continuing to work on providing voter information and encouraging students to become informed voters. One future project that has been discussed is seeking information on how we can secure an on campus voting poll for UCLA students. We are working with UCLA Government and Community Relations in this issue.
- c. External Affairs returned from the UCSA board meeting at UC Irvine this past weekend, January 9-10th. We are hosting a postcard campaign with the theme of "It's Raining Debt". We are asking you to submit postcards to us so we can take them with us to Sacramento.
- d. UCLA Lobby Corp has a district lobby visit scheduled with Senator Gloria Romero on February 15. We will continue to email you regarding our lobby visits and events. Interested individuals were requested to contact Eunie Kim at leg@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu .
- e. GSA Constitution Article I.C mandates that a minimum of twenty-five cents of each member's ten dollar fee shall be allocated to the University of California Student Association. It also requires that transfer of these funds to UCSA shall be subject to Forum discretion. The actual amount to be transferred to UCSA for 2007-08 will depend on actual graduate student enrollment for this fiscal year. The final amount of funds transferred will be reported to GSA Forum in Fall, 2008 as part of the revised 2008-09 Budget.

