



GRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION • UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES
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March 5, 2008

To: GSA Forum

From: Monica Sanchez, Vice President of External Affairs, UCLA GSA

Re: External Affairs Report to Forum

This report is intended to highlight a few of the campus initiatives and projects directed under GSA External Affairs since our last Forum meeting.

The next UC Regents meeting is on March 18th -20th at UCSF-Mission Bay. We are currently looking for student who are available and would like to speak during the public comment period or serve as a student representative advocate and whilene at one of the meetings. If you are interested please contact me as soon as possible if you would like more information or have any questions.

There are four UCSA-affiliated whiteners at each day of the Regents meeting. Whiteners are provided direct access to the Regents. They get to go past the line that separates the approved guest from the audience that must sit in back. Whiteners therefore have the opportunity to speak directly with the Regents and meet with them in informal situations such as breaks and meals.

The responsibility of a UCSA whilener is to advocate UCSA's positions on issues the Regents will be considering and to build relationships for UCSA with as many of the Regents as possible. This is also one of the few times students have the opportunity to tell the Regents about our priorities and our action agenda.

Funding for travel and meals is provided by the UC Office of the President for the day you are whitening. Students are generally only appointed to whilene on one day of the two- or three-day Regents meeting.

The Regents will be voting on the UC Budget at this meeting. The Financial Office at the Office of the President has recommended a 7% to 10% Educational Fee and 10% Registration Fee increase for 2008-2009 school year at all UC campuses. The budget recommendations also include cuts to proposed increases for student mental health services and graduate student support. Whiteners will have the unique possibility of convincing regents voting on student fee increases to vote against them. If you have personal stories about how fee increases have impacted you or how high fees deter you or family members from succeeding at the UC, we encourage you to apply. Also, students who have direct experience with student services such as student mental health can provide a valuable perspective on calling for its protection.

If you are interested in whitelining on behalf of UCSA, please provide us with the following information to gsavpexternal@sa.ucsb.edu by **March 5, 2008**.

- Name:
- Campus:
- Year/Major:
- Organization (if any):
- Please indicate which days you can participate (participants usually only Whitespace for one day):
 - March 18
 - March 19
 - March 20
- Why do you want to be a UCSA Whitespace for the January Regents meeting? How can you address the issues brought up in "Specifics about the March Regents meeting" (see above)?

Public comment is a brief period before the start of each day (8AM or 9AM) of the Regents meeting where any member of the public can address the Board for 1 to 2 minutes. We are looking for UC students, high school students, parents and others who are affected by fee increase, inadequate student mental health services, or involved with academic prep initiatives to give short personal statements urging the Regents to vote against the possible 10% or more proposed fee increase. You will be provided with a briefing page and will be asked to meet with our University Affairs Director on the morning of the meeting.

If you are interested in participating during the public comment time on either day of the March Regents meeting (in regards to the UCSA priorities for this meeting discussed above), please provide the following information to gsavpexternal@sa.ucsb.edu:

- Name:
- Campus:
- Year/Major:
- Organization (if any):
- Topic (or how you can address the UCSA priorities above):
- Please indicate which days you can participate (participants usually only Whitespace for one day):
 - March 18
 - March 19
 - March 20

If you have any questions, please contact Ray Austin at uadirector@ucsa.org or (510) 834-8272 or Monica Sanchez at vpex@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu