

**GRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**

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**GSA Forum Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 4th, 2015 5:30 p.m.**

**Ackerman Viewpoint Conference Room**

**Call to Order**: (5:30-5:31)

Roy – Next week the enrollment numbers will be posted.

**Officer Reports** (5:32- 5:45)

Milan- I have been talking to USAC President Heather Rosen. USAC would like to create an undergraduate mentorship program with GSA. USAC and GSA are co programming the Diversity Townhall with Vice Chancellor Jerry Kang.

I have been meetings all week among them a meeting with the Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer at UCLA, Steve Olsen. Every year his office meets to pass a budget for professional degrees and supplemental tuition. They work with the UC President Napolitano’s office and the Regents to come with the new tuition for implementation. The max they can raise tuition for profession school is 5%, aside from Nursing which is 8%. They will be looking at the tuition for other universities, both publically and privately, to see what students are paying there, as well as other factors, such as: resources, cost of living, and inflation. Two number stand out: Environmental Science and Engineering, they make look a little weird, because they are trying to match the PTSDs, for whatever policy they want it to be the same. I did invite the CFO to speak at our next forum. Does anyone have any questions for me?

I would like to bring Jerry Kang to GSA.

Chiao-Wen - The GSA is collaborating with GSRC to establish the oversight committee. The meeting will take place on November 16 at 5pm to discuss the budget. We are in the process of inviting students to be a part of the committee. We will need student volunteers. Please send me an email if you think that you would like to be a part of it.

A student brought up the issue of getting more student representation on the IRB board. We would like to support the IRB approval process. If any of you are interested in having more GSA representation please contact me.

Joel: Senate Legislative Assembly that meets four times a year, the next meeting is Thursday from 2-4, they are looking for 5 representatives. I have been working with the Faculty Executive Committee and Grad council in indentify ways were can increase the number of TAs. We are seeing the undergraduate population increase every year, however, the Grad population has been flat, as well as, the number of people who are doing TAs. We need to make sure that we create more interest in getting TAs; the faculty is concerned about this issue as well.

Ian: The problem is that there are not enough graduate students interested in being TAs, if so, in what departments?

Joel: I will look in to that.

Andres: I have been working with SAGE and have been working on issues of Graduate Student Housing. I think that this is a substantial concern for our community. I am open to questions. Anyone who is spending more than 50% on housing is financially stressed.

**GSA Sustainability of Resource Center** (5:46-5:50)

*Larry Lai, Wendy Green: Co- Directors of the Sustainability Resource Center.*

Larry: The goal of the Sustainability Resources Center is to provide sustainability/environmental resources, information, and education to the graduate student body, campus and community.

Wendy: We hold networking events. Last year we had an undergrad and grad mixer. We are going to have an Energy Consultant from Solar City to come and speak. Green Screens is our largest event a film festival in the Spring. We are looking to put a committee together in order to do this. The Sustainability Resource Center is not a club. If anyone wants to put together an event we can potentially help fund that.

Larry: How you can get involved? Sign up for our weekly newsletter and subscribe to our email list. Please collaborate with us on different events that are coming up.

Wendy: Green Screens is collaboration with Melnitz Movies. Join the UCLA SRC team; you enter in to a raffle to win a bike.

Larry: UCLA GSA SRC is our Facebook. Please come to our Sustainability Speaker Series on November 16.

**The Engineering Graduate Students Association of UCLA (eGSA)** (5:51-5:55)

*Harsha Kittur, Louis Tse: eGSA*

Harsha: We are here to talk to you about what we do in the Engineering council. We are mostly interested in professional, social development, and community outreach of engineers.

UCLA Networking Games: It is a different take on career fairs. The way that this one works is a field day, where you play outdoor games with job recruiters. We are going to see how it works this year. We are looking to find potential recruiters for this event. Contact Neil Mrinal Rath.

Graduate Student Leadership Dinner is a great time for collaboration and sharing ideas.

The weekend meet up series is a way to create opportunities for social and professional development. We have been regularly having these events every week, with events such as musicals, hikes, movie nights, and volunteering.

Bruin Shelter (Louis): Homelessness that has been an emerging concern in the Los Angeles, people trying to avoid personal or sexual abuse at home and can end up on the street. 40% are LBGT youth. It is important to identify why youth outreach is important. LA has the highest homeless youth population. We are going to have a youth shelter that is run by us. We can house 20 residents for 25k a year.

It is peer to peer. UCLA students can help break this barrier. There are 0 youth shelters on the Westside. It will provide short-term 3 months housing and graduate students started this shelter. Undergraduate and Graduate Students will run this. There is already a student organization being formed. We would like to find graduate students who are interested in grant writing. I just want to put this conversation on table, and providing an opportunity to for the graduate students who would like to be leaders for this cause.

**Diversity Caucus Town Hall with Vice Chancellor Jerry Kang** (5:56- 6:15)

Manpreet Dhillon: This is a unique space to allow for the network opportunities on the issue of diversity.

We have a new Vice Chancellor of Diversity, Jerry Kang. This is an opportunity to allow students to talk to him, and have him answer your questions in person.

We want to facilitate the chance to bring all Bruins together: faculty, staff, and students. Hopefully we will have a larger faculty turn out next time.

For tabling opportunities, please email me, and you can table. It is not just student organizations.

**Undergraduate Students Association Council** (6:16-6:30)

*Heather Rosen, USAC President*

Heather Rosen: USAC is a very large network for undergraduate entities such as CAC, CEC who hold speaker series and concert series. We have a facilities commissioner. We have our financial support commissioner, Sarah Potter.

Community Service Commissioner organizes Volunteer Day. We have 14 elected positions. We have a new Transfer Student Representative.

There are many issues that pertain that graduate and undergraduate students have in common.

Such as:

Enrollment: 5,000 new undergraduates were accepted this year. It is a big issue because we don't have enough TAs; we need to get more funding for graduate students.

My office is working on the middle income affordability. We have a lot of students that are not able to pay for textbooks and food. It is something that the council has been working on. We also work on issues of diversity with the Diversity Caucus with Jerry Kang.

Housing security, TA-ships, enrollment, campus climate issues would probably be the issues that are the most pertinent.

**Graduate Student Resource Center (** 6:31-6:54)

*Dr. Christine Wilson, Executive Director for Graduate Programs and First Year Experience*

Christine Wilson: UCLA student affairs. The vice chancellor we started to do stuff and here we are. We advocate for graduate student needs.

We have been involved in the career center number of student involvement. We are hiring a social science chair and STEM chair. We have a program committee. We have a programming committee, which started the Diversity Caucus.

We offer 250 pages of free printing brought to you by GSA. We also give advice and counseling. We help you find the right people. We are also funded by a referendum that funds the Graduate Writing Center.

Graduate Student Writing Center, *Marilyn Gray:* All of the graduate and professional students are paying our fees. Sometimes there is a question with everyone in very field. All of the staff bios are on the web, and you can see the diversity of fields and backgrounds in order to understand your work. Any questions that you guys have.

Printing is something that is advertised to get graduate students in to the office rather than guaranteed, if 10,000 graduate students came to print we would go bankrupt, we suspect only 2,000 students to come in to the office.

If it is a really important document I recommend bringing resume or cover letter by going to the GSRC and the Graduate Writing Center.

Both have committees. We are open to going to council meetings.

Marilyn: Professional schools normally don’t utilize our resources.

**Appointments** (6:55-6:59)

Joel: We have three positions left. We spoke with the staff and got list of people who were doing a good job, and I spoke with the representatives from last year and they were interested in proceeding with that.

Chiao-Wen: Can someone motion to adjourn the meeting?

Motion carries. Meeting is adjourned.

**Adjournment** (7:00pm)