Forum Meeting Minutes 11/6/19

* The consent calendar was approved unanimously; the agenda, minutes, and recent appointments were all approved
* Executive Officer Reports
  + Zak: lowering the rent in university housing is still the primary goal, everything else is a more immediate solution on the way to this goal
    - He had a telephone conference with his USC counterpart; their student government gives out short term loans to provide students with emergency aid; this is something we will look into
    - their student government meetings are private because they are afraid of administrative retaliation
    - Update on email issue: Zak is working on this issue, but the Graduate Dean’s office has not given a final response
    - The next grad bar is 11/20, the same night as the next GSA Forum
    - Students are encouraged to attend Melnitz Movies
    - Zak continues to work on our resolution to cap administrator’s salaries, but the administration has been unresponsive
    - Thursday, December 5 6pm will be an ASUCLA entity meeting
      * the executive director of the ASUCLA will be there
    - Update on grad games: possibly April 3-4 or 24-25; please keep these dates in mind and reach out if your school has a major conflict with either date
  + Paul: We are still missing signature forms from some of the councils (math, public health, dentistry, nursing, medicine); please fill out these forms ASAP
  + JP: Please check out gsrc.ucla.edu; you can ask any questions about grad school. This portal has been updated this summer, and the GSRC can help you get in touch with the appropriate parties if you have questions
    - Housing portal update: this portal was previously eliminated, but we are looking to re-open it
    - He met with the external VP for USAC, and is hoping to coordinate on common issues
    - His office is working on mental health legislation, you can read more about it online
  + Shrinidi: the first legislative assembly meeting was last night (all academic senate committees); a few committees are open and accepting representatives. Check the website for details
* CALPIRG Presentation: this group works on advocacy issues, and they have student representation across the state of California (35,000 students support CALPIRG)
  + Their peer-to-peer engagement is very effective, they work on issues like getting students out to vote
  + Students can opt in to provide a $10 donation
  + Recently, their campaigns have encouraged 6,000 students to register to vote, half a million to go to the polls
  + They are currently working to institutionalize voter registration on campuses and to create a culture of voting here on campus
  + Our turnout has increased on campus by over 300% since the last midterm election, students are becoming more and more interested in voting, and there is a concern that campuses will not be prepared for the even bigger turnout that will occur before the next presidential election. One of their goals is to raise awareness about this
  + They have registered over 200 students this quarter alone, and had a good turnout to their debate watching party; next quarter, there will be bigger events that bring candidates onto campus
  + Graduate students have lower voter turnout that undergraduates
  + A new CALPIRG initiative aims to bring together historically marginalized groups to get them interested in voting
  + Please reach out to CALPIRG if you’re interested in volunteering; you can pledge, become an intern, or volunteer to help with campaigns
* Safe Parking Zones Presentation, Zak Fisher
  + the idea behind the bill is to open up parking lots at the school for students who live in their cars or other vehicles; these would become “safe parking zones”
  + It’s important to note that this is a problem created by administration and the way that they allocate their budgets; no student should be homeless, and this is an (important) band aid solution to a problem that the university needs to solve
  + This resolution just constitutes taking a stance; this does not mean that the university will enact this policy
  + There were concerns from forum members about the potential logistics of enacting this policy; it may require the deployment of more resources and security
    - Are parking spaces enough? There should also be restrooms and other amenities (there seems to be provisions for this in the resolution)
    - There was a question about the lack of parking spaces in Westwood due to permit parking
  + Vote: motion to support USAC’s strides towards improving the condition that students experiencing homelessness and/or housing insecurity are in, and to continue to have discussions about how to best help students experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, and to make efforts towards making UCLA more supportive of students in these situations
    - 22 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, the motion passes unanimously
* Dr. Daniel Kozman, UCLA Health for Bruins Clinic for Primary Care and Urgent Care
  + this clinic partners with Ashe and CAPs to improve access to care
  + This clinic is meant to provide students with after-hours care, currently most students go to urgent care in Santa Monica or Culver City if they require this care
  + in a survey of students, 60% of student forwent care when they needed it, quite a few students who did go to the emergency room felt that they would have been better served by urgent care; Ashe center hours are inflexible and students need better access to afterhours care
  + This clinic is in a pilot phase, and is working to improve after hours care
  + If you have UCShip insurance only, the clinic can do urgent care (but not primary care)
    - The clinic can do primary care for students with other insurance providers
    - If you have UC Ship, you can only go to the clinic afterhours or if the Ashe center is truly at capacity (in this case, Ashe must refer you)
    - There are multiple UCLA parking lots around the clinic, you can use your parking pass or pay for hourly parking; unfortunately, there is no validation for parking
    - Primary Care: regular check-ups, physicals, other non-emergency services; everything else is urgent care. Typically the clinic can get people in the same day.
    - They also partner with CAPs to do basic mental health care; they can start people on meds, take overflow patients from CAPs (you must be triaged through CAPs if you only have UCship)
    - The Ashe portal cannot be used to make appointments at the clinic
    - The clinic will protect charts for medical students who require confidentiality
  + Zak: this is a reminder that the fact that CAPs has serious under capacity is a reality created by administration and the way that they fund the program
  + Daniel: this clinic is also designed to address the needs of all of the students who don’t have UC Ship
* Presentation of mentorship resolution, JP Santos
  + Last time, we discussed how vulnerable many students are; advisers have disproportionate power over their advisees
  + One of the items that stood out from a previous report was a recommendation that all students fill out an Individual Development Plan (IDP), which JP’s office would like to implement on campus here. UC Davis has a similar policy
    - By week 9, there will be a template for the graduate council
    - This involves listing out academic goals, long term plans, publications, career plans, funding, health and wellness
    - The hope is that this facilitates a discussion between the PI and their students; professors can then keep track of students’ individual goals, and students can hold their PIs accountable
  + Graduate Bill of Rights: this delineates the rights and conditions that should be afforded to graduate students to ensure that they have a safe and healthy experience on campus
    - this is a universal policy, it is recognized by the graduate council
    - JP would like to make this document more concise so that it can fit within the IDP document, and then this final document will be presented in week 9
      * the document will also list resources that students can utilize if they are in trouble
  + There were concerns about whether this will work; if your adviser is abusive, they still have full control over the situation. This is likely not enough
    - JP: they are working with graduate council on this issue; most professors who are responsible will do this, and grad division can track which professors are neglecting to participate
      * Again, this is about trying to change the culture surrounding mentorship. This won’t solve everything, but it might create more momentum towards finding a solution
      * The hope is that by making students aware of their rights, the university will have greater incentive to improve protections like due process for students
      * JP is also trying to get exit surveys, and is trying to connect with the alumni association to get better data on this issue
    - Another student pointed out that an additional concern is that many disciplines work differently and have different needs (e.g. Humanities is very different from Engineering)
    - One student suggested making this document not just between the student and their adviser, but also between the entire committee for better accountability
* Meeting is adjourned