**GSA Forum Resolution to Restore Due Process to GSA Stipended Appointments**

Whereas the Associated Students UCLA is the largest student union in the world, overseeing campus bookstores, eateries, student lounges, event spaces, sports concessions, and the international licensing and merchandising of UCLA’s brands,

Whereas ASUCLA is a complex business that requires careful oversight, with tens of millions of dollars in both expenses and revenues,

Whereas the GSA is a subsidiary of ASUCLA, and ASUCLA’s operations maintain the GSA’s facilities, fund many of the GSA’s events, and maintain the GSA’s financial and legal autonomy,

Whereas ASUCLA is governed by a student-majority board with 2 members appointed each year by the GSA to serve 2 year terms,

Whereas it is critical that each of these board members is prepared to advocate for the Graduate Student body and association, while also discharging their responsibilities as a fiduciary charged with making good business decisions in keeping with the mission of ASUCLA,

Whereas the importance of this responsibility is reflected in stipends for the GSA’s appointees to the ASUCLA Board of Directors in excess of $16k per year,

Whereas it would be unjust to deny any qualified student due consideration for an opportunity to earn more than $32k over the course of 2 years,

Whereas failure to carefully vet and consider appointees for ASUCLA could have profound ramifications for the continued success of both the GSA and ASUCLA,

Whereas GSA Code 5.2.1 states, “The Appointments Board shall be the **committee** to interview and recommend to the Forum graduate students to serve as GSA representatives in stipended appointments and shall consist of the elected officers. The President shall chair the Appointments Board and quorum will be all the elected officers.”

Whereas GSA Constitution Section Article VII Section 3 states, “All meetings of the Forum, and other **committees** of the GSA shall:

1. be open to all members of the GSA except that in the case of any meeting to consider the taking of disciplinary action against any member of the GSA, that member may request that such meeting be closed;
2. be conducted in accordance with the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order except as otherwise provided herein and in the Codes; and
3. have written records kept, including minutes and voting records. Voting records shall contain each member’s vote by name on roll call votes.”

Whereas GSA President Zak Fisher never held a meeting of the appointments board and, instead, simply informally spoke with 2 out of 3 Vice Presidents and thereupon took it upon himself to notify candidates of their appointment/rejection as if these decisions had been made by the appointments board,

Whereas these informal one-on-one discussions with 2 fellow officers could not have constituted the required quorum of all 4 officers because the 4 never participated, even electronically, in a single discussion or vote with one another regarding appointments,

Whereas a serial conversation does not constitute a “meeting” as defined by Robert’s Rules of order,

Whereas the absence of a single meeting among the four officers with one discussion and vote prevented a possibility for the three officers other than Zak to share ideas with one another and potentially reach a different conclusion from the conclusion reached when Zak sought one-by-one their concurrence with his conclusions,

Whereas there is less potential pressure to conform with the President’s will when there are other like-minded conversants present who might vote in concurrence than in a one-on-one conversation initiated by the President,

Whereas 2 of the 3 Vice Presidents have anonymously expressed concerns that Zak has pressured them into discharging their duties in a manner other than how they see fit (this fact may be verified by Forum entering into an executive session with each Vice President without the others present),

Whereas one of the Vice Presidents anonymously expressed the belief that none of the 3 Vice Presidents carefully considered all four applicants for the position,

Whereas the appointment of representatives for UCLA’s Graduate Student Body is an important public trust that merits the careful consideration by multiple trusted delegates,

Whereas one of the Vice Presidents was told by President Fisher, who alone conducted one candidate’s interview, that the audio of that interview was not worth listening to, and gave Zak his “vote” on the basis of assuming this candidate was therefore not qualified; but, once a complaint emerged took it upon his/herself to listen to the audio and concluded that the interview was at least as good as the candidates Zak deemed appointed,

Whereas one of the Vice Presidents has opined that no informal one-on-one discussions of appointments have constituted a meeting and has requested that the Appointments Board meet, if not in person than at least by phone or electrionically, but President Fisher has refused,

Whereas, at this point, because those candidates who weren’t selected have had to appeal to the officers, administrators, and now the Forum for relief,

Whereas it is only natural that such an adversarial appeals process might create resentment in officers and an inclination to simply re-affirm the “decision” that was previously announced, tainting the possibility of a fair selection by the Appointments Board for this position beyond repair,

Therefore be it resolved,

The GSA Forum declares that the Appointments Board consisting of 2019-2020 officers has not, in fact, made any valid appointments of ASUCLA Board members.

Be it further resolved,

The GSA Forum will act in the Appointments Board’s stead concerning this round of ASUCLA Board appointments by appointing an impartial panel consisting of individuals who are unaware of the outcome of the initial flawed process and have no known relationship with any of the candidates; this panel shall be selected through as many Forum delegates present upon this resolution’s ratification as possible asking 1-2 fellow graduate students to serve in this capacity and then sharing their contact information with the Internal Vice President who will then help them convene without influencing their deliberations.

Be it further resolved,

In order to ensure that all applicants to stipended positions appointed by the GSA receive due process, the GSA Forum hereby directs the Executive Officers to only make appointments to stipended appointments through meetings conducted in person, by phone, or by web chat, in which all four officers are active participants. Before voting, each officer must affirm for the record that they have carefully evaluated each applicant’s application.