**UCLA Graduate Students Association Forum**

**Meeting Minutes**

**☒ Regular Meeting ☐ Special Meeting**

**5:30pm, Wednesday, February 15, 2017**

**Global Viewpoint Lounge, Ackerman Student Union**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Agenda approved.

1. **Officers Report**

Michael: I will discuss getting workers’ compensation for externally funded grad students and international student issues with UC President Janet Napolitano at our meeting Friday. UCLA is not paying extramurally funded graduate students, so they don’t consider them employees which means that not only can they not access privileges such as the Bruin Commuter Club like other UCLA employees can, but they also wouldn’t receive worker’s compensation benefits in the event of a workplace injury. This has to change. I will also discuss ways to help international students attain employment and stay funded here until they do, amid this period of uncertainty in which some employers have been reluctant to hire international students. Finally, I am pleased to report that I was able to get parking services to extend cross-parking privileges to students with Weyburn parking permits to park at CHS and other lots. During these off-peak hours, these lots are empty, and its far safer for med students Thanks to Allie Ariniello of the Medical Sciences Council for brining

Ioan: I have been in charge of overseeing requisitions and general office management. We are looking to figure out how to move forward as one of our staff members Malia is leaving us. We want to maintain efficiency as much as possible .

Tess Armstrong: I am working with the Math and Physical Science to create a subcommittee regarding the TA shortage. We are trying to figure out how to get people in TAships even if it is outside of their principal discipline. I sent out an email about how to get more involved in this subcommittee.

Andres: I will not be participating in SAGE thi syear. SAGE is a group from Universities that have meeting with Congressional staff members. We usually discuss two or three topic for white papers. We are voting to pick three topics out of the five . 1) Student Debt 2) Research Funding 3) Campus Safety( Sexual Assault) 4) Campus Wellness( Mental Health Support) 5) Immigration Reform

Ian Coley: What do you plan to vote for? I would like to know what the official UCLA GSA vote is going to be.

Andres: In my opinion, we should look at Student Debt, research funding and immigration reform. Those are the areas that I have the most experience in and SAGE is a group of professional people that have expertise in this area. Any other questions?

Ioan: There is an update on the transportation program.

1. **Transportation Program Update and FY 17-18 Parking Fee**

Lisa Kerbling: I am here to talk about transportation services. We are looking to cut driver rates down to 48% by 2025.

We are trying to switch our focus from parking to access. We have been working on a subsidized transit program, we have the climate action plan, those agenda shifted our focus. We manage parking, we work really hard on biking and walking infrastructure. We have 2300 participants.

One of the things we are most proud of in the last 10 years is our increase in bikers from 1,000 to 3,000.

We offer support services such as the Bruin Commuter Club. You can use a car for free for up to 4 hours if you register for the Bruin Commuter Club. We also have bikes available in Weyburn Terrace.

The employee drive alone rate is 53%. The student drive alone rate is 25%. We want to focus on reducing faculty drive alone rates. The emphasis on access is for fewer greenhouse gas emission, to lower our carbon footprint, and improve our higher quality of life.

We are looking to implement biking traffic school, so instead UCLA PD writing a citation and students having to a fee, they could go to bicycle traffic school for reckless biking. We are working on solar chargers of EVs . We are working to roll out a bikeshare that would work in Beverly Hills, Santa Monica and West Hollywood. We have saved about $2.9 million since changing our emphasis.

We have an earn-a-bike program for employees who give up their parking permit for two years. You get 400 dollar bike. We are going to roll out this program for Graduate Students this summer.

We need help working on marketing initiatives that reach out to larger audience. Those who know about Parking Services use our services, everyone else unfortunately does not.

Parking Services Fee plan- 22,700 pay stations in 27 structures . 80,000 campus daily population. We look over 10 years, estimate our expenses, and try to keep parking fee increases. 2015-16 51.3 million in parking services revenues.

We are investing in license plate enabled parking in the long term. We have some infrastructure upgrades that we need to take care of . For all of our services this year we will take in about 61 million dollars, we plan on using about 2 million dollars in reserves to break even.

We compare ourselves to other urban campuses to see where we are operating in comparison to others.

Ian: West Hollywood Bike share currently does not reach Westwood.

Lisa: It will eventually roll out to Westwood and operate with a chip to record its movement.

1. **New GSA Website - Updates and Next Steps**

Alexander Fung: I am the GSA director for Communications. Our old website uses a wordpress platform that is broken on the back end. My team and I decided that it would be best to redo the website. We decided to use a weekly platform.

The domain would actually be transferred, hopefully we could transfer the current domain to the new website, if approved. You can see all of the minutes for cabinet and forum.

If you look under forum , you can see your contact information, as well as the forum minutes. I asked for your emails so that we can add them to this new website. You can look at different committees that we have.

I also made a separate website for elections. Elections documents will be posted on both this website and elections website.

I am open to suggestions or question so that we can move forward.

Ian: Is there any word on getting the new logo?

Alex: If we get this website approved I can start working on the logo. I hope you all like the design.

Also I am the president of the IGSA , we are going to build a coalition with UCR GSA to establish an international graduate student association.

1. **Writing Needs Survey**

Marilyn: Thank you so much for having me. For the first time since the graduate writing center has opened we are doing a survey to see how student feel about our services and what writing needs we need to address.

We are looking to the survey as many graduate students as possible so that we can get as specific with the writing needs by department and even by division with different schools.

We are also looking to help with oral presentation.We ask what method of writing assistance works best for you all. We are actively soliciting your input, feedback and criticism.

I would love to come to your actual council meetings. I find it hard to talk about writing without being concrete or specific about writing with each school. As part of the effort for publicity for the survey to I’d love to get your spontaneous thoughts and suggestion.

1. **Announcements from the Elections Commissioner**

Anne Blackstock-Bernstein: I am here to ask your vote on the Election calendar and a vote on a change to the elections code.

If this is approved , the application would be available by this Friday. Applications would be due March 7 at 3pm. You would need to get 50 signatures to apply. There would be a candidate meeting.

April 11 would be the start of elections with it closing April 18.

Michael: Concerning the mandatory meeting , I was wondering if the elections committee could give specific candidates who would not be able to make that meeting an opportunity to make up the session?

Anne: I want to keep it as it right now. I am also willing to change the time to 5pm.

Ioan: If people are not able to come they could skype or record in the meeting.

Anne: I will talk to the elections board, but I think it should be publicized as a mandatory meeting.

Ioan: Motion to vote.

Motion seconded

Vote passes unanimously.

Anne: I also wanted to add a representative from the Student Interest Board ( Armenian Graduate Student Association, International Student Association, Black Graduate Student Association). This would then change quorum to 7.

Christian Green: I do not know why we would not have all 4 members.

Michael: There are only 2 voting members.

Christian: Why can’t we have to members?

Anne: The representatives would represent the entirety of the Student Interest Board.

Ian: I am curious as to why we need an additional member on the elections board.

Anne: The desire came from the elections board, a lot of international graduate students do not know about GSA or elections.

Michael: I would move to approve this as is.

Ioan: Motioned?

Motion to election board application.

Motion seconded.

Call to vote.

Vote passes unanimously

Michael: I do not see a need to have a fight between IGSA and BGSA. I would like to see an amendment that would allow for up to 2 members of the Student Interest Board.

Anne: We would need to take this back to elections board.

Michael Cohn: Actually forum can have the final say.

Motioned to debate an amendment to include an another Student Interest Board member on the Elections committee.

Motioned seconded.

Ian: I disagree with this motion because it brings up a larger issue with the Student Interest Board because there are four different groups with different agendas.

Christian: I think up to two allow for more flexibility.

Michael: I do not think that they all have the same interests. What BGSA might want could be fundamentally different than what IGSA wants.

Ian: I think we need to amend the GSA codes.

Michael: I am not sure how debates would be settled for representation on the elections board between groups on the SIB.

Ioan: With no further debate I would like to call a vote to amend the election board.

15 - for

2- Against

Ian: I would like to move to a vote on the election amendments.

Motion to vote on amended elections board application.

Motion seconded.

Ioan: We move to a vote.

Vote carries unanimously.

1. **Discussion - UCSHIP**

David DiTullio- UCSHIP has been dealing with issue from transgender coverage on the UCSHIP board. As of right now female to male could get a top surgery and male to female could not. The downsides would mean that for one we do not know what this would entail from being the first school to do this. It could also bias students into choosing UCLA specifically for the program.

Ian: What is the current coverage for elective breast augmentation surgery?

David: It is not currently covered.

Ian: What about breast reduction?

David: In extreme cases it is. Berkeley is moving forward with a plan like this. Now that you know that this is happening you can email me about your opinions.

1. **2017 Latin American Business Conference**

Bernardo Velasquez: I am from the Anderson School. We have tried to elevate it to another level and make it appealing to wider range of audience.

Patricio: It is Friday March 3. Our keynote speaker will be the former president of Colombia Uribe . We will also have Senator Chris Dodd noted for the Dodd Frank bill, and many other notable issues.

Our panel will addressing the Trans Pacific Partnership, and how this new administration will forecast Latin American relation.

Hermano: If you could pass this message along to different schools. We want this conference to be a success, we would really appreciated if you could promote this conference within our school. We have the speakers, topics, and hot button issues. We are going to talk about macro economic outlooks. A quick reminder the event is Friday March 3 8:00am-7:30pm. We will have a lunch and a networking reception.

We will be sending you more information about this through Ioan.

1. **Forum Grad Games Announcement**

Michael Leuchter: Grad games is happening April 21nd. We have track and field, basketball , swimming. The next day we will have sports and games like dodgeball and corn hole.

After Grad Games concludes there will be a Grad Bar.

1. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.