**UCLA Graduate Students Association Forum**

**Meeting Minutes**

**☒ Regular Meeting ☐ Special Meeting**

**5:30pm, Wednesday,March 8, 2017**

**Global Viewpoint Lounge, Ackerman Student Union**

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

Agenda approved.

1. **Resolution**

Viola Ardeni(BASH):

New Policy recommendations for sexual harassment and violence on behalf of faculty member in a series of widely publicized announced.

The accused was removed Jeffrey Morrissey UC Berkeley , Rob Laffan UC Irvine, there persists a largely absent foundation of trust that is necessary for a campus environment requires transparency.

UCLA wide title IX policy is vague and ambiguous in its definition and lack transparency and is managed by a very select number of faculty and administrators. The university has made no effort to notify students as is the case at UCLA. Student need to be able to feel comfortable and the survivor needs to feel like they have place in the university environment and that their traumatic complaints and experiences matter. There needs to more accountability and justice for these victims and to bring violators to justice.

Be it resolved that the UCLA GSA holds the faculty and administrators accountable to the abuse of power is an aggravating factor in both investigation and adjudication of the sexual assault and violence . There needs to be a clear and explicit notice from UCLA and new stance and reform , for example implementing a minimum infraction against the university faculty or administrators who violate this new resolution.

Ioan: Motion to support this resolution.

Michael Skiles seconds.

Ian Coley: What does trauma informed remedies mean?

Viola Ardeni: USAC reminded us that there are groups that work on trauma(CAPS), and make sure that we know of the importance of addressing the psychological aftermath of sexual assault or violence. We do not have the competence to make this kind of remedy for policy making that is why the language is rather general.

Melissa Melpignano: We wants students to have guaranteed support for victims. They need to support practically and psychologically.

Ian Coley: What would survivor follow-up look like?

Melissa Melpignano: CAPS is a support group on campus, but in the aftermath, after a settlement agreement, there is no follow up.

Ian Coley: If say a student accuses his or her advisor, this would ruin that relationship, are there action plans after that?

Melissa Melpignano: That will be a part of the process not the aftermath.

Ian Coley: Why don’t you come out and say his name explicitly?

Viola Ardeni: We wanted the resolution to be general, but if you would like to add his name to the resolution that is something you should vote on.

Should Gabriel Piterberg be added to the resolution?

Jonah Lipsitt: What body will be administering this?

Viola Ardeni: We came here to ask if GSA supports our idea, and formally addresses them to UCLA. It is a statement that this forum would make, procedural advice.

Melissa Melpignano: We met with the former Title IX officers and Vice Chancellor Jerry Kang, there will be a peer committee that is will be formed by Chancellor Gene Block. We want them to specify what this peer committee with will look, and specify what their agenda truly is.

Viola Ardeni: We would add Professor Piterberg, UCLA to the existing resolution.

Sherwin Goo: Are there any legal ramifications for this?

Melissa Melpignano: He has an agreement with the History department where he cannot have private office hours in Bunche.

Viola Ardeni: We understand that this is controversial which is why we did not include it in the main text.

Ioan: Motion to amend the resolution and add Gabriel Piterberg name to the text of the document.

James Molyneux seconds.

Francisco Arroyo Marioli: Has he been a sentence?

Melissa Melpignano: There was no admission of guilt, and investigations are private so this is ongoing.

James Molyneux: It seems like the system did not work in favor of the graduate students, talking in generalities does not give it the same bite.

Michael Skiles: I think the resolution would be more effective if it was relegated to footnotes. Especially last week, public records indicated dozens of cases like this. Some of the professors have gone on continuing this acts unaddressed.

James Molyneux: It would give the resolution an explicit addressed.

Viola Ardeni: I think the issue we are addressing is with the efficacy of footnotes.

Ian Coley: I motion to call the question to vote on the amendment as it stand?

Motion denied.

Grace Bowden: I am worried about the language that a repeated sexual offender with no admission of guilt, I worry about consequences because there is not an official investigation.

Ally ( BASH ):I agree, it is an alleged repeated sexual offender.

Grace Bowden: I think someone could have a problem with the term sexual offender.

Ally (BASH): We could say that is he is a repeatedly accused sexual offender.

Ian Coley: We would like to call to question the amendment to add his name.

James Molyneux seconds the call to vote.

Ioan Istrate: Vote to amend document and add Gabriel Piterberg’s name.

Vote loses 2-16

Ioan Istrate: Vote to add to the penultimate paragraph on page 2, to include a new text that as it is known an alleged sexual offender Gabriel Piterberg.

Ioan call for a vote.

Ian seconds.

Vote Passes 16-2.

James Molyneux: I would like to table the implementation to table this resolution. I would like to wait for next forum.

Michael Skiles: I urge use to vote on it as it stands because it has been available for over a week.

Ian Coley: We would got the text today, we have not had time to meet with our council. We would like to be able include as broad a picture as possible.

Viola Ardeni: We wanted to have a new resolution confirmed before the end of the quarter, because he is going to be teaching a class next quarter.

Ian Coley: I think that you have the support of GSA as it has been made clear last quarter.

2-16 against tabling the vote.

Michael Skiles :Call to vote on resolution.

Motion passes 17-1

Ioan Istrate: Vote on the existing resolution.

Vote Passes 18 -0 .

More information:

https://bashucla.wordpress.com/piterberg-settlement/

1. **Officers Report**

Michael Skiles: Former President Michael Hirshman had the assurance UCLA would that externally funded students on issues of workers compensation and workplace injury.

As president of the UC President Association I met with Janet Napolitano and she is eager to implement a system wide solution, and Gene Block is on board to follow up with this.

We will follow up with them until every student receives coverage.

An issue that has been exacerbated since the Trump administration has been in office has been his immigration ban that has adversely affected H1B visa students.

Janet Napolitano wants professional development and postdoc opportunities to allow students more time in the United States and an opportunity to extend visas as well as filing fees to stay in the country.

I spoke to Gene Block about TA’s salary is about 20,000 a year and that doesn't leave much room in getting grad students here. We looked at the issues of funding affordable housing packages has. UCSF cost of living adjustment is a key example, and that the universities are obligated to offer fair and adequate aid to make the difference in university housing and rental rates in the area.

Ian Coley: We should be paid more in general not look to revamp university housing.

Michael Skiles: He thought that this would be more attractive to donors, Block wants to work to increase the amount of money that Grad Division has. The cost of living needs to be addressed, the chancellor is going to look for a serious amount of money to aid graduate students.

Jonah Lipsitt: I noticed that Grad Division gives you a certain amount of money as tuition and fees continue to raise.

Michael Skiles: Chancellor Robin Garrell said that if UCLA Grad students are here there is no need to attract them, but she wants to prioritize students here and get them out, ideally in 6 years. I think first we will try to get more funding period.

Christine Wilson from the GSRC would support funding for a printer in the Graduate Student Resource Center, and provide free printing, in the Biomedical library.

Ioan: All in favor to vote to consider the free printing in the Biomedical library?

Seconded.

Motion passes 16-2

Michael Skiles: The capital investment is the printer, and Ricoh would service the printer and we are looking at about 16,000. Roy told me that due to accounting rules, this needs be reflected through our surplus account of 18,000.

I motion to $9, 650 for printing services for the time being.

Michael Leuchter seconds the debate.

We Have the money to pay for the services this year, and to money to pay for minimal upkeep over time.

Roy Champawat: These are what are called gap principals, and general accounting principles, the principles state we apply a capital asset and apportion money each year for that productive life and comparable to any organization.

Ian Coley: How long is this program being piloted, we should discontinue this if it is not being properly utilized.

Michael Skiles: Roy’s recommendation is piloting it for four years, and extend it for if we want to maintain this program after evaluation.

Christine Wilson is willing to open free printing options in the Career Center which she is now director of, but for medical students indicated this as an inconvenience, but generally a worst case scenario

Michael Leuchter: There is increased demand and I need to make space for that, and represents and vital need for students.

Darah Wilson: From the nursing department are inconvenienced by having to venture to North Campus. The funding would be for the first for years right?

Roy Champawat: We would pay 4,500 for the rest of the year.

Darah Wilson: What kind of printer will it be?

Michael Skiles: As I understand it has copying features and the like. We will have meeting with Roy and Christine to figure out the most efficient model.

James Molyneux: Where is the biomedical library?

Darah Wilson: It is the middle of Nursing, Public Health, Medical and Dentistry.

Ian Coley: It is does not sound like you have a full plan , but you're asking for the money anyway.

Michael Skiles: We are going to meet next week, and I would hope that there is some degree of hope and trust in Roy and Christine, I would rather not wait 6 weeks until this is implemented.

Jamie Gravell: I feel like this is disrespectful to not have this on the agenda.

Michael Skiles: I apologize for the delay by me and the governing body.

Michael Skiles : Roy sees this as a maximum over the next 4 years. Technically forum would not be allocating for any year but this.

Call to motion.

Ian Coley : seconds.

17-1, passes

Call to vote.

14-4, passes

**V: Updates on Forum Schedule for Spring Quarter**

Ioan: One thing that I want to talk about, was a change for the upcoming forum meeting, unfortunately it collides with the election board, we tried to approach them to change it.

I would like to motion to change the meeting to 6:30pm with a compressed schedule for the first forum of next quarter.

Seconded.

Call to vote.

15-3 , passes.

**VI**: **Early Childhood Education Program- Mother of Color in Academia**

Leigh Anna Newton: We found each other on campus that brought us together on campus. As an employer UCLA is not up to the standards of California regulations for lactation facilities.

Outside services cost 1100 a month, we need to have these services readily available on campus, and not be forced to use the bathrooms.

One thing that we would love for parenting student, subsidized parking for carpool parenting students.

To be able to enroll your students in UC SHIP, we would love to see the creation of a Family Center on campus, so that we are not having to informally address this issue, and that this can be covered by the university. As well as adequate childcare centers, ECE excludes students from enrolling students into on campus education services/ campus day care.

Early Childhood Education - 2 on campus services and one on campus facilities - 341 students.

In the 1990s it was used as a place of faculty to place their children, taking up places student’s children.

The Vice Chancellor was tasked at investigating any potential Title V violations.

220- undergrad students with dependents.

600- graduate students with dependents

These are conversation estimates, and only one of the centers is dedicated to student with dependents, with up to a 3 year wait list. UV only has 54 families, with only 30% getting their needs met.

Discriminatory Policy of segregating out Title V parenting students, we asked for Brad Erickson for an explanation on their exclusion of Title V with no answer.

There is a disparity in services and menu for food. We urge UCLA to open more childcare centers, to put this in perspective UC Davis has 8 facilities on campus with no waitlist. We want to know how the money is allocated to the different facilities. As well as a Family Center, which would follow precedent made by UCSB.

I got mastitis after being forced to return to UCLA only 6 weeks after giving birth and trying to lactate on campus and UCSHIP did not address this issue further my physical dilemma.

We are interviewing alumni to increase advocacy and awareness. We are looking to increase volunteer ships and get more students advocates, if you could spread the word on this.

April 15th we will be having a meeting in SAC, please reach out to see how many parents there are in your department and getting them involved with MOCA.

Ioan: We are going to defer the GSA logo discussion until next forum.

**VII: SFAC Presentation**

May Bhetraratana: We are both members on SFAC, we are a student majority committee that meets about the allocation of students services fees.

Teresa: We evaluate units and funding requests such as Graduate Division, Graduate Writing Center, and Graduate Student Resource Center.

May: Funding application priorities mental health, student leadership, and personal growth have been our focus.

Teresa: We are in the process of reviewing funding requests from units, and we would like to know what issues need to be prioritizes and what units GSA thinks needs attention.

We want to get a sense of what the graduate student needs and priorities are, so we can send information up the channel to the Chancellor.

Michael Skiles: May served as the discretionary funding director last year, which is funded by SFAC , which is the primary funding source for student organizations, and so far we are only able to give student groups $800 a year.

One of the key platforms of the incoming VP Internal Alex Fung is to expand funding for the Student Interest Board in the formation of such as Chicanx, LGBT, and Indigenous law journals.

**VIII. Grad Games**

**Michael Leuchter:** Our theme is Game of Grads. We have 8 sporting events open on April 21 & 22nd. We look forward to seeing you there.

**VIIII. Support for Graduate and Professional Students**

Armando Flores: I would just like to introduce myself and make myself available to students as an advisor on student issues.

I urge you to meet with me, particularly about academic issues, but other related issues can suffice. I must manage expectations, but I can act as point of guidance within Grad Division.

1. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.