

University of California, Los Angeles

Graduate Student Association Forum #1, Fall Quarter Wednesday, October 23, 2020, 5:30pm

Forum minutes taken by Elyse Brusher, Director of Administrative Affairs

Week 3 Fall 2020 agenda

*** Items to vote**

5:30-5:35 Call to Order/Welcome Address (Musibau Francis Jimoh)

5:35-5:50 Executive Updates (JP, Letty Treviño, Neda Ashtari)

5:50-5:55 Approval of GSA Appointments (JP Santos and Musibau Francis Jimoh)*

6:00-6:40 Update from UCLA Transportation Department (Renee Fortier, Dave Karwaski)

6:40-7:10 Mental Health Resources (CAPS and Case Management)

7:10-7:15 How to vote at UCLA (Karen Hedges)

7:15 Motion for Adjournment (Musibau Francis Jimoh)

LETTING PEOPLE INTO THE MEETING--5:30

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME ADDRESS--5:36 pm

Musibau Francis Jimoh, GSA Vice President of Internal Affairs

- GSA leadership had a busy summer making adjustments for Fall Quarter
 - Updates from various offices given later in the evening and available via the bi-weekly newsletter, see the GSA Office report in GSRC newsletter
- Motion to adopt agenda: Alex Chubick (BSC) and Amira Hassanaoui (AAC)--Motion passed

EXECUTIVE UPDATES

JP Santos, GSA President and Letty Trevino, Vice President of Academic Affairs

JP Santos, GSA President:

- Point of clarification:
 - Only Forum delegates can vote

- GSA has been busy, especially advocating on issues related to COVID-19, and I am involved in a variety of campus committees to address these as well as conduct regular meetings with UCLA administrators.
 - COVID-19 Recovery Task Force updates:
 - No new students will be allowed on campus for Fall quarter, but this may change for the Winter and Spring if there are no new outbreaks
 - Continue to social distance to keep our community safe
 - First ever Grad/Professional Student Mentorship Program updates:
 - Launched last year
 - Partnership with Alumni Association, Grad Career Services, GSA, and Grad Division
 - Stay tuned for more information
 - Equity in Graduate Student Services updates:
 - Initiative to make these services more robust, better funded, and fully staffed
 - GSA is working on a detailed report of our asks, already outlined to Chancellor Gene Block and Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost Emily Carter
 - Office of Diversity Report:
 - GSA is in discussions with Vice Chancellor of Academic Personnel and Academic Senate Chair about the reevaluation of faculty and staff documents
- Student group funding opportunities:
 - You can establish a student group through SOLE (<https://www.sole.ucla.edu>)
 - Registration takes place on a quarterly basis (Fall deadline has passed)
- GSA is still having events:
 - Wednesday, October 28th from 7:00-8:30pm PT: Bingo Networking (Zoom)
 - RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/FUjRdFqrWq7DeHVvA>
 - Full GSA advisory committee available to everyone in GSA:
 - ASUCLA: Patricia Solomon (psolomon@asucla.ucla.edu)
 - Graduate Division: Daniel Wang (wong@grad.ucla.edu)
 - Faculty Advisor (Humanities Dean): David Schaberg (andyb@college.ucla.edu)
 - Student Affairs Advisors: Karen Hedges (khedges@saonet.ucla.edu) and Mike Cohn (Director of SOLE) (mcohn@saonet.ucla.edu)
 - UCLA Alumni Association Representative: Grace Kurek-Boscha (khedges@saonet.ucla.edu)
 - GSRC Assistant Director: Sarah Valdovinos (svaldovinos@saonet.ucla.edu)

- Letty Treviño, VP of Academic Affairs (liaison with Grad division and academic senate)
 - Worked to appointed every position available to us on Academic Senate for the first time in a very long time
 - Check out our section in the GSA Office report in the GSRC newsletter for detailed information
 - Policy update:
 - Graduate students can petition to have more than 18 quarters of TAships
 - Working with union to push for NRST waiver extension
 - Only exists for Ph.D. students who have advanced to candidacy and ends after 3 years
 - Given the effects of the pandemic, we are advocating for this to be extended
 - GSA is working with CAE to make sure that accessibility accommodations are representative of graduate students' needs
 - Plug for CAPS and Case Management

UPDATE FROM UCLA TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Renee Fortier, Executive Director of UCLA Transportation and Dave Karwaski, Senior Associate Director of UCLA Transportation

- Renee Fortier, Executive Director of UCLA Transportation (overview of transportation at UCLA):
 - Main operations in the areas of: Fleet & Transit, Commuter & Parking Services, and Mobility Planning & Traffic Systems
 - Increasingly shifting from parking to access through parking management, campus traffic systems, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and education and incentive programs.
 - More environmentally friendly/sustainable options
 - Less expensive
 - Less land needed for parking (UCLA is land poor)
 - Changing direction in light of COVID-19-->most employees are working remotely and most of those who do come to campus drive alone (greenhouse emissions greatly reduced)
 - Infrastructure:
 - Enacting signage to promote social distancing and wearing masks as well as remind not to push pedestrian push buttons at intersections (they are in recall mode)
 - Providing additional room for pedestrians through curb-bulb-outs at intersections

- Policy:
 - Monthly/Quarterly/Annual fee increase deferred until July 2020 from July 2020 and timing of next increase under review due to COVID-19
 - Commuter daily fee increase deferred until July 2021 from July 2020
 - Patient/Visitor parking will increase from \$13 to \$14 in Fall 2020, which is still below market
 - Programs:
 - Vanpool Program: converting to employee direct leasing from vendor
 - Bikeshare Program: eliminated and bikes given to graduate housing
 - COVID-19 BruinBus Route Modifications
 - Current Efforts:
 - Developing telecommuting resources
 - Getting Torrance Transit to run commuter bus to campus
 - Installing E-scooter parking racks
 - Bruin Grad Pass implementation
 - Dave Karwaski, Senior Associate Director of UCLA Transportation (updates on Bruin grad pass):
 - With the pass, all transit at UCLA (metro , bus, and rail) is free for graduate students from September-June and this comes with a small increase to quarterly fees.
 - Graduate students voted for this in April (post-COVID closure of campus) and it launched in September
 - Getting this on the ballot and passed was largely a student-led effort
 - New developments (responding to feedback):
 - Website support completed
 - Gave semester students free summer passes
 - Changed bus routes for COVID (extending them up to the NE corner of campus)
 - Ongoing and next steps:
 - Communicating with people to let them know they can come and get passes
 - Generating financial performance reports (coming back to GSA with those in winter and spring)
 - Question: can grad passes be mailed to students who are off campus

- Yes, but it takes time.
- What happens if we miss the activation window?
 - This is fixable as long as the card has not passed its expiration date.
- Question: have ads gone up for Bruin grad pass as planned?
 - No confirmation that ads are up. We will keep an eye on it. In the meantime, we are hoping for a bump in registration from a reminder email
- Question: Renee, you mentioned an increase in the parking fee for next year. What are the implications?
- Answer: the permit increase has been deferred to June 2022, which is possible due to a small increase in daily visitor parking fees.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Gabe Loreda, Community Relations and Outreach Coordinator at CAPS and Kaitlyn Loughran, Case Manager and UCLA Students in Crisis

- Gabe Loreda, Community Relations and Outreach Coordinator at CAPS:
 - CAPS works to create a community of support by offering different types of formats from individual to group, drop in, crisis intervention
 - Some groups have grad specific times
 - Psychiatric services (for students with UCship)
 - We can connect you with weekly providers and do insurance consultations
 - Resources on CAPS website (<https://www.counseling.ucla.edu/>)
 - Providers cannot practice out of state or internationally
 - You can do a screening appointment, but that would be to connect you with someone in your area
 - Fees: \$0 copay with UCship
 - We also offer insurance consultations to help you understand your coverage under UCship or another provider
 - Recorded meditation available in English, French, and Spanish
 - Looking to do recordings for more languages, so if you know anyone who would be interested, please reach out to me
- Kaitlyn Loughran, Case Manager and UCLA Students in Crisis:
 - Case Management helps students who have a significant barrier that is preventing their academic progress
 - We do consultations and referrals to CAPS programs
 - We do consultations for supporting another Bruin
 - Note: this is not an emergency service
 - It operates during normal business hours

- Not confidential
- Questions: Can you talk more about resources for international students and UCship? How many free counseling sessions do we have per quarter?
- Answer: Call the office to get information about resources available to you. All students get 4 free sessions per year at the counseling center, but that goes up to 8 for those with UCship.
 - However, this is evaluated on a case by case basis and CAPS will work with you to figure out how to meet your needs
- Follow up--calling can be expensive for international students and the time difference can make it challenging to get in touch during normal business hours. Are there other systems in place/being developed?
- Answer: we are working on that, but as of right now you would need to call during normal business hours in LA. It is possible that someone could speak with you outside of normal business hours, but unfortunately, at this time, we cannot guarantee that
- Question: given the pandemic, are unlimited sessions available or is this being discussed?
- Answer: CAPS has increased the number of sessions available to you (4 free sessions per year at the counseling center, but that goes up to 8 for those with UCship) and there is some flexibility beyond that
- Question: can you elaborate on the difference between Behavior Wellness Center (BWC) and CAPS in terms of protection of our information?
- Answer: Your information is not shared with any one--it is protected under HIPAA
- Question: Do you have people with training on eating disorders, given that it is a longer term illness that would often require more than the 8 sessions per year?
 - Yes, CAPS has a specific team for eating disorders and we can also refer out. We are trying to do programming in winter to get the word out about this
- Final comments from Gabe:
 - Attend the Assisting Distressed & Distressing Students training on October 28th from 4:00-5:30pm PST (RSVP here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfIEVoZoj554VYpt1I_p1VYmMAvBq8EQDtQnVw3UcRHSqGp4A/viewform)
 - Follow UCLA CAPS on Instagram

HOW TO VOTE AT UCLA

Karen Hedges, Deputy Director, Campus Life, UCLA Student Affairs

- Bruins Vote is a nonpartisan coalition of students who educate students (bruinsvote.ucla.edu/)
- Drop off ballot on campus at an official ballot box
- There are several locations on campus where you can vote in person if you need to, but expect long lines (both due to the number of people who show up and the need to socially distance) but do not be deterred. Your vote is worth it

APPROVAL OF GSA APPOINTMENTS

JP Santos, GSA President

- Appointments Board appoints people to various positions and the appointees receive a stipend.
- Motion to vote to approve these appointment pass: Alex Chubick (BSC) and Amira Hassanaoui (AA)--Motion passed
- Call for a vote. 19 yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain
 - **Vote: APPROVED**

COUNCIL UPDATES (IF ANY)

Musibau Francis Jimoh, GSA Vice President of Internal Affairs

- This will happen at the beginning of each meeting
- We will be meeting with councils to understand their structure and encourage participation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- JP: I propose a motion to add 5 minutes to the agenda for a few announcements
 - Motion to add 5 minutes to the agenda: Saeed Mohanna (MSPC) and Amira Hassanaoui (AAC)--Motion passes
- We want you all to be a part of agenda writing process
 - Make sure to submit agenda items to VPI Office
 - Be on the lookout for passing resolutions in week 7
- Question: Will we be discussing the budget for the academic year at the next meeting?
- Answer: the budget as we see it now, and as is available on the GSA website, is how it is without surplus funds. We are still accounting for them and hope to pass the budget in week 7
- Question: Do we have access to our funds and can we submit requisitions now?
- Answer: Yes, you can base this spending on 75% of the previous year's budget.
- Follow up: Okay, maybe it's better to wait for big expenses until we have the exact numbers.

ADJOURNMENT--7:41 pm

Motion to Adjourn meeting: Giulia Amoresano (AAC) and Ansley Bolick (SBA)--Motion passes