

University of California, Los Angeles
Graduate Student Association Forum #1, Fall Quarter
Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 5:30pm

Forum minutes taken by Jackie D'Almeida, Director of Communications

CALL TO ORDER – 5:40pm

Introduction of Robin Garrell, UCLA Graduate Division Dean and Vice Provost and Michael Beck, UCLA Administrative Vice Chancellor

Presentation on Graduate and Professional Student Housing Ad Hoc Committee

Robin Garrell:

- We all agree we need more graduate housing, cheaper and closer.
- Set out to see if the allocation process was appropriate and fair.
- We will pilot a new process over the next few years to see if we can find a better system.

Michael Beck:

- We have 3,404 graduate and professional students and 3,519 units.
- All current units are about 40% below market price.
- New capacity: building 2,279 beds.
 - 1,958 Undergraduate beds.
 - 321 Graduate beds – hoping to increase this.
 - Four bedroom, four-person apartments.
- Demand
 - 1,000 single graduate students on waitlist.
 - 900 students with families on waitlist.
 - 15-20% student waitlist given offers annually.
- Existing methodology was instituted in 2004.
 - Graduate and professional students placed before post-doctoral scholars.
 - Allocations not distributed evenly across departments.
- Our goal is to identify additional capacity within the current system and to build more capacity.
- Move to house more students for fewer years instead of fewer students for more years.
- Correlate student eligibility to normative years-to-degree.
- In April 2019 new policy will take effect, intend to update housing master plan.
 - Will analyze the effect of new policies in Fall 2021.

Questions from audience

- Statement made that prices are extremely high – there needs to be a sense of urgency
- Question about who comprises the decision-making body.
 - Answer: committee included Michael Skiles, open to including more input.
- Question about time to degree requirements, noted that people often take longer to complete degrees and will be evicted. This reduces waitlist but moves more people out.

- Answer: Noted that students can appeal decision and extend their housing if needed.
- Audience member noted that current students will be grandfathered in and won't face the new housing policies. Also noted that there are no contract termination fees for graduating or advancing to candidacy during rent contract term.
- Audience member stated that many graduate students would not like to live in facilities with undergraduates.
- Question about medical resident students, and whether new allocations would take away spots for post-doc researchers.
 - Answer: looking at additional opportunities to build capacity for medical residents.
 - At any given time we have less than 1,000 post-docs, they're guaranteed 100 spots. Graduate students represent 12 times the amount of post-docs. Departments are allowed to decide whether their spots will go to post-docs.
- Question about ratio of graduate to undergraduate housing.
 - Answer: University prioritizes undergraduate students and guarantees undergraduate student housing. The ratio reflects this prioritization.
- Question about 40% of market rate – where this statistic is from.
 - Answer: a study was done by a Real Estate firm. Housing is self-sufficient, there is no funding from the state for housing.
- Suggestion from Vice President of External Affairs Michelle Viorato that there be a forum that includes parenting students.
- Question about the appeals process for moving beyond 7 years.
 - Appeals process will be posted online – Deans will be involved in decision making process.
- Any further questions can be addressed to Michael.beck@ucla.edu
- Motion to agree to end meeting at 7:30 even though we have gone past scheduled time limits (seconded).
 - **Vote: APPROVED.**

Introduction to GSA

Michael Skiles

- GSA forum is a chance to voice your opinions and to try to change policy as a result.
- It is an issue that the administration doesn't listen to everyone as they should.
- It is very important that when there is an issue your constituents are facing you bring it to my attention, because administrators typically respond to my requests for meetings.
- I have a lot of the same disagreements that you all have and share your frustrations.
- The GSA forum is the legislative body, we are set up very similarly to a federalist organization.
- Next time I will go through a review of how to work according to Robert's rule of order.
- Question: can we propose a bill?

- Answer: any forum member can send proposed legislation to the Vice President of Internal Affairs at least seven days before the forum.

Executive Officer Reports

Michael Skiles, GSA President

- Affordable housing is my priority, as it has been for the past few years.
- The administration has not prioritized graduate housing. As a result of the Olympics a major lot on Kinross has opened up. In the very long-term we may get all the housing capacity we need for both graduate and undergraduate students for normative time to degree, however graduate students are at the end of that priority list.
- Move to create a new neighborhood council was a success, I encourage you all to participate.
- I've been elected to a third term as Chair of the UC Council of Student Body Presidents.

Eric Hu, GSA Vice President of Internal Affairs

- All the forum meetings have been booked – three per quarter.
- I sent out an Excel sheet requesting contact information, please update this.
- I post the forum agenda seven days before the forum to the GSA website.
- To access funding, you have to identify signatories and complete the appropriate forms.
- Question about signatories: historically any of the four members can serve as signatories. How does that compare with the two individuals needed as signatories?
 - Answer: We have a new student government accounting official, Juan. We will make a note of the question and will have to get back to you. We are trying to find a way to be clearer about how to spend your money and access it.
 - Secondary question: how many representatives able to represent your councils at forum?
 - Clarification: the two delegates on the spreadsheet are not necessarily the same as the two signatories.
 - Emailed update will be sent to forum members.

Michelle Viorato, GSA Vice President of External Affairs

- Motion to table my legislation to the next meeting (seconded).
 - **Vote: APPROVED.**
- Started in June and attended many UC systemwide meetings over the summer.
- Currently we have membership with UCSA – extended for the full year.
- On the graduate level the advocacy agenda we agreed to is focusing on campus climate and wellness, basic needs.
- Additionally I have been working to support the Mothers of Color in Academia. Worked with her to get a representative to the UC Regents meeting. We were able to ask if the president's office could have a needs assessment for parenting students.
- I am going to be assisting that organization to establish a UC-wide system in support of parenting students.
- I have appointed staff that you will be able to meet at the next meeting.

Ashley Wright:

- We updated the application process for representation on Academic Senate committees to increase diversity and to prevent people from self-selecting out.
- Took away the requirement to submit your resume, only kept “why do you want to serve on this committee”.
- We have 17 of 22 positions filled. I’m actively recruiting for remaining positions.

UCPD Update

Kevin Kilgore, UCPD Lieutenant

- Part of our strategic plan is to make sure we’re all engaged, often attend USAC meetings.
- My husband is a graduate student graduate from medical school.
- I used to live in UCLA graduate housing, I understand your housing concerns.
- We are more than happy to sit on any type of group meetings that you have.
- We have a Police Chiefs Advisory Council. Michael sits on that council and many other student leaders do, along with staff and faculty as well. You have a voice with our council.
- Questions:
 - There is generally a concern about transparency – why are so many cars towed.
 - Answer: our parking enforcement officers are under the transportation division, not the UCPD. Some of our officers do tow cars, but we get a lot of complaints and consider every call for service with our best response.
 - Policy and procedure manual is within the department but could possibly be made available.
 - A lot of concern about officers being engaged in white nationalism. Are you confident that no UCPD officers are involved in white nationalist propaganda, especially on social media?
 - We have a very strict social media policy. Officers can have social media accounts – policy doesn’t allow for them to broadcast things that reflect poorly upon the department.
 - Email is kilgore@ucpd.ucla.edu for any follow up questions.
- Question about dogs off leashes – can leash laws be enforced?
 - There are city ordinances that address leash laws. Typically we will speak to the pet owner and ask them to comply – if they don’t we can move to enforcement.
 - We try to balance education with enforcement.
 - You can always Google Los Angeles municipal code to read current rules.

UCLA Office of Ombuds Services Presentation

Thomas Griffin, UCLA Ombudsperson

Not present.

UCSA Update

Caroline Siegel Singh

- President of the UC Student Association.
- We have had a lot of good outcomes from participation.
- Last year focused on graduate housing.
- Priorities for the year:
 - Addressing discrimination in housing.
 - Working on Title IX on the federal level.
 - Waiting for Department of Education to release language.
 - Working with the Mothers of Color in Academia.
 - Working with UCGPC .
- What are the graduate student issues that affect you all?
 - Response: The salaries we get are the same for all UC's, not fair because cost of living in Los Angeles is so high.
 - Question: what has UCSA done to get resources for graduate students with disabilities?
 - Answer: We worked on a campaign last year, found that there was a great disparity in resources for these students. We haven't been able to get increases yet, but it's something we continue to work on.
 - First generation students have had issues getting financial support. How is our population being supported?
 - Answer: One of our campaigns is advocating for increased funding for recruitment and support. We have advocated for first generation, low income student population for many years.
 - Are mental health issues represented on a UC-wide basis?
 - Answer: Funding for resources like CAPS are a system wide issue, since it impacts all students.
 - Contact Michelle with further questions or issues and she can let me know.
Happy to come back.

ADJOURNMENT 7:24pm