

**University of California, Los Angeles
Graduate Student Association Forum #2, Fall Quarter, Wednesday, November 18, 2020,
5:30pm**

Forum minutes taken by Elyse Brusher, GSA Director of Administrative Affairs

Week 3 Fall 2020 agenda

*** Items to vote**

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

5:35-6:00 Forum Engagement (Mike Cohn, Management and Engineering Council)

6:00-6:10 Updates from GSA Leadership (JP Santos, Letty Treviño, Neda Ashtari)

6:10-6:25 Update from UCPD (Lt. Scott Scheffler and Chief Lee)

6:25-6:40 Discussion of student representation in New Dean Search Committee for the School of Education and Information Studies (Christine Abagat Liboon, Sophia Ángeles, Roman Flores)

6:40-6:50 Resolution for Graduate Equity (JP Santos)

6:50-7:00 GSA's 2020-2021 budget Q&A (JP Santos)*

7:00-7:07 Academic Affairs updates and goals for the year (Letty Treviño)

7:07-7:15 COVID testing--discrepancy in Health Sciences (Letty Treviño)

7:15-7:20 Graduate Student Appreciation Week (Letty Treviño)

7:20-7:25 2021 GSA Election Board (Akash Deep Singh)

7:25 Motion for Adjournment (Musibau Francis Jimoh)

LETTING PEOPLE INTO THE MEETING--5:30

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME ADDRESS--5:33pm

Musibau Francis Jimoh (GSA Vice President of Internal Affairs)

- Reminder to stay on time and stick to proposed agenda items.
- Please do not share Zoom links.
 - This is a security measure to prevent Zoom bombing.

- See our [Zoom etiquette document](#) (found on the GSA Forum website) for more details about our online meeting procedures
- Reminder to sign in (via our Google spreadsheet)→ this will be a regular feature of our meetings.
 - Voting members=GSA Forum representatives from the thirteen academic councils
 - Non-voting members=GSA Directors and Elected Officials as well as invited guests
- Meeting minutes from the previous meetings can be found on the [GSA Forum website](#)
- The RSVP link to register for GSA Forum meetings can also be found on the GSA Forum website.
- Rename yourself on Zoom (name, gender pronouns, office/affiliation).
- We have quorum for the meeting.

FORUM ENGAGEMENT--5:35

Mike Cohn (Director of Student Organizations Leadership and Engagement [SOLE])

mcohn@saonet.ucla.edu

- The goal is to increase inter-council communication
- We are responsible for the registration and advisement of student organizations (graduate and undergraduate), which this year in particular, have been working hard to improve student life and make themselves better understood by their constituents and other organizations around campus.
- We register groups in Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters (85% in the Fall, 1100 organizations this fall, more than ever in the history of UCLA).
 - Students want community more than ever now in a virtual world (206 new organizations registered this fall).
 - 20-25% of these registered groups are graduate student groups.
 - We have a staff of advisors that works with all of these groups.
- Organizations can apply for GSA discretionary funding (up to \$1000) on a rolling basis.
 - You can still apply for funding even though we are remote.
 - Ex. subscriptions to platforms that we can use for programming
 - Apply for supplies (can be sent to homes of signatories) ex. Computer equipment.
 - Send things to the homes of membership to enhance experience and organizational life.
- Feel free to reach out to me (email listed above) and keep up the great work!

Anderson Student Association

Shoshana Seidenfeld (President of Anderson Student Association), Garrett Szafman (Executive Vice President of Anderson Student Association), Juan de la Hoz (Treasurer of Anderson Student Association)

- Anderson is very student led (about relationships and networking)
 - We have over 50 different professional clubs.
 - Historically we have kept to ourselves, but are looking to engage more with other programs, partner with them potentially through case competitions, conferences, and networking events.
 - We have a lot of entrepreneurs who partner with engineers, for example, who are looking for that business side expertise.
- Diverse community
 - People coming from a lot of different backgrounds and disciplines, looking to develop their business and leadership skills
 - 700 students in full time students (this is the majority of the students though there are other programs)

Engineering Graduate Student Association

Vikranth Jeyakumar (Engineering GSA President), Vera Smirnova (Engineering GSA External Vice President), Rajashree Bhattacharya (Engineering GSA Secretary)

- EGSA represents the graduate students of all of the seven engineering departments of UCLA.
- We focus on three things:
 - Collaboration and engagement
 - Personal Development
 - Community Service
- This quarter, we have held information sessions as well as social events (game nights for engineering students, movie nights, etc.)
 - We have a Resilience in Student Experience program, which works to support students' mental health during their studies.
 - We work closely with other engineering organizations and co host events with them.
 - We are running a blood drive to encourage students to donate blood at Ackerman Union.
- We would like to:
 - Host more collaborative events, especially with ASA
 - Work on a collaborative list of all resources available to graduate students
 - You can reach EGSA here: esc@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu and on social media
 - You can also check out the [EGSA website](#)

Question from JP: How can we collaborate together in terms of our council events? This is an opportunity for other councils to jump in. How do you want GSA and other councils to contact you? What are your ideas about setting up events?

Response from Vikranth: we can advertise Anderson [case events \(competitions\)](#) among engineering students if you share that information with us.

Response from Soshana: we have encountered some barriers in marketing events in school of engineering, which we are trying to address this year. We were told that we are not allowed to market certain events unless we pay the students for their participation because the school doesn't want its students to get taken advantage of--we are trying to open up these lines of communication. Incentives aren't always aligned for outside students (a lot of extra work for work's sake and to network). We can work together to find a way to market these events across both schools and design these events so that it is a valuable experience for everyone. Pipe dream: have a digital platform that is like a dating website for people looking to find team members that is available to people across different schools.

UPDATES FROM GSA LEADERSHIP--6:00

JP Santos (GSA President), Letty Treviño (GSA Vice President of Academic Affairs)

JP Santos:

- Revamping GSA → [Sign up for GSA newsletter here](#) to learn more about our operations
- I am the graduate representative to COVID task force in many areas of campus → making graduate student voices heard in these committees
- Working on support for students in distress
 - You can go to the Title IX Office for issues with sexual harrassment, gender discrimination, racial discrimination
 - Academic distress (violations of faculty code of conduct): Retribution because of a misunderstanding, for example
 - This happens more often than we think it does
 - Working on creating an infographic to help students in distress find resources on campus and figure out how to move forward
 - Hope to supply this infographic by the end of winter quarter
 - Infographic on students options for recourse ex. taking advisor to trial
 - Information on reporting process
 - There is a formal process in place for students to accuse and document a claim of abuse by faculty and faculty and Deans know about this but the general public and students are not as aware → We want to make this information known

- GSA External Vice President, Neda Ashtari, was able to pass mentorship reforms in the Medical School with regards to reporting
- Equity in graduate services→ hoping to pass a resolution about this during this quarter
- Conversation with Housing about a food delivery service coming from Housing→ trying to use this to deliver inexpensive food to students
- Alumni mentorship program has launched
 - 250 registered students have signed up
 - 600+ slots open
 - [Learn more and apply here](#)
- GSA Vice President of Academic Affairs, Letty Treviño, worked to get NRST waiver extended

Letty Treviño:

- Worked closely with UAW 2865 to get accommodations for NRST waivers
 - You should have received an email about this already
 - Thank you Gaby Barrios, our Sergeant of Arms!
- Calfresh: update on procedure in week 9→ push for food security for graduate students
- Sitting in a lot of meetings with Administration to let them know how policy will affect graduate students

UPDATE FROM UCPD--6:10

Lt. Scott Scheffler (scheffler@ucpd.ucla.edu), Chief of Police Tony Lee

Chief Lee:

- Looking into mental health approach of policing→ working with Nicole Green's CAPS team to have them exclusively handle anything that deals with student mental health
- Public safety ambassadors (this title could change): civilian employees working at police department, not armed, wearing "softer clothes" (polos), handling low-level crimes (petty theft, vandalism) highly visible inside of campus, de-escalation of force
 - Working on across UC campuses
 - Hopefully will be implemented by January-March

Lt. Scheffler:

- We are almost finished outfitting all officers with body cameras across UC campuses. Already have cameras in cars.
- We were prepared for unrest and protests, issues with polling places during this election season, but thankfully everything went smoothly→ no issues on campus or at polling places.

Question: This mental health initiative is in line with what municipal policing is doing as well. However, there have been issues with Black students being harassed, stopped, etc. by UCPD and this is not a mental health issue, but a racial issue. What are you doing to address this?

Response: There are a number of issues there. Systemic racism and the criminal justice system is a challenge nationwide. UCLA police department has zero tolerance for racism and racial profiling. When instances like that arise, we investigate and try to figure out why they happen. A lot of things come into play when a person of color is stopped by the police:

- A call for service→ maybe that person is biased and police are being used as a pawn.
- An officer has implicit bias→ we need to address that
- Actual crime and an actual victim→ person detained is the perpetrator

We need to do a job explaining what we are doing and acknowledge our mistakes. We need to train people better and hold people accountable. We're not perfect and we're trying to be better. This is a challenging time for our community. I don't believe that UCPD is not just targeting people of color. So when incidents happen, we need to know about it so that we can investigate why it is happening and do better in the future.

Question: When you do find out that there is bias on the part of an officer's actions, what would be the consequences?

Response: We have a disciplinary process so it could range from progressive discipline (documented in personnel file) or for something more egregious, the officer could be terminated. It depends on the level of the offense.

Question: My question is about the Cleary time warnings. I have noticed more sexual assault alerts lately during the day. Is there an increase in crime in Westwood? How is UCPD responding?

Response: We are working with LAPD to investigate sexual battery suspects. When we learn of crime trends, patrols are adjusted and we brief officers based on when those crimes are happening. We want people to feel safe and prevent crimes and catch perpetrators.

DISCUSSION OF STUDENT REPRESENTATION IN NEW DEAN SEARCH COMMITTEE--6:25

Christine Abagat Liboon, Ramon Flores (School of Education and Information Studies)

Context from Francis: There is a new Dean search committee in the School of Education and Information Studies which has not included graduate student voices and representatives from

the Education Council are here to tell us more and to brainstorm with us about how to resolve this issue.

Ramon

- We are also working with Sophia Ángeles (Education) and Maxwell Holland (Information Studies), who could not be here tonight on this
- Concern is about the new Dean search in our program.
 - There is a range of diverse student experiences and programs in our school, but no grad student representation on this committee.
 - GSAE and Department of Information Studies wrote a letter to Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost (ECVP) Emily Carter on Monday, November 17th and an email was sent to Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, Anna Spain Bradley on Saturday, November 15th (received a response from the latter on Monday, November 17th).

Christine

- Next, a Town Hall was held for the Education and Information Studies community.
 - We asked why aren't students included in the search advisory committee and can they be included?
 - Response was that ECVP Carter had received the letter and she would get back to us soon. Student representation is not required on this committee, but there is a precedent for it on other search committees ex. Search for VC of EDI. They said that students had been invited in the past during search process
 - We are still concerned that this process lacks essential student representation
- Status:
 - Still waiting for a response to the letter that we sent
 - We are looking for suggestions on how to move forward and navigate these issues
 - Should we send a follow up email?

Response from Daniel Wong (Ex-Officio Delegate on Forum - Graduate Division Representative and Assistant Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Services): I don't really have anything to add. The way you guys explained the issue and went about voicing your concerns makes sense to me.

Response from Francis: Great, thanks. Does anyone else want to speak to this, seeing as it is an issue that can potentially affect all of us and we want to ensure graduate student representation on committees like this across campus?

Response from David Schaberg (Dean of Humanities): this type of search for Deans is highly procedural (directed by the Chancellor's office and run through Tracy Considine) and often involves a professional search firm because of the high number of candidates. This type of search has not typically involved students sitting on this committee but they are usually consulted. To go about changing something like this, I would suggest that you work with this particular committee and EVCP Carter to explain the kind of consultation you are hoping for. Then, you could go about trying to change the regular process if it is being obeyed and still seems insufficient.

Question Mike Cohn (Director of SOLE): Can you reach out to the chair of the advisory committee and not just EVCP Carter? This will likely be her decision, but the chair of this advisory committee would be a good person to reach out to.

Response from Christine: We have not written to any committee members, just EVCP Carter and we cc'd Dr. Susan Ettner as well as the search consultants.

Question from Christine: Should we wait to contact the committee members until we hear back from EVCP Carter?

David: Since EVCP Carter oversees the process, it's right to start with her. Do you know who the chair of the committee is?

Response: yes, it's Jennifer L. Mnookin, Dean of the UCLA Law School.

Response from David: Wonderful, she will be a great Chair for this committee. I think I would wait for EVCP to respond or as I see Letty suggesting in the chat, you could write to both. That makes sense as well.

Question from Christine: During the Town Hall, they mentioned that they received the letter and that the committee knows that we wrote this letter and that we would be receiving a response soon. Does that change anything?

Response from David: It looks like then you are in the position of waiting for a further response.

Response from JP: We can also pass a resolution demanding action during our week 9 meeting. This will provide administration with proof that the student body is behind this initiative and show EVCP Carter that we are taking this seriously. We can talk about this more later if you want to do this.

Response from Christine: We learned that there is no bylaw that speaks to whether or not students should be on these committees, so that could be helpful to have something more legislatively in place.

Response from David: It would be good to get a list of standard steps to these procedures for more context on how input is collected and how these committees operate from the Chancellor's office.

Response from Christine: Thank you for hearing from us about this issue and for your guidance, we really appreciate it!

RESOLUTION FOR EQUITY IN GRADUATE SERVICES--6:42

JP Santos

- This resolution is for equity in graduate services. We get proportionately less funding and support in student services at the graduate than undergraduate level.
- There is this perception that we are adults and don't need the kind of services undergrads do, but important information is disseminated through orientation, for example, like CAPS and information about our food pantry.
- Want overall student body to support this initiative to create momentum and pressure.
 - Example: Only one associate director of student services for grads for 13,000 students while undergrads get more than ten advisors to support the more than 45,000 students.
 - So graduate students have proportionally fewer advisors, so this means that students have to depend even more on our faculty advisors for help with professional development. This can make things difficult when we want to pursue a different career path from that of our advisors. That's why career services are so important and they are currently extremely underfunded and understaffed.
 - For the specific ways in which we want to see changes made, [see the proposed resolution](#).

Question: What is the estimated cost of this proposal and would it result in an increase in undergraduate tuition?

Response: No, it asks for reorganization of the existing budget. It asks for more of this budget to be allocated to supporting graduate services. Graduate students make up 28% of the student

body, so we are asking Student Services for 28% of the budget to be dedicated to graduate student services.

Follow up question: Has there been a demand for these services?

Response: Maybe Sarah Valdovinos (Ex-Officio Delegate on Forum - GSRC Representative and Assistant Director of the GSRC) can speak to this.

Response from Sarah: UCLA had been moving in this direction a few years ago (more advising and staff for graduate services). Doctoral students need more specialized advising. But staff turnover happened and those resources have not been replaced. I can get you the data if you want.

Response Francis: The vote is postponed to week 9 to give voting members time to read the resolution, share it with their home councils, and collect feedback on it from them.

GSA'S 2020-2021 BUDGET Q&A--6:55

Patricia Zimmerman (ASUCLA Advisor to GSA)

- Please see the budget below

3 QTR Average

COUNCIL	DEPT.	ENROLLMENT #	TOTAL ENROLLMENT %	TOTAL FEES COLLECTED \$	COUNCIL FEE/ TOTAL FEES \$	COUNCIL ALLOCATION	Actual Posted per GSA Bud @ 75%	BALANCE of ALLOCATION
Arts and Architecture	4104	731	5.328%	178,053	\$5.50	\$9,486.35	7,855.00	1,631.35
Biological Sciences	4101	888	6.471%	178,053	\$5.50	\$11,521.62	8,063.45	3,458.17
Dentistry	4113	399	2.904%	178,053	\$5.50	\$5,171.43	4,282.19	890.24
Education	4102	609	4.440%	178,053	\$5.50	\$7,905.30	6,088.79	1,816.51
Engineering	4103	2,053	14.964%	178,053	\$5.50	\$26,644.42	19,814.43	6,829.99
Humanities	4106	483	3.523%	178,053	\$5.50	\$6,272.33	4,678.10	1,594.23
Law	4107	1,178	8.588%	178,053	\$5.50	\$15,290.42	11,178.95	4,111.47
Management	4108	2,062	15.030%	178,053	\$5.50	\$26,761.21	20,651.48	6,109.73
Math and Physical Sciences	4109	825	6.015%	178,053	\$5.50	\$10,710.54	8,026.28	2,684.26
Medicine	4115	2,043	14.890%	178,053	\$5.50	\$26,512.48	19,541.33	6,971.15
Nursing	4114	412	3.000%	178,053	\$5.50	\$5,342.29	4,046.27	1,296.02
Public Health	4112	591	4.305%	178,053	\$5.50	\$7,665.22	5,738.14	1,927.08
Social Sciences	4111	1,446	10.541%	178,053	\$5.50	\$18,769.40	14,045.59	4,722.81
TOTAL FOR COUNCIL		13,720	100.00%	178,053		\$178,053.00	134,010.00	44,043.00

- I am here to answer your questions about the budget and tell you more about how we calculate the budgets. We will also come back during week 9 to discuss the finalized budget, including carryover.

- There is a student fee of \$5.50 for each of the student councils. This is divided up among each council based on enrollment (enrollment numbers come from Academic Planning and Budget Office of UCLA).
- Calculation: Enrollment for the council's departments as a percentage of all graduate enrollment minus fees collected from the university plus the allocation for our division plus the carryover
- We have already placed 75% of your allocation from last year into your account and we now feel confident enough in our numbers that we can place that final 25% into your account. We can vote on this today.
- But we will need to come back to the week 9 meeting with the carryover amount numbers.

Question: Will the carryover be exactly carried over or is there anything taken out?

Response: Student fees are being audited. We are making sure that all the requisitions are submitted. Pretty close to all of the carryover should be transferred over.

Question: Can we also talk about the carryover numbers?

Response: I can show you the estimates, but remember that these are not yet finalized. I will come back to the week 9 meeting with the final numbers.

Question: Is there any way we can be notified as soon as you have those numbers?

Response: I will talk to our accounting team to make sure that they share the numbers with me once they have them and then I will share them with JP and the executive team so he can share that with the councils.

- Call for a vote. 19 yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain
 - **Vote: APPROVED**

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES AND GOALS FOR THE YEAR--7:07

Letty Treviño

- A Director of Publications has been hired (to support graduate student publications).
 - You have until June 30th to request funding for this.
- We have spent a lot of time since our last meeting in meetings, explaining the graduate student experience to directors of Student Affairs.
- We are working to remove GRE as a requirement for admission.

- We are working to connect faculty and departments with a resource list to support graduate students.
- We are working to make campus more accessible for students with disabilities.
 - We are working on developing a process for students to have incompletes removed from their transcripts.
 - We are working to improve CAE accommodations.

COVID TESTING--DISCREPANCY IN HEALTH SCIENCES--7:10

Letty Treviño

- Asymptomatic testing--who has to be tested?
 - People living learning or working on campus and on campus at least once per week
 - Anyone who must be tested should be notified
 - Testing is free at Ashe
 - You can download the [CA notify app](#)
 - It will tell you if you have come into contact with someone who has had COVID
- Not-Mandatory asymptomatic testing--we don't know who in health sciences is infected
 - Is the rest of the group concerned about this?
 - Do we want to draft a letter about this?
 - UCLA has not provided much of an explanation about this. As I understand it, there are not enough people to fill in at the hospitals if all of the people who test positive are sent home. It is also a question of resources.

Question: Are people at Ashe not getting tested regularly?

Response from Karen Hedges: I am confident that employees are being tested.

Response from Rose: Medical students are not getting tested at Ashe. They are not allowed to work with potential COVID cases, but they are interacting with everyone else. It is concerning because they are experiencing risks in other areas of their life and could bring it into the hospital. These students should be tested more. The school of Medicine can work with you on this.

Letty: I will connect with Dentistry and Medicine after this meeting.

GRADUATE STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK--7:21

Letty Treviño

- Sarah Valdovinos and I have talked about what graduate students would like for Graduate Student Appreciation week and we want to know what your ideas are/what you all want.
 - [Submit ideas for this here](#)

2021 GSA ELECTION BOARD--7:24

Akash Deep Singh (GSA Elections Commissioner/Attorney General)

- I still need Medicine and MPSC to elect their Elections committee representatives
 - Send their names and contact information to elections@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu and cc administrativeaffairs@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu as soon as possible so that we can convene the Elections Board.
- Do you have suggestions for how to run elections and make them accessible?
- How can we increase voter turnout?
 - We are working to make council and GSA election synchronous
 - We would like to put more referendums on the ballot
 - If you have an idea for a referendum, you can contact Mike Cohn (mcohn@saonet.ucla.edu) for help drafting it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS--7:28

Musibau Francis Jimoh

- Minutes from this meeting will be posted on the GSA Forum website in the [Forum Meeting Notes](#) section.
- Use this [Google Form](#), which can be found on the [GSA Forum website](#), to submit agenda items for the next Forum meeting.
- The next GSA Forum meeting will take place during Week 9 (Wednesday, December 2nd from 5:30-7:30pm PST).
 - If you will be attending the next Forum meeting as a representative of your academic council, make sure that you have submitted a [Forum Authorization Form](#) to administrativeaffairs@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu
- Happy Thanksgiving! We hope you have a restful and relaxing holiday

ADJOURNMENT--7:30

Motion to Adjourn meeting: Alex Chubick (BSC) and Giulia Amoresano (AAC)--Motion passes