

University of California, Los Angeles Graduate Student Association Forum #7, Spring Quarter, Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 5:30pm

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

Week 9 Winter 2021 Agenda

***Items to vote**

5:30-5:40 Call to Order/Welcome Address

Musibau Francis Jimoh (GSA VP of Internal Affairs and Forum Chair)

5:40-6:00 Updates from GSA Leadership

JP Santos (GSA President) and Letty Treviño (GSA VP of Academic Affairs)

6:00-6:30 Student Researchers' Right to Unionize*

Alex Chubick (GSA Forum Representative from the Biological Sciences Council)

6:30-6:40 UCLA Graduate and Professional Student Alumni Network

Elyse Brusher (GSA Director of Administrative Affairs)

6:40-7:00 GSA Elections 2021 Results*

Akash Deep Singh (GSA Elections Commissioner)

7:00 Adjournment

Musibau Francis Jimoh (GSA VP of Internal Affairs and Forum Chair)

LETTING PEOPLE INTO THE MEETING--5:30

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME ADDRESS--5:35pm

Musibau Francis Jimoh (GSA Vice President of Internal Affairs)

- Thank you for all that you have been doing for GSA this past year.
- Make sure to fill out the sign in sheet and include your email address→ this is how you will get the Amazon gift card. We will still email the claim codes when we receive them.
- Quick update: student leaders will be meeting with the Chancellor to talk about different issues that affect graduate students, for example, the reopening of campus.
 - We will coordinate about our priorities for this meeting via Slack. Karen Hedges will help facilitate this.
 - It will be strictly on invitation and people from Forum will be invited

UPDATES FROM GSA LEADERSHIP--5:40

JP Santos (GSA President)

- We finished the [infographic](#) of resources on campus (this can be found on the GSA website)
 - Flowchart guiding you to different resources (everything is hyperlinked)
 - Developed in collaboration with student affairs
 - There are also instructions on how to file a complaint against a faculty member on the last page
 - Please share this widely with your colleagues

Letty Treviño (GSA VP of Academic Affairs)

- Presented on Incomplete notation on the transcript to Graduate Council
 - It went well, but they didn't have a quorum, so they couldn't vote on it. I have confidence they will support it though and then incompletes will be removed from transcripts
- GRE elimination
 - Graduate Council requested that we write a letter to departments outlining why it is a problematic of students for admission
 - We have drafted the letter and shared it with Graduate Council
 - We hope to discuss it and have it approved at the next meeting
 - Moving advocacy to the UC level
- Reviewing applications for GSA publications funding
- Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week was last week and was a big success with a lot of giveaways
- We just launched the Graduate and Professional Student Alumni (GPSA) Network
 - Elyse Brusher will talk about that more a bit later in this meeting

- If you already have a graduate degree at UCLA or if you are graduating this year, I highly recommend that you [connect with us](#)

Comment from Francis: I see that Grace is smiling. Grace is here tonight representing the Alumni Association. Grace, would you like to speak to this?

Response from Grace Kurek-Boschan: Sure. I think it's a great initiative and it sounds like there is a great need for it and a positive response. The Alumni Association offers a lot of opportunities for connection, like [UCLA One](#). You can connect with mentors on this platform and I would encourage you to get involved with this and GPSA.

STUDENT RESEARCHERS' RIGHT TO UNIONIZE*--5:46

Alex Chubick (GSA Forum Representative from the Biological Sciences Council)

- I have been working with student researchers across the UCs to bring student researchers together into a workers union to negotiate with administrators for better working conditions
- We are asking for GSA's to support student researchers' right to unionize and we are voting on a resolution today
 - We are asking this of the GSAs across UCs
- I did my best to make sure that at least one representative from all of the graduate student councils had an opportunity to look over it and ask questions/make comments
- Summary of resolution:
 - Defining what the organization is (union through UAW)
 - Defining what SRs are
 - We are unionizing with UAW because we are joining over 80,000 student workers nationwide like the TA union (UAW 2865)
 - Listing issues student researchers face
 - Define how union negotiates and provides power to members
 - Talking about what unions of the UCs and nationwide have been able to accomplish
 - Explaining how union can give SRs a political voice
 - Explaining why we want to bring this to GSA (helping to combat anti-union messaging from the administration)
 - Asks:
 - For GSA Forum to support SRs right to unionize through several actions

Question from Dean Schaberg: Deans are not among addressees?

Response from Alex: Not currently, but we can add it.

Question from JP: I would suggest that, yes. Adding the Council of Deans would be good.

Comment from Susan: I agree that cc'ing the Deans is a good idea.

Response from Alex: Thank you, that's a good idea. To clarify I will edit the resolution to add the Council of Deans to the second point. Thank you everyone for your time and consideration!

Comment from Francis: Thank you for your presentation, Alex. We are still waiting on some representatives who are coming late, so we do not currently have quorum.

Response from Karen: Can I suggest that we move on to the next item and postpone the vote until after that?

Response from Francis: That's a good idea. Alex, is that okay with you?

Response from Alex: Yes.

UCLA GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ALUMNI NETWORK--6:00

Elyse Brusher (GSA Director of Administrative Affairs)

- What is GPSA?
 - New alumni network for UCLA graduate and professional student alumni
- Who can join?
 - UCLA graduate and professional degree holders
 - People who have received an en route Masters degree to a PhD are eligible
 - It's free to join!
- What is the mission of this organization?
 - Center the needs of graduate and professional student alumni
 - Foster a culture of mentorship and community that goes beyond our time at UCLA
 - Curate social, professional development, and mentorship events for graduate and professional student alumni
- How can I connect with GPSA?
 - Indicate that you are interested in serving on the board of GPSA [via this form](#)
 - Elyse Brusher, Letty Treviño, and JP Santos are the interim board members, but we are looking for people to be the next generation of leadership
 - Connect with us on [LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram](#)
 - We launched last week and already have over 500 members on our LinkedIn group
 - Send us an email at ucla.gpsa@gmail.com

Comment from Susan: I'm so excited about the GPSA! I had been telling our development officer that we needed something like this and the GSA beat me to it :) It would be great if the Grad Division could work with the GPSA to brainstorm some new initiatives to support

alternative career pathways. We don't do enough to support students who are interested in non-academic careers and I think the GPSA could play an important role. Maybe the Grad Division could sponsor some events to bring graduate alumni together with current students.

Comment from Letty: That sounds great and I think there are a few key moments where GPSA can connect with current students like Graduate Student Orientation, First Gen Awareness Week, GPSA Week that could be built into a yearly schedule.

Comment from Grace: Join and get involved!

Comment from David: This seems like a great opportunity and a great idea.

Comment from Susan: I will drop off now, since I think the only one agenda item is left. Congratulations to the GSA election winners and the GPSA leadership should feel free to reach out to me any time to set up a meeting to continue the conversation about how we can partner. Have a great rest of your evening, everybody!

GSA ELECTIONS 2021 RESULTS*--6:15

Akash Deep Singh (GSA Elections Commissioner)

- As you know, the election results were finalized yesterday and it was pretty simple. We had no major complaints.
- Here is a recap of the candidates (winners' names are in **bold**)
 - President: **Musibau Francis Jimoh** and Letty Treviño
 - VP-Internal Affairs: Rodrigo Vazquez and **Lewis Luo**
 - VP-External Affairs: Brandy Compton and **Neda Ashtari**
 - VP-Academic Affairs: Noel Navarro and **Isabel Benvenuti**
- There was also a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot, which passed
- Voter turnout:
 - We promoted the election via a BruinPost and MyUCLA and well as through GSA social media
 - Voter turnout was 10.22% (similar to last year)
 - Takeaway: we need to make GSA and its mission more known among the student body

Question from Elyse: Thank you Akash and everyone on the elections committee! I just had a quick question about the election process, was a debate considered to help voters get to know the candidates? Could this be possible next year?

Response from Akash: I think that's a great idea, but I think that we first need to draw more eyeballs to GSA and our platforms so that people care more about it and are willing to attend.

Comment from Letty: We need a social media specialist on top of a director of communications

Comment from Akash: I agree with Letty. Also, if you have any questions about the discrepancies between the number of votes cast from position to position, it's because people have the option to not vote for someone for every position and some people elected to do that.

Comment from Francis: Now we are going to vote on the election results and then the SRs' right to unionize.

- Motion to vote on the GSA 2021 Election Results: Alex Chubick (BSC) and Kathleen Kane (PHSC)--Motion passed
- Call for a vote. 16 yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain
 - **Vote: APPROVED**

- Motion to vote on the Resolution to support SRs' right to unionize: Gabby Barrios (HC) and Juan de la Hoz (BSC)--Motion passed
- Call for a vote. 15 yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain
 - **Vote: APPROVED**

ADJOURNMENT--6:30

Musibau Francis Jimoh

- Motion to adjourn: Christine Liboon (GSAE) and Alex Chubick (BSC)--Motion passed