

University of California, Los Angeles
Graduate Student Association Forum #1, Spring Quarter
Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 5:30pm

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

CALL TO ORDER – 5:49 pm

Consent Calendar:

1. Approval of Minutes - No Objections
2. Approval of Agenda –
 - Motion to push Elections results to the beginning and move the discussion of SB 50 to the end. Steven Moran would like to add an item discussing election codes, to be discussed after the election results (seconded).
 - **Vote: APPROVED (unanimous).**

Approval of GSA Elections Results

Richard Tran, GSA Commissioner of Elections

- These elections results were provided to me by Mike Cohn and approved by the Elections Board.
- Total ballot count of 1605
- Individual vote counts
 - President
 - Zak Fisher: 768 votes
 - Ernesto Arciniega: 721 votes
 - Vice President of Internal Affairs
 - Paul Nesterenko: 1320 votes
 - Vice President of External Affairs
 - Noreen Ahmed: 637 votes
 - Jean Paul (JP) Santos: 880 votes
 - Vice President of Academic Affairs
 - Shrinidhi Balasubramanian: 1328 votes

Michael Skiles

- Motion to approve these results has been made by Humanities, seconded by Law. We proceed to a vote.
 - **Vote: APPROVED (unanimous).**
- Congratulations to all our elected officers, please make yourselves available to the outgoing officers to help with the transition.

Mike Cohn

- Richard and the Elections Board were very thoughtful and impressive in implementing this elections process.

Steven Moran

Co-President of the Engineering Board (EGSA)

- We had to convene a meeting between the two VP candidates to deal with accusations that were made against one of the candidates about illegal campaigning.
- We didn't feel that the Elections Board were adequately dealing with this issue.
- I felt that the elections were skewed because JP Santos violated elections codes.
- The codes state that candidates must not use departmental listservs. You also can't request that someone else use a listserv on your behalf.
- The candidate sent out multiple emails and requested that administrators send the email on his behalf. For this he was reprimanded by the Elections Board. But this type of email has a large impact on elections results.
- In my opinion the codes are explicit, but since this situation happened, I think the codes need to be revised to be more explicit.
- I'm proposing that we bring in more forum members outside the Elections Forum, and also that we have a hearing to determine what went wrong.
- He was only given a two-day suspension from campaigning, which I don't think was enough.
- The rules for endorsement need to change as well. Every organization should sit down with each candidate before deciding who to endorse rather than just picking someone from their department.
- Motion to form an ad hoc Elections forum committee (seconded).
- Questions for the motioner:
 - Question: Why did you take this up?
 - Answer: I realized that one of the candidates had broken the codes and hadn't really been reprimanded.
 - Zak Fisher: One thing I would like to make public is my desire to have Chancellor Block here to answer for the violations of the student service fee bylaws.
 - Question: What kind of changes do you have in mind?
 - Answer: there should be no room for misinterpretation that listservs are not allowed. There should be a change to the complaints process. Departments should stay out of the elections process. I don't think subcommittees should be allowed to endorse an officer. Departments should be informed that they are not allowed to send emails on behalf of candidates. There's not enough procedure.
 - Question: The problem is that people use email lists that other candidates don't have access to?
 - Answer: Yes, emails have been sent both this year and last year.
 - Question: It's easy to get around this. For example, Slack groups, Facebook groups – people could use these mediums
 - Answer: I think we should rewrite the codes to more clearly define the terms that we're using. There should also be a procedure for endorsements.

- Question: Food for thought, I suggest you propose members for the ad hoc committee and determine how many students you want on this committee since we only have two forums left.
- Steve: I move to make an amendment that as the president of EGSA I propose that I chair this committee (seconded).
- I think you should also get a sense of how many people want to sit on this committee.
- Is anyone interested in participating?
 - Five members are interested. We can come up with recommendations and bring them to forum.
- Question: Isn't our election code currently in sync with the undergraduate code?
 - Answer: They're very different. For GSA the complaints process is different.
- Statement: Because this would involve changes to the GSA code I think we should wait until next week to see if other students would be interested in joining the committee. It bothers me that there won't be a lot of diversity in this committee, so I will support you in sending out emails to the different councils.
 - Perhaps each council representative can go back to their councils and try to recruit interested students.
- We've added an unopposed amendment to recruit members for the committee. Let's vote on the amendment to have Steve as the Chair, and up to one representative from each council (seconded).
 - **Vote: APPROVED**
- All in favor of approving this ad hoc committee
 - **Vote: APPROVED (unanimous).**

Executive Officer Reports

Michael Skiles GSA President

- For the last three years I've been working with the UC Office of the President on establishing work place injury compensation for students that are externally funded.
- We want externally funded to have the protections that internally funded students have. President Napolitano got UC services to prepare potential coverage packages and wants to set up a conference call with myself and any other interested graduate students to discuss whether their proposed package sounds adequate. From 11-12 on April 22nd. If any of you represent externally funded constituents, I encourage you to get on this call with me and help me represent them.
- Please go to your councils and see if this is a concern for anyone, especially south campus majors who have labs. This was originally brought to me by biological sciences.
- Additionally, Sepi's is closing because Steve Sann is appealing their wine and beer license. They don't have the financial means to fight this appeal, so Sepi's which has been at Le Conte for 50 years is slated to close April 30th.
- We have started a petition on the Westwood Forward Facebook page, it is to ask him to withdraw his appeal. This has to stop, or else no small business without lots of funds will be able to do business in Westwood.

- I've posted this petition to the Westwood Forward page and it has over 1,000 signatures.

Eric Hu, GSA Vice President for Internal Affairs
ABSENT

Michelle Viorato, Vice President of External Affairs

- This is a message from my LGBTQ+ Affairs Director. He started a button campaign and together with the External Affairs office we were able to purchase pronoun buttons that we distributed. This is meant to create a discussion on the use of proper pronouns. This is part of a greater effort to bring all of UCLA together – there are so many siloed groups across campus and we're trying to bring people together.
 - We ordered 500 and already ran out of them. We're hoping to order more in May.
 - I'll send you all his message and pictures of the buttons so if you're interested in partnering with him you can get in touch.
- Something my team has worked on is doing a joint lobbying trip to Sacramento with MOCA and putting together a fact sheet on parenting students' experiences on campus.
 - We were able to meet with staff members from Senator Glazer's office because they are spearheading related efforts.
 - Many graduate students are trying to earn what they can while they're in school and are forced to sign a contract limiting the number of hours they can work.
 - We're sending another MOCA representative on Monday to work on this.
 - We received 11 applicants to our call for applications to take students for a joint advocacy day in Sacramento in two weeks.
- Additionally, my organizational director has been working with organizations on campus that represent first gen students on campus
- My other representative Mara has been working with partners to use spaces that are available for students to congregate.

Ernesto Arciniega

- Thank you for all your work this year, we're all very grateful for all the work you've been doing.
- I would like to see if we can get more funds to support Robert Gamboa's work.
- Also, you all know that we're featuring the Latinx Film Festival this week featuring women's voices and representing marginalized groups.

Ashley Wright, Vice President for Academic Affairs

- There was programming going on that was training for TA's that wasn't appropriately integrated. It was creating an additional 14 hours of work for TAs that was unfunded. It's gone back into committee for now.

- There was a research study done that found that 20% of graduate students have experienced sexual assault. Our campus is piloting a study and task force to find out how we can reduce those numbers here.

Presentation on Graduate Student Involvement in the UCLA Centennial

Maria Blandizzi, Dean for Students and Andres Cuervo, Director of Operations and Strategic Partnerships for the UCLA Centennial Celebration

ABSENT

Presentation on Graduate Professional Development and Career Development Conference

Sarah Valdovinos and Christine Wilson, GSRC

- A survey is administered every three years getting information on graduate students. All the information we're going to show you comes from those surveys.
- Over time there has been a significant increase in students seeking information on how to pursue professional opportunities.
- We have a new platform in the Career Center for engaging with employers and has a lot more stuff that is useful to students.
- I highly suggest you go into Handshake and set up your account. You're already a member but you still have to activate your account. Only about 40% of graduate students have signed up.
- If you were kicked out of your account because your fees weren't paid in time just email me, Christine Wilson, and I'll reactivate your account.
- The career preparation toolkit has been revised, we have them in hard copy at the GSRC and it's also available in PDF form online.
- The Career Development Conference has been going on since 2015 in partnership with GSA and the Graduate Division. We want you all to attend and share this with your colleagues and your peers in your councils.
- We have found a keynote speaker: Dr. Manya Whitaker, she's going to talk about you as a scholar now and what that means in transitioning into your career.
- We have sessions on resiliency in the job search, different activities throughout the day.
- We'll have a LinkedIn photo booth and resume/CV coaching.
- The conference has over 100 alumni that will be joining us.
- There will be a Grad Bar sponsored by GSA at the end of the event.

Announcement of EGSA Event in DTLA

Steven Moran, EGSA

- EGSA is interested in hosting an off-campus event, I'm curious if anyone would like to co-host an event with another council.
- Question: Do you have a time frame in mind?
 - Hopefully in May. A lot of Anderson and Law have sponsored events and we would like to see Engineering sponsoring more events.

Michael Skiles

- You can discuss it now or take it back to your councils and see if the members of your council would like to collaborate. Email Steven if you'd like to collaborate.

Presentation and Possible Endorsement of UAW Petition to Stop Increases to Non-Resident Student Tuition

Ernesto Arciniega, GSA Director of Diversity and Inclusion

Alli Carlisle, UAW

- The regents are meeting next month to vote on this issue. We hope to get an endorsement from GSA.
- The regents have recently lowered the in-state tuition and are hoping to raise non-resident supplemental tuition. There is a big burden for non-resident and international students, who are also limited in how many hours they can work.
- We're circulating a petition to increase state funding for UC's instead of putting a bigger burden on international and out of state students.
- We'd love help in circulating the petition.
- Motion to endorse the petition (seconded).
 - No questions
 - Move to immediate vote
 - **Vote: APPROVED (unanimous).**

Update on GSA's Involvement with Westwood Community Council

Michelle Viorato, Vice President of External Affairs

- I went to the Westwood Community Council meeting on Tuesday March 19th. I expected to be there for an hour but was stuck there for three hours because I wasn't allowed to speak until the end.
- I shared information on why it was important for students to be represented.
- We went in with a statement on behalf of our council, USAC had a statement on behalf of their president.
- I wanted to wait to give undergrads an ability to vote to give their decision more weight
- After the announcement concerning Sepi's undergraduates have decided to pull out, as of right now we currently are members.
- There was a discussion about removing GSA and USAC's ability to appoint student members
- They decided to keep GSA and USAC's ability to appoint a student, but we can still pull out. I don't think that USAC will approve.
- After I spoke - I talked about how important it was for students to have representation, someone decided to tell me that as a student at UCLA we have access to hundreds of administrators who can support us, and that as a neighborhood council they only have homeowners and Paul Koretz to support them, and that we shouldn't take away seats from them.
- I don't personally, as a student, think we should send someone because it's a really toxic environment as a student. But I also want you to know that if we were to pull out, they are going to appoint a student regardless.

- Question: Are they incentivized to keep us in order to have legitimacy?
 - Answer: they didn't say. They did say they want to keep a student representative.
- Question: Is there a chance to dissolve the council? Shouldn't there be someone there with a strong voice?
 - Answer: I did think at the time that it was important to have someone there. I don't know if a student would like to do that.
- Question: What impact does this council have on student life? What is significant about our continued involvement?
 - Michael Skiles: They like to point to the fact that they have students on the council. It's a talking point for them. With only two student positions the proportions are out of whack. The Westwood Community Council is not a democratic body, it's a nonprofit organization. Our only hope is to get people to recognize that it's not democratic or representative.
- Question: So the decision to revoke Sepi's alcohol licence, is that something that would fall under their purview?
 - Answer: Steve Sann appears to make these appeals independently, but they are an advocacy organization that takes positions on issues in Westwood.
- Question: Couldn't student just form a student community council and take positions and advocate similarly?
 - Answer: We have several advocacy groups already that can take positions.
- Question: Can the North Westwood Neighborhood Council do anything to support Sepi's?
 - Because our council would most likely support them, it means that they would most likely win after all the appeals. However Steve Sann has the capacity to drag this out and cost them more money.
- Motion for us as a body to leave and not have representation on this council (seconded).
 - Move to a vote – 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions.
 - **Vote: APPROVED**
- Motion to adjourn the meeting and postpone the discussion of SB50 to next forum (seconded).
 - **Vote: APPROVED**

ADJOURNMENT 7:28 pm