

Graduate Student Association

General Assembly Meeting

February | 2021 | 6PM — 7:50PM

Via Zoom

Meeting called by the GSA Co-Presidents Pedro Craveiro and Alex LeBrun

Notes recorded by Maya Zaynetdinova, VP of Communication and Events

- Introduction and sign in
- Community Agreement and Zoom Specific Agreements
- Roll Call//Academic Departments Present: [35 Graduate Representatives]
 - History of Art and Architecture [1]
 - Asian Studies [1]
 - Comparative Literature [1]
 - Film and Media Studies [1]
 - History [1]
 - Latin American and Iberian Studies [1]
 - Linguistics [1]
 - Religious Studies [1]
 - Spanish & Portuguese [1]
 - Theater and Dance [1]
 - Biomolecular Science & Engineering [1]
 - Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology [2]
 - Earth Science [1]
 - Marine Science [1]
 - Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology [1]
 - Physics [3]
 - Statistics & Applied Probability [1]
 - Anthropology [1]
 - Communication [1]
 - Feminist Studies [1]
 - Geography [2]
 - Global Studies [1]
 - Sociology [2]
 - Computer Science [1]
 - Chemical Engineering [1]
 - Electrical and Computer Engineering [2]
 - Education [1]
 - Bren [2]

- Approval of last meeting minutes // MOTION CONSENTED
- Approval of current agenda // MOTION CONSENTED
- **Presentations**
 - *Sundowner Wind Experiment (SWEX)*
 - *Queer & Trans Graduate Student Union (QTGSU)*
 - *American Indian and Indigenous Collective (AIIC)*
- **Administration Reports**
 - COVID-19 Response Team
 - *Graduate Division Report // Dr. Carlos M. Nash and Robert Hamm*

"RIGHT-SIZING GRADUATE PROGRAMS

An Important Memo from the Interim Graduate Dean

January 29, 2021

Dear Department Chairs, Graduate Program Faculty, and Staff,

The Graduate Division is beginning a comprehensive evaluation intended to determine the right size of graduate programs across campus and to move us toward full support of our graduate students. The [attached document](#) is designed to begin the conversation with input from every department with a graduate program.

Thank you for your careful attention to this issue. We are requesting a short report, as outlined in the [document](#), by the end of the academic year."

- *Graduate Council // Dr. Adam Sabra*
- **Executive Board Reports**
 - **Internal Co-President // Pedro Craveiro**
 - Graduate Students Parents survey by AS Food Bank will be out this week. Spread this info in your departments. This future AS Food Bank project envisions more support for Graduate Students Parents.
 - GSA Awards nominations are out until **February 28**. Keep an eye on it!
 - Excellence in Teaching Award

- Dixon-Levy Service Award
- **External Co-President // Alex LeBrun**
 - Meeting with UCOP (President Drake)
 - Policing and Campus Symposium: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLoX2qEf4JQ>
 - Tuition Hikes and Cohort Tuition
 - Covid Vaccine Rollout and Fall Reopening
 - UCSB Budget Reduction
 - Chancellor gives budget reduction targets to each “control point.”
 - Looking to be 11 - 17% for each control point.
 - GSA is trying to get students into these budget talks.
 - San Clemente Housing
 - There are many openings. If you know of students who need San Clem housing for *this year*, tell them to apply now.
 - Reminder: You get paid for all committees where you serve as the GSA Rep!
- **Vice President of Communication and Events // Maya Zaynetdinova**
 - 70 registered graduate representatives
 - Working on 2 February events with Kenzie Wade (1 in person, 1 virtual)
 - Apply for GSA awards!
 - GSA elections coming up (more details soon)
- **Vice President of Graduate Student Affairs // Jordan J. Tudisco**
 - No relevant news from the Committee on Diversity and Equity
 - No news from the UC-Wide Title IX Student Advisory Board
 - **Undergraduate Council** voted to allow departments to accept P/NP grading for major, pre-major and minor requirements. They also voted to extend the deadline to change grading options and to allow deans more flexibility in accepting petitions for grading changes after the deadline.
 - **Housing** -- Housing is expecting to be back to full capacity in San Clemente for the Fall; discussions are ongoing between GSA, Grad Div and Housing on how to prioritize applications
 - **Health Insurance**
 - The Executive Oversight Board voted to reinstate the zero-cost Covid-19 policy for testing and medical services.
 - Pricing conversations for next year’s insurance premiums are happening right now. Based on utilization from last year, Anthem is pricing us UCSB grads an 8.1% increase; UC SHIP is voting next

week on a 2% buydown, which means a potential increase of 6.1% instead of 8.1%.

- With this right now, and without any changes in coverage in our plan, UCSB rates for next year would be a 17\$ reduction for Dental, a 3.93\$ reduction for Vision and a 6.1% increase for Medical; the full cost of our insurance would be 4288\$ instead of 4041\$ (according to Eric Newlove)
 - Pricing conversations in the month of February to increase coverage or reduce copays and deductibles are likely to drive our premium price even higher
 - There will be a form sent out to everyone soon so that I can gather information about student experience and there will also be a Town Hall on Wednesday, February 10 at 6pm (announcement soon)
- **Vice President of External Affairs // Felicity Stone-Richards**
 - Collating different campus curtailment plans in order to hold UCSB accountable in protecting graduate student funding
 - UCGPC planning for upcoming legislative sessions. Tracking California and Federal bills related to education spending, policing and immigration.
 - UCGPC planning for upcoming Police Symposium
 - **Vice President of Financial Affairs // Melanie Adams**
 - GSA Emergency Relief Grant
 - Eligibility Requirement 3: For FAFSA eligible students, you have completed the FAFSA for the current academic year (if eligible) and **have accepted any loans offered through the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship (OFAS)**. For undocumented students, you do not have to complete the CA Dream Act since you are not eligible for federal loans.
 - SMERF (Student Medical Emergency Relief Fund)
 - Can pay non-recurring medical bills
 - Checks are delayed for everyone - issues are being sorted out
 - Potential to pause lock-in fee to Travel Grants or reallocate money since it is currently underutilized Fall 2022

- **Action Items**

- *Vote to co-sponsor QTGSU - Sip & Stitch & QTGSU - Draw & Drink // YES (34)*
ABSTAIN (1) NO (0) – MOTION PASSED

- *The Eighth Annual American Indian & Indigenous Collective Symposium* // **YES (31)**
ABSTAIN (0) NO (1) – MOTION PASSED
- [Announcements](#)
- [Adjournment](#)

Next General Assembly on **March 2nd**