

## Graduate Student Association

### General Assembly Meeting

March 1 2021 | 6PM — 7:45PM

Via Zoom

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

Notes recorded by Maya Zaynetdinova, VP of Communication and Events

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- Introduction and sign in
- Community Agreement and Zoom Specific Agreements
- Roll Call//Academic Departments Present: [31 Graduate Representatives]
  - History of Art and Architecture [1]
  - Asian Studies [1]
  - Comparative Literature [1]
  - Film and Media Studies [1]
  - Latin American and Iberian Studies [1]
  - Linguistics [1]
  - Spanish & Portuguese [1]
  - Biomolecular Science & Engineering [1]
  - Dynamical Neuroscience [1]
  - Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology [2]
  - Earth Science [1]
  - Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology [1]
  - Physics [3]
  - Statistics & Applied Probability [1]
  - Anthropology [1]
  - Communication [1]
  - Geography [1]
  - Global Studies [1]
  - Political Science [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**
  
- **Presentation**
  - *UCSB Arts and Lectures*
  - *2021 Research Mentorship Program*
  
- **Co-sponsorships**
  - *Art History Graduate Student Association*
  - *Haitian Conversation Group Kreyòl Ayisyen*
  
- **Administration Reports**
  - *Graduate Division Report // Dr. Carlos M. Nash and Robert Hamm*
  - *Graduate Council // Dr. Adam Sabra*
  - *Academic Senate*
  
- **Executive Board Reports**
  - **Internal Co-President // Pedro Craveiro**
    - Music Building Seismic Improvements Project Committee
      - A graduate student representative needed
    - Chief of Information Officer Search Advisory Committee
      - A graduate student representative needed
      - Any folks interested in serving, reach out to me  
[InternalCoPresident@gmail.com](mailto:InternalCoPresident@gmail.com)
    - Bylaws need to be updated before opening the electoral season
    - What is new?
      - Some updates in the current positions mostly regarding to committees and duties
      - The Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
      - GSA'S Chief of Staff
    - Ballot measures for April's elections are reaffirmations:
      - Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) and Career Services Support Fee (CEC)
      - Health & Wellness Programs Fee (CEC)
      - Women, Gender, and Sexual Equity (WGSE) Support Fee (CEC)
      - GSA Travel Grant Fee (GSA)
      - SMERF (Student Medical Emergencies Relief Fund) (GSA)
      - Graduate Student Internship Fellowship (GSA)
      - Graduate Student Emergency Relief Fund (GSA)
      - Arts & Lectures 2011 Fee Initiative (GSA)
      - Nights & Weekends Parking for Graduate Students (GSA)
  - **External Co-President // Alex LeBrun**

- Dean of Graduate Division Search
  - UCSB will be hiring an outside firm to search nationwide for a new Dean of Graduate Division. This firm wants to interview graduate students next week about what they're looking for in a new Graduate Dean. We need people who are willing to sit for these interviews; 1 from each division (HFA, Soc. Sci., MLPS, Eng, Bren, GGSE). You will be paid for these meetings.
  - This is a great opportunity to have an impact on the kind of candidates that will be interviewed for the position. Let me know ASAP at [externalcopresident@gmail.com](mailto:externalcopresident@gmail.com)
- UCSB Budget Situation
  - Last General Assembly, the situation was that UCSB would be facing a ~14% deficit campus wide, and that we would be taking a huge loan and going through extreme austerity measures for the next four years. This situation has changed dramatically. Governor Newsom has proposed a new budget that reinstates the previous cuts to the UC budget. This means that UCSB will not be facing a permanent budget cut prompted by Covid.
  - The new situation is being unfurled. It looks as though UCSB will have one-time, Covid-specific budget cuts, and that there will be no long-term Covid impacts on our budget.
  - However, there are some residual "structural" deficits for some sectors of campus, and there will need to be some permanent cuts made. TBD on where these will be.
  - The Exec Board has planned meetings with Deans from the academic divisions about the budgets. Dean Hale (Soc Sci) has given us the following guarantee for 2021-2022: If a department justifies a certain amount of TA allocations, Dean Hale will fund that many TAs. There will be no TA allocation cuts from his office. The Exec Board will be meeting with other Division Deans to ask for the same guarantee.
- Vice President of Communication and Events // Maya Zaynetdinova
  - Valentine's day even for student families (120+ cupcakes and chocolates given away)
  - Call for GSA awards closed
  - GSRC programs meeting
    - New instant feedback AI resume review coming soon
  - GSA elections - call for nominations will be open on April 7th
- Vice President of Graduate Student Affairs // Jordan J. Tudisco

- **Housing**
  - No concrete decision yet, but conversations are happening to redesign gender-inclusive housing at UCSB
- **Student Health & Health Insurance**
  - The EOB unanimously voted yes on the 2% buydown to limit the price increase for our Health Insurance premiums
  - Despite that, Grad rates at UCSB will increase from \$4298 this year to \$5068 next year
  - The UCSB SHIP Advisory Committee refused to add benefits to our health insurance this year and decided to keep everything as is
  - The only change that may be made is that UCSB wants to move away from requesting referrals for therapy appointments but this change needs to be requested at the UC level (which I will do at the March meeting)
- **Police Advisory Board**
  - Still mostly focused on crafting a mission statement and have a public-facing page or website to increase clarity, accessibility and transparency
  - There will also be a townhall organized for students to come express their issues with policing
- **Undergraduate Council & Committee on Diversity & Equity**
  - The most relevant discussion from both these committees was a conversation about priority registration for undergraduates
  - As of now, so many people receive priority registration that most classes are already full when regular Pass 1 starts for UG; URM students especially are impacted and don't have access to the classes they need
  - Academic Senate is discussing how to rehaul priority registrations or how to limit access to categories with priority registrations (honors for instance)
- **Dean of HFA Search Committee**
  - I am on the search committee for our next Dean of HFA so please email me (gsavpstudentaffairs@gmail.com) if you have concerns or issues or if there is anything you want me to have in mind when attending this committee
- **Vice President of External Affairs // Felicity Stone-Richards**
  - Organizing meetings with all the Deans of schools to establish which areas are running structural deficits separate from the covid crisis
  - Working with Legislative Liaison to organize meetings with Goleta and SB County representatives to discuss rent relief for students and policing

- Working with UCPGC to make a list of California Senators and Reps to target for California Lobby week April 14-23.
- UCGPC had a quarterly meeting with Pres Drake. We are increasingly frustrated with his leadership. All discussion has been vague in terms of concrete support for grads. Seems reluctant to ever use the power of the Regents to compel UC chancellors to act on matters of student support and inclusion
- Vice President of Financial Affairs // Melanie Adams
  - No updates
- Action Items
  - *Vote on co-sponsorships [passed with unanimous consent]*
- Announcements
- Adjournment