

Graduate Student Association

General Assembly Meeting

April | 2022 | 6:00PM — 7:30PM

Via Zoom

Meeting called by the GSA Co-Presidents Pedro Craveiro and Felicity Stone-Richards

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: [22 Graduate Representatives]
 - History of Art & Architecture [1]
 - Film &Media Studies [1]
 - Linguistics [1]
 - Religious Studies [1]
 - Theater & Dance [1]
 - Biomolecular science & Engineering [1]
 - Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology [1]
 - Earth Science [1]
 - Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Bio [1]
 - Physics [2]
 - Communication [1]
 - Geography [1]
 - Global Studies [1]
 - Political Science [1]
 - Sociology [1]
 - Computer Science [1]
 - Chemical Engineering [2]
 - Electrical and Computer Engineering [2]
- Approval of last meeting minutes // MOTION CONSENTED
- Approval of current agenda // MOTION CONSENTED
- Presentations
- Co-Sponsorships
 - UCSB EEMB Undergraduate Research Symposium
 - Art History Graduate Student Association (AHGSA)

- American Cultures & Global Contexts Center (ACGGC)
- **Administration Reports**
 - Graduate Division Report // Dr. Carlos M. Nash and Robert Hamm
 - Graduate Council // Giuliana Perrone
 - Academic Senate
- **Executive Board Reports**
 - **Co-Presidents // Pedro Craveiro & Felicity Stone-Richards**
 - Updates from Chancellor's Committee on Budget: UCSB is running \$50 million structural deficit, they are discussing what kinds of budgetary savings can be made without significant cuts to academic services.
 - The Committee will use one-time funds from the state to cover the whole deficit this year, but over the next few months will be discussing how to address the recurring \$25 million ongoing deficit.
 - The deficit is the result of multiple factors including payroll increases, salary and benefit increases, covid shutdown loss of income, previous withdrawal of state funds
 - **Vice President of Communication and Events // Maya Zaynetdinova**
 - Grad Student Appreciation Lunch on March 2, 12-1pm was attended by over 400 grad students!
 - GSA elections - Nominations close on April 6th!
 - We have received 18 nominations so far!
 - Candidacy statements due by April 13th
 - We held an info session and lunch for those interested in running on March 29th
 - Over 30 people attended!
 - Earth Day grad student lunch in the works
 - stay tuned ;)
 - **Vice President of Graduate Student Affairs // Jordan J. Tudisco**
 - Health Insurance:
 - Next year, health insurance premiums for grads will be fully decoupled from undergrads; this means that we are taking a **big** increase to our rates. We are currently trying to brainstorm ways to decrease premiums in the future without losing coverage
 - STI home-test kits and full body laser hair removal for gender affirming care will be covered by our insurance starting next plan year
 - Housing:
 - Next meeting is tomorrow; I'll get a better sense of how we are doing for Fall 2022

- Vice President of External Affairs // Heather Prentice-Waltz
 - UC Student Lobbying Trip UPDATES:
 - Legislative Liaison Anne Berry is currently representing UCSB in Washington DC; working with UCGPC team to meet with congressional representatives
 - Lobbying efforts include:
 - supporting AB 1602 *Student, faculty and staff housing: California student housing revolving loan fund act*
 - supporting H. Con. Res. 19 *Urging the establishment of a US commission on truth, racial healing, and transformation*
 - supporting *Climate Corporate Accountability Act*
- We will provide a more detailed follow-up report in the GA in May!
- Vice President of Financial Affairs // Melanie Adams
 - Two items to vote on later:
 - Increase grad student lock-in fees by \$1 (\$.143 in total) to add to childcare grants
 - Increase amount of money allocated per travel grant to \$400
 - Travel grants:
 - **Advantage:** Higher amount per student
 - **Disadvantage:** With increase in in-person conferences, increase may lead to fewer students receiving a grant in the next year or so once the surplus is eliminated
- Discussion Items
 - GSA Bylaw Change
- Action Items
 - Vote to approve the change in bylaws to increase the travel grant to \$400 // **PASSED [19 YES, 0 NO, 3 ABSTAIN]**
 - Vote to approve the increase to the childcare grant by \$1 // **PASSED [19 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSTAIN]**
- Announcements
 - Vox Populi
- Adjournment
 - Next General Assembly on May 3rd, 2022