

## Graduate Student Association

### General Assembly Meeting

December | 2021 | 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

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- Introduction and sign in
- Community Agreement and Zoom Specific Agreements
- Roll Call//Academic Departments Present: [20 Graduate Representatives]
  - Asian Studies [1]
  - Film & Media Studies [1]
  - History [1]
  - Linguistics [1]
  - Religious Studies [1]
  - Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology [2]
  - Physics [2]
  - Communication [1]
  - Feminist Studies [1]
  - Geography [2]
  - Global Studies [1]
  - Sociology [1]
  - Chemical Engineering [2]
  - Electrical and Computer Engineering [1]
  - Education [1]
  - Bren [1]
- Approval of last meeting minutes // MOTION CONSENTED
- Approval of current agenda // MOTION CONSENTED
- Presentations
  - *Library*
  - *The Thriving Initiative*
- Co-sponsorship
  - *ChESS: Chemical Engineering Seminar Series*

- **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**
    - GSA exec members interviewed candidates for the position of Dean of Graduate Division and sent our feedback to the Chancellor's hiring committee.
    - Following work on right-sizing committee, Dean Rupp has now confirmed that the central campus fellowships will now be allocated directly to departments, taking away the competition, so that departments can make more accurate hiring offers.
    - Graduate Council has sent strong recommendations to the EVC on how to reform Music department graduate program following worrying review on the mistreatment of graduate students in the department.
    - The GSA website has changed and is now user-friendly.
      - [gsa.ucsb.edu](http://gsa.ucsb.edu)
    - Replacing grant applications with webforms over break
    - GSA lounge is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm until December 22.
    - We will open for Winter quarter on **Tuesday, January 4.**
    - Replacing plastic products
      - Compostable products
  - **Vice President of Communication and Events // Maya Zaynetdinova**
    - 43 grad reps registered!
    - Grad Brunch #2 took place on November 3rd in the GSA Lounge attended by over 400 people!
    - Organized a Friendsgiving lunch on November 18<sup>th</sup>
      - We served over 200 meals (sandwiches, chips, cookies and pumpkin pies!)
      - + Pop up from AS Food Bank
    - Last event of the quarter - Bagels and Coffee
      - Tomorrow, December 1st, 10am-12 pm
    - The GSA website has migrated - updates will be posted once I get trained how to properly use it
  - **Vice President of Graduate Student Affairs // Jordan J. Tudisco**
    - **Housing**
      - in order to prepare for Winter and figure out prioritization, the Graduate Division (in collaboration with Housing) sent out a

survey to those who are waitlisted for San Clemente or Family Housing; deadline was yesterday, Housing/GSA/Grad Div meeting is tomorrow

- in addition, Housing and GSA sent a survey to graduate students who have been housed in hotels to garner feedback and help improve the process if it continues for Winter

- **Student Health & Health Insurance**

- Many things are going on in the background and several groups are meeting to evaluate requests for proposal for potential new vendors to be used by UC SHIP (Waiver process, Pharmacy, Medical and Behavioral Health, etc.)

- **Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts Search**

- The search is highly confidential but after months of working through written materials and interviewing semi-finalists, the Search Committee has recommended 5 finalists to be invited on campus in January

- **Academic Senate Committees (UgC, CDE, CFW)**

- Many things are going on but mostly concern undergraduate or faculty policies; if you have any specific concerns falling under these areas, I can approach the chair of these committees to try to add discussion or agenda items

- **Vice President of External Affairs // Heather Prentice-Waltz**

- **UCGPC UPDATES:**

- Successful grad summit (November 2021)
- UCGPC focusing on: 1) Safe and affordable housing; 2) UC climate change initiatives for 2021/22 academic year
- Please email [gsavpexternal@gmail.com](mailto:gsavpexternal@gmail.com) if you are interested in getting involved and/or speaking at a monthly UCGPC meeting!
- Next UCGPC meeting is on Saturday 12/04/21
- <https://www.ucgpc.org>

- **Vice President of Financial Affairs // Melanie Adams**

- **Things to be voted on in the future:**

- Increasing lock-in fee for Childcare grants
- Adjusting bylaws for Travel grants (will be done with administrators and exec board)
- Gathering ideas for changes people feel would be beneficial
- Currently looking into increasing amount allocated or pausing lock-in fee
- Submit your quarterly committee report at <https://gsa.ucsb.edu/committees/quarterly-committee-report>

- **Discussion Items**

- GSA Bylaw Change: Annual Financial Support for Graduate Affinity Groups
  - Rebates to Graduate Degree Programs
- **Action Items**
  - *Vote on \$3,000 donation to Thriving Initiative // PASSED*
- **Announcements**
  - Vox Populi
- **Adjournment**
  - Next General Assembly on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022