

## Graduate Student Association

### General Assembly Meeting

April | 2020 | 6PM — 8PM

Via Zoom

Meeting called by the GSA Co-Presidents Cierra Raine Sorin and Heather Prentice-Walz  
Notes recorded by Pedro Craveiro, VP of Communication and Records

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- **Introduction**
  
- **Community Agreement and Zoom Specific Agreements**
  
- **Roll Call//Academic Departments Present: [23 Graduate Representatives]**
  - History of Art and Architecture [1]
  - Comparative Literature [1]
  - Film and Media Studies [1]
  - Latin American and Iberian Studies [1]
  - Philosophy [1]
  - Religious Studies [1]
  - Spanish and Portuguese [1]
  - Theater and Dance [1]
  - Dynamical Neuroscience [1]
  - Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology [2]
  - Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology [2]
  - Physics [1]
  - Communication [1]
  - Geography [2]
  - Political Science [1]
  - Chemical Engineering [1]
  - Electrical and Computer Engineering [1]
  - Materials [1]
  - Education [2]
  - Bren [1]
  
- **Approval of last meeting minutes // MOTION CONSENTED**
  
- **Approval of current agenda // MOTION CONSENTED**
  
- **Administration Reports**
  - *Graduate Division Report // Dr. Carlos M. Nash*
  - *Graduate Council Report // Dr. Tammy Afifi*

- **Executive Board Reports (Summary of all Executive Officers)**
  - We will not be filling VP External Affairs for Spring 2020
  - Due to COVID-19, the 50 years GSA anniversary is cancelled.
  - Weekly Resources Digest
  - Grad Council Emergency Meeting (4/13)
    - Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)
    - Time to degree Extension
    - Admission Deferrals
  - Housing Fair cancelled but GSA sent out an email with housing resources and hosted a Zoom Town Hall for SCV
  - Quarterly Housing Meeting (4/13)
    - Including plans for summer: renovations, extensions of contracts, etc.
  - UC SHIP updates:
    - zero cost sharing for COVID-19 testing;
    - added gender conforming facial surgery benefit;
    - psychoeducational testing lifetime maximum increased to \$4,500 (from \$3,000)
  - Student Regent selection process has begun
  - Systemwide tuition increase has been paused
    - EXCEPT: Professional degree tuition will be minimally increased
    - Still collecting more info on what this means / when it will happen
    - Email [gsapresident.ucsb@gmail.com](mailto:gsapresident.ucsb@gmail.com) or [gsavpinternal@gmail.com](mailto:gsavpinternal@gmail.com) if you have info or concerns!
  
- **Discussion Items**
  - **COVID-19 Relief Grant**
    - Due to COVID-19, there are several GSA budget line items that will have unspent funds:
      - Travel to UCSA/UCGPC/UC Lobbying
      - Presidents Travel Fund: \$1,000
      - UCSA/UCGPC Travel: \$3,000
      - Travel UC Systemwide Conferences: \$3,000
      - Travel State Lobby Efforts: \$2,500
      - Programming:
        - Bagel Hour: \$6,000
        - GA Meetings: \$1,500
        - Social Hours: \$4,000
        - Mosher: \$2,000
        - Lounge Events: \$500
        - Supplies (Office + Printing): \$1,500
        - Total: \$25,000

- Any unused funds will be carried over into next year as reserve funds
  - Modeled after our current Emergency Grant
  - Applicants can apply for any COVID-19 related financial hardship as long as they do not have savings to cover the situation
  - Differences:
    - COVID-19 Relief Fund requires the emergency to be COVID19-related
    - Applicants for the COVID-19 relief fund do not need to have taken out available loans
  - A three-member panel will review all applications to ensure they meet the guidelines
- **2019-20 GSA Elections**
- The exec board is concerned about holding elections for officers as normally scheduled.
  - Bylaws need to be approved before nominations, so we do not have people committed to running yet
  - COVID-19: People may not run for these positions because they do not know what fall looks like, given research interruptions, family issues, etc.
  - We have 4 options:
    - Hold elections as normally scheduled - end of April (likely 22/23/24)
    - Push elections to May
    - Push elections to June
    - Push elections to sometime in fall quarter, with the current exec board remaining in their positions
      - Alex (VP Academic) would serve as interim VP Budget/Finance/Committees as Luke is graduating and the VPAA position will be dissolved into Co-President duties
      - All other members would stay on in their current positions
- **Changes to officer positions**
- President → Co-President (External) and Co-President (Internal)
  - VP of Budget, Finance, and Committees (VPBFC)
  - VP of Communications and Events (VPCE)
  - VP of Graduate Student Affairs (VPGSA)
  - VP of External Affairs (VPEA)
  - VP Academic Affairs dissolves into Co-President duties & VPGSA duties
  - VP Budget & Finance takes on committee-work
  - VP Student Affairs merges with the rest of Academic Affairs to become VP Graduate Student Affairs
  - Clarification on GSA Officer Resignations / Removals
  - Increase GSA Payments to Officers to match \$15/hour we approved earlier in the year for committee work & lounge staff

- Co-Presidents: bump from \$2000 to \$3000 per quarter
- All other positions: bump from \$1500 to \$2250 per quarter
- Summer pay does not change (\$1000 for co-pres, \$500 for all others)
  
- **GSA Staff Person**
  - This was presented at the March meeting, with a temperature check indicating general favor
  - Luke submitted language for approval to UCOP
  - We have to formally vote to put this on the ballot though!
  - GSA General Fee Increase
  - Language Ballot: Do you approve increasing the GSA general fee by \$17.12 per graduate student per quarter in order to fund the Administrative Manager of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) (Breakdown: \$12.00 goes to GSA, \$4.28 is for return to aid, \$0.84 is for administrative tax)? This increase is necessary to fund an Administrative Manager to, among other duties, manage the GSA lounge (including bagel hour, lounge upkeep, and lounge staff), process financial transactions, and serve as the institutional memory of the GSA.
  - If approved, the fee would begin fall 2020 and continue until subject to reaffirmation in spring 2024.
  
- **GSA Bus Pass Fee Proposal**
  - Language Ballot: Do you approve a mandatory fee of \$3.00 per graduate student per quarter, in order to fund subsidized Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District 10-ride and 30-day summer bus passes for non-registered continuing graduate students, (Breakdown: \$2.10 goes to GSA for the bus passes, \$0.75 is for return to aid, \$0.15 is for administrative tax)? With this fee, continuing graduate students who are enrolled for fall quarter but not enrolled for summer quarter would be able to purchase subsidized bus passes for their summer commuting needs.
  - This fee would be in addition to the \$13.13 per graduate student per quarter (including summer), currently collected to provide quarterly access to MTD bus transportation at no additional charge for registered students.
  - If approved, the fee would begin fall 2020 and continue until subject to reaffirmation in spring 2024.
  
- **Action Items** (Requires Assembly Vote)
  - *Vote on COVID-19 Relief Grant: **APPROVED***
    - *22 in favor, 1 abstention and 0 nays.*

- *Vote on sending via Google Forms the Elections postponement vote to all Graduate Representatives: **APPROVED***
  - *23 in favor, 0 abstentions and 0 nays.*
  
- *Vote on the new GSA Updated Bylaws: **APPROVED***
  - *21 in favor, 2 abstentions and 0 nays.*
  
- *Vote on the GSA Staff Person Fee for the Ballot: **APPROVED***
  - *22 in favor, 1 abstention and 0 nays.*
  
- *Vote on the Bus Pass Summer Fee for the Ballot: **APPROVED***
  - *21 in favor, 2 abstentions and 0 nays.*
  
- **Announcements**
  
- **Adjournment**