

General Assembly Minute

January 14 | 2020 | 6PM — 9PM

GSA Lounge

Meeting called by Cierra Raine Sorin, GSA President

Notes recorded by Pedro Craveiro, VP of Communication and Records

- **Introduction**

- **Community Agreement**

- **Roll Call//Academic Departments Present: [45 Graduate Representatives]**
 - History of Art and Architecture [1]
 - Asian Studies [1]
 - Classics [1]
 - Comparative Literature [1]
 - English [1]
 - Film and Media Studies [1]
 - History [1]
 - Latin American and Iberian Studies [1]
 - Music [1]
 - Philosophy [1]
 - Religious Studies [1]
 - Spanish and Portuguese [1]
 - Theater and Dance [1]
 - Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology [2]
 - Earth Science [1]
 - Marine Science [1]
 - Mathematics [1]
 - Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Bio [2]
 - Physics [3]
 - Psychological and Brain Sciences [1]
 - Anthropology [1]
 - Chicana and Chicano Studies [1]
 - Communication [1]
 - Geography [2]
 - Global Studies [1]
 - Political Science [1]
 - Sociology [2]

- Electrical and Computer Engineering [1]
 - Materials [2]
 - Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology [1]
 - Education [4]
 - Bren School [5]

- **Approval of last meeting minutes // MOTION CONSENTED**

- **Approval of current agenda // MOTION CONSENTED**

- **Presentations**
 - *Co-Sponsorship: GS^3 Diversity Speaker — \$300*
 - *Co-Sponsorship: Beyond Academia — \$300*
 - *Co-Sponsorship: 2020 EEMB Graduate Student Symposium — \$300*
 - *Co-Sponsorship: The Body as Archive — \$300*
 - *Public Humanities: Graduate Fellows Program*

- **Administrative Reports**
 - *Graduate Division // Dr. Carlos M. Nash and Robert Hamm*
 - *Graduate Applications (as of January 14, 2020)*

Citizenship
2019-2020: Domestic (44.7%), International (55.3%)
2020-2021: Domestic (44.8%), International (55.2%)

Domestic Under-represented groups
2019-2020: URM (20.5%), non-URM (77.0%)
2020-2021: URM (21.6%), non-URM (76.2%)

Gender
2019-2020: M (57.8%), F (37.9%), O (1.4%)
2020-2021: M (56.1%), F (38.3%), O (1.7%)
 - *Graduate Council // Dr. Tammy Afifi*

- **Executive Committee Reports**
 - *President // Cierra Raine Sorin*
 - *Advisor/Staff Person on-going*
 - We have an advisor - Dr. Carlos Nash
 - Have formally requested aid from Student Affairs and Academic Affairs to help fund a full-time staff person
 - This ask was made last week by exec to both SA & Grad Div
 - Pedro will email the letter out to department reps

- Need to discuss how GSA would fund our portion - hopefully a fee? More info in February
 - Planning Diversity Reception - more info at Feb meeting
 - Increase funding for VP Internal
 - Serving essentially as Internal President to my External President
 - Retroactive: \$2000 total for each quarter (increase of \$500/quarter)
 - Not Heather's suggestion, but rather mine (unanimous board support)
 - Winter Council of Presidents meeting - Feb 1 & 2
 - Winter UCOP meeting - February 20
 - Long-term childcare proposal
 - Chancellor's Advisory Taskforce on Childcare
 - Thoughts on statement calling for an Interim VP of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion?
 - Interest in new fee for summer bus passes?
 - Resolution of Support for UCSC Striking Graduate Students
- **Approval of moving to Discussion Items with UC Santa Cruz and UCSC COLA Movement with Yulia Gilichinskaya and Tony Boardman, Presidents of the UC Santa Cruz Graduate Student Association, and send out the Executive Board Reports through email to the Graduate Representatives // MOTION CONSENTED**
 - **Discussion Items**
 - Call from organizing members of the #COLA Strike at UCSC
 - UCSB COLA? Sympathy strike? Something else? All of the above?
 - **Action Items** (Requires Assembly Vote)
 - *Co-sponsorship vote for the GS^3 Diversity Speaker — \$300: **APPROVED***
 - 45 in favor, 0 abstentions and 0 nays.
 - *Co-sponsorship vote for the Beyond Academia — \$300: **APPROVED***
 - 45 in favor, 0 abstentions and 0 nays.

- Co-Sponsorship: 2020 EEMB Graduate Student Symposium — \$300: **APPROVED**
 - 45 in favor, 0 abstentions and 0 nays.
- Co-Sponsorship: 2020 EEMB Graduate Student Symposium — \$300: **APPROVED**
 - 45 in favor, 0 abstentions and 0 nays.
- Co-Sponsorship: The Body as Archive — \$300: **APPROVED**
 - 45 in favor, 0 abstentions and 0 nays.
- Resolution of Support for UC Santa Cruz Strikers: **APPROVED**
 - 45 in favor, 0 abstentions and 0 nays.

The UCSB Graduate Student Association states unequivocally our full support for our fellow graduate students at UC Santa Cruz in their demand for a cost of living adjustment (COLA), including their engagement in a Wildcat Strike. California’s housing crisis has resulted in horrific inequality across the state, especially in areas such as Santa Cruz. Here in Santa Barbara, the average cost of a one bedroom apartment hovers around \$2,000, which is roughly what a TA makes in a month.

The vast majority of graduate students spend more than half of their paychecks on housing, with many going to extreme lengths to make ends meet. This includes but is not limited to: living in their cars (if they can afford one), borrowing money from friends and family, and sometimes even relying on advisors for financial help in emergency situations. The idea of stretching the same salary in an area with even higher rents is incomprehensible to most of us. Graduate students — in Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, across California, and across the country — deserve better.

Santa Cruz grads’ decision to withhold grades is a brave and an ingenious use of our power as graduate students. The UC only works because we do, and our compensation should both reflect the value of our labor and account for the high cost of living in California. We stand in solidarity with our fellow graduate student workers at UC Santa Cruz. We demand that UC Office of the President and UC Santa Cruz administrators issue a written guarantee that there will be no retaliation against all organizers, students, faculty, workers, and staff involved in the strike. COLA now!

- Announcements
- Adjournment