

UC **SANTA BARBARA**

Graduate Student Association

General Assembly Minutes

November 29 | 2022 | 6-8 PM

Hybrid Format

Meeting called by the GSA Co-Presidents Becky Martin and Eugene Riodan Jr
Minutes recorded by Annjulie Vester, VP of Communication & Events

Introduction and sign-in

Community Agreements

Roll Call (26 representatives present)

- Anthropology [1]
- Chemical Engineering [1]
- Communication [1]
- Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology [1]
- Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology [1]
- Education [1]
- Electrical & Computer Engineering [1]
- Economics [2]
- English [1]
- Environmental Sciences & Management [4]
- Geography [1]
- History of Art and Architecture [1]
- Materials [2]
- Physics [3]
- Political Science [1]
- Psychological and Brain Sciences [1]
- Religious Studies [1]
- Statistic and Applied Probability [1]

Approval of last meeting minutes – – MOTION APPROVED

Approval of current agenda – – MOTION APPROVED

Administrative Report: Giuliana Perrone (Graduate Council - Academic Senate)

- Contact: gperrone@ucsb.edu if you have concerns or question

Co-Sponsorship Presentations

- Clarification on the Rules and Procedures:

- The GSA has limited funding available for supporting graduate student organizations' events and conferences
- Awards are available for up to \$300 per organization per quarter and may only be requested twice per academic year (for a total of \$600)
- In the November 1st General Assembly, GA representatives had voted to award \$600 to both WAIL and Healing Communities by mistake
 - A motion was approved to overturn that decision and award only \$300 per organization
 - Both organizations will be allowed to return to ask for co-sponsorship in Winter or Spring

Executive Board Reports

- External Co-President (Eugene Riordan Jr)
 - See Finance Update
- VP Communications & Events (Anjolie Vester)
 - Open Committees
 - Advisory Committee on Campus Access
 - Radiation Safety Committee
 - See Finance Update
- VP Graduate Student Affairs (Sara Tyberg)
 - Graduate Student Health Care Townhall (Friday Dec 2nd @ noon via Zoom)
 - Ongoing meetings with folks at SHS to discuss the provision of gender affirming care
 - Dental Benefits: UCSHIP gives students two teeth cleanings per plan per year → only 20% of students even get one of them
 - The recording of the recent Campus Housing Graduate Student info session can be found [here!](#) Check it out for on-campus and off-campus housing resources!
 - Review of Lease: Campus Housing can help ensure your lease is safe - contact Jennifer Birchim at "jbirchim@housing.ucsb.edu"
- VP External Affairs (Anne Berry) - *absent*

Finance Update

- Resignation of VPFA, Gabrielle Salo on November 7th 2022
 - Both VPCE Anjolie Vester and External Co-President Eugene Riordan Jr are filling this position in the interim
 - Per Bylaws and Consitution, special elections must be held at the next scheduled General Assembly (29th of November GA)
- What's important to know
 - The GSA Budget is in good standing and accounted for
 - Many grants have not been processed in the past months - we would like to sincerely apologize for the delay in communication and processing

- The current system through which GSA processes its finances does not support the volume of transactions the organization produces
- Both Anjolie and Eugene have been working with GSA Advisor Carlos Nash to set up a new financial transaction system and to process outstanding grants (+ 40 travel grants, 17 childcare grants, 1 emergency grant)
- Special Elections
 - Due to the current state of the GSA financial system a new VPFA would have tied hands
 - The Board recommended the following actions:
 - (1) postponement of the special elections for VPFA until January 17th
 - (2) special elections for the position of adhoc officer, specifically Melanie Adams, former VPFA (2020-2022) to support processing of outstanding grants/reimbursements
 - Explanation
 - Referring to (1): a newly elected VPFA would lack a predecessor to transfer institutional knowledge and teach them the financial processes that are yet to be generated
 - Referring to (2): The Board currently has no experienced officer with the institutional knowledge to set up a new financial system or to use the old financial system to process outstanding grants - Melanie Adams has offered to help the Board temporarily (3 months or length of adhoc appointment) in this process
 - Votes
 - MOTION TO POSTPONE VPFA SPECIAL ELECTIONS: unanimously approved by present GA representatives (26 Yes, 0 No)
 - MOTION TO ELECT MELANIE ADAMS AS ADHOC OFFICER: unanimously approved by present GA representatives (26 Yes, 0 No)
- If you have questions about the finance update or any other financial matters, reach out to vpce@gsa.ucsb.edu or gsa-ext-co-president@ucsb.edu!

Adjournment – – MOTION APPROVED

- Next General Assembly Meeting January 17th, 2023

Questions or comments concerning the meeting minutes should be directed to the GSA Co-Presidents, Becky Martin, at int-co-president@gsa.ucsb.edu and Eugene Riordan Jr, at ext-co-president@gsa.ucsb.edu or the VP of Communications & Events, Anjolie Vester, at vpce@gsa.ucsb.edu.

11/29/2022

General Assembly

November 29th, 2022

Sign in here!



Community Agreements

Community Agreements

- No recording
- Respect the speaker
- One mic one diva
- Step up step back
- Decorum

Zoom Specific Agreements

- Please keep your mic muted when you're not speaking
- Let our Zoom helper know if you need anything (speakers are too quiet, things are going too fast, etc)
- If you have any questions/doubts, please raise your *Zoom hand* and you will talk shortly.

Robert's Rules of Order: A Brief Overview

Robert's Rules of Order Motion Steps

1. **Motion:** A member rises or raises a hand to signal the chairperson. *"I move to..."* for approving, adjourning
2. **Second:** Another member seconds the motion. *"Second!"* or *"I second the motion"*
3. **Restate motion:** The chairperson restates the motion.
4. **Debate:** The members debate the motion.
5. **Vote:** The chairperson restates the motion, and then first asks for affirmative votes, and then negative votes. *"All in favor? Opposed? Abstaining?"*
6. **Announce the vote:** The chairperson announces the result of the vote and any instructions.

Meeting Agenda

Assembly Vote Required

Meeting Agenda

- Greetings/Community Agreements
- Last Meeting Minutes/Current Agenda Approval
- Roll Call
- Co-Sponsorship Presentations
- Administration Reports
- Executive Board Report
- Discussion Items
- Adjournment

Last Meeting Minutes and Current Agenda Approval

Assembly Vote Required

Roll Call

Academic Departments Present

GSA Constitution: Article II, Section B, Clause E

The GSA Assembly, by a simple majority (50% plus 1) vote, may resolve disputes concerning official Graduate Degree Program representation.

Administration Reports

GSA Advisor - Graduate Division

Graduate Council - Academic Senate

Associated Students

Co-Sponsorship Presentations

(Budget: Spent \$2,025 Remaining \$9,725)

Clarification on Co-Sponsorships

The GSA has limited funding available to support organizations' events and conferences when serve graduate students. Awards are available for up to \$300 per student organization per quarter, with a maximum of \$600 awarded per academic year per graduate student organization. (<https://gsa.ucsb.edu/funding/event-co-sponsorship>) - there is no language in either Constitution/Bylaws

In our November GA, WAIL and Healing Communities asked for \$600 each, and there was some concern among reps about whether we could or should confirm \$600 for one quarter.

Executive Board Recommendation: Motion to confirm \$300 for both Healing Communities and WAIL for this quarter and to ask them to apply again in Winter/Spring.

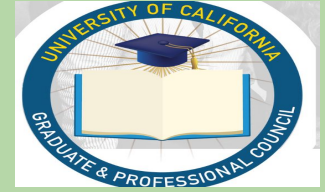
Executive Board Reports

VP Graduate Student Affairs: Sara Tyberg

- Grad Student Health Care & Health Insurance Town Hall
 - **Friday, Dec 2nd at noon on Zoom**
 - An open forum to share your thoughts, opinions, and concerns regarding graduate student health care and health insurance
- Ongoing meetings with folks at SHS (e.g., Shereen Barr, Angie Magana, and Vejas Skripkus) to discuss issues in providing gender affirming care
- Friendly reminder re: dental benefits: UCSHIP gives us two teeth cleanings per plan year, but only 20% of students on UCSHIP get even one teeth cleaning.
 - SHS recommends Goleta Dental Practice for local services

VP Graduate Student Affairs: Sara Tyberg

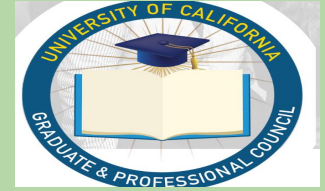
- Grad Housing Program hosted on Nov 16th - recording is available on the GSA Website
- If you are signing a lease and want to review the terms with someone prior to signing OR if you are unsure about the legitimacy of a listing, please contact Jenn Birchim at jbirchim@housing.ucsb.edu.
 - UCSB students have been targeted by housing scams, so please be careful before providing any personal information to an assumed landlord.
- At the next GA, Jenn Birchim from Housing will also come to talk about University and community housing options for continuing graduate students



VP External Affairs: Anne Berry

UC Graduate and Professional Council

- Work on social media to promote graduate summit, midterm elections and systemwide committees
- Passed resolution in support of PROP 1
- Finishing appointments to the campus committees
- Looking into reproductive healthcare access with the student Health Accountability
- Getting in the with local housing committees to address transitory homelessness
- Working to support the campus - wide mental health initiative



VP External Affairs: Anne Berry

UC Graduate and Professional Council

- Issues in our campus housing, TA's and IA's regarding wages, right and benefits
- The union strike and safety and undocumented student employment at UC.

VP Communication & Events: Annjulie Vester

- More Committees
 - Advisory Committee on Campus Access
 - Radiation Safety Committee
- Committee and GA representative stipends
 - rep stipends are technically to be disbursed to departments - previous GA voted to extend them to individual reps instead
 - Associated Students has in some cases still issued the checks to “the UC Regents” aka the departments
 - Committee stipends: you will be sent a form after Week 10 to request a report on your work in committees and hours spent
- see Finance Update (in Discussion Items)

Co-Presidents' Report: Eugene Riordan Jr and Becky Martin

External Co-President:

- see Finance Update (in Discussion Items)

Internal Co-President:

- Lounge is serving so many graduate students!

Discussion Items

Finance Update

- Gabrielle resigned Sunday, 7 November 2022
- Anjolie and Eugene have taken over all VPFA duties, including committee appointments, grant decisions, reimbursements, etc.
- We want to apologize for how long this has taken us to reconcile, but we believe we have a much clearer picture of our current financial situation and pathways to payments
- We are on path to get outstanding payments to people by the end of this quarter, and are exploring options to streamline getting money to graduate students and doing what we can to move away from reimbursements only as how we can administer grants and things
 - travel grants (40+), childcare (9), emergency (~6)
- As far as we can tell, we're in a good position financially, we're just untangling a mess of *how* to get people money

Special Elections: VPFA

The VP of Budget, Finance, and Committees is the chief financial officer of the GSA. The VP prepares the annual budget, presents monthly financial reports to the GSA Assembly, keeps financial records, and processes financial transactions for grants, reimbursements, and co-sponsorships. Given the position's complexity, the VP will be supported by financial liaisons, as well as the Executive Board.

We have had several people interested in the position.

In order to better guarantee the next VPFA success in their role, and to ensure that the remaining financials of Fall Quarter get settled in a timely matter, your GSA Executive Board recommends a motion to table the Special Election until our January GA Meeting.

In order to meet the current gap, your GSA Executive Board recommends a motion to appoint an Ad Hoc Officer for the rest of Fall Quarter and parts of the Winter. (clarification on the next slide)

Special Elections: Ad hoc Officer

a. The GSA Assembly, by a two-thirds (66%) vote, may establish ad hoc Officer positions.

i. The term of office for an ad hoc Officer position shall not exceed one (1) academic quarter. The GSA Assembly, by a simple majority (50% plus 1) vote, may appoint a GSA member to fill an ad hoc Officer position.

(Article III, Section D, Constitution of the UCSB Graduate Student Association)

Melanie Adams served as the Vice President of Financial Affairs for two terms, 2020-2022.

The Executive Board has reached out to ask her about her availability to help right our financial situation and get our next officer set up for success. If approved by the General Assembly, she could start this week. The budget for this position will come out of the leftover budget from the VPFA this quarter and will work alongside the specially elected VPFA starting in January.

Recap: Options for VPFA Position

Per our bylaws, we need to have an election for the vacant VPFA position. These decisions are up to the General Assembly and you all get to decide how we as the Executive Board move forward. These are two options that we perceive, but are open to more.

Option 1: We have our regularly scheduled special election for the VPFA tonight

Option 2 (*what the Executive Board recommends*):

- Motion to table special election until January GA
- If successful, motion to create an Ad Hoc Officer position.
- If successful, motion to appoint Melanie Adams to the Ad Hoc Officer position

Options 3-13: Anything else?

Union Update

UC SANTA BARBARA

Graduate Student Association

Anything more the GSA can do to support your departments during the strike?

Adjournment

Next General Assembly on January 17th (Week 2 of