

UC SANTA BARBARA

Graduate Student Association

General Assembly Minutes

JAN 16th | 2024 | 6-8 PM

Hybrid Format

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

Introduction and sign-in

Community Agreements

Roll Call (24 representatives present)

Approval of last meeting minutes – – MOTION APPROVED

Approval of current agenda – – MOTION APPROVED

GSA Executive Board Elections are Coming!

Every April, we elect a new GSA EBoard - you should consider running!

Benefits:

1. Be a voice for graduate students both in UCSB and in greater contexts (UCOP/DC)
2. Learn more than you ever wanted to know about academic administrations
3. Collaborate with students on events, workshops and activities
4. \$\$\$\$\$
 - a. Co-presidents: \$10,000/year
 - b. Vice-President of Finances: \$7,750
 - c. Other Vice-Presidents: \$7,250

Your officers would love to get coffee with you and discuss their roles - office hours with more general explanation to follow!

Feedback from GA Format Survey

- Each quarter, there are three General Assemblies
 - One in person

- Two in Zoom
- We tried this format last quarter, and asked for feedback in December

Of the 18 respondents, we had:

- 12 respondents approved of this format
- 3 respondents would prefer more in-person meetings
- 3 respondents would prefer more Zoom meetings

Administration Reports

Graduate Division

- The Graduate Division would like to welcome Dr. Mia Nowotarski as the new Writing Specialist.
 - 2023 PhD in Chemistry
 - 2020 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Recipient
 - Provide one-on-one consultation to graduate students through appointments
 - Develop and lead workshops on a variety of writing topics of interest to graduate students and as requested by individual departments
 - If you'd like to schedule a consultation with her, please email her at mnowotarski@graddiv.ucsb.edu.
- Registration for 2024 Grad Slam is now open
 - Preliminary round: 4–12 March 2024
 - Final round: 5 April 2024
 - Info and registration at gradslam.ucsb.edu/2024
 - Priority registration deadline: 16 February 2024
- Fundamentals in Public Speaking Certificate Program
 - Provides a way for scholars to both develop and demonstrate competency in public speaking
 - Topics covered: content development, stage presence, and visuals
 - The series is open to graduate students and postdoctoral in any discipline

and at any stage in their program

- Programming: 5 February–12 March 2024
- Learn more about each session and sign up via the [Graduate Student Resource Center page on Shoreline](#)
- GSRC Winter 2024 Programming
 - Complete listing on [GSRC Shoreline](#) page
 - Programming:
 - Fundamentals in Public Speaking Certificate Program
 - Beyond Academia 2024 Conference (28 Feb–1 Mar)
 - Career Development
 - Funding & Finances
 - Diversity & Outreach
 - International Students

Co-sponsorship Requests

- Chem PD - Entrepreneurial Success Seminar
 - Emile Morin

Chem PD: Entrepreneurial Success Seminar Co-sponsorship request

VOTE: APPROVED

Yes: 23

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Executive Board Report

Annjulie Vester (External)

Need a graduate student representative for the College of Letters and Sciences Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)

- biweekly on Thursdays from 2-4

VP Graduate Student Affairs: Felicia Rutland

HEALTHCARE

expected rate increase next year ~24 to 30% (23-24 year 10.7%)

Contracts and Opportunities Working Group

kwabena agyare yeboah, History, *Engagement Lead*
 Sai Sukruth Bezugam, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Daniel Cervantes, Co-Chair, Political Science
 Alicia Geng, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education
Mayra Gomez-Labrada, Co-Chair, Theater and Dance

Healthcare Working Group

Taft Crowley, Political Science
 Xinru Du, Technology Management
 Yuehao Gao, Media Arts and Technology
My Thu Tran, Co-Chair, Geography
Kris Troy, Co-Chair, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology (MCDB)
 Ashvini Varatharaj, Linguistics, *Humanistic Lead*
 Olivia Wander, Political Science

Housing Working Group

Will Heo, Co-Chair, Economics
Shaylee Larson, Co-Chair, BioEngineering
 Ye Mu, Geography
 Carina Paredes-Rivera, Spanish and Portuguese
 Shreyas Parthasarathy, Physics
 Timothy Perez, Sociology
 George Tsouloufas, Political Science
 Lindsey Washiashi, MCDB

VP Budget, Finance, & Committees: Adrienne Tsikewa

- General Fund: \$180,000 (estimated)
 - Lounge \$46,000
 - Events \$9000
 - General Assembly \$7000
 - Co-sponsorships \$15,000
 - Affinity Groups \$8000
 - Committee Stipends \$10,000
 - GSRC co-sponsorships \$5,250

• Executive Board	\$44,500
• GSA Awards	\$500
• Travel	\$10,000
• Miscellaneous	\$3,500
• Retreat	\$1,000
• TOTAL=	\$164, 250

Through November 2023

July -Nov = \$40,982.22/\$14,405.15 supplies & expenses

- Other Funds:
 - Emergency Grant \$50,000 (approx.)for the year (F, W, SPR)
 - quarterly fee increase \$2.89→ \$5.78
 - Fall = \$19,200.78
 - Fall disbursement total = \$11,550 to 17 students
 - Winter = \$17,339.81
 - Conference Travel Grants \$52,000 (approx.) for the year
 - Carry forward = \$80,622.37
 - Deadline for winter = 1/26/24
 - Fall = \$18,927.88
 - \$37,500 each quarter (F, W, SPR)
 - Fall disbursement estimate = \$29,500
 - Winter = \$16,952,32
 - Currently 58 applications; 51 requesting max amount = \$500

- Other Funds:
 - Child Care Grants \$39,000 for the year
 - Carry forward \$20,000
 - Fall = \$14,452.83
 - Fall disbursement total = \$10,800
 - Winter = \$12,960.41
 - Summer Bus passes \$18,000 for the year
 - Carry forward \$24,000
 - Fall = \$6,937.48
 - Winter = \$6,235.79
 - Pause or decrease amount for upcoming fee affirmation?

- Committee on Library, Information and Instructional Resources
 - Open Forum on Data Management Across the Disciplines
 - Feb. 23, 2024 12:30-3:30
 - Focus will be on data management and the facilities that exist or are needed to assist faculty and students in managing their data; gain understanding of the shortfall of support, with an eye toward issuing a recommendation on where future campus planning and investment would be most useful
 - Would like two students (preferably one STEM & one SHEF) to present on their data management experiences. Compensation will be in the form of committee hours.
 - atsikewa@ucsb.edu
 - gsa-vpfa@ucsb.edu
 - Subject line = Data Management Forum volunteer

Voting Item: Affinity Group Support

Women in Science and Engineering

VOTE: FUNDING APPROVED

66.7% Yes

29.2% Abstain

Report

UAW Region 6 Political Action & Leadership Conference

Region 6 - western states of the US

UC Graduate Academic Student Employees & Student Researchers (Local 2865) & UC Postdocs (Local 5810) fall under Region 6 of the UAW

Big time for Region 6: there have recently been 50,000 workers newly unionized in Region 6 and Tesla workers are in an historic process of unionizing

What we did:

- Workshop pressing issues: climate justice, corporate greed, social justice (new union organizing, contract campaigns, political action)

- Talk to other workers in other industries: Tesla & the Big 3
- 2024 goals discussion

Tesla workers are in the middle of a historic fight to unionize. Harassment, discrimination & bullying abound in HE & Tesla workplaces. UC Graduate Academic Student Employees & Postdocs will now be amalgamated under one local.

- Bargaining in 2025
- Plan from now to move towards this

ADJOURNED