

UC **SANTA BARBARA**

Graduate Student Association

General Assembly Minutes
OCT 8th | 2024| 6-8 PM
In-Person Format

Meeting called by GSA Internal Co-President Gustavo Prado Sampaio
Minutes recorded by Alexander Luckmann, VP of Communication & Events

Introduction and sign-in

Community Agreements

Roll Call (19 representatives present)

Approval of last meeting minutes – – MOTION APPROVED

Approval of current agenda – – MOTION APPROVED

Co-sponsorship Requests

- Materials Scientist Association Professional Development Committee (APPROVED)
 - Alexandra Zele and Owen Kuklinski
- Grad Student Field Day (APPROVED)
 - Sean Anderson
- Gauchos for Recovery (APPROVED)
 - Gustavo Prado Sampaio

What are the GSA's current responsibilities?

Governance and Communications

- Meetings: Monthly General Assembly, Biweekly Executive Board
- Annual Upkeep: Annual and Special Elections
- Communication: With Grad Students, with Graduate Division, with Chancellor's Office and Student Affairs

Advocacy

- Campus Committees: We are called to serve on many committees to represent Grad Student voices, such as Academic Senate, Building Committees (UCen, SRB, RecCen), Housing, GradDiv, etc, EOB UCShip Advisory
- UC-Wide Committees and Advocacy: UC Graduate and Professional Council (UCGPC), Advocacy in Sacramento and Washington D.C.
- Hiring Committees: Chancellor, Dean of Graduate Division, Vice Chancellor of Research, Vice Chancellor of DEI

Resources

- GSA Lounge: Maintaining the space, hiring staff, purchasing supplies, scheduling events
- Grants and Funds: Travel Grants, Emergency Grant, Childcare Grant, Internship Grant
- Awards: Dixon-Levi Service Award, Excellence in Teaching Award
- Affinity Organizations: \$2000/year for: Queer/Trans GSA; Black GSU; Asian Pacific Islander GSA; American Indian and Indigenous GSA; Women in Science and Engineering

Community Building

- Quarterly Mosher Time: Having a party (currently obligated in bylaws)
- Co-Sponsorships: Funding for Grad Students to hold events on campus
- Communication: Weekly event newsletters, social media (Instagram)
- Bagel Hour
- Grad Clubs: A new program where we work with grad students to build community around shared hobbies
- Awards: Dixon-Levi Service Award, Excellence in Teaching Award

Breakout Rooms: Working Groups

- Spent 30 min with a small group discussing how to improve each of the themes above.
- Suggestions from community building: drop Mosher Time in favor of smaller, lower-budget and -time events at GSA Lounge (pizza nights); organize game nights; potentially increase club funding, once we have a sense of which ones are viable and popular
- Suggestions from Governance and Communications: We talked about how the GSA structure influences participation. We discussed new ways of structuring the GSA, with higher participation from General Assembly officers and departments. We recommend the GSA revisit its structure. A model was proposed in which GA members would be required to participate in committees and there would be some kind of requirement as far as how GA members communicate GSA decisions and resources to the graduate students from their home departments.

- Suggestions from Advocacy: Concerns around access to basic needs such as housing, healthcare, mental health support, mentorship, and positive advisor/department relationships were all brought up immediately. These continue to be themes that the GSA broadly considers as part of its advocacy efforts, but this working group had a few implementable suggestions for how to galvanize more of the graduate community into advocating for their needs and being more involved in the process. We discussed the opportunity of “micro-projects” where students could pick a fully scoped plan and work to accomplish it over periods of time ranging from a week to four weeks, depending on their time constraints. Taking the time to think of a need, figure out what resources would be needed, and then actually undertake this advocacy project is a huge barrier to graduate involvement in community advocacy. These micro-advocacy projects (which would be scoped out and posted somewhere public) could also help graduate students develop critical skills around collaboration, project management, and more. (Win-win opportunity.) This group emphasized that presenting these opportunities with the “utmost clarity and removing the legwork of the intellectual labor” would help more graduate students use their skills to address critical issues in our community.
- Suggestions from Resources: We don’t have any immediate recommendations, but we talked about the current issues of funding (particularly, the lack of funding for travel grants, the inconsistent rules for emergency grants, and how we get more funding).

Administration Reports

Graduate Division

- Dr. Robert Hamm: Emphasis on funds available for community building events

Office of Student Life

- Dean of Students Dr. Joaquin Becerra and Student Success Coordinator Dr. Emma Parker: Emphasis on desire to be an advocate for and build relationships with grad students.

Upcoming Events

- Weekly Bagel Hours
- Welcome (Back) Party: October 18 at Mosher Alumni House
- Grad Drag Night: Thursdays starting October 10 at RCSGD Lounge

Committees Looking for Members

As proxy for Co-President (Internal)

- Academic Senate Council Committee on Research and Instructional Resources
- Academic Senate Council Committee on Library, Information, and Instructional Resources

As proxy for Co-President (External)

- UCSB Calendar Committee
- UCSB Commencement Speaker Selection Committee

Other

- Chancellor's Sustainability Committee
- The Green Initiative Fund
- The Student Resource Building Governance Board
- Academic Senate Council on Faculty Welfare, Academic Freedom & Awards
- Academic Senate Committee on International Education
- Academic Senate Committee on Diversity & Equity

Single Commitment

- Housing Meeting Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Office (Tuesday, 29th @ 5pm only, happening on-campus)

Discussion Item: New Constitutional Language

ARTICLE X: ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP, MISCONDUCT, & DISCRIMINATION

It is important to note that Registered Campus Organization (RCO) leaders are not permitted to prohibit individual students from participating in their organization, in adherence to the University's non-discrimination policy. If an officer becomes aware of a potential case of misconduct involving a member or prospective member of the registered campus organization, it is strongly recommended that RCO leaders first seek counsel from Student Engagement and Leadership (SEAL) Professional Staff for guidance on specific cases. The officer can also seek guidance from the Title IX Compliance and Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Office ("TIX/DHP Office") and/or the Office of Student Conduct for a case consultation.

ARTICLE XI: NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

As a Registered Campus Organization, in accordance with applicable Federal and State Laws and University policy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual

orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran.

Discussion Item: Special Election, VP for External Affairs

- iv. If any other elected GSA Officer position becomes vacant, then a Special Election for that GSA Officer position shall take place at the next GSA Assembly Meeting that is more than three (3) business days after the announcement of the vacancy, and, if necessary, at each subsequent GSA Assembly Meeting until the position is filled.

- v. The Executive Committee may appoint a GSA member to serve as an Acting GSA Officer until the position is filled, subject to approval of the GSA Assembly.

- From the Constitution: The GSA Vice President of External Affairs shall assist the GSA Co-Presidents in representing UCSB Graduate Student interests beyond the UCSB campus and shall serve as the chief delegate of the GSA in external matters.

- From the Bylaws: The VPEA shall attend the GSA General Assemblies, Executive Board meetings, and possible meetings with administration and/or affiliated groups on-campus. The VPEA shall be the official GSA representative to the following UCSB bodies:
 - UCSA Board of Directors
 - UCSA University Affairs Committee

Discussion Item: Laptop Loaner Program

In the 2023-2024 academic year Student Services received 16 loaner laptop requests and 24 chromebook requests from graduate students, but the current program is designed for undergraduate use only. In order to fill this gap, we have been in conversation with Student Services about starting a laptop loaner program for graduate students. If the laptop purchase is approved by the GSA, Student Services will facilitate the lending as part of their current programming.

The goal is to provide graduate students with temporary equipment while they arrange a way to replace their laptop or purchase a new one that better fits their needs.

Our initial pilot program would be 5 Macbook units and 5 PC units. Laptops would be borrowed for one quarter, with the possibility of extending a second quarter upon application.

COST:

New PC Units (5):

Lenovo Notebook Workstation P14s AMD Gen 3

Laptop Sleeves

Cost: ~\$7,000

New Mac Units (5):

Macbook Pro 8-core CPU 10-Core GPU 8GB UM

Laptop Sleeves

AppleCare

Cost:~\$10,000

Anticipated Initial Cost of Program for FQ 2024: \$17,000

Anticipated Annual Replacement and Repair Estimate

Cost:~\$3,000

Request Approval for \$17,000 this year and \$3,000 earmarked for program in the GSA budget of future academic years.