

UC **SANTA BARBARA**

Graduate Student Association

General Assembly Minutes
March 11th | 2024| 6-8 PM
Zoom

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 (24 representatives present; 4 more joined before voting for quorum of 28/41)

Approval of last meeting minutes – – MOTION APPROVED

Approval of current agenda – – MOTION APPROVED

Administration Reports

Student Affairs (Dr. Emma Parker)

- General Student Affairs update
 - Looking to improve Student Affairs offerings for grad students, to inform grad students of those offerings, and to hear what grad students want from Student Affairs. Has QR codes to submit comments. "Open to any questions and feedback: "Anything that Student Affairs can do for you today"
- April Ballot
 - Working with Bedlam and Exec Board to put new fees and constitutional changes on April Ballot

Graduate Division (Dr. Carlos Nash)

- Graduate Experience Survey
 - UC graduate student experience survey will launch on March 31. Need to get people to take this survey. Previous years had approx. 25% participation, which doesn't give usable data because it exposes too

many people at departmental scale. Need around 40% participation. Hope to raffle gift cards.

- Dean of Grad Div
 - New dean of Graduate Division and Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate Affairs: Dr. Janine Jones. Begins at UCSB on July 1 2025. Thanks Leila Rupp for extended term as Interim Dean.
- New cohort
 - New cohort: 307 SIRs, almost twice as many as on this date last year. Most of these are master's students. Some departments are including new language, in large part due to federal policy uncertainty, on offer letters: "Given recent and pending developments outside the control of UC Santa Barbara, including actions taken by funding agencies and federal and state government actions, we must caution you that the funding component of your offer may be modified and can no longer be guaranteed. All reasonable efforts will be made to identify mechanisms to support you financially as circumstances allow."

Graduate Division (Grace Kimball)

- Upcoming events
 - Second Chance round of Grad Slam on Friday, 3/14 at SRB
 - Final Round April 3 at Campbell Hall
 - Wine and cheese event on April 10
- **GSA External Co-President Report (Laura Snell)**
- Systemwide calendar
 - Proposal of systemwide calendar (moving all UCs to quarter or semester system) has been tabled due to expense and other current priorities. To be considered in future.
- General legal update
 - Lack of communication from UCOP, including lack of response to GSA Open Letter, due in large part to current lawsuits against UC, many of which look to set precedent.
- Undocumented Legal Services
 - UC system has an attorney on retainer specifically for legal issues
 - For UCSB students and their families; free of cost for students and families
 - Go to immigration services
- DOE Investigation
 - Yesterday: UCSB added to Department of Education Title IX investigation for "anti-semitism." No further info at the moment. Very concerning. Laura trying to meet with Dean Rupp. Working with Niyali Broadway (AS president) to meet with Chancellor Yang.

- Laptop program
 - Proceeding but slowed by IT requirements.

Co-sponsorship Requests

- Bren Environmental Symposium, presented by Matilde. Request for \$1400 approved unanimously.
- History of Art and Architecture Graduate Symposium, presented by Alida. Request for \$1400 approved unanimously.
- 27th Annual Workshop of American Indigenous Languages (WAIL 27), presented by Cormac. Request for \$1400 approved unanimously.
- Women's Center 50th Anniversary Series, presented by Tania. Request for 2 \$600 allocations - one for Winter Quarter, one for Spring Quarter - approved unanimously.
- Research prep Mentorship Program, presented by Sadia. Request for \$600 passed with one abstention.

GSA Elections

- Bedlam announced that nominations for 2025-26 GSA officers open next week, with elections in April.

Election Outreach/Departmental Coffee Hours

- Dates selected to meet with departments to discuss the upcoming elections, officer positions, and constitutional changes.
 - Wednesday, April 2:
 - 9-10 AM: Chemical Engineering coffee hr
 - 11AM-12 PM: Bioengineering coffee hr
 - 12-1 PM: Materials coffee hr
 - 4-5.30 PM: Zoom town hall (this aligned with schedules from music, anthropology, communications, sociology)
 - Friday, April 4: Mechanical Engineering coffee hr, time TBD
 - Wednesday, April 9:
 - 10-11 AM: Earth Science coffee hr
 - Thursday, April 10:
 - 10-11 AM: Chemistry coffee hr
 - Tuesday, April 15:
 - 6-7.30 PM: In-person town hall, GSA Lounge

GSA Constitutional Revision Vote

Vote on revisions to GSA Constitution by item; to be placed on April Ballot.

- Item 1: Changing “Executive Committee” to “Executive Board”
 - Pass: 27 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain; MOTION PASSED

- Item 2: Publicizing Special Meetings and Special Elections at least 5 days rather than 3 days in advance
 - Pass: 27 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain; MOTION PASSED

- Item 3: Adding 1-month paid “shadow period” to 12-month Executive Board term
 - Pass: 28 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain; MOTION PASSED

- Item 4: Clarifying that GSA Internal Co-President is in charge of Assembly meetings.
 - Pass: 28 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain; MOTION PASSED

- Item 5: Clarifying that GSA Internal Co-President is in charge of Committee assignments.
 - Pass: 28 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain; MOTION PASSED

- Item 6: Changing “VP of Budget, Finance, and Committees” to “VP of Financial Affairs.”
 - Pass: 27 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain; MOTION PASSED

- Item 7: Addition of an Officer (split the VP of Communication and Events into the VP of Communication and the VP of Events)
 - Pass: 28 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain; MOTION PASSED

- Item 8: Renaming of VP of Graduate Student Affairs (VPGSA) to VP of Campus Affairs (VPCA)
 - Pass: 27 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain; MOTION PASSED

- Item 9: Changing interim succession to Co-President positions from VPFA for both to: VP of Campus Affairs succeeds Internal Co-President; VP of External Affairs succeeds External Co-President.
 - Pass: 28 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain; MOTION PASSED

- Item 10: Clarifying funds in case of dissolution
 - Pass: 28 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain; MOTION PASSED

- Item 11: Announcement and nomination for committee vacancies
 - Pass: 28 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain; MOTION PASSED
- Item 12: Committee members to fill out post-committee meeting form
 - Pass: 28 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain; MOTION PASSED

GSA Conference Grant Fee Vote

At previous GA, discussed whether to double or triple Conference Grant Fee. Bedlam had seen whether those could both be put on April Ballot. They cannot. Vote whether to put doubling or tripling fee on April Ballot.

- Vote to triple fee – Going from 5.17/quarter to 17.13/quarter (51.39/yr)
 - (yes 13; opposed 14; abstain 1) MOTION FAILS
- Vote to double fee – Going from 5.17/quarter to 11.42/quarter (34.26/yr)
 - (yes 24; opposed 1; abstain 1) MOTION PASSES

Reminders/Asks to Reps

Members needed for:

- Search Advisory Committee - Dean of the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education
- GSA Awards Selection Committees
 - Dixon-Levy Award
 - Teaching Excellence

Slack

Discussion of Slack as communication and archiving platform for Exec Board and General Assembly.

- Why Slack and not another platform? Only keeps messages for 90 days
 - Objection that Slack only keeps messages for 90 days, but that's for free; paid can keep for longer
 - Good for archives
 - Better for organizing
- Discord
 - Issues with confidential docs and conversations
- Teams
 - Generally disliked
- WhatsApp Groups
 - Not great as archives

Adjournment