

Graduate Student Association

General Assembly
January 6th | 2026 | 6-8 PM
GSA Lounge

6:00 PM	Introduction
6:05 PM	Community Agreements
6:10PM	<p>Roll Call</p> <p>Approval of Last Meeting Minutes (Requires Assembly Vote)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Motion to approve last meeting minutes<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Seconded by Maizy Stern○ Outcome: Minutes approved, two abstain (co-presidents) <p>Approval of Current Agenda (Requires Assembly Vote)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Motion to approve current meeting agenda<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Seconded by Maizy Stern○ Outcome: Current Agenda approved unanimously● Robert's Rules of Order<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Review
6:15PM	<p>Campus/Administration Reports</p> <p>Carlos Nash, Graduate Advisor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Will attend Bagel Hour this week● Intends to speak with graduate students and hear community concerns <p>Grace Kimball, Graduate Student Resource Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Winter 2026 planning underway● Grad Slam open until February 6● Seeking volunteers for GRSC programming● See slides for details <p>Graduate Council</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Graduate application numbers slightly lower than usual ● Not currently a cause for concern
6:25PM	<p>Co-Sponsorships (Requires Assembly Vote)</p> <p>Hidden Garden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partnered with Cheadle and the Art Department ● Requested \$600 total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food: \$300 ○ Equipment: \$300 ● Motion to approve funding of \$600 for a one day exhibition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outcome: Unanimous approval for \$600 <p>Researchers Against War – “Boba Not Bombs”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Requested \$300 for drinks ● Event date: January 29 ● Motion to approve \$300 for two events in Winter quarter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outcome: Approved with two abstentions
6:33PM	<p>Strike Study Announcement (Celine Tsoi)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Longitudinal survey related to strike participation ● One survey per week during strike periods ● Responses are not shared with administration or other entities ● Small incentive offered for participation ● Email Celine Tsoi
6:35PM	<p>Executive Board Updates</p> <p>Laura Snell, Co-President (External)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quarterly UCOP meeting scheduled for Tuesday ● Continuing efforts to secure graduate student representation on the Bike Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee chair has been unresponsive for three months ● Plans to email Vice Chancellor regarding FTE planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Graduate student teaching not counted as faculty or lecturer in campus-wide budget allotments

- With budget constraints, inclusion could improve consideration of graduate labor

Vice President of External Affairs

- Help Wanted: UCGPC Student Advocate
 - Role focuses on publicity for graduate students
 - Starts January 20
 - Compensation: \$400/month (\$800 total)
 - Opportunity to meet students from other campuses
- UCGPC Graduate Summit
 - January 24, 4–8 PM
 - Email announcement forthcoming
 - Topics include civil rights, housing rights, and advocacy

Taylor, Vice President of Finance

- Budget updates
- See slides

Jing, Vice President of Events

- Karaoke Night
 - January 22, 7 PM, GSA Lounge
 - Food provided

OWL System Purchase (Meeting OWL Vote)

- Motion to approve purchase of an OWL system
 - Funding range: \$1,500–\$1,750
- Friendly amendment proposed by Naja Christmas
 - Funds to come from carry-forward
 - Seconded by: Sarah Bacon
 - Outcome: Motion passes: APPROVED, within reason, somewhere between \$1,500 to \$1,750 for the purchasing of an owl system using the carry-forward fund

Committee Appointments

New Positions

- Hailie – Financial Assistant (supporting VP of Finance)
- Eric Rennie – Chief of Staff

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vanessa Rivera – Graduate Clubs Coordinator ● Nicola Eddy – Event Coordinator (supporting VP of Events) <p>Fee Committee Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Existing fees cannot be edited directly ● Fee committee can help make recommendations to GSA and executive board ● Fees must be sunset (or retired entirely) and repropose as a new fee with any edits in mind ● Timeline: next 4–6 weeks ● Committee will review fee language and determine priorities ● Topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency Relief Grant eligibility requirements ○ Childcare grant ○ Travel grant ○ Concern about loan acceptance requirements before qualifying
	<p>Internal Co-President Election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will soon hold a special election to find a new Co-President internal ● Gustavo will be stepping down, but overlapping one month with a newly elected individual to help onboard ● See slides
	<p>Slack Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Representatives asked to accept Slack invitations ● GSA transitioning primary communication channels to Slack
	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>Celine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children and Families Grant ● Heard funds may remain unused ● Interested in amending policy to redistribute remaining funds evenly among current applicants

	<p>Taylor (Response)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Need to consider new parents and new students throughout the year ● Importance of tracking application flow <p>Laura (Response)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Changes can be addressed through the Fee Committee <p>Naja</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asked about Shoreline training for events ● Inquired whether event attendance tallies are being collected <p>Taylor (Response)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sign-in sheets required for reimbursement on co-sponsored events ● Emphasized importance of data collection due to upcoming budget cuts <p>Additional Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If standardization is the goal: Shoreline recommended ○ If simple attendance tracking is sufficient: Google Forms acceptable for non-RCOs ● However, Shoreline usage/training requires involvement with SEAL which is something creating grad clubs was meant to avoid the extra bureaucratic work that graduate students do not always have the capacity for when wanting to create simple spaces to connect
7:09pm	<p>Adjournment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion to adjourn by Patrick Tugwell ● Seconded ● Meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM

General Assembly
Graduate Student Association
January 6th, 2026

**Sign in
using this
form!**



Community Agreements

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

Meeting Agenda

- Community Agreements
- Last Meeting Minutes and Current Meeting Agenda Approval
- Robert's Rules of Order: A Brief Overview
- Campus/Administration Reports
- Co-Sponsorships
- Strike Student Announcement
- Executive Board Updates
- Meeting OWL Vote
- New Positions
- SLACK
- Fee Committee
- Internal Co-President Election
- Public Forum
- Adjournment

Last Meeting Minutes and Current Agenda Approval

Assembly Vote Required

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. **Discussion:** The members may discuss 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.

Administration Reports

Associated Students

Student Affairs: Dean of Students

GSA Advisor

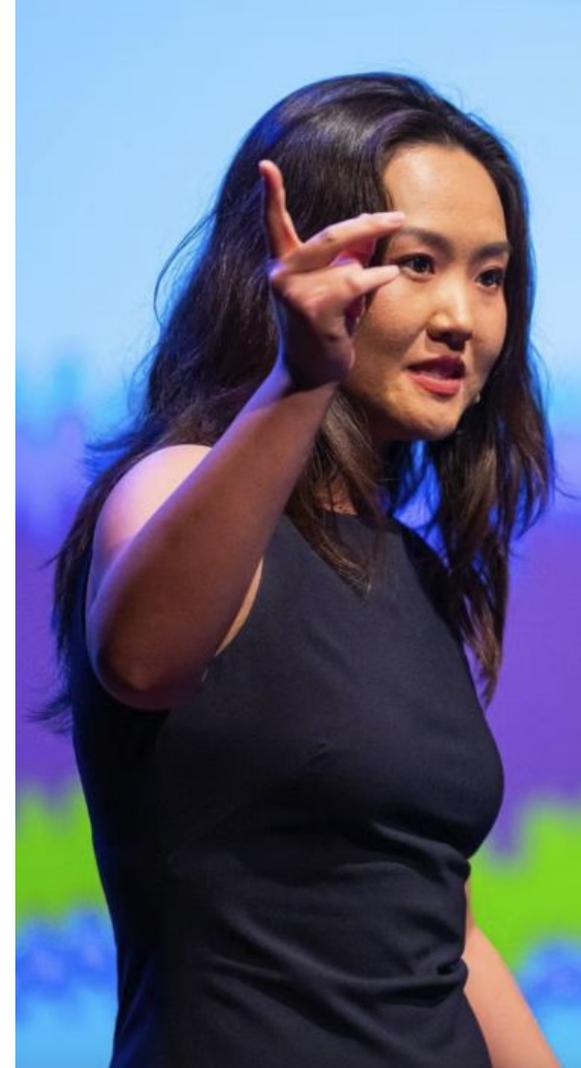
Graduate Division & GSRC

Graduate Council

Upcoming Winter 2026 Events

- **Grad Slam 2026 & the Public Speaking Certificate**
 - Crafting Your Elevator Pitch
 - Finding Your Stage Presence
 - Mastering the Slam: Insider Tips from Judges and Alums
 - Design Awesome Slides
 - The Art of the Research Pitch: How Clear Visual Storytelling and Slide Design Can Reach Any Audience
 - Best Practices in Slide Design for Scientific Presentation
 - Grad Slam/Elevator Pitch Practice Round
 - Grad Slam Preliminary Rounds w/ Invited Deans
 - Call for Volunteers Coming Mid-January

Grad Slam Registration
is open from January 5th
until February 6th!



Co-Sponsorships

UC SANTA BARBARA

Graduate Student Association

Hidden Garden

Art Department

Negar Farajiani + Emily d'Achiardi

Description + Event

Hidden Garden is a one-day exhibition on December 5th from 11am to 5pm in the UCSB Greenhouse and Garden that explores the connection between art, nature, and sensory experience. MFA students, faculty and alumni present works inspired by the five senses, inviting audiences to discover pieces hidden throughout the garden. The event aims to blur the boundaries between art and everyday materials, fostering curiosity and dialogue about environmental awareness and perception.

Budget

Total: \$600

→ Food (snacks, drinks, napkins, plates etc) : \$300

→ Installation Equipment (Spackle, Nails, Paint, etc): \$300



Researchers Against War

**GRADUATE STUDENTS
LOOKING AT THE
CONNECTION BETWEEN
THE UNIVERSITY AND
THE MILITARY
INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX**



Request: \$300

Event: Boba not Bombs @ Hochaya
Dates: Jan 29th , tentative Feb 12th

Expected turn out: ~20 people per event

Cost breakdown: ~ \$7 per drink



Strike Study Announcement

Celine Tsoi

Executive Board Updates

UC SANTA BARBARA

Graduate Student Association

Co-President (External)

- Quarterly UCOP Meeting on next Tuesday
- Continuing to pursue bike committee

VP of External Affairs

- Help Wanted: UCGPC Student Advocate
- UCGPC Grad Summit
- Advocacy Dates (tentative)
 - Sacramento: March 3-4, 2026
 - DC: April 20-23, 2026

VP of Finance

- Hired a new assistant, Hailie Kittner, to help with the GSA finances!
- Reviewing previous finances as the GSA prepares for an internal auditing process.
- **Grant Updates!**
 - Awarded **64** student parents funds from the childcare grant.
 - Approved **134** travel grants! (Reimbursement process will take time, please be patience with the team who processes those grants.)
 - **16** GSA reps attended all **three** meetings, and **19** GSA reps attended **two of three meetings**.
 - **27** grad student leaders (Grad Clubs) were awarded a stipend.
- Winter Travel Grant is open! Funds for this grant are TBD as I am waiting for the finance team to notify me of available funds for this quarter.

VP Events

- **Karaoke Night:** Grab the mic and sing your heart out!
 - Jan 22, Thursday, 7pm
 - Food provided!
 - RSVP coming out soon!



Purchasing of Meeting OWL



See the entire room

360° camera renders a 10 ft (3 m) HD video radius.



Catch every word

360° tri-speaker amplifies remote voices.



Hear all voices

8 smart mics span an 18 ft (5.5 m) audio pickup radius.



Unlock smart features

Regular updates continuously improve performance.

A Meeting Owl is a smart video conferencing device designed to enhance virtual meetings. Its 360-degree camera automatically focuses on the person speaking, providing a more dynamic and immersive experience for remote participants. The device combines audio and video capabilities, ensuring clear sound and sharp visuals, even in large or distributed groups.



Meeting Owl 3

\$1,099.00



Tripod for Meeting Owl

\$149.00



Expansion Mic
Gray

\$249.00

Apply

Subtotal · 3 items

\$1,497.00

Shipping

FREE

Estimated taxes 

\$116.03

Total

USD **\$1,613.03**

New Positions

New Positions Hired:

Eric Rennie - Chief of Staff

Accepted Positions (onboarding in progress):

Vanessa Rivera - Grad Clubs Coordinator

Nicola Eddy - Event Coordinator

Hailie Kittner - Financial Assistant

TBD - Social Media Coordinator

TBD - Legislative Assistant

Slack



Slack is a communication and collaboration platform used by teams to work together more efficiently. It allows people to send messages in organized channels based on topics, projects, or groups, as well as through direct messages. Users can share files, links, and images, react with emojis, and integrate other tools like Google Drive or calendars. Overall, Slack helps keep conversations organized and reduces the need for long email threads by bringing team communication into one place.

We will be onboarding you to Slack tomorrow. Please accept the request.

Fee Committee

Please come speak to me after the meeting

- Ideally meeting month to reassess fee language
- Our fees are written with language that may limit how or what the money can be spent on
- We would like to go over the language and begin to think about drafting new parameters that make the disbursement of funds more equitable, etc.

Internal Co-President Election

Internal Co-President Election

- To be held at our next General Assembly meeting
- **February 3rd, 2026**
- All currently enrolled graduate students are able to run
- This will be a **ranked-choice election**, as per the GSA rules
- We will use the online system **RankedVote**, which has been used by the GSA in two previous extraordinary elections
- We will provide you with a QR code and link. You can use a computer or cellphone to vote.
- **Only** General Assembly members will be allowed to vote
- Do **not** share the link with non-GA members
- The new Internal Co-President will be sworn in immediately, and I will work with them over the month of February to facilitate a seamless transition

Public Forum

**Sign in
using this
form!**



Adjournment

Next General Assembly: February 3rd, 2026