



Council Meeting Minutes

**Senate Chambers, New Commons
12/05/07**

1. Call to order at 6:05 pm
 - a. Present: Alex, Louise, Eric, Laura, Tony, Joe, Irene, Gary, Kristy, Henry, Erik, and Vanessa
 - b. Absent: Richard, Susan, and Anirban
 - c. Motion to approve agenda, seconded, no objections, motion carries and the agenda is approved.
 - d. Motion to approve minutes, seconded, no objections, motion carries and the minutes are approved.
2. Presentations
 - a. **Counseling Center** (Jessica Eldridge) – each student has 8 individual therapy sessions at no cost. Group therapy is also available and doesn't detract from the 8 allotted sessions. Group therapy is focused on interrelationship concerns, depression, self-esteem, etc. It also has an educational component. They also have couples therapy where only one partner has to be a student. Couples therapy is included in the 8 session limit. Emergency walk-in service is available if you can't wait for an appt. due to a crisis. They encourage you to walk-in and let them know that you are having an emergency. There is a counselor on duty to work with students in crisis. M-F 8:30am-4:30pm. Sometimes multiple students come in so there might be a little bit of a wait ~30 minutes. They provide outreach and workshops about whatever is being requested, working with stress management etc. They have programs associated with the counseling center such as biofeedback and students get up to 6 sessions and the student is paired with a trained biofeedback technician. You become aware of your responses like breathing, relaxation techniques etc. Stressbusters services as well. For emergency walk-in services, if you see a student in crisis it's helpful to have direction from someone else and walk the distressed person over to help them make it through the door. Someone could walk-in or call to the counseling center if they have a problem, inform your friends in need. If you need more than 8 sessions, they usually can determine this initially and would give you a referral to an off campus resource and this would trigger your insurance.

- b. **Housing and Dining** (Andy Plumley) – he oversees the campus bookstore, Child Development Center, housing, dining, mail, and printing and reprographics. They are looking at initiatives pointed toward student life. They are trying to identify locations on campus for dining locations. Grad students are in late night programs, and they would like to open small stores like the Science Library Taqueria. Business plans must be reviewed to make sure they break even. We don't have graduate housing, do we want studios, apartments, etc. Family housing is mostly grad students and they are getting ready to tear down the existing family housing. They are in negotiations with a low income housing group. They want to remodel the campus store and promote after hours student life on campus. There are plans for coffee shops closer to other buildings. They usually do a building count to make sure cross-traffic is there. They've identified a place by Life Sciences for a dining store. The coffee bus is temporary. There are complaints about the coffee quality and they are aware of it. They need enough traffic so they could break even. They are concerned about vegetarian, organic, sustainable food on campus. Concern was expressed that there are not enough choices. You would think that we would have more options. Duke has a completely organic sustainable eatery. Grad students would like an organic salad bar. They are definitely looking at an organic store. They have done well for the dining halls but commons doesn't lend itself to this. They would like input to any food preferences. We have a registered dietician on staff. Motion to continue time by 5 minutes, seconded, no objections, motion passes and presentation continues. Another issue is that grad students are here on the weekends and evenings and it is hard to find something to eat. If they want a university where grad students do work all the time, why is it impossible to get food on campus after hours. They need a business model where they are making a profit at other peak times to balance out the off hours. They commons have suffered for the past 2 years but this year they may be able to make money now. They are looking at expanding their student labor force. He will respond to emails for suggestions. There is a student advisory committee which provides feedback. There is also a Commons Board. Concern was expressed about local apartment rent increases. They have opened up new properties with very high rents. We had a large rent increase this year. They are looking at a max 2-3% increase. With the home crisis, apartment rates could increase. Utilities have gone up and housing pays about \$1 million to the campus for use of their services, just for being on campus. This info is on the student housing committee.
- c. **Campus Recycling** (Breanna Harris) – people in Spieth were not recycling as much as they should be. They painted the recycling containers blue and labeled them. They collected them and took them to Stater Brothers and got \$15 for one month's worth of collection from

4 bins, 3 were emptied. They think it's a good fundraiser for them. They would like to extend it to other departments. Just contact physical plant and they will bring boxes for you. You can also ask physical plant to not empty them. If this takes off, we can pool the money and use it for something. They don't have a box around the commons as there might be restrictions with that. But you can put one around your building. Mini-gsas need more money and this is a good way to get money ahead of time for mini-GSAs. It's ridiculous that we don't have recycling bin at every single trash can. There is a concern that people are taking the recyclables. Please paint them blue and not a different color. We can start a resolution to install cans for recycling. Feel free to email her if you need more help or have questions.

- d. **Seminar Series** (Nicoletta Da Ros) – she is the Vice Chair of the Seminar Series Committee. This is a series of monthly lectures to be held in the New Commons upstairs rooms, hopefully once a month to bring in speakers from inside and outside the academic world. The lecture will be open to the widest possible audience including outside the Riverside community. We would like to bring together all the departments to promote the exchange of ideas across campus and mingling between people across campus and the colleges so they can come together. They want to represent the interdisciplinary aspect of the event. They would like to linguistically and graphically represent this. As far as funding, they are in the process of getting funds from it. Grad Division has promised almost secure funds. Match from the Dean of Students. They want to start at the end of this quarter. They are aiming at the beginning of next quarter for the first speaker. If you are interested, they are meeting after the Council meeting. If you have questions, please see her afterwards.
3. Reports
- a. **President** (Alex Cortez)
 - i. Grad Diversity Summit - thank you to those that participated in the Grad Diversity Summit. There are certificates for the participants and reports from the planners will follow shortly.
 - ii. Chancellor's Search - they are meeting next Monday in Oakland on Monday Dec 10th for the Chancellor Search.
 - iii. Alumni Association - there is a new Alumni Assoc. Regent, retired Judge Ronald Stovitz will preside the UCAA.
 - iv. UC Student Regent - Alex has Student Regent applications. It is a two-year commitment. The first year is served as "Regent-Designate" and the second as a voting member to the Board of Regents. For more info go to <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/regents/studentreg.html>. If you wish to apply, simply fill out an application at the GSA office or electronically at the link provided above. He has more info on the application process which closes Feb 21st.

- v. Graduate Council - Graduate Council Committee which is part of Academic senate, had Dr. Wendy Ashmore resign as chair so we have Dr. Dumer is acting chair. He's working on the sub-committee to make recommendations to EVC regarding the misconception that there are conflicting reports regarding graduate student support (funding models).
- vi. AAll position – will do what we can to hire one at the beginning of next quarter. We have closed the application process and will be setting up interviews beginning over the break.
- vii. Furniture - is in the works for the student lounge. It's being designed and furnished by Goforth and Marty. There is a call for student artwork, please contact Alex to make a contribution.
- viii. Graduate Students completing their degree objective - he's working on a joint project with Grad Div and Alumni Assoc. for graduating grad students. There will be a reception held in the Alumni Center. If you will be finishing this year and would like to provide feedback, contact him and also if you would like to be involved in commencement.
- ix. Teaching and outreach opportunity for UCR Upward Bound. If you have an idea for a course for a group of high school students please let them know. They are seeking instructors for Academic Enrichment courses for high school students as part or Saturday Academies. Upward Bound is a federally funded outreach program that targets first generation and low income students. The time commitment is half a day per month. Interested parties, please contact Lena Tisdale lenat@ucr.edu.

b. Executive Vice President (Louise Hendrickson)

- i. Students of Color Conference – it was at UC Santa Cruz and we took 7 students. There were 40 undergrads from UC Riverside. It was a productive meeting. They had workshops and caucuses. There was time for groups from the different campus could meet and bring back resolutions that they made at the end of the conference to their respective associations so that there is an effort to make this an important issue.
- ii. UCSA President - we need an election for a UCSA president. You can see how UCSA functions by coming to the meeting Dec 15th at 10am in Senate Chambers.
- iii. UC President - the student advisory committee can't meet with the finalist. There's no info released yet.
- iv. Voter registration - we have voter registration cards for those not yet registered.

c. Vice President of Academic Affairs (Erik Kolb)

- i. Mini-GSAs – to make your mini-GSAs official after you register with Student Life you have to email otherwise you can't get your money from the GSA. If your organization hasn't contacted him yet, let him know to get make your mini-GSA official.
 - ii. Committees - we are doing very well with committees. For Academic Senate Committees, they have grad student committee member names on their website. There are still openings for Campus-Wide Committees such as the student housing advisory committee and parking. Please see him if you're interested. Internal GSA committees Bylaws, Elections, ECAC, GSHIP, need people so please see him.
 - iii. Voting Cards – at council meetings voting is very important. Please return your voting cards. Please exercise your duty to represent your department. GSA money is your money so please ask questions of the presenters.
 - iv. GSA Executive Board - we are on a record trend this year as far as record participation. We never had such a large executive board. There is only one position not filled. The AAO's are meeting with your Deans to discuss issues in your college that really affect you like funding and TA ships. He met with his Dean about TA appointment notifications.
- d. **Public Relations Officer** (Kristy Richardson)
- i. Grad Student Night at the Barn – although food ran out within the first hour or so (only 150 students through the door) with an attendance of over 350 people, we showed that the grad students could bring students out for events and they need to include us. This event was sponsored for us by Student Life. Student Life contracted with Dining services for a taco bar for 250 people which cost ~\$2,000. If we went to the Barn on a Friday, we would be able to buy over \$3,000 tacos or bought 140 pizzas at the Getaway. Catering's calculation of food per person doesn't coincide with the amount of food people eat. We will refrain from using Catering for our future events. We didn't lose money on this event but there are issues with Catering.
 - ii. Finals Sweets and Treats - our social next week is Finals Sweets & Treats. It will be everyday next week for an hour but it will be in the Grad student lounge on the 3rd floor. This is an area that is designated for us in room 383 by the Rotunda area on the other side. We have a nice balcony. We will have coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and snacks (healthy and not so healthy). We scheduled it during the breaks in between the finals sessions (MWF 11-12 and TTH 1-2). Please take a couple flyers and post them. Please recycle the flyers afterward.

- iii. Winter Quarter - the party committee has many events for next quarter including a Grad Bash early in the quarter so stay tuned.
 - e. **GSHIP Chair** (Laura Bellew)
 - i. Wartella Letter - we received a letter from Wartella about why the Univ. didn't take the 2 year deal we were offered. The E-Board feels we should respond to her letter. It would be best if the letter was dealt with the entire GSHIP committee to keep everyone in the loop. She will keep everyone posted on this new letter. Laura summarizes the letter and you can read it on the website. She reiterated that locking in a commitment would remove competition. She provided a graph and described the graph. The graph was about student health insurance for institutions increases.
 - ii. GSHIP Committee – she will be passing around a signup sheet for GSHIP committee and she especially needs members from science to diversify the committee. The time commitment is relatively minimal.
 - f. **Finance Officer** (Tony Yang)
 - i. Budget – nothing is out of shape with the budget, we are on the plus side. If you would like specifics, he can take care of that. Right now he is trying to get caught up to speed with detailed items.
 - ii. Mini-GSAs - they would like to have a standardized form for reimbursing mini-GSAs. See him if you have questions.
 - g. **Conference Travel Grant Chair** (Joe Steirer)
 - i. Payouts:
 - Payout for October Applicants: 21 applicants for \$7,240.24
 - For January, there were 31 applicants:
 - 0 for world conferences
 - 3 for NA conferences
 - 15 for US conferences
 - 7 for Southwest applicants
 - 6 attendee applicants (much higher than usual)
 - Maximum pay-out for December will be \$11,150
 - ii. Caps were increased for winter quarter at last meeting:
 - Current Fall Quarter Caps:
 - \$300 SW (CA, NV, AZ)
 - \$400 US
 - \$500 Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico
 - \$600 Rest of World
 - \$75 Attendee
- New caps:
- \$300 SW (CA, NV, AZ)
 - \$500 US

\$600 Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico
\$700 Rest of World
\$75 Attendee

- iii. Payout Process - use the CTG money first before you use your mini-GSAs money. For the next CTG meeting, we'll probably increase the yearly cap ~\$1000/student/year. Long lag time from when the receipts are turned in to when they are paid out is stopping students from applying for CTGs.
- iv. Deadline for Feb. applications - currently for people going to go to conferences in Feb, the deadline is when the university first opens in January but we might extend this date. Please read the newsletter to know for sure about the latest info about the due date.
- v. Payout Issues - some international conferences are more costly. It can become very cumbersome to have many categories. Most of the conferences people go to is ones in the United States. The point is to encourage research. There was no increase in caps for attendees. People aren't applying because of the long lag time to get paid and the long lead time is another factor. So if your conference is at the end of the month, then you have the longest lead time. Most of the conferences he's seen needs materials 3-4 months in advance. It might be better for the students to make the lead time based on the conference date rather than on a set time each month. This is also a one-man show with no AAlll so this method makes it very difficult for the CTG Chair and committee. This morning on NPR at George Bush airport, you can electronically download your boarding pass so there is no paper copy. You might want to consider in the future that we may not have boarding pass. This needs to be discussed with accounting. He knows that they will move to more of an online system with Accounting (iViews).
- vi. Payout Budget - a rough estimate of payouts from July to December is \$40k. We still have roughly \$100k-120k to support conference travel grants for the rest of the year. Please apply to receive these grants for presenting research. If you have any questions please see him.

4. Discussion

- a. **UCSA report** (Louise Hendrickson)– the Board meeting in November was pretty short. There was a motion to approve the Boars report. It doesn't help students that haven't gone to a school with prep courses. They want to drop SAT II's scores off the admissions. UCSA is supporting that policy. They made committee appointments. They are having a President's election and Louise took over as acting president. They had an election for an acting president which she won so she is the acting president of UCSA. She is running for President of UCSA.

There is a potential fee increase and the academic prep decrease. The Regents budget asked for another set of fee increases. There were no alternatives presented to the Regents. We are about to hit the worst fiscal year in history. Rumors of a 12% increase in student fees. She would attack this issue if she is president of UCSA.

- b. Gary – he will lobby with senators and other officials so that when it's time to discuss the budget they will know we are concerned.
 - c. If you have questions see Louise and Gary.
5. New Business
- a. **Funding Request** – at 28 years, it is the longest standing student run conference. James C Young tragically died soon after graduating. The event is supposed to reach a broad audience. They have 2 submissions already from UCSD and one from UCLA. They have sent out the first call for papers. It will be held on Feb 16th 2008 and is a good opportunity for grad students to present. Expected attendance ~125 students and faculty. Attendees in the past have included UCR grad students and participants from many other SoCal universities as well as east coast universities. They are creating their poster for the event. The GSA logo will be prominently featured. They gave out handouts last meeting. They have started the process of asking for funding from outside sources. They have met all the pre-conference requirements. Motion to fund the James C Young for the full requested amount (\$1500) seconded, no objections, motion passes 24-0-0.
 - b. **UCSD Resolution** – the GSA at UCSD made a symbolic gesture at being more transparent. The EOB unanimously suggest signing on this resolution with our support. The undergrads will be making a similar stance. Motion to support UCSD GSAs resolution, seconded, motion passes 25-0-0. It was noted that we should post these things on the website before the meeting in the future. This type of resolution can be supported by multiple student government organizations so they get the point. We will also have a petition level document. If we have it drafted for Grad Bash we could get even more signatures.
 - c. **AGSM AAO confirmation** -motion to confirm Richard Yang as AAO of AGSM, seconded, no discussion, motion carries 23-0-0.
 - d. **COD confirmation** – motion to accept Ching'in Chen as GSA COD, seconded, no discussion, motion carries 23-0-0.
6. Public Forum
- a. Please take Social flyers and post them.
 - b. Patrick – everyone should see raise on last TA paycheck but please make sure. The UC has corrected everything for the 5% raise for TA's. You should see the October's raise and this month's raise. He's glad to hear that TA appt. notifications were corrected in Erik's college because it is a contractual obligation for them. By grieving these things they can give pressure for the next negotiation. Please let him know if you aren't getting timely notifications of your TA appointments.

The academic senate has voted to allow undocumented students at the UC to receive financial aid. The UCSA voted in support of the Dream Act but it failed. Sustainability issues came up several times and there is an organization on campus, sustainable UCR, that would like to have a sustainable community garden. You donate time and you get a box of food from the garden. It is currently in development. If you have interests in sustainability, organic food, gardening, etc. let him Patrick know.

- c. If you questions about CTG Joe is available.
7. Adjournment – motion to adjourn, no objections, meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.