



## ***Council Meeting Minutes***

**GSA Office, Surge 173  
01/16/08**

1. Call to order at 7:16 pm
  - a. Present: Alex, Erik, Eric, Joe, Gary, Irene, Richard, Tony, Kristy, Henry, Susan, and Vanessa
  - b. Absent: Louise, Laura, and Anirban
  - c. Motion to approve agenda, seconded, no objections, motion passes and agenda is approved. Motion to approve minutes, seconded, no objections, motion carries and minutes are approved.
  - d. .
2. Reports
  - a. President (Alex Cortez)
    - i. **Chancellor search** - Recap Meeting December 10<sup>th</sup>. The list of candidates was narrowed down from 300 to about 60 but it is still an open process, nominations will be accepted up to when interviews start. Next meeting will be **February 7<sup>th</sup> 2008** (The January meeting was cancelled)
    - ii. **Graduate Council** - sub committee recommendations for the funding models were submitted to the Academic Senate and to the EVC. Bottomline: We feel the cohort funding model is the most appropriate for recruitment and is not inflexible. Centrally administered (GD) block funds can be used to supplement original funding package during dissertation years (retention). More funding is necessary! If grad division could manage block grants as well they could give them to the departments to give to students. More funding is necessary no matter what model the administration decides to push for retention and recruitment.
    - iii. **Seminar series** – the conference title is Consilience (unity in knowledge). For ideas contact our Vice Chair Nicoletta Da Ros.
    - iv. **AAll Position** - the application process is closed for the AAll position. We will start interviewing soon, it's narrowed down to 8 candidates and there are an additional 10 that are also qualified.

- v. **Homecoming** - He is involved in the planning of Homecoming. Those tickets are available to grad students too and they are free. We are trying to launch a spirit campaign to come up some cool giveaways for grad students. He would like for a few more grad students to join him for the spirit campaign. Just in the first hours today 2000+ tickets for Heat.
- vi. **UC student regent** - applications (2 year position) deadline is Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. We have the applications in the office. There's a link in the newsletter today.  
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/regents/studentreg.html>
- vii. **Vacancies** - there are 2 vacancies for GSA conference chair and the Academic Affairs Officer of education. Please see him if you're interested. The GSA conference chair is due Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- viii. **Outreach** – there is a science fair at a local elementary school on Tues. Jan 29<sup>th</sup>, see Alex for more details. It's for judging.
- ix. **Undergrad Students Visiting** - There is a group of ~8-10 undergrads from the CSU Dominguez Hills. There are mostly interested in sociology, history, and math. Please welcome them if you see them around or at Grad Bash tomorrow.
- b. EVP Louise Hendrickson (are reported by LL Gary Coyne) combined with Gary's officer report
  - i. **UCSA President** - Louise was elected to UCSA President. That's good for us and her.
  - ii. **UC Budget** - will be \$33M short next year. The regents meet today and tomorrow. We will have about 7+% fee increase (~\$600). All UCSA's from all campus will meet with their representatives. Hopefully they will fund the UC Budget more. That will translate into you be given money but your funding is impacted by a reduced funding which is the word from grad division.
  - iii. **Student Lobby Con** – GSA will pay for travel and accommodation.
  - iv. **Register to Vote** - last day to register for voting is Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Reg cards at Grad Bash, the undergrads are tabling. Voter guides are in the back about who is running and the parties. We really need to have professional students go to Lobby Con because the professional students are taking the hardest hit.
  - v. **UCSA**
    1. standing in solidarity with the Library Union.
    2. they are collaborating with tuition relief now that would cap fees and tax millionaires income to get money for fees.
    3. **Financial Aid Testimonials** - Ching-In is collecting financial aid testimonials. You can drop them off at the

front desk at the office or interoffice mail it to GSA care of the executive vice president.

- vi. **Prop 98** (UC guaranteed a certain percentage of the budget and 98 is trying to get rid of it) people came and spoke at the UCSA meeting but we didn't take any real strong action on that. We are already stretched thin enough as it is. Prop 92 is separation of k-12 minimal level of funding.
- c. Vice President of Academic Affairs (Erik Kolb)
  - i. **Mini-GSAs** – congrats to the current mini-GSAs. If you are having trouble with the process, see him. Some want funding for the mini-GSAs. You must be completely current, there are 12 registered mini-GSAs. Send him an email if you need to get current. Even if you don't need money, you should still make your GSA current because it helps us justify our need in Reg Fees. If someone gets hurt, it helps us for liability. It also helps us to disseminate information. Student Life can be a hassle and we are working to streamline that. If it's not too much and if you can do it, please do.
  - ii. **Voting** - it's exciting that we will have a say in the presidential primary so please make sure you are registered to vote. There are many ways that this affects you.
- d. Public Relations Chair (Kristy Richardson)
  - i. **Grad bash** is tomorrow 5-7pm at the Getaway. Please spread the word. It went out in the newsletter. Come eat food.
  - i. **Grad Student Survey** - there is a task force to survey grad students to collect information about grad student issues on campus. We hope it will go out in the next week or two. Please encourage your fellow students to fill it out.
  - ii. **Career Center** - she has career calendars for this quarter. Federal jobs for grad students on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 1-2pm. Career planning for grad students March 6<sup>th</sup> 2-3pm. If you want more info please contact the career center. Career week Feb 25-29<sup>th</sup>, there will be lots of workshops and panels for science and engineering. Grant writing workshop Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 9am Bourns 205-206 that will describe preparing science and humanities grants. This year's presentation will go over some of the changes in the grant writing process. See her afterwards for more information
  - iii. **Homecoming** – UCR is going to have it Feb, there will be the Heat Festival 311, Mos Def, Moby. The ticket is free. You can also purchase additional tickets for non-students. Go to Costo Hall plaza by the sandwich shop 11am-2pm. They will monitor the ratio of number of grad students to undergrads. There will be a beer garden. No re-entry to the music festival.
- e. GSHIP Chair (Laura Bellew) as reported by Tony Yang

- i. **Apologies** - she apologizes that she has a 6-9 pm class and can't be here.
    - ii. **Contract** - we have a 2 year contract and not a 1 year contract which is what we wanted.
    - iii. **Committee** - is meeting on Friday at 3pm at the Barn but they open at 4pm. The UBC office wasn't aware of the contract but it's binding. We will try to augment and eliminate the necessary services. So when the survey comes out, please start coming up with questions you want answered for the health insurance survey.
  - f. Finance Officer (Tony Yang)
    - i. **Budget** is in good shape. Come see him if you want the details. We will have a nice rollover for next year. You can see how much is left in your account with the GSA.
  - g. Conference Travel Grant Committee Chair (Joe Steirer)
    - i. **Committee Member needed** - one of his longest serving members is gone doing fieldwork so he's looking for someone from CHASS or humanities. There will be a meeting Friday at 12 pm.
    - ii. **Caps** - have increased. He has plenty more funds to fund students. Someone in psychology said that there is a huge conference for them and they told him that about 30 people go and they don't want to go through the hassle of the program so that's why they don't apply.
    - iii. **Reimbursements** - one dept. said that one student was double funded in the department. He likes to have as much people apply for travel grants. He's trying to strike a balance and have more people to apply. He welcomes any input [gsagrant@yahoo.com](mailto:gsagrant@yahoo.com). Encourage your fellow grad students to utilize the CTG program. Over half the budget goes to CTG program.
    - iv. **AAIII** - as soon as we get AAIII he can go around a little bit to the department GSA meetings so he can explain what we have and get more people to apply. The psychology dept. automatically gives \$200 automatically from the dept. chair. The dept. knows how much he's paying the student because he's in contact with the person in each dept. that deals with travel funding.
3. New Business
- a. **Green petition**-to come up with some language to ask the administration to increase the recycling efforts on campus and being more energy efficient. He would like to take down any names and get any ideas for the document through email so we can have it ready for grad bash tomorrow. Please give him your email address. It's ridiculous to have to search to have to find a recycling bin on campus. It shouldn't be the same cardboard trash cans that look exactly like

each other. We would like to author a document that we can take to the administration. The recycling bin is a big problem. The lighting is very bad and we could easily get solar lights. All the Bldg lights are on but we can't have the outdoor lights on. We can't have the lights on because of the construction. We shouldn't have to sacrifice safety. The carts are also dangerous.

- b. **Intern request.**- interns for Alex and other officers if they like. There are some undergrads that would be interested. The amount of work he had to do this year, it would help his replacement out. He will piloting it. At some point, they might talk about compensation.

#### 4. Public Forum

- a. Patrick from the TA Union – there will be phone banking in support of John Edwards and if you would like to participate, see him.
- b. We still don't have a conference chair so it would be really nice if we could get a chair for that. It's a paid position and it goes through July effective as soon as they are appointed. It's traditionally a 6 month appointment and you oversee the entire committee, make sure everyone does their job, and take up the slack of those that don't. It takes about 4 good people; susan did all the PR, Vanessa and Jen. This would look good for the CV. If you have experience and know how to get food on campus it would be good for you.
- c. Patrick is affiliated with sustainable UCR, they are planning to break ground on the community garden hopefully by the end of this month and if not, by the end of the quarter. It would be a fully organic sustainable community garden. We can start collecting compost on campus, save your orange peels!
- d. We will have a form available for mini-GSAs when they want reimbursements. Hopefully this will be up by the end of the week and it would go along with your request when it goes in. Some present requests have discrepancies and accounting gets confused. The form will make the process easier.
- e. Monday is MLK day so nobody come to school.

#### 5. Adjournment – motion to adjourn, no objections, meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.