



Council Meeting Minutes

**GSA Office, Olmstead 421
03/05/08**

1. Call to order at 6:38 pm
 - a. Present: Alex, Louise, Erik, Kristy, Tony, Joe, Gary, Irene, Henry, Jeff, and department reps.
 - b. Absent: Laura, Susan, Eric, Richard, Vanessa, 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.
2. Reports
 - a. President (Alex Cortez)
 - i. Chancellor's search - conference call on 28th. They now have a list of 6 individuals. They were supposed to meet but one person withdrew so they will only meet on Friday.
 - ii. Student regent nominating committee - they are reviewing the northern campus applications. They will follow up on the president's council meeting for the presidents of different UCs.
 - iii. Seminar series will have more info. We will kick off the seminar series at the GSA conference. Dr. Hayashi agreed to present next quarter, not available this quarter.
 - iv. AAllI Position - re-opened the application process. It will be posted for 1 month and then they will begin interviewing.
 - v. Outreach opportunity - for upward bound on Saturday March 8th, if interested see Alex. The email contact is lenat@ucr.edu. They are asking for grad students for a panel. Someone emailed the person last week but never got a response. Alex will look into this.
 - b. Executive Vice President (Louise Hendrickson)
 - i. Fee increases - with the gov's budget cut \$33M+, they are proposing a 10% increase. UCSA is gathering postcards about "It is Raining Debt". You can stop by the GSA office to fill postcards out.
 - ii. Elections - will go out tonight, if you would like to run for the elected GSA officer positions the applications open tonight, the deadline is March 31st and April 9th speeches will be made

- by the candidates. The applications will be on the website tomorrow.
- iii. Sustainability conference - the proposals already passed but there are openings for posters. See the website for more info.
 - iv. The different student associations within the different systems, all met last week with Louise and they decided to lobby together more instead of having a disjointed effect (CSUs, UCs, CCs). They committed to meeting regularly.
- c. Vice President of Academic Affairs (Erik Kolb)
- i. Mini-GSAs - we have a record number of mini-GSAs that are official, this is a big deal. This is the largest we have ever been as a graduate student association. A lot of people haven't handed in reimbursement forms. They've only reimbursed about \$400. Fiscal year ends June 30th.
 - ii. Reg Fees Committee - Erik is the vice chair for that, Alex also sits on that committee. They have approved \$300,000 for mental health fees. They are pushing hard to fund activities that are treatment oriented and prevention type things. The 2 groups most at risk were grad students and international students in UC systems in terms of mental health. Our conference Consilience is on the agenda and we get an extra \$5K for that from reg fees.
 - iii. Elections - Because we are so large this year, lot of building this year, he encourages everyone to run for office and participate in the process.
- d. Public Relations Officer (Kristy Richardson)
- i. Coffee Social - we had a good turnout for the coffee social and we helped collect signatures for Louise' staff against raising student fees.
 - ii. Pre-game grad bash - was a success and we bought 30 pizzas with Student Life's donation (seemed a perfect number) and had a little over 100 people show up. We had giveaways (cozies, pens, office basketball hoops) which were a hit. Stop by the GSA office to get pens. We will give out cozies at future party committee events.
 - iii. GSA Survey - Friday the 14th is the last day of the survey and so far we have 488 respondents. We'd like everyone here to fill out the survey and encourage it in your department. If you fill out the survey, you are registered to win a free ipod shuffle or external hard drive. If you would like more fliers, please let Kristy know.
 - iv. She concurs that this board has made great changes and we made a great name for the GSA with the other bodies on campus and we should encourage that. Kristy will be done on the GSA board and if you would like to be the next PR officer, sign up.

- e. GSHIP Chair (as reported by Tony on behalf of Laura Bellew)
 - i. Insurance - we are meeting next Friday with the insurance broker. If you have anything you would like to discuss let them know now. We have a 2 year contract that limits any increase to 11% this year. There is a stipulation that we could add or subtract certain things however if we want to keep it the same we could.
 - ii. FAQ - no one has emailed them anything about the FAQ. So please let them know if you have any items for it. At the next council meeting he'll have more info.
 - f. Finance Officer (Tony Yang)
 - i. Budget - is in great shape. We are actually very frugal this year. If you have any line item request, see him personally. At some point they will have to start setting up next year's budget. If you have any funding concerns please contact Tony.
 - g. Conference Travel Grant (CTG) Coordinator (Joe Steirer)
 - i. Payouts - we paid out 30 applicants for Jan for a total \$10,606. There will be about 70 applicants for April.
 - ii. Bylaws Change - they sent a request to the Bylaws committee to add the finance officer as a non-voting member of the CTG committee.
 - iii. Applying for CTG - encourage people about the deadlines and please apply for CTG so we use up all the money for that.
 - iv. CTG Committee - he is looking for couple more people for his meeting.
3. Discussion
- a. UCSA report
 - i. Budget - they went over the budget and took some stances. They want to lower fees and to not go up to 10%. They are asking for fees not to go up and to protect various services. They took a stance equivalent to CA dream act. Students will be able to access institutional aid and scholarships for undocumented students. They have separated it away from Cal Grant scholarships. There is a potential with the new language that they will accept it. This same issue came up at the presidential debate. There is another bill, tuition relief now (millionaire's tax), to tax millionaires 1% and UCSA is in support of that.
 - ii. Student Lobby Con – 10 people went from the GSA (Jeff Powel, Anne Hansen, Gary Coyne, Patrick Linder, Alex Cortez, Tony Yang, Louise Hendrickson, Miguel Narja, Lisa, and Susan Won) and ASUCR brought 30 undergrads. Two days of workshops and training that were informative and helped build lobbying skills. Brought 350 students to the state capital to meet with virtually all state lawmakers; the UCR

contingent met with 9 Inland Empire lawmakers. The speaker came down and spoke to them and also other representatives came to talk to the students. Hard to say what the ultimate impact of these visits will be, but many of these law makers had been virtually ignorant of the UC affordability crisis.

4. New Business

a. MEGSA Funding request

- i. they have met all the requirements up to now according to Erik. The ME symposium is March 7th. It is hosted by MEGSA and is sponsored by GSAUCR and ME dept. and ASME. Although it is ME Symposium, it is open to all UCR students. They have actually EE people joining them. It will have ~100 attendees. They will have 12 oral presentations from their grad students with 12 posters from over 20 grad students. They have a tentative industry speaker but he's very busy (VP of Ford Motor Co.). The purpose is to provide an overview of progress in ME research. They want to encourage interaction with grad students, faculty and industry. They have \$2,300 budget (\$1000 dept & \$300 ASME). They want \$1,000 from the GSA. Backup to industry speaker is not needed, they will just make room for him. We funded them last year at a lower amount \$900. They had double the number of grad students in ME this year. There should be \$6,500 in the budget. It would be a good opportunity to include the undergrads, a good opportunity to see what grad students are doing and get them excited about research. Motion to approve funding them for \$1,000, seconded, 25-0-0, motion passes and the GSA will fund this symposium for \$1,000.

b. Presentation from Amer. Soc. for Microbiology by Laura Presley

- i. They have had their pre-meeting according to Erik. The students have newly formed this organization and have decided to have this symposium on campus to improve networking. They are hoping to have UCI, UCLA, and CSU San Bernardino. They want this to be a model for future symposia. The budget will be \$2,000-3,000, open to all students (grads and undergrads). They promise to display the GSA logo on all promotional materials. They don't have any other funding sources so far but they plan to ask Grad Division. They have students in many different departments. Since this is the first symposium, they can get most funds from the GSA and they can display this as a model for future symposia. Last year Erik ran for this position to stimulate new symposia on campus. He wants to encourage this type of activity. The microbiology program doesn't exist anymore and this would help push that they start that back on campus. They would like to have a department to fund activities such

as this and it's a recruitment tool to entice grad students to study here at UCR. The most expensive things in this budget are things on campus. This is ridiculous that parking is \$750 and catering is the same way. If you sit on parking services committee and commons committee then you should try to push that student groups have a discount. Entomology will be added to the list, they can help out. Part of the reason to have the symposium is to make networks and connect. It's isolating to be in different departments and networks. They have a list of faculty willing to support but this is a student led effort. They have a committed keynoter from UCLA that does clinical microbiology. They will have a more developed list at the next meeting. They will try to incorporate humanities students in this symposium. It is something they could discuss this together and please present some suggestion at the next meeting. The parking fee seems high but TAPS won't give a discount. They are very strict about the parking. Motion to extend time for 5 minutes, seconded, 5 minutes added. The ASMB has an annual conference but this is a student chapter and this is different. Various other departments have a symposium but microbiology encompasses other fields and there can be a good chance for intellectual exchange. There is no microbiology mini-GSA. She emailed a couple times and she would like to apply for that. If you have a program or dept. that you are a part of, mini-GSA is setup for that. If you don't, the mini-GSA hasn't been firmly established for that. Since they don't have a home dept. or program they have a harder time getting money. There is fund raising, they are working on designing t-shirts etc. They have donations from different PIs. They are hoping to get more support from dept. of plant pathology, grad division, and microbiology. Plant Pathology can have a page where they can post their info. If they do not have it at the botanical gardens they could save money. Their 2 biggest expenses is parking and catering. They can have them pay for the parking and lunch but they want to encourage participation. A lot of participants will be students and they don't have a lot of money. We are out of time. We can follow up at the next meeting.

c. Consilience

- i. They passed out drawings which are emblems/logos for Consilience. They are trying to find symbols that bring together unity and knowledge. They had the Fibonacci sequence, snake eating its own tail, benzene ring. He's trying to find symbols that cross disciplines. If you have any more ideas, please email them. There is one on geometrical shapes. Most of the things they have done so far are in black

and white to make it simple. They could possibly incorporate colors. There is also a tree symbol. We will kick-off the seminar series with the GSA conference in order to provide a bigger audience. We are currently trying to decide on specific dates for the conference (mid to late May and possibly beginning of June). We have about 6 weeks to get all this together. Vanessa Miller is the GSA conference chair and is trying to intersect the date with when the commons will be open. We wanted to start the seminar series with the conference. They can have a bigger audience. We could go on that wave. After the summer when the new quarter starts in the fall. They managed to secure money from the dean of graduate studies. So far they have \$10,000. The rest will rollover for next quarter. Cheryl Hyashi from the biology department research crosses over many disciplines and she will be one of the speakers for it. They passed around a sheet last meeting and Vanessa needs manpower. Even if you can do the smallest thing, that would help. Please tell at least 3 people in the department. The theme will be unity and knowledge. They would be looking for more of a general knowledge of what is going on in general in your field and how your research relates. There hasn't been a call for abstracts. They will probably have it up early next week.

- d. Skipping botany presentation – absent
 - e. Motion withdrawn to go to public forum, motion to discuss issue with elections committee, seconded, no objections, motion passes. There are 3 of us on this committee and Louise is a maybe, she would like to motion to suspend the bylaws for 2 people on this committee. Motion to suspend the bylaws to allow the elections committee for the 2008 committee to 2 people with the understanding they will recruit more people. It is article 11 section G no. 1. Motion seconded, no objections, 24-0-1, motion carries.
5. Public Forum
- a. Congrats to Erik on news of a new baby. It's recruitment season, please encourage others in your department to talk about our great GSA, great CTG, and great grad student health insurance as compared to other UCs. Give them GSA pens from GSA office.
 - b. Patrick Linder sits on committee on graduate affairs – the council of graduate deans is contemplating creating a system wide GSHIP. We should keep an eye on and tell Laura. He is also somehow moving into leadership on sustainable UCR. They are working on creating a sustainable garden on campus that will be student run. A couple of months ago it was going, they have some resistance at the administrative level. He has a petition, if you would like to be contacted, put your email address down on it. UCR has a sustainability coordinator is in contact with them. He gets shut down a

lot. He has marvelous ideas related to recycling and everything he tries to do from creating a logo, he gets stymied. Louise will put him in contact with the UC wide sustainability people. We should be leading with sustainability on campus. We need to recycle the computer paper we use everyday. Please write up a petition and send it to him. The undergrads are working on a resolution on sustainability. They just turned in this month's recycling and received \$28 to run small coffee hours. They will use it for grad fest that is going on this month. They are running into difficulties. They are asking for receipts for glass, aluminum, and plastic as if they are making big bucks off of it. There is a physical plant committee. Every so often Patrick gets a notice about it so he will relay this info to concerned parties in the GSA.

- c. If you are considering applying for grad research awards, please email Alex your CV and abstract of your work. It was in the newsletter and it will be on the website soon.
6. Adjournment – motion to adjourn, no objections, meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.