General Council
Meeting 4
Minutes
January 11, 2017

Location: HUB 355 (UCR)
Time: 7-8 PM

Items for discussion:

7:05 Roll Call

7:06 Approved minutes from last meeting
   No opposed

7:06 Motion to approve and alter General Council Agenda
   No opposed
   No abstained

7:06 Announcements
   Board of Regents (discussing the raise in tuition, increase 2.5% each quarter). There is a campaign (Fund the UC). Although this campaign is undergraduate targeted, it may also if you’d like to support this campaign you can sign the petition: Fundtheuc.org/petition

General vote to engage what the interest is for increasing the student body by 900 graduate students across the UC system (issues: already have funding issues, security, housing security etc.) Email Holly your input so she can bring it up at the regents meeting. The regents will be casting a YES or NO vote. We would need people to voice any concerns at this meeting.

Science Library map printing will be increasing the fees Tremendously. If this concerns you, you can talk to the announcer after the meeting.

7:11 President Update: Resignation and Appointment of New President
   Lewis is resigning and officially leaving office 1/29/17.
   VP (Maiko rejected the offer to serve as president)
   Shawn was nominated: Motion, Second, all in favor: 38, Opposed: 0, abstentions: 0, Passes 38
   Lewis will be sitting on Alumni association.

7:17 New President Confirmation

7:18 Referenda
   Sustainability Referendum (was emailed)
   Discussion:
Director of sustainability was fired last quarter; also greens lab coordinator was fired abruptly. A result of these firings, there was an anger and out-lash from faculty and students as they were outraged by a lot of push backs and hindrance to making the campus sustainable.

Jeff Kaplan (Jeff.Kaplan@ucr.edu) is serving as the new sustainability director
It is crucial now to get people who are interested
Throughout UCR history, there has not been any funding for students who would like to pursue sustainable projects. Because of this is has been heavily administrator run and many things have not been getting accomplished.

Now this would provide funding for students (already 3 abstracts have been submitted) and interest has been shown by others

Its $1.33 per quarter, the referendum goes into detail.

Vote: 32 Yes, 2 opposed, 1 abstentions

7:28 Bylaw Committee
Would like more structure for mini-GSA. Mini-GSAs do represent GSA, and some mini-GSAs were reflecting poorly on GSA from administrator perspective. These changes solidify more structure for what VPAA can do. And allows all mini-GSAs to be able to be treated equally.

Mini-GSA bylaws approved by Bylaws Committee

Vote for passing the bylaw change: 37 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstentions

7:38 Updated Graduate Student-Advisor Relationships Resolution
Intense discussion last month. Holly took all the concerns and added them to the resolution. Purpose to improve student-advisor relationship to evaluate the advisor as well.

Vote: 25 approved, 3 opposed, 10 abstentions

7:43 CoP-UCSA Science Leadership Consensus Statement
This came from UC Davis student led organization. To encourage UC Campus’ to promote science to be a priority
UCR sending strong statement to show support for this.
Vote: 35 approved, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions

7:46 Grad R'Pantry Update
GradSuccess accepted to host a permanent pantry in UOB if GSA organizes pop up events for promotions once a month.

R'pantry needs to get health IHS approval to move forward.
GSA is supporting this project in partnership of grad division, to hold graduate friendly hours (9:00 – 4:00 pm).

Suggested two have two different days to increase probability that grad students can attend

Trial pantry is first starting, and so only two hours total a week can be allocated. So would like feedback on the preference for: one day per week (2-hour slot) or two days a week (1-hour slots)?
Grad students can still attend R’pantry during undergraduate slots (if not concerned about going around undergraduates)

Keep an eye out for the email, and tell friends and peers. Spread the word, and all students qualify no other specifications are needed. ID will be swiped for statistical information only

7:54 DIAL update
Symposium on diverse issues for women. Highly encourage people to apply. People who do research on women and issues on diversity. Presenters will receive $50. Will be held: March 9th 1:30 – 3:00 pm. Will be recruiting next Wednesday for two or three weeks

The remaining updates are online for you to read

7:57 Sustainability update
Green grants application process was placed online. Committees will review the abstracts and vote on which abstracts should move forward with application. There is a project approval form, and metric spreadsheet (Excel sheet to show how your project is actually helping UCR, if its water reduction etc. January 20, 2017 is deadline for abstract.

Also working on making these meetings be more sustainable: re-usable bowls, re-usable utensils (and bring back next meeting. Dining services donated this. Also will be looking at healthier foods and more sustainable, yet still affordable.

Graduate sustainable network- pursuing sustainability projects at UCR. Earth day planning, making a network of sustainable things at UCR. If interested in this email Peter and he can get you involved with this meeting

8:02 Travel grant update
California Attorney has prohibited GSA funding to travel to states with discriminatory laws. So conference applications to these states cannot be funded. Please read it on the website and Facebook

8:05 GSHIP update
Survey to assess graduate student health concerns will be sent out Feb-March. Topics of concerns and can be discussed in GSHIP meetings and then bring to general council

New political climate on Obama Care. It is very clear that UC SHIP and GSHIP will not change regardless of what happens to Obama Care.

8:07 Officer reports: posted online

8:08 New Business
Effective Jan 29, 2017 Shawn will resign VPAA since he is taking President. Shawn will hold interviews for VPAA.

Confirmation for Alumni Advisor: passed unanimously
Also, Graduate student housing is being lowered, so communicate this.

8:17 Meeting Adjourned