

# UCSB GSA Assembly Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2015

## Agenda

Roll call

Community Agreements

Advisor Reports

Committee Reports

Action items

Announcements

Discussion

### 6:07 Roll Call

- Quorum present

### 6:09 Community Agreements

- Respect the speaker
- cell phones
- be engaged
- step up/step back
- others?

### 6:10 Margaret Klawunn, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

- grad student herself, took long time, worked for Vice President of Student Affairs at Rutgers, doing admin ever since, 19 years at Brown University
- important to work with grad students, to inform about alternate career paths (interested in talking about with with grad students)
- here to introduce herself and to find out what students are concerned about and how things could work better, or ways not acknowledged in Student Affairs
- talk about ways to partner and help with your department
- asked for any issues from the floor:
  - o Concern 1: non-term academic careers: have someone to talk about non-academic careers
    - Don Lubach input: Communications has done work like that.
  - o Aaron: Do you have opportunities for students to see you?
    - Margaret: I have open hours. Can also meet with graduate students separately. If you email me, I will also meet you.
  - o Concern 2: Housing: Affordable. More.
  - o Concern 3: White Student Union formed on campus. How to respond to that?
    - M: I am aware of it. Will be a letter going out soon to campus. Not sure of strategy yet regarding how to address or not address the WSU on campus.

**6:20 Don Lubach, Student Affairs**

- Distressed student protocol
- If things go poorly, Google this info immediately
  - o <http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/responding-to-distressed-students/protocol>
- Dr. Karen Diaz, contact her
- Also can talk to therapists on campus, happy to support you
- CAPS offerings: beating the blues, silence your inner critic

**6:23 Robert Hamm, GSRC**

- just had panel on academic adjacent
- writing peer workshops: research statements, problem statements
- Winter Quarter new workshops
- Grad Slam coming in Spring quarter, maybe up to \$20,000 in prizes
- Get in touch if there is an event you want us to do

**6:25 Toni Gomez, (UCSA)**

- Graduate Student Agenda:
- **Graduate Policy Journal** (available for download on line)
  - o Platform for discussion of policies, for how to improve graduate education
  - o Used to battle for campaign ideas: so now a more collaborative process to discuss issues
  - o Issue: Secure Pathways to Graduate Degrees
    - Funding secure. Like to see Guarantees for 5 years for more students. (normative time to degree)
    - Pushing for pilot project at Santa Cruz with 3-5 departments to work it out
  - o Issue: Food Security and Equal Student Services
    - Acknowledge students are hungry and to solve hungry worldwide
    - No consistent policies for food pantries
    - Pushing for “no questions asked policy” with regard to income for grad students to ask for food when they come to foodbank
    - Equal pay for equal work
    - More Inclusion of non-traditional students and their families (parents with kids)
  - o Issue: Healthy Graduate student and Advisor Relationships
    - Strategies for preventions and restoration
    - Onus to fix relationship is on the student
    - No accountability when there are multiple issues in a department, for example
  - o Issue: Affordable Graduate Student Housing
    - Not affordable to pay for housing in areas where going to school
    - How to reduce burden to pay for housing
    - Create more student and community affordable housing
  - o Issue: Campus Climate for Diverse Graduate Student Identities
    - How to have more positive experiences at the UC

- How can you get involved?
  - o Write about polices
  - o Apply for a systemwide committee
  - o Attend a UCSA board meeting
  - o Apply to be a Star at a regents meeting
- Question: Housing? How being addressed?
  - o Answer: Conversations still ongoing

**SAGE Proposal (Kevin Sabo, President of UCSA)**

- Student Advocacy Governance and Engagement
  - o Funds come from membership dues
  - o \$1.30 per student per quarter for dues
  - o Mandatory due system model
- Move from mandatory to volunteer opt out fee for students
  - o Problems with system:
    - poor representation (some students not part of system)
    - fallout from controversial decisions
    - different fee schedule for different campuses (want to make sure its equable)
    - budget unpredictability
    - restraints on staff retention
    - dues stagnation over time (stable population, quarter million students, but expenses continue to rise and revenue is the same)
  - o How New System will be different under SAGE:
    - Fund through opt-out system
    - Not a new fee, just the way it's administered
    - Creates more stability
  - o Potential Revenue Uses
    - Improve student representation in state and fed affairs (for loans)
    - Expand conference schedule (more meetings, more representation)
    - Improvements to staffing
    - New tech equipment, new website
  - o Future Action (before January Regents meeting)
    - Go to [usca.org/sage](http://usca.org/sage)
    - Take student input survey
      - <http://usca.org/sage-survey/>
    - Educate students about SAGE on your campus
- Question: What are we voting on here at this assembly?
  - o Answer: We need GSAs to support the idea. But no vote to change the Constitution of UCSA (which requires 2/3's of members (AS/GSA) tonight. That will come next year.
- Question: Danger of budget shortfalls: Doesn't opt out mean more shortfalls?
  - o Answer: Only 5-8 percent students tend to opt out. Current system is that whole systems have to leave, not individual students. So opt out better.
- Question: Timeline? What are we doing now? What voting on now?

- Answer: Putting to Regents by March. Campus level referendums are in control of campuses. Hoping to do it spring, finalize in fall (6:55) 51 minutes
- Question: What is number one achievement of UCSA for grads in the past five years?
  - Answer: Having a Student Regent. Specifically for grads: getting access to subsidized loans for grad students soon. (52-53 minutes)
  - Answer: Having a person at the table is important to discuss issues to make a difference.

### 7:03 **President's Report**

- GGSE Dean Search
  - On the committee.
- OJA Search
  - Only one candidate, so no one to compare to
  - Some committee members concerned, some members support candidate

### **VP Internal Affairs (absent)**

- (reported by Aaron) Completed quals (applause)

### 7:06 **Kathy Swift, VP Student Affairs**

- pressure to change to UC SHIP from AETNA, some campuses have changes
- attended meetings about anti-racism
- wrote Solidarity Statement: recognize problem and support groups who are affected
- Aaron Jones read text of proposed solidarity statement aloud
- Question: What issues for health plan?
  - Answer: What's the most bang for the buck. Want to put out bids to other groups. Committee formed to address health insurance plans.
- Question: Dependent care?
  - Answer: Cut since there wasn't enough dependents using plan. But going to ask question when investigating new plans.
- Issue to Raise: Deductible. Went up to 1,200 out of network. Especially with mental health: finding someone to work with. Raising deductible.

### 7:14 **VP Academic Affairs**

- Excellence in Teaching Award
  - Calls for nominations in first week of winter
  - Award committee to be formed in Spring
  - Some people want change: but bylaws need time to change.

### 7:15 **VP Budget and Finance Officer Report (Greg Maier)**

- Need 26 signatures for petition form
- Question: Need a form completed each year?
  - A: Yes. Every November. Time period runs November to October.
- Question: Is the form online?

- A: Yes.
- Issue: Online form used to be there so people could easily sign.
  - A: Will check on it.
- Question: Can we scan it and send by email?
  - A: Yes.

### 7:18 Committees and Planning

- Everything done by Google Forms done now
- Fill out committee report by Google form
- Paid by Jan 15, if you met with your committee
- Running Survey
- Question: Where can we find survey?
  - A: Will send out link in email blast. Or email directly.
- Question: Can we offer incentive for survey? Like a gift card?
  - A: Yes, we can discuss at next meeting. Or vote on now.
- Motion: Incentivize survey.
  - Seconded.
- Aaron Jones: Our discretion for incentive?
  - A: Yes.
- Motion on the floor? Incentivize the survey for grad student survey in form of 100-120 dollar, 3-4 gift cards?
  - Anyone opposed? No.
  - Any abstentions? No
  - Motion passed.

### Action Items

#### VP for Communications ratification

- Aaron: Kyle approved and supported unanimously by executive committee for interim position. Exec Committee recommends for permanent appointment.
  - Aaron Jones: Call for nominations?
    - No.
  - Motion to approve.
    - Seconded.
  - Any objections?
    - No. (crickets)
  - **Passed**
- Congratulations to Kyle. (applause)

#### SAGE Proposal

- Motion to support Sage Proposal.
- Seconded.
- Discussion?
  - Question: How does it work on different campuses? We would pay a \$6 individual fee for whole year?
    - A: Yes. 6 dollars added to your entire bill (tuition) for the year.

- A: Instead of GSA paying the whole \$4,000, individual students now pay a fee. So more money left for GSA.
  - Concern: (Aaron Jones) Precedent of administration (Chancellor) removing a student initiated fee. Has never happened before.
    - A: Just want Chancellor's to know they have that authority. Ideal choice is students have a referendum.
- Call for vote.
- Any objections?
  - No.
- Any abstentions.
  - No.
- **Passed.**

### 7:34 Statement of Solidarity

- Options: Support measure? Table measure? Or back to executive committee?
- Discussion:
  - Question: What would this be used for?
    - A: Statement could be revised. (For example: Bagel and happy hour)
  - Question: What about white student union formed on campus? This campus being featured by white supremacist groups. Should we respond to planned event in Jan 19, after Martin Luther King Jr. day? How should we respond? What kind of response? We should do this in January meeting.
    - Subquestion: Is group real?
    - Answer: Yes. (Or appears so from online search on it).
  - Comment: Doesn't appear to be official registered group on campus. Regardless of it's a hoax or not, it's being discussed on campus.
  - MOTION: to make an online editable document, then to vote to ratify by graduate students here.
    - Concern: Who can edit? Make it open to grads but not public.
      - A: Hard with Google Docs.
      - A: We can use something else.
  - Motion WITHDRAWN for editable document.
  - MOTION: Do grad student only town hall meeting first Tuesday of Jan 5 to discuss concerns for the 19<sup>th</sup> White Student Union meeting and draft a statement. Then move GSA meeting to following Tuesday, Jan. 12 to vote on that statement. With info sent out before break.
    - Discussion: Should we include undergrads?
    - Answer: No.
  - Amendment: To amend 1:12
    - **FINAL MOTION:** Existing Solidarity Statement document will be sent via Google Doc and be available to GSA Assembly members to edit document. On the first Tuesday of January, January 5, there will be a town hall meeting to finalize the Solidarity Statement document. On Tuesday, January 12, there will

be a GSA Assembly meeting to ratify the Solidarity Statement document.

- Objections:
  - No
- Abstentions
  - No
- **PASSED**

#### **Announcements by assembly members**

- None

#### **7:59 Move to adjourn**

- Seconded
- Passed