

UC Santa Barbara Graduate Students Association

Executive Summary Quarterly Report on Committees Spring 2015

Compiled June 2015

by Matt Sayball, GSA Vice President - Committees and Planning



UCSB GSA

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Academic Senate Committee on Courses and General Education

“As a faculty-run committee, I served as the Graduate Student voice on matters related to general education courses. In particular we discussed the process for approving Teaching Associateships, as UCSB had wanted to tighten the reins on how often graduate students would be teaching courses in lieu of faculty. Our conversations considered multiple factors, to include the fact that, of the hundreds of courses offered by UCSB per quarter, less than 2% of these courses were taught by graduate students as instructor of record. We did, however, amend the application process to hold departments more accountable for mentoring graduate students who will serve as instructor of record, as well as continuing to ask departments for a legitimate justification why a course should be taught by a grad student instead of a faculty member. The committee seems pretty on board with the increased number of courses taught by grad students in the summer - they realize the financial limitations of grad students, as well as the needs of departments, during the summer months.”

Representative: Janelle Pham (Sociology)

Contact: janellepham@umail.ucsb.edu

Academic Senate Committee on Diversity and Equity

“On April 13th, we discussed the draft of the Policy on Sexual Harassment & Sexual Violence. The draft was not very clear on what university offices and non-university entities can an affected student call and what are the exacts steps that can be taken. I suggested that the policy should include a list of services clearly marked as confidential or having reporting duties and a flow chart with steps similar to the Distressed Students Response Protocol. I also suggested disseminating this flow chart in undergraduate and graduate student housing and across campus. The meeting on April 27th was short and focused on faculty issues.”

Representative: Gina Adam (Electrical Engineering)

Contact: adam.gina.cristina@gmail.com

Academic Senate Sustainability Work Group

“There were many meeting last quarter and this quarter I have been traveling some so have not attended any. I don't have a record of their meetings either to provide updates. It's possible they haven't met but that seems unlikely so I may have just displaced the emails.”

Representative: Karly Miller (IGPMS)

Contact: karly.miller@lifesci.ucsb.edu

Ad Hoc Committee for Online Course Evaluations

“Committee did not meet this quarter.”

Representative: Lindsay Marks (EEMB)

Contact: marks@lifesci.ucsb.edu

Advisory Committee on Campus Access (ACCA)

“We discussed construction of bike paths, improvements to the recreation center, possible participation by ACCA and GSA in a shuttle program for injured students, ADA bathrooms (some of which may also serve as all-gender bathrooms), and the development of a policy on emotional support animals. The shuttle and emotional support animals issue have been ongoing projects for at least a year, with little resolution yet.”

Representative: Skylar Covich (Political Science)

Contact: scovich@umail.ucsb.edu

Alcohol and Other Drug Workgroup

“My committee service involved participating in meetings of the UCSB Alcohol and Other Drug Workgroup made up of members of a range of groups, organizations, and offices on and off campus working toward the same goal: improving safety and reducing the negative consequences of problematic alcohol and drug use among UCSB students. My participation in this committee involves drawing on my experience interfacing with faculty and undergraduate students to try my best to contribute to ideas for making the campus and the larger community a safer environment for students.

In the single meeting held this quarter, the committee discussed a variety of topics, including: 1) the Isla Vista remembrance events, 2) the contribution of drugs to crime in IV, 3) ideas for improving support for UCSB athletes with drug problems, and 4) problematic marijuana use among undergraduate and graduate students. We also discussed the fact that graduate students have occasionally sought out the services of the Alcohol and Drug program when they felt that their drug or alcohol use was no longer under their control. The Alcohol and Drug program (located in the Student Health building) is looking for ways to increase awareness of the services they provide among grad students.”

Representative: Susana Peinado (Communication)

Contact: speinado@umail.ucsb.edu

Arts & Lectures Student Advisory Committee

“We discussed efforts to reach out to undergrads and grad students to help the reaffirmation fees pass - they have since passed CEC for undergrads passed at 72%; AS omnibus fee passed at 82%; GSA fee passed. Arts & Lectures is also looking for ideas of acts that graduate students would like to see them bring to town - comedians, lectures, etc. A&L is also hoping to bring more science-related lectures to attract graduate students in STEM fields to their events.”

Representative: Aviva Milner-Brage (Music)

Contact: avivamb@gmail.com

Campus Childcare Advisory Committee (CCAC)

“The CCAC did not meet during the Spring quarter. I spent some time researching campus childcare services and policy relevant to student concerns.”

Representative: Patrick Callery (Bren)

Contact: pjcallery@umail.ucsb.edu

Campus Climate Committee

“We examined data collected from recent climate survey on sexual violence on campus. We also looked into student perceptions of campus services. The main conclusion is that we have a lot of work to do to make campus resources more accessible to survivors.

We considered how best to go about getting more information. Suggestion included: focus groups, town hall-style meetings with survivors, and opportunities to write in detailed accounts of experiences with campus service providers. Since grad students are also sometimes survivors of sexual violence on UCSB campus, these conversations pertain to us.

I also brought up the lack of sexual assault/sexual harassment/bystander interventions training on campus. While there are many trainings suitable for undergraduates, there are very few suitable for graduate students or faculty. I brought this up in the context of a conversation related to the possibility of requiring quarterly sexual harassment trainings. If something like this is to be implemented, grad students and faculty require considerably more sophisticated trainings for the activities to be of any value.”

Representative: Sherri Conklin (Philosophy)

Contact: conklin.sherri@gmail.com

Campus Elections Committee

“Committee did not meet this quarter.”

Representative: Matthew Biver (Anthropology)

Contact: biwerm@gmail.com

Campus Regulations Revision Committee

“This committee did not meet this year.”

Representative: Sherri Conklin (Philosophy)

Contact: conklin.sherri@gmail.com

Campus Regulations Revision Committee

“This committee did not meet this year.”

Representative: DaJung Woo (Communication)

Contact: dajungwoo@gmail.com

Certificate in College and University Teaching (CCUT) Oversight Committee

“I have never been called or contacted for a meeting of this committee in the two years I have technically served on it. I think it is important for grads, but apparently, they don't think it is important for grad representation to be active on the committee.”

Representative: Margaret McMurtrey (Religious Studies)

Contact: sbmargaret@gmail.com

Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on the Status of Women (CACSW)

“My committee serves to improve the quality of work-life for women on campus. We represent staff, faculty, undergraduates, and graduates. We are broken into subcommittees of 3-4 representatives. My role is to help other subcommittees in their tasks, take notes at meetings, and participate in my own subcommittee. My subcommittee is Campus Safety. One activity we participated in was the Campus Safety Walk, where we targeted areas on campus that might be unsafe for students, faculty, and staff when walking at night. Here, we made valuable contacts with the UCSB Police. We are also working to improve the availability of the UCSB RAD class held by UCSB Police. We have made several suggestions for improved funding to this class to be able to offer more courses throughout the school year. We are also going to be meeting with the Campus Safety Officers to offer advice on better foot-patrol routes and increased CSO and UCSB Police presence on campus.”

Chancellor's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women (CACSW) (continued)

“This quarter I have continued my participation in CACSW, though the committee has not been able to meet as often as we should. I have continued my work with my Campus Safety subcommittee and we have formalized our suggestions to improve Campus Safety through increased RAD classes and Campus Safety Officer representation and foot routes. I participated first-hand in the RAD class offered this spring, so I now have a unique perspective to bring to the committee and how to improve this course offering. No one on the committee had taken this course, so we were not sure how it could be improved. I have worked through email with CACSW to identify areas of concern in the hiring process of female faculty and staff. I have also tried to identify processes in which females can improve their upward (as opposed to horizontal) movement in their positions on campus.”

Representative: Emily Ellis (EEMB)

Contact: emily.ellis@lifesci.ucsb.edu

Chancellor's Campus Sustainability Committee (CSC)

“We learned about & voted to support a funding request for pumps to resupply single pass cooling systems used in chemistry labs, leading to a significant water savings & improved building safety. We approved support and committee recommendations of the faculty curriculum workshop & the climate action champion program. Finally we voted to support a USAS lead campaign for UCSB to sign onto an agreement for stricter working condition oversight in Bangladesh. The agreement would allow UCSB to only purchase garments from companies that comply with the agreement. This would affect Jansport in our bookstores.”

Representative: Karly Miller (IGPMS)

Contact: karly.miller@lifesci.ucsb.edu

Chancellor's Campus Sustainability Committee subcommittee on Water

“The focus of the subcommittee on water continues to be current drought. In the quarterly group meeting, we discussed the next stretch goal to be proposed. The conclusion was to match the same water reduction goals as Goleta. As a university, we have surpassed our original goal of reducing water usage of 20% per capita by 2020. Thus far, we have achieved a 42% reduction as compared to 2013. Since there are many construction projects planned or occurring on campus, the next goal is determining how to concurrently achieve a reduction in water usage.”

Chancellor's Campus Sustainability Committee subcommittee on Water (continued)

“Several outreach, educational, and action projects were discussed, including the estimated upfront costs and the years in simple payback in water savings. The largest project currently being tackled are the cooling units used for industrial purposes or research. The second most discussed project is the possible leaking or loss of water through evaporation in one of the general use pools; the proposed plan is to close the pool in order to measure the water loss the week after graduation to minimize the number of people affected. The second important aspect is education and awareness of reducing water consumption on campus, especially what exactly reclaimed water is and its uses. This is an aspect I am interested in pursuing further, as it would be a good opportunity to develop skills in graphic design and communication.”

Representative: Wennie Wang (Materials)

Contact: wwwennie@umail.ucsb.edu

Chancellor's Outreach Advisory Board (COAB)

“Outreach committees shared program updates, including highlights from recent events. Admissions representatives also shared updates. At the time, Grad Div had received more applications than the 2014-2015 school-year.”

Representative: Erika Baldwin (Education)

Contact: ebaldwin@umail.ucsb.edu

Chancellor's Search Advisory Committee for Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

“We interviewed candidates in group and individual sessions and repeatedly researched and discussed candidates' backgrounds, abilities and fit for UCSB as a committee. After considering the applicant pool and the resulting choice we have achieved the best achievable outcome to further the interests of graduate students at UCSB in student affairs.”

Representative: Alexander Pucher (Computer Science)

Contact: pucher@cs.ucsb.edu

Collaborate Advisory Committee (L&S Instructional Technology Initiative)

“Committee did not meet this quarter.”

Representative: Audrey Abeyta (Communication)

Contact: audrey.abeyta@gmail.com

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Advisory Committee

“I provided consultation for the AS Mental Health Coordinator in terms of recent meetings and budgets happening at the UC-level with mental health funding. The discussion involved implications for seeking more funding and facilities rearrangement plans in order to hire more psychologists and have space for them.”

Representative: Andy Choi (CNCSP)

Contact: achoi@education.ucsb.edu

Gaucha Health Insurance Advisory Committee

“This committee completed its work for this academic year in the winter quarter and disbanded for the 2014-15 academic year at that time.”

Representative: Eric Jorgensen (Theater and Dance)

Contact: emjorgensen@umail.ucsb.edu

GSA Excellence in Teaching Awards

“I attended an initial meeting to assign categories and outline the process for how to read all applications and what to consider for this award. I then read thoroughly all applications in my category, wrote notes, discussed my thoughts in our second meeting. I was able to advocate for those applicants that I thought really deserved the awards based on the guidelines and I also brought to light the potential problems with the "teaching associate" category. Overall, the committee had a spirited and incredibly detailed conversation about the winners and we successfully named winners at our final meeting.”

Representative: Mallorie Chase (History of Art & Architecture)

Contact: malloriechase@umail.ucsb.edu

GSA Excellence in Teaching Awards

“We read packets submitted by graduate students who were nominated for the Excellence in Teaching Award. I was the outside reader for the packets on instructors and TAs in the fields of humanities and fine arts. I came up with a Top 5 list based on the strength of their CVs, letters of recommendation, teaching philosophy statements, and evaluations. At the meeting we evaluated the top candidates to make final decisions about the winners.”

Representative: Skylar Covich (Political Science)

Contact: scovich@umail.ucsb.edu

GSA Excellence in Teaching Awards

“The GSA Excellence in Teaching Award Committee selects the winners of the GSA Excellence in Teaching Award. Each nominee must submit a packet consisting of a CV, a 5 year ESCI report, a Teaching Philosophy Statement, and at least 2 Letters of Recommendation. The Committee is responsible for reviewing these packets and selecting a winner. I, in particular, was responsible for reviewing the packets of those TA's in the social sciences and helping to select the winner there. I also assisted in selecting the winner of the Associateship award.”

Representative: John Kaminsky (Mathematics)

Contact: john_kaminsky@umail.ucsb.edu

GSA Excellence in Teaching Awards

“We met once as a group to discuss the evaluation process and divide up work. Then I read the teaching associate and teaching assistant packets of resumes, teaching eval comments, esci scores, letters of recommendation, and teaching statements for the 15 candidates in STEM fields. I took notes on each candidate and ranked them from most to least qualified. We exchanged emails back and forth about issues such as accepting late letters, and how to sort a few candidates that taught in overlapping fields. We all sent our top 5 candidates for Teaching Assistant and top 2 for Teaching Associate. Then we met again to discuss top candidates and choose the winner and runner up for STEM, Social Sciences, and Humanities. A few members are going to go into classrooms to surprise the winning TAs, we've been in contact but haven't decided when this will happen.”

Representative: Kyle McBeath (GGSE)

Contact: mcbeath@umail.ucsb.edu

Laboratory Safety Committee

“The Lab Safety Committee meeting for the spring quarter talked about multiple task force reports from multiple organizations on improving the safety culture in academic labs. A UC system-wide review of these task force recommendations was suggested so that a common policy could be enforced for safety of all lab workers (primarily graduate students).

Following an accident at UC Berkeley involving a graduate student who was only wearing prescription safety glasses and not chemical safety glasses, it was informed to the committee that the personal protective equipment (which includes lab coats, gloves, safety glasses) policy at UCSB will also include prescription chemical safety glasses in the future as a significant number of the graduate students wear prescription glasses.”

Laboratory Safety Committee (continued)

“Some of the other issues that were discussed were about a new policy for providing training for lab support personnel who may occasionally enter a lab for tertiary activities like IT support staff etc. The committee will now meet again in Fall 2015.”

Representative: Mihir Pendharkar (Electrical and Computer Engineering)

Contact: mhirpendharkar@umail.ucsb.edu

Natural Reserve System Advisory Committee

“Part of my involvement this quarter included attendance of an event (04/18) held by the UC NRS to increase public awareness of the Reserve System and determine useful outreach strategies. I was also involved in a meeting of the Advisory Committee, the primary purpose of which was to discuss the strategic plan and current fundraising needs of the UCSB Reserves.”

Representative: Andrew MacDonald (EEMB)

Contact: andrew.macdonald@lifesci.ucsb.edu

North Campus Open Space Restoration Project Committee

“I sat in on the first planning meeting as a student observer prior to being offered the GSA Rep position.”

Representative: Rachel O'Connor (Bren)

Contact: oconnor@umail.ucsb.edu

Ombuds Advisory Board

“This quarter we met with the Ombuds Office to discuss what’s happened over the last year and the accomplishments of the office. It was a very productive and constructive meeting. We heard about the continued progress made in implementing new training and information sessions on conflict management and conflict resolution. Departments have greatly appreciated these sessions, with interest currently far exceeding the capabilities of the office. They noted that one particular issue on campus is graduate student / faculty relationships. One department (not named) actually requested the Ombuds Office to come in and train the staff to help improve graduate student moral. They also noted that the last several months have had record high cases opened. This is attributed to both greater outreach and interest in the offices’ services.”

Ombuds Advisory Board (continued)

“An update was also provided on both the new certifications the different Ombuds officers have received and recent challenges seen on campus. This included the sit-in protest in the Chancellor’s office and a recent academic scandal involving many Chinese graduate students regarding academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism (still ongoing).

Note: Two faculty members are retiring and the undergraduate representative has also graduated.”

Representative: Tyler Ray (Mechanical Engineering)

Contact: tyler.ray@me.com

Radiation Safety Committee

“I attended the quarterly meeting where we discussed a number of items regarding use of radioactive materials on campus. Two professors (Prof. Smith and Prof. Soh) discontinued their radioactive materials authorizations. The radiation safety office conducted their quarterly lab surveys and found 3 violations. In one lab (Prof. Mitragotri) the fume hood was found to be contaminated above the allowable limits. The radiation safety officers met with the students involved to assist in cleaning the fume hood and also suggested new procedures to implement in the lab to prevent this contamination from happening in the future. Two other labs did not complete their mandatory quarterly surveys, but assured the radiation safety officers that they would in the future. Last, the radiation safety office will be conducting the annual surveys of X-ray producing machines to ensure that there is no leakage of X-rays that could potentially be hazardous to users of the machines.”

Representative: Peter Wells (Materials)

Contact: pwells@umail.ucsb.edu

Recreation Center Governance Board

“This marked my last term as the graduate student representative on the recreation center governance board. It was the "flip the switch" campaign that first encouraged me to join this governing body, and I was heartened to hear in our final meeting last week that the project is beginning to bear fruit. The renovation of rob gym was completed this year, and this coming year will see the making of a refurbished track. Though I'd like to see the progress made by both the Rec Cen Governors and the newly formed committee for the aforementioned track project, I will trust that the good hands and fit hearts of my fellow students and athletic directors will serve the school well in providing the means to keep us lean.”

Representative: Faye Walker (Chemistry)

Contact: fayewalker@umail.ucsb.edu

Renewable Energy Initiative & Governance Board

“I continued to serve as committee chair this quarter. The PS22 solar array has been up and running since January. I met with SA staff to discuss ideas for a tour of the solar array (in conjunction with campus sustainability tour) during campus reunion weekend in April. I am working with SA staff on a presentation of the project and its relevance for university affairs at a summer conference (CHESC).

The most recent meeting focused on post-mortem of the PS22 project (many things to improve for next time) and concepts for the next project. REI-GB has a fee mandate thru 2020 and additional funds are accruing towards additional projects on campus. Next year promises to be an interesting year for the REI-GB.”

Representative: Patrick Callery (Bren)

Contact: pjcallery@umail.ucsb.edu

Smoke-Free Campus Steering Committee

“I could not attend the spring committee meeting (May 7) due to conflicts with my teaching schedule. However, I participated via email in the committee’s discussions, including particularly a vote on whether to include an online UC system-wide AIR training video (how to approach someone smoking—AIR stands for Approach, Inform, and Refer) in our campus online training program LMS (learning management system) for student health workers and volunteers. Members watched the 45-minute tutorial online before submitting responses via email chain about whether to include it.”

Smoke-Free Campus Steering Committee (continued)

“I suggested that while the video should be shortened, I believe that including a video on the topic of how to inform people on our campus about our about smoke- and tobacco-free policy is important and useful. Other than this, I spent time emailing with the committee coordinator regarding scheduling the meeting date and time.”

Representative: Dusty Hoesly (Religious Studies)

Contact: hoesly@umail.ucsb.edu

Student/Faculty Committee on Student Conduct

“The committee hears various cases of student misconduct, whether academic or behavioral, and wages a decision after hearing the case about the responsibility of the student. The committee then also makes a decision about the sanction the student should receive should they be found responsible. The details of student cases are confidential. Nothing we discussed nor were any the cases we heard this quarter affect grads directly.”

Representative: Janelle Pham (Sociology)

Contact: janellepham@umail.ucsb.edu

Student/Faculty Committee on Student Conduct

“For the April 24 hearing, we considered the case of a student accused of academic dishonesty. The hearing was relevant to graduate students because it implicated the role of teaching assistants and graders as test proctors. The student was ultimately found "Not Responsible."”

Representative: Eva Wheeler (Spanish and Portuguese)

Contact: ewheeler@umail.ucsb.edu

Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC)

“My service on SFAC has consisted of attending all SFAC meetings. I am also on the Coordinating Committee for Budget Strategy as the SFAC representative (my SFAC subcommittee appointment), but they met only twice this quarter. This was the third quarter of SFAC, which is the quarter that we decide which of the different departmental funding requests are to be funded. This was a larger year for requests in terms of total amount of money requested. Our allocations were, in general, without dissent in regards to the final decisions rendered. Of particular note to GSA, we approved the requested funding from the Grad Post for the renovations of the office in SRB to support graduate students.”

Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) (continued)

“Other funded requests included replacing the furniture in the waiting room in student health to decrease risk of disease transmission (in response to Ebola et al. concerns), a new truck for Rec Cen to replace their 20 yr. old one (students use it to set up for sporting events), and several new copiers.

This quarter we also received two major allocation requests, one from the Children’s Center to fund a replacement electrified fence around the play structure and another from the Student Affairs Department to fund a new CAPS office in IV. Although both were worthy causes, there was much dissention as to whether these were appropriate requests to the committee. The CC’s request was ultimately not funded as they have extensive income to self-fund through services offered to graduates, faculty, and the local community. Additionally, as they requested a sizable allocation last year for renovating the play-yard, this request should have been incorporated in that allocation request. The funding request for the office in IV also generated much dissention within the committee as several felt that although a good idea, the distinct lack of cohesion with this request and the rest of the university (e.g. administration) made this both a poor use of student money and possibly a misuse of lock-in fees. Although we requested guidance from general counsel, the committee, after extensive discussion and debate, eventually voted to partially fund the request. One of my biggest concerns was the fact that this is not a university-owned building, but rather a leased building from the county. Many of the items requested were for modifications to the building that could not be recovered if we were to leave the office space. These funding requests were ultimately stripped from the allocation request by the committee.

I am also serving as the SFAC rep to the Coordinating Committee for Budget Strategy We had three meetings this quarter, but I was only able to attend 2 due to a scheduling conflict. The issues discussed were related to the current budget discussions the UC has had with the Governor. These discussions have led to additional funding for UCSB that will be allocated once the final budget has been approved.

We finished the session with the interviewing and appointment of two new Sophomore representatives to replace the outgoing Senior representatives. We elected a new Chair and Vice Chair and look forward to preparing for the upcoming year over the summer.”

Representative: Tyler Ray (Mechanical Engineering)

Contact: tyler.ray@me.com

Student-Initiated Outreach Program (SIOP) Application Review Committee

“SIOP does not meet Spring quarter. This committee helps to promote equity outreach activities for undergraduate student enrollment. The impact on graduate students directly is minimal, but the activities it fosters creates an environment of diversity at the University.”

Representative: Margaret McMurtrey (Religious Studies)

Contact: sbmargaret@gmail.com

University Center (UCen) Governance Board

“This quarter, projectors were installed in the UCEN conference rooms, but we also voted in favor of increasing the cost of renting a room for both students and non-students. We spoke several times about jazzing up the UCEN with banners and pennants with the UCSB logo on it, making sure nothing with "gaucho" in it would make it to the wall.

We also approved the installation of a "solar table" outside of the UCEN, but ended up having to rescind our offer because (i) it cost more than originally expected and (ii) it would no longer appear at the UCEN (but instead at the Arbor). Finally, I was served as a member on the Space Allocation Subcommittee.”

Representative: Jonathan Caravello (Philosophy)

Contact: jcaravello@umail.ucsb.edu

University Center (UCen) Governance Board

“The UCEN Governance Board met on a bi-weekly basis this quarter to discuss major events and renovations in the building. We discussed revisions to this year’s budget as well as possibilities to expand and make better use of existing space. We heard regular reports from the bookstore committee, the dining committee, the budget and finance committee, the program committee, and the space allocation committee. One of the most significant decisions we made was to reallocate space on the third floor for administrative offices, expanding the existing floor plan of the 2nd floor for student use. We also designed new banners that will be hung on the outside of the building facing Storke Plaza. These banners will feature current students and faculty, university achievements, and UCSB logos. We passed increases in UCEN room rentals, while maintaining existing prices for student groups. I am currently the acting chair of the board.”

Representative: Emma Levine (Music)

Contact: ellevine88@gmail.com