Graduate Students Association (GSA)

Assembly Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 2 nd , 2003

Posted 12/04/03

Start-5: 30 end-8:10

Discussion panel

Registrar's Office- Log onto GOLD to keep yourself updated for the messages.

Jackie from BARC- Working on refunding fall financial aid . Have been complications like graduate aid (will not get money until Dec. 11 (someone said they would get it Dec. 19)). Another problem they have is dealing with restricted credits. Third issue, (concerning GOLD) is that the amount column is different from balance column. Later one is not correct and is going to GOLD which is feeding GOLD the wrong financial information. Jackie is looking at making available the BARC account so you yourself will see what BARC workers see. They also want to have installed a direct deposit.

Registrar's Office- Fee deadline is January 5 th or $250 late fee . What they are offering is that if you are a TA and you need your money, you can take out a loan on the first qtr. Workers there are thinking of making the office space more like a bank so as to grant confidentiality. Graduate students can get the financial aid award letter and other needed forms with a “submit” button. GRE waivers for potential graduate students are now available. The new FAFSA for 2004-2005 is now available. Do not wait for the forms until January. Preferable for taxes to be completed beforehand . Last day to file taxes is April 15 th . They are setting up a specific Graduate student's survey to see who their needs are changing to better serve. One has to be selected to be in the survey.

Question and Answer

Sarah-question about direct deposit: Who would I send a letter to ask for this ? Send it to grad division

Jackie-They are trying to have a call system like what the financial aid office has…a call waiting system.

Edward- Is there a resolution to the problems of student ID cards?

Registrar's Office-One thing that we want to do is to put an end to the registration sticker. Biggest problem is people like the bus system and anywhere that would give discounts to current students.

Russell-is there such a thing as a document that we are going to need some kind of verification form each quarter to verify financial documents.

Registrar's- Doesn't sound correct.

1. Approval of Agenda

Russell -approval for the agenda

Sam -second

1. Approval of minutes from November meeting

Karen -move to approve Nov. meeting

Sam - second

Matt -What we're trying to assign is a group of executive officers of abut 10 to try to better communication. Right now is stand next to the executive officer who sent you an email of notification for a 5-min ice breaker.

1. Officer Reports: (Appendix I)

Sarah - see appendix . Sarah comments on the Teaching of Excellence award and needs a committee to see who should get the award . Email her (vp-academic-affairs@gsa.ucsb.edu) . Will start at the end of winter quarter.

Jess - see appendix . We will have 2 nd meeting tomorrow. If you know anyone that is interested in joining a subcommittee under the housing agenda item, email me (jessbarrie@hotmail.com) We will meet once a month from 9-10am at the lounge . Right now we want San Clemente to be grad student and give undergrads the remaining ¼ of Santa Ynez .

Russell - see appendix. Wanted to suggest that if any of you feel interested in RA-ships for undergraduate residence halls for the next year, email me (knight@umail.ucsb.edu) . Free room and board are provided . No discrimination against graduate students.

Allison - see appendix . One of action agenda items is grad student diversity and outreach committee item. Will meet once a month . Those interested contact me (vp-external-affairs@gsa.ucsb.edu), Edward(edwardc@umail.ucsb.edu), or Nadia (nadia@umail.ucsb.edu).

Nadia - see appendix. Our agendas are posted online (www.gsa.ucsb.edu) . As far as the Diversity and Outreach Committee, the Dubois Event will be held in February for UCSB undergrad minority students, and they need a few grad students tobe panel speakers and

share your graduate school experiences . For those who have not turned in the petitions, we need your petitions. We're going to vote on having emails available online.

Sam - see appendix. We're going along right on track. Found out the other day is supposed to have the list of the whole quarter expenses and so I will have that hopefully for the next meeting. I will start a committee for funding for grad students like fellowships. This committee will meet hopefully before every agenda meeting. If you are interested, email me at sfleischman@chem.ucsb.edu.

Edward - Support the grad student surveys.

Matt - There are now new committees for housing with the chancellor . As the new committees get formed we need people to join them . Look into the Isla Vista committees . You are eligible to serve on these committees if you live in Westgate, Santa Ynez . Email me at mattandrews@cox.net if you are interested.

1. Announcements
    1. Graduate Division

Mary McMahon (Assistant Dean) - Charles Li (grad student dean) has been working on de-coupling grad and undergrad fees . John Moore has been working to secure money to help students with post-doc education funding. Li has also secured getting the information of grad students who have received doctorates and then will eventually get info on those receiving Master's degrees . Graduate division has experienced 20-25% reduction of staff so be patient with the trials of the BARC. We're going to close between Christmas and New Year's. we will reopen Jan. 5 th .

Questions?

Jess - is it plausible that moved to next year.

Fees will increase for the next academic year.

1. Student Affairs

Caryln - I want to hear concerns from you if you live in Isla Vista . We're trying to develop internships for graduate students. The RA and RC positions have already started.

On campus internships may be starting with Student Affairs. We will keep you posted. However, the university is looking into off-campus internships as a possible additional graduate student funding source.

1. Action Items
    1. Bylaws: (http://www.gsa.ucsb.edu/documents/bylaws/bylaws2003.pdf)

Matt - Are there any concerns from people?

None.

Matt - The biggest thing we're changing is the attendance here and how we pay your department. It will move from $0.50 to $1.00 but half your reps from your department have to go to 2/3 of the meetings. If you only have one rep. with big departments, at least half of the reps must go to all the meetings . Big or small, all can send a proxy. See by-laws (http://www.gsa.ucsb.edu/documents/bylaws/bylaws2003.pdf) to see how to send a proxy.

Edward -Motion to approve

Matthew Armstrong -Second

1. Approval of Stipend for outgoing VP-Communications and Records

Erin -Motion to pay half

- Second

One abstain

1. Approval of Funding Requests: (Appendix)

Alan -Request that we accept the insurance plan which has a 10 % increase. This doesn't mean we can't change the plan.

Jess Barrie - Motion to accept.

Allison - Motion to second.

Unanimous

Alan - now till Jan. 15 th we can make a “wish list”. Talk to people in department to see what things have been changed; something they would like to see different. ghsip@gsa.ucsb.edu . Alan, Jess, Ellie and Matt are on the committee.

Nadia - wants to have maybe have just the names and emails of people.

Edward - recommends names but not emails to avoid spam.

Elizabeth Grace -Motion

Erin -Second

1. Discussion Items:
    1. Action Agenda Item Updates: (Appendix III)

i . Housing

Nadia - Trying to have a bulletin board set up so that you yourself can look up what current listings there are.

Jess - Matt and Russell found out in the San Clemente meeting that they are more than willing to hear the options of two-bedroom apartments.

1. Resolution

Login (AS VP for Local Affairs) – We are trying to initiate a car sharing program . Basic idea: We'll have a fleet of 50 localized vehicles that you register. A car can be reserved in advance or last minute. The time and mileage are measured, and a bill will be sent to your BARC account . Start up cost and have lock-in fees will pay the start-up costs in about three years. If don't have the lock-in fee, then you'll have a membership fee and get billed for the amount that you use it for . If you do have a lock-in fee then that will be it. We are thinking of having a contractor. Email on the agenda.

Jess- We should put this in the winter survey.

Matt- Straw poll: Graduate Students are interested.

TA Union- Susie- bargaining updates. Had the one-day strike which lead to the voluntary mediation which was still be frustrating . We announced that we would have the strike this Thanksgiving weekend and this made the university come back to the bargaining table. We have an official strike for this Thursday. We will end earlier than any other of the eight campuses since we have finals right afterward. www.uaw.2aw.org email the union . Next meeting is next Friday at 5:30 - 6:30 at the UCen in the Goleta Valley room. 805-685-3886

1. Information Items

b. Parking and Transportation

Russell- There are two committees that still have not been formed.

c. Committee Reports (Appendix IV)

Straw poll- AS bikes is trying to do with a student fee initiative is to complete the Broida /Webb bike route . Should they come to graduate students?

24 for

4 against

Alan -suggests to put it on a GSA ballot vs. a CSC ballot.

1. Vox Populi

Karen -very successful

Russel l- next quarter graduate student/faculty mixer

1. Adjourn

Jess- motion to end

Elizabeth Grace- second

Appendix I: Officer Reports

Academic Affairs: Sarah Kriz

Student Affairs: Jess Barrie

This has been a busy and exciting month ! I am actively involved in the Housing action agenda item and met with the GSA housing committee to start generating ideas for specific goals we seek to accomplish this year relating to housing . I encourage anyone who is interested in getting involved with this committee to come to our next meeting on Wed Dec 3rd at 9am in the GSA Lounge . I also attended the Grad Council subcommittee on Student Affairs and explained the GSA Action agenda items . Some great ideas were generated on how this committee can support our action agenda items . There are some exciting possibilities in the realms of funding and student supports . Please talk to me if you have specific questions . More information will follow by the next agenda meeting.

Internal Affairs: Russ Knight

GRAD STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS MAY HOLD EVENTS IN THE LOUNGE FOR FREEEEEE !!!! If your department GSAs want to reserve private lounge times, let me know!

We are revamping our lounge reservation application. We will be dropping the deposit amount to 125.00/qtr. We are working with our relationship with Associated Students by making official an agreement for their privileged use of the lounge space.

Lounge staff will soon be scheduled for the Winter quarter. We MIGHT be hiring another work-study staff person, and since we prefer a grad student, let your constituents know to contact me if they are eligible for work study, and are interested.

External Affairs: Alison Borek

I went to the UCSA board meeting in Berkeley November 14-16. I also addressed the Regents at the Meeting at UCLA November 20 during the public comment period. Regent Velma Montoya expressed interest in what I had said regarding how fee increases would affect access and affordability of education for graduate students and how it would compromise the quality of education for both graduate and undergraduate students. I also helped educate about how fee increases would affect us and recruit graduate students to attend the rally against the expected fee increases at the Regents meeting at UCLA on November 19. In addition, Nadia and I held the first brainstorming session regarding our action agenda item: graduate student diversity outreach and retention on November 18 . Finally, many meetings with administrators have helped educate me on funding and diversity issues which are helping me become more effective in my role.

Communications and Records: Nadia Talhouk

Please note: Representatives from BARC and the Registrar's Office will be here to address specific questions and concerns beginning at 5:30.

Finally, the new web site is up! Check it out at http://www.gsa.ucsb.edu/ . Please email any questions, concerns and feedback to nadia@umail.ucsb.edu . At this time, I am going through the files and updating old documents.

Some of you have recently submitted your Representative Petitions and Committee Reports, thanks! I am still missing a few petitions from members that have attended both meetings thus far, so please email or bring them by ASAP.

Please familiarize yourself with Robert's Rules, which will allow for faster meetings. A summary of them will be handed out . Also , for those of you who are committee representatives of organizations that receive Student Fee Initiative funding: can you please ask how the funds are being spent, and what goals they have accomplished? We will announce the list of organizations Tuesday.

This year's GSA Assembly is the largest and most active yet, but many members do not recognize more than a few faces. To make meetings more enjoyable, assembly members will meet briefly in sub-groups at the beginning of Tuesday's meeting. Generally, groups are composed of students from several different programs, so that they can meet and speak with students from related majors, as well as one of their execs, in a more intimate setting than around our (not so) round table. The establishment of these groups also serves the function of getting more input and feedback from people who have great ideas, both in meetings, and via email. If you have not been contacted by a GSA officer via email , please let me know.

All assembly members are encouraged to contact each other and the execs so that we can function better as a team. By interacting regularly between meetings, we can facilitate decisions and keep meeting lengths more manageable. I have compiled a GSA member contact list, which will be posted online, pending your approval at Tuesday's meeting.

The first Diversity and Outreach Committee meeting Tuesday, November 18 th . We have decided to focus on the following goals: 1) recruiting a more diverse group of graduate student applicants; 2) learning what factor one's socio-economic background plays, if any, in the University hiring process; 3) trying to establish a mentor and peer counseling support group for graduate students of diverse backgrounds at UCSB; and 4) collaborating with EOP (Educational Opportunity Program), SIO (Student Initiated Outreach), the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS), and the MCC (Multicultural Center) on campus to get graduate students involved with various undergraduate organizations. If any of you share our commitment to ensuring that students of varied backgrounds have equal access to pursue advanced degrees at UCSB, please join us at our December meeting, as we plan to meet monthly. (See **Appendix IV** for more details.)

Budget and Finance: Sam Fleischman (see Appendix II)

Spending is on par with the approved budget so far with actual expenses roughly one third of the approved budget. The total expenses are 21,997.10 dollars out of an approved budget of 76,745 dollars (see attached for itemized expenses).

As VP of Budget&Finance I'll be concentrating on the issue of funding from the action agenda. In order to establish a GSA voice with regards to funding issues we'd like to form a funding committee consisting of one student from each of the schools and two other GSA execs. The funding committee would present concerns of grad students to members of the UCSB administration (The UCSB Foundation, Dean Li, Sang Hang-director of development for annual & regional gifts) and work with them to increase funding for graduate students. We'd also like for the committee to meet the week before assembly meetings to review campus orgs request for GSA funding and give funding recommendations to the assembly.

Immediate Past President: Edward Collins

President: Matt Andrews

I am grateful for the time and effort each executive officer has contributed to the GSA this quarter. If we are going to be successful accomplishing our goals articulated in our action agenda, we need more participation from assembly members and graduate students. The GSA plans to survey grad students in January to gather data about student needs. We are also planning a grad student retreat in February. Happy end of fall quarter and enjoy your vacation!

Appendix II: Quarterly Budget Report

	2003-2004 Actual	2003-2004 BUDGET

	Expenses as of Nov 25, 2003	REQUEST
Balance from previous year	63,028.25	63,028.25
Income	76,840.00	76,840.00
Graduate Student Fees	80,000.00	80,000.00
Lounge Use Fees	170.00	600.00
Other Income	32.00	240.00
Interest Income	1,320.00	900.00
Transfers		
Departmental Rebates	0.00	(2,500.00)
Supplemental Rebates (prior year)	0.00	
Discretionary Contributions	800.00	(2,400.00)
Itemized Expenses		
Committee Stipends	649.99	4,500.00
Computer Supplies	208.00	200.00
Contributions: UCSA	1,333.00	4,000.00
Contributions: NAGPS	400.00	400.00
Elections Expense		1,000.00
External Affairs (travel, events)	797.21	2,500.00
Food & Beverages		
General Council Meetings	923.27	3,000.00
Social: Parties	802.37	2,300.00
Social: Bagel/Coffee Hour	969.36	2,500.00
Insurance	55.00	60.00
VP Internal Discretionary Fund	0.00	300.00
President Discretionary Fund	0.00	300.00
Lounge/Office Equipment	0.00	500.00
Lounge /Office Supplies	122.56	1,200.00
Lounge Maintenance	0.00	500.00
OSL Registration	35.00	35.00
Other Expenses	0.00	100.00
Postage	0.00	50.00
Printing & Copying	105.60	1,000.00
Publicity	816.36	1,000.00
Stipends		
Officer Stipends	13,656.63	38,000.00
System Admin Stipend	600.00	2,000.00
Student Legals Services	0.00	1,000.00
Service Awards/Expenses	0.00	100.00
TA Awards	0.00	5,000.00
Utilities: Telephone	156.44	1,200.00
Work Study Students Current Year	366.31	4,000.00
Work Study Students Previous	0.00	-

Years		
Expenses	21,997.10	76,745.00
Income minus Expenses	54,401.82	95.00
Balances in Capital Accounts:		
Copier Capital Account	0.00	
Lounge Refurbishment Capital Account	831.26	7,000.00
Computer Capital Account	4,168.96	5,000.00
Total Balance	112,429.85	51,123.25

Appendix III: GSA Action Agenda

Diversity, Outreach and Retention:

We anticipate collaborations with Petra Shenk of the Diversity and Equity Committee. Petra sent a letter informing us of the D&E Committee's 2003-2004 goals. The most important ones include: speaking out against "ghetto parties" thrown in IV; researching faculty recruitment, hiring and salary spread among diverse faculty ; getting UCSB to file a Career Equity Review (CER); and determining the extent to which graduate student diverstiy is compromised by enrollment caps.

The Diversity and Outreach Committee has decided to focus on the following

goals: 1) recruiting a more diverse group of graduate student applicants; 2) learning what factor one's socio-economic background plays, if any, in the University hiring process; 3) trying to establish a mentor and peer counseling support group for graduate students of diverse backgrounds at UCSB; and 4) collaborating with EOP (Educational Opportunity Program), SIO (Student Initiated Outreach), and the MCC (Multicultural Center) on campus to get graduate students involved with various undergraduate organizations.

We plan to meet monthly. Before our next meeting, we hope to find a faculty member to serve as a committee representative, contact the Vice Chancellor of Diversity, and encourage the (re-)formation of ethnic grad student organizations.

Additional goals for the 2003-2004 academic year include initiating outreach programs with some or all of the CSU-system schools, as well as with local students from under-represented segments of society. Cal State Universities represent a large "market" of qualified undergraduate students that would succeed in transfer and graduate programs at UCSB if given the chance. By encouraging them to apply for admission and diversity

scholarships, we could greatly enhance the diversity of our undergraduate and graduate populations here at UCSB.

Housing:

Issue- San Clemente Design not Appropriate for Grad Students

Goal- Re-examine the plan to have San Clemente be a graduate housing unit . Grad students are not interested in sharing an apt with 4 people and paying high rent . This complex would be more suited to undergrads whose parents will pay the high cost of living there . Change San Clemente into an undergrad dorm and make Santa Ynez a GRAD housing complex . Half the units in Santa Ynez could be for couples and half for single grad students . Santa Ynez is a more attractive option for grads because it is reasonably priced, convenient and quiet.

Action Item

- Change plan to make San Clemente an undergrad dorm and plan to make San Ynez all graduates
- Divide the units in Santa Ynez so half are for couples (without children) and half are for single grad students who will be placed with roommates
- Do away with archaic policy in Santa Ynez that you can only have a single sex roommate- not realistic in this day and age . Give people options of having a roommate of any sex.
- Santa Ynez apartments should have option of being furnished or not furnished . Most graduate students already have furniture and putting it in storage for 5 years is not an option.

Issue- what can be done IMMEDIATELY to help increase grad student housing?

Goal- San Clemente will not be ready for ATLEAST 4 more years . Something needs to be done to increase grad student housing in the meantime

Action Item

- Currently the percentage of grad students who have on campus housing to undergrads who have on campus housing is not even . This percentage should be equal . This summer when undergrads move out of Santa Ynez , at least some of their apartments should be reallocated for grad students to even out this percentage.
- Santa Ynez needs to institute a waiting list that carries over year to year . Currently it cancels out each summer . One list should be created for males, one list for females . If a female name comes up she can choose a male or female roommate from the list.

- Santa Ynez should allow mixed sex roommates starting immediately . This will allow couples to live in San Ynez and allow Family Housing to be for families with children.
- Prepare a short survey to be delivered electronically to all grad students assessing their current housing situation, how much they pay in rent, and what on campus housing options are interesting to them (number of roommates, maximum cost etc)
- Need to also focus on off campus housing options- Idea to advertise to local landlords to encourage them to advertise in GSA Housing List . Speak to Housing office about their Off Campus Housing Website (perm/password) See if there is an option to copy that template and use it on the GSA site as a grad student housing site . Look into applying for a grant to cover the cost of setting this up and potentially the salary of someone to maintain it . Possible job for grad student . Benefit private landlords who want access to quiet, mature, long-term tenants, and off campus options to grad students to access landlords who appreciate that they are not undergrads.

Issue- Housing Department Culture

Goal- Work towards changing the culture within the housing office staff- Staff need to have better communication amongst themselves and with students.

ACTION ITEM-

- Speak with Amy about formulating an email message that instantly gets sent to all applicants explaining the construction and worst case scenario delays that could occur due to that
- Housing office should do a once a year inspection of apartments, as most landlords do, to ensure no major damage and to create aura that they are paying attention to tenants, which should reduce injustices.

Issue- Presence of Inappropriate Tenants

Goal- Crack down on people illegal subletting apartments or inappropriately living in apartments . Improve the understanding/perception of what IS being done towards this issue by the housing office . Don't want to create aura of policing but do want to ensure that appropriate people live in apartments.

Action Item

- Send flyers around to residents asking for their help (anonymous) in identifying illegal tenant arrangements, by explaining how this harms all grad students interested in on campus housing
- Implementation of "domestic partner criteria" to establish that people truly are partners and not just saying so to get priority in housing . Possible modification of UC Berkley's policy for establishing domestic partnership.
- Have Housing department provide statistics once per year that are publicly available showing the following information on all tenants in Family/Student housing including degree status, years living in accommodation, living situation, leave of absences etc.
- There are current problems with people illegally subletting over list serves and pretending to be a couple to get family housing . Housing should inform the public of crackdowns and evictions they make, to improve perception that they turn a blind eye to these injustices.

Suggested 3 Year Timeline For Housing Action Agenda

Year One- 2003/04 Action Agenda Items as explained above

Year Two- 2004/2005 Reconsider current method of allocation at Family Student Housing to explore more equitable income options.

Year Three- 2005/2006 Try and make connections with larger Santa Barbara/Goleta/IV community of landlords to institute some form of rent control for graduate students.

Interesting Reference Resources

UCSD Grad Student Housing

http://hds.ucsd.edu/hsgaffil/%20And http://65.54.246.250/cgi-bin/linkrd?_lang=EN&lah=5313688e39588189a137059dcae63565&lat=1069632363&hm___action=http%3a%2f%2fhds%2eucsd%2eedu%2fhsgaffil%2fsgaframe%2ehtml

UC Berkley Policies for establishing domestic partnerships

http://65.54.246.250/cgi-bin/linkrd?_lang=EN&lah=e2c6670efc6b4fff45be00491badc65f&lat=1069635516&hm___action=http%3a%2f%2fatyourservice%2eucop%2eedu%2femployees%2flife_changes%2ffamily_changes%2fsame_sex_partner%2feligibility%2ehtml

Graduate Student Funding:

With TA ships and fellowships in short supply, many graduate students are faced with the crisis of meeting both their education and living expenses in an area with one of the highest costs of living in California. Grad students are forced to take out loans and seek other employment concomitant to pursuing post graduate education. These financial

stresses as well as time to work takes away from study toward completion of a graduate degree increases the time spent obtaining the degree and therefore the cost of the degree. The work students produce is of paramount importance to a department's standing in the academic community and it is in both UCSB and individual department's interest to fund their students during the time spent in graduate school. The UC system is expecting severe budget cuts in the future and so it is unlikely that individual departments will be able to increase support for students when budgets are already incapable of doing this.

We propose to seek financial support from graduate alumni in the creation of fellowships and grants for graduate students in the social sciences and humanities at UCSB and to create aid for underrepresented students at UCSB . Graduate Division is attempting to create a contact list of post graduate alumni and to distribute a newsletter from the graduate division to keep alumni updated of campus events and the work current graduate students are engaged in. In order to form this list we must work together with . Creating a connection between the alumni and the place of their intellectual maturation will be paramount to the success of sequestering funds to establish graduate fellowships.

We as a whole have an obligation to help in the creation of grants/fellowships for those areas of study that are in need of funding. This obligation that is based in the need for diversity of both intellect and life experience of the graduate student body will enrich the education of all students if it is realized.

Appendix IV: GSA Committee Reports

Student Fee Advisory Committee: Sungho Park ,

l. Presentation on UCSB student resource building (SRB).

Departments housed there will be: CLAS, Office of international students and scholars, EOP, Children center, women's center, office of student life, and grad division . The building will also provide student common spaces comprising student resource centers, multipurpoase room and kitchen, pc lab, meeting rooms, and libraries . It is expected to be completed Spring, 2006 . The total recommended buget for the project is $ 24 millions

2. Requests for multicultural center.

Discussed regarding the items requested from multicultural centers . Items were chairs, refrigerator, and other electronics such as TV set . Student representatives will meet with the folks there to discuss over this issue.

3. Subcommittee updates:

Subcommittees visited several departments including CLAS, MCC, Women's center, OISS, CCS, Student health center, and children's center . They had tour of each

department they visited and reported what they learned . CLAS requested lock in fee and CCS requested heating system, new carpet, and wheel chair access at the rear entrance . I don't think they submitted official requests, but they expressed their needs.

4. MCC one-time request

A. Refrigerators: One Kenmore elite stainless steel = $2,205

Two Kenmore Elite white = $1989.50.

B. Chairs: they requested for 50 chairs but committee agreed that 32 chairs will do.

C. Media Equipment: (over $900) ,TV set, Cassettee set, CD player, Speaker.

We agreed that we will provide the refrigerators as they requested, but they will have 32 chairs . We need to think about the media equipment.

5. Registrar One-time request

They originally requested 6 small printers and 2 large printers . But they received 6 small printers and 1 large printers even thought they requests were approved . We will revisit this issue.

Campus Elections Committee: Russ Knight

A "test" of the new online election service provider will take place in Winter quarter in the form of a survey. This is an opportune time for the GSA to hear what issues are 1 . important to, 2 . relevant to, and 3 . (most importantly) actually affecting graduate students across campus.

San Clemente Building Committee: Russ Knight

The building will be, with no change in planning/design costs, altered to suit more 2-bedroom and fewer 4-bedroom acommodations .

Cost is "not a realiatic issue" right now because the building has not been given the final go-ahead yet.... Related issues (affordable housing, separated grad student housing, etc.) will soon be touched in relation to this new complex, but not necessarily in this committee.

Parking and Transportation Services Committee(s): Russ Knight, Julie Broughton and Kohl Gill

The 2 new parking committees are almost affirmed. Our contact will let me know when their schedules are set. They have not had a meeting yet. I encourage anyone who has

experienced parking/transportation dilemmas to email them to me so that we can address them ASAP when these committees begin to meet.

GSHIP Committee: Elizabeth **Shermer**

The GSHIP Committee met and talked about possible ways to keep the cost of our health care down without impacting services **.** We also discussed the possibility of staying with our current provider for 2004-2005 **.** Based on the company's offer **to only raise** our rates by 11% (versus the projected raise in health care expenses of ~15%) we voted to present the proposal to the assembly.

IVPAC: Ray **Zuo**

Since the assembly meeting, I attended one IVPAC meeting this Wednesday night **.** The meeting was a scoping meeting on the proposed parking permit program in Isla Vista . The county of Santa Barbara presented the initial draft of the parking permit system in IV **.** It included discussion of annual and summer permit for residents and merchants, daily passes for **vistors** and guests, and free short-term parking zones around downtown IV.

After the presentation, the county asked for PAC comments on the plan **.** I commented on the cost of initiating, enforcing, and maintaining the permit program **.** Since the county did not provide the rates for permits at this time, I was a bit concerned on whether the revenue generated from the program can cover all the costs associated with the program.

During public comments, some students voiced that the permits should definitely be cheaper than UCSB campus permits because these will be additional costs to live in IV and it will make IV living less affordable if the rates are too high **.** They also suggested for alternative solutions as building more bike racks around downtown.

During the final PAC round-up comments, I emphasized that we should really try to keep this program simple in the beginning, because we don't know exactly how it will affect the supply and demand of parking in IV until we put the program on trial for a certain period **.** So I think it's not worth it to invest too much into the program in the beginning since we don't know what kind of changes will take place after the system is imposed **.** One other comment I made was that we must keep this program flexible to accommodate the changes that are associated with the new system.

This was a long meeting, but we had some very good discussions about the new system that will affect everyone in IV in the near future. Hope this will give some insights on the proposed parking program.

Alcohol and Other Drug Workgroup Meeting: Mark Demarest

October 1, 2003

The Alcohol and Other Drug Workgroup (AOD) committee held bimonthly meetings during the 2002-2003 academic year . The general purpose of these meetings was to bring various campus and community organizations together to discuss chronic and emerging problems associated with chemical abuse at UCSB, and to discover, assess, and implement various efforts to address these issues. The goal of the AOD is to ensure a fun, stimulating, and safe environment for all students of UCSB. Significantly, surveys and other research indicate that incidents of detriment directly related to chemical abuse at UCSB occur at a much higher rate than should be expected based on state- and nationwide university averages. These detriments include missing of class, reduction in academic performance, creation or exacerbation of personal and interpersonal problems, suffering of injury, reduction in community safety, and, on a broader scale, degradation to the academic reputation of the university itself. However, UCSB undergraduates paradoxically perceive these incidents to be less negative than do other university students. It is thus clear that the student population of UCSB is somewhat unique in its attitudes toward use of chemical substances, particularly alcohol, and the unintended consequences of such use. For this reason approaches which attempt to promote responsible use must likewise be unique, and developing successful programs has proven challenging.

The meeting of October 1 began with a finalized plan to restructure the committee into five key subdisciplines , each offering a particular prevention strategy: Education, Environment, Early Intervention, Enforcement, and Evaluation. This structure, deemed "The Five E's ", would be further directed toward eight key action areas: Greeks, Freshman Year Experience, Health Care Providers, Rape Prevention, Residential Life, Athletes, Alternative Social Programs, and Research and Grants. This new committee structure is designed to identify important areas of focus and provide common and clearly defined goals, while allowing for more effective pursuit of those goals with less frequent general meetings. The finalized Strategic Plan and Mission Statement were accepted with enthusiasm.

A discussion of the recent Rolling Stones article detailing the activity of a visiting internet pornography company in Isla Vista followed. This company and others like it have thrown parties with free alcohol in order to induce students to perform sexual acts worthy of display online or in videos. Attempts by the university to educate students about this threat of exploitation and its subsequent effects were related , and ideas for future efforts were proposed. Negative responses from students and parents were also discussed , from which it was clear that although public fallout has been relatively slight there is a great deal of concern evident in the community. At least two parents informed the university that their children would no longer attend UCSB.

Updates were provided from representatives regarding progress made on various projects over the course of the summer. Particular success was noted in the area of improving the Isla Vista environment through new enforcement policies, including landlord notification of excessively outrageous parties, parental notification, and new party ordinances. The plan to instigate a keg registration policy in order to curb underage drinking is also moving forward. A review of the recent attempts to educate new students during

freshman orientation was discussed , along with subsequent feedback from students and parents alike. Other efforts, including new marketing strategies, ideas for alternative social programs, and further education plans were discussed based on research and results obtained from other universities.

November 5, 2003

This meeting was a combined gathering of the Alcohol and Other Drug, Violence Prevention, and Isla Vista Community Standard task forces, and included representatives from the many various public, academic, and community organizations which address and/or are affected by problems of chemical abuse among UCSB and SBCC students. The main purpose of this meeting was to provide updates of various efforts being undertaken by each in order to encourage communication and cooperation between the entities involved. Brief presentations were given by many representatives from the UCSB Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Program and by representatives from the Isla Vista Foot Patrol, Cottage Hospital, Santa Barbara County, the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Isla Vista Community Safety Working Group, and Santa Barbara City College. The most impressive and entertaining segment of the meeting was provided by Lt. Tom McKinney of the IV Foot Patrol, who played and narrated a portion of a video taken during the 2003 Halloween festivities on Del Playa Drive. This gave a greater appreciation for the number of people who came to IV for the weekend and of the difficulties associated with managing such an influx. Input and feedback was provided to the speakers from all in attendance.

November 19, 2003

Updates were provided on activities in various action areas, focusing particularly on the Freshman Experience, Health Advocate Chair, Residential Life, and Greek areas. A review of the statistics from Halloween was provided . Among topics of potential interest to graduate students were the idea of expanding after-hour use of facilities such as the UCen for campus groups, the development and renovation of theater services in IV, and the need for additional mentors in the LEAP program.

Isla Vista Conditional Use Permit Workgroup (part of the IVAOD Council)

The purpose of the Isla Vista Conditional Use Permit (IVCUP) Workgroup is to develop a policy recommendation for the sale of alcohol in Isla Vista. This recommendation will be submitted to the relevant policy makers as they determine the future of Isla Vista with respect to the new Isla Vista Master Plan. During these meetings, which involved various public officials and community members, we discussed the role of a conditional use permit in a community, the legal authority and limitations placed on this type of policy, and the influence various aspects of the policy are likely to have on the community and the environment of Isla Vista.

Much of the discussion debated the merits and drawbacks of enacting specific limitations on the types and number of alcohol outlets in Isla Vista, as well as regulations which

should accompany licensing. It was generally agreed that there is a desire to increase the safety, community spirit, and living conditions for all residents of Isla Vista, and toward this goal a conditional use permit should be drafted which considers the needs and desires of all community members, including the interests of the business owner along with the consumer. It was also agreed that the outlet environment should promote responsible rather than reckless use of alcohol so that Isla Vista can be enjoyed by all .

The final recommendation is pending as we continue to look at various issues and determine appropriate policies.

UCen Governance Board: Reed M. Johnson

Expansion of UCen funded by a Student Referendum

The Budget committee is also responsible for looking towards development and future budget needs and we are looking at the possibility of expansions in the future. The budget committee is currently looking at the need of expanding the UCen third floor facilities to include more lounge and study space. These are all preliminary inquiries and nothing has been set in policy at this time. Any improvement to these facilities will require a referendum by the students. Initial guesses on the order of the referendum per quarter is set at five dollars. If these modifications are deemed necessary then the referendum process would begin during the 2005-2006 school year. At this time however the committee is thinking about ideas for different possibilities and initiating student demands for such actions.

Results of the UCen board this Quarter

The fall quarter for the UCen Board consisted of getting primarily all new members on track with the board. This year the board consists of all new student voting members which has slowed down the process for the board. Additionally we have reviewed the charter for the board and modified it. A primary modification to the charter that benefits GSA, has been the allowance of the Chairman to be a GSA member and still have another GSA voting member on board. Unofficially this has been the policy for the past few years but as written official before the modifications if the GSA representative was the chairman of the board then they would potentially loose their vote on issues addressed before the board and GSA as a result could be under represented in matters that affect its members. Under the new policy it is now officially acceptable for GSA to have two members on the UCen board, one acting as Chairman the other acting as voting member to the board. This is a desirable change to the structure and one that will help insure that GSA members concerns are actively addressed.

An additional issue the board has begun to address and will continue in the future is the prices of text books as set by textbook manufacturers. The board along with the book store is beginning the process of providing all the professors on campus with pricing information on the books they wish to purchase. This is hoped to have a long term effect of reducing, or curbing at least the yearly increases in textbook costs. The board at this

time hopes to have some preliminary information available to professors before the selection of winter quarter books is complete. The board is also looking at ways of supporting the bookstore in this venture and combining efforts with other UC campus bookstores in lowering prices that students have to pay for textbooks.

Diversity and Outreach Committee: Nadia Talhouk

The first Diversity and Outreach Committee meeting was held Tuesday, November 18 th . We anticipate collaborations with Petra Shenk of the Diversity and Equity Committee. Petra sent a letter informing us of the D&E Committee's 2003-2004 goals. The most important ones include: speaking out against "ghetto parties" thrown in IV; researching faculty recruitment, hiring and salary spread among diverse faculty ; getting UCSB to file a Career Equity Review (CER); and determining the extent to which graduate student diversity is compromised by enrollment caps.

The Diversity and Outreach Committee has decided to focus on the following goals: 1) recruiting a more diverse group of graduate student applicants; 2) learning what factor one's socio-economic background plays, if any, in the University hiring process; 3) trying to establish a mentor and peer counseling support group for graduate students of diverse backgrounds at UCSB; and 4) collaborating with EOP (Educational Opportunity Program), SIO (Student Initiated Outreach), the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS), and the MCC (Multicultural Center) on campus to get graduate students involved with various undergraduate organizations. If any of you share our commitment to ensuring that students of varied backgrounds have equal access to pursue advanced degrees at UCSB, please join us at our December meeting, as we plan to meet monthly.

Before our next meeting, we hope to find a faculty member to serve as a committee representative, contact the Vice Chancellor of Diversity, and encourage the (re-)formation of ethnic grad student organizations.

Additional goals for the 2003-2004 academic year include initiating outreach programs with some or all of the CSU-system schools, as well as with local students from under-represented segments of society. Cal State Universities represent a large "market" of qualified undergraduate students that would succeed in transfer and graduate programs at UCSB if given the chance. By encouraging them to apply for admission and diversity scholarships, we could greatly enhance the diversity of our undergraduate and graduate populations here at UCSB .