

GSA Fall 2022

Executive Council Meeting Agenda

October, the 31th, 2022, 10:00 am

This Meeting Will Be Recorded

I. Check-In & Attendance

- Anuja Yawar
- Kara Seidel
- Dawn Galindo
- Emily Faber
- Anoosha
- Geeta
- Emily Shrope
- Ethan Post
- Zane P.
- Amy Cruz
- Aminah Amjad
- Grace de Oro
- Charlie W.

II. Reports

- **Treasurer [Anuja Yawar]**
 - Discussion about the Senate meeting and the budget presentation
 - How to keep questions to about 5 or less -- Emily F said that the gavel would help with this
- **Historian [Geeta Shanbhag]**
 - No new reports
- **GAAC [Anoosha Fayyaz & Sahara Ali]**
 - M&C with Deans - 11/02 11am-12pm
 - Discussion flow in M&C:
 - a) Agenda and quick recap of previous M&C meetings (we could not find any meeting minutes)
 - (1) Any meeting minutes from the past one?
 - (2) No formal process for the M&C- K.S.
 - b) Onboarding issues and delays in paychecks
 - (1) 3 months delay in getting these to students

- c) Stipend concerns: **was the 3% increase in summers reflected in stipends**, cost of living vs stipend etc.
- (1) These are still not sufficient for living cost
 - (2) Did everyone see this raise in their paychecks
-- Anoosha is posing question to us
 - (3) Dawn: some people don't rec' increases in COLA because of payment funding mechanisms in play
 - (4) Kara: Emily F was funded differently through a fellowship - as an example
 - (5) Kara: is there a clear disconnect between grad students and administration
 - (a) Anoosha -- is there a mechanism within admin to help students who dont know who to go to
 - (b) GA benefits→ Anoosha wants to request dental benefits for GA-students at the master level
 - (i) GA should be automatically charged at the instate level
 - (ii) Emily S and Emily F had issues with this
 - (c) Anoosha: did you know this part of the process re: instate tuition a bit later?
 - (d) Emily S → had to retroactively arrange for coverage of her instate tuition; wasn't an elongated process once it was brought to the forefront
 - (i) But she figured it out on her own
 - (e) Anuja: Grad school/admin.
Miscommunication
 - (i) GA for the summer → Anuja's bill should've been generated based on that
 - (ii) Anuja: had to arrange for a huge amount of payment at the last minute
 - (f) Emily F→ auditing a course versus paying for a course

- (g) Actually having to pay because of administrative oversight
- (h) Many stories about the general oversights on the administrative section where they haven't done it
- (i) Aminah: departments may or may not be on top of it
 - (i) Dawn: these discrepancies-- are people in the department unaware of these?
- d) GA benefits: equal benefits for masters and PhD students (dental insurance), dependent's insurance, in-state tuition not automatically charged to GAs
 - (1) Kara: if people are being overworked in terms of contractual obligations
 - (2) RIH-- willing to do outreach about the health insurance administrative intricacies
 - (3) But generally highlights a lot of cracks between institutions
- e) Highlights from surveys conducted by Phys/Chem departments
 - (1) How much deficit is there between COL and their stipends
 - (2) Family was one of the folks involved
 - (3) Chemistry dept. Got the raise but physics didn't
 - (a) Family → according to her, it's because they're the "highest paid" and the whole interaction didn't go well
 - (4) Anoosha: you cannot cover all expenses with the stipend
 - (a) Family: covered what they would need to make ends meet (median as per Glassdoor)
- f) Other concerns: Transparency of funds/stipends across departments, campus climate survey, research office within the grad school to research, platform for cross-department GA opportunities
 - (1) Transparency across departments re: stipends so that claims like above can't be made
 - (2) Campus climate survey

- (a) More statistical values to put into the presentation
 - (b) Annual climate survey → no initiative/emails fro this year
 - (c) M&C presentations-- Spandan, chair from that year, (the climate survey was quoted from that year in 2019)
 - (d) OEI -- Sahara didn't have results from this
 - (e) Platform for cross-dept. GA postings → hard to find ones in other departments(?)
 - (f) Eligibility criteria across depts. For GA posting
 - (i) GPD/GPC have to sort through all emails from people inquiring about GA-ships & it's hard to do these emails as a student too
- Are there any other concerns from the E-council that need to be raised?
 - a) Kara: priorities meeting that she will update on
 - (1) They asked if they could use the GSA office to do grad-school office -- which doesn't have enough room as it is
 - (2) Dawn & Ethan were not into this idea
 - (3) We need a grad-student specific space
 - (4) Ethan & Emily S will be meeting with the President at 3:30 PM today
 - (a) They will bring up specific things and reached out to Anoosha
- M&C folder with questions from the town hall, department surveys and responses from survey before M&C town hall

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-I3Tx4Y28hQeDwVklShnwH3t26eVKfBp?usp=share_link
- **GSSC (Kara Seidel and Emily Faber)**
 - Meeting today for goals and priorities
 - a) 4:30 in the GSA office today (10/31/22)
 - b) What are GSSC's priorities now that GS Fest is over?
 - c) How to promote wellbeing amongst the GS population
 - RIH update

- a) Bruce H. → what can we do to help GS population
- b) All-new staff: including someone who works specifically with grad students and commuter students
- c) 12 PM meeting for the student advisory meeting → none of GSSC can go to this meeting
- d) Wants data points to prove that grad students will get involved in virtual/after-hours events
 - (1) and/or different things for grad students
- Transit update
 - a) Anoosha and Sahara are great at getting responses
 - b) Open office hours for counselling
 - (1) But wants to use the GSA office?
 - c) Bruce seemed to put the need for a grad student space
 - d) Something that needs to be addressed
 - e) Dawn: the library space as an option
 - f) Bus driver shortage but the wheels are churning for alleviating this problem
 - g) Grace: will loop back about her involvement on the hiring committees for these bus drivers
- **GEARS (Aminah Amjad)**
 - Rooms haven't been finalized
 - a) 16th-18th
 - b) Need person-power, etc. to make the event happen
 - c) Career Center is on-board and able to do the workshop
 - (1) Make this hybrid if there are space concerns or make it two sessions
 - d) CVs, post-interview, salary negotiations → would be useful for grad students, especially international students
 - e) As soon as the room situation is finalized → Aminah will be able to get the ball rolling
 - f) GSSC → will step into help
 - g) Event Planning has been unresponsive → otherwise we have to escalate this up
 - (1) They have shut down taking any more reservations → b/c of staffing issues
 - (2) Maybe it'll be easier if you need AV, any set-up then it becomes difficult to have staff help

(3)

h) Oca Mocha as an alternative → easier space to reserve

(1) Capacity is a lot less than what is needed for Trivia night

(2) Camera is in the room for a hybrid space → big TV space for this; trivia game up

(3) Grace is willing to walk through this with Aminah (a lot more online events even on Grace's events)

(4) It was difficult to communicate with online folks during trivia night

i) Rooms are the biggest barrier to this

j) Equity of Fund's Committee question from Dawn

(1) Needs to know about this in terms of relation with budget

(2) The committee wasn't formed or conceptualized

(3) Shremily: is going to bring this up during the Senate

(a) Dawn: figure it out amongst ourselves before escalating to Senate

k) BGSO scholarship request: requested GSA specifically for funding on scholarship

(1) Not sure what happened communication wise from Emily S.'s end

(2) Ethan/Emily will check in/follow up on this

(3) CWIT → GSA could be the middle person in terms of helping provide funds for this event

- **OGSL:**

- Writing Advisor:

- Community Liaison:

- Communications Manager:

- **LC [Zane Poffenberger]**

- **Election Night Extravaganza**

- **Collective Bargaining Bill/efforts**

- a) Friday meeting covered this

- b) Facts sheets for this created on that end

c) Zane: what is the intention of the M&C if it hasn't been happening and at this point, what purpose does this serve at this point

- **Preparing for the upcoming legislative session**
- **President [Ethan Post]**
 - Election Night Extsavaganza (11/8, 6:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.)
They are seeking undergraduate and graduate student volunteers to help them with:
 - Set up
 - Clean up
 - Food, snacks and dessert bar
 - Crowd managementStudents can sign up to volunteer for at least one shift (6:30 - 8:30 p.m., 8:30 - 10:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.) using [this Google Form](#).
- Jameer please confirm virtual option is reserved
- Emily reach out to senate for confirmed in-person attendees (for pizza order). Assign senator volunteers to assist with pizza getting and set up
- **Vice President [Emily Shrope]**
 - Update notes from steering committees in [this document](#)
 - Special USC Monday @ 3:30pm w/ Dr. Sheares Ashby.
What important issues should we bring to the table?

III. Open Discussion

- In-person for Senate meeting @ SOND 113
 - Oversaturating the time for the Senate meeting
 - Where is the money going if it's not going to these positions
 - Who plans on attending in person versus online (?)
 - We did ask for this in the meeting in order for it to be set-up
- Meet and Confer discussion
 - Anything to add about M&C stuff
 - Meet & Confer hasn't happened in the past two years and no meeting minutes from anyone either
 - Grad administration doesn't seem to have any information on this
 - How have these been beneficial to us if they haven't been occurring
- Equity of Funds Committee
 - This will be coordinated in an email thread → and potentially as a committee that starts in the spring

- Time limit on holding gift cards?
 - Points of policy
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- Historian back-up: something that ECouncil needs to discuss
 - Question from Dawn about where the videos are on the Google Drive and who has access to this
- Reworking of process for grants-- Dawn, Jennifer and Jeff

IV. Adjourn