



## ***Council Meeting Minutes***

**GSA Office, Conference Room  
05/07/08**

1. Call to order at 6:17 pm
  - a. Present: Alex, Louise, Erik, Laura, Kristy, Tony, Joe, Irene, Gary, Ching-In, Henry, Vanessa and department reps.
  - b. Absent: Eric, Susan, Richard, Jeff, and Anirban
  - c. Motion to approve the agenda, seconded, motion carries, Agenda is approved. Motion to approve minutes from last council meeting, seconded, no objections, motion carries and the minutes are approved.
  
2. Guest Speaker
  - a. Al Diaz (Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs) and Mike Delo (Facilities)
    - i. Al Diaz discussed his background and family experiences. Appreciates the challenges faced by graduate students. Grad students at the core of the research engine of the university.
    - ii. Andy Plumley discusses food on campus. Majority said no about the food choices on campus. They are trying to get a better assessment as well. From dining cards, they are at 3.6, service 3.9, cleanliness is 4. We want organics, vegetarian, and vegan.
    - iii. They are looking for space for new stores. There is a place by Life Sciences that will be purely vegan. Phase II of commons, activity center will be burgers. They will have a coffee pavilion. Campus store will be remodeled to include another coffee store. Moving comp ucr upstairs and candy shop. They will put the book part in the downstairs area. They will put a store in the EBU-II building.
    - iv. Working with the Barn, they will expand happy hour to Mon-Fri including a breakfast and dinner program at the Barn. They want to change the west side of the Barn to an outdoor area.
    - v. They are working on a family housing development on the west side of campus. They will convert part of Falkirk across from Family Housing possibly. Dormitories takes cash, meal plan, or credit card. Gap from 10-10:30 at the taco place seems like they should be open.

- vi. Can we have a post office on campus? In phase 2 of commons, we will have a mail program there so we can mail packages.
- vii. Food on campus over the weekend available from the sandwich shop. In phase II of the campus, we will have more weekend options. Barn was packed last week for happy hour so expanding that would be great. Happy hour M-F for fall. Remodel will take longer. Cottage will be moved into that area to close it all in and available for Faculty to be alone or Univ. Club members.
- viii. Farm fair (farmer's market type of thing) May 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm they will sell their fresh produce. There were issues with risk management in terms of selling food products on campus and liability. We get all our eggs from AG ops.
- ix. Phase II of the commons opens March 2009 some parts may be open in Jan 2009. Timeline for the campus store will be similar.
- x. Mike Delow from transportation and parking services. We have a tiered parking system. Gold parking \$84/quarter. Lot 30 and 26. Grad students can buy a blue permit and park closer (\$35/mo). Alternative transportation program – UPASS partnership with RTA. They have 8,000 boardings per month. Students can ride any RTA route with their UCR id card. Vanpool program is open to grad students, costs \$79/mo.
- xi. They work closely with EH&S to light pathways. They are putting parking lot lighting. They have id'd pathways that need upgraded lighting as well. They would like to upgrade lighting in many parts of the campus. They are looking at pathways from disabled parking to parking destinations. If you have questions about lighting is Andy Stewart [andrew.stewart@ucr.edu](mailto:andrew.stewart@ucr.edu).
- xii. For event parking Debbie Manlongat for event parking. Debbie is their event parking manager. When grad students try to put on their own conferences with our money and their own money and student fundraisers and they get the same parking rate as any faculty conference. We should have student parking rates for student conferences. He would like to have a follow up discussion to discuss that.
- xiii. The sidewalks are slippery even if they are not wet. Safety issue from grad survey is cars on campus especially when you park far away or go to UV, it feels unsafe with fast cars on the road. The city has agreed to remark Univ and Canyon Crest will go down to one traffic lane in each direction. There will be a middle transition lane. They will widen the bike lane in each direction. This should slow traffic down and they hope to do it by the summer. There is concern that this will create a traffic

jam. But this is exactly what we wanted to do. He thinks it will be easier to get out of the parking lots. Motion to extend time, seconded, motion passes.

- xiv. Load and unload at Batchelor Hall. Night permits are \$10. You get 15 min to load and unload at the loading docs with any UCR permit. Police get suspicious if you have no UCR permit at all so please have at least a night permit. At the ramps for Univ. exit and on-ramps, there is always traffic there anyways and cars try to make right turns and cars squeezing through the pedestrians. Would like them to place students down there to control this behavior. We have brought this to the attention to the city but UCR is not allowed to put someone there. He will ask for a crossing guard.
- xv. If grad students take alternative transportation, register bicycle, you get a free night parking pass. Lighting of Phase II is non-existent. Lighting plan for pathway and parking lots. They ID pathways from parking lots where there is little or no lighting. Between lot 15, there is no lights on either sides of the sidewalks, there is no pathway lighting at all. Money and time is the limit to putting up lights. His funds come from parking permit fees.
- xvi. Our campus doesn't really recycle. There are only 4 containers on Kristy's side of campus. We will meet our targets for recycling (50%) by the end of the year. We lose the stuff in the recycling bins because people take it. We have a company do the recycling after taking the trash. No one knew we had our trash sorted.
- xvii. They are looking at solar farms and at what it would take to make the west campus leed silver or better. That we build it on a sustainable infrastructure. We probably have to look at sustainable resources like solar power. Over time there will be more opportunities for solar power as the technology increases.
- xviii. Al Diaz is proud of what Andy and Mike do. They work to make the campus proud of our university. He encourages more frequent and convenient communications. They have a monthly meeting but they only get ~6 people attend. They are every first Wed of the month in his office. If that's not convenient, they will come to us. You can just show up to this in his office. What they will do is remind people about it 2 weeks before hand for agenda items. He's proud of what happened in dining.

b. RCC didn't come but they have fliers which were passed around.

### 3. Officer Reports

a. President (Alex Cortez)

- i. GSA research awards Thurs June 5<sup>th</sup>, grad division will pay for food in EBU-II 205/206.
  - ii. Future alumni reception May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm so anybody finishing in Fall or even winter you can attend at the Alumni Center.
- b. EVP (Louise Hendrickson)
  - i. GSA Special Election for the 2008-2009 School Year: The positions for GSA President and Finance Officer are still open. There will be a special election held at the June 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. For more information about each position and for an application form please visit the GSA Website at <http://gsa.ucr.edu/>. To apply for candidacy, please fill out an application form and email the elections email by May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 6pm. If you have any questions, please contact the GSA EVP Louise Hendrickson at [evp.gsaucr@yahoo.com](mailto:evp.gsaucr@yahoo.com).
  - ii. Days of Action for Fighting Student Fee Hikes! May 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008: Big decisions are going to be made in the next two weeks about the future of fees at the UC. UCSA is planning two key actions for this and we need your help to let both the UC Regents and State lawmakers that we don't want to see your fees raised. The first is on for the UC Regents meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> at UCLA and will focus on turning out students to show the Regents we don't want our fees raised, they are still debating over raising fees 7 to 10%. While we don't want to see fees go up at all, I am sure we all can agree that we would prefer 7 to 10 percent. The second action is a "study-in" May 19<sup>th</sup> on the steps of the State Capital to show lawmakers that they need to prioritize funding for higher education in the state budget, and we will be asking for a fee freeze. If you are interested in taking part in these actions, or want more information, please contact Gary, GSA Legislative Liaison at [UCRsociologyTA@gmail.com](mailto:UCRsociologyTA@gmail.com). GSA will cover travel, lodging and food.
  - iii. On Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the UCSA Board met and picked the three finalists for the next student regent. As the UCSA President, I will be the student representative at the Regents Special committee meeting to select the student regent, but I will not have a vote, I will only be an advisory member. The current student regent Ben Allen will be voting for the students.
- c. VPAA (Erik Kolb)
  - i. He loved the discussion we just had. He invites everyone to meet with them.
  - ii. We have 19 mini-GSAs.
  - iii. On reg fees committee they have fought to protect grad student money. They secured money to fund the AAlll position.

- d. PR Officer (Kristy Richardson)
    - i. Grad Bash is this Friday from 5-7pm. Pizza, salad, and breadsticks will be served. There will be beverage specials. Please let your officemates know and friends.
  - e. GSHP Chair (Laura Bellew)
    - i. Nothing to report at this time.
  - f. Finance Officer (Tony Yang)
    - i. Will present budget projections later in the meeting.
  - g. CTG Coordinator (Joe Steirer)
    - i. June had 55 applicants. Max payout would be \$25,000. Up to March we paid out \$90,000.
    - ii. When we move to iTravel, there might be changes to the program. Please find the potential changes to the CTG program on the website.
    - iii. They might go over their budget. The total amount budgeted for travel grant \$142,000.
  - h. Conference chair (Vanessa Miller)
    - i. Will be held in the commons
    - ii. There is a registration link on the GSA website.
    - iii. Made flyers, please pass them out.
4. Discussion
- a. UCSA Report
    - i. Please let Louise know if you would like to run for LL, COD, and CTG if you want more info.
  - b. GSA survey
    - i. Task force completed a summary of descriptive stats, it will be posted on the website this week. We will put together a fancy pamphlet to distribute to the administration. Please wait until we have the fancy version made before distributing the info. They will do some correlated analyses. If you have interest after looking at the results, feel free to contact Kristy. It's an ongoing process, we had 591 respondents. That turnout was 30% of the grad student population, quite good.
5. New Business
- a. Botany and Plant sciences funding request
    - i. Student run event on June 6<sup>th</sup>. They are asking for \$750 from the GSA. All materials will have the GSA logo. They have met all guidelines and criteria. Motion to approve in the full amount, seconded, no objections, motion passes 19-0-0.
  - b. GSA Bylaws
    - i. Motion to consider this bylaw change regarding filing fee status, seconded, motion passes. Filing status means that you have less than 12 hours and you only get one quarter of it and technically it means you are in good standing. The accounting office said that we need to specify it in Bylaws.

- This will be a new section. Students in filing status can continue to be GSA officers. Motion to approve this change, seconded, no objections, motion passes, 19-0-0.
- ii. Stipends part L)
    - 1. Motion to approve, seconded, motion passes 19-0-0.
  - iii. Section VI Standing Committees – change from minigrant to CTG. Add finance officer to CTG committee as a non-voting member.
    - 1. Motion to approve, seconded, motion passes 19-0-0.
  - iv. Health insurance advisory committee
    - 1. Must make a yearly independent survey each year.
    - 2. Motion to approve, seconded, no objections, motion passes 19-0-0.
  - v. Standing Committees and ECAC criteria
    - 1. Motion to approve, seconded, motion passes 19-0-0.
  - vi. Finances (Section X) – switching finance officer to budgetary oversight and signing authority.
    - 1. We would like to hold the change to take affect after the officer positions change so we only have to see the accountant once.
    - 2. Discretionary dropped to \$500.
    - 3. Upping per diem for meal allowance to \$30/day.
    - 4. Motion to approve holding changes until next fiscal year, seconded, motion passes 19-0-0.
  - vii. Miscellaneous Duties
    - 1. Extra duties for VPAA and GSHIP Chair.
    - 2. Motion to approve, seconded, motion passes 18-0-1.
  - viii. Section XVI: Amendments (Bylaws Cmte will renumber as needed)
    - 1. Bylaws committee and renumber as needed.
    - 2. Motion to approve, seconded, vote by acclimation, no objections, motion passes 19-0-0.
  - ix. Formation of mini-GSAs (comes from website)
    - 1. Motion to approve, seconded, no objections, motion passes 17-0-0.
  - x. CTG (already approve, just putting in Bylaws)
    - 1. Motion to approve except that the per diem only goes into affect next fiscal year, seconded, 16-0-1, motion passes.
  - xi. ECAC (appendix)
    - 1. We removed the comments.
    - 2. Motion to approve, seconded, no objections, 17-0-0, motion carries.
- c. UCSA Budget Changes Summary – UCR pays higher dues, we passed a referendum to pass higher dues. They dropped UC Hastings dues. CSF & LobbyCon increased. Starting a fundraising initiative.

They got a grant from the USSA for the vote project of \$18k. UCSA President's travel increased. Board decided that they wanted people other than the president to go to this meeting. Conference sponsorship and strategic planning can continue if they desire for revamping the association. Salaries went up for interns (2) for archives. Employee benefits so that everyone that goes over a year gets a bonus at the end of their 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Health insurance increases. Oakland Office off-site printing decreased because they bought their own copier. Web hosting decreased and bookkeeper (accountant was fired) costs increased. Vote Youth got funding from USSA. Net income is \$3,786.44. Stated Benefits of membership. We should print them out since it's easier to read. Suggestions to streamline the explanation. Motion to approve the UCSA budget, seconded, no objections, motion passes 17-0-0.

- d. Motion to present the elections results now, seconded, no objections, motion passes. Let's congratulate our newly elected officers for next year: Gary Coyne is EVP, Tony Yang is VPAA, and Lara Bellew as continuing GSHIP Chair, and Anne Hansen as new PR Chair. At the special election, only those with voting cards can vote. She will accept applications until May 21<sup>st</sup>. They will have speeches and we will vote then. Please consider one of those positions if you are here.
  - e. GSA Budget Projections
    - i. They will take input afterwards to shorten the meeting.
    - ii. Showed current budget
    - iii. Will discuss separate line items at a later date.
    - iv. Rollover is \$23k. Quite a bit of our budget depends on rollover from year to year.
    - v. Showed various areas of possible cuts and reductions.
    - vi. If you have any questions contact Alex, Tony, or Louise.
6. Public Forum
- a. The coordinating committee for grad affairs. They are looking at in absentia which covers 5% reduction in fees for students that have to be out of state to do dissertation research. They are looking to set it up with an 85% reduction in Ed fee. In absentia classification would actually mean something. You would still be a good standing status and full time but you need to be out of state.
  - b. The committee for distinguished teaching and they were expecting a few dozen applications and there were 9. You can nominate someone. It's not difficult to get someone to have that award. There is a plaque in the academic senate office.
7. Adjournment – motion to adjourn, no objections, meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.