Minutes of the GSA Assembly

May 15, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm.

I. Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved. Edward Collins so moved, and Jonathan Pearl seconded. Approved by unanimous consent.

A motion was made to call the roll of those in attendance to determine if a quorum was present. John Corbett seconded. John called the roll (the full attendance list can be found on page 11).

II. Approval of Minutes of GSA Assembly meeting of May 1, 2002

Edward so moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the GSA Assembly, and Sarah Woodward of Dramatic Arts seconded. Approved by unanimous consent.

III. Announcements from Graduate Division

No announcements were offered from Graduate Division.

IV. Vox Populi

No issues were raised from the floor.

V. Information Items

No items were scheduled on the agenda or raised from the floor.

VI. Discussion Items

No items were scheduled on the agenda or raised from the floor.

VII. Action Items

A. Appointment of Member of GSA Officer Elections Committee

Shawn announced the resignation of Soomin Chun from the Elections Committee. Edward moved to permit the GSA Executive Committee to appoint the third member of the Elections Committee. Jonathan seconded. Approved by unanimous consent.

B. Election of Vice President – External Affairs

Edward moved to declare nominations for Vice President – External Affairs to be closed, with Karen Blair of Geological Sciences seconding. Approved by unanimous consent.

C. Amendments to GSA Assembly By-laws

Shawn Landres briefly outlined the proposed amendments to the GSA Assembly as shown in the meeting packet. Edward moved to put the amendments on the table, with Karen seconding.

Kurt Anderson of Marine Biology suggested that items to be voted on by GSA Assembly Members be presented in advance.

Holly Grether of Religious Studies suggested that multiple options for GSHIP be presented for a vote. Dr. Cynthia Bowers, Director of the Student Health Service, explained that presenting multiple GSHIP options would be extremely complicated to create and would not be as flexible as the menu items as currently presented to the GSA.

Shawn paused briefly to introduce various officials present at the meeting.

Jonathan moved that Article XII, Section B(5) regarding GSHIP be rewritten so that packages could only be passed by the GSA Assembly with three-fifths approval. If the GSA Assembly failed to achieve a three-fifths margin, Jonathan's motion continued, the package would be presented to the entire GSA membership for a vote. Kurt Anderson seconded.

Charles Li, Dean of Graduate Division, briefly commented that passage of GSHIP items that would dramatically increase the 2002-03 premium would have dire consequences on administrative expenses. Shawn suggested that such comments be withheld until debate on the actual menu items commenced.

Jessica Winston, Past President of the GSA, expressed her concern that GSA Assembly Members have not adequately communicated their knowledge about pending issues with graduate students over the course of the year. She asked Jonathan what GSHIP package would actually be presented to the graduate student body. Jonathan responded that the option that gets the most votes from the GSA Assembly should be presented to graduate students for a vote. Holly expressed her support for student consent.

Mark Schuller of Anthropology said that the information regarding the GSHIP package proposals should have been sent out earlier. Alan agreed that in the future the approval process should be changed, but that it was too late to do so at this juncture.

Jonathan suggested as a friendly amendment to the motion that the three-fifths rule go into effect on May 16, 2002.

Sabrina Pinnell of Political Science expressed displeasure at the extremely confidential nature of the GSHIP proposals.

Shawn asked Jonathan to postpone the motion until the next meeting. Jonathan agreed, and the motion was withdrawn.

Shawn asked that Edward's motion putting the amendments to the by-laws on the table be voted on. An objection to consent was raised. The motion was approved by a vote of twenty-nine yeas, zero nays, and four abstentions.

D. Consideration of GSHIP coverage for the 2002-2003 academic year

Shawn clarified where the situation currently stood. He conceded that he had made an error of judgement at the May 1, 2002, meeting in allowing non-Assembly Members to vote on the GSHIP package and its various elements before being approved as a package by the Assembly. He explained that there would be two votes at the present meeting. The first would be for Assembly Members only, only then could non-Assembly Members vote.

Shawn then explained to the meeting that the Assembly would first vote on a provisional package as moved by the GSHIP Committee. The provisional package contained the following items (moved and seconded by the GSA Executive Committee):

2A) Adapt Physical Therapy benefit to 100% at Student Health/ 90% in-network/ 70% out-of-network.

2B) Remove Post Surgical limitation for Student Health Charges.

3) Change notification (to Student Health) of treatment time limitation from 72 hours to one working day.

4) Amend language under point three of the Prescription Drug benefit to read: Filled on a day when the Student Health Services is not open.

5) Include pharmacy co-pays in the aggregation of the $3,000.00 stop loss maximum.

6) Add Diabetic Self-Management and Education Program Benefit.

13B) Increase percentage of payment for Rx filled outside of 50 mile radius from 50% to 100%. 50% discount on restorative dentistry.

Mary McMahon, Assistant Dean of Graduate Division, reiterated Charles Li's previously-stated concern that an excessively large increase in GSHIP for 2002-03 could restrict campus funding. She said that this could jeopardize funding for such things as appointments, fellowships, teaching assistantships, and research positions.

Alan Levy, member of the GSHIP Committee, explained that before considering the provisional package as moved by the committee, the GSA Assembly needed to approve a default package in case no agreement could be reached on the series of items currently before the Assembly. Shawn temporarily withdrew the provisional package for the purpose of permitting a vote on the default package.

Alan then moved to approve the following no-cost GSHIP menu items as the default package as required by the GSA by-laws:

2A) Adapt Physical Therapy benefit to 100% at Student Health/ 90% in-network/ 70% out-of-network.

3) Change notification (to Student Health) of treatment time limitation from 72 hours to one working day.

4) Amend language under point three of the Prescription Drug benefit to read: Filled on a day when the Student Health Services is not open.

5) Include pharmacy co-pays in the aggregation of the $3,000.00 stop loss maximum.

6) Add Diabetic Self-Management and Education Program Benefit.

Edward seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Several students then raised the question of what happened to the package constructed at the May 1 meeting. Shawn explained that the package as tentatively approved had been tabled. Upon detecting significant confusion from the various Assembly Members, Shawn proceeded to explain the difference between postponing a motion (which preserved it) and tabling it (which effectively killed it). Several students objected to this action, but Shawn reminded the meeting that the minutes for the May 1 meeting had already been approved with the "tabled" language in it.

Shawn then noted that the provisional GSHIP package was being placed back on the table for a vote. Mark Schuller moved to consider the May 1 package, with Shawn ruling the motion out of order, as another motion was already on the floor.

Mark then moved to introduce the following menu items:

> 12) Delete exclusion 19 (pertaining to treatment, surgery, drugs, devices and/or supplies for sexual reassignment surgery) in its entirety.
>
> 14) Amend the increase in cost for students to decrease the dependent rates by 10%.

Eve Shapiro of Sociology seconded.

Jessica Winston made an unfriendly motion to separate items 12 and 14, with Edward seconding. An objection to consent was raised. The motion was approved by a vote of twenty yeas, eight nays, and three abstentions.

Shawn then opened the floor for debate on Item 12, alternating between statements supporting and opposing the item.

Mark proceeded to speak in favor of Item 12, which would provide GSHIP coverage for the costs of sexual reassignment surgery. Mark then introduced a letter submitted by himself and Karl Bryant of Sociology (included in the packet) presenting arguments for Item 12 in a Q&A format. Assembly Members were given a brief moment to examine the contents of the letter.

Kurt Anderson then spoke in opposition to Item 12. He reiterated the arguments made by Mr. Li and Ms. McMahon regarding the cost of the proposed item and how it would impact funding for other campus programs.

A student in favor of Item 12 noted that if certain students did not get said coverage, they would be unable to continue to attend UCSB.

Sabrina Pinnell of Political Science compared Item 12 to the scenario of a student trying to get eye surgery. She noted that even if Item 12 passed, it could still be eliminated in 2003-04, when UCSB bids for a new insurance plan. Eve responded that even if only made available for one year, sexual reassignment benefits are better than none at all.

Jessica inquired about the number of students that would be seeking such a surgical treatment. Dr. Bowers responded that she thought about one or two students from the entire student population were currently utilizing such a treatment.

One student noted that students would need and use services provided under Item 12. Another student responded that she was concerned about how it would affect funding in her Biology Department.

Dr. Bowers interjected that sexual reassignment surgery treated a "credible medical condition". At the same time, she cautioned that a 30 to 50% increase in the GSHIP premium could be expected for 2003-04, and that this should be kept in mind when voting for items to place in the GSHIP package.

Stu Levenbach of Marine Biology moved to call the question on Item 12 and close debate. John seconded. An objection to consent was raised. The motion was approved by a vote of twenty-five yeas, five nays, and three abstentions. Debate on Item 12 was closed.

The Assembly then voted on Mark's motion to include Item 12 in the provisional package. An objection to consent was raised. The motion was defeated by a vote of eight yeas, nineteen nays, and three abstentions. Item 12 would not be included in the provisional GSHIP package.

In opening debate on Item 14, Shawn asked how many graduate students have dependents covered by GSHIP. Dr. Bowers said that twelve spouses and eight children are currently covered.

Mark then asked the Assembly Members as a whole whether they have enough information to render an "intelligent" vote on Item 14. Several students raised their hands, while many did not.

Mary McMahon noted that there were 180 spouses in the current graduate population.

Dr. Bowers cautioned the Assembly Members that an immediate vote was necessary, as the GSHIP insurance package as approved needed to be published the next day.

Holly moved to amend Mark's motion on Item 14 to 50%, which would have entailed a significant rise in the GSHIP premium. Roy Landstrom, President of Renaissance Agencies, Inc., explained that the high premium associated with extending dependent coverage was due to a phenomenon known as "anti-selection," where dependents would be induced to get coverage because it would be better than other alternatives. This, in turn, could generate demand far beyond current levels or coverage.

Several students concurred that other health care plans for dependents were "pathetic".

A student raised the point that the proposed increase to 50% on Item 14 would lead to a premium increase four times higher than what was discussed for Item 12, noting that support for the 50% dependent rate was hypocritical in nature.

Mark said that Item 14 was the most important issue for the students he consulted with in Anthropology.

Jonathan moved to call a vote on Item 14 at 50%. Holly seconded. An objection to consent was raised. The motion was defeated by a vote of seven yeas, sixteen nays, and seven abstentions.

Jonathan next moved to call a vote on Item 14 at the 10% level. Sabrina seconded. An objection to consent was raised. The motion was approved by a vote of thirteen yeas, ten nays, and six abstentions. Debate on Item 14 was closed.

The Assembly then proceeded to address Mark's motion to include Item 14 in the provisional GSHIP package at 10%. An objection to consent was raised. The motion resulted in a tie with a vote of twelve yeas, twelve nays, and six abstentions. Shawn as chair elected to abstain, leaving the tie intact. A revote was subsequently held, with the motion being approved with a vote of thirteen yeas, twelve nays, and six abstentions.

Stu moved to hold a voice vote for Item 14, with acceptable responses being "yes", "no", or "present". Soomin seconded. Approved by unanimous consent. The motion regarding Item 14 was passed by a vote of fourteen yeas, thirteen nays, and four abstentions. Item 14 at 10% was included in the provisional GSHIP package.

Included in the meeting packet was a proposal moved and seconded by the GSA Executive Committee to introduce a $4.00 per student per quarter fee to GSHIP "dedicated to reducing the cost of GSHIP to non-students". Holly proposed that this amount should be raised from $4.00 to $10.00 per student per quarter, as Item 14 was passed at only 10%. Sarah Woodward seconded.

When asked about the origin of the amendment, Alan Levy of the GSHIP Committee explained that he had "dreamed it up" as a way of easing the burden on dependents. When suggestions were made to consider the amendment over the next few meetings, Shawn raised the concern that if a vote on the amendment were postponed, it would appear more like a potential lock-in fee. Dr. Bowers replied that either way, the amendment could never be considered part of GSHIP.

Shawn decided to rule the amendment out of order because he determined it to be a mandatory student lock-in fee, which can only be approved through a referendum; thus the motion was unconstitutional. He then suggested the possibility a motion to vote on it after the GSHIP package. He then announced that the provisional plan, as currently amended, incorporated a total premium increase of $27.50 on top of the mandatory 11% GSHIP increase for 2002-03.

After Edward spoke briefly about salient points in the package as it was currently constituted, Stu Levenbach declared that the premium associated with the package was too high.

Karl Bryant of Sociology moved to reconsider the following item:

> 11) Amend Exclusion 19 to read: Treatment, surgery, drugs, devices and/or the cost of sexual reassignment surgical procedures. (GSHIP would then cover the costs associated with sexual reassignment procedures except for the cost of the surgery itself.)

Eve Shapiro seconded. An objection to consent was raised. The motion was defeated by a vote of seven yeas, twenty nays, and four abstentions. Item 11 would not be included in the provisional GSHIP package.

Holly moved to reconsider Item 14, with Gina Valentino of English seconding. An objection to consent was raised. The motion was defeated by a vote of seven yeas, fifteen nays, and five abstentions. Item 14 would remain in the provisional GSHIP package at 10%.

Sabrina moved to have a vote on the package as currently constituted by the Assembly. Kurt seconded. An objection to consent was raised.

Kurt moved to hold a voice vote for the provisional GSHIP package as amended, with acceptable responses being "yes", "no", or "present". Edward seconded. Approved by unanimous consent. The motion regarding the provisional package was passed by a vote of eighteen yeas, seven nays, and five abstentions. The provisional GSHIP package, as amended, was approved by the GSA Assembly.

Mark moved to have the provisional GSHIP package voted on by all GSA members present, with Edward seconding. An objection to consent was raised. The motion was defeated by a vote of nineteen yeas, thirty-two nays, and seven abstentions. The provisional GSHIP package, as amended, was rejected by the GSA.

With the amended provisional package having been defeated by the general GSA members, Shawn asked students that voted no reasons for their choice.

Holly said that the 10% dependent rate on Item 14 was so low that it was essentially "anti-family".

Edward said that he felt that premium was simply too high.

Edward moved to pass a provisional GSHIP package, which included Items 2A, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Jonathan seconded. An objection to consent was raised.

Stu moved to hold a voice vote for the provisional GSHIP package, with acceptable responses being "yes", "no", or "present". Edward seconded. Approved by unanimous consent. The motion regarding the provisional package was passed by a vote of sixteen yeas, seven nays, and seven abstentions. The provisional GSHIP package was approved by the GSA Assembly.

Karen Blair moved to hold a vote on the provisional package by the GSA members present. Holly seconded. An objection to consent was raised. The motion passed by a vote of twenty-four yeas, twenty-two nays, and four abstentions. The provisional GSHIP package, without amendments, was approved by the GSA.

Holly moved to consider the $10.00 GSHIP amendment for the next election, with Gina seconding.

Edward noted that the GSA would need a quorum at the meeting when the vote on it would be held.

Holly moved to call a special meeting for such a purpose for 5:00pm, Wednesday, May 22, 2002. Edward seconded. An objection to consent was raised. The motion was defeated by a vote of four yeas, ten nays, and eight abstentions.

Edward moved to create a committee to work with GSHIP for 2002-03. Sarah Woodward second. Approved by unanimous consent.

Sarah moved to have the GSA give approval for the creation of the said committee. Jonathan seconded. Approved by unanimous consent.

VIII. Officer Reports and Financial Report

No reports were presented to the Assembly.

IX. Adjournment

Jonathan moved to adjourn, with Sarah seconding. Approved by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Corbett
GSA Vice President—Communications and Records

Department	Representative	Present
Anthropology	Mark Schuller	Yes
Art History	Brian Dale	No
Biochemistry/Molec. Biology	Stephanie Snyder	Yes
Chemical Engineering	Kevin Boulware	Yes
Chemical Engineering	Amy Tezel	Yes
Classics	Benjamin Wolkow	Yes
Communication	Daisy Lemus	Yes
Dramatic Art	Sarah Woodward	Yes
Marine Biology	Stuart Levenbach	Yes
Marine Biology	Kurt Anderson	Yes
Education	Dave Pratt	Yes
Education	Artemis Savarnejad	No
Education	John Jabagchourian	Yes
Education	Elena Skapoulli	Yes
Education	Heather Tomlinson	Yes
Education	Alan Bates	Yes
Elec. & Computer Engineering	James Buckwalter	No
English	Gina Valentino	Yes
French	Claudio dell'Oca	Yes
Geography	Jeff Onsted	No
Geological Sciences	Karen Blair	Yes
Latin America/Iberian	Maria Carmen Lozano	No
Linguistics	Petra Shenk	Yes
Materials	Brian Naughton	No
Mathematics	Roger Roybal	No
Music	Rebecca Giacosie	Yes
Music	Nichole Dechanie	No
Physics	Alan Levy	Yes
Political Science	Sabrina Pinnell	Yes
Psychology	Brooke Vick	No
Religious Studies	Alyson Prude	Yes
Religious Studies	Holly Grether	Yes
Sociology	Patricia Drew	Yes
Sociology	Karl Bryant	Yes
Spanish & Portuguese	Jorge Perez	No