GSA General Council Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2001

I. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes from the June 6, 2001 meeting were approved.

II. Approval of Agenda

A. Agenda for the meeting was approved.

III. Officer Introductions

A. Introduction of GSA Officers

Shawn introduced this year's GSA officers.

B. Introduction of AS Officers

Shawn introduced the AS President, Brian Hampton, and AS Internal Vice President, Shaina Walter. Shawn, Brian, and Shaina all expressed an interest in coordinating activities and discussions of AS and GSA.

IV. Graduate Division

Mary McMahon, Assistant Dean of Graduate Division, announced that the Graduate Division Website has lots of information that is useful for graduate students, including announcements and copies of messages that go out over e-mail: www.graddiv.ucsb.edu.

She also announced that some new financial awards/support is now available: There are dissertation fellowships available for spring. Also, there are additional travel funds for doctoral students in humanities, fine arts, education, and the social sciences. Funds are for travel between December and January. People who have received this grant in the past may be eligible for additional monies. More information and applications are available at www.graddiv.ucsb.edu.

The Graduate Dean has some money to support graduate student conferences and journals. For more information, contact Graduate Division.

The new Graduate Student Handbook and Filing Guide is available on the Graduate Division website at www.graddiv.ucsb.edu.

McMahon also described some upcoming events: The Graduate Division and Graduate Council will soon take part in a national on-line survey of graduate students. The on-line survey will also ask questions specific to UCSB.

Graduate Student appreciation week is coming up.

V. Vox Populi!

A graduate student asked for more movie nights on a variety of nights. Kelly responded that the GSA does its best to provide a range of activities on different nights.

Gary Castaneda introduced himself as the new Outreach & Diversity Peer in Graduate Division. The Graduate Outreach & Diversity Peer Advisor can be reached at: outreachpeer@graddiv.ucsb.edu or elguap01@umail.ucsb.edu.

Joe Navarro, the Associate Dean of Students, noted that a graduate student representative is needed to serve on the faculty/student conduct committee. If you would like to serve, please contact Joe Navarro at navarro-j@sa.ucsb.edu or Shawn Landres at internal-president@gsa.ucsb.edu.

VI. Campus Resources

Dr. Cindy Bowers, Director of Student Health, Dr. Jane Carlisle, Director of Counseling Services at Counseling & Career Services, each gave brief presentations on the counseling services available to students on campus.

Dr. Bowers said that Student Health deals mostly with psychiatric issues (such as eating disorders, alcohol, and other drug problems). Access to psychiatric services at Student Health is mostly related to the prescribing of medications. Students who need psychiatric counseling are mostly referred to doctors who are off-campus. She said that students should be aware that some psychiatric disorders, by law, are treated as physical disorders and, therefore, have different insurance coverage. Be sure to talk with insurance counselors at Student Health if you have questions.

Dr. Carlisle gave a handout with statistics on the sorts of issues and students treated by Counseling Services. She also announced that a newly revised TA Booklet, which provides general information about how to access psychiatric services on campus, will be published soon.

Yonie Harris, Dean of Students, also gave a short presentation and asked for feedback on how graduate students and undergraduate students are doing in the wake of the September 11 tragedy. Students said that they had either felt or observed people feeling powerless, disconnected, and even helpless. In response

to a question from Shawn about whether people were compartmentalizing their responses to the tragedy, many students said that they were indeed doing that.

Mary McMahon expressed concern that Federal legislation on immigration floated in congress in response to Sept. 11 may negatively affect international students, who come into the country on student visas.

VII. Information Items

A. Student Resource Building/Campus Elections Reform Update

Alan Levy, Department Representative from Physics and member of the Campus Elections Commission, noted that the CEC has formed an independent working group to review CEC guidelines, with a focus on graduate student complaints about election rules from last year. In addition, he is representing the GSA's complaints at the CEC itself.

B. GSA Constitution Committee Update

Alan Levy, also a member of the Constitution Committee, noted that the GSA Constitution Committee had revised the constitution and would soon be bringing a new draft constitution before the General Council for comment.

VIII. Action Items

Shawn briefly introduced Chancellor Henry Yang and welcomed him to the meeting. He then observed that the Agenda needed to be amended to include the approval of graduate student representatives on campus-wide committees. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to amend the agenda.

A. Budget—Preliminary Allocation for '01-'02

Kathy Meyer, the Treasurer, presented the budget. The budget was approved unanimously.

B. Press-Secretary Election

John Corbett, from Geography, was nominated to be press-secretary. He was elected by general acclaimation.

C. Committee Representatives

Graduate student nominees to serve on campus committees were approved. Committee representatives are listed at www.gsa.ucsb.edu/committees

IX. Discussion Items

A. Campus/Classroom Safety & Security

Students discussed their concerns about safety and security and discuss the pros/cons of having an anonymous referral system, which would allow students who are concerned about another student to refer him/her to campus officials anonymously.

Joe Navarro said that he would be willing to intervene in cases where students are disruptive or otherwise violate campus regulations.

B. GSA Issues Agenda

The General Council discussed items that should be added to this year's Issues Agenda. Students noted their concern about graduate research facilities (library, cubicles, computing facilities) as well as parking & alternative transportation, housing, and the library. A draft of the Issues Agenda, based on this discussion and a discussion had at the GC last sprint, will be presented to the GC at the November meeting.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.