GSA General Council Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2001

I. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes from the October 3, 2001, meeting were approved.

II. Approval of Agenda

A. Agenda for the meeting was approved.

III. Departmental Representative Duties

A. Kelly Pollock spoke about the creation of a listserv separate from the general GSA announcements list which will relay important announcements to all of the department reps. Kelly mentioned that she and John Corbett will work to implement the said listserv. In addition, she explained how graduate representatives should register with the Office of Student Life.

IV. Graduate Division

John Hajda, Graduate Division Director of Student Services, explained funding support for extramural activities. He announced a new peer position to help with applications, as well as two new listservs to announce awards and career workshops.

John also announced that he is working with various industries to initiate a series of career events for jobs in both academia and the private sector. He requested input from graduate students regarding the nature of these events, making his business cards available for that purpose.

Alyssa Mullen was introduced as John's assistant in putting the career events together. She also explained that she was a contact for students who need information in thesis and dissertation filing. She will also be holding events and assembling support groups to help students better understand the thesis and dissertation process.

V. Vox Populi!

No issues were raised by the General Council.

VI. Campus Resources

A. Budget & Planning: Capital Development

Martie Levy, Director of Capital Development, outlined the current and proposed development projects on the UCSB campus. Among the highlights were:

- The capital planning budget is $630 million over the next five to seven years.
- Sewers will be replaced along Mesa Road.
- The Engineering Science Building will commence construction in Lot 10 in December.
- A proposed "New Academic Building", which is projected to be completed by 2007, will house several programs currently in Phelps Hall, and will represent the largest building construction on campus in decades.

Jessica Winston observed that no capital projects involving the library were part of the presentation. Martie noted that the library is currently in the visioning stages of expansion and renovation.

A graduate student raised the issue of payment for parking development. Martie believed that the campus is a more likely revenue source than the state. Various possibilities for funding include differential rates and event surcharges.

VII. Information Items

A. Presentation of the proposed new GSA Constitution

Alan Levy, member of the Constitution Committee, presented a draft of the proposed new constitution for consideration. In addressing questions about its relation to the current constitution, Alan explained that while the proposed constitution will be submitted as a technical amendment to the current constitution, in essence it will be an entirely new constitution. Unlike the current constitution, much of the specific rules governing GSA activities will be deferred to bylaws to increase flexibility. Alan expects to have a final version ready by January. Jessica and Alan encouraged continual feedback throughout the drafting process.

B. Campus Elections Reform Update

Shawn Landres, GSA Internal President, explained that changes will be made in the campus consultation milestones. The Campus Elections Commission is currently reviewing technical details in the guidelines.

C. Officer Reports

Alan Levy, member of the Graduate Students Health Insurance Plan Committee, reported that the pharmacy is open. He noted that the

commencement of GSHIP will be moved closer to the beginning of the quarter in the future. He explained that Dr. Cindy Bowers, Director of Student Health, cited the current budget crunch as possibly leading to graduate student visitation fees or increased lock-in fees. Shawn noted that Dr. Bowers will speak at the December meeting of the General Council, and that questions directed toward her should be prepared in advance. Alan also noted that flu shots will be available on Tuesdays (9:00 to 11:00) and Wednesday (1:00 to 4:00).

Soomin Chun, GSA Vice President of Student Affairs, passed along a request for the submittal of artwork for display in Ucen.

Diane Gayan Meschyan raised the issue of the funding of the computer capital account. Shawn expressed concern that SFAC may wind up using leftover discretionary funding for computers that the state has already promised. Jessica proposed that the share of registration fees paid by graduate students be examined so that graduate students receive computer funding consistent with their share of contributions. Edward Collins, GSA External President, opposed what he called the "divvying up" of computer funds. Marc Mark Schuller was concerned about provoking undergraduate "hostility" by doing so.

Shawn requested a volunteer to serve a three-year appointment as a graduate representative on SFAC. He noted that a vote would be held later in the meeting.

Edward reported on the Coordinating Council on Graduate Affairs (CCGA), noting that the graduate report was well received. There is still an outstanding issue regarding the ownership of intellectual property with regard to graduate students and course materials. He requested volunteers to serve as a representative of the CCGA.

VIII. Action Items

A. Committee Appointments/Confirmations

Graduate student nominees to serve on campus committees were approved, including Alan Levy on SHAKSHAC, John Corbett on CEPAP, and Edward Collins on IVPAC. Committee representatives are listed at www.gasa.ucsb.edu/committees.

B. Budget

1. Office & committee stipend adjustments (Operating)

Sarah noted that the stipend available to officers should be increased as commitments increased. Edward moved, and Karen seconded. The motion was approved.

2. Copier purchase authorization adjustment (Capital)

Kathy Meyer, GSA Treasurer, requested an increase in the capital account allocated to purchasing copy machines from $500 to $750. Motion was seconded and approved.

C. Funding Requests

1. Pueblo event

A representative of the Latina/Latino Graduate Student Association (aka Pueblo) requested funding in the amount of $300 for the presentation of a movie entitled "Follow Me Home". Motion for funding was passed.

Shawn noted after the vote that few campus groups take advantage of the funding available for groups like Pueblo and asked department representatives to pass along the information.

D. GSA Issues Agenda 2001-2002

Shawn introduced the issues agenda as being smaller than previous agendas, as the goal was to draft an agenda that was relevant, specific, and concise. The three issues addressed on the draft were the library, parking and alternative transportation, and computing and research facilities.

Karen Blair questioned the need to have the library listed as one of the three issues, as it was already addressed within the five-year plan. Shawn responded to this concern by proposing that no new buildings should be built before the library is renovated and expanded.

Mark Schuller suggested a fifth point under the library section, noting that graduate students should have equity of fax access to articles. Shawn agreed that this was a good point to add.

Mark continued with his comments, explaining that housing was more popular of an issue among his peers in Anthropology than computing and research facilities. Mark distributed a memorandum drawn up along these lines.

Soomin raised the issue regarding the availability of ethernet hookups when the graduate student's department would not provide one.

Shawn explained that housing was not listed as an issue on the agenda because it was already a viable political issue, and that the agenda would be most effective by highlighting issues that have not received as much attention. A representative then responded by explaining that by that logic parking should not be included as an issue. Another representative added that housing should be emphasized by graduate students to overcome potential undergraduate opposition to graduate goals.

Jessica suggested in addition to other housing concerns that international graduate student housing issues should also be mentioned in a revised agenda. Shawn added that the university should be encouraged to reexamine its own proposed and current housing projects in light of graduate concerns.

Shawn moved Shawn invited a motion to approve the GSA issues agenda, such that the agenda should fit on a 8 1/2" by 14" legal-size paper with four issues: housing, library, parking, and computing chosen in that order by popular vote. Such a motion was introduced from the floor and seconded.

E. UCSA

1. UCSA issues agenda

Emily from English seconded motion to vote on the agenda as a whole after some debate as to whether the GSA should vote only on particular selected issues.

Edward motioned that language regarding prisons should be struck, otherwise, he explained, to vote on it would require additional time and effort.

Motion passed to vote on all but prisons.

2. UCSA budget

Approved by acclimation.

F. Sexual Harassment Advisory Panel

Shawn requested two volunteers for the Sexual Harassment Advisory Panel. Soomin expressed interest in pursuing this matter further in future meetings.

G. The General Council voted to appoint Petra Shank (Linguistics) to a three-year term on SFAC.

IX. Discussion Items

A. Student Resources: New Building, New Services?

Soomin briefly raised the issue of the resources that graduate students need to "get out of here." She requested that graduate representatives solicit comments on what services graduate students need to enhance their ability to fulfill their requirements in a timely fashion.

B. Impending State & UC Budget Cuts➔ UCSB impact?

No discussion was raised on this issue.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.