GSA Lounge Assembly Meeting Minutes 6:00 p.m. March 5th, 2003

(Addition requests and Changes: mail to president@gsa.ucsb.edu)

I. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda: Mark Yeary, Jonathan Pearl. Motion approved through unanimous consent. Meeting begins at 6:03pm.

II. **Approval of Minutes:** (January and February minutes)

Motion to delay approval of minutes until end of meeting: Matthew Armstrong, Russell Knight. Motion approved through unanimous consent. Return to section II (Approval of Minutes) after section VIII (Officer Reports).

(Upon return) Motion to accept both minutes: Kathy Meyer, Stu Levenbach. Motion approved through unanimous consent.

III. **Announcements** from **Graduate Division** and/or **Student Affairs**: John Hajda, Graduate Division

Commencement: if you're planning on it, sign up by April 15.

Student singer competition: so far, nobody's come forward. Deadline is March 31.

Student speaker competition: deadline is April 7.

Recently had a central fellowships workshop – the award is run through grad div, and is especially helpful to humanities and social science folks. Deadline is April 1.

We now have 3 listservs (mailing lists) that provide funding information: HUMFUND (humanities), SOCFUND (social sciences), and a new one, SEM (science, engineering, and mathematics), coming up on April 1. It's a post-only list, and we usually post once a week.

IV. **Presentation**: (15 min) Burt Romotsky, Social Worker, SHS, romotsky-b@sa.ucsb.edu, see Appendix I

One-year position for now, hoping to continue. My job: fill in where there's a gap in services – personal, financial, whatever affects out ability to pursue education, and it doesn't have to be a mental health issue. There is no fee for services. Can refer you to services outside of SB when necessary.

Indeed, this position was developed in the recognition that there **are** gaps in the services currently available, especially when needing to deal with bureaucracies. We are still trying to evaluate where the gaps are, so your information helps.

How to access these services: Email, brochures have information. No separate web site yet – look to the student health site for information in the near future – so call for now.

A. **Quorum call:** 2/3 of Assembly: If we have 2/3 of the Assembly, I request a motion to consider Action Items.

Short of quorum, moving on.

V. **Information Items (Vox Populi!)**

A. **Announcements from the floor:**

Melanie Williams (me_willi@lifesci.ucsb.edu) would like to form a club, go to schools (maybe once a month) and make presentations or create activities where students are informed about colleges and careers. Email if you're interested.

Daniel Mandell notes a problem in Anthropology funding—grads used to get money for field work, but now they don't, and are wondering if other departments are having cuts in funding affect their time to degree.

> Suggestions from the audience: if working through the department isn't working, contact Dean Li and the executive vice-chancellor with these issues

B. **Teaching Excellence Awards:** Jonathan Pearl

We now have 20 nominations—good, but we'd like to see more. Nominations close this Friday (March 7th), and anyone can nominate you (doesn't have to be grad students). Even email is acceptable in a pinch—we'll take them up to Friday midnight. Nomination forms are available at the lounge, and they are also posted on the GSA home page.

We will need to assemble a committee of peers to review the nominations and make decisions on the award recipients. If you'd like to serve, please email (jonathan@gsa.ucsb.edu).

Note that the academic senate has similar awards; ideally we'd combine the two in the future, but for now they are separate awards.

C. **GSHIP Meeting:** Edward Collins

March 6th, will cover plan bids and options. (Data will be confidential, and proprietary—do not share with anyone but graduate students.)

D. **Quorum call:** 2/3 of Assembly: If we have 2/3 of the Assembly, I request a motion to consider Action Items.

We have quorum.

Motion to move to Action Items: Mark Yeary, Kathy Meyer. Motion approved through unanimous consent. Proceed to section VII (Action Items), then return to section VI (Discussion Items).

VI. **Discussion Items:** (5 min. each is allotted, + motions to extend time. No decision is planned for this meeting.)

A. **Officer Election Nominations:** Officers are elected, several have no officer running. Please nominate. Also, please advertise the elections to your constituents. Nominations are open through April 2nd. A public forum will occur on April 9th.

Motion to open nominations: Daniel Mandell, Jess Barrie. Motion approved through unanimous consent.

To nominate, submit to the election committee.

B. **External Funding Collaboration:** Jonathan Pearl will propose a GSA motion to collaborate and support efforts to increase external (private) sources for graduate funding and fellowships.

Jonathan presents the "GSA Resolution on Fundraising" for discussion; this is to formalize GSA's position on fundraising. He will be assembling a task force at the beginning of next quarter.

C. **CRENO Resolution:** Matt Andrews generated a statement for consideration. (See Appendix V.)

No discussion.

D. **Request Not to Lobby the Regents for reduced fees:** Some departments may not benefit from fee maintenance, as their departmental budgets are reduced and grants cover fees. This reduces outreach.

Troy Baker (Materials Engineering department): My constituents support money for the UC, but do not support reducing fees, as this adversely affects our budgets.

Comments from the assembly:

This has potential impact on other departments

We should consider total cost of education, not just money spent

Majority of grad students don't pay their own fees, so the impact is on the total money used to pay these fees

If fees are increased, this will come out of grad student support (money) and will reduce the total available fellowships.

The money will not "come back"—the secondary damage is greater than the primary benefit.

It's a losing battle – fees will likely go up – but by lobbying we're sending this message to the state level, to the people who created the

budget shortfall to begin with, and letting them know we're not happy with the consequences.

VII. **Action Items**: Per earlier motion, these occur before discussion items.

A. **Bylaws Changes:** (See Appendix II.) (Alan Levy) GSHIP changes clarify the representation rules. Officer stipends are designed to assure that work gets done during the summer.

Motion to approve: Jess Barrie, Kathy Meyer. Motion approved through unanimous consent.

B. **Constitution Changes:** (See Appendix III.) (Alan Levy) This is brought to the Assembly for a vote. A vote of 2/3 of representatives is required. (An electronic vote is possible, but an e-discussion before a vote is not.)

Regarding (2), we'd like to scratch the proposed change to the wording "fall census".

Motion to approve as amended: Mark Yeary, Jess Barrie. Motion approved through unanimous consent.

C. **Arts and Lectures Ballot Language:** (See Appendix IV.)

Revised version (handout): one sentence removed in the background and analysis section—the ballot text remains as is seen in the agenda.

Motion to approve as modified: Mark Yeary, Daniel Mandell. Motion approved through unanimous consent.

D. **Officer Election Committee Selection:** We need to select a 3-person election committee and pick the chair.

Time commitment on the order of 2-3 hours over one month for members, 2-3 additional hours for the chair.

Nominate Mark Schuler: Daniel Mandell, Jonathan Pearl.

Nominate Matthew Allen: Matthew Allen, Troy Baker.

Nominate Troy Baker: Troy Baker, Russell Knight.

Nominate Matthew Allen as chair: Jonathan Pearl, Kathy Meyer. Matthew accepts the position of chair.

Motion to determine election date: Jess Barrie, Mark Yeary. Motion approved through unanimous consent.

Elections work best from April 18-25; this matches up with undergrad elections, considering we're voting on some of the same issues. By-laws require that the election run for at least 7 calendar days.

Motion to set election dates for April 18 (no later than 4pm) to April 25 (4pm): Elizabeth Grace, Stu Levenbach.

Motion to modify dates to April 17 (no later than 4pm) to April 25 (4pm): Andrea Haupt, Jess Barrie.

Modified motion is approved through unanimous consent.

Note that to vote in the election, you will need a U-Mail account. If you don't have one, get one.

E. **Budget:** Kathy Meyer

Appendix VI reflects changes. Stipends is a "hopeful increase", hoping that committee participation will increase. Big increase is bagel hour: we need to cover costs for the additional bagel hour on Tuesdays. Work-study changes are due to poor billing by the work-study students; we owe the money, but it's taken them a while to request it.

Motion to approve: Russell Knight, Andrea Haupt. Motion approved through unanimous consent.

F. **Funding Requests:** None.

VIII. **Officer Reports**: (2 minutes) Reports are included in Appendix VII: Officer Reports.

A. **President**:

B. **VP Internal Affairs**:

C. **VP Academic Affairs**:

Volunteers for Excellence in Teaching committee: Russell Knight

Volunteers for speaker committee: Melanie Williams

D. **VP Graduate Student Affairs**:

E. **VP Budget and Finance:**

Submit your committee work & activities!

F. **VP Communications and Records**:

G. **VP External Affairs**:

IX. **Adjournment.** (A motion, second, is necessary, and then consent / vote is required.)

Motion to adjourn: Mark Yeary, Kathy Meyer. Motion approved through unanimous consent. Adjourned at 7:39pm.