GSA General Council Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

I. Approval of Agenda

Agenda for the meeting was approved. John Corbett moved, and Kathy Meyer seconded. Adopted by unanimous consent. John Corbett moved to add consideration for a funding request by Ragmallah to the Action Items section, and to add additional topics to the Information Items section. Kathy Meyer seconded. Adopted by unanimous consent.

II. Approval of Minutes

Karen Blair moved to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2002, meeting of the GSA Assembly, and Kathy seconded. Adopted by unanimous consent.

III. Invited Speaker: Gail Marshall

Gail Marshall, Third District Supervisor of Santa Barbara County, briefly addressed the GSA Assembly on the background and status of the current effort to recall her in the upcoming November elections. She explained that the recall effort was inspired by the fact that she "kept my promises". She emphasized the efforts she has made as county supervisor, including supporting the tenants union for tougher inspection standards. Marshall also claimed that the recall effort was not legitimate because it was directed against her political stands and not any actual wrongdoing. She called it in effect an "interim election".

Several students asked questions clarifying the controversy and whether or not records of her voting positions were available online. She answered the latter question in the negative. Another student suggested that housing affordability ought to be Marshall's most important issue.

IV. Introductions: Officers, Members, Graduate Division & SA Staff

Edward Collins, Jonathan Pearl, John Corbett, Soomin Chun, and Kathy Meyer introduced themselves to the Assembly and briefly explained their roles and activities within the GSA.

Charles Li, Dean of Graduate Division, and John Hajda, Director of Student Services at Graduate Division, introduced themselves in turn.

V. Announcements from Graduate Division

Charles Li noted that students should keep an eye on extramural fellowships for additional funding opportunities.

VI. Vox Populi!

Karen Blair of Geological Sciences announced that WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) would be having a presentation called "The Balancing Act" at 6:30 pm on October 10th.

A student asked when parking would be discussed. Edward noted that such discussion would take place under Discussion Items.

VII. Information Items

A. Constitution, Bylaws, Assembly Meetings

Edward outlined the purposes of the GSA constitution, by-laws, and the function and basic operation of meetings of the GSA Assembly.

Alan Levy of Physics introduced himself and reiterated some basic facts about the GSA constitution.

B. Committee Stipends

Edward noted that stipended positions begin this quarter and to note that the by-laws as approved call for all committee positions to now receive some form of stipend.

C. External Vice President Resignation

Edward formally announced the resignation of Vicki Zeitner from the position of Vice President—External Affairs and presented her letter of resignation to the GSA Assembly.

D. Highway 217

Edward metioned that a new set of recommendations had been provided by the Goleta Old Town Planning Action Committee (GOPAC), and that he had brought up safety concerns at its meeting.

E. GSHIP

A brief mention was made by Alan Levy that the GSHIP package had been "mismailed" with incorrect information, and that correct packets were being

distributed. This new packet information is also available online at <http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/studenthealth/Payment/Ucsb-g2-revised.pdf>. Also noted was that grant coverage for dependent insurance was $100 per person in response to many requests for such information. It was also mentioned that departments are charging for GSHIP and other student initiated fees.

F. Resolution on Iraq Situation

Edward explained that the GSA Executive Committee did not believe that it was the role of that organization to take a stand on a divisive national issue. As such the Executive Committee had voted to take no official position. Edward informed the Assembly that such a position could be overturned by a 2/3 supermajority vote, but no such effort was forthcoming.

G. GSA-AS Public Safety Memo

Edward solicited feedback on the most appropriate use of the $50,000 generated by the GSA-AS public safety memo.

At this time, Kathy Meyer moved to move directly to Action Items, and treat Discussion Items subsequently. Jonathan Pearl seconded. Adopted by unanimous consent.

VIII. Action Items

A. Election of Vice President—Graduate Student Affairs

Edward discussed his interpretation of the relevant constitution and bylaws sections that cover which GSA members are to be considered eligible to vote for Executive Officers, in light of the fact that the constitution refers to "all GSA members" having the right to vote for GSA officers. He believed that all those GSA members present at the meeting had the right to vote. He gave the Assembly several minutes to digest his interpretation.

Jonathan objected, noting that if the election were to be open to all GSA members, then it should be held online. Otherwise, he went on to add, meetings could be dominated by special interests that can pack meetings with supporters.

A student asked for a specific definition of a "GSA member". Edward went into detail about the legal background of this issue. Alan also responded with his own historical insight. He admitted that Edward's method was "historically sound", but that the Constitution Committee had since changed the guidelines for including GSA members in votes.

Jonathan noted that he was willing to support having only GSA Assembly members vote in the officer elections.

A student complained that departments without reps could be penalized and objected to the notion that it could take a couple months to run an officer election online. Alan and Edward both explained why such a process is so lengthy.

Stu Levenbach of Marine Biology reminded the GSA Assembly of the experience in passing the GSHIP in May 2002 and that such situations should not be repeated.

Questions arose as to who was a legitimate GSA Assembly member, in light of the fact that terms for new GSA Assembly members technically did not begin until November 1st. Soomin noted that those who brought valid petitions without dates could be considered current GSA Assembly members.

Quorum call was raised. Edward and Soomin read off roll call. The first call resulted in sixteen GSA Assembly members, two short of quorum.

Later, after quorum was reached, Jonathan moved to overrule Edward's interpretation and call for only GSA Assembly members to vote. Stu seconded. The first vote only resulted in ten yea votes, when twelve were needed to override.

A second vote resulted in thirteen yeas, one nay, and four abstentions. The motion to overrule was approved.

Jonathan then moved to have a GSA Assembly-only vote, to which Stu Levenbach seconded. After an objection to consent was raised, the motion was passed by a vote of sixteen yeas, one nay, and one abstention.

Heather Tomlinson then moved to nominate Jess Barrie as a candidate for Vice President—Graduate Student Affairs. John seconded. Jess was appoved as VPGSA by unanimous consent.

B. Election of Vice President—External Affairs

Alan Bates then moved to nominate Matt Andrews as a candidate for Vice President—External Affairs. John seconded. Matt was appoved as VP—External Affairs by unanimous consent.

C. Ragmallah Request

A funding request in the amount of $300 was moved by Kathy Meyer and seconded by Soomin Chun.

IX. Action Items

No Action Items were discussed.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Corbett
GSA Press Secretary