



2019-2020 Council Meeting #14 Minutes
Monday, May 18th, 2020
6:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/789719486?pwd=QS9FcXFhS0VacVI3ZzgzMWxEbTJYZz09>

Meeting ID: 789 719 486

Password: 141604

I.	Call to Order	6:00 pm
II.	Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes <u>Document</u>	6:01 pm
III.	Approval of Meeting Agenda	6:02 pm
IV.	Appointments	6:03 pm
V.	Public Comment & General Announcements	6:08 pm
VI.	GSA Elections for 2020-2021 (Elections Committee) <u>Record of votes</u>	6:13 pm
VII.	Open Floor & Call for Agenda Items	9:33 pm
VIII.	Adjourn	9:38 pm

6:06 pm meeting was called to order

Motion to approve previous meeting minutes, seconded. No objections, motion carries.

Announcements:

- Erica Birkholz announced the Biology Department's Women in STEM mentorship organization. She has sent out an announcement.
- Patrick made an announcement
- Angus - CAPS fee referendum is up for a vote on Tritonlink now through May 22nd. Please email your departments so that the appropriate number of folks turn up and legitimize the vote.
- Krish - DPC Expense Reports are due in two weeks by Council Meeting #15
- Anna Guzikowski - Lyft/Uber equivalents offered from Transportation Services - this is a resource that TS says will continue through the summer.

The current GSA President ceded the Chair to Michael Ostertag of the Elections Committee.

- Welcome to this year's Elections. Michael went over the Election procedures slide deck attached in the agenda for today's meeting.

President

Rachel read a statement of support for Presidential candidate Quynh Nguyen.

Quynh made a 3 minute statement followed by Matt and his 3 minute statement.

Q & A with the candidates. 10 minutes.

- Victor asked a question of both candidates.
 - Quynh answered that our GSA Advisor is a different resource that can be utilized.
 - Matt spoke of admin sidelining the GSA, the lead up to that needs to be made public to the entire graduate student body to ideally pressure their cooperation.
- Gabriel asked both candidates how they will bring Admin to the table when they are reluctant to discuss issues/topics with the grad students and/or respective committees/bodies, etc.
- Aninditta asked what would you do to improve communication between GSA and Grad Division/Administration?
 - Quynh - I would follow in Rachel's example of doing the work and presenting actionable solutions to administration.
 - Matt said that getting as much face-time between GSA Reps, grad students, and Grad Division/Admin. An example would be to bring back Dean of Grad Division weekly office hours with grad students who drop in.
- Hannah wants to see increased collaborations within GSA, like Academic and EDI, how would you go about this?
 - No meetings, no more committees (Matt)
 - Quynh working on getting out the vote, supporting grads in different departments with grads from other departments, smaller social spaces, allowing for multi-layered collaborations, not just on huge political issues

Time has lapsed. **Motion to extend time by 5 minutes, capping the speaker's list. Seconded. No objections.**

Quynh asks for action items, one or two, to actually get done.
Matt agrees with Quynh, actionable items are the key, outlining success and failure standards, capping the amount of time for discussing something, channeling people's minds to focus..., would give independence to various VPs

Victor: if GSA actions were put in a film, do you envision yourself to be more the film director or the film critic?

Matt: film critic

Quynh: film director

Open Session. 10 minutes.

There were questions about Matt's involvement in GSA, about Quynh's preparedness in her platform, and both of their previous contributions to the graduate student community.

Each candidate presented a 3 minute closing statement, first Matt then Quynh.

Closed session. 10 minutes.

Voting.

Rachel: there were 48 votes for Quynh, 7 votes for Matt, and 1 abstention. Quynh will be our GSA President next year.

VP Academic

We have two candidates: Celine & Victor. Each candidate made their opening 3 minute statement. Victor presented his platform first. Celine introduced herself and presented her platform.

Q & A with the candidates. 10 minutes.

- Angus had a question for both candidates. When we talk or hear about mentorship standards, how would you as VP Academic handle this issue?

- Celine: has a working relationship with the Union, she would gather information by department, and have GSA Reps aid in departmental enforcement
- Victor: make sure there is an anonymous reporting mechanism through Grad Division, accessible to GSA, tie in evaluations for faculty mentors to their ability to get a pay raise or tenure
- Hannah, question for both candidates. We've gone through a couple of VP Academics recently. How are you going to balance your responsibilities as VP Academic with your other responsibilities?
 - Victor: experienced on GSA Exec Board, has a fairly chill personality, juggles positions and responsibilities well
 - Celine: already has an established relationship with some of the key spaces that work with VP Academic, she knows how to ask for help
- Rachel, question for both candidates: how would you leverage your values in the GSA?

Celine: values in leadership, community building, team work, listening to people, being the last person to speak, getting a variety of opinions across campus.

Victor: it's important to me to be inclusive, involving lots of folks, allowing people to be heard and create/impact/drive solutions.

- Laura: what do y'all think about collaborating with others across campus?

Victor: lots of partnering on events and/or initiatives within GSA alone, and elsewhere, for example academic events partnering with social

Celine: wants to continue some of the work that current VP Campus has already put in place - collaborative projects

- Petia asked Celine to list out her activities on campus and describe her background.

Celine talked about the areas she's been involved in, including being a Union steward.

Time. Motion to extend time by five minutes, seconded. No objections. Motion carries.

Motion to close the speaker's list, seconded. No objections. Motion carries.

- Rachel asked the same question of Victor.

Victor: I've been a GSA Rep and the VP External for the past few years. As an Asian American, he has another layer of... (times up.)

Open Session. 10 minutes.

Mia wanted to talk about Victor's capability and tenacity.

Ashley S. also spoke on Victor's behalf, talking of delegating abilities and time management.

Viona wanted to talk on behalf of Celine, who is always prepared for committee meetings, can secure funding through her work with Grad Division and Grad Life. Viona says Celine is already doing much of the work necessary for VP Academic.

Hannah has had nothing but amazingly positive experiences with both of the candidates. She would like each candidate to mention their goals for mentorship standards in their closing remarks if possible.

Julia seconded what both Hannah and Ashley said. She has only positive things to say about the candidates. Victor has encouraged Julia in work on a specific committee. She thinks either will be great but she did speak up for Victor.

Quynh has worked with Victor for the past two years. He is able to hear criticism and/or feedback and adapt.

Closing statements. Celine went first and addressed her idea to survey the student body regarding mentorship GPSES Would want to create places and spaces to discuss mentorship on campus, where is it at, where should it be? She might create a working group to create standards. Victor is very concerned with the lack of mentorship standards on this campus. Has heard many horror stories and that's what prompted him to begin working on this, even before the election, here at UCSD and at the system-wide level. We need a systemic change.

Closed Session. 10 minutes.

Voting.

Rachel: There were 29 votes for Victor, 24 votes for Celine, and 0 abstentions. Victor will be our next VP Academic.

VP Campus Affairs

Laura presented her 3 minute statement. Valerie presented her 3 minute statement.

Q & A with the candidates. 10 minutes.

- Quynh: regarding housing, our relationship with HDH is tenuous at this time, can both candidates speak to this? How will you go about strengthening this relationship?

Valerie: already in constant communication with HDH, has been very rough since Hemlata took the Director position, she doesn't like having an advisory committee, I brought this up to the Chancellor and he sent the CFO to the next meeting and they magically cut the budget by 3%

Laura: we need to reexamine our relationship, bring some hard solutions, take a look at the auxiliary status of HDH more closely

- Petia: you have worked tirelessly for students, as a parent on campus, in many spaces, what have you learned this past year working with the GSA Exec Board that helps you address the many issues facing graduate students?

Valerie: working as a team is important, we went on GSA retreat which strengthened our GSA Exec Board tremendously

Laura: securing a \$2,000/year increase to our biology department took a huge amount of effort from a lot of people, I plan to continue that if elected

- Michael Chua: question for both candidates, you will encounter people with different interests and values, can each of you share your approach to managing and incorporating alternative points of view and also a time when you had to resolve conflict?

Laura: hear people out, really find out what they are saying and empathize with where they are coming from, balancing values

Valerie: listening to different opinions is routine for those of us on GSA Exec Board, folks have a myriad of views, extreme left to extreme right, I listen - that is the most important thing to do, I try to represent the largest number of constituents, to think about what's best for the campus

Time. Motion to extend time by 6 minutes and close the speaker's list which is 8 people long. Objection, not enough time. New motion to extend time by 16 minutes, seconded. Objection, we've been here for 3 hours and only gotten to the 3rd position. Rachel, this is a critical position and it would be nice to hear all of the representatives' questions and the candidates' answers. Rachel called the question. Objection rescinded but we are already in the voting process. We need a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority. 32 vote yes, 1 no, and 13 abstentions. Now, we are voting on extending time to 16 minutes and closing the speaker's list. 17 yes, 16 no, 2 abstentions, motion passes.

Q & A continued...

- Angus: how and who will you divide responsibility because of the large purview of VP Campus

Valerie: I love to delegate. I see the position as giving a voice to as many people as possible. I've created several committees...

Laura: I want to reach out in my delegating, involving a large number of different students, asking for inputting, making decisions about what to work on myself and what to delegate.

- Rachel: for Valerie, can you expand on the specific dollar amount you have saved graduate students and how you accomplished that?

Val: a single line item could be a million dollars. Over the last few years, there has been a 50+% rent increase versus a 13% grad salary increase - this would have been much more if I and others hadn't advocated for students.

- Ross: what is one thing you want to accomplish this year?

Laura: strong solutions that the campus will actually implement

Valerie: this position needs some assistants and could also become a few more VPs - there's that much work to do! I really want to get the positions for assistantships outlined and looked at in Governing Docs

- Victor: question for Valerie, how many positions would you be wanting to create and what would their respective roles be?

Valerie: a minimum of two, working with Gov Docs and Council to find a proper balance, I would want Council to decide what they want to see in these new positions

- Eleanor: can you please elaborate on the relationship you would want to create with the undergraduate VP Campus?

Laura: I think it's critical to collaborate with the undergrads

Val: There is great participation between GSA and AS teams, in fact, the 1st thing she did as VP Campus was to reach out the Eleanor about the stay of fees that AS secured from Transportation Services, there is an undergrad on GFHAC, there are relationships between GSA and AS

Open Session. 10 minutes.

- Hannah: spoke on behalf of Laura, one of her strengths is pioneering concrete solutions, she created a new speaker series for biology over the summer

- Petia: spoke on behalf of both candidates, so passionate, Valerie is amazing, she is able to bring a wide variety of students together, she has excellent managerial skills

- Eleanor: thank you to Laura for your collaboration on UCPath, we did have a positive relationship at the beginning of the summer but it has not been present

since then, she has it on the record that Melina (AS VP Campus) does not have any contact with GSA VP Campus

- Anna: in same department with Laura, was taken under Laura's wing, she understands the inner-workings of the GSA, including Robert's Rules of Order, she always engaged, asking questions, and coming up with ideas
- Celine: has worked closely with Valerie, including advocating for arts & humes on campus, she can't be in every meeting and can't be everywhere but she excels at delegating
- Petia: it's important to have continuity in positions, committees, and departments, Valerie has established relationships with various administrators - they do trust her and reach out to her, inviting her to meetings, she is diligent and has sacrificed much to dedicate time and energy to GSA
- Eleanor: she works with a lot of campus administrators who will not work with Valerie, or do not know Valerie b/c there is no relationship existing, this position doesn't require working relationships but the ability to cultivate strong ones

Motion to end the session and move into closing statements, seconded. No objections. Motion carries.

Closing statements. 3 minutes each.

Valerie: I am constantly in meetings. Often I am double, triple, and even quadruple booked. I have good communications with people across campus.

Laura: Thank you to everyone for your feedback and questions. My leadership style is bringing passion and compassion.

Closed Session. 10 minutes.

Time. 3 people on the speaker's list. Motion to extend time by 5 minutes, seconded. Objection, we should extend by two minutes only and close the speaker's list. Parties are amenable to extend time by two minutes, only let 1st time speaker's talk, and close the speaker's list, seconded. No objections. Motion carries.

Rachel: There were 42 votes for Laura, 7 votes for Valerie, and 2 votes for 'none.' Laura will be our next VP Campus.

VP External Affairs

Julia presented her platform.

Q & A. 10 minutes.

Closed Session. 10 minutes.

Voting.

Rachel: There were 33 votes for Julia, 1 vote for 'none', and 0 abstentions. Julia will be our next VP External.

Motion to allow unopposed candidates to make their opening statements and then to immediately move to closed session, seconded. No objections. Motion carries.

VP Finance

Andy shared his platform.

Closed Session. 10 minutes.

Voting.

Rachel: There were 32 votes for Andy, 1 vote for 'none', and 0 abstentions. Andy will be our next VP Finance.

VP Social

Mia shared her platform.

Closed Session. 10 minutes.

Voting.

Rachel: There were 30 votes for Mia and 1 abstentions. Mia will be our next VP Social.

VP Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Burgundy shared that they had no platform but have been working on EDI issues since they transferred to UCSD as an undergrad in 2014.

Closed Session. 10 minutes.

Voting.

Rachel: There were 30 votes for Burgundy, 1 vote for 'none', and 0 abstentions. Burgundy will be our next VP DEI/EDI.

Motion to adjourn, seconded by soooo many people. No objections.

Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 10:58 pm!