

## **Graduate Student Commons Year-End Report 2018-19**

Prepared by the Graduate Student Commons Executive Committee

President: Sara Nasab

Vice President: Giselle Laiduc

Treasurer: Cyril Focht

Programming Coordinator: Alexandra Race

GSC Graduate Intern: Gillian Bogart

Director of Graduate Student Life: Rachel Neuman

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### **GSC GOVERNANCE BOARD MEMBERSHIP:**

#### **Governance Board Voting Members:**

- Giselle Laiduc, Cyril Focht, Alexandra Race, Aaron Springer, Bryan Pratt, RJ Pili, Harrison Shieh, Julia Soares, Carmen Segura, Brynna Downey, Thomas Ng, Ryan Van Haren, Pengyang Zhou, Zoe Zhou, Daniel Alves, Julia Harencar, Sona Kaur

#### **Governance Board Non-Voting Members:**

- Sara Nasab, Gillian Bogart, Rachel Neuman

### **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- **Programming**
  - **Professional Development**
    - Workshops with Nancy Heischman
    - Preparing for the Academic Job Search with Gwynn Benner
    - Collaborations with Grad Div to offer a variety of presentations
  - **Social**
    - Slug Crawl (orientation, spring) was a success!
    - First Friday: catered March (wings) and June (Chinese)
    - Coffee, Bagels, Donuts
    - Crafternoons
    - Bob Ross
    - Wine Tour
  - **Health & Wellness**
    - Quarterly massage/acupuncture/sound healing event
    - Qi Gong
    - Food Pantry
    - Beating Imposter Syndrome
  - **Financial**
    - Connected with Laura Crymble, a financial advisor from Fidelity Investments who is assigned to work with UCSC employees. She hosted a workshop in Winter

Quarter and 1:1 advising sessions in the Spring. 1:1 sessions were more popular than the workshop and are worth organizing again in the future.

- **Diversity**
  - ODEI Roundtable Series
  - Collaboration with RCs
    - Grad Wellness Event
    - Swing into Spring
- **Recreational**
  - Collaborated with OPERS to host 10 outdoor adventures and classes for graduate students (3 canceled due to weather)
- **Writing Support**
  - Writing Together sessions
    - GSC sponsored and hosted sessions every week for the entire academic year (consistent attendance of 4+ participants, sometimes as high as 9)
    - Collaborated with Grad Div to increase the number of Writing Together weekly sessions during Fall Quarter. GSC provided space and snacks, Grad Div provided a host
    - Supported a newly formed international student WT group by providing a gathering space and helping them connect with organizations/divisions with resources to fund their logistical needs like snacks.
  - Increased the number of members for a Writing Together Google Group in order to promote attendance and share information (current membership 29 people)
  - Applied for and won SFAC funds totaling \$7,600 to design, organize, and implement a Graduate Writing Retreat in AY2019-20 (Winter Quarter?). Collaboration with Grad Division is likely.
- **Outreach**
  - **Newsletter**
    - We implemented a new template through Mailchimp
    - Trained interns on how to design flyers for Canva
    - Developed process for creating newsletter/checking it before sending it out
  - **Outreach**
    - We had the biggest governing board ever
  - **Attendance Report**
    - Daily usage attendance for the academic year:
      - 3,497
    - GSC Social Event Total Attendance:
      - 1,508
    - Professional Development Event Attendance:
      - 288

- **Finance:**
  - SFAC Funding Awards (Total Awarded: \$158,974)
    - Furniture: \$48,620
    - HVAC Retrofit: \$87,500
    - Coffee, Bagels, and Donuts: \$2,000
    - Graduate Writing Retreat: \$7,600
    - Graduate Orientation: \$13,254
  - Outside Funding Request Awarded (Total Spent: \$2,250, remaining funds \$250)
    - Queer Grad Lunches \$700
    - Queer Film Series \$400
    - WoC Graduate CommUNITY \$200
    - Stonewall Speaker Series \$200
    - Trans Justice Forum \$750
- **Other:**
  - GradLab
    - Needs to be restructured for next year.
    - Need to figure out if GSA furniture fund should be part of GradLab budget
  - Facilities
    - Renovation of space over the summer
  - GSC Intern
    - Secured permanent funding for this position through Grad Div
    - Gillian had a baby

#### UPCOMING PROJECTS FOR THIS SUMMER/NEXT YEAR:

- 2018-19 and 2019-20 executive board retreat
- Graduate Writing Retreat planning
  - Gillian, Alexandra + Giselle (if there is funding)
- Update website (RJ needs access)

#### Notes

##### New '19 - '20 events

- Healthy and wellness
  - Food & U w/ nancy from CAPS
    - More events centered around food
    - More resources available around that
- Getting people from Arts and Humanities
  - Maybe due to masters students

- Need to just find people at first Fridays, need to get to know them
- Need to learn how to allocate volunteers to make an event happen and go smoothly
  - Events during the school year – do we need to make these areas where people can volunteer.
  - Might be too many emails for students.
  - No need for people to have certain roles given that the interns help out.
- GradLab
  - Should the GSC be on it?
  - GradLab as the sole place for students to get funding?
  - Hard to run GradLab while also being as part of the GSA and GSC.
    - Who should be on this board?
  - How should we handle the money – as part of the GSC/GSA, or alone.
  - Possible avenues
    - GSC + GSA puts all funding into gradlab
    - Deplete GradLab then focus outside funding as part of the GSC.
      - GSA for more political stuff
      - So that there is a clear single place for students to go to for funding.
- How to work with GSA?
  - Should meet with the new GSA and just talk about it, early on.
  - See how we will collaborate throughout the year.
  - Can collaborate on: international outreach, advocacy, etc.
  - Differences / complementary programming.
- Budget
  - Shifting our rental income to GradDiv. Talk to Jim.
  - Talk about it now and not shift later.

#### Concerns for Next Year

- Programming: Want to increase involvement and more students helping on.
  - Want to do more but events need people to run them and take ownership.
  - Showing up to meetings isn't much -- need different/more ways to get involved and help run events.
- President: Orientation
  - First task for us to figure out how to work together, manage volunteers, and help out.
  - Resource fair or social.
  - Ryan stand up on stage and represent the GSC.
  - And a video
  - Flyer to showcase the GSC – first impression to new students

- Week long welcome week – building as sense of community.
- Summer work for prepping Orientation
  - No GSC stipend – thoughts about summer quarter stipend.
- Treasurer:
  - 18-19 goal: Increase transparency about budget
    - Share with the rest of the GBoard.
  - Think about ways to generate more money to support students.
  - 19-20 goal: SFAC
    - We spend a lot of money for labor – infrastructure in place
    - Ask SFAC (or GradDiv) for money for programming.
      - Funding to increase stipends for current officers, or increase # of paid volunteers.
      - Want a carry forward every year of \$10k
- Iveta lease is up in June 2020
  - Need to figure out if they want to stay or if they want to renegotiate.
  - We could help out with advertising – strict rules about how they advertise.
  - If not, we need to start searching now.
  - Cocktails for Change
    - Partner with campus organization: a portion of the money for a certain drink/menu item goes to that organization.
  - Meet more often with the management of Iveta – once a quarter.
    - Are invited as non-voting members to our meetings, better to have our own meeting with them.
  - Establish a routine – have more routine/reliable events.

#### Questions from New eBoard to Old

- Catering FFs
  - Costs a lot more.
  - Relatively equivalent labor either way.
  - Better for less attended events (near end of quarter) or special occasions – don't need to order as much.
  - Costco pizza is a good idea, just need to coordinate.
- Events to plan for
  - Orientation Wednesday Sept. 25 – school starts on 26<sup>th</sup>
    - October 4<sup>th</sup> is the first FF
    - Halloween Carving

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- FF
  - SFAC Calls
  - Slug Crawl
  - Expand our welcome week events
    - Just need to coordinate volunteers.
  - Figure out when we want the eboard and gboard meetings.
    - Typically gboard the week of the first friday
      - **Earlier email about gboard with reminder about FF**
      - And eboard meeting week before that
      - Plan it early, lock it down, and reserve the rooms
        - Better in the evening.
        - Order the food 3 business days before
          - Iveta sandwiches – create PO in advance and have interns handle it.
      - Orientation on the 25<sup>th</sup>, SlugCrawl on the following Friday, following Monday gboard, and following Friday is the FF.
        - Or have gboard after the FF, and advertise at FF, the gboard following Monday after.
  - How to keep track of volunteers and attendance to gboard meetings?
    - GSC associates list (email blast)
      - Part of the sign in and add people in
    - This is how we send out the volunteer calls.
    - President handles the stipend part.
      - Spreadsheet for this.
    - If 4 people want to all join
      - The board votes on who gets to join
  - Update on hiring the new GSC Intern
    - We will know on Friday
  - Silicon Valley Campus
    - Connection with them
    - Students at computational media, who handle community building
    - Hopefully there is a representative from Silicon Valley
      - Students there who want to start their own events and involve students near that location.
    - How can we be involved and assist these student leaders in holding these events, and how can we help advertise for them?

