

## **Graduate Student Commons Year-End Report 2021-22**

Prepared by the Graduate Student Commons Executive Committee

President: Ryan Van Haren

Vice President: Allison Nguyen

Treasurer: Claudia Castaneda

Programming Coordinator: Dori Weiler

GSC Graduate Intern: Kelvin Lunzalu

Director of Graduate Student Life: Rachel Neuman

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**GSC GOVERNANCE BOARD MEMBERSHIP:** Graduate Representatives (up to 3 students from each of the 5 divisions)

- Arts – Vacant
- Humanities – Wesley Viebahn
- Engineering – Alex Calderwood, Gagandeep Sachdeva,
- Physical and Biological Sciences – Joseph Connell, Sam Miller
- Social Sciences – RJ Pili, Harrison Shieh, Audrey Morrow

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

- Vacant, Intercollegiate Council on Student Appointments representative
- Vacant, Academic Senate representative
- Rachel Neuman, Director of Graduate Student Life
- Vacant, Alumni Association representative
- Peter Biehl, Dean of Graduate Studies
- John Bilanko, Current Tenant
- Travis Becker, Staff Advisory Board Representative
- Rachel Neuman, Quarry Plaza Council
- Lori Kletzer, CP/EVC
- Kelvin Lunzalu, GSC Intern

### **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- **GSC Governing Board:**
  - The graduate student representation on the governing board was significantly reduced during the lockdowns and isolation periods in 2020 and 2021. Without the ability to meet in person or hold social events, interest in the GSC waned and

grad student membership on the board dropped as low as just 2 members at some points. As restrictions on social events eased in 2021, a major goal of the remaining members of the governing board was to rebuild the vibrant community that had been lost. Through focused outreach to the grad student community and successful social events, the governing board has been refreshed and now boasts a healthy grad student representation, with more growth to be had in the coming academic year.

- **GSC Executive Committee:**

- The rejuvenation of the governing board was entirely predicated on the work of the executive board to focus their energies on personal outreach and successful social events. The executive board boasts hard working, enthusiastic graduate students with a real desire to build a thriving grad student community.

- **Programming Committee:** This year, the focus of the GSC's programming was to rebuild our community and provide a space for graduate students to meet in-person. Our programming committee grew from a small group of two dedicated individuals to a team of 11 enthusiastic graduate students. We used hybrid events to create an inclusive environment where grads could attend based on their comfort with COVID risk and their geographic location. Our events were extremely diverse, ranging from professional development to wellness and sense of belonging. Highlights included a return to in-person First Friday social events at outdoor venues (~100 attendees), a career networking panel with UCSC graduate student alumni working in industry (How'd you get that job?, ~50 attendees), and a workshop on the Psychology of writing (~20 attendees).

- Professional Development

- [Industry Job Seminar: Bill Linstaedt, UCSF](#)
- [The Psychology of Writing](#)
- [Get Started with Zotero](#)
- [Writing Together Weekly](#)
- [Writing Together for International Students](#)
- [AAPIRC Co-Writing Sessions](#)
- [Using Twitter Professionally](#)
- [Developing Personal Brand, Professional Reputation](#)
- [Preparing the Teaching Statement and the Teaching Portfolio](#)
- [CCC Registry Panel](#)
- [Building your compass: the meaning of life and work.](#)
- [Remy Franklin: What Do I Want From My Career?](#)
- [Wayfinding with Work You Enjoy](#)
- [Authentic Networking](#)
- [Leveraging Your Strengths](#)
- [Building Your Team](#)
- [Kickstart Your Career Design Process](#)

- [Manage your PDFs with Zotfile](#)
- [Writing the Teaching Statement](#)
- [CV Workshop](#)
- [Create Your Individual Development Plan](#)
- [Interviewing/Negotiating Salary/Benefits](#)
- [Writing The Contributions to Diversity Statement](#)
- [Publishing and Open Access for Your Dissertation or Thesis](#)
- [Crafting Your Narrative](#)
- [Slide Design Principles](#)
- [Website Design, WordPress](#)
- [Copyright Basics](#)
- [Dissertations, Open Access, and Publishing: What Grad Students Need to Know](#)
- [UC System-Wide Grad Slam Live Stream Party](#)
- [Remy Franklin "How To Get What You Need From Work"](#)
- [How'd You Get That Job?!](#)
- Health/Wellness
  - [Wrangling COVID Stress: Concrete tools for coping with transitions and uncertainty](#)
  - [Mindset Shift: Managing Your Thoughts for Success](#)
  - [Strategies for Happy Decision-Making](#)
  - [Mindful Living](#)
  - [Living Compassionately](#)
  - [Living with Gratitude](#)
  - [How to ask for what you want](#)
  - [CAPS: Graduate Women's Group](#)
  - [Beginner Yoga for Queer Bodies](#)
  - [CAPS: Grad Talk](#)
  - [CAPS: Men's Group](#)
- Diversity
  - [Beyond OPT: Immigration after Graduation Workshop](#)
  - [International Students: Resilience & Resources](#)
  - [Crafting the Contributions to Diversity Statement](#)
  - [Grad DRC Drop-In Hours](#)
  - [AARCC Graduate Student Mixer](#)
  - [ODEI Office Hours](#)
- Social/Community/Sense of Belonging

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- [GSC Arboretum Tour for Grads](#)
  - [GSC Grads Farm Tour](#)
  - [Slug Crawl](#)
  - [November First Friday Slug Crawl](#)
  - [First Gen Grads Dinner Social](#)
  - [December First Friday: Movie Night](#)
  - [Yalda Night](#)
  - [First Friday: Alma Mater March](#)
  - [April First Friday: Picnic at the Lawn](#)
  - [May First Friday: Spring Soiree](#)
  - [GSC First Friday - Slug Crawl](#)
  - [Coffee, Bagels, and Donuts with GSC](#)
  - [Coffee, Bagels and Donuts with the New Grad Dean](#)
  - [Transportation ABCs at UCSC](#)
  - [Right Livelihood Grad Orientation](#)
  - [Nowrooz](#)
  - Finance
    - [Investing 101 for Graduate Students](#)
    - [Tax Preparer Workshop: Last Chance](#)
  - **Outreach Committee:**
    - Revitalized the GSC Associates Google Group to engage with graduate students to support our efforts by sending out calls for volunteers to assist us with our event planning and implementation.
    - Developed a new marketing campaign to [join the GSC Board](#)
      - [Join the GSC E-board](#)
      - [Grad Commons Presents - Join the GSC!](#)
      - [Join the GSC E-board Poster](#)
      - [Recruitment QR Code](#)
    - Created a [GSC Brochure](#)
    - New web page designed to promote [GSC Events Highlights](#)
  - **Finance Committee:**
    - SFAC Proposals Submitted
      - Boilers Replacement
        - \$0.
      - Graduate Student Peer Mentorship
        - \$18K
    - GSC Financials
      - 2021-22 Deficit: \$85,453.00
        - Bridge: The CPEVC offered the GSC federal HEERF funds in support of revenue loss in the amount of \$84,474.86)

- 2022-23 Proposed budget suggests a deficit: \$61,757.00
  - The GSC Governing Board did not approve their proposed budget at the final board meeting of the academic year.
- Plant Reserve (Savings):
  - Ideally, it should be \$500,000.00
  - Current balance is \$303,957.12
    - Replenish the reserve by saving:\$196,042.88
  - **By 2027?:** \$1.2 Million (To cover depreciation expenses)
- Capital Expenses (1Million in the next 3-5 years)
  - Boiler replacement Approx \$500,000.00
  - Roof replacement Approx \$500,000.00
- **Facilities:**
  - Zoom Dten Monitors installed which allowed for the GSC to offer Hybrid events for graduate students to attend either in person or virtually via zoom.
    - Wall mounted in room 204
    - Cart system for the Fireside Lounge
  - HVAC retrofit project completed
  - Ivéta accepted the lease terms and opened for business on May 11, 2022
  - Find funding resources to replace the Boiler System ~\$500K
    - Apply for Carbon Fund Grant
    - Apply for SFAC
    - Consider funding via Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) Funds, the Green Revolving Loan program, and PG&E rebates/incentives
- **GradLab:**
  - The GradLab Committee membership was not filled and therefore did not send their quarterly calls for [Pitch Your Project](#) for funding consideration.

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

- **Recommendations for Programming Committee:**
  - Develop post-event feedback form for events to follow up with attendees, to help improve next year's events. Potential questions would be whether attendees' needs were met, what they got out of the event, what else they'd like to see/how similar events can be improved in the future. Possibly a good project for outreach committee
  - Choose 1 event in each category (professional, wellness,outreach, diversity..) and reach out to participants for feedback?
  - E.g., for How'd You Get That Job?!:
    - Did you learn strategies for networking with others in your field?
    - Did you have any follow up outside of this event with panelists?

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- For Writing together
    - Feedback will help us understand how to improve attendance next quarter
    - Link with Andrea on how GSC and Writing Center could join efforts in revamping/marketing the Writing Together sessions
  - Based on the feedback, create a spreadsheet with recommendations for improvement in events that had less attendance (e.g writing together weekly).
  - **Recommendations for the Outreach Committee:**
    - Purchase merchandise to advertise the GSC ([listed here](#))
    - Focus on instagram as means of spreading info about events
    - Use the twitter and linkedin accounts more effectively
    - Use network of grads to advertise events
    - Develop a network of Grad Reps
    - Rework the email newsletter to increase engagement
  - **Recommendations for Finance Committee:**
    - Consider asking Grad Div to cover \$88,490 that goes to director of grad student life from fund 20276
    - Look into the mandates of the Graduate Fee
    - Figure out the process for the allocation of funds
    - MUST work to extend graduate student referendum fees
    - Buy new computers for the staff and guest kiosk
  - **Recommendations for Executive Committee:**
    - To assure continuity make the Executive board positions a 1.5 or 2 year appointment