**Meeting Minutes 11/2/16**

**Meeting Information**

Objective: Second GSA Council Meeting of 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>11/2/16</th>
<th>Location:</th>
<th>GSC Fireside Lounge</th>
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<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Meeting Type:</td>
<td>GSA Council Meeting</td>
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<td>Stackstaker:</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Facilitator/</td>
<td>Cathy Thomas (GSA Treasurer)</td>
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<td>Note Taker:</td>
<td>Jess Whatcott (GSA Secretary)</td>
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Attendees:

**Preparation for Meeting**

Please Read: GSA Executive Board Restructuring Proposal (see link below)
Background on Santa Cruz Housing (see links below)

**Action Items from Previous Meeting**

Follow up on Housing Discussion

**Agenda Items**

1. **Dinner 5:00-5:15**

2. **Welcome new reps 5:15-5:25**
   a. New reps introduce themselves (Secretary noted name and department)
   b. Questions from new reps?
      i. Confusion about the form people use to make report backs from committees - lack of clarity about who can access it.
      ii. Can we send out the agenda earlier - maybe three days? People can then add things that need to be added.
   c. Vote - 11 new reps voted in motion approved by 9 people present
      i. New reps will be added to GSA email list and names will be posted on the GSA web site. New quorum totals will be figured.

3. **GSA Executive Board restructuring proposal 5:25-5:35**
   a. Council reviews and advises - Whitney gave overview: GSA president’s at several campuses resigned at the beginning of this year. The Pres position has too many responsibilities, not sustainable. Added a new “Chair of Council.” Going to put in a referendum for campus ballot. Request for the Council to review and return to next meeting with questions.
   b. Jess asked: what would it take for you to run for the position. Karen: Wasn’t sure if I was prepared - need some kind of training/mentoring.
   c. Should people get paid more for attending meetings?
   d. Cathy asked: what kind of remuneration would it take? How many hours could you work?
4. International Grad Student Committee Funding Proposal 5:35-5:40
   a. Overview- asking for $300 for Mixer on Nov 18 5 pm at GSC. Would fund pizza and drinks.
   b. Vote - approved by all voting members present (20)
5. Request for reps to represent GSA at Academic Senate meeting on 11/18, 2:30 pm 5:40-5:43
   a. GSA pres has allotted time to speak at Academic Senate, but we don’t have a president, so we are looking for someone to read a statement at the meeting. Communicate to faculty and administrators our needs and interests.
   b. There was interest in people talking about the asks. Jess asked that we stay on agenda. Proposal to share that document with folks who want to add things.
   c. Lindsay and Yulia volunteered to go to Academic Senate to read minutes.
   d. Share the document that people can add to
6. GSA Budget discussion deferred to 11/30 meeting due to proposed rep stipend changes 5:43-5:45
   a. Will be sent out a week in advance. Proposed rep stipend should be on there.
7. Collaboration requested with union forum on budgets and student growth 5:45-5:55
   a. Jeb - Unions United is a coalition of all unions on campus meets with administration. They are working on student growth mandates and asking for budget transparency. Admin agreed to give a budget forum next week. Unions are sending questions. Jeb is asking for us to show up and ask tough questions at the forum. Nov 10 at Kresge Town Hall 11:30-1. “Pre-game meeting” this Saturday at union office at 2 pm. Questions they are asking: What is UCOP doing to mitigate effects? What plans are in place to increasing staffing levels? What budget cuts are coming up and how will they affect grads?
   b. Open it up for comments: Q: Will this be a yearly thing? Hopefully. The university has some legal obligations to respond to unions. Q: Is this a one-time increase or ongoing? This is one specific increase, but we see it as an effect of neoliberalization so part of ongoing pressure on the university. We are hearing now that tuition will be increasing in 2017-2018. This campus is committed to growing, although it is questionable whether it is sustainable. Q: How do we bring in people in Santa Cruz to the table to strengthen our voice? Some of the city council candidates have made it part of the platform to hold the university accountable. The city has some ability to put pressure on the university in terms of development. Q: If committed to growth, why did they cut master’s education students? The Soc Sci Dean was told they needed to cut and that is what they chose. Comment: It would be great to emphasize the academic mission - why are we emphasizing quantity over quality?
   c. Jeb will send info so I can forward it to the list.
   d. Add to the Academic Senate letter some of our concerns about growth.
8. Discussion Items 5:55-6:20
   a. Housing needs of grads
      i. What are the problems?
         1. Don’t get paid until Nov 1 - have to take out loans to pay rent
            a. Other problems getting paid (emergency checks are possible)
            b. Could work with the union at next round of negotiations to make sure we get paid every 2 weeks like normal people
2. Not enough housing
3. Too expensive
   a. Some of us paying high taxes
      i. The GSA does have a tax seminar but Some critiques of Phil Hebner tax seminar- not that helpful for international students
   b. Not enough left for food
   c. On-campus housing is also really expensive
4. Community members who are also feeling pinched - have negative attitude toward students, affects neighborly relationships
5. International students have trouble renting
   a. Landlords won’t rent sight-unseen
   b. Don’t have credit scores
   c. Possibly would help to have temporary housing for like six weeks
6. Grads don’t know about slug support or housing resources (could get put in offer letters?)
   ii. Summary of current campus plans- Whitney sat on housing committee last year - they are going to have to renovate Kresge because it is falling apart; they are also going to have to renovate FSH and have proposed making it higher density with undergrads; Napalitano says that housing at Santa Cruz is number one priority, they have restructured the campus debt capacity so they can build more housing through a public-private partnership which will probably start 2017-18. Proposal to build modular housing was shut down by Regents. Jeb: we need to push back on the university on its attempt to solve these problems through taking on more debt because it requires them to agree to continually raise tuition
   iii. What are our “asks” and who can we direct them at?
      1. What can the university do to make rent cheaper?
      2. Work with Union to: Raise wages at contract negotiations in 2018
      3. Other option is to ask for cost of living stipend and subsiding on-campus housing more than they do already
      4. Ask Regents to reconsider modular housing - by showing the current conditions students are living with
      5. Ask Grad Div for: One-time moving expenses (UCSF has $2000)
      6. Work with the city to work with property owners to get back on the market those units taken off the market due to zoning violations
9. Announcements 6:20-6:25
   a. GSA Power and Privilege Training, required for all reps, November 16, 5 pm
   b. GSA Solidarity sponsored “Graduate Mental Health and Wellness Mixer” Monday, Nov 7, 5-7 pm at GSC. free food, and plants for your office!
   c. Campus Sustainability Visioning Session (for the Campus Sustainability Plan) TOMORROW 11/3, starting at 8:30 am - 2 pm. Anyone want to rep grad students?
10. Closing 6:25-6:30
    a. Remind action items
    b. Flag any items that need more time next meeting, or proposed agenda items
11. Clean up and go home!
**NEW ACTION ITEMS**

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<th>Item/Responsible/Due Date</th>
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<td>1. [New Item] / [Responsible]/[Due Date]</td>
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**OTHER NOTES OR INFORMATION**

Link to GSA E-Board Restructuring Proposal
[https://docs.google.com/a/ucsc.edu/document/d/1b7RjhvvfnGzl7ZsqplEKPVfBM4XfHZPjq-w1ZRlqtTc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/a/ucsc.edu/document/d/1b7RjhvvfnGzl7ZsqplEKPVfBM4XfHZPjq-w1ZRlqtTc/edit?usp=sharing)

Background on Santa Cruz housing
[https://gsa.ucsc.edu/things_to_know/housing](https://gsa.ucsc.edu/things_to_know/housing) (old- needs updating)
[http://news.ucsc.edu/2016/10/housing-research.html](http://news.ucsc.edu/2016/10/housing-research.html)