

Graduate Assembly Advocacy Agenda Project Coordinator Response

Sexual Violence

What We've Done:

WOCI: "I have helped develop and submit funding proposals (to CACSSF) for diverse students in public health and also for graduate women of color on campus. I have consulted with folks interested in starting the Berkeley Law Project for Survivors of Sexual Violence and helped lay the land on what is already available on campus to try to decrease redundancy and fill gaps... I hosted a social event for women of color to come together and build community outside their departments. I attended an event with the Center for Race & Gender to try to strengthen my relationship with them in order to bridge my WOCI work with theirs. I joined a collective looking at how to respond to the racially charged police brutality happening from a public health lens. I met with Suddha Shetty (this year's NGSO keynote) to discuss many things, including how campus could better respond to the problem of sexual violence."

GWP: "GWP hosted Cat Willet-Restorative and transformative justice expert to lead us in a healing circle on gender based harms. Here we learned how to use nonviolent and peer mediation techniques to address both institutional and interpersonal gendered violence, sexism and homo/trans phobia."

GSPA: "In September, GSPA hosted a lecture with Estela Roman, M.A. from Mexico. Estela specializes in Mexican Traditional Medicine and the focus of her talk was healing generational trauma within families through reconnecting with indigenous teachings about family and relationships. There were about 50 attendees including members of the larger Berkeley community."

GSPA: "GSPA has been working with the Chancellors Advisory Committee on Work and Family (CACWF) and Prof. Mary Ann Mason of the Graduate School for the past 6 months to promote knowledge about pregnancy discrimination, which is covered by Title IX. Here is a link to the article in the Daily Cal about the recent law (AB 2350) signed by Gov. Brown which addresses the handling of pregnancy accommodations in higher education. Both Mary Ann Mason and I were interviewed by the Daily Cal."

What We're Planning:

The Berkeley Graduate: "We're working on a report to cover the epidemic of sexual violence on campus, the University's response, and student responses"

WOCI: "I will be speaking on the issue of intimate partner violence at a screening of "The Children Next Door" next week. We, of course, will also be hosting the Empowering Women of Color conference, which creates space for diverse

communities. Our issues of choice this year are around self acceptance of identity, solidarity across diverse communities, and positive self-care which I think definitely gets at all three of our advocacy agenda items (captured under the title "Ain't I a Woman?: Affirming Identity, Solidarity, and Love"). I'm also planning on hosting some sort of speaker series or workshops for women of color though I haven't started to solicit feedback on what exactly that will look like yet. I'm sure that will fall under some combination of our advocacy agenda items and am happy to make that pretty explicit. I'm also working with the Cal Consent Campaign in some capacity though that is still being figured out."

GWP: "Sexual and gender based violence is a central agenda item for this years senate on diversity, equity and inclusion, Graduate Women's Professional Mixers, Support EWOC programming; make sure we have workshops/speakers that deal with wellness, diversity, and sexual violence explicitly"

Future Visions:

WOCI: "I would love to see us bring Futures Without Violence's Coaching Boys into Men program to our men's athletics department. Futures has three offices, and one of them is in SF, so it'd be an easy link. I'd like to see us work with the development of the Survivor Support website/services to ensure that resources are applicable to graduate students. I'd like to see us highlight healthy relationships and success stories to better counterbalance all the media around sexual violence."

GWP: "Ongoing educational gender-specific programming (for men, women LGBTQ students) on how to dismantle root causes of sexual and gender based violence, (i.e sexism, homophobia, patriarchy) lead by experts from NPOs and universities around the bay area."

Wellness

What We've Done:

The Berkeley Graduate: "We've published several stories to raise awareness about wellness opportunities on campus and we've published several stories covering the diverse range of student groups, organizations, and identities on campus."

GWP: "GWP hosted Dialogue, Workout and Lunch with "Body Positive" Health Expert Rachel Marcus. Rachel discussed the concept of "health at every size" a nutrition and exercise framework that disaggregates physical size and weight from health and wellness. Rachel demonstrated convenient workout routines, perfect for the busy grad student who is on the go!"

GSC: "I see the GSC as a wellness project in a way because I try to create spaces where people can socialize, meet other graduate students, and generally just take a break from working. The social aspects of grad school can be overlooked so easily when everyone is trying to make deadlines and with chaotic schedules, so I want to create events people can be excited about coming and just relax and connect with other people."

GSSP: "Over these past few months, my project has been committed to innovative and diverse ways of focusing on wellness. Spending equal parts preparing/facilitating a graduate student meditation series this year and advocating at different tiers across campus for more and expanded health resources, wellness is the priority for GSSP. In addition to serving as the at-large graduate student voice on a number of committees advised by the Chancellor and top administrators, I have been collaborating with members of ASUC and the undergraduate student body in order to amplify student voices and student-led initiatives. The work of wellness advocacy at every turn is particularly focused on making sure that the diversity of our student body, faculty, staff is celebrated, rather than tolerated, and that this is done by embracing the multiplicity of meanings of wellness for all members of our campus community."

What We're Planning:

GSC: "While the stated focus of GSC is not wellness, I do think we provide that, and that we could do a better job. I think more events that are less alcohol focused will bring many grad students just interested in hanging out and taking a work break. Our game nights are really well attended, so I am looking at more events like this. In Nov, GSC is collaborating with external affairs for an election party, and there are many more events like this in the Spring semester when the weather is warmer and we can go outside. I am thinking about outdoor movies, BBQ's, garden party, baseball game with grad student parents to bring their kids, just basically providing that social life aspect to grad school people might not be having."

GSSP: “Beyond continuing to serve in these roles, my project aims to collaborate with other student groups to create a new event this year: a graduate student wellness retreat and symposium. Additionally, I will most likely co-present with an ASUC representative at the UC Regents meeting in January 2015 to formally present the current state of wellness and mental health advocacy at UC Berkeley and the direction we're headed for the coming year.”

GSPA: “GSPA is hosting a series of 10 workshops on wellness and healthcare for graduate student families (but all graduate students are welcome, whether they have dependents or not!). The workshop series will kick-off in November with a Fall Immunity Boosting Workshop for families to be held at the UC Family Housing, with a second similar workshop to be held on campus. Other workshops in the series include Healing Foods, Pregnancy Yoga, Parenting Classes (communication, work/school/life balance, etc.), and others.”

Future Visions:

GWP: “Ongoing guest speaker series on women's health”

GSSP: “With more resources, I would like to a) hire two more PCs within the GA-- one who is explicitly working on behalf of students with disabilities on campus and who is explicitly working on behalf of international students. These two populations (and the intersection of these communities) are underserved and deserve increased advocacy in general and specifically with respect to wellness. b) create a space on campus that is explicitly for meditation/worship/retreat for the campus community (all students, faculty, and staff).”

Diversity

What We've Done:

The Berkeley Graduate: “We've published several stories to raise awareness about wellness opportunities on campus and we've published several stories covering the diverse range of student groups, organizations, and identities on campus.”

WOCI: “I have spoken on a panel (with GMSP and GMORR PCs) with diverse undergraduate students who are considering alternate paths to law for graduate school.”

GWP: “Graduate Women's Project and Graduate Student Parents co-sponsored a welcome back mixer. Through this collaboration we highlighted the intersections of our constituencies as well as the diversity among our project populations.”

GSC: “Around diversity, I am trying to collaborate more with other PCs who specially focus on these issues because this shouldn't be a separate PC issue, it should be a campus way of thinking.”

GMORR: “Most of the projects that I have been involved with are in relation to issues of diversity. For example, yesterday (Oct. 22nd) we held a Dinner & Dialogue with Graduate Diversity Administrators and Graduate Students of Color. Last week, I co-sponsored an event for Undocumented Students at the MCC in which they shared their lived experiences through the written word. I am currently working with the Graduate Students de La Raza group by co-sponsoring their meetings and events for their Femtor/Mentor program. Also sitting on the SPI for Community & Belonging—which is in need of more graduate students! I am also sitting on a campus climate committee that is addressing issues of diversity and thinking of programming to improve climate for the academic year. Lastly, the GiGs (Getting into Grad School Program) serves underrepresented students by allowing graduate students to serve as mentors/role models to first generation and under-represented undergraduates interested in graduate school.”

GMSP: “I hosted the New Graduate Minority Student Orientation, featuring a take out buffet, important student offices and minority student services meet and greet, and graduate student panel featuring current graduate students of color at different stages in the process. I co-sponsored QTAP's Welcome Back Reception, and have been an active and involved member of relevant committees for graduate student diversity concerns.”

What We're Planning:

GSC: “The GSC is collaborating with GMORR, WOCI, and GMSP to host a social hour after the Grad Diversity Council Town Hall, and I am looking forward to

more collaborations like this one. In addition to collaborations, I think just sharing event news together helps showcase our work. The GSC is working on a flyer this week announcing a GA two-day Halloween event, so we can advertise the QTAP Halloween event with the GSC event. For other events, GSC will of course be involved with EWOC and will host the social hour after the conference.”

GMORR: “Fall: Sponsoring event with AIGP on Oct. 27th for indigenous students visiting from Australia, sponsoring Graduate Diversity Council event on Nov. 12th, People of Color Artwalk on Dec. 8th, End of semester mixer for graduate students of color. Spring: Volunteering Event, Educational Speaker Event on Diversity, Townhalls (two)”

GMSP: “Co-sponsoring a mixer with GMORR in November, working with AIGS and AIGP to host a movie night in November, People of Color Artwalk, and Diversity in the University Happy Hour November 12.”

Future Visions:

WOCI: “It would be nice to get on the hiring committees for the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee positions that were recently vacated. I think a lot of the diversity advocacy will be centered around campus policy change and more structural pieces. I think it’s particularly hard to do visible advocacy/programming around diversity without being tokenizing.

GWP: “Ongoing dialogue circles on the intersections of race and gender-based oppression and how to heal from these harms, lead by PCs”

GSC: “With more money, people, and time we could have more events more often, but we need to offer a broader range of events, we need to diversify what we do! Not everyone relaxes by drinking or hanging out in bars, so I really think these events need to take a lower priority to other social events. Don’t worry, the welcome back party and boat cruise will happen, but I need to know what events people would like to have. I really just need time, or more people working on this, reaching out to different grad student groups (international students, part time students, whatever) to help identify these groups, then find out what they would like to see from the GSC. My goal is to reach all grad students, but I need to know who is out there, and what they need! The GSC image is mixed with some people loving our events, and some people feeling unwelcome, so I need to fix this. I think one step in this direction is by investing time finding out where we can improve our events to be more inclusive. The PCs do a great job focusing on their specific issues, but I know there are more groups out there on campus who we are not reaching.”

GMORR: “Sponsor monthly *townhall meetings* for graduate students of color where community can be created and issues of diversity can be discussed. I feel like part of GMORR’s role is to be politically engaged in issues of diversity, and it should be

mandated for GMORR to hold townhall meetings for the community. *GiGs* is a great program for both undergraduate and graduate students. It is growing exponentially with 50 graduate students and 200 undergraduates. The program is in need of more funding besides the CACCSIF that is used to hire graduate students. For example, more funding is needed to host workshops for the 50 graduate mentors. GDP funds all of the events and workshops with their limited budget and I try to help with what I can, but I am also in charge of hosting events for the larger graduate student population. Provide funding for the *People of Color Artwalk* if the event is a success this year—esp. since it brings all of the projects together and allows the Graduate Assembly to become a familiar space to students and the community. Provide two *competitive research grants* for graduate students whose research addresses issues of diversity in the academy—then they must provide a public presentation sponsored by the GA. A physical space in which graduate students of color can congregate/study and hold organizational meetings. This was addressed as a need during the meeting held yesterday. Is there a potential possibility for this? For example, could we reserve a space for this in Unit 1 for the year? This would make it easier to recruit folks to our events and learn what needs to be done on campus.”

GMSP: “I’d love to focus my advocacy efforts on getting graduate students on hiring committees. I think this would have a huge impact on campus culture and graduate student campus participation. I also want to focus on creating more designated physical spaces for graduate students in general, and graduate students of color specifically. I know space is at a premium, but it seems like there are far more casual spaces for undergraduate students to hang out, study, eat lunch, etc. than for graduate students, and we would greatly benefit from these kinds of spaces for informal interactions.”

General Comments from the PCs

The Berkeley Graduate: “The GA could lean on Administrators to take more concrete actions to address the advocacy agenda items. It would be good to generate a few strategies to address the agenda items that we could then propose to Administrators as well.”