

GRADUATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

September 8, 2005

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SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

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This commenced the Fall Semester. It was called to order at 6:57 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introductions were held: Lola Odusanya, Chemical Engineering, GA President; Rob Schechtman, German and Film, Academic Affairs Vice President; Claudia Medina, Law, External Affairs Vice President. The Executive Board consists of Officers and five other members: Jay Stagi, City and Regional Planning; Jenn Zahrt, German; Sarah Tom, Demography. Delegates introduced themselves.

In trying to support the students who have come to Berkeley from Tulane, a sign-up sheet was passed around for a mentoring page.

Introduction Of Departmental Liaisons

Josh Fisher and Carmel Levitan are Departmental Liaisons, the contacts between Delegates and Officers. A overview was given on Robert's Rules of Order

Announcements

Announcements from Delegates were heard.

Report from the GA Manager

Susan Hsueh, new GA Manager, introduced herself. She comes from the I-House and the UC Berkeley Extension office, where she was International Student Advisor and Office Manager. Her goal was to operate as a facilitator for the student-run GA office.

Report from the Funding Advisor

Shayla Moore, Funding Advisor, introduced herself. Her report indicates shows which funding amounts groups received and upcoming funding deadlines. Her job was to advise student groups to make sure people get money allocated to their groups. For the first funding round, they had about \$24,000 in requests, when normally it's about \$4-5-6,000. As a result, funding requests were cut tremendously.

A motion to approve the reports from the Business Manager and the Funding Advisor passed with no

objection.

Officers' Reports

Summary of the Meeting (cont'd)

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Ms. Odusanya, GA President, said the Executive Board planned the agenda for the upcoming year. They include autonomy from the ASUC; affordable housing; moving all applications online; and student fees.

Regarding autonomy from the ASUC, the ASUC has a certain ability to represent grad students and had approval power over GA motions. The GA has now developed a very positive relationship with the ASUC. One benefit of being associated with the ASUC is that the GA was the best-funded GA across the UC.

Regarding fees, the GA has started to push the Administration to govern and manage fees levied by campus units. There has been a double-digit increase in these fees every year, combined with service cuts, such as Health Services and Recreational Sports.

The GA's agenda for 2005-6 passed with no objection.

Report from the ASUC President

ASUC President Manuel Buenrostro said that over the summer the ASUC established a good relationship GA Officers. They'll work together on affordable housing, the parking replacement policy, and student fees.

Report from the Academic Affairs Vice President

Rob Schechtman, Academic Affairs Vice President, gave an overview of the structure of the GA and how it fit into the University. Delegates were asked to indicate an interest on committees to serve on. This will be coordinated by Josh Daniels, Coordinator for Campus Committees.

The report from the Academic Affairs Vice President passed with no objection.

Claudia Medina, External Affairs Vice President, introduced Anu Joshi, working on legislative campaigns, and Ted McCombs, campus organizing, who also work in the office. Ms. Medina works Statewide. They serve on the UC Student Association, which represents all UC students. The UCSA's Action Agenda includes student fees; student-initiated outreach; and getting out the vote. The UCSA action agenda items were aware of with no objection. The UCSA and the US Student Association, which works on the federal level, were holding a call-in to elected representatives to vote against the Re-Authorization of the Higher Education Act. The report from the External Affairs Vice President passed with no objection.

Report from the Finance Committee Chair

Sarah Tom, Finance Committee Chair, gave a general overview on the budget. Based on changes made by the Executive Board in the summer, acting for the Committee, approved changes resulting in a \$6,000 reduction in projected spending.

The report from the Finance Committee Chair was approved with no objection.

Jenn Zahrt, Funding Committee Chair, asked Delegates to join the Committee, which allocates money to groups. Groups were asked to make realistic requests, to prevent most groups getting big proportional cuts.

Summary of the Meeting (cont'd)

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The GA will work with the ASUC Auxiliary IT person to do the GA's IT work, and will provide one student to work on IT. The move of the GA IT to the ASUC Auxiliary passed with no objection.

The report from the Funding Committee Chair passed with no objection.

NEW BUSINESS

By voice-vote, the GA approved the Resolution In Support of Legal Rights for Students, and will file documents Court to recognize that students were worthy of legal rights and protections.

Graduate Council Elections

Two more members were needed to serve as GA reps to the Graduate Council, and unanimously approved two new reps, Ann Perring, Chemistry, and Ben Allen, Law, and unanimously re-approved continuing reps, Jeff Wolf and Miriam Elnaggar.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

This regular meeting of the Graduate Assembly, commencing the Fall Semester, was called to order by Lola Odusanya in the ASUC Senate Chamber at 6:57 p.m. Ms. Odusanya said she would like to welcome people to the first Delegates meeting of the GA. She would apologize for the meeting starting late and said next time they'll try to be on time. Ms. Odusanya introduced herself and said she was President of the Assembly. They'd have introductions later on during the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Odusanya asked people to take a look at the agenda and to let her know if they had any questions about it. She called for a motion to approve. It was so moved and seconded. **THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Ms. Odusanya said the May meeting minutes were online. She called for a motion to approve. It was so moved and seconded. **THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 5, 2005 MEETING PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements

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Ms. Odusanya said she's a fourth-year, Chemical Engineering PhD student. She's been with the GA about three years and was really glad to see everyone there. She asked new Delegates to please raise their hands, and said she was really glad to see them and wanted to thank them for coming out. She introduced Rob Schechtman, the Academic Affairs Vice President. Mr. Schechtman said he's a fourth-year student in German and Film, and the returning Academic Affairs Vice President. Claudia Medina introduced herself and said this was her second year as External Affairs Vice President.

Ms. Odusanya said the Executive Board consisted of five other members. Jay Stagi introduced himself and said he's a third-year MCB student in City and Regional Planning, and was Chair of the Organization and Rules Committee. Jenn Zahrt introduced herself and said she was the Chair of the Funding Committee, a German grad student of Mr. Schechtman, second year. Sarah Tom introduced herself and said she was Chair of the Finance Committee and was a fourth-year student in Demography.

Ms. Odusanya asked each person present to introduce themselves so people knew what departments they were from. Introductions were held. Ms. Odusanya said she wanted to thank them.

Ms. Odusanya said she had a few announcements to make. They're all aware of the tragedy that happened in New Orleans, with Hurricane Katrina. The GA was trying to do its best to support the students who have come to Berkeley from Tulane. They're requesting volunteers and she'd pass around a sign-up sheet. They want to set up a mentoring program. She would ask them to put their name and phone number down. This would be to help any students who need mentoring just with where to go for what, how to get around campus, and things of that nature. It won't take too much time and she would ask people to please volunteer. She knew the Red Cross has a table on Sproul. She would ask Delegates to give whatever they can. The GA was also trying to have a mental health forum to help the New Orleans students adjust to life after the disaster, and to life at Berkeley. In addition, the GA was opening its offices to these students so if they need any help at all, the GA was definitely open and willing to help in any way. Ms. Odusanya said they also want suggestions from Delegates as to how best to help the displaced students adjust to life after the tragedy. She'd pass the sign-up sheet around and would ask people to please put their names down if they were interested in being a mentor for these students.

Mr. Schechtman said many of them received an e-mail from him about this. Currently there already were over one dozen students from Tulane on campus, and more were coming. Many have arrived without a place to stay, and some arrived without many clothes or anything. The Graduate Dean's Office was coordinating efforts to get these students enrolled and with financial aid. If anyone either had space in their apartment or knew of people who have space, they could forward that information to the Graduate Dean's office. This information will not be given out directly. The Graduate Dean's office will contact people to inquire about availability and will try to match people up with the Tulane students that the Dean was working with. Again, he would ask Delegates to indicate on the list if they're interested in being a buddy or mentor, or if they know of people with housing available, or have that available themselves. He wanted to

thank them very much.

INTRODUCTION OF DEPARTMENTAL LIAISONS

Ms. Odusanya said the next item on the agenda was an introduction of Departmental Liaisons, Josh Fisher and Carmel Levitan. Mr. Fisher introduced himself and said he's the Departmental Liaison. That means

Introduction of Departmental Liaisons (cont'd)

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he's the contact between Delegates and Officers, and also between Delegates and the rest of the graduate students on the campus. They'll probably get his e-mails twice if their GSAs are effective, since it was sent to Delegates as well as GSAs. Mr. Fisher said he's the one who purchases the food, and he hoped Delegates liked it. He'll set up a bag for people to scrape their plates and stack them up. The GA usually uses disposable paper plates, but this year they'll try to be more sustainable. They have the plates thanks to the Unit 3 dining complex. They were free. If Delegates have any questions, he'll put his e-mail up, and he's the one to contact.

Mr. Fisher said Ms. Levitan was also Departmental Liaison. Carmel Levitan introduced herself and said she's Mr. Fisher's assistant. When they get an e-mail that was messed up, it was her fault. Mr. Fisher said that Ms. Levitan shared in the duties as well.

Ms. Odusanya asked if Ms. Levitan wanted to give a brief overview of Robert's Rules. Ms. Levitan said she made a little summary of Robert's Rules of Order, which was basically the way parliaments operate. The GA wasn't very strict or formal about using Robert's Rules, but they were useful to keep order. The way it works is that when they get to a point in the agenda, somebody might want to consider a Resolution, and would then make a motion to do so. Someone might want to change something, and would move to amend the Resolution. After that, the GA would debate the amendment. When everyone seems to have had their concerns addressed, someone can move the question, which ends debate if that motion is approved, after which the GA votes on the matter and moves on.

Ms. Levitan said she listed a few points that could be made. The most important was a "point of information." If somebody is confused about something or needed information from a speaker, they say "point of information" and they can get the floor to get clarification. A "point of order" was when something has been ruled inappropriate, and then they decide. Something the GA tends to use a lot was to take something from the table. Something they don't do as often, but which they have done before, was to refer something to committee. When there's a hot issue that people are excited about, somebody could move to form a committee. A motion that's probably used most at the GA was to extend speaking time. The agenda lists a certain number of minutes for each Resolution, and sometimes they have a lot of discussion and go over the allotted time. A motion could be made to extend time, because otherwise the discussion would be over and they'd have to vote immediately. A motion to "call the question" forces a vote. A motion to "suspend the rules" can be made if, for some reason, they want to do something the rules don't allow them to do. Ms. Levitan said that's a brief overview, and when they get to Resolutions, people who have been there before could cite more. Ms. Odusanya said she wanted to thank Ms. Levitan, and called for any other announcements from Delegates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont'd)

Yvette Felarca introduced herself and said she was from Education. She's a Senator in the ASUC Senate, but was not speaking to the GA in that capacity. While grad students can be an ASUC Senator, she's the only one. The Senate, a lot of them, do very much support the GA's autonomy, while still trying to maintain a relationship between the ASUC and the GA, something she hoped they can continue. The GA will do what it needs to do, and she understood. Ms. Felarca said she was there was on behalf of the Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration, and Immigrant Rights and Fight for Equality By

Announcements (cont'd)

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Any Means Necessary, BAMN. BAMN was very happy for the GA's support over the past several years in its campaign to defend affirmative action, overturn the ban on affirmative action, and oppose Prop. 209. Last year they had a campaign to reverse the drop in undergrad minority student enrollment. She's glad they were able to get the new Chancellor, Chancellor Birgeneau, to come out publicly in opposition to Prop. 209. There was a slight increase in underrepresented minority student admissions for the freshmen and undergraduate classes that year, but it was so nominal that the actual enrollment did not look like it was any different than it has been over the past few years. It's clear there needs to be continued student pressure and student leadership and organizing to make words translate into action. So BAMN was continuing its campaign to increase undergrad minority education and enrollment.

BAMN will have its first meeting on Monday at 7 o'clock, and she would ask them to please attend. They were all welcome. She would ask them to please make an announcement to their students about this, if they're teach. BAMN is open to anyone and everyone, and would like to welcome anyone to this campaign. Ms. Felarca said they also have a petition to increase underrepresented minority student enrollment. They just started it last week, and if Delegates haven't signed it yet, their support would be very much appreciated. It's also a petition to ask the UC Administration to not use the new SAT in undergraduate admission. The SAT was already an incredibly biased test, but with the addition of the 800-point writing section, a 25-minute essay, it was absolutely even worse. The test targets groups of new students, including many Asian students for whom English is a second language. Such students will definitely be negatively impacted by this new section. The new section makes the SAT more than ever a white privilege test, and more than ever inaccurate for all students in terms of measuring qualifications, "merit," etc. Ms. Felarca said they hope to put pressure on the University that one concrete step it can take now, immediately, was to increase the number of underrepresented students. She wanted to thank them very much.

REPORTS

Report from the GA Manager

Susan Hsueh introduced herself and said she's the new GA Manager. She's been working in the GA office for about a month and a half, but wasn't new to Berkeley, and has worked at Berkeley for about 23 years.

The first 15 years she worked as the Budget Assistant at the Services for International Student and Scholar Office, on the Berkeley campus, at the I-House, and the second phase of her life was spending eight years at the UC Berkeley Extension office as International Student Advisor and Office Manager. So she's had an opportunity to work with many students. However, when the opening at the GA came up, she thought it would be a great opportunity to return back to Berkeley, to be with graduate students, with Berkeley students. She was very happy working with all the students in the GA at the office, and it was her privilege. She's worked with many, many PhD students and grad students, but this was the first time she ever had so many PhD students under one roof. So to just let them know, she was really humbled and really happy to work within Berkeley and be involved with student life and activities.

Ms. Hsueh said her goal as the GA Manager was actually to operate as a facilitator. The GA office was student-run and was student government, and she was there just to facilitate. The GA only has two career

Report from the GA Manager (cont'd)

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staff, her and Shayla Moore, who are the only two full-time staff there. The GA office consists of three components. The Business Office was run by their undergraduate students; the Executive Board was run by all PhD students; and they also have Project Coordinators. Ms. Hsueh said her goal was to get all three components to talk to each other, and work things out, and to really run the office. She was there to really just facilitate and make sure everything they do was for the best for grad students. Also, with her experience as a budget assistant and advising, she thought she could utilize some of her skills to manage some of the spending. They want to make sure all the money they spend is spent wisely, and want to make sure that everything they do is not only just for any small group, but for all those in graduate and professional schools.

Report from the Funding Advisor

Shayla Moore introduced herself and said she was the Funding Advisor for the GA. Her report was distributed and included this month's first round of allocations for Grad Events funding, and the report indicates which groups received funding, and the amount. Because there was no Funding Committee in place over the summer, the Executive Board met and approved any allocations to be given out prior to the start of the semester. The first funding round was August 5. The report gives an overview of the funding deadlines coming up and the rest of the deadlines for the semester. The next funding deadline is September 23, with Grants, Projects and Services, and Grad Events funding available. If this was new to Delegates, she would ask them to please contact her. She'd leave some business cards at the front.

Ms. Moore said that basically, her job as a full-time Funding Advisor was to advise student groups on how to best write their grant and funding applications to make sure people get money allocated to their specific groups. If grads were interested in funding as a new grad student or continuing student, or wanted to start a new group, or were part of a current group that needed funding, they should contact her at the GA to get funding for their group. Funding can apply to general supplies for a group or for meetings, events, receptions, conferences, or whatever it is that their group would like to do.

Ms. Moore said that for the most part, for this first round, they had an extensive amount of funding

requests. Nearly \$24,000 was requested in this first round, which was a lot. Normally it's about \$4-5-6,000. So therefore, as they could see from the report, all the funding requests were cut by a tremendous amount. For most groups, the cut was almost 80%. But she would explain. On the back of the report, where the allocations were listed, the number amount that groups requested were shown. The column "recommended" indicates how much the Funding Committee would allocate to groups if they had that much money in the budget. However, they don't. The actual amount allocate, under the "final" column, is what they were able to allocate in this particular round. This is what they'll see in each monthly report they'll get, so Delegates know which groups received funding and how much. Basically, this is the only round where Delegates don't vote on the funding allocations. In coming months they'll vote on whether or not to approve these allocations. Ms. Moore said that's just to give them an idea of what was to come. Also in the coming months, there will be a lot more funding categories. So instead of one page, there will be four or five pages worth of funding allocations, since they receive 150-200 requests for funding during each round. So there will be a lot more paperwork, and Delegates will have that information right in front of them. Also, for a quick announcement, there's a Travel Fund, with a deadline of October 1. If grads have conferences outside the San Francisco Bay Area, a limited amount was available. There will also be a lottery for grads to receive this allocation, but there will at least be an opportunity to get some money to go towards conference travel.

Report from the Funding Advisor (cont'd)

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Ms. Moore said she also hosts funding workshops throughout each month, usually about 10 per month, where she gives an overview of the full funding process. The workshop is mandatory, so if grads start a group, they have to attend a funding workshop in order to get information on how to apply and actually get money. The funding dates for September were listed in the report. When she gives her report each month, they'll get written information giving the dates of deadlines for the month and information about funding workshops for that month.

Ms. Odusanya called for a motion to approve both reports. It was so moved and seconded. **THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER AND FROM THE FUNDING ADVISOR PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.**

Officers' Reports

Giving her report as GA President, Ms. Odusanya said the Executive Board has been meeting over the summer to plan the agenda for the upcoming year, and they have different items on their agenda for this year. The GA could discuss why the Board chose each and what they're doing to achieve each goal.

The first item on the Activism goal was for autonomy. For those who don't know, the GA was sort of under the ASUC at that time, and was trying to be independent from the ASUC. So autonomy was one of their major goals that year, to be independent from the ASUC. The second was to have a center for grad students. As they might be aware, there really wasn't a communal place for students to meet and just interact on a social basis. They're thinking to find a space for students to convene, interact, and just get to know each other, on a more social basis. They're working with the Grad Division and Dean Mary Ann Mason to provide this space. They could discuss each goal if people have more questions or want more detail.

Ms. Odusanya said another goal on the list was affordable housing. Most of them were aware that the Bay Area was a very expensive place to live in. The GA was trying to push this agenda item with the University Administration, to figure out ways to ease this problem for grads. They also plan to focus on diversity as well. Ms. Odusanya said she currently sits on the Chancellor's Committee on Diversity, and Chancellor Birgeneau seems to be very much in favor of improving the numbers on this campus, and the goal of this Committee actually was to develop a structure of some sort to help address this problem. They meet once a week or so, with professors, and the Chancellor actually came to a meeting last week. What they're doing is figuring out the best way to help address this issue, because it's definitely a big one on this campus.

Ms. Odusanya said the GA was also looking to move all applications to an online system. That would be easier for grads to try to get money, and would be easier for people to apply to get funding, and would make it easier to track things as well. This is something Ms. Zahrt will talk about more in the report she gives as Funding Committee Chair.

Ms. Odusanya said that's what the GA has planned for that year. They definitely want Delegates' input on each of these items, pro and con on each one. They can debate each one of them.

Another Action Agenda item dealt with student fees. These are internal fees that Berkeley charges to students, such as to use the Recreational Sports Facility.

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Mr. Allen said that for those who were new to the autonomy question, he asked why this was a controversial issue and why the ASUC hasn't been willing to hand over autonomy. He looked at the Web site and it stated that this was the only UC campus where there wasn't autonomy for grads. He asked why it was controversial. He understood why the GA was in favor of this, but asked why the ASUC was opposed to it. Ms. Odusanya said Manny Buenrostro, the ASUC President, will be present in a few minutes and give a brief introduction, and he could probably answer that better. Basically, undergrads feel that GA wasn't capable of minding their own business. That's the argument. She was sure Mr. Buenrostro could better address that issue when he comes.

Mr. Sanchez said that if the ASUC held the power and made the decision on this issue, he asked what hope there was for GA autonomy. Ms. Odusanya said in the past there's been a vicious cycle. The GA planned to do something differently that year and approach the Chancellor as opposed to going through the ASUC. She's not sure if people were aware of this, but last year there was a fiasco with ASUC elections. The GA had a referendum on the election ballot that was removed from the ballot the night before the election started, it was decided to remove it from the ballot. That was extremely bad faith on the part of the ASUC. What the GA planned to do this year was to talk to the Chancellor about this. Obviously, the Chancellor has power to approve this, and he's been very willing to work with the GA on this. The GA hoped for the Chancellor to basically sign off on this and state that the GA was free to be independent and autonomous.

Mr. Stagi said not all the undergrads in the ASUC were involved, and there seemed to be just a couple of intransigent undergrads who really felt this way and liked to manipulate power, for whatever purposes. But undergrads generally, and quite a bit of ASUC government, have been supportive of the GA's wishes over the last year.

Mr. Allen asked what the GA loses by not being autonomous. Mr. Stagi said the ASUC has a certain ability to represent grad students, and ultimately represents them grads. The GA is underneath the ASUC, which is

an anomaly within the UC System. This situation basically results from the structure being an anachronism. Berkeley was the original UC campus, and the original ASUC, so the ASUC came first, and then the GA. For all the other campuses, when the schools were developing and student government came along, they had power over the student structures that were created. Cal was the only school that developed this way. Mr. Allen asked if the question, then, was pure representational. Mr. Stagi said there were a variety of reasons. Ms. Odusanya said the ASUC can speak for grads, as can grads speak for themselves, but the ASUC had fiscal authority over the GA. So the ASUC can go through the GA's budget and decide the GA spends too much on this or that. So the ASUC did have some fiscal power.

Ms. Felarca said that what happened last year with the election and the GA referendum was a complete farce. But the people responsible for that have graduated. There was an attempt by the GA to gain autonomy, but still maintain a relationship with the ASUC, which to her would be the ideal. That was the right thing to go last year, since they're stronger as a student body if the GA and ASUC are united. But based on what happened last year, with the referendum removed, there was understandable frustration on the part of many in GA leadership to just go for full autonomy. Ms. Felarca said she was hopeful, as a grad student in the ASUC Senate, that they can still work something out, especially since the worst of last year's bunch were gone, the undergrads who were power hungry, crazy, and didn't know what they were doing. They're gone, and she was hopeful that they can come up with something that was more reasonable. That would be fairly helpful for all of them.

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Mr. Schechtman said that to clarify in a little more detail, over the last two years, the GA has developed a very positive relationship with the ASUC, which they'd like to continue. The new ASUC President will be present and speak to the GA shortly. Because the ASUC was the only officially recognized entity by the faculty Senate, ASUC leaders are therefore the only ones who are allowed to address the faculty Senate. The GA is not allowed to speak to the Academic Senate as a grad body. That's an example in the difference in representation. Also, any motion that is passed by the GA technically needs to get approved by the ASUC. There's a window of time after which, if the ASUC does not act, then the GA's motions are automatically considered approved. But if any Senator does not like a motion the GA passed, the Senate may overturn that motion during a Senate meeting. That's an example of what happens under the current structure.

On the flip side, Mr. Schechtman said that one benefit of being associated with the ASUC is that Cal is the best funded GA across the UC campuses. That's because the mandatory \$27.50 student activity fee that all students pay every semester, which many grads have waived through fellowships or GSIships, automatically comes to the GA the fees that grads pay. Over the years the amount of that fee has increased by votes of the students, and the GA has received its fair share of those increased fees. At other campuses, undergrads have voted to increase their fees, but the grads have not. So at other UC campuses, grad student governments are relatively under-funded compared to the GA at Cal. So Mr. Schechtman said there were pros and cons with the GA's connection to the ASUC.

Ms. Odusanya called for any other comments on this issue.

As she mentioned earlier, Ms. Odusanya said they're working with Dean Mason and the Grad Division to

find and essentially create a space for grads to meet on a much more social level. That's progressing quite well, and Ms. Odusanya said they would give updates as the year progresses. She called for any comments on that.

Mr. Allen asked about the space. Ms. Odusanya said there's space on the 4th floor of Stephens Hall that's very much underutilized right now. It's closed after 5:00, a time when people would like to hang out. So the GA was thinking of redesigning the space and making it much better, and publicizing it so grads were aware that the space was available for them to meet.

Regarding affordable housing, Mr. Schechtman said that what they may hear from the Administration at that time was that Berkeley had lowest student fees across the UC campuses. But what the GA always says in response is that Berkeley students pay the highest overall cost of education, with the difference made up by the cost of housing. As he was sure they all were aware, they live in either the number 1 or number 2 most expensive place to live in the country, depending on how that's measured. They know that in the coming future they're not going to be able to change rents across Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, but they're trying to focus on University-owned housing. First, they want to press the University to do a major review of why the housing it builds was so expensive that it was priced above market. And secondly, which he'll touch on in his report, they were trying to get a task force in place to look for alternatives to the University's plan to tear down the older units of family housing in Albany Village, Smyth-Fernwald, and one other. Delegates may have seen the older units on San Pablo Avenue, which were built in the 1940s and '50s and were some of the worst slum housing offered in the area. But they're affordable for families, with rents between \$650 and \$750 for one- to two-bedroom places. The new

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units, which were really beautiful, cost upwards of \$1,500 to \$1,600. Particularly for single-family and international families, whose spouses are legally not allowed to work, rents at that level were over 100% of a GSI salary and were no longer affordable housing. So the GA was trying to raise a sense of crisis with the University, that they were about to knock down the last units of affordable housing for families. Mr. Schechtman said they'll need Delegates' help to work on this for the coming year.

Ms. Odusanya said that regarding diversity, as she mentioned earlier, she's on the Chancellor's Committee on Diversity, and the charge was to come up with a structure to address this issue. She's also meeting with different groups around campus, like the Black Grad Students Association (BGSA), the Black Grad Students in Engineering Association, the Latino association of Grad Students and Scientists, just trying to meet with different groups on campus and get ideas from them as to how best to address this issues. She will then take her ideas from those groups on how best to address this issue. Then she'll take her ideas, and everyone else's ideas, back to the committee and figure out how best to address this issue on campus. This was a major issue at the present. As was discussed earlier with the BAMN announcement, this is a multi-diverse campus, and they should try to work harder to make sure the campus was much more diverse, which she thought would benefit everyone as a whole. So she will continue to give the GA updates on the work of the Committee as it progresses, and she welcomed suggestions and input from any of them that would help with this.

Ms. Notareschi asked about the relationship between the GA and BAMN, or if there was one. Ms. Odusanya said there wasn't one, but for the most part, the GA was in support of what the group does. Ms.

Felarca said the GA has endorsed BAMN's petitions in the past, as has the ASUC. The Delegate Ms. Notareschi asked if there was no formal relationship between the GA's Diversity Committee and BAMN. Ms. Odusanya said there was no formal relationship.

Regarding online funding, Ms. Odusanya said she wasn't sure how many of them have already applied for funding, but it's a painful process because people have to go to Anthony Hall, pick up the forms, although they're online as well, fill them out, take them back, and then, if there are errors, get them back. It's just not an efficient way to do things. So her goal that year was to move all the applications to an online system, allowing people to apply wherever they were. It would also make life easier for Ms. Zahrt and Ms. Moore. And in this day and age, there's no reason people have to deal with paperwork, or create so much paperwork for those who have to go through the applications. Having them online would make much more efficient. So she's working closely with the ASUC Auxiliary IT person, David Fullmer, trying to figure out how to best move to an online system. The GA has had somebody work on this before, but they had some problems with their relationship with the person. The GA wants to improve on this and figure out a better way to put all these forms online, which would be much more efficient. Ms. Zahrt will also discuss this in her report. She called for any questions.

Regarding fees, Mr. Schechtman said that last year, after a Resolution the GA passed in November, the GA started pushing the Administration to implement a policy to govern and manage the fees levied by campus units. Such fees include tuition and registration fees, materials fees, student activity fees, things like that; i.e., the mandatory fees that are part of students' CARS bill that are either approved by the Regents or are passed by student ballot. But as Delegates will certainly see over their course of time at Berkeley, individual units at the University also charge fees for a lot of services. Many of these fees did not exist four or five years ago. What students were seeing was a double-digit increase in these fees every year, combined with service cuts. They've seen that in Health Services, and this year in

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Recreational Sports. They're also about to be faced with a transportation referendum that would do the same thing. There was a proposal last year to levy a \$40 fee on every single student group on campus, which would have exceeded the budget of many student groups. There are 800 student groups right now that must comply with service cuts in the Office of Student Life. So they actually have a Chancellor's working group focused on this issue, and they'll continue to come to the GA for input and feedback. The Administration was asking the GA for a list of all these fees. They created a spreadsheet last year for these fees and they'll do the same thing this year, since not even California Hall knows what this University was charging students. So that's an example of where they are. The GA was hopeful that they'll see parts of a policy implemented this year.

Ms. Odusanya called for any questions or comments about the GA's agenda for this academic year.

Ms. Medina there were a lot of new students and people have been using lingo they might not be familiar with. "California Hall" was where the Chancellor's office was located. She would ask people to be careful with their language. Mr. Schechtman said he'll give an overview of the University's structure in his report.

A Delegate asked if a lot of these issues were pertinent to professional students as well. Mr. Schechtman said they were. Unfortunately, things like professional development fees were examples of fees that were

proposed by each school's administrators and taken directly to the University Office of the President, the Regents. The GA lobbied very heavily against that and had some success. But when something got to the level of the Regents, a lot of the power was out of the GA's control, whereas for a lot of campus-based fees that were imposed, the Vice Chancellor and the Chancellor have ultimate authority, and the GA had a much closer relationship with them.

Ms. Odusanya called for a motion to approve the agenda for the upcoming year. It was so moved and seconded. THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE GA'S AGENDA FOR 2005-6 PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.

Report from the ASUC President

Mr. Schechtman said he would like to have Mr. Buenrostro address the Assembly, since he was present. The motion was seconded and passed with no objection. Mr. Schechtman said that Mr. Buenrostro was the ASUC President for this year.

Mr. Buenrostro said this was the first GA meeting of the year and he was very excited. While he was addressing them, he was a lot younger and probably a lot less knowledgeable on different subjects. Manuel Buenrostro introduced himself and said he was President of the ASUC. He was glad to be at the meeting and hear the conversation they had about GA autonomy. He wanted to emphasize how important he felt it was to work together with grad students on many issues. Over the summer, he felt like they set a good relationship with Ms. Odusanya, Mr. Schechtman, and Ms. Medina, in working on issues such as affordable housing. That's something they'll work on throughout the semester. One main issue they want to work on was the parking replacement policy, which Mr. Schechtman knew a lot about. They want to make sure the University considers waiving this policy so they can have more affordable housing on the

Report from the ASUC President (cont'd)

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campus. Another issue they'll definitely work on together was the student fee issue. As Delegates may or may not know, in November there will be a Regents meeting on campus, and undergrads work on these things by themselves. They need grads and undergrads working together to make sure the Regents know how much student fees were hitting students. So that's another area they'll work on together.

Mr. Buenrostro said he also wanted to emphasize that he felt a formal apology from himself was in order for what happened last year with the GA's referendum on the ASUC ballot and the action the Judicial Council took to remove it. Mr. Buenrostro said a lot of things were not under his control, but he did want to apologize. He did feel the GA's pain on that issue, but again, it's a new year, and he was completely willing to work with the GA on this issue for the coming year. He didn't believe a complete separation between grads and undergrads was possible, just because they need to work together, but he believed there were some areas where grads could have a lot more say within the University.

Mr. Buenrostro said he was looking forward to working with the GA throughout the year. If they ever need to contact him, he was available. His e-mail address was president@asuc.org. He was also available on the 2nd floor of Eshleman Hall, and people could always visit him, anytime they want. If any of them had any

questions, he would like to entertain them at this point. Ms. Odusanya said she would like to thank him. (Applause)

Mr. Schechtman said he would like to thank Mr. Buenrostro.

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Rob Schechtman introduced himself and said he was Academic Affairs Vice President. He'd give a brief overview of the structure of the GA and how it fit into the University, for those who were new, as well as for those who have been there for a while. Things like the Grad Council, etc., may not be entirely clear, so it was felt that this might help clarify some of this. A copy of this will be in next month's minutes if they'd like to read it.

Mr. Schechtman said they'd divide University structure into the State and then Berkeley. UCOP is the UC Office of the President, who works with about 3,000 bureaucrats in a huge building in Oakland, doing God knows what. President Robert Dynes is the President of the University. He reports to the Regents, who are sort of like UC's Board of Directors. The Regents are the ones who vote on University policy, including students' mandatory fees. And then there's the wonderful Governor and Legislature, the people who propose the State part of UC's budget. The Governor also nominates Regents. There are now 10 UC campuses.

Next they get to California Hall, which is the Greek building next to the main Library. For the Berkeley part of the structure, they have the Chancellor, Robert Birgeneau who arrived last year, from the University of Toronto. The GA has been very impressed with Chancellor Birgeneau on many fronts. He's shown a great willingness to work with grads on many fronts. Mr. Schechtman said that compared to previous administrators, he would say that Chancellor Birgeneau was very progressively minded.

In addition, the Berkeley campus has the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, Paul Gray, who, if the Chancellor were the Queen, the Provost would be Prime Minister. So the Provost is the person who

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really runs the nuts and bolts of the University, although the Chancellor has the final say and the Chancellor is the campus' representative. Underneath the Chancellor and Provost were ten vice chancellors, four vice provosts, and 19 deans. In past years the GA has tallied the amount of money this group cost the University, including Chancellor Birgeneau and Provost Gray, and it's currently over \$12 million, just in direct salary. But that's a different issue.

Mr. Schechtman said the campus also has a structure. Business and Administrative Services, which was about to be renamed, has an Acting Vice Chancellor, Steve Lustig, who was formerly head of University Health Services, and will serve as Acting Vice Chancellor until a new VC is named, which should happen that semester. Mr. Lustig was very much a student advocate. Assistant Vice Chancellor Ron Coley was part of BAS, as was the ASUC Auxiliary. The "ASUC" is the Associated Students of the University of California, which is their official student government on campus. Every student was a member of it, and students pay dues for that. The ASUC Auxiliary was run by Tom Cordi, and the Auxiliary was really the

GA's and ASUC's interface with the University. The ASUC Auxiliary was officially a department of the University, and Ms. Hsueh and Ms. Moore are employees of the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary handles the GA's payroll, accounting, and financial statements, and ensures that the things they do are more or less in line with University policy. Underneath the Auxiliary was the ASUC itself. Again, the President is Manny Buenrostro. The GA, at that time, was part of the ASUC. He asked if this all made sense so far.

At a Statewide level, the ASUC was a member of the UCSA, the University of California Student Association. The President of the UCSA that year, who was just elected, is a Berkeley student, Anu Joshi, a grad student at Cal in Social Welfare. All UC student governments are represented at the UCSA, which really works at the State level to lobby on students' behalf.

The campus employs "shared governance" with the Administration and the faculty Senate. Alice Agigano is the Chair of the Academic Senate that year. The faculty Senate has about 12 committees that review various aspects of University policy and make recommendations to the Chancellor. The Graduate Council was one of those committees, and the GA had four reps. The Grad Council the faculty Senate committee that dealt with issues related to graduate education. It's Co-Chaired by the Graduate Dean.

There were about 80 campus committees under the Administration. Mr. Schechtman said part of his role as Academic Affairs Vice President was to nominate graduate students to serve on these campus committees, which deal with everything from transportation to health services to diving safety. Josh Daniels was his Coordinator for Campus Committees, and he'd speak in a second. Finally, they have Executive Officers and Delegates, all of whom were present. There are internal GA committees that Delegates serve on. As the Academic Affairs VP, he was the Executive Officer who dealt with everything that was related to Berkeley, and Ms. Medina, as External Affairs VP, dealt with everything State related. He called for any questions. He hoped that people will now know what people were talking when they mention "the ASUC," or "the Auxiliary," or "California Hall."

Mr. Schechtman said that over the summer they have been working to nominate students to faculty Senate committees. They also have a working group on student fees. He's met with the Directors of Intercollegiate Athletics, Recreational Sports, Health Service, and ROTC, to talk about various policy measures. The GA has already talked about policy goals for the coming year. The GA was seeking Delegates who were interested in serving either on campus committees, to represent grad students, or on the Academic Affairs Committee that he chairs within the GA. As an example, within the GA, they'll need

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students who are knowledgeable about housing and fee issues to help them develop a report. They got started last year but didn't have enough time to complete it. One example of a very successful report, out of the Sociology Department, was called "Berkeley's Betrayal." It looked at the fact that some Berkeley employees were getting below a living wage. Within one year that report got approved by the Chancellor and there's now a living wage in place at Berkeley. The GA needs to put together a similar report on affordable housing, and they'll need Delegates' assistance with that.

Mr. Schechtman said he would ask for a two-minute extension to have Mr. Daniels make a presentation. A motion to extend the time for the report by two minutes was made and seconded and passed with no objection.

Mr. Daniels said he would ask people to take out a pen or pencil, and would ask people to name one thing that they don't like about what the US government was doing. Responses from Delegates included the war in Iraq, a limit on stem cell research, and global warming, as with Kyoto. Mr. Daniels asked for suggestions on one thing a person could do as an individual about these issues. Responses included, for the war, protesting; for stem cell research, voting. But Mr. Daniels said one person protesting wasn't a lot. And one vote wasn't a lot. Other responses were that people could write letters, or donate money to Democrats. Mr. Daniels asked how effective those measures might be on an individual level, and said they weren't at all effective.

Mr. Daniels asked people to name one thing they don't like about UC Berkeley. Responses included high tuition, RSF fees, residency, and parking. Mr. Daniels asked for one thing people could do about these problems on an individual basis. Responses were that they could talk to other students, and e-mail the Chancellor. Mr. Daniels said talking and sending e-mails could help, but committees was the way they do things at Berkeley. There are over 80 committees, as Mr. Schechtman said. Committees have from a handful of people to 20 or 30. So Delegates, as individuals, actually have an impact on these committees. Mr. Schechtman didn't mention this, but Mr. Daniels said that each of them, as a Delegate, was required to serve on either a campus committee or a GA committee. They could certainly sign up for some random committee and go to meetings, sit in the back, listen to their iPod, or do some work. But when they go to these committees, he would like them to try to make a difference. There were 80 committees, and if they have an interest that they care about, there will be a committee that addresses that interest. So when they sign up for these committees, he would ask them to please pick what they're interested in, meetings that they'll attend, and that they will actually try to impact. He called for any questions.

Mr. Daniels said committees meet about once a month, two hours per meeting. There will be a little feedback form to fill out, so the time would be perhaps a total of three or four hours per month, and that would be it. He would pass around sign-up sheets.

Mr. Schechtman said that what they were asking Delegates to do was sign up. Signing up was not a firm commitment that they'll attend this committee, but just an expression of interest. They tried to place the list the committees under the general topics the committees address. Mr. Schechtman said they'll talk to Delegates and try to place them on a committee they're interested in, and try and make sure it fits their schedule. And they'll assist people who might want to serve on a GA committee. Again, this is a way for Delegates to make a direct impact on policy. And he could give a very good example. Last year there was a proposal by the Administration to eliminate all study days before final exams. And it was a joint combination of undergrads, the ASUC, and GA representatives, on the Academic Calendar Committee, who pushed that back and made a compromise, that the Administration accepted. So there are still study days. That's just one small example.

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Mr. Daniels said people e-mailed him their preferences, and he would give them first preference for the committees they select. If they don't send him an e-mail, they'll be pushed to the bottom. That's an incentive to e-mail him, at jrdaniels@berkeley.edu.

A Delegate asked if there was a list available. Mr. Daniels said the people had was probably the best one to use. The Delegate asked if he wanted them to give a couple of options. Mr. Daniels said they should sign up for as many as they want, and in the e-mails, they should give him one or two. As for the sign-up sheet

going around at that time, and Delegates should sign up for the ones they would like to be on, and they'd figure things out later.

Ms. Odusanya said she would entertain a motion to approve the report. It was so moved and seconded. THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS VICE PRESIDENT PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.

Giving her report as External Affairs Vice President, Ms. Medina said there were also Statewide committees, so if Delegates wanted to have an impact at the UC level, that was an option as well. Ms. Medina said her office was in charge of external affairs. Three of them were on the External Affairs team: Anu Joshi was in charge of the legislative campaign, Ted McCombs was in charge of organizing on campus, and Ms. Medina said she's Statewide. Their main roles and responsibilities were to serve on the UCSA and carry out the UCSA Action Agenda. The UCSA receives \$1.25 from all students on all UC campuses and was funded by student fees. Two representatives from each campus sit on the UCSA Board of Directors, and from Berkeley, that was her and the undergrad rep, her counterpart in the ASUC. UCSF sends a grad and a professional school representative.

Again, their role is to carry out the Action Agenda items. The UCSA's Action Agenda items are voted on every year during a Congress that reps attend. Depending on the population, that's how many Delegates get a vote. The Congress ends up with a bunch of proposals and picks three out of the 25 or 30 they had to consider that year.

Ms. Medina said the first Action Agenda item was student fees. They all feel this, especially professional students. This is the third or fourth year they've been hit with fee increases. To give an idea of how UCSA campaigns work, that past summer they had a small victory. Fees for Law students were to be increased in the fall, but the UCSA got students to go to the Regents meeting and give public testimony, and also lobbied the Legislature. But mostly, it's Regents who decide whether to raise students' fees, and this time, the students actually won. There was no increase for the fall, so they saved Law students perhaps \$400. (Applause) But the UC Office of the President, who proposed the increase, wouldn't give up that easily. So the next month, July, they brought it to the Regents meeting, and that time the students lost by one vote. One Regent changed their mind, which is why, in the spring, Law students will pay more. So people shouldn't think the fall increase was it, because they'll pay a little bit more in the spring. That's one example of a campaign that the UCSA runs. Student fees include undergrad and grad fees as well. They'll continue this, telling them to stop raising student fees.

The second Action Agenda Item was student-initiated outreach. Since the Governor was elected in November, he's tried to make mid-year cuts. Outreach is a line item that he completely eliminated, and he's been trying to eliminate it every year since he's been in office. The UCSA has been instrumental in fighting these cuts. Ever since Prop. 209 passed, banning affirmative action, they've seen a drop in

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underrepresented minorities. So their outreach programs, whether they're student-initiated outreach, departmental, or the Grad Division, outreach programs, get money from this line item in the State budget. Ms. Medina said the UCSA was therefore continuing this fight because they know the Governor will want to cut it again.

The last Action Agenda Item was to get out the vote. That's because students aren't effective until they increase their electoral power. So they need to make sure students are registered and vote and are educated. For instance, they want to make sure students are educated on the issues in the upcoming November elections. So the UCSA is working on that at a Statewide level, and on every campus.

Just to step back a little, Ms. Medina said the UCSA also funds staff. For example, a staffperson works with students on legislative campaigns and campus organizing campaigns. They also work on federal stuff that Mr. McCombs will work on.

Ms. Medina said the GA needed to approve the UCSA's Action Agenda Items. Ms. Odusanya called for a motion to approve.

Mr. Garcia asked what they would actually be approving. Ms. Medina said every campus has to approve the Action Agenda the UCSA arrived at. Mr. McCombs said the GA would be ratifying that decision by the UCSA.

A motion to approve the UCSA Action Agenda Items was made and seconded. THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE UCSA ACTION AGENDA ITEMS PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.

Ms. Medina said she would yield the rest of her time to Mr. McCombs. Mr. McCombs said he's the Campus Organizing Director, in charge of mobilizing grad students to work on Statewide and nationwide campaigns. He's a resource if Delegates' organizations or the campaigns they're working on want help on the State level.

Mr. McCombs said he would report on a campaign the UCSA was running with the US Student Association, the USSA, which works on the federal level. Congress was currently considering two bills that would seriously cut aid to students, specifically student loan programs. The Re-Authorization of the Higher Education Act would cut out all on-time payment incentives, and the proposed budget would cut about \$9 billion out of student loan programs. That was kind of ridiculous since students already pay so much any way. So grads and undergrads will do a call-in the next two weeks, along with students across the nation, calling their representatives. Since Berkeley was so close to San Francisco, they're going to call Nancy Pelosi, the House Minority Leader. They'll basically urge their representatives to vote against these various anti-student bills. Undergrads will set up phones in Eshleman, if people don't want to use their own cell phone minutes to call-in. People could go to Eshleman and call in for free, between 11:00 and 2:00, and call their representatives and state that they don't like these bills and urge them to vote against them. The other thing Delegates could do to help was to try and get the word out to as many grads as possible. There are 9,000 grads on campus, so that's a lot of legwork and a lot of paper to publicize this. He would pass around fliers for Delegates to give to their friends or stuff them in their colleague's mail boxes, and to basically get as much distribution as possible. Law students need not worry because he'll drop them off in their mail boxes on Friday. So he would ask Delegates to spread the word. The big push is next week, and then the Tuesday after that. He hoped they all could make it.

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Ms. Medina said External Affairs has a committee, so if Delegates want to help on this campaign, they can

join that committee.

Ms. Odusanya called for a motion to approve the report by the External Affairs Vice President. It was so moved and seconded. THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT FROM THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS VICE PRESIDENT PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.

Report from the Finance Committee Chair

Ms. Tom said that she would state some changes to the GA budget, but first wanted to give a brief overview on how the approval process works for the budget. Any changes to the budget first pass through the Finance Committee. If the Committee approves them, they come before GA Delegates. Since the GA was not in session over the summer, the Executive Board acted as the Finance Committee and approved the changes. Copies of the budget weren't available at the meeting, but a copy was available online.

Ms. Tom said she'd give a general overview of what's happened with the budget, and if people have specific questions, they should feel free to ask. Two types of changes were made to the budget. One was to re-allocate money for more efficient spending within the State budgets. In those cases, the budget for the individual project did not change, and the money was just re-allocated. The second type of change that was made was that items were deleted or cut down, resulting in actual savings in the predicted spending. So overall, based on all of the changes, they have a reduction of about \$6,000 in their budget. This is a reduction in what they projected they'd spend. She called for any questions.

Ms. Odusanya called for any questions and said she would entertain a motion to approve the report. It was so moved and seconded. THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.

Report from the Funding Committee Chair

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Reporting for the Funding Committee, Ms. Zahrt introduced herself and said that as Funding Committee Chair, everyone loved her because she gave them money. She needed people on a committee to help her go through applications. She was looking for about six people. She thought a former member was present who could attest to how much fun the Funding Committee could be. Their meetings are held the Monday before Delegates meeting. On good days meetings last maybe an hour and a half, and on bad days, up to whenever the applications are done. She believed the longest meeting last year was about three hours. That was the nightmare scenario. The next meeting will be October 3, but she had to talk to perspective Committee members before that meeting to orient them as to how to go over the funding applications. If people were interested, she would ask them to please e-mail her at ga.funding.chair@gmail.com, and she'll arrange for an orientation. The Committee will meet on October 3 before the October 6 Delegates meeting.

Also, because as Ms. Moore mentioned, they had \$24,000 requested from this funding round, and usually it's \$4-6,000. Ms. Zahrt asked Delegates to inform their groups that they'll be more successful if they

Report from the Funding Committee Chair (cont'd)

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apply for modest amounts. There's only a certain amount of money to allocate, so when groups request astronomical amounts, the amount requested was higher, and groups that ask modestly are cut more. So if they only expect to get \$300, and if they apply for \$900, the cut will be bigger. So she would ask people to please be modest and only request the amount they require. They have to smash the illusion of groups asking for exponential amounts of money because they believe cuts will be big. But that's what makes cuts big. So groups should know that they should be realistic.

Mr. Schechtman said that two years ago the GA was in a mode where drastic cuts were made for every round, and last year they managed to get into a mode where they funded 70 to 90 requests. A big part of that was that student groups would be much more reasonable in asking for what they really needed during each time period, and spreading out the amounts they requested. This was probably one of the most important messages for Delegates to get out to their student groups. The more reasonable the funding requests were, the more groups would get. Ms. Zahrt said that's why they have so many funding rounds, so groups don't ask for \$1,000 at the beginning of the semester, but pace themselves. That will help groups get more funding.

Ms. Zahrt said they worked over the summer to get online funding in place, but there were some issues in getting functionality with the person programming this. There will be a merger with the ASUC Auxiliary Information Technology person and the GA's information technology. This project is bigger than just online funding, but will impact online funding, because it means they'll have someone in place to work on this, whose job it will be to make sure they have a complete package, which is maintained.

Ms. Odusanya said they currently have two part-time students at the GA who work on their computers, which was very inefficient. The students are busy and there are issues once in a while. The idea was to move this function to the ASUC Auxiliary, which has a full-time person, David Fullmer, and two students working for him. Ms. Odusanya said she met with Mr. Fullmer a few times and he seemed very reasonable to work with. Basically what will happen is that the GA would supply Mr. Fullmer with one more student. This would save the GA money, because instead of having two part-time students, they would just provide Mr. Fullmer with one, meaning there would be four people in total working on the GA's computers. Mr. Fullmer is based in Eshleman and was very willing to work with the GA. A contract was dropped off and people could see it if they'd like. This would make more sense financially and efficiently. Mr. Fullmer was willing to take on this project, which is much bigger than online funding. Her vision was to also allow Delegates get forms online instead of bringing forms to the GA, and get them approved online, as well as having a social space online, in some sense. Most of them were familiar with the FaceBook, a very popular chatroom-type of site, and hopefully grads will also have that available to them. So they wouldn't have to leave their offices or labs and could still be sociable in their little cubicles. She thought it would be a great way for grad students to connect.

Ms. Odusanya said she needed approval to get this implemented and needed a motion to approve this move to the ASUC Auxiliary IT. She called for any questions on this move.

A motion to approve the move of the GA to ASUC Auxiliary was made and seconded. **THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MOVE OF GA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO THE ASUC AUXILIARY PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.**

Ms. Zahrt said Delegates might have heard that Grad Events 1 was available online at that time to use. That system was shaky, which is why they just made this move, to have someone completely responsible

for this. People will be able to apply for all of their funding online, including grants, and it will be a lot easier to manage and for everybody to work with.

Mr. Garcia asked if the Funding Committee still had rules in place that stop small groups who request less than \$100 from being penalized by huge cuts, or other sorts of rules, such groups requesting more than a certain dollar amount taking a larger share of the cuts than, e.g., a group requesting \$200. Ms. Zahrt said they don't have a scale or rule like that, but do have a rule that protects groups that apply for small amounts. Such groups are protected from getting massive cuts. If people apply for \$40, and the general cut for that round was 50%, it was unfair to take \$20 from a \$40 request.

Ms. Odusanya called for any other questions. A motion to approve the report from the Funding Committee Chair was made and seconded. **THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT FROM THE FUNDING COMMITTEE CHAIR PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.**

Regarding the report from the Store Operations Board, Ms. Odusanya said the Board hasn't met yet, so there was no report.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Stagi moved to move consider the Resolution to the head of New Business. The motion was seconded and passed with no objection.

The following Resolution was authored by Lewis Green and was sponsored by Mariyam Cementwala:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGAL RIGHTS FOR STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the Graduate Assembly advocates for fair and just legal rights and protections for University students; and

WHEREAS, in lawsuits in which a student claims that he or she was treated unjustly by a school in a dispute involving the grades or conduct of the student, the current law in California is a rule of judicial "deference" to schools, or as the California Supreme Court has put it, "judicial non-intervention into the academic affairs of schools"; and

WHEREAS, the effect of the current law is that students have virtually no legal rights in disputes involving grades or conduct, because whenever a lawsuit is filed by an individual student who was treated unjustly by a school in such a dispute, the courts virtually always defer to the school and refuse to intervene, regardless of how badly the student was treated; and

WHEREAS, in the entire California case law, throughout the last 100 years the California courts have not issued even one single decision ruling that the termination of a student on academic grounds was wrongful, although more than 2 million students are currently enrolled in accredited institutions of higher education in California; and

Resolution In Support of Legal Rights for Students (cont'd)

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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGAL RIGHTS FOR STUDENTS (cont'd)

WHEREAS, in a current lawsuit the California Supreme Court is being asked to review and change the judge-created law of "judicial nonintervention in academic affairs" and to recognize that courts should provide legal rights and protections for students; and

WHEREAS, the delegates to the Graduate Assembly previously voted unanimously to file in this lawsuit a "friend of the court" brief expressing support for legal rights for all students, which brief was filed in the California Court of Appeal in June 2005;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Graduate Assembly will file documents in the California Supreme Court in this lawsuit, which documents will be consistent with the documents that the Graduate Assembly has already filed in the Court of Appeal in the same lawsuit, and which documents will ask the Supreme Court to recognize that students are worthy of legal rights and protections.

Mr. Stagi said he was sponsoring the Resolution, which was on the back of the agenda. Ms. Cementwala was not present. To summarize, the gentleman present, Louis Green, brought this Resolution before the GA last year, but due to some small difference in the way it's been applied from the Appeals Court as opposed to the Supreme Court, the GA needs to reapprove the Resolution to apply to the Appeals Court. If people had any questions, he believed Mr. Green could answer.

Ms. Odusanya said the GA already approved this last May and just had to change the wording of the Resolution. They'd take two minutes to read the Resolution, and then debate the issue if necessary. In the meantime, perhaps Mr. Green could give some background on this issue.

Mr. Green said the Resolution would authorize the GA to file papers in the California Supreme Court. The GA would be advocating for the legal rights of students. The GA passed a Resolution authorizing the same thing a year ago, filing an appeal, and this was the same lawsuit. It would just heard in the Supreme Court.

Mr. Green said he was a student in the PhD program offered by the Graduate Theological Union, in cooperation with UC Berkeley. A professor who was chair of his faculty committee died, and Mr. Green said he was redirected to work with another professor he didn't have a relationship with, someone who had a reputation for abusing students and destroying their careers. Mr. Green said this professor became very upset with him, as he had with other students, and retroactively changed his deadline and his paper topic and got him terminated. Mr. Green said he filed a lawsuit that the termination was wrongful, but it turns out that California students have practically no legal rights. In the past 100 years, for all opinions, the courts have never ruled for wrongful termination of a student. The rule the courts use is judicial non-intervention in academic affairs. Since the courts don't intervene, the papers that the GA filed in the California Supreme Court would ask the Supreme Court to change that rule and to start giving justice to students. The appeal will apply to legal rights for all students, not just in his case. The California Supreme Court wouldn't even grant review unless this applied to all students. The Resolution asks the GA to file papers in the Supreme Court that would advocate on behalf of legal rights to all students.

Mr. Allen asked if this would take away the right of autonomy on issues involving academic discipline. If a freshman got drunk, with the University taking care of it internally, he asked if the case would

Resolution In Support of Legal Rights for Students (cont'd)

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mean that suddenly the University would be open to intervention by local police and the courts. Mr. Green said he thought it would mean that University would be required to treat students with fairness and justice. A student could file a lawsuit, but if the school treated the student with justice, probably no lawyer would take the case on a contingency basis. The Delegate asked if this would take away a university's rights to things they would want a university to do in-house. Mr. Green said it would let them go ahead to terminate a student from being drunk, but they would have treat the student with justice and fairness in the process. The school would still have the right to discipline students.

Ms. Odusanya said they were out of time, but if people wish, they could move to extend time. A motion to extend speaking time by two minutes was made and seconded and passed with no objection.

Mr. Green called for any other questions. Mr. Sanchez said PhD programs are all very individualized, highly technical, and specialized, and the grounds for disagreement between a student and a teacher can range from personal, to academic, to political, to whatever. It didn't strike him that the best place to seek redress was necessarily the courts. This was academic life, and a lot of PhD programs were really far removed from clear-cut decisions under legal rules. He asked if there was an argument to be made that the university should keep this in-house. Mr. Green said he would guess there was an argument about what happens when students were treated unfairly. In his case, he asked for a governance process, and the school refused. That was an issue in this case, whether schools should be required to have a governance process. The Graduate Theological Union had to promise to have a governance process. Mr. Green said he incurred a lot of debt, and the school refused to have a governance process. One argument should be that a school should give students procedures and apply them fairly.

A Delegate asked if their Union protects students. Mr. Green said he didn't think so, although he wasn't sure. Mr. Schechtman said that's only if the situation was job related. Mr. Green said it might pertain if a student lost their job. Mr. Schechtman said that just to clarify, there's a judicial Student Conduct Review Board, for which the GA was seeking grad student reps, which serves as a Code of Conduct review panel on campus. That's where an appeal would usually go. But the University has the right to unilaterally deny one's right to appeal. And the rules change. Within the last two years, the campus removed the right of students to have legal counsel representation on that Review Board. Students used to be able to have a lawyer speak for them, but the University unilaterally removed that right about a year or year and a half ago.

Ms. Odusanya said they were out of time, and hearing no motion to extend time, said they would vote on the Resolution.

A motion to approve the Resolution was made and seconded. **THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGAL RIGHTS FOR STUDENTS PASSED BY VOICE-VOTE.**

Mr. Daniels said this was a good example of how to write a Resolution, with Whereas Clauses, the Resolved Clauses, and the sponsor. If people want to include a Resolution on the agenda, they should send it to him.

Ms. Odusanya said that Resolutions must be submitted a week before the Delegates meeting.

Graduate Council Elections

Graduate Council Elections

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Ms. Odusanya said that as Mr. Schechtman mentioned earlier, the Graduate Council is one of the bodies under the faculty Senate. The GA has two members at that time, Jeff Wolf, who is the alternate, and Miriam Elnaggar, who couldn't make it that evening. They need two more members. The Grad Council meets once a month on Monday, with professors, from 2:00 to 4:00. Grad Council reps are also on the GA's Executive Board, which meets once a month as well, and includes herself, Mr. Schechtman, Ms. Medina, Mr. Stagi, and others. So Grad Council reps have two meetings per month. If people were willing to run for election they could nominate themselves, or could nominate anybody else they'd like. She called for any nominations.

Mr. Schechtman nominated Ann Perring. Ms. Perring said she's starting her third year in the Chemistry Department. Ms. Odusanya called for any other nominations.

Mr. Wolf said the Grad Council doesn't require much time, but it's an important position, and grad members get to interact with a lot of faculty members and represent the grad student voice. If they become a Grad Council member, they get to be on the Graduate Assembly Executive Board. So they get to be more involved and have more to say about the graduate student life. So he would highly recommend that people nominate themselves if they were interested in becoming more involved.

Mr. Sanchez nominated his colleague, Ben Allen.

Ms. Odusanya called for any other nominations.

Mr. Schechtman said there's a lot of visibility in this position because they meet with professors and with the Graduate Dean every month. The meetings are on Mondays from 2:00 to 4:00 in Stephens Hall.

Mr. Garcia moved to close nominations. Ms. Odusanya said that with no objection, nominations were closed.

Ms. Odusanya asked both candidates to give a brief introduction on themselves and why they were interested in this position. Ms. Perring said she an e-mail last spring asking people to apply for this position. She talked to Mr. Daniels last year and mainly she was interested in women and science, which was a pet project. She also thought students need to be involved and articulate base their issues. She was interested in being that voice.

Ms. Levitan asked if she truly had the time, since 20% of the people say they have the time for this, but quit after a month. So she would ask candidates to please think for a minute. They have to go to two meetings, for two hours, every two weeks. And Executive Board meetings were really important, because if they don't have quorum, they can't do its business, and it's very important for them to do their job. So she would ask nominees to please think if they might resign after two months, meaning the GA would need to have another election. Ms. Perring said she promised not to resign in two months.

Mr. Allen asked about the time commitment. Ms. Odusanya said the Grad Council meets from 2:00 to 4:00 the first Monday of every month. And then they're also on the GA Executive Board, which meets once a month for about two to four hours as well. The Board meetings are Monday evenings. Mr. Allen asked if that's for the entire year or just for the semester. Ms. Odusanya said it's year.

Ben Allen introduced himself and said he's a first-year Law student and was very much interested in getting more active and involved in student activities there. He spent the last four years in Washington,

Graduate Council Elections (cont'd)

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D.C., working in Congress, and was very interested in helping the GA have a more active role and voice, and lobby and play a more active role in trying to advance some of their issues on the local, State, and national levels, and within the University System. He's a good listener and can interact with people and talk to folks there, and get a sense of what Delegates' concerns were, and what they're feeling, and translate that into effective advocacy. He knew that's something they're always struggling to do. He was willing to make the time commitment and understood the concerns people expressed about that. He thought those concerns were absolutely valid since grads were so busy. But it's something that he thought was worthwhile and important, and something he would like to throw some time and energy into. He had a lot of energy and ideas and was excited to be there. This seemed like an interesting way for him to get more active and involved.

Mr. Schechtman said he would add the names of Jeff Wolf and Miriam Elnaggar as well, for the record, even though they were elected in May. The GA needs to re-elect them so it's on the record for the faculty Senate that these are the GA's four representatives to the Graduate Council. Mr. Wolf will be the alternate.

Ms. Odusanya asked both candidates to step outside the room for a discussion off the record.

A motion to approve the nominees to the Grad Council was made and seconded.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE BEN ALLEN AS A GA REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GRADUATE COUNCIL PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY HAND-VOTE.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE ANN PERRING AS A GA REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GRADUATE COUNCIL PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY HAND-VOTE.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE AS JEFF WOLF AS A GA REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GRADUATE COUNCIL PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY HAND-VOTE.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE MIRIAM ELNAGGAR AS A GA REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GRADUATE COUNCIL PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY HAND-VOTE.

Ms. Odusanya said she would like to thank them. They were approved to the Grad Council. (Applause). She wanted to congratulate them.

For the Finance Committee, Ms. Tom said that in case she and Ms. Zahrt wasn't clear, they need Delegates for the Funding Committee and for the Finance Committee. They could reach her at

finance@GA.bekeley.edu

Ms. Odusanya said they were done and called for any motion to adjourn. It was so moved and seconded and passed with no objection. Ms. Odusanya said she wanted to thank them very much.

This meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Steven I. Litwak, Recording Secretary

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Present at the GA Meeting of September 8, 2005

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dept</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Dept</u>
Allen, Ben	Law	Babel, Molly	Linguistics
Begtrup, Gavi	Physics	Blumenfeld, Janet	Bio E
Botello, Elizabeth	Journalism	Boyd, Sarah	Mech E
Buccitelli, Anthony	Folklore	Charrabarti, Monami	Law
Davis, Edward	Afr Amer Stud	Egel, Daniel	Economics
Fairbrother, Malcolm	Sociology	Franklin, Johanna	Logic
Ganesan, Prema	Vision Science	Garcia, David	Chemistry
Gross, Stephen	History	Gyurak, Anett	Psych
Hagar, Loddie	Chem Eng	Harley, Gabriel	MSE
Haubenreich, Jacon	German	Haynes, Erin	Linguistics
Jimenez, Javier	Comp Lit	Jones, Becca	MSE
Jones, Tivonna	Law	Kakkar, Puneet	Law
Kua, Thomas	Law	Lozier, Jeff	ESPM
Lutzy, Rebecca	IB	Martire, Anthony	Italian Studies
Merluzzi, Natalia	Law	Notareschi, Loretta	Music
Ordonez, Juan Thomas	Anthro	Patel, Seema	Law
Penn, Charli	Journalism	Perring, Anne	Chemistry
Quarles, Elizabeth	Art Hist	Sanchez, Rodrigo	Law
Sawyers, Hollie	Law	Scales, Joyce	Public Policy
Stagi, Jay	DCRP	Stalcup, Meg	Anthro
Strange, Jason	Geography	Strubbe, David	Physics
Tom, Sarah	Demography	Trahey, Lynn	Chemistry
Tran, Richard	Rhetoric	Troyani, Sara	Italian Studies
Virgili, Justin	Chem Eng	Wolf, Jeff	Philosophy