

GRADUATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

May 4, 2006

SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

This meeting, concluding the Spring Semester, was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were open positions in the GA. The Campus Committee Liaison helps students get involved in influential campus committees; the Legislative Liaison worked on issues relating to Sacramento and the UCSA's Statewide legislative agenda of the UC Student Association; and the Campus Organizing Director engaged the student body in these issues and lobbied in Sacramento.

The Competitive Graduate Student Financial Support Advisory Committee recommended eliminating non-resident tuition for all academic grads Statewide and will take up the issue of professional student fees next year. The campus was seeking a representative of professional students.

This was the last meeting for current Officers, Ms. Odusanya, Mr. Schechtman, and Ms. Medina, and their service was appreciated.

NEW BUSINESS

With no objection, the GA approved, as amended, the Resolution In Support of Extending Graduate Student Qualification for the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP).

With no objection, the GA approved, as amended, the Resolution Regarding the Denial of Higher Education to Bahá'ís In Iran

With no objection, the GA voted to ask Ms. Ahrendt to grammatically edit Resolutions that were included in the agenda.

With no objection, the GA approved, as amended, the Resolution In Support of the Adoption of the Proposed Campus Environmental Policy.

Election of Organization and Rules Committee Chair

The GA elected, by unanimous voice-vote, Mr. Dillon as Chair of the Organization and Rules Committee.

REPORTS

From the report from the GA Manager/Advisor, the previous Funding Advisor took another job, and a replacement was expected by mid-June. The GA was experiencing a lot of transition at that time.

From the report from the Departmental Liaison, there have been over 130 unique attendees at GA meetings.

From the report from the President, a list of GA accomplishments for the year was discussed, including: (1) Renovation of 440 Stephen's Hall; (2) Completion of online funding; (3) Revamp of Anthony Hall's IT infrastructure; (4) Renewal of the Class Pass and successful opposition to the Career Center successful opposition of the Career Center Referendum, and work on the RSF Referendum; (5) GA Autonomy Referendum on the ballot; (6) Stopped renewal of an OSL fee on student groups; (7) Helped to create Vice Chancellor for Diversity position; (8) Improved relations between the GA and the ASUC; (9) Proposed a campus-wide policy governing all student fees and helped create a Chancellor's Oversight Committee; (10) Put on the 3rd Annual Faculty Mentoring Awards; (11) Helped to implement a living wage for Berkeley workers; (12) Helped to get a freeze from Sacramento on fee increases.

From the report from the Academic Affairs VP, the 2006 GA Mentorship Awards ceremony and reception will be held on May 10, at the Faculty Club. With the help of the GA, the Chancellor finally approved a living wage for the lowest paid campus employees.

From the report from the Finance Committee, the 2006-7 GA budget was up for approval. The GA no longer had the surplus it's enjoyed for past three to five years. Instead of eliminating them, projects were asked to run at 75% of their budgets last year. There was a problem with having events at 440 Stephens because it was not accessible to the disabled. Requests to use the room were being tracked. The Graduate Division controls the space.

With no objection, the GA approved, as amended, the 2006-7 GA budget.

From the report from the Funding Committee, with no objection, the GA approved the Funding Committee's recommendations for Round 8 allocations.

From the report from the GA's Graduate Council reps, the Legislature approved a Cal State University petition to, for the first time, grant PhDs, in Educational Leadership. Some Berkeley faculty were opposed. Also, departmental reviews of departments were being conducted, and grads were needed to participate.

Reporting as the ASUC representative to the GA, the earliest to get ASUC election results was in two weeks. The Senate had its last meeting of the year and passed next year's budget. Online voting occurred for the first time and there were no known problems. There was a new Dean of Students, Mr. Poullard.

From the report from GA representatives on the ASUC Auxiliary Store Operations Board, the search committee for the new ASUC Auxiliary Director will conduct interviews. Also, the Gelateria Naia has increased funding to the Auxiliary, and student groups were encouraged to use that space for meetings and performances. In addition, the ASUC ski lodge near Lake Tahoe, the Cal Lodge, was in need of a caretaker. It costs the ASUC several thousand dollars a month to keep it insured, heated, etc.

The GA thanked the Departmental Liaison, Mr. Fisher, for his service.

The meeting, concluding the Spring Semester, adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

End Summary of the Meeting

This regular meeting of the Graduate Assembly, concluding the Spring Semester, was called to order by Lola Odusanya at 5:36 p.m. in the ASUC Senate Chamber.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Odusanya called for any amendments to the agenda and called for a motion to approve. It was so moved and seconded. THE AGENDA WAS APPROVED WITH NO OBJECTION.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Ms. Odusanya called for any objection to approval of the minutes from the April meeting. A motion to approve was made and seconded. THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 13, 2006 GA MEETING PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Cementwala said a position was open in the Academic Affairs Department, the Campus Committee Liaison and she would encourage people to apply. Mr. Daniels served in the position that past year and she asked him to talk about the position. Mr. Daniels said the position gives a sense of how the campus operates. To the extent that grad students have any sway, a lot of that was in these committees, which had influence in a particular area, whether it's the RSF or facility access. People kind of represent the GA in those areas, and it really gives a sense that they've made a difference. The Campus Committee Liaison helps students get involved in these committees. He'd be happy to talk to anyone about this further. It didn't take too much out of their lives and was a paid position, \$5-600 a month.

Mr. Vallé asked how many hours a week were involved. Mr. Daniels said there was a lot of work at the beginning of the semester, doing outreach to get committee seats filled, 15-20 hours a week, after which it's 8-10 hours a week, and 5-8 hours some weeks.

Mr. Allen said there were other openings at the GA, with time commitment and pay similar to the Committee Liaison. The position of Legislative Liaison worked on issues that relate to Sacramento and the Statewide legislative agenda of the UC Student Association. Issues include fees, divestment from Sudan, making the system more affordable, and sensitizing the Regents and the Legislature about the importance of maintaining funding for UC. The job also entails sitting on the UCSA Board, which meets every month in different parts of the State, for which there's a travel budget. They talk about issues that affect all of them as students and try to promote effective advocacy at Sacramento. The Campus Organizing Director works at engaging the student body at Berkeley in these issues and works to register people to vote, calls legislators, lobbies in Sacramento, and engages in the political process. Mr. Allen said he hoped Delegates help him find people for these positions who were effective and interested in advocacy. These were very important positions.

Ms. Odusanya called for any questions, and noted that the new, incoming GA Officers were Mr. Daniels, President; Ms. Cementwala, Academic Affairs VP;, and Mr. Allen, External Affairs VP.

Mr. Fairbrother said the UC System last fall created the Competitive Graduate Student Financial Support Advisory Committee to look at the issue of rising fees. It allows an opportunity to address the issue of grad student costs to the State Legislature. This is an internal committee within the UC Committee charged to make recommendations to the Provost. It just released an interim report that recommended eliminating non-resident tuition for all academic graduate students Statewide. As someone on the Foreign Student Affairs Committee, this was a huge deal. Next year the Advisory Committee will take up the issue of professional student fees. There are two students on this Committee, assigned by the UCSA. The equivalent of the GA President at UC Riverside was the academic student representative and they were looking for somebody to represent professional students next year. If people were interested, Mr. Fairbrother said they could contact him. Mr. Allen asked if Mr. Fairbrother could send that information out by e-mail. Mr. Fairbrother said he would.

Mr. Fisher said he would pass around a list of gelato flavors and the attendance sheet, and people should list the flavor of the gelato they'd like next to their name.

Ms. Elnaggar said "The Berkeley Graduate" will be distributed to departments via campus mail and will also be available at the graduate student lounge. If people have any suggestions for future content, they should e-mail "The Berkeley Graduate."

Ms. Hsueh said that since Ms. Zahrt wasn't present, she would like to announce, for any student groups that received funding, that Friday was the last day to file for reimbursement. The GA would not be able to process requests made after Friday, and people wouldn't get their money back. People applying for round 8 funding will be notified about the awards their groups will receive after the GA approves the allocations that evening. There will only be one week to file for reimbursement, by next Friday.

Mr. Daniels said he brought a survey that was requested at the last meeting on what people would like the GA to focus on next year. He also had a Delegate retention questionnaire for people to indicate if people were coming back next year, or who would replace them, and if returnees would like to continue serving on their current committees. Academic Senate committees were in bold, and were, by far, the most powerful. Grads serve on them with faculty members. Requests to sit on those bodies should be received by June 1.

Ms. Odusanya said that on the back of the form there were some questions about food at Delegates' meetings, where they could indicate if they'd like to see the same amount of food next year, or less, or any changes.

Mr. Daniels said this was the last meeting for Mr. Schechtman, Ms. Odusanya and Ms. Medina. They've been with the GA for a long time and he got flowers for them that he'd like to present. He would like to thank them very much. (Applause) Ms. Odusanya said they definitely couldn't have done this without the help of everyone there, including Mr. Daniels, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Hsueh, and literally everyone there. And the experience of Mr. Schechtman and Mr. Stagi has also been invaluable for her that year, and she would like to thank them for that.

NEW BUSINESS

In Support of Extending Graduate Student Qualification for the Student Health Insurance Plan

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The following Resolution was authored by Andrew Hao:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXTENDING GRADUATE STUDENT QUALIFICATION FOR THE STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN (SHIP)

WHEREAS, the University Health (SHIP) plan currently allows graduate students to maintain their University health insurance for only two semesters while not registered; and

WHEREAS, previous to changes in the University Health plan in January of 2005 graduate students could opt-in and pay to qualify for University health insurance, while not registered but in good standing, for an indefinite period of time; and

WHEREAS, the current insurance policy disproportionately impacts graduate students in departments where extended fieldwork is requisite or who do not have their University fees covered through University positions or funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the combination of field research and dissertation work in a number of graduate departments tends to exceed two semesters; and

WHEREAS, the current policy leaves many graduate students without insurance coverage or with the costly option of purchasing non-university insurance after two semesters of not being registered;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Graduate Assembly:

1. Calls on the Administration of the University of California, Berkeley to reinstate the previous provision in the University Health plan allowing graduate students who are not registered, but in good standing, to qualify for SHIP for an indefinite period of time.
2. To maintain this provision, if adopted, in the future and to consult with the Graduate Assembly if changes are considered.

Ms. Odusanya called for any questions. Mr. Wolf asked why the policy was changed, and if it was just to save costs. Ms. Stalcup said she didn't know why the provision was removed, and the Resolution calls for it to be returned. People in her Department tend to be in the field at least two years or more, at least 18 months. Mr. Wolf asked if students in the second year of fieldwork who weren't registered could not buy student health insurance. Ms. Stalcup said that was correct.

Ms. Tom asked if health insurance was subsidized by fees all students pay when they register. Mr. Schechtman said Reg Fees subsidize access to the Tang Center, but students in the field weren't covered by Registration Fees.

Ms. Ahrendt asked if there was contact with the Union. Ms. Stalcup said the whole Department got together and the student group drafted the Resolution. She doubted they contacted the Union.

Mr. Arons asked what affect this would have on the cost of SHIP insurance. Ms. Stalcup said it would add more students to the plan. A fair amount of students in her Department end up without coverage, but in terms of all students, she didn't think it would have much of an impact, although that was speculation.

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Mr. Stagi asked if this would also apply to post-graduates who wanted to maintain insurance for only two semesters while not registered, and grads could opt-in while not registered, but in good standing, for an indefinite period of time. Ms. Stalcup said that once a dissertation was turned in, one's standing was not indefinite and they were no longer a student.

Ms. Odusanya called for any other questions and called for a motion to approve. It was so moved and seconded.

Ms. Sahar said she was also confused by that language, and asked if there could be changes to clear that up.

Mr. Haynes said the second Whereas Clause could be amended by striking "for an indefinite period of time" and replacing that with, "until graduation."

Mr. Wolf asked about a student who withdrew. Ms. Stalcup said withdrawal was a different status, and they wouldn't be registered. The situation addressed by the Resolution was a particular status.

The speaker said she would accept the amendment.

Mr. Schechtman said that change should also be in the Resolved Clause. Ms. Odusanya said the amendment would also apply to the first Resolved Clause, where they would strike "for an indefinite period of time" and replace that with "until graduation."

Mr. Arons said that using "until graduation," some people receive degrees at different times, and asked if anybody knew the specific terminology was. Mr. Schechtman said better terminology would probably be "until completion of degree." Ms. Odusanya said that would replace "until graduation" in the second Whereas Clause, as amended, and the Resolved Clause, (1), as amended.

THE AMENDMENTS WERE APPROVED WITH NO OBJECTION.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXTENDING GRADUATE STUDENT QUALIFICATION FOR THE STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN (SHIP), AS AMENDED, PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.

Mr. Schechtman said he would encourage the GA next year to take up the issue of the graduate student health insurance program in more detail and engage with University Health Services. For the last three years in a row, costs have risen over 20% a year, and they're set to increase over 20% again next year. This very heavily impacts professional students, who have to pay health insurance out-of-pocket. But it also impacted the number of graduate fellowships available because health insurance costs eat up fellowship money. The Student Health Advisory Committee was the primary committee working on this, and although it was primarily undergraduate, it did consider health insurance costs.

A Delegate said she was a GA representative on SHAC that semester, which had eight or nine grads. SHAC can guide overall health insurance fees, but the Student Health Fee Advisory Board was in charge of the health fee in students' Reg Fees. Perhaps there could be a GA representative on that.

Ms. Odusanya said they would move on to the next Resolution.

Resolution Regarding the Denial of Higher Education To Bahá'ís In Iran

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The following Resolution was authored by Shahia Ali and was sponsored by Mr. Allen:

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DENIAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO BAHÁ'ÍS IN IRAN

WHEREAS, according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, access to education is a fundamental human right; and

WHEREAS, the Government of Iran is a signatory to this and other human rights instruments; and

WHEREAS, it has come to our attention that the Government of Iran continues to systematically deny access to higher education to Bahá'í students in Iran on account of their faith; and

WHEREAS, as graduate students in an institution of higher education we feel moved to speak out against the denial of such access to fellow graduate students in Iran; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we express our deep concern and voice our opposition to this blatant discrimination and extend our hopes that attention be focused on urging the Government of Iran to comply with the obligations of international human rights instruments to which it is a party.

Ms. Odusanya said Resolutions had to be sponsored by a Delegate, so she would entertain a motion to amend the Resolution to add Mr. Allen as a sponsor. It was so moved and seconded and passed with no objection.

Mr. Allen yielded the floor to Ms. Ali. Ms. Ali said she would like to thank Mr. Allen for sponsoring this. Since 1979 there's been a pattern of denial of education, especially higher education, to Bahá'í students in Iran, particularly to those who want to attend undergraduate or graduate studies. The reason to bring this to the GA was because the Government of Iran has responded to international attention and pressure. Several Nobel Prize Laureates have also spoken out against the situation. It puts the government on notice that people were paying attention and that this situation would not go under the radar. Basically, students who want to pursue higher education were asked to declare their religious identity on the application. The four recognized, permissible religions were Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism. Students who didn't follow those faiths didn't have space on the application to check their religion, and were therefore not allowed to enter schools. This has intensified in the last few years and was expanding to other areas. She called for any questions.

Ms. Sahar asked about how the Resolution would be communicated, and asked when the GA last took a political position and issued something about a different country. Ms. Odusanya said she wasn't sure about any other countries they've dealt with, but they have taken positions that were outside the Berkeley campus. The GA had the right to do that.

Ms. Ahrendt said they often don't find out what happened with Resolutions they've approved, which was a wider issue.

Mr. Stagi said he would suggest that the GA be a little more proactive in broadcasting its positions, and more or less require the individual who brought it to the GA's attention to disseminate it. Ms. Odusanya said the President will sometimes work with the author to do that. Mr. Stagi said he wasn't sure if that

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process has been transparent for everybody. Ms. Odusanya said she'd work with the author to figure out how they'd disseminate this.

Mr. Haynes asked if the GA sent out press releases, such as to the Daily Cal. Ms. Odusanya relations with the Daily Cal has been contentious, something the GA tried to improve that year. The goal was to make the relationship better next year and use the paper as a medium to convey their opinions. Hopefully Mr. Daniels will follow-up next year and work harder with the Daily Cal to get the GA's thoughts disseminated. Mr. Daniels said he's already met with the current Editor-and-Chief.

Mr. Haynes asked about a mechanism to formally institutionalize periodic press releases about what happened at the GA. Ms. Odusanya said they've done that in the past. Mr. Schechtman said they had to make over \$100,000 in budget cuts and the press officer was one of position that was cut. If grads have experience with press releases, the GA would certainly love to have volunteers.

Mr. Vallé asked about having a press release appear in "The Berkeley Graduate." Ms. Elnaggar said she could do that. Ms. Odusanya said that was a good idea, and Ms. Elnaggar was continuing next year.

Ms. Hsueh each Tuesday the Daily Cal had a page the GA could put an ad in. But in the time she's been there, she's never GA material on that page. Ms. Odusanya said that was because the page was controlled by the ASUC, not the GA. Ms. Hsueh said that's something to explore next year. Ms. Odusanya said that if the MOU is approved, the GA could argue that it deserves its own space in the Daily Cal.

Ms. Odusanya asked if there was any motion to amend. Mr. Stagi said communicating positions should be general policy and didn't think this particular Resolution should be amended.

Mr. Vallé asked what mechanism would get out the point of the Resolution. Ms. Ali said she appreciated the suggestions, and to use the Daily Cal, "The Berkeley Graduate," and the Chronicle. Ms. Odusanya said she would discuss with the author how best to move forward. In the case of Mr. Erin's Resolution last month, she met with Dean Mason to discuss it. So the response was sort of informal. Mr. Stagi said he would suggest developing some By-law language to deal with this.

Mr. Allen suggested getting some people together to craft a press list when the GA wanted to send out news. Sending a press release by e-mail was very easy to do, and they just had to find out papers' educational reporters.

Mr. Dillon asked if any other religious minorities weren't included in the list. Ms. Ali said she couldn't think of any, off the top of her head, that were systematically excluded from the educational system. There could be. The Bahá'ís were the largest minority, so the exclusionary policy had a wide-ranging affect.

Mr. Stagi moved to call the question and end debate. Ms. Odusanya asked if there was a motion to accept the Resolution. It was so moved and seconded. THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION, AS AMENDED, PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION, RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DENIAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO BAHÁ'ÍS IN IRAN.

Mr. Stagi said they need to amend the agenda to add the election of a new Chair of the Organization and Rules Committee. Ms. Odusanya called for any objection, and hearing none, said they'd add that.

Resolution In Support of the Adoption of the Proposed Campus Environmental Policy

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The following Resolution was authored by Brooke Owyang and was sponsored by Mr. Arons:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED CAMPUS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

WHEREAS, UC is the leading public educational institution for research and development in the State, and the nation, with a tremendous influence over environmental, economic, and social policies; and

WHEREAS, in the Talloires Declaration of 1990, University administrators made an official statement of commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education, and articulated the urgency of our environmental problems, such as: local, regional, and global air and water pollution; depletion of the ozone layer and emission of "greenhouse" gases that adversely impact the survival of humans and millions of other living species, the integrity of the earth and its biodiversity, the security of nations, and the health and rights of future generations; and

WHEREAS, the University's 2020 Long-Range Development Plan states that, "as one of the world's great research universities, UC Berkeley has a special obligation to serve as a model of how creative design can both minimize resource consumption and enhance environmental quality"; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Chancellor to work with students, staff, faculty and administration within our campus to address the pressing issues facing our community by shaping our environmental, economic, and social policies into a responsible strategy that ensures the well being of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the proposed environmental policy will create a healthier educational environment; and

WHEREAS, resource conservation helps save valuable resources for future generations and lowers campus operating expenses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Graduate Assembly strongly supports the adoption of the proposed campus environmental policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Graduate Assembly urges the Chancellor to act as the Responsible Executive of the Campus Environmental Policy.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Graduate Assembly pledges to support the development of an Environmental Management System (EMS) and participate in the implementation of the Campus Environmental Policy.

Mr. Haynes said he was from the Energy and Resources Group. The Resolution would support the proposed Campus Environmental Policy. A draft was included in the agenda packet. He called for any questions.

Ms. Odusanya said a Web site on the policy was mentioned, but the address wasn't listed. Mr. Haynes the policy first had to be approved by the Chancellor.

Resolution In Support of the Adoption of the Proposed Campus Environmental Policy (cont'd) - 10 -

A Delegate said she didn't understand what they'd actually be doing. Ms. Owyang said generally, a policy was approved and then specific implementation plans are approved. This wasn't expected to be very contentious policy, but were asking the Chancellor to put his signature to the policy. A Vice Chancellor would typically work on this, even though many environmental issues weren't confined to one area, such as Environmental Health & Safety, or Facilities, but apply throughout the campus.

Mr. Fairbrother said he really didn't see what the document did other than saying the University should have an environmental policy. He asked if there was any statement by the University about the environment. Ms. Owyang said there wasn't. It's referenced in the Long-Range Development Plan and the University published documents that claim to commit to environmental policies, but currently there was no policy. Literally hundreds of other universities do have environmental policies, so this was really a first step. Mr. Arons said a policy had to be in place before specific plans were made, such as the purchase of paper or organic food.

Mr. Stagi said he didn't notice in the policy statement anything about access to the campus and alternative forms of transportation, rather than privileging the automobile quite so much. That issue wasn't taken seriously enough on campus. Ms. Owyang said the policy statement did not specifically address that. Again, it was meant to be a broad policy on which on which to base later implementation plans. And for reference, Cal was actually the least automobile-friendly UC campus. But she took the point made. She added in the final Resolved Clause an invitation for the GA to be involved in further steps of the plan. It will next go to the Academic Senate, then the Policy Advisory Board, and then the Chancellor's office. If approved, there would be further development for implementation. The plan was still in draft status, so things could be added. Mr. Stagi said they could ask to have the GA involved without a Resolution. He asked if they could actually include something that should be a part of the policy. He's worked on several committees, and the people who make decisions about these things, and, invariably outvote him, were in the Academic Senate and want to drive to campus. So this wasn't just something to possibly discuss later, he would like to offer an amendment to add the following:

"Whereas, alternative forms of transportation are an integral part of any comprehensive environment policy, and consideration of that should be taken into account in drafting a new policy."

Mr. Arons asked if they could also amend the first Resolved Clause to embed language about transportation that the GA supported.

"Resolved, that the Graduate Assembly strongly supports the adoption of the proposed campus environmental policy and encourages support for alternative modes of transportation within its framework."

A Delegate said she felt the amendment was too specific for the actual policy, which calls on a commitment to protect and enhance campus environment. The wording would add something specific to general policy, and they could talk about lots of things. Mr. Stagi said he's worked on a number of these matters and thought people pay lip service, and without specific language, people could work around things. Mr. Arons said the GA couldn't amend the actual policy. This was introduced by Environmental Health & Safety.

Mr. Vallé asked what impact creating a campus-wide environmental policy would have on research activities that might be hazardous to the environment, such as the use of toxic substances in labs. Ms. Owyang said that was a concern. Draft language included the campus' commitment to make the least

Resolution In Support of the Adoption of the Proposed Campus Environmental Policy (cont'd) - 11 -

environmental impact and considered fulfilling the University's academic mission. They wouldn't be approving anything that harmed animals or dealt with wastewater, e.g., and this was just a broad, general policy. Mr. Arons said the policy recognized that people inevitably create waste, and the idea was policy to handle that responsibly.

Mr. Garcia asked about the last Resolved Clause, and GA support of the Environmental Management System. Ms. Owyang said the point was not to have a dead policy, i.e., having language on a Web site, but never taking the final step. The idea was that this wouldn't end there, and that they'd see it through.

Mr. Stagi asked if "support," meant sending people to sit on committees or sending money. Ms. Owyang the GA participate with the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability, throughout the process, including supporting implementation, rather than providing money.

Mr. Arons said he would like to make some minor changes to language, using "University of California" rather than "UC," since it was more official. **THE AMENDMENT WAS APPROVED WITH NO OBJECTION.** Mr. Arons asked if UC was "the leading public educational institution for research," as stated in the first Whereas Clause. A Delegate said they could say it's a leading public institution. Mr. Schechtman said five rankings within the last ten years placed Berkeley as the #1 public research and educational institution in the country. Ms. Odusanya said they would take a vote on keeping "the" or changing it to "a." She said that "the" won by hand vote.

Mr. Allen said Ms. Ahrendt was on the Executive Board, and asked if they could request that she help with editing Resolutions that get into the packet. He moved that part of Ms. Ahrendt's duties, as Alternate, would be to make grammatical suggestions. The motion was seconded. **THE MOTION PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.** Ms. Odusanya said that Ms. Ahrendt would be the new, official, GA grammarian.

Mr. Stagi moved to call the question. The motion to end debate was seconded and passed with no objection. **THE MOTION TO APPROVE, AS AMENDED, THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED CAMPUS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY, PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.**

Election of Organization and Rules Committee Chair

Ms. Odusanya called for any nominations for Chair of the Org. & Rules Committee. Mr. Stagi nominated Mr. Dillon. Mr. Daal nominated Ms. Harley, who respectfully declined.

Ms. Odusanya asked if Mr. Stagi could give a brief overview of what the position entailed. Mr. Stagi said the person was the parliamentarian at GA meetings and would have to work on revisions to the By-laws to accommodate the MOU. The Chair also presided over the Committee and sat on the GA Executive Board.

Ms. Odusanya asked if Mr. Dillon wanted to make a brief statement. Mr. Dillon introduced himself and said he was a first-year Chemistry student. He sat on the Graduate Council that last semester.

Election of Organization and Rules Committee Chair (cont'd)

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Mr. Fairbrother said the Funding Committee has talked about GA practices that were at odds with the By-laws, which were significantly out-of-date. He asked if Mr. Dillon would be willing to work on bringing the By-laws up-to-date. Mr. Dillon said he would be.

Mr. Allen asked if he would be willing to convene a committee for By-law revision, with people who have been there a while, to identify the most egregious areas. Mr. Dillon said he would be.

A Delegate asked if he really wanted to do this, as a second-year Chemistry student. Mr. Dillon said he understood the time commitment.

Ms. Odusanya asked Mr. Dillon to please step outside for a discussion off the record and a vote. MR. DILLON WAS ELECTED AS CHAIR OF THE ORGANIZATION AND RULES COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE-VOTE. Ms. Odusanya said she would like to congratulate him. (Applause)

REPORTS

For the report from the GA Manager/Advisor, Ms. Hsueh said she's been there for almost a year. She's seen all of them there at almost every Delegate meeting, and she would like to thank them for their time. For those who were graduating, she would ask them to please find a good successor. For those who will continue, the next meeting was in September, and she hoped to see an overwhelming turnout. The Charter and By-laws provide for one Delegate per 100 students. So with 9,000 grads, they should have about 90 Delegates. They actually had about 80 in September, which decreased as time went on. They'll try to make meetings shorter.

Ms. Hsueh said their Funding Advisor took another, higher paying job, so they're looking for a replacement. There were over 20 applicants, so hopefully there will be a replacement by mid-June. The GA will have a lot of transition, with new members on the Executive Board, Project Coordinators graduating, and the graduation of three of the four students in the Business Office. Positions will hopefully be filled by September. If Delegates saw anything not being addressed, she would ask them to please let her know. Also, in June the GA will be open from 10:00 to 3:00, Monday through Friday.

For the report from the Departmental Liaison, Mr. Fisher said he had an attendance graph for GA meetings. There were over 130 unique attendees, not including guests. The most represented Department was the Law School, with five Delegates, and number 2 was Physics.

A Delegate said the April meeting occurred on the second night of Passover, and asked if meetings could be coordinated around religious holidays. Ms. Odusanya said she would apologize, and said Dean Mason was free at that time, and it was also the opening ceremony for 440 Stephens.

For the report from the President, Ms. Odusanya said it's been a wonderful year. When she started she had no idea what she was getting into, and was worried about her performance. She's had tons of support from people in the Assembly and learned a lot, and it was a wonderful experience. The energy Delegates

Report from the President (cont'd)

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bring to the Assembly was extremely encouraging. She wanted to thank them all for being there and for their contributions.

Ms. Odusanya said they wrote a list on the board of what they worked on that academic year. (1) They renovated 440 Stephen's Hall. At the first Board retreat in the fall, they decided space was needed on campus for students to congregate, since there really was none for grads. 440 Stephens was available for talks, meetings, and seminars, and people could rent a projector or DVD player and a screen. (2) They completed the online funding program. That was combined with (3) revamping Anthony Hall IT infrastructure. When she joined the GA, the IT was in very poor shape, with a bad e-mail system, servers that often broke down, and poor security. She drew up a contract with the ASUC Auxiliary, and the GA now had a full-time person dedicated to Anthony Hall, from the ASUC Auxiliary, David Fullmer, who's been extremely helpful, as has Jimmy Kittiyachavalt, who worked on the GA's online funding system. They also bought two new servers. Hopefully, the online funding system will be included in the new Funding Advisor's job description, at ga2.berkeley.edu/forms. It could be used to apply for grants, Grad Events, Travel Grants, etc. The new system was more efficient and secure and will save time and paper. People will no longer have to come to Anthony Hall with their forms and then return if a mistake occurred. She was really proud of completing the online funding system. They also instituted better IP address systems that meet campus standards and improved their e-mail, which had been quite poor.

In addition, Mr. Stagi, Mr. Schechtman, and Mr. Daniels worked very hard on referenda the GA dealt with that year, (4) the Class Pass renewal, the successful opposition to the Career Center Referendum, the RSF Referendum, and (5), the Referendum on GA autonomy. Ms. Odusanya said she believed all the stands they took were successful. They also (6) stopped the renewal of the fee the Office of Student Life wanted to institute on student groups, which she and Mr. Schechtman worked on over the summer.

Ms. Odusanya said she also worked with the Chancellor and the Oversight Committee to (7) help create a new position, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, to have a better diversity agenda for the Berkeley campus. They've also (8) significantly improved relations between the GA and the ASUC. Relations in the past were not good, but have been really good that year. Mr. Besbris, the ASUC's rep to the GA, attended every GA meeting and was really helpful and cooperative in improving this relationship.

The GA also (9) proposed a campus-wide policy governing all student fees and helped create a Chancellor's Oversight Committee. They worked to repeal an "illegal fee" at the College of Environmental Design.

The GA also (10) put on the 3rd Annual Faculty Mentoring Awards, which Mr. Wolf, Mr. Schechtman, and Mr. Stagi worked on very hard. In addition, the GA (11) helped to implement a living wage for Berkeley workers and (12) helped to get a freeze on fee increases in Sacramento.

Mr. Stagi said he would like to add to the list the general contribution of the GA. Delegates worked on a lot of campus committees, work that didn't always have a high profile. But from his own experience, this was where he's been able to have an effect. It would be good to develop a way to quantify some of these victories and events that occur to better know the affect the GA wielded.

Mr. Wolf asked if there were plans to publicize the fact their great new space at 440 Stephens. Also, people have a hard time finding it because of Stephens' strange layout, and maybe they could have a sign by the door. Ms. Odusanya said they sent out an e-mail, and holding the GA meeting there last month also publicized it. It would be great if Delegates tell students about it.

Report from the Academic Affairs Vice President (cont'd)

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Ms. Odusanya said the report gave a snapshot of what they've done that year. She was will to accept questions, comments, or suggestions for improvements. (Applause)

For the report from the Chair of the Organization and Rules Committee, Mr. Stagi said he just wanted to thank everybody for the marvelous time he had at the GA. He wanted to thank everybody for the opportunity to serve. (Applause)

For the report from the Academic Affairs Vice President, Mr. Schechtman said he would like to thank everybody for the opportunity to serve for the past two years. Like Ms. Odusanya, when he first took the position, he didn't know what he got himself into. There was great news to announce, and he yielded the floor to Mr. Wolf, who chaired the Faculty Mentorship Awards Committee. Mr. Wolf said he would ask Delegates to post the notice on the Mentorship Awards ceremony and reception on Wednesday, May 10 at the Faculty Club. The Committee met a few times and went through all the packets. From many incredible faculty mentors, they chose three. He wanted to thank all the other grads on the Committee.

Mr. Daal asked how many entries there were. Mr. Wolf said he believed there were eight new candidates and a number of candidates they nominated from last year. They reviewed about 20 packets.

Mr. Schechtman said he would very much encourage the GA to continue this tradition, which started three years ago, to recognize the importance that good mentorship plays in the life of grads. People serving on this Committee were always incredibly inspired by the work of outstanding mentors on campus. They were also looking for someone to hire to compile and codify what they've learned in the last three years and disseminate it for the campus to learn and copy. Also, the Faculty Mentorship Award was not part of a project and relied on volunteers. So people were needed to take this up next year.

Mr. Schechtman said he would like to thank Mr. Daniels and Ms. Odusanya for incredible work on the RSF Referendum. Results of the vote weren't in yet. They started meeting with the Chancellor's Office in January and had hundreds of hours of negotiations to get it and keep it on the ASUC ballot. It's been an amazing fight. There were also over 10,000 online votes that year in the ASUC election, including a large number of grad students. The GA couldn't have done that without Delegates' work.

Mr. Daal asked if they knew how many grads voted. Mr. Daniels said they didn't yet, but would learn that when the votes were counted, after J-Council suits and appeals.

Mr. Schechtman said it could take a long time to accomplish things on the campus. Over a year ago the GA voted in favor of a living wage based on a report done by grads in the Sociology Department, "Berkeley's Betrayal." The President and Academic Affairs VP meet monthly with the Chancellor, the Provost, the Graduate Dean, and the head of the Academic Senate and advocate positions Delegates have taken. Two weeks ago the Chancellor finally approved a living wage for the lowest paid employees on the campus, a significant victory that came through the support of grads and the Delegate body. It's also indicates the amount of work and pressure on the Administration that was needed for things the GA felt were important. He wanted to thank them very much.

Ms. Odusanya said that Ms. Medina wasn't present and was at a UCSA meeting that weekend.

Report from the Finance Committee Chair -- 2006-7 GA Budget

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Reporting for the Finance Committee, Ms. Tom said she would like to recognize and thank the members of the Finance Committee. A copy of the GA budget for next year up was up for approval that evening and was available at the front.

Mr. Garcia asked for some brief highlights. Ms. Tom said the surplus was gone that the GA enjoyed for the past three to five years. This was a transition year, and instead of eliminating them, projects were asked to run at 75% of their budgets of last year. That was the biggest change in the 2006-7 budget. In addition, money was budgeted to start paying back the ASUC for elections for this and previous years.

Mr. Fairbrother asked if the Finance Committee decided to cut projects 75%, and what the accountability was to determine if that was money well spent. Ms. Tom said the Committee decided on the 25% reduction. It could recommend a cut to projects, but that would be discussed by the Executive Board and possibly by the Delegate body as a whole. Ms. Odusanya said the Projects were in the By-laws, so changes would need to be approved by the GA. Ms. Tom said that as for keeping Projects accountable, they submit a report at least once a year.

Ms. Sahar said she didn't know what the Graduate Women's Project has done that year, and it would be great to have a sense of that to take back to their departments. Ms. Hsueh said they always publicize events that Project Coordinators sponsor. Information was sent to the Departmental Liaison and sent out to Delegates, to post notices.

Ms. Anderson asked about the last Graduate Women's Project event. She forwarded information to her department but it was canceled, with no information, and people sent her e-mails asking about that. Ms. Hsueh said an e-mail was sent out in the morning, and a scheduling conflict occurred. The GA reserved the room, but were told at the last minute that they couldn't use it. The GA didn't have a say. Ms. Anderson said she didn't receive the e-mail. Ms. Hsueh said that was something to follow-up on.

Ms. Odusanya said the bigger issue was policy for 440 Stephens. She's met with Dean Mason to have an agreement on using the space, and they decided it would be used noon to 2:00 and 4:00 to 7:00, Monday through Friday. They'll see how that went, and then make a firm decision. The GA's first request to use the room, for the Faculty Mentorship Award, was declined because it's not accessible to disabled students. So this was an issue for next year.

Mr. Daal asked if they discussed usage before the GA renovated the room. Ms. Odusanya said they did. In the end, it's the Grad Divisions space and it had ultimate say. The two bodies decided to keep track of events that were declined.

Mr. Schechtman said the Executive Board debated the budget, and no longer having a surplus, the GA had to live within its means. That's the reason for the 25% budget cut. The Funding Committee didn't feel comfortable making specific cuts and the Executive Board was unable to come to a conclusion. Also, there have been requests for new projects. For instance, 40% of grads were international, but there was no project for international students. Project Coordinators say the level of cuts was reaching the point where they couldn't be very effective. The Grad Social Club has been saying that for several years. The GA may have reached, with great intent, the point where it was trying to do too much. Decisions need to be made by the Delegate body.

Ms. Hsueh said she had a request to amend the budget, page 4, the Graduate Support Services Project. The Board decided to have the GMSP take on the New Grad Student Orientation, and begin June 1. But

Report from the Finance Committee Chair -- 2006-7 GA Budget

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the stipend did not reflect that start date. The amount would be \$1,080. Ms. Odusanya said the EWOC Coordinator's pay had been budgeted for the entire year, but now the position would start in August, and that extra money would be moved to the GMSP. **THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED WITH NO OBJECTION.**

Ms. Odusanya called for any other questions or comments about the budget. Mr. Daniels asked if the budget was locked in stone if they vote on it. Ms. Odusanya said any amendment have to be brought to the GA next year.

Ms. Odusanya said she would entertain a motion to accept the budget as presented and amended. It was so moved and seconded. **THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2006-7 GRADUATE ASSEMBLY BUDGET, AS AMENDED, PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.**

Reporting for the Funding Committee, Mr. Jimenez said they met on Monday and dealt with Round 8. The report was distributed. He was sure Ms. Zahrt would like to thank everybody for their participation. Ms. Odusanya called for a motion to approve. It was so moved and seconded. **THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FUNDING COMMITTEE REPORT, APPROVING THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ROUND 8 ALLOCATIONS, PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.**

Reporting for the GA's Graduate Council representatives, Mr. Dillon said Clark Kerr came up with an idea for a Master Plan for higher education in the 1960s, with community colleges to grant vocational degrees and transfers; the Cal State System to grant Bachelor degrees; and the UC System granting Bachelors and graduate degrees. The Legislature approved a CSU petition to grant PhDs in Educational Leadership. The Grad Council heard from a representative of Cal's Educational Leadership program who said this was a threat to this and other programs at Cal, since it meant degrees could be granted regardless of quality.

Mr. Daniels said Cal State has developed a great deal of expertise in education and was the main conduit for awarding credentials for public school teachers. Requesting the ability to grant PhDs was seen by

some to be very specific for education, a particular niche, while others looked at it as being a fundamental threat to the balance between the two Systems.

In addition, Mr. Dillon said he sat in on a couple of graduate group reviews, which occur every five years. A panel of faculty and grads try to identify problems and make recommendations for improvements. On a couple of occasions they lacked student representatives, so if people were interested in learning about student groups and departments, and speaking on behalf of grads, they should talk to him. This was a very important process in terms of quality control for the University.

A Delegate asked about the impact of reviews. Mr. Dillon said reports go to the Grad Council and were issued to departments. The Grad Council also had the authority to implement changes in departments. Lastly, Mr. Dillon said a professor in Educational Psychology, Nadine Lambert, was killed in a car accident on April 23. she's spoken on the Grad Council about the priority to keep standards high. A memorial will be held next Tuesday. Ms. Odusanya said that having worked with Ms. Lambert last year, she was a strong advocate for grad students. Mr. Daniels said she would be missed.

Report from the ASUC Representative to the GA

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Reporting as the ASUC representative to the GA, Mr. Besbris said the earliest they'd have election results was in two weeks. The Senate had its last official meeting last night and passed its budget for next year. He wanted to say it's been a real pleasure attending GA meetings, and not just because he got a free meal. He wanted to thank them for having him every month. Ms. Odusanya said she would like to thank him. (Applause)

Mr. Haynes asked why it took so long to get election results. Mr. Besbris said the Constitution allows for a week after the election for people to file J-Council suits about campaign violations. The J-Council then hears the cases, after which time is given for people to appeal.

Ms. Tom asked if there's been any analysis of how online voting went for the first time. Mr. Besbris he didn't know of any compromises to the system or the data. Voter turnout was higher than usual, and two-thirds of all votes were cast online. In his opinion, the system worked. Ms. Hsueh said she talked to the IT manager, who didn't see any discrepancies or coercion to vote in a certain way.

Mr. Besbris said the new Dean of Students, Mr. Poullard, spoke to the Senate last night. He was very charismatic and nice, but Mr. Besbris said that in his personal opinion, in terms of the Student Code of Conduct, students should definitely keep their eye on him. The Dean of Students had a lot of power in terms of what students could do.

For the report from GA's representatives on the ASUC Auxiliary Store Operations Board, Ms. Odusanya said she sat on the search committee for the new Auxiliary Director. Interviews will be held next week. People should feel free to ask any questions about the process. After a nationwide search, they'll interview seven candidates.

Mr. Schechtman said the addition of the Gelateria Naia, which people were enjoying that evening, has been a major funding increase to the Auxiliary. He would ask Delegates to please encourage student groups to use that space. The revenue predicted for this new business has not yet been met, but they hope

it will take off. The space could be used for student group meetings and even performances, since there's a small stage there. Also, the ASUC has owned a ski lodge since the 1920s, the Cal Lodge, by Lake Tahoe, and it was in need of a caretaker. An older couple had been doing that, and living there, but the death of one meant there was no one doing that. It costs the ASUC several thousand dollars a month to keep it insured, heated, etc., and they need to find someone quickly. The caretaker basically leases the Lodge from the ASUC and rents it out, keeping profits from bookings. The facility was available to anyone, not just students.

Ms. Odusanya said that before they adjourn, she really wanted to thank the Departmental Liaison, Mr. Fisher, who has been really dedicated. (Applause)

Ms. Odusanya said she would entertain a motion to accept the reports as presented. It was so moved and seconded and passed with no objection.

Ms. Odusanya said she would entertain a motion to adjourn. It was so moved and seconded and passed with no objection. This meeting, concluding the Spring Semester, adjourned at 7:40 p.m. (Applause)

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

Attendance at the GA Meeting

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Present at the May 4, 2006 GA Meeting

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Abbaszadeh, Sahar	Architecture	Hsueh, Susan	GA Manager
Ahrendt, Rebekah	Music	Huff, Eric	Astronomy
Allen, Ben	Law	Jimenez, Javier	Comp Lit
Anderson, Meghan	Math	Jones, Becca	MSE
Arons, Sam	Energy & Resources Group	Litwak, Steve	GA Transcriber
Begtrup, Gavi	Physics	Murphy, Melissa	Social Welfare
Botello, Elizabeth	Journalism	Odusanya, Lola	GA President
Cementwala, Mariyam	Law	Ortega, Alberto	Public Health
Chakrabarti, Monami	Law	Panaretos, Victor	Statistics
Cobb, Corie	Mech Eng	Purdy, David	Stats
Cohon, Adam	Political Science	Rajan, Nishanth	Haas Ph.D.
Crosby, Joy	Performance Studies	Salas, Luis	Art Hist
Daal, Miguel	Physics	Schechtman, Rob	GA Acad Aff VP
Elnaggar, Mariam	Publications Committee Chair	Stagi, Jay	DCRP
Fairbrother, Malcolm	Sociology	Stalcup, Meg	Anthro
Fisher, Josh	GA Dept Liaison	Strange, Jason	Geography
Freedman, Danna	Chemistry	Tom, Sarah	Demography
Garcia, David	Chemistry	Trahey, Lynn	Chemistry
Harley, Gabriel	MSE	Tran, Richard	Rhetoric
Haubenreich, Jacon	German	Troyani, Sara	Italian Studies
Haynes, Erin	Linguistics	VanderSal, Nicole	ESPM
		Wolf, Jeff	Philosophy

Resolution In Support of Extending Graduate Student Qualification for the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) (As amended at the GA meeting)

Whereas, the University Health (SHIP) plan currently allows graduate students to maintain their University health insurance for only two semesters while not registered; and

Whereas, previous to changes in the University Health plan in January of 2005 graduate students could opt-in and pay to qualify for University health insurance, while not registered but in good standing, until completion of degree; and

Whereas, the current insurance policy disproportionately impacts graduate students in departments where extended fieldwork is requisite or who do not have their University fees covered through University positions or funding sources; and

Whereas, the combination of field research and dissertation work in a number of graduate departments tends to exceed two semesters; and

Resolutions as amended at the GA meeting (cont'd)

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Resolution In Support of Extending Graduate Student Qualification for the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) (cont'd) (As amended at the GA meeting)

Whereas, the current policy leaves many graduate students without insurance coverage or with the costly option of purchasing non-university insurance after two semesters of not being registered;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Graduate Assembly:

1. Calls on the Administration of the University of California, Berkeley to reinstate the previous provision in the University Health plan allowing graduate students who are not registered, but in good standing, to qualify for SHIP, until completion of degree.
2. To maintain this provision, if adopted, in the future and to consult with the Graduate Assembly if changes are considered.

Resolution Regarding the Denial of Higher Education To Bahá'ís In Iran -- Amended by adding Mr. Allen as a sponsor of the Resolution.

Resolution In Support of the Adoption of the Proposed Campus Environmental Policy (as amended at the GA meeting)

Whereas, the University of California is the leading public educational institution for research and development in the State, and the nation, with a tremendous influence over environmental, economic, and social policies; and

Whereas, in the Talloires Declaration of 1990, University administrators made an official statement of commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education, and articulated the urgency of our environmental problems, such as: local, regional, and global air and water pollution; depletion of the ozone layer and emission of "greenhouse" gases that adversely impact the survival of humans and millions of other living species, the integrity of the earth and its biodiversity, the security of nations, and the health and rights of future generations; and

Whereas, the University's 2020 Long-Range Development Plan states that, "as one of the world's great research universities, the University of California, Berkeley has a special obligation to serve as a model of how creative design can both minimize resource consumption and enhance environmental quality"; and

Whereas, it is the duty of the Chancellor to work with students, staff, faculty and administration within our campus to address the pressing issues facing our community by shaping our environmental, economic, and social policies into a responsible strategy that ensures the well being of current and future generations; and

Whereas, implementation of the proposed environmental policy will create a healthier educational environment; and

Resolutions as amended at the GA meeting (cont'd)

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Resolution In Support of the Adoption of the Proposed Campus Environmental Policy (cont'd) (as amended at the GA meeting)

Whereas, resource conservation helps save valuable resources for future generations and lowers campus operating expenses;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Graduate Assembly strongly supports the adoption of the proposed campus environmental policy.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Graduate Assembly urges the Chancellor to act as the Responsible Executive of the Campus Environmental Policy.

Be It Finally Resolved, that the Graduate Assembly pledges to support the development of an Environmental Management System (EMS) and participate in the implementation of the Campus Environmental Policy.