

GRADUATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

September 20, 2007

SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

This meeting commenced the Fall Semester. It was called to order at 7:13 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to time constraints, no general announcements were heard.

Dan Roth, from the graduate employees Union, UAW 2865 reported that the Union was in the process of contract negotiations for all readers, tutors, and TAs. The contract will expire at the end of September. The Union has proposed policies regarding health care, leaves, improved pay, transparency, and was fighting serious cuts to fee remissions that UC has proposed.

UCOP's Labor Relations Office had a history of preventing fair deals from being negotiated in a timely manner. The Union was holding meetings around campus to inform members and will have a campus-wide membership meeting in a week. If necessary, they'd take some action in response to the University's unresponsive bargaining tactics.

Bené Gatzert was present to talk about University Health Services. UHS could help prevent students from getting ill or injured. It administered the insurance plan most grads had and helps with benefits counseling. The Web site, uhs.berkeley.edu, had lots of content. The UHS wanted feedback, and had three Advisory Committees: Student Health, Health Fee, and Grad Student Mental Health. All have student chairs. They're looking for people to represent grad students.

Last year students had a Reg Fee increase for mental health. UHS was able increase free counseling sessions, from three to six.

INTRODUCTION TO THE GA

The Graduate Assembly was the graduate student government, founded in 1969. The two primary locations on campus for graduate student life was Anthony Hall and the graduate student lounge, 440 Stephen's Hall, locations specifically grads. The GA's mission was to advocate on behalf of, and serve graduate and professional students at Berkeley.

The Delegate Assembly was the crucial component of the GA. All elected officials serve on the Executive Board, which acts in the place of the Delegate body when necessary.

People could submit Resolutions for the GA to consider taking a stance on.

Committees were the core of the GA's work.

Introductions

Introductions were held, including Susan Hsueh, Business Manager; Business Office staff; Chiefs-of-Staff; Natan Tuchman, Funding Advisor; Graduate Council representatives.

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Project Coordinators introduced themselves, including the Graduate Minority Outreach Recruitment and Retention Project; the Graduate Student Parent Project; the Graduate Support Services Project; the Women of Color Initiative; the Graduate Minority Student Project; and the Graduate Women's Project.

There were two requirements to being a Delegate: to attend GA meetings and sit on either a GA, Academic Senate, or campus committee. Committee Chairs introduced themselves: Budget; Campus Affairs; Environmental Sustainability; Funding; Graduate Social Club; International Student Affairs; Rules; Technology; Graduate Student Mental Health;

There were also campus committees dealing with campus-wide issues; Academic Senate committees on which faculty sit; and administrative committees.

Delegates selected committees.

Report from the Representative from the ASUC

Dave Rhoads ASUC representative to the GA, introduced himself. He was in the undergraduate Senate and was elected last April by the student body at-large. The ASUC Senate met weekly, 20 Senators and five Executives. ASUC President Van Nguyen introduced himself.

Resolutions

Resolutions were introduced and referred to committee. The Resolution to Approve Funding Committee Rules and Procedures was referred to the Funding Committee and the Rule Committee. The Resolution was Directed Action Regarding the Academic Calendar of the University of California, Berkeley: Significant Dates of Recognition for Oppressed Populations. Mr. Daniels said this would direct the action of a particular individual, the GA President. The bill was referred to the Campus Affairs Committee.

The GA considered the Resolution to Approve the GA's Action Agenda Items. From five possible items, after discussion, the GA unanimously voted to adopt three Action Agenda Items to guide much of the GA's work that year: access to health resources, reducing the cost of international enrollment, and improving graduate education.

Introduction

Dean of Students Jonathan Poullard was introduced.

Project Coordinator Liaison Election

By unanimous voice-vote, the GA elected Ms. Sasser Project Coordinator Liaison.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

End Summary of the Meeting

This regular meeting of the Graduate Assembly, commencing the Fall Semester, was called to order by Josh Daniels at 5:13 p.m. in the ASUC Senate Chamber. Mr. Daniels said he would like to thank them very much for that Delegate Assembly meeting of the Graduate Assembly. This will be an orientation meeting, so heard experienced GA Delegates to please bear with them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Daniels said they wouldn't hear general announcements that evening due to a very tight schedule.

Mr. Daniels said the first announcement was by Dan Roth, from the graduate employees Union, UAW 2865. Mr. Roth said he would like to thank them for having him there. He was from the Union for readers, tutors, and TAs. He's probably talked to some of them at other orientations. This was a really exciting and important time for the Union and he wanted to let everyone know what was going on. They're coming up on the end of their contract campaign and were in the process of re-negotiating their contract, which dealt with working conditions, pay, and benefits for all readers, tutors, and TAs working at UC.

Mr. Roth said the GA and the Union had a lot in common with, and there were also a few important differences. Both were member-run and both were voices that advocated for people at the University. The big distinction was that the GA was primarily a student organization whereas the Union was the voice on employment issues for readers, tutors, and TAs.

Under labor law, employees had a legal obligation to negotiate with unions over issues that affect their workers. That's what they were doing at that time. The contract will expire at the end of the month. Many Delegates were already members of the Union and have been following what's been happening. For those who were new, the Union made a number of really important and ambitious proposals to the University. Many of them were in line with goals the GA has. The Union has proposed a lot of family-friendly policies in terms of health care, leaves for employees, improving pay, making sure the University didn't make cuts to the fee remission program, where grads work and get their fees paid for. The campus has proposed serious cuts to that. The Union was also working to make sure there was more transparency at the University, such as with hiring.

Mr. Roth said they put all these proposals on the table to the University. They've been negotiating all through the summer. The Union's goal was to wrap up negotiations by the end of this month. But unfortunately, the UC Administration, i.e., the UC Office of the President's Labor Relations Office, was surprisingly anti-union. This did not deal with advisors or departments. The University has a history of doing things that prevent reaching a fair deal on time. During negotiations in 2003, the Union filed 64 unfair labor practices because the University was trying to obstruct them from getting a fair contract. They were working very hard with the University to prevent that. What the Union was doing was to hold various meetings around campus, that Union members will hear about. They're also having their campus-wide membership meeting on Thursday at 12:30 at Anthony Hall to give people an update about where they're at in negotiations, and, if necessary, to take some action in response to the University's unresponsive bargaining tactics.

Mr. Daniels said that unfortunately, Bahar Navab couldn't be there, but Bené Gatzert was present to talk about University Health Services. Ms. Gatzert said that as part of Health Service, she wanted to welcome

Announcements (cont'd)

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them to the start of the year and to remind them that if they got injured or had an illness, UHS was there for them. If people wanted to talk to somebody about academic careers or personal concerns, UHS was there. And if students wanted to prevent getting ill or injured, whether that was taking preventative classes, talking to a health educator, or getting immunizations, UHS was there for them as well.

Ms. Gatzert said she knew insurance was a very important issue to graduate students, and it was UHS that administered the Student Health Insurance Plan that most grads had. The UHS helps with benefits counseling, so students understand how the insurance worked. UHS also provides other insurance services. If students had dependents, if they were going to graduate and needed some coverage after leaving Berkeley but before going to their next position, UHS has identified a lot of resources, include many affordable resources. That was another way students could use the UHS insurance office. Their Web site was listed on the board, uhs.berkeley.edu. There will be tons of content there and grads could get a lot of questions answered. As someone who has been there for every 20 years, as a student and staffmember, if they ever had a hard time navigating and wanted some help, Ms. Gatzert said her number was listed on the board, and they were welcome to call her.

Ms. Gatzert said the other reason she was there that evening was to have students involved in planning what UHS will provide to students, as their clients. UHS has a number of mechanisms for that, including three advisory committees, the Student Health Advisory Committee, the Health Fee Advisory Board, and a Graduate Student Mental Health Advisory Committee. All these have student chairs. And for all of them, the UHS was looking for feedback from students, as consumers, about their experiences. They're looking for people to represent grad students. If they were interested in a range of health care issues, from communication to mental health, the Student Health Advisory Committee was good. If they were particularly interested in the health fee that students pay, how the funds were used, and what kinds of improvements students might want, the Health Fee Advisory Board was a good group to be part of.

The other way they ask for students' feedback is if they have compliments or complaints, or general feedback. The UHS had mechanisms for that, and they take this very seriously. People could send an e-mail, call them, or put something in the suggestion box.

Last year the UHS attended a Delegate meeting to talk about mental health. The Registration Fee had an increase, and part of that went towards staff salaries and part went to mental health. One thing UHS was able to do that semester was to now have an intake plus six counseling sessions for free, which was increased from an intake plus three counseling sessions. So they made an immediate difference with that money, and students' input on how to use that money was very valuable. She wanted to thank them.

INTRODUCTION TO THE GA

Mr. Daniels said there wasn't another place on campus where so many people gathered from so many different departments. This was kind of why he got involved in the Graduate Assembly in the first place. So he wanted to thank them very much for coming. Because of a tweak in the way the schedule worked,

this was the GA's first meeting of the year. A lot of people have spent a lot of work into preparing for the year, and he thought it will be really good.

Mr. Daniels said that before going further, he would like seven volunteers, new people who didn't know anything about the GA. He distributed whistles to the volunteers. The feedback they got last year was

Introduction to the GA (cont'd)

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that they used too many acronyms. So if something was mentioned, a name, an acronym, or a position they didn't know, it was their responsibility, on behalf of everybody else who was new, to blow their whistle for an explanation.

Mr. Daniels said the Graduate Assembly is the graduate student government. They were founded in 1969 to represent the interests of all graduate students. There were two primary locations on campus for graduate student life. One was Anthony Hall, or the Pelican Building, by Barrows, with the big pelican statute in front. People could come in, hang out, study, use the computer, etc. The other location was the graduate student lounge, 440 Stephen's Hall, a beautiful room, with high ceilings and paintings of old white guys. It's open from 9 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m. Grads were welcome to go there to study, relax, take a nap, whatever. Those locations were specific for graduate students of all departments.

Mr. Daniels said the GA's mission was to advocate on behalf of, and serve the graduate and professional students of UC Berkeley. That took many different shapes and forms, to represent, advocate, educate, organize, mobilize, provide funding, offer programs and events, and to meet and interact with all graduate students. The GA was one of the few groups on campus that allows students to meet with all grad students.

Mr. Daniels said the people who were present comprised the Delegate Assembly, the crucial component of the GA's existence. Without their attention, participation, and involvement, the GA couldn't operate, because the GA relied on Delegates to represent graduate students to inform the GA, to hold Officers accountable, raise issues, work with them, etc. The GA couldn't operate without them.

Mr. Daniels said all the elected officials of the GA serve on the GA's Executive Board. In the absence of GA meetings over the summer, or in between GA meetings, if something needed to happen or needed graduate student input, the Executive Board would act in the place of the Delegate body. If there wasn't a time crunch, they were required by their By-laws and Charter to come back to the Delegates and get their input and feedback. In addition, anything the Executive Board decided upon in the GA's behalf between meetings or over the summer had to come back to the Delegates. And if the Delegates didn't like what the Board did, sometimes they could change it, and sometimes not; but they could always kick the Officers out of office.

Mr. Daniels said the next screen showed the organization chart, and that was included in the agenda packet. The top row showed the members of the Executive Board: the President, Campus Affairs VP, External Affairs VP, Project Coordinator Liaison, Budget Officer, Rules Officer, Funding Chair, Tech Chair, International Student Affairs Chair, Environmental Chair, and the Grad Council reps and the alternate. There were Project Coordinators for Graduate Student Services, Graduate Minority Students, Graduate Women, Grad Minority Outreach Recruitment and Retention, the Women of Color Initiative, "The Berkeley Graduate," and the Grad Social Club.

The way the GA operated for the most part was through legislation, called “Resolutions.” There were five types of Resolutions: standing policy, directed action, budget amendment, By-laws amendment, and approving Funding Committee procedures and rules.

If anybody was interested in submitting a Resolution to have the GA take a stance on a particular issue, he would ask them to please try and submit it a week in advance. He’d make exceptions on occasion, but he would ask them to please try. That way they could post the Resolution online before the meeting.

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Ms. Lyles asked how Delegates were chosen. Mr. Daniels said Delegates were chosen by a department. They could be elected, appointed, or begged.

For legislation, the text of a Resolution would be distributed to Delegates and sent to committee for consideration. The Resolution would be re-introduced with the committee’s recommendation and voted upon by the Assembly. The idea was for committees to analyze pieces of, and have an influence on, the legislative process.

As for logistics, normally GA meetings start at 5:30, with food at 5:00, and they meet the first Thursday of every month. That meant their next meeting was in two weeks. Delegates’ presence was vital. If they couldn't attend, he would ask them to please find an alternate to attend in their place. The GA has had some problems with attendance in the past, so if a Delegate missed two meetings they may be removed as a Delegate in a semester. Attendance was based on the feedback form. There's a box to mark for their attendance. If they would like to criticize him or anyone else, they could pick up an extra form and write their comments anonymously. But without filing it out, they wouldn't know a Delegate was there. So they should fill out their name, e-mail address, and department. All meetings were open to the public.

Mr. Daniels said committees were the core of the GA’s work, and that year it was really important that all committee meetings had a quorum and that people participate. That’s what would make the GA function. There are 5 to 15 members per committee. Later they will introduce people on committees and have Delegates pick their committees.

Mr. Daniels said the other student government at Berkeley was the ASUC, which stood for “Associated students UC.”

He also wanted to note that there will be an after party at the Bear's Lair after the meeting.

Last but not least, Mr. Daniels said the GA was a legislative body so they had to go by Robert's Rules.

On a point of order, Ms. Ahrendt asked if it was true that only Delegates were allowed to vote. Mr. Daniels said that was correct.

INTRODUCTIONS

Susan Hsueh introduced herself and said she was the Business Manager of the GA. She said Mr. Daniels didn't introduce himself, and he was President of the GA. Ms. Hsueh said her office was in Anthony Hall.

She was a career staff of UC Berkeley and actually reported directly to the ASUC Auxiliary Director. If people had any questions or concerns, they could send her an e-mail.

Mr. Daniels said the Business Office staff were the people they see when walking into the GA.

Mr. Daniels asked Chiefs-of-Staff to introduced herself. Yenhoa Ching said she was Chief-of-Staff for the Campus Affairs Vice President. They may get e-mails from her to serve on campus-wide committees. Alberto Ortega said he was the External Affairs Chief-of-Staff. Marta Filipski said she took care of

Introductions (cont'd)

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complaints and suggestions and also sent out a newsletter called “The Graduate Source.” Some Delegates may get them from their Student Affairs Officers. If people had any announcements or were part of any group that was putting on something and wanted to advertise, they should send her an e-mail.

Mr. Daniels introduced Natan Tuchman, the Funding Advisor. Mr. Tuchman said he was also full-time staff. He advised the Funding Committee and the Funding Chair and assisted with the budget. If people had problems or suggestions with the funding process administratively, they should feel free to come to him. He would ask them to consider him an advocate for student groups. Mr. Tuchman said he also supervised the business office. People should feel free to contact him.

Mr. Daniels said they would next introduce the GA’s Graduate Council representatives. Mr. Wolgin said the Graduate Council was a committee of the Academic Senate that dealt with all graduate education issues and reviewed programs. They also sit on the Executive Board. Ms. Freedman said they couldn't really share anything from Grad Council meetings because of confidentiality, but they could bring up any issues Delegates would like raised.

Mr. Nicholson said he was the Coordinator of the Graduate Minority Outreach Recruitment and Retention Project. His job was to push or drive, particularly for graduate students, recruitment and retention efforts for underrepresented student groups on campus of various affinities. But he also thought it was to coordinate directly with student groups and with institutional departments within the University, to enhance overall student life. Many of the projects were geared towards students of color, but other underrepresented groups, such as those related to gender or sexuality, were included. At the end of the day, what they're aiming at was harmony in a truly diverse experience for everyone. He thought that would aid people being on this campus. He was always open to any ideas people may have to create an overall harmonious experience. He wanted to help groups with any activities that pertained to recruitment and retention of groups that appeared to be underrepresented there. As far as events taking place, part of what the Project did was to interact with undergraduates, and he tried to work with the undergraduate community, particularly as a recruiting tool for the graduate community. As a result, that will entail developing mentorship relationship and creating avenues for that sort of interaction to take place, to encourage people to consider graduate school as a reality. Mr. Nicholson said he would be at the GA every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon.

For the Graduate Student Parent Project, Katrinell Davis said she was the Researcher for the Project. It's funded by the Grad Division but supervised almost solely by the GA. One goal of the Project was to assist networking and community-building efforts. She’s a representative on the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee for Dependent Care, which worked on improving childcare for faculty and grads. She also helped with existing student groups with whatever they need to build community and network. They just had a picnic and had food and toys for kids. The second goal of the Project was to research the needs of

the population. She's creating surveys for grad parents and graduate assistants, who should know something about what grad parents were going through. She was also surveying family resource centers among members of the Association of American Universities, to figure out what everyone else was doing. The third goal of the Project was to publish the information that was received and make it available. A Web site has been created and a report will be issued analyzing survey findings. A database of potential summer childcare arrangements will also be made available. Graduate student parents represent 10% of the population. She looked forward to working for the GA that year.

For the Graduate Support Services Project, Jade Sasser said she held this position last year, but no longer. She would encourage people to apply for this position. The Project provided support, information, and

Introductions (cont'd)

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resources on a variety of issues that anyone could encounter. The Project came out of a study that found that grad students experience a number of mental health issues, mainly around stress, isolation, and depression. So every year, workshops are offered that deal with those specific issues, as well as time management, stress reduction, preparing for oral qualifying exams, on writing a dissertation, and on how to manage money. They also held a series of workshops on how to apply for extramural scholarships, on managing finances, and about preparing a tax return. The biggest event of the year for this project was the New Grad Student Orientation, held in August. Some of them may have attended. There was a committee for this orientation, so if anyone wanted to plan for next year, or if they had feedback about this year's Orientation, or just wanted to influence next year's orientation, she would encourage them to sign up.

Jen Zahrt said she was the GA Historian, a brand new position in the GA. The position came out of wanting to make a document that Delegates could understand more the details around the GA. So that semester, she'll start this Project, starting with the emergence of the GA and a pre-history, of how Anthony Hall came into being. If people had questions they would like her to look into, she would ask them to please send her an e-mail. This will not be a finished history, and when her position ends, she'll give out pointers for the next Historian.

Reporting as the Web IT, Angel Kittiyachavilit, introduced herself and said she did desktop support at the GA. Hua Chen introduced herself and said she was the Web content advisor and makes sure the Web site was up to date with events, information, forms, and content. If people had questions, comments, or feedback, she would ask them to please send him an e-mail.

Mr. Daniels asked Business Office staff to stand up. Elisa Estrera introduced herself and Washington was the Funding Manager and worked closely with the Funding Advisor. Diana Chandara introduced herself and said she was the Assistant. Jade Sasser above introduced herself and said she was Project Coordinator Liaison. She helps with communication back and forth with the Executive Board and the Project Coordinators, providing oversight, information, resources and support, and reports to the GA. Ms. El Naggar introduced herself and said she ran "The Berkeley Graduate." There were plenty of copies of the summer issue at the GA. They're looking for staff, so if anybody would like to be a reporter or would like to send one to their department, the deadline was next weekend.

Regarding the Women of Color Initiative, Ms. Sasser said the Coordinator was out of town, Valerie Rivas. This supports the Graduate Women's Project to make sure programming around women's issues on campus was inclusive of a diverse array of experiences, perspectives, and issues. The landmark event for this Project every year was the Empowering Women of Color Conference in March. It's a wonderful

event with about 200 people from the outside community and on campus. This didn't have a committee, but if people were interested they should send an e-mail.

Mr. Daniels said now they were on differently important people. They held the introduction to show how widespread the GA was and that they do a lot of different things. Delegates were welcome to get involved and maybe take on these positions when people move on.

Mr. Daniels said that other than coming to meetings, the other requirement to being a Delegate was to sit on a committee. That was crucial to the operation of the GA. They could not function if their committees don't function. At that time they'll introduce all the committees that Delegates could potentially be on. After that, they'll do a fun committee assignment activity.

Introductions (cont'd)

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Meghan Anderson introduced herself and said she was the Budget Committee Chair. They oversee how the budget was implemented. Sometimes budgets have to be moved around, and the Committee does that. It also puts together the budget for next year. If they were interested in where student fee money goes and want a say in the budget, and if they were on the Budget Committee last year and promised to help her if she took the job, she would ask them to please sign up for this Committee. The first meeting is Monday September 24, from 5:00 to 6:00. that wasn't their regular meeting time. It meets once a month.

Miguel Daal introduced himself and said he was Campus Affairs Vice President, responsible for all things campus-affairs related. That would include the UCPD, graduate student health, student families, and diversity. The Campus Affairs Committee does things like set up things like working groups, serve as links to administrators, and work on issues brought forth from graduate students. One issue he got recently was a post-doc still working on their thesis moved away and lost access to the server and couldn't continue their thesis research. If people were interested, they should join the Campus Affairs Committee.

Mr. Daniels said the times listed were just the first meeting, when people will schedule a permanent time. Food will be available at all committee meetings.

Kate Jenkins introduced herself and said the Environmental Sustainability Committee. Last year's project was basically The Green Initiative Fund, a student referendum that got passed, raising a couple of hundred thousand dollars for green projects on campus. They're trying to get recycle bins and perhaps challenge the dissertation policy, so three or four copies didn't have to be printed out, single-sided, and instead, have electronic copies. The first committee meeting is Monday, September 24, from 7:00 to 8:00.

Triffid Able introduced herself and said she was the External Affairs Vice President, and was on the External Affairs Committee. She dealt with non-campus affairs and works with the UC Student Association. They'll work on the same projects as the UCSA, which includes registering to vote lobbying in Sacramento, working on fees. People go to Regents meetings if they'd like. The first meeting will be Monday, September 24, from 6:00 to 7:00.

Vince Law introduced himself and said he was the Chair of the Funding Committee. The Budget Committee allocates a certain morning to the Funding Committee, which allocates those funds to student groups. People on this Committee look at applications and determine where the allocations go for particular events and grants. Their first meeting will be Wednesday, September 26, 6:30 to 9:30. He hoped it didn't go three hours and he'd try to make the meetings as short as possible.

Dawn Williams introduced herself and said she was the Chair of the Graduate Minority Student Project Coordinator, said she works with the Grad Division in planning projects that help and represent students of color. One of them was the brown bag lunch series they're planning with the Grad Division. People will get e-mails about that. People will bring their lunch and hear a guest lecturer. They had a New Graduate Student Orientation, a Bridging the Gap Conference, with people from outside the community coming to bridge the gap and encourage people to come to UC Berkeley. They also have a "Lecturers of Color" Series that's held in the spring. They also have to rewrite the handbook, "Diversity In Excellence."

Bethany Lyles introduced herself and said she was the Chair of the Graduate Social Club, along with Zoe Harris. They throw parties for grads. It's an opportunity for grads from all different department to come

Introductions (cont'd)

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together and socialize, network, de-stress. People might have attended the "Back to School" Social, with pizza and beer at Pauley Ballroom. They have a party coming up in October 23, Tuesday, from 7:00 to 10:00 at the Alumni House. They'll have 15 kegs and it will be catered by Top Dog. These things are fun. They get over 500 students and at each party they have live bands. It's a fun Committee to be on, and they meet at a bar.

Carmen Mitchell introduced herself and said she was the Graduate Women's Project Coordinator. She tries to organize different projects and events for graduate women on campus. One thing she was working on was their exciting wine and cheese mixer next Thursday, September 27, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. They'll try to feature California wines and they also want to cater this. It will be at the GA and was free, and everyone was invited. She was also sponsoring and trying to organize two self-defense workshops, in early October. Given the recent events on campus, a lot of women have been asking about self-defense workshops. Unfortunately, at UC Berkeley, all self-defense instruction was outsourced to different organizations. The RSF doesn't offer any self-defense workshops. So she'll try to work to get the RSF to feature regularly scheduled self-defense workshops. If people were interested, the Graduate Women's Caucus brings together graduate women from a variety of disciplines to discuss issues of concern for graduate women. If people were interested a particular speaker, or a featured brown bag lunch or event, such as a dance workshop, or others, they should get in contact with her. She wanted to have a Committee meeting in October.

Reporting for the International Student Affairs Committee, Emine Fisek introduced herself and said she was the Co-Chair of the International Student Affairs Committee, along with Ahmed El Antably, taking over from Mr. Stavrinides, whose shoes will be hard to fill. They improve conditions for international grad students. They monitor University policy regarding non-resident tuition, health care issues for dependents, access to the Library and RSF, extending academic resources to include classes for people who don't speak English as their first language. People mean have to be an international student, and they have a very diverse group and people who were no longer members of the GA. The Committee works on a lot of issues that affect all graduate students.

Nish Rajan introduced himself and said he chaired the Rules Committee. It maintains the Charter and By-laws of the GA. They'll improve the efficiency of the GA. They would like to hear opinions on how they think the GA could be better. If people were interested in how the GA interacts with different entities on campus, this would be their Committee. They just redid the By-laws and there were lots of details

they need to iron out, and there were a lot of things people could do on this Committee. Their first meeting will be Monday, September 24, from 6:00 to 7 p.m.

A speaker said that Karl Chen, Chair of the Technology Committee, was at a conference. This Committee deals with anything that was technology related. E.g., the GA just started a new Web site that will be up in about a month. They want to make the site better, so one job of the Committee will be to make sure the Web site reflected grad student needs, such as with resources available, funding information, and announcements. The Tech Committee could also address the recent policy around illegal downloading. There were a number of ways students could get caught using the UC Berkeley server to download music illegally. From a reliable source, he heard that the way companies would probably go after students was to not to go after an undergraduate who go crying to mommy and daddy, but to go after a graduate student with 3,000 videos on a Web site that people were downloading. They'd make a grad student the example in order to deter other students. So the Committee could focus on the GA and the on the campus at-large.

Committee Selection

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COMMITTEE SELECTION

A speaker asked if non-Delegates could be on committees. Mr. Daniels said they could, as could alternates.

Ms. Ching said the committees that were just introduced were GA committees. There were also campus committees that deal with campus-wide issues, Academic Senate committees on which faculty sit. There were also administrative committees. There were almost 100 committees, some of which were really important. They want to make sure grad student voices were represented on them.

Mr. Daal said examples of some of these committees were Academic Freedom, Allocation of Resources, the Library, the RSF, and various health advisory committees. If people were interested in larger campus issues they should talk to Ms. Ching. Ms. Ching said this information was on the GA Web site, under "Student government" and "campus committees."

Ms. Adler said she was a member of the Graduate Student Mental Health Committee that was made up of administrators and people from Counseling and Psychological Services. They were very interested in getting a broader scope of members. The first meeting will be Monday at 2:00. The Committee tells CPS feedback on how grads were doing and what services they'd like.

A Delegate asked if Alternates had to be on a committee. Mr. Daniels said Delegates had to be on a committee, and Alternates and at-large students could also sit on committees. Sitting on a campus committee satisfied the committee requirement.

Ms. Filipski said committee selection will be fun. Each Committee Chair had a clipboard with the name of their Committee. Delegates should match up with the committee they were interested in. They also had a fun activity after they formed groups. Mr. Daniels said they'd have prizes, real prizes and beer prizes.

A Delegate asked about getting involved with someone and what they were working on if that person didn't have a committee. Mr. Daniels said she should talk to him afterwards.

[Delegates selected committees.]

[Committees engaged in a cheering/motto contest.]

Report from ASUC Representatives

Dave Rhoads introduced himself and said he was an ASUC Senator and a representative of the ASUC to the GA. He's an undergraduate and was elected last April by the student body at-large. The ASUC Senate meets in this room weekly. There are 20 Senators and five Executives, and they work with the GA. The GA was essentially part of the ASUC. He was sure Mr. Daniels would go over what that meant. Mr. Rhoads said he was there to tell the ASUC what the GA was doing and to also tell grad students what the ASUC was doing. Another ASUC rep to the GA, Ms. Duong, had to leave early. Graduate students were eligible to vote in ASUC elections, which are held in April, and the ASUC represented grads as well.

Reports from ASUC Representatives (cont'd)

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Mr. Daniels said this was a little issue of contention. Officially, the ASUC was the government for all students, including grads and professional students. In practice recently, the ASUC was all undergrad, and the GA was all grads. However, because the GA was technically part of the ASUC, they were still subject to the ASUC Judicial Council, the equivalent of the Supreme Court, which had judicial jurisdiction over GA actions. The GA was guaranteed three of the nine spots on that Council. If people were interested they should let him know. They didn't have to be a Law student, and in fact, one grad member of the J-Council, Sikina Jinnah, was from Environmental Science Policy and Management. The J-Council was a low time commitment, and the only time the Judicial Council tended to meet, a lot, was the beginning of April, during campus-wide elections. One thing the J-Council could do was handle challenges to student fee referenda that students vote on. If people were interested, he would ask them to please check that on the feedback form.

Mr. Daniels said he would like to introduce Van Nguyen. Mr. Nguyen introduced himself and said he was a fourth-year and was the ASUC President for that academic year. He's an Ethnic Studies and International Political Economy major. He noted that Mr. Daniels attends Senate meetings. Mr. Nguyen said he was there to be a resource to grads and to be an effective liaison to the ASUC. One thing they'll try to focus on was to move forward on Lower Sproul redevelopment and getting a multicultural center on the campus. If that was of interest to anybody, he would ask them to please talk to him or Mr. Daniels.

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Daniels said Resolutions would be introduced and referred to the appropriate committee.

Mr. Law said he introduced the Resolution to Approve Funding Committee Rules and Procedures to establish rules and guidelines for the Committee.

Mr. Rajan asked if the procedures could be changed over the course of the year. Mr. Law said that would require a Resolution, and another bill could be submitted.

Mr. Daniels said the bill would be referred to the Funding Committee and the Rules Committee. The Resolution Regarding the Academic Calendar of the University of California, Berkeley: Significant Dates of Recognition for Oppressed Populations, was referred to the Campus Affairs Committee.

Mr. Rajan asked if the GMSP could also be involved. Mr. Daniels said they could talk about that.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GA'S ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

WHEREAS, Section 6.4 of the By-laws of the Graduate Assembly require the Executive Board to "author a Standing Policy that lists more than three action agenda items that shall guide the Graduate Assembly for the academic year in which it is passed"; and

WHEREAS, at its August 30, 2007 meeting, the Executive Board decided upon the following five potential action agenda items (in alphabetical order) to present to the Delegate Assembly:

- access to health resources,

Resolution to Approve the GA's Action Agenda Items

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RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GA'S ACTION AGENDA ITEMS (cont'd)

- improving the situation on campus for graduate students with families,
- increasing faculty diversity,
- reducing the cost of international student enrollment, and
- Teaching Excellence at California's Highest University System (TEACH US); and

WHEREAS, the primary justifications for working on each of these items has been explained to the Delegate Assembly; and

WHEREAS the Delegate Assembly has narrowed down the list to three items via a vote by the Delegate Assembly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Graduate Assembly adopts the following three issues as its action agenda for the 2007-08 academic year:

Mr. Daniels said the Action Agenda Items will guide a lot of what the GA did this year. Last year the Executive Board chose three items and the Delegates gave an up-or-down vote on adopting them. This year they had five items, from which they'd choose three. Each one will be explained. People could ask questions and then they'd have a vote.

For "access to health resources," Ms. Filipski this item would have them work on health care in general. This was a great year to work with University Health Services, which was in the midst of making plans for the next five years. This could get grads more resources and help shape their health insurance package. As the GA heard from Ms. Gatzert earlier that evening, people can now have six free visits to the Tang Center for mental health resources instead of three. Grads also brought to the attention of UHS that its complaint system wasn't very good, and so Health Services was working towards changing that. The UHS was also just starting to implement electronic health records, and a lot of new technology. So this

was a great time for the GA to give input and really influence what access and availability they will have to technologies coming into play.

For “Improving the situation on campus for grad students with families,” Mr. Daal said that he recently learned that more than 10% of the grad student population had dependants or spouses, i.e. were “student families.” This population frequently falls off the radar at the University. Housing options were very narrow for this population, which included dependents. There were also international students whose spouses couldn't work. The goal of this Action Agenda Item would be to help the University recognize and accommodate for this population.

For “Increasing faculty diversity,” Mr. Daal said this Action Agenda Item would also help understand the connection to scholarship at UC that diversity had. The reason to take this up was because there was momentum for this at that time. A new Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion was coming into office that semester and the Chancellor and the Dean have already indicated that they were very receptive to proposals on this issue. Diversity issues were becoming increasingly important in the departments’ external review process, which all departments undergo every several years. Despite substantial efforts from the University, faculty still did not reflect the population in California. This was an issue this Item would work to remedy. It had a consequence on grad student affairs and grad recruitment and retention. They

Resolution to Approve the GA’s Action Agenda Items (cont'd)

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could work on increasing grad and undergrad student participation on faculty search committees throughout the University. They could also collect and analyze faculty diversity information from various departments, and consider, e.g., the affects of diversity on the student population.

For “Reducing the cost of international student enrollment,” Mr. Wolgin said that for everybody not a California resident, they had to pay non-resident tuition, around \$17,000 a year. After their first year, US citizens can achieve California residency and didn't have to pay that. But non-US citizen continue to pay that fee. This has been a big issue on campus in trying to recruit students from around the globe. And this affected everybody since they want to be able to get the best students and make sure departments have enough money to pay stipends, and didn't have to pay non-resident tuition. This year especially it would be great to push this and make sure the University and Regents knew this needed to be changed. Ms. Fisek said international students with student visas can't work off campus. Also, there were very few interest groups that talk about these issues.

For “Teaching Excellence At California’s Highest University System (TEACH US),” Mr. Rheume said that when Chancellor Birgeneau addressed the GA about six months ago, when he asked the Chancellor what could be done to improve the teaching of a tenured faculty member, the question received a minor round of applause. He thought grads recognize that teaching, in many ways, could be improved on campus. They all have made it to one of the nation’s top universities, but if their experience was anything like his, about six weeks after he got here, he was wondering if he made a terrible mistake. There were many ways to achieve the goal of improving teaching. They could put course evaluations online, and the ASUC has taken steps in that direction. Another idea was a “Student Bill of Right,” something that Mr. Rajan’s undergraduate school had. To get any improvement in teaching, the long-term goal was to tie advancement and tenure to teaching performance. If people thought teaching could be improved or thought it was in dire need of improvement, he would ask them to vote for this item.

Mr. Daniels said they take any questions at that time. A Delegate asked if “mentoring” could be included in the teaching item. Mr. Rheume said he thought that was an excellent suggestion.

Ms. Parrish asked what the actual item would be for international students. Mr. Stavrinides said most fees were actually paid by departments. Mr. Wolgin said they could have Resolutions and suggestions to UC and the UCSA. A Delegate said that one main item in contract negotiations that was on the table was to get non-resident tuition remitted if a student worked as a reader or GSI. They might actually get that in the contract.

Mr. Orkeso asked where the money would come from, and how many international students there were. A Delegate said there were 2,000. Mr. Orkeso asked where the money would come from. A Delegate said some departments already do this and put the money in for these students. But at the same time they want to avoid bringing in students and not funding them. Mr. Wolgin said it hurts departments to pay these remissions.

Mr. Stanley said he had a general question about the GA, and asked what the GA's primary sources of influence were on campus. Mr. Daniels said they're influential with the Administration by the power of persuasion, or picketing. The Union had significantly more power than the GA when it came to getting things for GSIs and other employees. It varied.

Ms. Anderson said that for international students, one really important point was that this issue had a lot of momentum and was coming to a head at the University. It's something the faculty want. As for the

Resolution to Approve the GA's Action Agenda Items (cont'd)

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money to pay for it, the amount wasn't as large as they might think because money came back to the University, which contorted its own funds to make non-resident tuition lower. This was the year it really looked like they could make something happen. The specifics of the plan may not be in grads' power, but having grads behind it could help.

A Delegate said a number of international students were funded by their countries, so there may be a loss of revenue involved.

A Delegate said she felt all five items were very important. She asked if they could combine "TEACH US" and "faculty diversity," and also combine "health" and "grad student families." Mr. Daniels said that from past experience, the more they lump things together, the less will get done. Engaging in this process wasn't saying some things were less important than others, but that these were three things the GA really wanted to work on that year. The other two will get worked on significantly.

A Delegate asked why, if one wasn't a student of color, or female, or disabled, they would care about faculty diversity. Mr. Daal said that was an interesting question, and one he's asked himself. There were a variety answers that may or may not resonate with people. They improve scholarship by increasing the diversity of their faculty. And it seemed to bring in a more diverse student body. Using an analogy from nature, great diversity provided for a population that was strong, thrived, and grew, and could respond to changes in its environment. It seemed like it would make a university more competitive.

Ms. Freedman said what realistically they'd be able to do in any way, shape, or form, to improve faculty diversity. Mr. Daal that's what they'd have to determine. Two achievable milestones were to improve student input on faculty search committees and to change the way lists of faculty candidates were handled by the Provost in deciding who to employ. Currently, candidates were ranked, and it's been suggested that the diversity of candidates would improve if they weren't ranked. Grads could also collect and ana-

lyze information from various departments on the impact faculty diversity had. He believed the GA could make headway in those areas.

Ms. Freedman asked if “improving the situation for grads with families” included anyone who was married, not just those with children. Married couples potentially had two incomes, but children had to be cared for. Mr. Daal said it was being sensitive to people who were married and had dependents. Ms. Freedman asked about the 10% number that was referred to previously. Mr. Begtrup said he believed the 10% referred to grads who were parents.

Ms. Parrish asked about the point of health resources. Ms. Filipski said they could have an impact on the Strategic Plan for University Health Services, what it will do for the next five years. That included health services and electronic records. The GA had a strong connection with them so some things have already started.

Mr. Purdy asked if an item on student families would take on things suggested by Dean Mary Ann Mason last year that affect time to completion. Mr. Daal said the item would include that.

Mr. Orkeso said they compete with top universities for faculty, and increasing the focus on teaching and improvement would inevitably make the school less competitive. Mr. Rheume said it was a long-term goal to tie advancement and promotion to tenure cases. It wasn't realistic in the near term, but there were things they could do. For example, he'd like to see online evaluations more widespread.

Resolution to Approve the GA's Action Agenda Items (cont'd)

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Mr. Stavrinides said the income generated by non-resident tuition, about \$1.5 million, was minor compared to the University's annual budget. A student who wrote a grant proposal could bring in \$300,000 during the course of their studies. Tuition was paid for by departments, so non-resident students were impaired. Only a small proportion of international students come here with scholarships that cover non-resident tuition and other fees. Non-resident tuition hurts departments and the hurts e University, making it harder to attract talented students from abroad in disciplines that domestic students don't seem to be very interested in. In the long-term, this change would benefit the University in terms of talent and the revenue that was brought in. That's what professors see, and that's why the UC-wide Academic Senate last year said the University should eliminate non-resident tuition.

Mr. Begtrup said someone talked about the impact the GA could have, and that could happen in two ways. The President and Vice Presidents could go to the Chancellor and administrators, and Regents and State legislators. Could be lobbied. Both ways really did have an impact. For non-resident tuition, that's actually something people have been working on, without GA support. Last year they tried to get the UCSA to push it and couldn't. If it had more support in the GA, they could get more money from the Legislature.

Ms. Anderson said the first two items, health resources and student families, were Action Agenda Items last year, and were projects they have ongoing. She would like to pitch for those two and the item on international students. She thought the GA could do big things if they continue with these items. The issue of non-resident tuition was coming up in a lot of places and needed the GA's support. The other two she thought were harder for the GA to have an effect on.

Mr. Daniels said they would vote on the Action Agenda Items the GA would adopt. If they were an undergrad, not a student, or were paid by the GA, they could not vote.

After votes were taken, Mr. Daniels said the three Action Agenda Items were access to health resources, reducing the cost of international enrollment, and TEACH US. Someone needed to amend the Resolution to include the three items. It was so moved and seconded.

Ms. Parrish moved to include the item on grad student families to the health resources item. She thought they were very close. Mr. Daniels said the vote would be to add "..., including resources for graduate student families." The motion to amend failed by voice-vote.

Hearing no other objection or debate, Mr. Daniels said they would vote on the amendment, to include the three Action Agenda Items. The Resolved Clause would read as follows:

"Resolved, that the Graduate Assembly adopts the following three issues as its Action Agenda for the 2007-08 academic year:

- Access to health resources
- Reducing the cost of international student enrollment
- Teaching excellence at California's highest university system (TEACH US)

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GA'S ACTION AGENDA ITEMS, AS AMENDED, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE-VOTE.

Project Coordinator Liaison Election (cont'd)

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Mr. Daniels said he would like to introduce Dean Jonathan Poullard. His position used to be "Dean of Undergrads," although it was now "Dean of Students," including graduate students. Dean Poullard wanted to introduced himself and welcome them to the new academic year. (Applause)

PROJECT COORDINATOR LIAISON ELECTION

Mr. Daniels asked if anybody else besides Ms. Sasser would like to run for the position. He asked her to leave the room for a discussion off the record and a vote. THE MOTION TO APPROVE JADE SASSER AS PROJECT COORDINATOR LIAISON PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE-VOTE. Mr. Daniels said he would like to congratulate her. (Applause)

Mr. Daniels said he would like to thank them for coming and for staying for so long. He would ask them to please turn in their feedback form. Also, they need volunteers to help with the next meeting. There was a box on the form to check if they could help set up. Their next meeting will be in two weeks. If people had any questions, he would ask them to please send him an e-mail. If they wanted to help clean up that evening and earn a free pitcher of beer, he would ask them to please do so.

This meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

These minutes respectfully submitted by,

Steven I. Litwak
Recording Secretary