

GRADUATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

September 10, 2009

SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

This meeting commenced the Fall Semester. It was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement by UCPD Chief of Police Mitch Celaya

Mr. Celaya, the new Chief of the UCPD, introduced himself. While he's only been Chief since August 1, he's been on campus for 27 years.

Things for students on campus seemed to be directed more towards undergraduates. He wanted to change that and get more involvement from grads, input on how they could do a better job, for what did and didn't work.

The campus required the UCPD to take a 19% budget cut, resulting in the loss of seven officer positions, from an officer staff of about 52, not including sergeants, lieutenants, and captains. But that shouldn't significantly impact public safety on campus. Staff are deployed to ensure adequate staffing, particularly on the Southside.

Year-to-date there's been a 46% decrease in violent crime. Doing educational outreach and engaging their students about safety has had a significant effect.

His priorities were to engage students, groups, faculty, and staff, to partner and collaborate so their programs and services were more effective.

The walk service, BearWALK, will continue. The average wait time was 10-15 minutes. Planning for their departure helped.

Announcement by Claudia Covello, Director of the Tang Center on Changes to Health Service Fees

The Tang Center was still a comprehensive health service available for medical, counseling, and public health, open six days a week. Graduate students highly utilize Tang.

University Health Services had a budget cut of 23%, \$2 million. They reduced 20 positions through retirement and turnover. They've also improved efficiencies and consolidated areas. They also increased fees and added co-pays for visits to urgent care and primary care \$15, and \$30 respectively. The average grad student utilizes medical services 2.2 times per years, so these increases will impact them.

Mental health is a huge priority. Counselors encourage students to have up to ten visits on campus. The first five are free.

They created a “Nurse Greeter” position by Urgent Care to direct students. SHIP is the same. Benefits increased for pharmacy, physical and therapy. Vision benefits and benefits for transgender students were added.

Without the new fees, they would have had to shut down the Saturday clinic and other clinics.

They value being responsive and getting feedback from students. The Counseling Center has a Graduate Student Mental Health Committee people can be a part of. It assesses mental health issues on campus and advises the Counseling Center.

ASUC Announcement

Viola Tang, ASUC Senate representative to the GA, introduced herself.

The MOU between the ASUC and the GA states that the ASUC speaks for common interests of the student body as a whole and the GA speaks for the specific interests of graduate and professional students.

The ASUC Senate has 20 members and meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Senate Chamber.

Announcement on the 2010 Census

Joe Lee, a census organizer at UCB, said the 2010 census was coming up. In the 2000 census, Berkeley had a huge undercount because of the hard-to-count population, which includes students. The census determines where general funds are allocated.

Announcement by the Graduate Student Organizing Committee

Annie McClanahan, English Department, Over 800 have signed a letter supporting a walkout on September 24 to protest budget cuts to UC and the undermining of the principle of shared governance and giving emergency authority to the UC President. She asked the GA to fast track a Resolution endorsing the GSOC’s statement.

Funding Workshops

Natan Tuchman, GA Funding Advisor, said funding workshops will be held on Friday at 11:00 a.m. and Monday at 1 p.m.

Chief-of-Staff Position Opening

A Chief-of-Staff at the GA was open, paying about \$700 a month.

INTRODUCTION TO THE GA

GA History

Ms. Diekmann, Environmental Science Policy and Management, and *The Berkeley Graduate* Coordinator, gave an overview of the GA’s history. UC Berkeley opened in 1869. The first Ph.D. was

awarded in 1885. In 1887 students organized to authorize and oversee student groups. The name was shortened to "ASUC" in 1889.

In 1949 graduate students were allowed to vote to be represented. In 1969 a separate Graduate Assembly was created. In 1975 the GA formed its first projects, which continue to this day. In 1977 the GA moved into its current location, Anthony Hall. In the 30-plus years the GA has been around, it's taken on a lot of issues on a lot of different levels, on campus, at the UC System, at the State level, nationally, and internationally.

Purpose

The GA specialized in advocacy, funding, and community.

GA Structure

The GA has a Delegate body, elected reps, including the President, the VP for Campus Affairs, and the VP for External Affairs, and people who chair committees. The GA has a Business Office that was part of the fiscal agent of student government, the ASUC Auxiliary.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS AND SUMMER REPORTS

Almost all GA Officers have a committee. Delegates were required to be on at least one committee.

The Budget Committee budget works on the GA's budget, with income of about \$460,000. The GA spends about \$530,000 per year, with the difference made up by reserves, of about \$300,000. The Budget Committee will try and have income closer to outgo and will consider ways to invest reserves.

The Campus Affairs Committee deals with anything that was campus related, such as health care, public teaching evaluations, housing, dependent care, international student life, transportation, biking, and grad student support.

The Environmental Sustainability Committee last year got \$80,000 appropriated to construct bicycle parking. They have \$10,000 to get Anthony Hall LEED certified.

The Funding Committee reviews funding applications submitted by student groups. There were four main categories: events, resources, grants, and the travel award. They have about \$130,000 to give out.

The External Affairs Committee talks with Berkeley City Council members and local legislators, works with UC Student Association, and works on the national level, on defining taxable income for grads, tax exempt stipends, and funding for grads.

The Grad Social Club puts on two or three parties in the fall and two big events in the spring, with 5-600 grad students turning out. They'll have Oktoberfest on October 29.

The International Student Affairs Committee has worked on a relationship with the Berkeley International office and funding and campus access for families of international students. The main concern that year was fee increases that impact international students.

The Rules Committee helped make the GA more efficient

Summary of the Meeting (cont'd)

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The Technology Committee took a broad view of “technology,” and included communications. It has also worked on revising rules to allow for electronic submission of dissertations.

Campus committees include committees of the Academic Senate, the faculty governing body for the UC System. These are very important as they make recommendations to the Administration.

Administrative committees include UCB administrators. They include Chancellor’s and Deans’ Advisory Committees, or that govern rules, such as for biking. These also include committees created by referenda, such as the Class Pass Committee and the RSF Committee. These were very important and oversee how funds are spent.

Lastly, there are committees of the Office of the President, created by Charter.

Committee Selection Exercise

Delegates indicated committees they were interested in.

Election of Mental Health Action Agenda Item Coordinator

By unanimous voice-vote, the GA approved Jonathan Haddad as Mental Health Action Agenda Committee Chair.

Election of Graduate Council Representatives

Two GA reps on the Grad Council resigned over the summer. The GA has three reps and an alternate. The Grad Council is an Academic Senate committee charged with UC Berkeley’s graduate student policies. It oversees the graduate program and reviews departments. After nominations and questions, the GA voted to approve Corinne Scown as the principle and Samveg Saxena as the alternate.

RESOLUTION REFERRAL

The following bills were referred to committee:

Directed Action to Create a Graduate Academic Funding Coordinator Position; By-law Amendment to Establish a Procedure to Amend the GA Charter; and Directed Action to Establish the Berkeley Graduate Student Foundation as a 501(c)(3) Organization to Raise Funds and Create Resources for UC Berkeley Graduate Students.

After debate, a motion to fast track Resolution on Endorsement of Faculty Walkout on 9/24 passed by hand-vote 30-8-0.

The bill was amended to direct the GA President to draft a letter in support of the faculty-organized walkout and educational activities scheduled for September 24, and to post the letter on the GA Web site. A letter-writing session will be held on September 14.

The Resolution, as amended, passed by voice-vote.

Summary of the Meeting (cont'd)

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

End Summary of the Meeting



This regular meeting of the Graduate Assembly, commencing the Fall Semester, was called to order by Miguel Daal at 5:31 p.m. Mr. Daal said he'd like to welcome them to the first meeting of the 2009-2010 school year. He'd like to welcome back returning Delegates and welcome new members. He introduced himself and said he was President of the GA. It was customary for them to begin with food and beverages, as they have discovered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement by UCPD Chief of Police Mitch Celaya

Mr. Daal said the first announcement was from Mitch Celaya, Chief of the UC Berkeley Police Department.

Mr. Celaya introduced himself and said he was the new Chief at the campus Police Department. He just wanted to introduced himself. Although he's only been Chief since August 1, he's been on campus for a long time, 27 years in October. He wanted to show his face and have people feel free to come up to him with any issues or questions, if they see him around campus.

Mr. Celaya one thing he's noticed as he's been on campus was while they tend to focus on faculty, staff, and students, for students, many times things were directed towards undergraduates. And for whatever reason, he thought graduates were kind of left out. Graduate students have unique needs, concerns, and issues. So he wanted to change that focus a little bit and hopefully get some involvement from graduate students.

The Police Department was always looking for input to see if they could do a better job. They also try to evaluate the services the UCPD provides and to market them as best they could. So he was looking to grads as for what did and didn't work, and how they could improve things. If they could some involvement and input grads, that would be great.

Mr. Celaya said his goal there that evening was to take a few minutes to just introduce himself and answer any questions people might have in the few minutes he had left.

Mr. Saxena asked how the campus' financial issues affected police work with student safety and if anything was being changed. Mr. Celaya said the financial challenges faced by the Police Department were

Announcement by UCPD Chief Celaya (cont'd)

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clearly significant. The campus has required the Police Department to take a 19% budget cut. That has resulted in the loss of some officer positions. He has not had to lay off anybody because of attrition from transferring people. But still, from an officer staff of about 52, he's lost seven. He has sergeants, lieutenants, and captains above that, but there was an impact. However, it shouldn't significantly impact public safety on campus. They're streamlining and deploying staff to ensure there's adequate staffing on south campus, since that tends to be the most densely populated area and in the past, has had significant criminal issues.

Mr. Celaya said he was proud to say that year-to-date they have had a 46% decrease in violent crime. So things they were doing were working. So going out and doing educational outreach and engaging their students about safety problems has had a significant effect.

Mr. Rabkin asked what his priorities were. Mr. Celaya said his immediate priority was to engage students, groups, faculty, and staff, to partner and collaborate in order for their programs and services to be more effective. Even if he came up with the best safety program or service, if students didn't know about it, or if it wasn't important to them, or wasn't something they used, or didn't resonate with them, then it wouldn't do a whole lot of good. The Police Department was doing a great job in law enforcement activities, with a 46% decrease in criminal activity. And they've probably all read in the paper or saw on the news how members of the UCPD were significantly involved in identifying Phillip Garrido. In criminal cases, those were the kinds of officers to have. They have a high work ethic, they're dedicated, and they were here to provide a service. So in that regard, they do police work very well. It's the other part they wanted to make sure was working, i.e. connecting with the community, having more community-based policing, getting their services out there and having people use those services, along with getting input to make sure what they did was working.

Ms. Hsueh asked if the police will continue to offer the walk service. Mr. Celaya said they will. Bear-WALK was connected to the UCPD's Community Service Officer program and ran from dusk to dawn. The program was very highly regarded. He's heard a number of students say, "it takes so long, 20, 30, 40 minutes." The police keep track of that, and their average wait time was 10-15 minutes. He wasn't saying there weren't times when it's might be more than that, but he asks students to plan their use of the service. If they're in a lab, in an office, or at the library, if they knew they were about to leave in 15 or 20 minutes, they should call 642-WALK and ask for an escort. And hopefully, after they pack their stuff up, 15 minutes after they call, they'll get a phone call from a CSO saying they're just outside the building, or were walking up to the caller's office. Mr. Celaya said he realized they're kind of a "now" generation and didn't want to be inconvenienced, so if they plan it and time it, they wouldn't have to wait. And the more the students use this service, the more resources he could put there, because quite frankly, while it was a valuable service, it also costs dollars to do it. If he has seven CSOs and they weren't being used, he'd be hard pressed to keep them all out there. So it was based upon usage.

Mr. Celaya said he was probably getting close to his time limit, so if anything came up, he could be contacted at police.berkeley.edu, where they could e-mail a message. The Crime Prevention Unit would get back to them. Even if it's not directly a police matter they'll redirect it to who they thought was appropriate or would contact someone to go back to the sender on the issue. They're pretty prompt. One of his previous jobs was public information, so his e-mail address was out there. People should feel free to send

him an e-mail, mjc@berkeley.edu. The address was also on the contact list on the Web site. They could also send e-mail to ucpdchief@berkeley.edu. He was interested in whatever he could do to improve their services. That was his priority, and specifically to improve collaboration and partnership with the student population. He wanted to thank them very much for allowing him to speak. He hoped to see them

Announcement by Claudia Covello, Director, Tang Center (cont'd)

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around campus. If anything came up, he'd ask them to please call or e-mail him or the Department and they'd do their best to take care of their needs. He wanted to thank them very much. Mr. Daal said he would like to thank him. (Applause)

Announcement by Claudia Covello, Director of the Tang Center on Changes to Health Service Fees

Mr. Daal said the next announcement was from Claudia Covello, Director of the Tang Center, who will talk about changes that have occurred with Health Service fees.

Ms. Covello introduced herself and said she was the Executive Director of University Health Services, Tang Center, and wanted to let them know about a few changes. But she mostly wanted to assure them about what was staying the same. During these difficult times, the Tang Center was still a comprehensive health service available for medical, counseling, and public health activities. They're still open six days a week, and were still completely committed to a highly responsive and high-quality health care organization to serve the students.

Graduate students highly utilize the Tang Center for a variety of services, and the Tang Center put a lot of effort into improving the quality of their services and making sure they hear from students every year about what was important to them. But these were tough times. So she wanted to report on how Health Services was doing under the condition of budget reductions.

Ms. Covello said they just heard about the police having a 19% reduction, and University Health Services had a budget cut of 23% of campus funding, \$2 million. That was a considerable hit to UHS.

Ms. Covello said they're managing the cut with multiple strategies. They had to reduce 20 positions, and tried to do that through retirement and turnover. They've also improved some efficiencies by trying to not have as many points of check-in and reception. So they've consolidating areas to have less people. But the third way that they've managed budget cuts was to increase fees and add fees. That's what she wanted to make sure that people were aware of. They've always had fees for some services, like pharmacy, physical therapy, and lab. Some of those fees will go up. But what was new was adding co-pays for visits to urgent care and primary care. Co-pays are the portion students pay versus the subsidy the UHS got from the campus. Starting September 21, a visit for primary care will have a co-pay of \$15, and \$30 for an urgent care visit. The average graduate student utilizes medical services 2.2 times per year. So these increases will impact them.

Mental health is a huge priority on the campus, and the Counseling Department has been structured a little bit differently. Counselors encourage students to have up to ten visits on campus. The first five of them are free, pre-paid by Registration Fees, and the remaining visits were on a fee-for-service basis that students could bill if they had other private insurance.

Ms. Covello said the other thing that was new and different in trying to make Tang as efficient as possible during this time was the creation of a “Nurse Assessor,” or “Nurse Greeter” position. This person will sit in front of Urgent Care to direct students who may be unclear what clinic they should be seen in, or if they need to be seen immediately, determining the most appropriate type of care the student needed. That might be a same-day appointment, a future appointment, or going right into Urgent Care, to be seen at that moment.

Announcement by Claudia Covello, Director, Tang Center (cont'd)

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One piece of good news was that SHIP, the Student Health Insurance Plan, continues to have all the same benefits, and some improvements. The increased pharmacy benefit remains the same and the physical therapy benefit was increased. In the last year they've added vision, which was being highly utilized. They've also added benefits for transgender students.

People have been reading how the budget was impacting all sorts of services. Ms. Covello said the UHS wanted to come to the GA that day and let them know that the Tang Center will maintain comprehensive care and have a fee at the door. If they didn't, they'd have had to shut down the Saturday clinic and other clinics. So that's what helped keep that comprehensiveness.

They also value being highly responsive, and that meant having lots of ways students could give feedback, through e-mail or at the UHS. If there's a concern with the quality of care, directly speaking with the Medical Director would get very personalized attention. The UHS was also always available to come out to groups. They're very open and want to be engaged with graduate students. She wanted to thank them for their time.

Mr. Daal asked if she could quickly plug the grad Mental Health Advisory Committee. Ms. Covello said people interested in mental health issues might want to become a member of the Counseling Center's Graduate Student Mental Health Committee. Every year it assesses the status of mental health issues on campus and advises the Counseling Center on how to be more responsive and adaptive to the needs of graduate students. That could include the kinds of workshops held or other changes to the service. If this was of interest they should contact the Counseling Center.

Mr. Daal called for any brief questions.

Mr. Kramer asked why they chose to assess the co-pay rather than have a flat fee across all services. Ms. Covello said they looked at some benchmarks to do that and looked at other UC campuses to see how they managed the same issues. While everybody has fees, they all do things differently, with no one standard. But a common feature was to have a co-pay for a fee. Most health insurance plans operate with a co-pay for office visits and a much higher fee for emergency room visits, \$50 or \$100. They looked at a variety of options and synthesized what made sense for this environment.

Mr. Daal said he would like to draw their attention to the Delegate feedback form, which had two questions about health services. The answers they supply will be given to Ms. Covello and Bene Gatzert. He wanted to thank them.

ASUC Announcement

Mr. Daal said the next announcement was from the ASUC.

Viola Tang introduced himself and said she was the ASUC Senate representative to the GA. She's an international student from Hong Kong in her second year at Cal, an intended Economics major.

She'd read from the Memorandum of Understanding between the ASUC and the GA. It states that the GA recognizes the authority of the ASUC to speak for the common interests of the student body as a

ASUC Announcement (cont'd)

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whole at UC Berkeley, both inside and outside the campus, and that the ASUC recognizes the authority of the GA to speak for the specific interests of graduate and professional students at UCB, both inside and outside the campus.

Regarding external bills, if the GA took an opposing position on an issue, both organizations would respect the independent legitimacy of each position, with the ASUC position applying only to undergraduates.

Ms. Tang said the ASUC Senate has 20 members. Grads on campus last year during the Senate election might have noticed all the signs, flyering, and people trying to speak to them. Specific information about each Senator and issues they'll work on that year can be found at www.asuc.org. They have Senate meetings every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Senate Chambers and would encourage graduate students to attend so they have a better feel for some of the issues the Senate was working on.

The Senate was responsible for allocating funds and grants to student groups. And like GA Delegates, Senators also sit on a number of committees. Senators also work on their own issues on top of ASUC Senate responsibilities. To give them a little bit of information on what she'll be working on that year, Ms. Tang said she'll advocate for international students and international initiatives for the campus, such as preserving the International Area Studies Program. People might know about the restructuring that happened during the summer, as well as to the East Asian Language program. She'll also work for more international initiatives and services for student groups, and also for the Career Center to have more resources for students and graduate students who want to go abroad to do internships or research programs.

Ms. Tang said she was on some committees that grads might want to contact her about, as they were quite relevant. The ASUC Senate has three standing committees, the Finance Committee, the Constitutional and Procedural Review Committee, and the University and External Affairs Committee, which she chairs. It reviews bills that require the ASUC to take a stand on issues outside the school that might affect students or that students were concerned about. Because of the possibility of the GA having an opposing view, she'll make sure the GA knew about such bills. Ms. Tang said she's also a member of the Selection Committee for the Elections Council Chair. Grads aren't as interested in ASUC elections as the ASUC would like them to be and this year they hope more graduate students will be involved in the process. Applications for the Elections Council Chair will be sent to the GA and are due on September 23. That would be a great way for grads to get more involved, as they might be more knowledgeable about elections systems. The Senate might do some elections reforms that year. They use the single transfer vote system, which very easy to manipulate. The Senate hopes to get more analysis of that this year. If people were interested, they should get it touch with her.

Another committee she sits on is the ASUC Resources Workshop Coordinating Committee. They'll put on workshops every month to tell students about the various resources and services the ASUC can provide. That would be a great resource for grads' groups, programs, or events.

Ms. Tang said she co-authored a Daily Cal op-ed last week on Save the University and the faculty walkout, with members of the Solidarity Alliance and Cal Students for Equal Rights and a Valid Education. The op-ed had some interesting specifics and viewpoints of faculty, University employees, and students. A bill will be considered next week to support the faculty walkout and it would be great to get the support of the GA.

Announcement on the 2010 Census
Announcement on the Graduate Student Organizing Committee

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Ms. Tang said they could contact her at violat@asuc.org, and they should feel free to do so. Mr. Daal he would like to thank her and said they had no time for questions.

Announcement on the 2010 Census

Joe Lee introduced himself and said he was one of the census organizers at UC Berkeley. He was there to briefly educate them about the upcoming census and basically ask for their help and outreach. The 2010 census is a headcount of everyone living in the US. For the last census, in 2000, Berkeley had a huge undercount, mainly because of the hard-to-count population, which included students. Students weren't very receptive to the government. That was a huge problem in 2000, mainly caused by a lack of communication. Hopefully that year they could change that. He'll be the one and only organizer for the City of Berkeley. He's met with Ms. Hsueh and Mr. Daal to discuss some things that could be done to outreach to the student community.

The census is important because it basically determines where general funds are allocated. He passed around a fact sheet that goes into the importance of the census. He would also invite them to the upcoming meeting of the UC Complete Count Committee on September 21 at 1 p.m. He would ask for a representative of the Graduate Assembly to attend to be filled in on how the GA could help outreach to the graduate student population across campus.

Mr. Lee said he had an example of what the 2010 will look like. He also had some awareness posters. His contact information was on the back of the FAQ sheet. His e-mail was jhlee@cityofberkeley.info. As their representative, he would like to attend the UC Committee meeting on September 21. He would like to thank them for their time.

Announcement on the Graduate Student Organizing Committee

Mr. Daal said the next announcement was from the Graduate Student Organizing Committee. Annie McClanahan introduced herself and said she was in the English Department and was representing the Graduate Student Organizing Committee pertaining to the September 24 walkout. She asked how many people have heard about the walkout, and noted the response was pretty good.

Ms. McClanahan said she was requesting the addition of an agenda item that evening to endorse the Organizing Committee's endorsement of the walkout. She distributed a packet of information.

On Tuesday that week faculty from across the UC System put a letter up online for faculty to sign. Up for less than three days, it had over 800 faculty signatures supporting a walkout on September 24 to protest the way that budget cuts have been managed and specifically, the way in which the budget cuts undermine the principle of shared governance and the issuing of emergency authority over the summer to the UC President. That was the case even though budget cuts were supposed to be negotiated in coordination with the Academic Senate, and the unanimous recommendation of the Systemwide Academic Senate was actually ignored.

Announcement on the Graduate Student Organizing Committee (cont'd)
Announcement on Funding Workshops
Chief-of-Staff Opening

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Ms. McClanahan said the most important item she distributed was the letter from the Graduate Student Organizing Committee. There was also a two-page FAQ sheet about the walkout. It included grads' rights as employees and members of the UAW. People were protected under the contract. There was also a sheet about the UC budget that contextualized the cuts and the size of increases in faculty salaries. Whole departments have been closed. Interdisciplinary Programs, which hosts 12 undergraduate majors, will be closed. There have been dramatic layoffs. A number of groups on campus have proposed alternatives, and that information was included in the hand-out as well.

The main thing she was asking for was for the GA to vote to fast track a Resolution to endorse the GSOC's statement on the walkout. That was crucially important because the walkout will happen in less than two weeks. The Regents were meeting this week to vote on a 30% fee increase for next year. They'll also discuss the plan the Administration put forward to double out-of-State student enrollment in the UC System next year, to 26%. The fee increases will most impact middle-income families. The change in out-of-State environment will impact lower, working-class, and minority students. She called for any questions.

Mr. Rabkin asked about the proposal in the letter to increase cuts to higher-income employees. Ms. McClanahan said the present proposal caps off cuts at \$240,000. So somebody making \$2 million would get the same percentage cut. The proposal included in the package would have additional tiers above \$240K, and for income not counted as salary. People, particularly in the Administration, who make millions of dollars, much of which was not in the form of salary, wouldn't be affected by these cuts. But the same thing wasn't happening at the bottom, and employees making \$20,000 would still get a 4% pay cut.

Mr. Daal said that when Ms. McClanahan spoke to him on Tuesday about speaking at the meeting that evening, he immediately sent an e-mail to the Chancellor, the Provost, and the Dean, to receive some clarity on some of the questions being raised. He would pass out the responses to the questions.

Funding Workshops

Natan Tuchman introduced himself and said he was the Funding Advisor at the GA, working closely with graduate student groups and the Funding Committee. Funding workshops will be held on Friday at 11:00 a.m. and Monday at 1 p.m. People could go to the GA Web site for any updates on the funding process.

Applications were available for Grad Events, Student Group Resources Round 1, and Grants Round 1, and were due next Thursday, September 17 at 5 p.m. If people have any questions they could send him an e-mail at advisor@ga.berkeley.edu.

Chief-of-Staff Position Opening

Mr. Daal said he was in search of a Chief-of-Staff for the GA. The job paid about \$700 a month. If people were interested, they should talk to Ms. Hsueh. Also, he would ask people to turn in their signed Delegate Certification Forms. He had a small stack that weren't signed. And he would ask them to please not forget to turn in their feedback forms at the end of the meeting. They were very important.

Introduction to the GA

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Mr. Daal said that they have an agenda for every meeting that is posted a week in advance, although they were very late with that for this meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND THE AGENDA

Mr. Daal called for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. It was so moved and seconded. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 7, 2009 GA MEETING PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.

For the agenda, Mr. Daal said he would like to add an election of a Grad Council principle member and an alternate. Also, Ms. McClanahan distributed a Resolution they'd number 0909d. They'll vote to add it to the agenda, after which they could vote on whether to fast track it or to have it sent to committee. Ms. McClanahan has also requested a 20-minute discussion at the end of the meeting to discuss the walkout and possible GA actions. It was so moved and seconded.

Mr. Rabkin said the Resolution, 0909d, was not circulated ahead of time. Mr. Daal said this was the first time they've seen it. Mr. Rabkin said that as he understood it, the GA couldn't vote on it. Mr. Daal said that was up to the Delegates. Ms. Anderson said it wasn't in the By-laws and the Assembly could vote to fast track it. Mr. Rabkin said he thought they couldn't vote to fast track a Resolution unless it had been circulated. Ms. Anderson said they could fast track it. Mr. Daal said fast tracking a Resolution meant they would consider the bill without having sent it to committee, and to do so required a three-quarters majority vote. Otherwise it would be sent to committee and considered at the next GA meeting.

Mr. Marchand moved to break out into committees at the end of the meeting. Mr. Daal said it was critical to have committees formed. The motion to amend the agenda was seconded. Ms. Anderson it looked like the meeting would go until 8:30, and a lot of people would leave before they got to committee formation. She would like to do that when the entire Assembly was present. The motion to amend the agenda failed by voice-vote.

THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA AS STATED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE-VOTE. THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED, PASSED WITH NO OBJECTION.

INTRODUCTION TO THE GA

GA History

Mr. Daal said they would hear a brief history of the GA given by Lucy Diekmann. Ms. Diekmann introduced herself and said she was the Project Coordinator for *The Berkeley Graduate*. She was a Ph.D. student in Environmental Science Policy and Management. She'd give a brief overview of the history of the GA.

Introduction to the GA (cont'd)

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Ms. Diekmann that prior to the creation of the GA, at the very beginning, UC Berkeley opened in 1869, with the first classes held in Oakland. Classes weren't given on the campus until 1873, for the incoming class of about 400 students, 167 men and 222 women. The first Ph.D. was awarded in 1885, and the first Ph.D. awarded to a woman was in 1889.

In 1887 students organized, for the first time, to authorize and oversee student groups, under the name "Associated Students of the Colleges of Letters & Sciences." The name was shortened to "ASUC" in 1889, and that name remains today.

For the first part of the 20th Century, the ASUC oversaw student discipline, until that was taken back from student control by faculty and Administration in 1943. In the 1930s there was a shift in focus to international issues. The Executive Committee took action to prevent US entry into World War II, to boycott industries that were experiencing strikes, and to end racial discrimination.

In 1949, for the first time, graduate students were allowed to vote to be represented on the Executive Committee. Before that, they had been allowed to join the ASUC and to enjoy its benefits, but hadn't been able to vote on their own representation.

In the 1960s there was a shift in student government at Berkeley. It went from exercising delegated authority to a focus on student rights and independence from the Administration. That culminated in the Free Speech Movement in 1964. In 1969 a separate Graduate Assembly was created.

In the '70s there was a new Graduate Assembly. One of its first campaigns was to improve representation of graduate student interests to the Administration, to the Regents, and to the State Legislature. To that end, in 1974, a UC Student Regent position was created after State voters approved a constitutional amendment giving Regents the authority to appoint students. In 1975 the GA gained membership in the UC Student Body Presidents Council, which represented student interests in the UC System and to the State Legislature, and which also had an advocacy arm on campus. The GA was really focused on affirmative action and had task forces working on recruitment, admission, and providing academic and non-academic support, as well as financial aid to underrepresented groups.

In 1975 the GA formed its first projects, which continue to this day. Initially there were three: the Minority Students Program, the Graduate Women's Project, and the TA Training Program.

In 1977 the GA moved into its current location, Anthony Hall. It was originally the home of *The California Pelican*, a monthly humor magazine founded in 1903 by Earl Anthony. After graduating from Berkeley, he went on to make quite a bit of money and donated the building in 1957, and donated the pelican sculpture in the front the following year.

Moving into the '80s, the GA retained its focus on increasing representation at the UC Systemwide. The Student Body Presidents Council was consolidated with its advocacy arm and became the UC Student Association, the UCSA, which it's still called. It's a permanent voice at the State Capitol dealing with student lobbying efforts. The GA has a voting member in that Statewide coalition. In the 1980s the GA also oversaw the 20th anniversary of the Free Speech Movement and continued to work on international issues, including sanctuary work, education in Nicaragua, and fighting against famine in Africa.

Continuing with some of the projects, in 1985 there was the first Empowering Women of Color Conference put on by the Women of Color Initiative at the GA. This Conference continues and that coming

Introduction to the GA (cont'd)

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spring will have its 25th anniversary. Another important contribution in the '80s was that UC Berkeley grad students adapted the Graduate Student Health Insurance Plan, which became the model for the SHIP insurance that many people currently have.

Ms. Diekmann said that one of the dominant issues in the '90s was the passage of Prop. 209, which amended the State Constitution to prohibit affirmative action at public institutions. The initiative was led by a UC Regent, Ward Connerly. Graduate students rallied against that and the GA organized a national day of action that defended affirmative action, economic opportunities, and immigrant rights.

In the new Millennium, Ms. Diekmann said the same themes continued, to advocate for grad students on campus and in the University of California System and to also take on issues of national and international importance. In 2002, in light of the UC Code of Conduct, which required companies to adhere to basic human rights, with documentation of human rights violations by Coca-Cola, the GA passed a Resolution asking UC to ask Coca-Cola, which has a contract with the University, to denounce human rights violations and to compensate the victims.

In 2003, when Ward Connerly began pushing a referendum in Michigan that was modeled after Prop. 209, the GA reaffirmed its support of affirmative action and instituted a boycott of Coor's Beer, which was a major supporter of Ward Connerly.

So as they could see, Ms. Diekmann said that in the 30-plus years that the GA has been around, it's taken on a lot of issues on a lot of different levels, on campus, at the UC System, at the State level, nationally, and internationally. Considering the condition California was in and the issues facing the nation as a whole, there was plenty of opportunity this year for Delegates to continue that mission.

Mr. Daal said he would like to thank Ms. Diekmann very much. (Applause)

Purpose

Mr. Daal said he would like to read the mission of the GA, taken from the GA's By-laws, which he would recommend they read, so they knew what was going on at meetings and so they knew the role of the GA.

The Graduate Assembly's mission was to serve the interests of all graduate students, including all masters degree and professional students at Berkeley, and to advocate on their behalf.

If he were to name three things that the GA specialized in, he'd say they were advocacy, funding, and community. They advocate to the UCB Administration, to UCOP, and to federal and State representatives. Secondly, the GA gives out funding, to groups and individuals. Every graduate student was eligible to apply for a Travel Grant, e.g., \$300. Student groups were eligible to get up to \$2,500 a year. Thirdly, the GA tries to foster a sense of community across departments, with the Grad Social Club, for instance, which had a very successful party that week, as well as through GA projects and other occasions that they organize.

GA Structure

Introduction to the GA (cont'd)

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Mr. Daal said the GA has a Delegate body and several elected representatives, including the President, the VP for Campus Affairs, and the VP for External Affairs, as well as people who chair committees, named in item 3. They all answer to the Delegates and essentially respond to directed actions from the Delegates. The GA has a Business Office that wasn't part of student government, per se, but was the arm of an overarching fiscal agent of student government, the ASUC Auxiliary. Berkeley had, to his knowledge, the only student government that was a non-profit organization and had an administrative structure assigned to it, with its own staff, lawyer, accountants, etc. The building they were in, Eshleman Hall, belonged to student government and the Regents.

Brief Course on Robert's Rules

Mr. Daal said Meghan Anderson, the Rules Committee Chair, would give a brief overview of Robert's Rules of Order, the rules the Assembly uses. Ms. Anderson said she distributed a chart of motions, many of which the GA doesn't use. She put stars next to the motions they use the most. A motion they might be working on at any moment could be seen as layers, with amendments, and amendments to amendments. Until a particular piece of business was dealt with, they generally don't talk about anything on another layer. To be efficient, they should raise their hands and wait for the Chair to call on them; and they shouldn't bicker or call people names.

Motions on one side of the chart deal with business on the table, broken into an order of priority. When an amendment was made, e.g., while that motion was on the table, they couldn't try to kill the main motion, but could do anything above that level. On the other side, part 2 motions could happen at any point. Only once or twice has she seen part 3 motions used. But part 2 motions could happen at any time. So if someone was going over time, e.g., somebody could raise a point of order about that.

Ms. Anderson said one motion not on the sheet was a motion to reconsider. She's only seen that happen once. People could only make that motion if they were on the side that won in the original vote.

Another piece of information not on the sheet but good to know was that quorum for the Assembly was 25% of registered Delegates. If they have quorum when a meeting starts and people start to trickle out

towards the end, the meeting would go on, even if they go down below 25%, unless somebody called for a quorum. She called for any questions.

Mr. Konwinski asked how many Delegates there were in the GA. Ms. Anderson said they didn't know yet because not everybody was registered.

Mr. Daal said that in principle, there are two kinds of votes, simple majority and a two-thirds majority vote. The latter is needed when the vote would take rights away from some group of people or do something without notice. Everything else was a simple majority vote.

Ms. Anderson said an important column on the spreadsheet was whether speakers could be interrupted.

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS AND SUMMER REPORTS

Committee Descriptions and Summer Reports

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Mr. Daal said that almost all GA Officers have a committee, which does things such as look at Resolutions, work on issues, etc. The purpose of this section of the agenda, which only occurs at the first meeting, was to tell the new members, in particular, what the committees are, who the officers are, and entice them into certain committees. Every Delegate was required to attend all GA meetings and to be on at least one committee, to represent their department as best they could, and to disseminate information from the GA to their department as best they could.

For the Budget Committee, Ms. Anderson said she wasn't the Chair of the Budget Committee, but has held that position before. The current Chair, Mr. Rajan, gave her a couple of points to make. The important thing to know about the budget was that GA money totaled about \$410,000 in fees and \$50,000 from Coca-Cola. The ASUC has a contract with Coca-Cola for the rights to vending machines on campus, and the GA got \$50,000 a year from Coke, until 2011. The GA spends about \$530,000 per year. So they spend a little bit more than they make. They handle that through GA reserves, which total about \$300,000. Everything that needs to be said about the Budget Committee could be said from looking at these figures. One mission of the Budget Committee was to try and make the income closer to the outgo so the reserves don't disappear. Another mission, particularly this year, was to think about ways to invest the \$300,000 in reserves. Last year the Assembly passed a Resolution allowing the Budget Committee to invest this money with the UC Endowment. There are other options the Budget Committee will talk about to make the GA more efficient, especially with money coming in and going out.

For the Campus Affairs Committee, Ms. Harrison-Shermoen said she was the temporary Campus Affairs Vice President. A lot of Resolutions that come through the GA are referred to Campus Affairs. It dealt with a wide range of issues, such as health care, making teaching evaluations public, anything that was campus related, including, e.g., housing, dependent care, or international student life. It's an important Committee to be on and was fun, because something will probably come up that Committee members were interested in. Sometimes they give awards to faculty, although that may or may not be part of the Committee's work that year.

Mr. Daal said the Campus Affairs Committee also considered transportation, such as with the Class Pass and biking, and it also considered graduate student support, including pay and other types of support.

For the Environmental Sustainability Committee, Mr. Kramer said the Committee's mandate was broad and they do what they want. Last year, e.g., they chose to take on bicycles, recycling, and the University endowment. Through some lobbying efforts, the Committee got \$80,000 appropriated to the University towards the construction of bicycle parking. So if people see any of that going on, that was partially due to the Committee's work. On recycling, they ended up getting a \$55,000 grant to put up new and better outdoor recycling bins around campus. They're continuing to work with the Vice Chancellor of University Relations on endowment issues, to make the investment of their endowment more socially and environmentally responsible. A lot of people were coming back to the Committee because they had a good experience. But they want to do more. They have \$10,000 to get Anthony Hall LEED certified, so if anybody wanted to take that on, and be able to say they made a building LEED certified, they could say that. They also need people to join different campus committees on sustainability. Basically, anything they come up with that they decide to work on, they could do.

Committee Descriptions and Summer Reports

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For the Funding Committee, Mr. Tahir said he was the Committee Chair. The Committee was primarily responsible for reviewing funding applications submitted by student groups. The GA funds four main categories: graduate student events, such as for regular meetings; resources, such as for stationery; grants, for specific projects on diversity and community service; and lastly, the travel award. Every year they have about \$130,000 to give out. The Committee meets about once a month, on average, when they review applications. The Committee has come up with regulations for funding. For example, they have tried to have all events on campus, but the Committee could decide on its own if it wanted to fund some events off-campus. Last year they had burritos at every Committee meeting, so the food was good.

Mr. Daal said the External Affairs Vice President was en route from a Board meeting. The External Affairs Committee has three main components. There are local, State, and national levels of advocacy that take place. On the local level they talk with Berkeley City Council members, consider City ordinances, and talk with local legislators. On the Statewide level they work with the UC Student Association, made up of student representatives from each UC campus, graduate and undergraduate. Every year the UCSA chooses a campaign to work on. For this year, the campaign grads will continue to work on was to figure out plans for a universal graduate student health plan. That would result in a lot of cost-savings measures and benefits, much like undergrads have. On the national level, they're working with student advocates for graduate education on issues such as what was considered taxable income for grads, tax exempt stipends, and funding for grad students. If Delegates wanted to be involved in local, State, or national levels, he would encourage them to get involved.

Mr. Daal said the next Committee was the Grad Social Club. Ms. Williams introduced herself and Ms. Shapland. The GSC is a project of the GA and they're looking for a Committee to help run social events on campus. They generally have two or three parties in the fall and two big events in the spring. They generally have about 5-600 grad students turn out for each event. They had an event that past week at the Alumni House, with about 450 grads. They have an upcoming event on October 29, Oktoberfest. They usually bring in a caterer such as Top Dog or West Coast Pizza and contract out food and beverage. They

usually bring in some kegs. The events are really fun. People have to attend one or two meetings per semester and help out with events. In the spring they'll have the same projects and possibly a Mardi Gras party, followed by the Bay Cruise. The cruise is extremely popular. They've done it two years in a row. The first year they sold out their 300-person boat and the second year they had a second boat, and had 450 grads attend. This is a two-hour cruise around the Bay with an open bar. If this was exciting to people, she would ask them to please help out.

For the International Student Affairs Committee, Mr. Briggs introduced himself and said he was the Chair. They're currently trying to look at items like focus points for international students. In the past they've worked on building a working relationship with the Berkeley International office. Funds are available, but the way they were distributed was currently a bit ad hoc. They're also trying to work on building their own endowment that would be available for international students. They're trying to increase that endowment. In the past they've also worked on identifying committees that have previously allocated funding for families of international students and spouses, and worked on providing access to libraries and to the RSF. This year he hoped they can identify new areas of focus.

Mr. Briggs said that year his main concern was potential non-resident tuition and potential student fee increases that will impact international students. These students can never become State residents and

Committee Descriptions and Summer Reports

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were burdened by these fees their entire time as a graduate student. If anyone had these collective interests, he would ask them to please sign up for this committee.

For the Rules Committee, Ms. Anderson said she was the Rules Chair. She thought the mission of the Rules Committee was to make the GA more efficient with Delegates' time so they could do useful things without meetings going on and on. Also, all of these things that everyone was talking about were governed by GA By-laws. The Rules Committee was in charge of keeping those By-laws up to date, proposing ways to change them to make the GA more efficient, and making their rules reflect their current practices. In the end, rules changes are voted on by the Assembly. The Funding Committee handles funds, but the Rules Committee makes the rules that give the Funding Committee that power. If people were interested in things like that, they should join this Committee.

For the Technology Committee, Mr. Froehle said he was in the Math Department and was Committee Chair. He took a broad view of "technology." He thought the Committee was more apt to be called the "communications and technology committee." He'd like to see their focus be how the GA communicates externally to the grad student population, whether through technological means like e-mail or by more traditional means. He wasn't sure what they'll do that year, and it will be up to people on the Committee. One thing they've worked on was revising rules about submitting dissertations, allowing electronic submission, with one copy to be scanned and digitized. So technology was a broad topic.

Mr. Daal said that campus committees include committees of the Academic Senate, which is the faculty governing body for the UC System. There's an overarching academic Council of all ten UC schools and each has a branch of this Council, which they call their "local divisions." The Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate has committees such as the Graduate Council, Academic Freedom, and Teaching. These committees are filled with faculty members and discuss policies related to the committee's focus. These were very important committees because they make recommendations to the Administration with regard to these subjects.

Mr. Daal said there are also administrative committees, with UCB administrators. Such committees include Chancellor's Advisory Committees, or a Dean's Advisory Committee, or some committee governing the rules of biking, e.g. Those would be campus committees. There are also committees created by referenda, such as the Class Pass Committee and the RSF Committee. These are very important committees that oversee how funds are spent and the governance of certain structures and institutions at UCB.

Mr. Daal said that lastly, there are committees of the Office of the President, created by Charter. These had nothing to do with Berkeley and were of Systemwide scope. A list of these committees could be found on the GA Web site. If people were interested in joining one of them, they should sign the committee roster, which will be held up by someone. If they choose to go in the direction of a campus, administrative, or UCOP committee, they also ask that they sign up for a GA committee because they couldn't guarantee that they would get the slot that they want. For the Committee on Teaching, e.g., there's only one graduate student slot. It was a very important and a highly sought-after position. So Delegates should provide a second-choice of committee.

Committee Selection Exercise

Committee Selection Exercise
Election of Mental Health Action Agenda Item Coordinator

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Mr. Daal said they would have a committee selection exercise. Officers or their designates have a clipboard they'll hold up in specific parts of the room. People interested in joining that committee could ask about them and sign up for them. They'll do that for 35 minutes. This meeting was recessed for committee selection.

Back in session, Mr. Daal said he would like to thank people for coming back, although some did escape.

Ms. Anderson said a number of committees didn't meet the mandatory numbers to be a committee, according to the By-laws. So some people on the larger committees may be randomly assigned to other committees, according to the feedback they got. Delegates in a big committee that didn't want to be randomly assigned and might want another committee should note that as their second choice.

Mr. Rabkin asked if they could make a note at the end as to which committees need members. Mr. Daal said they would do that. People should remember to fill out their feedback forms and choose the committees they want.

Election of Mental Health Action Agenda Item Coordinator

Mr. Daal said the Assembly has Action Agenda Items, things Delegates have chosen to make progress on, for which they have an objective. There are two Action Agenda Items, with more possible.

The first Action Agenda Item was Lower Sproul Redevelopment, the area they were in. It's a big, ongoing project. They had a Chair for that Committee, but not for the Mental Health Action Agenda Com-

mittee. It deals with improving graduate student mental health and students' access to mental health services.

Mr. Daal said he would like to entertain nominations for a chair for the Mental Health Action Agenda Item Committee.

Ms. Anderson nominated Ms. Harrison-Shermoen, who respectfully declined. Jonathan Haddad, from the French Department nominated himself. Mr. Daal called for any other nominations, and seeing none, said he would rule that they'd confirm Mr. Haddad by consent, unless there was an objection.

Mr. Rabkin said that in the past they actually have gone through the procedure of sending nominees out of the room in case anybody had an objection. He didn't think it would take long. Mr. Daal said they would follow that suggestion. He called for any questions.

Ms. Anderson said people in charge of the Mental Health Action Agenda Item last year were incredibly passionate about it. She asked if he was new to the GA and if he was taking this up because he wanted to be more involved in the GA or if this was something that really mattered to him. Mr. Haddad said it really mattered to him. This was something that has touched a lot of people he was close to and it was something he would definitely be passionate about.

Mr. Daal asked Mr. Haddad to step out of the room for a discussion off the record and a vote.

Election of Mental Health Action Agenda Item Coordinator (cont'd)
Election of Graduate Council Representatives

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THE MOTION TO APPROVE JONATHAN HADDAD AS MENTAL HEALTH ACTION AGENDA COMMITTEE CHAIR PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE-VOTE. Mr. Daal said he would like to congratulate Mr. Haddad. (Applause)

Election of Graduate Council Representatives

Mr. Daal said there were two resignations over the summer from the Graduate Council, and they had to elect a principle member and an alternate. There are three reps to this Academic Senate committee, which is charged with UC Berkeley's graduate student policies and protocols. They oversee the graduate program at the academic level and decide on things like maternity leave or how many credits were needed to be a research student.

Ms. Anderson said the Grad Council also considered changes to programs, such as a program wanting another issue on its preliminary exam.

Mr. Daal said the Grad Council also reviews all academic departments, two to three a year, and proposes changes to programs if they feel that's necessary.

The principle is charged with going to every Grad Council meeting, and the alternate is charged with going to a meeting if one of the three principles couldn't attend. The position also has a seat at the Executive Board. The principle has a voting seat and the alternate votes if one of the principles wasn't around. The Executive Board is the Board of Officers that functions and makes decisions when the

Assembly wasn't in session, or was between meetings. The commitment was very light. There's one Executive Board meeting per month and there's one Graduate Council meeting per month, on Mondays from 2:00 to 4:30, the first Monday of every month.

Mr. Daal called for any nominations. The person who got the most votes would be the principle and the second-most votes would be the Alternate.

Mr. Briggs nominated Aaron deGrassi. Ms. Berkeley nominated Samveg Saxena. Ms. Harrison-Shermoen nominated Alex, who respectfully declined. Corrin Scown nominated herself.

Ms. Anderson asked who the existing Grad Council members were. Mr. Daal said they were Ms. Berkeley and Ms. Harrison-Shermoen.

Mr. Daal called for any other nominations, and seeing none, said nominations were closed. He would invite each nominee to make a brief statement.

Mr. deGrassi asked to withdraw his nomination.

Mr. Saxena said that from what he understood, the Grad Council addressed core issues of graduate academic life, which was of key importance to him. In the past, his involvement on campus has been more related to international student life and things that were more centric towards his department. He's been in the GA for about a year and this was of great interest to him.

Election of Graduate Council Representatives (cont'd)

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Ms. Scown said she's been involved in similar activities at the department level, Civil and Environmental Engineering. She was new to the GA, but she was extremely interested in applying what she's learned from those sorts of activities in her department to the larger picture. She spent a lot of time with administrators in her department working to improve student life, making sure requirements made sense and serving the interests of the students. She looked forward to doing that on the University level.

Mr. Daal asked if either one would prefer to be the alternate.

Mr. Saxena said another Grad Council member from the GA was also in the Mechanical Engineering program, which was Mr. Saxena's department as well. So people might want to consider that from the diversity aspect.

Ms. Anderson asked how they were with secrecy, since the Grad Council was very secretive. Mr. Daal said some issues were secret. Ms. Scown said it's never been an issue, but she couldn't imagine secrecy to be a problem. Mr. Saxena said he was happy to keep a secret.

Ms. McClanahan asked about standing up to important people, on campus or in their department. Mr. Daal noted that there are 13 faculty members of senior status on the Grad Council, and three students. Ms. McClanahan asked if they would be about to speak up for students. Ms. Scown said she worked with grads and undergrads at her previous school. As a private school it was run differently, but she spent a lot of time giving direct feedback to her department head. She also served on a committee that met with the University President and a Board of Directors. In her experience, administrators have been very responsive. With practice, she was able to get pretty confident, and understood that administrators were asking students for feedback for a reason. So students shouldn't be hesitant about speaking up.

Ms. Saxena said that he was on the Council for the International House, which has a Board that plans the vision for that facility. That Board is chaired by Chancellor Birgeneau and has heavy involvement with Graduate Dean Andrew Szeri. So particularly with their Grad Dean, he already had a working relationship. In his experience, these people were usually very receptive to student opinions. He was a vocal person, but the administrators also encouraged input from students.

Mr. Daal said that seeing no other questions, he would ask the candidates to step out of the room for discussion and vote. A discussion was held off the record and a vote was held. After the vote, Mr. Daal said that Ms. Scown was the principle and Mr. Saxena was the alternate. Mr. Daal noted that for the record, there were nine abstentions. He would like to congratulate both of them. (Applause)

RESOLUTION REFERRAL

Mr. Daal said that at this point he would refer Resolutions to committee. Any Delegate could make a motion to fast track a bill.

Mr. Daal referred the following bills to committee:

Resolution 0909a, Directed Action to Create a Graduate Academic Funding Coordinator Position, to the Campus Affairs Committee, the Rules Committee, ISIAC, and the Budget Committee.

Resolution Referral (cont'd)

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Resolution on a Graduate Assembly Endorsement of the Faculty Walkout on 9/24

Resolution 0909b, By-law Amendment to Establish a Procedure to Amend the GA Charter, to the Rules Committee. Ms. Anderson said that since she chaired the Rules Committee and wrote the Resolution, she would like the bill to go to another committee. Mr. Daal said he would refer the bill to the Campus Affairs Committee and the Budget Committee.

Resolution 0909c, Directed Action to Establish the Berkeley Graduate Student Foundation as a 501(c)(3) Organization to Raise Funds and Create Resources for UC Berkeley Graduate Students, to the Rules Committee and the Budget Committee.

On Resolution 0909d, Endorsement of Faculty Walkout on 9/24, Mr. Kramer moved to fast track the bill. The motion was seconded by Ms. Anderson.

Mr. Daal said the bill was in the packet that Ms. McClanhan distributed.

Mr. Daal said the GA could only accept certain types of Resolutions, and the bill would be a standing policy, or statement of position of the Assembly, and should be amended to reflect that.

Mr. Daal said that fast tracking the Resolution meant the GA would be considered immediately, rather than sending it to committee for consideration. They were under debate on whether or not to fast track the bill.

Mr. Rabkin said there will be labor dissent, unrest, and discussion all semester. This issue wasn't going away anytime soon. He would appreciate a chance to discuss this with his Department. None of them signed the letter, and no physical scientist or computer science engineer signed it on the campus at all. This just came up and people in his Department have said this absolutely should not be done without first consulting with them. He thought the GA could afford to let this wait for a month.

Mr. Marchand said the motion had time sensitivity since the walkout was on the 24th. If they were unhappy with the bill they could vote against it and bring up something else at their next meeting, for things that weren't time sensitive.

Mr. Kramer said he thought they should fast track this, and if they decide they didn't enough about it, they should table it. But the walkout will happen soon, and he wanted to be informed about it as much as possible, even if they didn't feel informed enough to vote on it.

Mr. Konwinski asked when the Resolution was presented to the Delegate body. Mr. Daal said it was presented at about 6 p.m. that evening. Mr. Konwinski said he was a member of the Rules Committee, which has discussed procedures for fast tracking bills. They wanted to make sure Delegates had time to consider things before voting on them. He wasn't ready to vote on the Resolution, with all four pages in the packet that was distributed.

A Delegate said that regardless of his personal feelings, he was certainly unclear about students' positions in his department. If the bill was fast tracked he felt he'd need to abstain. There were a substantial number of people in that position, and fast tracking it would mean the decision of the GA would be made by those who came to the meeting with prior information.

Resolution on a Graduate Assembly Endorsement of the Faculty Walkout on 9/24 (cont'd)

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Ms. Chavez said the GA only met once a month, and critical issues come up on a weekly basis. If they want to discuss the merits of the bill, they should fast track it.

Mr. Briggs said that for those who thought people were trying to slip something past the students, that's not necessarily the case and they weren't breaking protocol by trying to fast track the bill.

Mr. Rabkin said that this was something faculty at his lab were really focused on and were paying attention to. They're among the high earners whose pay the Resolution would call for to be cut. And it was very emotional. He didn't want to vote to cut his advisor's pay, which is what the bill advocates, without having a chance to discuss it with people first. This was something that people would notice. He understood the rules don't require a month's notice, but the GA's past practice has generally been to provide due notice. He felt it was a mistake to dispense with that policy at this time. The GA could always, after the fact, say they were in favor of the walkout.

Ms. McClanahan said the demands of the letter actually only say that the money could be generated by top earners.

A motion to call the question and end debate on fast tracking was made and seconded and passed by voice-vote.

The motion to fast track the Resolution passed by hand-vote 30-8-0.

Mr. Daal said they were under consideration of the Resolution.

The following Resolution was authored by Annie McClanahan:

RESOLUTION ON A GRADUATE ASSEMBLY ENDORSEMENT OF THE FACULTY WALKOUT
ON 9/24

WHEREAS, the Graduate Assembly's mission "is to engage and empower graduate students to work together for academic, political, and social change"; and

WHEREAS, the granting of "emergency authority" to UC President Mark Yudof and the UC Office of the President's disregard for the democratic decision made by the Academic Council on the management of faculty furloughs undermines the principles of shared governance on which the UC system is founded, and the Administration's refusal to make public the entire UC budget makes informed democratic discussion about spending priorities impossible; and

WHEREAS, the furlough plan impacts not only the faculty and staff facing pay cuts and lay-offs, but also graduate students who consequently lose resources and colleagues, undergraduates who face increased time to degree completion, and all students, present and future, for whom the current and proposed fee increases will represent a significant hardship; and

WHEREAS, alternate proposals have been made by many in the UC community for managing the budget cuts, proposals which emphasize the teaching and research mission of UC Berkeley and all UC campuses above all other priorities;

Resolution on a Graduate Assembly Endorsement of the Faculty Walkout on 9/24 (cont'd)

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RESOLUTION ON A GRADUATE ASSEMBLY ENDORSEMENT OF THE FACULTY WALKOUT
ON 9/24 (cont'd)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Graduate Assembly, in the fulfillment of their mission of empowering social change across the campus, should endorse the statement made by UC Berkeley graduate students through the Graduate Student Organizing Committee (statement attached) and should support the faculty-organized walkout and educational activities scheduled for Thursday, September 24th, 2009.

Begin walkout statement

Dear Fellow Graduate Students,

We write to affirm our commitment to the faculty walkout and UPTE strike planned for September 24. Recent actions by the Regents and the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) raise serious concerns about the future of the UC System and our own future as University students and instructors. We think it imperative that graduate students take a stand now against what threatens to be a disastrous transformation of the UC.

The crisis we face is both real and artificial: real because the recession, combined with deep-seated inequalities in California's tax structure, has resulted in a severe drop in State funding; artificial because the UC can easily meet the budget gap by tapping unrestricted reserve funds from its revenue-generating wings and by trimming its substantial administrative excess. But to our dismay UCOP and the Regents have responded with debilitating layoffs, furloughs and fee hikes, all the while approving pay raises for top executives. And by vesting UC President Mark Yudof with "emergency powers" in July, the Regents have effectively preempted any response through the normal channels. We are compelled to respond otherwise.

These measures taken by the UC Regents and the Office of the President are inconsistent with the core educational mission and history of the University of California. In a time of public need, these actions accelerate a long-standing process of privatization, steering the UC ever farther from the 1960 California Master Plan in Education and its vision of free public education for all Californians. Since 2001, student fees have doubled while instructional budgets have shrunk. If the current course is not reversed, graduate students will confront vanishing teaching sections, heavier workloads and greater debt at a time of enormous insecurity. But beyond self-interest, we cannot stand idly by and watch the dismantling of our public University System. Nor can we allow the Regents and the Office of the President to escape accountability for this crisis by wagering that faculty, staff and students will not act in concert and in solidarity.

The writers and signatories of this letter therefore stand together with the faculty, students, and staff organizing actions, walkouts and work stoppages. We commit to a suspension of graduate student teaching and official University business on September 24, pending satisfaction of the following demands.

1. No layoffs, furloughs or pay cuts for salaries under \$40,000. This money can be generated through steeper pay cuts to UC's top earners.

Resolution on a Graduate Assembly Endorsement of the Faculty Walkout on 9/24 (cont'd)

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RESOLUTION ON A GRADUATE ASSEMBLY ENDORSEMENT OF THE FACULTY WALKOUT ON 9/24 (cont'd)

Walkout statement (cont'd)

2. A complete rollback of fees to their 2008-09 level, and a permanent freeze on fee increases beyond the rate of inflation. Student fees can be offset by redirecting surpluses from the revenue-generating sectors of the University.
3. Full disclosure of the UC budget.

If you are in agreement, please sign your name using the form above.

End walkout statement

Ms. McClanahan said she appreciated the GA allowing this conversation to occur. She knew it happened at the last minute. There were close to 1,000 faculty across the UC System who signed on in support; and

500 grad students have signed on in the course of the last two and a half days, which was pretty extraordinary. There are 3,500 members in the Facebook group, “students against cuts.” As the GA heard earlier, the ASUC was also involved.

Ms. McClanahan said she thought this event represents a crucial moment. There will be things going on for the rest of the semester, but she couldn't say there would be anything that was as Systemwide and sector-wide. There has been nothing of this kind, involving faculty, grads, undergrads, and staff. Probably not since the 1960s has there been this involvement across the campus. This was a key, urgent moment, and she really appreciated the GA's willingness that evening to discuss this. The GA was just being asked to sign on as an endorser of the letter. Other student bodies were considering this as well. She believed the ASUC was going to support it. So the GA would not be alone if it voted to support this, and it would be a leader in Berkeley for doing so.

Ms. McClanahan said she was really moved listening to the history of the GA earlier and thinking about how much political activity has been at the heart of this organization. She hoped they take seriously this opportunity to participate in a really important way at this urgent moment facing all of them. She thought there were other solutions to the budget situation than those that have been offered. One thing being demanded was the full release of the UC budget, which hasn't occurred.

Mr. Daal called for a motion to recess for five minutes so people could read the documents. It was so moved and seconded and passed by voice-vote. This meeting was recessed.

Back in session, Ms. Chavez said the UCSA will announce its support for the walkout and the faculty letter at the next Regents meeting.

Mr. deGrassi said that for part of last year he served on CAPRA, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation, and also went to a session of the UC Planning and Budgeting Committee. At both of those committees there was a lot of frustration about the lack of clarity and transparency in the UC

Resolution on a Graduate Assembly Endorsement of the Faculty Walkout on 9/24 (cont'd) - 26

budget. It was a really important time for groups to express concern that change was needed. Even though he didn't agree with every single word in the letter, he thought it was much more important to show that there was concern and to organize for things to change, including in the Legislature.

A Delegate said that Mr. Daal mentioned that he sent questions to UCOP about proposed budget changes, and asked if the GA received a response. Mr. Daal said they did, and he passed that out. UCOP provided answers to many questions that were raised. He only e-mailed the questions on Tuesday, so UCOP didn't have a lot of time to answer, and was frustrated they couldn't spend more time answering the questions.

Mr. Ellsworth said the Resolution says the “statement” attached was supported, and asked if that included the open letter to UC faculty or the rest of the statement, since they were quite different in tone. Mr. Daal said that they were debating endorsement of the graduate student letter.

Ms. Harrison-Shermoen said she would request dividing the Resolution into two parts and to separately consider endorsing the statement made by UC Berkeley graduate students from the Resolution supporting the faculty-organized walkout, which seemed to be more time sensitive. Her request was to divide the Resolved Clause as follows:

“Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Graduate Assembly, in the fulfillment of their mission of empowering social change across the campus, should endorse the statement made by UC Berkeley graduate students through the Graduate Student Organizing Committee (statement attached).

“Be It Further Resolved, that the Graduate Assembly should support the faculty-organized walkout and educational activities scheduled for Thursday, September 24th, 2009. “

Ms. Anderson said she would like to propose an amendment to the amendment. Approving the proposed amendment would result in a Resolution that would not fall under the deficit categories of Resolutions the GA could consider, since one of the Resolved Clauses would just have the GA simply “just support” something. So she would propose amending the title, and calling this a “Directed Action to the Graduate Assembly President In Support of the Faculty Walkout,” and to delete, in the Resolved Clause, everything referring to the letter. The amendment would have the second Resolved Clause read as follows:

“Resolved, that the Graduate Assembly, in the fulfillment of its mission of empowering social change across the campus, directs the President to draft a letter in support of the faculty-organized walkout.”

The President and the Executive Board would have time to consider exactly what the GA wanted to say, which would reflect the overarching views of the GA. The GA could decide it was in support and entrust the details to Mr. Daal and the Executive Board to draft a letter.

A Delegate asked who the letter would be sent to, and said they could have it be an open letter that was published on the GA Web site.

Ms. Anderson said the amendment would have one Resolved Clause, to read as follows:

“Resolved, that the Graduate Assembly, in the fulfillment of its mission of empowering social change across the campus, directs the President to draft a letter from the Graduate Assembly in

Resolution on a Graduate Assembly Endorsement of the Faculty Walkout on 9/24 (cont'd)

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support of the faculty-organized walkout and educational activities scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2009, and to post this letter on the GA Web site.”

Mr. Daal said the amendment would also change the title of the Resolution to “Resolution on a Directed Action to the Graduate Assembly President to Endorse the Faculty Walkout on 9/24.”

A Delegate asked if approval of the Resolution would mean that whatever letter the GA President drafted would be accepted by the GA. Mr. Daal said it would.

Mr. Ellsworth asked if Delegates would have input by e-mail on what the President would post. Mr. Daal said they would. It was his intent to have a meeting on Monday afternoon next week to discuss the letter.

Ms. McClanahan said she thought it was a great idea for the GA to produce its own document, with its own priorities, while also signing off in support of the actions on September 24.

Mr. Haddad said he believed it would be more productive to support the statement issued by the GSOC and not divide that voice from the GA's. The GA could then consider a separate statement after the walkout.

Mr. Saxena said there were a lot of contentious things in the original letter. He thought they all support faculty and thought the GA writing its own letter could address some of that.

A Delegate said people who wanted to be involved and make sure certain things were preserved could potentially attend the meeting where letter would be written.

Mr. Rabkin moved to amend the amendment, to add:

"Finally Resolved, that the GA President will hold a letter-writing session on Monday, September 14, at 6 p.m., at the GA."

With no objection, the question was called. THE MOTION TO APPROVE MR. RABKIN'S AMENDMENT PASSED BY VOICE-VOTE.

Mr. Rajan said Ms. Anderson's amendment no longer allowed them to divide the motion into two parts. The only thing they'd do was publish an open letter. He would like debate on supporting the faculty separately from whether or not to support the letter.

Mr. Saxena said the purpose of Ms. Anderson's amendment was for the GA to write its own letter supporting the faculty.

Mr. Daal noted that there were people outside waiting to use the room. The GA didn't usually go this long.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Mr. Ellsworth asked what would happen to the Resolution if they adjourned. Mr. Daal said it would be considered at their next meeting.

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The motion to adjourn failed by hand-vote.

A Delegate moved to extend the meeting time by 15 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed by hand-vote.

Ms. Foyle call the question on Ms. Anderson's amendment. The motion to end debate passed by hand-vote.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO MS. ANDERSON'S AMENDMENT PASSED BY HAND-VOTE. A motion to call the question was made and seconded and passed by hand-vote. THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT, AS AMENDED, PASSED BY HAND-VOTE.

A motion to call the question and end debate was made and seconded and passed by hand-vote.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE 0909d, AS AMENDED, PASSED BY HAND-VOTE, RESOLUTION ON A DIRECTED ACTION TO THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT TO ENDORSE THE FACULTY WALKOUT ON 9/24.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and passed with no objection.

This meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

These minutes respectfully submitted by,

Steven I. Litwak
Recording Secretary

Resolution 0909d was amended on the floor to read as follows: [amendments italicized]

*RESOLUTION ON A DIRECTED ACTION TO THE GRADUATE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT TO
ENDORSE THE FACULTY WALKOUT ON 9/24*

WHEREAS, the Graduate Assembly's mission "is to engage and empower graduate students to work together for academic, political, and social change"; and

WHEREAS, the granting of "emergency authority" to UC President Mark Yudof and the UC Office of the President's disregard for the democratic decision made by the Academic Council on the management of faculty furloughs undermines the principles of shared governance on which the UC system is founded, and the Administration's refusal to make public the entire UC budget makes informed democratic discussion about spending priorities impossible; and

WHEREAS, the furlough plan impacts not only the faculty and staff facing pay cuts and lay-offs, but also graduate students who consequently lose resources and colleagues, undergraduates who face increased time to degree completion, and all students, present and future, for whom the current and proposed fee increases will represent a significant hardship; and

WHEREAS, alternate proposals have been made by many in the UC community for managing the budget cuts, proposals which emphasize the teaching and research mission of UC Berkeley and all UC campuses above all other priorities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Graduate Assembly, in the fulfillment of their mission of empowering social change across the campus, directs the President to draft a letter from the Graduate Assembly in support of the faculty-organized walkout and the educational activities scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2009, and to post that letter on the GA Web site.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GA President will hold a letter-writing session on Monday, September 14, 2009, at 6 p.m., at the Graduate Assembly.