On October 3, 2019, the Graduate Assembly hosted its second Delegate Assembly meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year (agenda and materials [here](#)). The GA created a new travel grant program for graduate student parents, approved student group funding, finalized its advocacy agenda, and hosted question and answer sessions with University Health Services and Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate Division, Dr. Lisa Garcia Bedolla.

**Parent Travel Grant.** In [Resolution 1909B](#), the GA Delegates voted to establish the Graduate Student Parent Travel Award. Graduate student parents planning to attend or present at a conference are now able to apply for up to $300 of additional funds to cover qualified expenses. Funds are intended to help offset the additional expenses faced by graduate student parents due to traveling with dependents. More info [here](#).

**Student Group Funding.** The GA regularly distributes funding to registered student organizations. More info on GA funding [here](#); more info on registering student organizations [here](#). For this round, the GA distributed over $80,000 to more than 150 student groups. All events supported by GA funds are free and open to attend by all graduate and professional students - please check out the [GA Calendar of Events](#) to find out more.

**GA Advocacy Agenda.** Every year, the GA Delegates set the GA’s advocacy priorities. The [2019-2020 GA Advocacy Agenda](#) focuses on four issue clusters - 1) Affordable Housing, 2) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, 3) Wellness and Mental Health, and 4) SVSH Prevention - and sets out dozens of initiatives that the GA will pursue over the next eight months.
UHS SHIP Update: On August 1st 2019, SHIP carriers transferred from Anthem to Wellfleet Student. If you or someone you know is facing a disruption in care due to the change in carrier please file a “Transition of Care” request with UHS to receive support (and let the GA know if this process is not working). Additionally, UHS announced that a new partnership with Teladoc - an online service available to students and dependents on SHIP that is intended to provide access to medical and mental health care providers 24-7 through a computer, tablet, or phone.

VPGS/Grad Dean update: The GA welcomed Vice Provost of Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate Division, Dr. Lisa Garcia Bedolla, in a Q&A around her vision for graduate education. She discussed her long term goals and priorities: 1) ensuring that basic needs of graduate students are better met, 2) enhancing both academic and nonacademic professional development opportunities, and 3) diversifying the graduate student body. The GA will be working closely with Dean Garcia Bedolla in the year to come to provide feedback on campus efforts and promote graduate participation in these initiatives.

All delegates meetings are open to the public and take place on the first Thursday of the month starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Eshleman Hall Senate Chambers. The next Assembly meeting will be held on November 7th, 2019.

The mission of the Graduate Assembly is to improve the lives of University of California, Berkeley graduate students and to foster a vibrant, inclusive graduate student community. For further information, please contact Adam Orford, GA President (president-ga@berkeley.edu).