

Graduate Assembly Delegates Meeting Minutes  
February 7, 2013  
Goldman School of Public Policy  
Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM

**1. Approval of the Agenda and Dec 2012 Meeting Summary (3 minutes, ~5:30pm)**

a. Minutes are posted at: <http://ga.berkeley.edu/delegates/meeting>.

**Motion to approve the minutes from the previous delegates meeting on December of 2012 approved**

**2. Resolution Referral (1 minutes)**

- NONE

**3. Announcements (5 minutes)**

a. Library Decal - Natalie Gavello

b. Green Initiative Fund - Katherine Walsh

- Katherine Walsh - coordinator of The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF)
  - [kwalsh@berkeley.edu](mailto:kwalsh@berkeley.edu)
- Every student pays \$5.50 that goes towards TGIF
- TGIF awards grants to staff, students, and faculty every year; currently accepting applications
- Deadline to accept – February 22 at 5:00 PM
- Often do not get a large number of graduate student applications
- TGIF pay for student work and it is a great way to get an internship that is sustainability-themed on campus
- Website: [tgif.berkeley.edu](http://tgif.berkeley.edu)
- Examples of past projects that were funded:
  - Food collective
  - BicyCal
  - Hydration stations
  - Bottle refill
  - Compost alliance
  - Habitat restoration along strawberry creek
- Total budget allocated – \$320,000
- Overall given \$1.3 million over past 5 years

c. Student Space

- Gordon met with small cohort
- More information coming soon

d. Chancellor Attending March Meeting

- Chancellor Birgeneau will be at next meeting
- Email Gordon if you want a specific topic addressed at the next meeting

#### e. Guest Announcements

- Rebecca Miller – ACVWG
  - Consistency to student advising on campus
  - Formerly director of student services at EECS and CNR
  - Focus of their work is largely directed towards undergraduates, but they are moving towards advising graduate students
  - Google survey will go out to officers
  - OE project, improving staff side

#### 4. Development Impact Lab (DIL) - Temina Madon (15 minutes)

- Innovation director at the Blum Center
- Started a \$30 million pilot program with USAID to determine how to better engage university
- Focus is on technology, science, business, and engineering
- Creating a minor for PhD students – cross-disciplinary including engineering, natural sciences, economy, business, and more
- Want to form a student advisory board to better provide feedback
- Creating GSR/GSI opportunities at their centers; part-time paid opportunities, supporting student innovators
- New peer-reviewed journal
- “State of the Science” Conference
- Pilot program - student research projects for external partners
- Contact info:
  - <http://bigideas.berkeley.edu/idealabs>
  - [nilsson@berkeley.edu](mailto:nilsson@berkeley.edu)
  - UCB listserv: [deveng@berkeley.edu](mailto:deveng@berkeley.edu)
- CEGA and Blum Center websites for announcements
  - Temina is the Executive Director there at the Blum Center

#### 5. President’s Report (15 minutes)

- **\*\*PowerPoint for GA President’s Report\*\***:
  - [https://ga.berkeley.edu/files/delegates/2013-02-07/President%20Report%20-%20Feb7\\_0.pdf](https://ga.berkeley.edu/files/delegates/2013-02-07/President%20Report%20-%20Feb7_0.pdf)
- Faculty-Mentor Awards due February 8
  - For more info: [ga.berkeley.edu/fma](http://ga.berkeley.edu/fma)
  - FMA Awards ceremony scheduled for April 18, 3PM-5PM
  - Remind departments to nominate faculty
- February 14 mixer with Chancellor Birgeneau and several other Vice Chancellors
  - Casual way to interact with graduate students and learn about graduate student life
  - Open to non-delegates as well; food and beverages provided
  - If interested in attending, please email [execassist@ga.berkeley.edu](mailto:execassist@ga.berkeley.edu)
- GA relocated to Hearst Gym Suite 2
  - To reserve the CA Conference Room email [chief@ga.berkeley.edu](mailto:chief@ga.berkeley.edu)
  - Anthony Hall to be reopened in late February, done completely by April

- Be next UC Student Regent
  - Only voting member on the UC Board of Regents
  - Applications due for the 2013-2014 academic year due February 28
  - First year as UC Student Regent Designate, Second year as voting member
  - Tuition and fees paid for both years
  - Info session on February 15 at 10AM in the CA Conference Room
- Exec board funding approvals over winter break
  - From contingency:
    - Approximately \$13,000 for AV additions to Anthony Hall
      - Breakdown for the \$13,000 can be done next meeting, email Bahar for any further questions; electrical materials is most expensive
    - \$1,500 for repairing pelican beak
- When new Eshleman Hall is finished, Anthony Hall will become space dedicated for graduate students; expenses were for looking down the line and use resources
- Student health background:
  - Each UC campus has a student health center, with each center funded by:
    - Student fees
    - Health based fees (approved by student referendum)
    - Premiums (SHIP)
    - Copay
- SHIP
  - Prior to 2010 each campus had own insurance program
  - Berkeley had our own campus based SHIP with Anthem
  - Roughly 60-70% of students enrolled in SHIP
    - Much higher percentage in graduate students than undergraduates
  - In 2010, all campuses were pressured into joining UC wide SHIP out of UCOP
  - This agreement was supposedly better for smaller UC campuses and larger UC campuses were last to join but only after they were offered incentives
- UC SHIP Advisory Board:
  - One student representative per campus
  - Student health center directors from each campus
  - UCOP staff
  - UCOP SHIP would manage financials
- History of deficits:
  - In 2010 Aon-Hewitt priced out premiums and tracked claims, at the time, projecting a first year slight surplus
  - The second year, they projected a slight deficit
  - But recently, announced a major deficit of \$57.41 million
  - Alliant reported that the problem was the premiums were set too low, which meant that Aon messed up and were unrealistic and too aggressive with their projections
  - This led to Aon being fired
- It is unclear as to why UCOP was not actually monitoring the plan monthly
  - OP is currently looking into legal action against Aon
- Deficit details
  - Not equal across UC campus – Berkeley one of the lowest

- Campus health centers believe there are inaccuracies in the report regarding campus financials
- Voluntary SHIP members (dependents, students on leave of absence) are costlier than regular student members
- No representatives from UC medical centers but some campuses are sending representatives
- 70% of claims for services were found to be outside of student health centers
- UCOP recommendations
  - 1) Raise premiums 25% on average for next year, 2013-2014
    - UC Berkeley recommended at approximately 19.8% fee increase
    - Greater percentage fee increase for the UC campuses that contribute higher deficits
    - This would be followed by another 3 years of UC SHIP fee increases, totaling about a 70% increase in premiums from today's current price
    - A decision is needed by June 1, 2013
  - 2) There will be a number of changes to health center management
    - Restrict how they can use revenue streams
    - At Berkeley, this would impact services that the Tang Center can offer
    - Centralize/standardize pharmacy and other procedures at UCs
  - 3) Change to a fully funded insurance plan
    - More like a traditional plan, but likely costlier than SHIP
  - 4) Make SHIP more managed care style
    - Strengthen gatekeeper role (referrals more closely monitored, etc.)
  - 5) Dissolve UC SHIP and send students to a statewide insurance exchange
    - There are a lot of unknowns for this option since the exchange is not set up yet
  - 6) Student concerns
    - UCOP needs to respect decision-making process; council of Chancellors wants to make the final decision
    - No financial aid for the 2013-2014 academic year will be used to cover premium increases
    - For graduate students, departments would need to cover the cost
    - UCOP and Aon need to take responsibility, at least in part
    - OP pays ½ of increases
    - Report has inconsistencies, how can we trust it? How can we trust further centralization of health services
    - If costs go up, will students waive ship and get other insurance?
    - Current UC Ship does not meet standards of health care reform (ACA/Obamacare)
    - UC SHIP and other self-funded student health insurance plans currently exempted from meeting individual mandate requirements, meaning health reform rules do not apply to them
    - Proposed ruling now says self-funded student health insurance plans do qualify under health care reform
    - Exempted from requirements that the plan must remove annual pharmacy

- and lifetime coverage maximums in benefits
  - Seems positive but ruling is not yet finalized
  - Ruling coming from the Department of Health and Human Services
- SHIP Caps
  - Some student groups, including UAW and UCSA, believe these annual and lifetime caps should be removed from UC SHIP
  - Doing this would increase premiums about \$30-\$50 per student per year
  - Very small percentage of student, ~1% of students, reach lifetime caps
- Questions to delegates
  - How do you want to handle the deficit?
  - Are you willing to pay more in premiums?
  - Are you willing to reduce benefits? Impact on financial aide?
  - Do you want lifetime caps removed?
  - If yes, are you willing to pay for it?
- Fairly realistic for OP to pay part of the money and additional payment come from campus tax revenue streams
- OP has lots of various funding streams to be used for this purpose

## **6. Resolution Discussion and Vote (20 minutes)**

### a. 1212a: Bylaw Amendments to the Role and Responsibilities of Executive Board Regarding Committee Appointments

- Bylaw amendment seeks to give Execboard authority over committee appointments (both in appointing and removing members)
- Execboard already fulfills this role, so bylaw amendment would align the GA's current practice of committee appointments with governing documents
  - Refers to campus committees, not GA committees
  - Bill would make more transparent how appointments happen

### **Motion to amend resolution carries without objections**

### **Motion to pass bill carries without objections**

### b. 1301a: Standing policy to advocate improvements to UC SHIP

- UC SHIP currently has a \$400,000 lifetime cap and an annual prescription drug cap of \$10,000
  - Not high enough to cover serious illness
  - Kenya wheeler, a UC student and cancer survivor, exceeded lifetime cap in one semester
  - This Resolution calls for UCOP to lift caps
- Why now?
  - ACA mandates minimum standards for group health insurance plans and these caps are not allowed
  - Self-funded plans like UC SHIP need to petition to the Department of HHS so that members/students will meet insurance mandate
  - But in the UCOP petition (written with other universities) they request delaying

- lifting these caps for at least a year
- Several concerns even though committee recommends that the assembly pass this resolution
  - Clarity: framing the argument within context of ACA is confusing. For those unfamiliar with details of law it may sound like we are claiming UC SHIP is failing to satisfy minimum requirements of ACA
  - Won't UCOP raise premiums to life caps? Without further demands, we are granting UCOP permission to charge us more for coverage? Are we providing them an opportunity to raise costs an unjustifiable amount?
  - Recent fiasco concerning the projected \$57 million deficit and proposed 19.8% premium increase suggests there is something wrong with the management of UC SHIP
  - How much do we expect premiums to go up as a result?
  - Technical concerns:
    - Directed action for GA President and UC SHIP committee member would have more impact
- EAVP committee recommendations
  - Committee decided to provide line-edits to the resolution and instead provide a general stance on the resolution
  - Committee members appreciate intent of resolution but believe that:
    - There are factual inaccuracies about how the ACA requirements apply to UC SHIP and these needs to be clarified
    - There should be more information about cost implications associated with increasing benefits
    - There is need for more data on the issue and how students are currently impacted

**Motion to amend Resolution 1301a with recommendations by the committee passes**

**Motion to table Resolution 1301a with recommendations until March GA Delegates meeting fails**

**Motions to remove Ben Keller and Erik Green as authors of Resolution 1301a passes**

**Motion to amend line 51d passes**

**Motion in favor of Resolution 1301a fails with a division vote of 20-25. Roll call vote ensues**

Roll Call Vote of GA Delegates Present (including Alternates) in alphabetical order from first names:

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Aaron Smyth - Absent         | • Angus Hildreth - Absent |
| • Adam Merberg - No            | • Anisha Gupta - Absent   |
| • Alex Quintanilla - Yes       | • Augusto Tentori - Yes   |
| • Allyson Pymmer - No          | • Brad Barker - Absent    |
| • Andreas Voellmer – Yes       | • Caitlin Declercq - No   |
| • Andrew P. Sabelhaus - Absent | • Carl Onak - No          |

- Justin West - No
- Chen Chen - No
- Cheryl Johnson Zermeno - Absent
- Christopher Klein - No
- Daniel P. Hogan - Absent
- Daniel Riffe - Yes
- Daniel Suarez - Yes
- Danielle Dai - Yes
- Dillon Niederhut - Yes
- Elise Youn - Yes
- Emiliano Huet-Vaughn - Yes
- Eric Jabart - No
- Geneva Brooke Davis - Absent
- Hugo Cabrera - Yes
- Isaac Markus - Yes
- Jenna Judge - Yes
- Jesse Berns - Absent
- Jevon Heath (Alternate) - Yes
- John Olmsted - Absent
- John Ready - Absent
- Jonathan Terhorst - Absent
- Jordan Ou - Absent
- Justin Farewell - Absent
- Karthikram Natarajan - Yes
- Katherine Driggs Campbell - Absent
- Kelly Whitaker - Yes
- Kevin Haninger - Absent
- Kim Russo (Alternate) - No
- Konstaninos A. Gouglas - Yes
- Lashon Daley - No
- Lily Hu - No
- Liz Long - Absent
- Mac Esters - Abstain
- Matt Goren - No
- Mia Lilly - Absent
- Michaela Ferrari - No
- Mikel Shybut - No
- Mohammed Alhinnawi - No
- Moneer Helu - No
- Monka Langarica - Absent
- Lia Fah - Yes
- Mario - No
- Nabil Ansari - Absent
- Nathaniel Krefman - No
- Nicolas Gooding - Abstain
- Nicole Fay - No
- Omid Shams Solari - Absent
- Orville Thomas - No
- Peter Tien - Yes
- Peter X. Wu - No
- Phillip Dumitrescu - No
- Prabhavathi Mata - Absent
- Renee Mack - Yes
- Rielle Navistski - Absent
- Robyn Beckwith - No
- Rosemary Romero - Yes
- Sarah Wheeler - Absent
- Seung-Won (Frank) Lee - Absent
- Sofia Murga - Absent
- Sonia Hart (Alternate) - No
- Stephen Twigg - Yes
- Thomas Moran - Absent
- Neil Seitgal - No
- Erin Coghlan - Absent
- Hekia Bodwitch - Yes
- Kelign Annou - No

**Motion to pass Resolution 1301a fails with a roll call vote of 22 Yes, 26 No, 2 Abstentions, and 27 Absent**

- Bahar will still give update on this for next meeting

#### **11. Graduate Council Election (10 minutes)**

- Moneer Helu is the alternate
  - The vote for the actual position will be next month

#### **7. Honor Code - Gordon Hoople (10 minutes)**

- The idea is that it will be separate from the discipline code
  - Formed a committee with undergraduates, graduate students, the Dean of Students, Dean of Letters and Sciences, and a professor highly interested in this
  - Plan will be to launch the honor code during midterms this semester
  - Announcement will come from the Chancellor and ASUC President Connor Landgraf
  - Announcement will say what it means and what it represents
  - There will be a press release with Daily Cal
  - Will be included in the SIR (Statement of Intent to Register) in order to encourage students to think about this as they are admitted into UC Berkeley
  - Will be put in syllabus to help frame anti-plagiarism in a uniform way
  - Will work the honor code into the GSI training
  - Currently this “honor code” is passive so this is a step in making it more active
- Ramifications for violating the honor code? Are there studies to see if this actually leads to real results?
  - There are no ramifications for violating the honor code
  - Do not know what kind of impact it will have, but it will get people talking about it in a more uniform way
  - Undergraduates will not be actively registered until you check the box that you agree to the honor code
  - Not limited to cheating or plagiarism; has different meanings at different levels
  - There is a fear that it will become just a box check without really changing
  - But did not want the honor to force students to turn in their peers; at least not at this point
  - If there is cheating students will be punished through the student code of conduct
  - Hoping it will have an impact on education and awareness
  - The worst that can happen is for it not to work

### **8. Breakout Session (20 minutes) (TABLED)**

- a. Union GA Relations (Carl)
- b. Honor Code (Gordon)
- c. External Affairs (Angelica)

### **9. Officer Reports (15 minutes)**

- a. External Affairs (5 minutes) (TABLED)
- b. Campus Affairs (10 minutes)
  - Campus Climate Survey – it’s a big deal
    - Strongly encourage everyone and the constituents they represent to fill out this survey
    - What is Campus Climate – current attitudes behaviors of faculty, staff and students and whether they feel safe, respected, and whether the affinity groups that they associate ourselves with feel respected and safe
    - General pattern of undergraduate students is that the smaller the subgroup the less likely they are to feel respected on this campus
    - Do not know anything about graduate students
    - Need to keep in mind that numbers like this really do run policy – especially



among high ranking executives

- The more numbers we have the more likely it is that something will get done on campus
- The largest survey of its kind there is – it's UC Wide
- The link for the survey is in your email and on the CAVP slides on the ga website:
  - ga.berkeley.edu
- There are prizes for those who take the survey
- Look at email (sent on February 5<sup>th</sup>) or CAVP slides for price details
- CAVP highly encourages graduate students to get the word out to department members to fill out this survey
- Without your responses this survey won't be representative

i. PC Hiring

c. Environmental Sustainability (5 minutes)

### **10. Funding - Patrick Baur (20 minutes)**

- What we had available for the different categories (in thousands) was:
  - GMER: \$48,500 → 56 Requested
  - GRANTS: \$16,000 → 40 Requested
  - CONTINGENCY: \$7,500 → 4 Requested
  - PUBLICATIONS: \$3,000 → 5 Requested
- Contingency

**Motion to approve with funding committee recommendations passed by split vote**

- Publications

**Motion to amend the policy line item to \$500 dollars from \$0 → Motion tabled**

**Motion passed to table publications**

- Grants
  - The committee is recommending in order to cover the requested and available gap to get the additional funds partly (\$3,950) from the venue fund and to pull from the GA's general contingency (it will be the rest of the contingency fund).
  - Any group can reapply on to a later contingency fund
    - Granted it will go through the review process and come back to the meeting with committee recommendations

**Motion to change the line item on number 24 from the amount of \$0 to \$385 and the money will come from student group contingency is passed**

**Motion to change the line item on number 29 from \$0 to \$430 and to take the money from student group contingency fails, see note below**

- \*Note: During debate, realized that the spreadsheet had a mistake on it.
  - Line 29 should read \$1930 instead of \$430 for the total requested

- Because they are getting \$0 funding Delegates encourage them to appeal and re-apply

**Motion to fund \$1,500 to La Raza Law Journal with money coming from student group contingency line 29 fails**

**Motion to pass the grants passes**

**Motion for a two sentence description to each grant request passes**

**Motion to approve GMER funding passes**

**Motion to fund Policy Matters at \$500 from student group contingency passes**

**Motion to fund publications at large passes**

- Carl needs two delegates to be on the interview selection process for graduate projects
  - Berkeley Graduate Women's Project
  - Berkeley Graduate
- Delegates who volunteered:
  - Allyson Pymer
  - Rosemary Romero
  - Orville Thomas

**12. Adjournment and Delegate's Social (first round on the GA!)**

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 PM