

**Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024; 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**HUB 355 | Meeting Minutes Approved on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Name	Association	Voting Privilege <sup>1</sup>	Attendance <sup>2</sup>
Jose Alvarez	Graduate, Chair	X	P
Chukwufunaya Ikechukwu	Undergraduate, Vice Chair	X	A
Ruhi Barman	Undergraduate, ASUCR VP of Internal Affairs	X	A
Phoebe Lee	Undergraduate	X	P
Grace Su	Undergraduate	X	P/LE
Andrew Wong	Undergraduate		P
Cameron Springer	Undergraduate		P
David Nikom	Graduate	X	P
Payton DePalma	Graduate		P
Rong Hai	Faculty	X	A
Scott Currie	Faculty	X	P/AL
Sally Tavizon	Staff	X	P
	Staff	X	
Ankita Ahluwalia	Ex-Officio, ASUCR President		A
Ivett Gabriella	Ex-Officio, GSA President		P/AL
Luisa Levario	Ex-Officio, VCSA		A
Luis Alvarez	Sta Staff Support, VCSA		A
Sarai Sierra	Staff Support, VCSA		P
Alice Chavez	Staff Support, VCSA		P
Angela Chien	Student Secretary, VCSA		P/LE

<sup>1</sup> “X” indicates voting privilege

<sup>2</sup> P: Present | A: Absent | AL: Arrived Late | LE: Left Early

## Call to Order: 1:39 PM

1. Approve the Agenda
  - *Motion to Approve the Agenda Payton DePalma, Seconded by David Nikom.*
    - ***Agenda Approved Without Objections***
  
2. CSF Meeting Report
  - Over the weekend, Chair *Jose Alvarez* attended the Winter 2024 CSF meeting took place at UC Santa Barbara. Chair *Jose Alvarez* provided an overview of what was discussed.
    - CSF has been working diligently to ensure SSFAC representation at UC Regents meetings.
    - On the topic of increased funding for mental health, SSFAC representatives discussed various ways to utilize the funds across all UC campus to reach a collective collegiate resource allocation.
    - CSF Chair emphasized the role of each campus' SSFAC in overseeing proposed referendum fees. CSF Chair also reminded SSFAC Chairs to periodically check in on tuition increases and whether or not the increased amount is going to SSF.
    - Other UC SSFAC's have been successful in reaching and engaging more students through social media.
  - UCR is scheduled to host the next quarterly CSF meeting, with the projected date being April or May. Chair *Jose Alvarez* asked the Committee for any location recommendation, along with food and tourist attractions, while noting that there is a discretionary fund from CSF that can be used to enhance the event. The Committee proposed the following: Student Success Center, UCR Botanical Gardens, Mission Inn Hotel and restaurants, ice rink, UCR Alumni Visitor Centers, School of Medicine, Bourns Hall patio, and Mount Rubidoux.
  
3. LGBT Resource Center – Subcommittee A
  - Director of LGBT Resource Center, *Nancy Tubbs*, gave an overview of the departments' services and programs surrounding the education and advocacy of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Some of its programs include Community Outreach Educators (CORE), T-Camp Retreat, Resource Library, and Tuesday Talks.
  - *Payton DePalma* asked if there are any student testimonials to the programs that LGBT Resource Center provides. *Nancy Tubbs* prefaced that the allocation of staff time across all aspects of the center has been a challenge, as the priority has been campus-wide policy work. However, students have been creating new coalition that utilizes the center as a meeting space, such as queer disabilities and queer theater. Due to the opportunity for student connection at the center, LGBT Resource Center prioritizes campus-wide events. In the future when LGBT Resource Center asks for SSFAC funding, it will be presenting the aforementioned activities.

- Chair *Jose Alvarez* questioned if LGBT Resource Center is interested in staff-funding from SSFAC for one year. *Nancy Tubbs* noted the difficulty in recruiting for one-year intervals, whereas three-years may showcase better recruitment results. The recent hire for the transgender support position was helpful in alleviating the challenges that the center faces.
- Chair *Jose Alvarez* inquired to which educational degrees do potential hiring candidates have? *Nancy Tubbs* noted that candidates assume a Masters, and have received training and licensing. Similar to case managers, some positions are Bachelors required and Masters preferred, or even Masters required. There are transgender care specialists that can help students.

#### 4. Graduate Student Association – Subcommittee A

- President of the Graduate Student Association, *Ivett Gabriella*, introduced the structural responsibilities and programs of GSA, such as the general student council meetings, weekly newsletters, standing committees, travel grants, and student organization registrations. In GSA, students take on decision-making roles, and advocacy events are held periodically.
- *David Nikom* inquired about the driving force behind the increased cost for Grad Bash. *Ivett Gabriella* noted that it is increased beyond the regular inflation but did not know the specifics.
- Seeing how GSA represents many departments on campus, *David Nikom* inquired if there is a department that has the most and least frequented number of students. *Ivett Gabriella* noted that most students engaged in campus departments are first- and second-year graduate students, across different schools. Generally, newer students seek out more community-based organizations.
- *David Nikom* asked if GSA works with the Graduate Student Union, and if GSA has assisted with the union. *Ivett Gabriella* stated that there is always a union representative at council meetings and has personally worked with the representatives on union affairs. As such, GSA does work with GSU.
- Chair *Jose Alvarez* asked if GSA is only allowed to order food on campus. *Ivett Gabriella* explained that GSA can bring in external vendors for a smaller crowd, and that GSA has a specific vendor list to order from.
- Chair *Jose Alvarez* inquired if there is difficulty in funding goodies and swag items. *Ivett Gabriella* noted that there is still a budget for the swag items and grab bags, but it is a separate funding from its unmet needs.
- *David Nikom* asked if there are general fundraising events, or if funding is raised internally. *Ivett Gabriella* explained that GSA is currently attempting to increase the baseline funding. GSA recognizes students' financial struggles, so it is deviating away from sourcing funding from students.

#### 5. Open Comments

- The Committee discussed the helpfulness in expanding spaces for graduate students to network, while cutting costs of doing so. In regard to catering, Citrus Grove offers a wider inclusive range of food options.

- *Alice Chavez* also noted campus departments, such as the Chicano Student Program and Asian Pacific Student Programs, are requesting for funding to help graduate students. *Sally Tavizon* also inquired the possibility of asking the Vice Provost for funding, due to the decrease in graduate student population.
- In regard to LGBT Resource Center, the Committee discussed ways to increase cross-campus partnerships, and the possibility of cross-campus partnerships through SSFAC permanent funding.

6. Chair Comments

- Chair Jose Alvarez reminded that the possible dates for the next CSF meeting at UCR will be April 20<sup>th</sup>, or May 4<sup>th</sup>.

7. Adjourn: **3:05 PM**

- *Motion to Adjourn by Sally Tavizon, Seconded by Payton DePalma.*
  - ***Adjournment Approved without Objections.***