

Monday, March 3rd, 2025; 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Hinderaker 0154 | Meeting Minutes
Approved on May 5th, 2025

Name	Association	Voting Privilege ¹	Attendance ²
Chukwufunanya Ikechukwu	Undergraduate, Chair	X	P
Nadia Aierken	Undergraduate, ASUCR VP of Internal Affairs	X	A
Phoebe Lee	Undergraduate, Vice Chair	X	P
Grace Su	Undergraduate	X	P/LE
Andrew Wong	Undergraduate		P
Rishika Salvi	Undergraduate		P
Paula Cucurella	Graduate	X	A
Chandana Anand Rangappa	Graduate	X	P
Tatenda Nicole Mukruva	Graduate		P
Coleen Macnamara	Faculty	X	A
Scott Currie	Faculty	X	AL/P
Sally Tavizon	Staff	X	P
Sarah Dillon	Staff	X	P
Abby Choy	Ex-Officio, ASUCR President		A
Jordan Steinhauser	Ex-Officio, GSA President		P
Luisa Levario	Ex-Officio, VCSA		A
Luis Alvarez	Staff Support, VCSA		A
Alice Alcantara	Staff Support, VCSA		P
Sarai Sierra	Staff Support, VCSA		A
Angela Chien	Student Secretary, VCSA		P
Emily Lee	Student Secretary, VCSA		P

¹ “X” indicates voting privilege

² P: Present | A: Absent | AL: Arrived Late | LE: Left Early

Call to Order: **11:04 AM**

1. Approve the Agenda

- *Motion to Approve the Agenda by Phoebe Lee, Seconded by Rishika Salvi.*
 - ***Agenda Approved Without Objections***

2. AVS DOS Office of Foster Youth – Subcommittee D

- *Director Stephen Morales and John Valdez* introduced themselves to the Committee and gave a brief history of FYSS; originally started as the Guardian Scholars but have broadened to include foster youth. FYSS's goal is to offer a wide range of support and resources to students to transition from the foster care system to adulthood in the pursuit of higher education.
- *Stephen Morales* illustrated that FYSS is split into two programs, Guardian Scholars Program – individuals who were admitted into foster care after the age of 16 and Non-GS Foster Youth Support Services – individuals who were in foster care since birth. *Stephen Morales* iterated that depending on which program students were categorized into, FYSS was able to provide resources according to the students' needs. *Stephen Morales* stated that the department will not be requesting funds through SSFAC this year due to an increase in state funding and large donors. *Stephen Morales* noted that FYSS returned unused funds to SSFAC last year. Any funds that were used to support the Director position, as it was the only professional staff at the time.
- *Sally Tavizon* asked for confirmation that FYSS was not seeking any funds this year. *Stephen Morales* affirmed. Additionally, *Sally Tavizon* asked if the department is anticipating any budget cuts or changes with the new guidelines placed. *Stephen Morales* responded that because FYSS is funded by the state, they are not anticipating any changes towards the budget at this time. However, it is noted federal funds could impact state budgeting in the future. *John Valdez* also included that during FY 23-24, 90% of the department's support was through outside donors and that FYSS still has access to this large donor database. *Stephen Morales* mentioned that if FYSS were to ever experience cuts in funding, the department is still in touch with the donors and can tap into those resources, if necessary.
- *Stephen Morales* also advocated for FYSS's Steering Committee, a group of current and former UCR employees who volunteer to help guide the department and aid the students through attending various events, providing transportation and overall, big support to the students. *Stephen Morales* advised if anyone from the Committee is interested, to please reach out.

3. Veterans Resource Center – Subcommittee D

- *Director Tami Thacker* introduced VRC as a program dedicated to helping veterans become scholars. VRC is devoted to providing a productive learning environment to ensure veterans can receive an education and ultimately, a

career. *Tami Thacker* noted that most veterans are transfer students and have expressed contentment of VRC's accomplishments.

- *Tami Thacker* stated that VRC provides programs encompassing community service, civic engagement, and leadership. Programs such as Operation VETS (Veteran, Employment, Transition, Success) allows students to engage in professional development by engaging in StrengthsFinder workshops and participating in career development workshops. *Tami Thacker* also highlighted that over 900 students involved in VRC have been increasing every academic year.
- *Chair Funanya Ikechukwu* asked about the increase in the student workers' budget from \$10k last year to \$45k this year. *Tami Thacker* answered that many student workers must work another job to stay afloat. By increasing the minimum wage, students can avoid this predicament. *Chair Funanya Ikechukwu* followed up about the hourly rate. *Tami Thacker* responded with \$16.50 to \$17. *John Valdez* included that grad students get paid \$22.50 per hour.
- *Sarah Dillon* asked about the details of VRC's technology request. *Tami Thacker* replied that the department currently has 6 outdated computers and is requesting funds to purchase new monitors and cameras. *Sarah Dillon* asked how many students VRC sends to the Professional Development Program. *Tami Thacker* replied that in the past; they have only sent 2 students but also expressed interest in sending up to 100 students. *Sarah Dillon* asked where the program is located. *Tami Thacker* answered in Colorado Springs. *John Valdez* included that VRC has PERM funding for 2 positions. However, the department has traditionally relied on SSFAC or VCSA in the past and have been currently allocating funds.
- *Sally Tavizon* observed that by allowing the position to be filled, the department will lose salary savings. *Tami Thacker* agreed.

4. Graduate Student Association – Subcommittee D

- *GSA President Jordan Steinhauser* introduced GSA as an outlet for grad students to receive support and guidance to advance the academic, social, and physical environment for current and future UCR students. The department is an initial stop for graduate students to be able to reach out if in need of assistance.
- *Jordan Steinhauser* expanded that GSA offers basic needs, travel grants, GSHIP, amongst other efforts to help graduate students' academic and personal lives. *Jordan Steinhauser* highlighted committees and meetings GSA regularly attends, and that GSA's purpose is to help orientate grad student fees. Multiple discussions are made due to graduate students paying up to \$115k each year. *Jordan Steinhauser* noted that the department pays fees for Ph.D. students whereas students pursuing a master's degree must pay out of pocket. *Jordan Steinhauser* requested more funding towards Conference Travel Grants, Departmental GSA, and Grad Bash. *Jordan Steinhauser* noted that Grad Bash is a quarterly gathering where graduate students can come

socialize and decompress. In the past GSA has held it in the Barn or at Getaway Café and has had 300 students RSVP'd for the event.

- *Chair Funanya Ikechukwu* asked what the turnout rate is out of the 300 RSVPs for Grad Bash. *Jordan Steinhauser* answered that GSA cannot provide the exact number at this time but have estimated around 100 more students attending on top of the 300 RSVPs.
- *Alice Alcantra* asked for clarification on why GSA has only requested funds for Grad Bash due to the department's history of limited funding. *Jordan Steinhauser* answered that GSA receives funding from different departments on campus and that by asking for limited funding, GSA will be able to utilize all the funds carefully.
- *Chair Funanya Ikechukwu* asked when Brain Awareness Day is. *Jordan Steinhauser* stated during the last week of April and advised the Committee to stop by. *Chair Funanya Ikechukwu* asked about the location. *Jordan Steinhauser* stated it's in the SSRC Breezeway.

5. Undocumented Student Program – Subcommittee B

- *Director Sonia Garcia Avelar* introduced USP as a department that supports both undocumented and immigration-impacted students. *Sonia Garcia Avelar* explained that UCR has the highest undocumented student enrollment amongst the UC system. Yet, UCR only has 1 director and 1 program coordinator as part of USP staff whereas other UC departments are more staffed.
- *Sonia Garcia Avelar* stated that half of undocumented college students in California do not qualify for DACA since 2021. The incoming class of 2025 will be the first to not receive DACA and work authorization. *Sonia Garcia Avelar* stated the USP's current budget is reflected through PERM funding from the Chancellors with HESSR and UCOP to help fund program coordinator positions, scholarships, and housing programs. *Sonia Garcia Avelar* introduced one of USP's programs titled The Butterfly Project Fellowship. The project was previously funded by SSFAC last year and is designed to provide professional development opportunities and experiential learning fellowships to students. Undergraduate students can receive up to \$7.2k in scholarship funds and graduate students can receive up to \$9k. Graduate students receive more funding due to limited aid available to undocumented graduate students.
- *Scott Curie* inquired about the criteria students need to be eligible for the Butterfly Project Fellowship. *Sonia Garcia Avelar* answered that it is an application process. The student must be undocumented, or with no work authorization, and cannot be a part of the College Corps as it is a separate program that provides money through Financial Aid.
- *Sally Tavizon* asked if USP will experience any funding cuts due to the federal mandates. *Sonia Garcia Avelar* answered that USP is state-funded and is currently not penalized. However, it is possible to face future cuts.
- *Chair Funanya Ikechukwu* questioned why USP's allocations from the previous year were not utilized. *Sonia Garcia Avelar* answered that USP's

unmet need request last year was dedicated to the Butterfly Project Fellowship. However, USP was able to receive outside funding and utilized those funds for the project, allowing the department to not request any funds this year.

6. Open Comments

- *Alice Alcantara* commented that the total unmet request from all the departments has been allocated to about \$1.5 million. However, SSFAC will only be able to provide \$800k and advised the subcommittees to remember this information during their subcommittee discussions. A final amount will be provided next quarter.

7. Chair Comments

- *Chair Funanya Ikechukwu* stated that the Committee will be going over the SSFAC survey in the next meeting to discuss the questions. *Chair Funanya Ikechukwu* also advised the subcommittees to reach out to the departments and ask any questions that will help during subcommittee meetings. *Chair Funanya Ikechukwu* acknowledged that many subcommittee groups were unable to meet due to rescheduling presentations and asked if the Committee would like to discuss the budget allocations after CSP's presentation on Monday or after Spring Break. *Sally Tavizon* suggested after Spring Break would be better as Subcommittee A's presentation was to be scheduled during Week 1 of Spring Quarter. *Rishika Salvi* agreed with *Sally Tavizon* and would like Subcommittee B to meet during Week 1 of Spring Quarter to discuss.
- *Alice Alcantara* stated that ITS will be doing a presentation but will not request any funding. *Chandana Anand Rangappa* stated that Subcommittee C will be able to discuss during Week 2 of Spring Quarter. *Andrew Wong* stated that Subcommittee D will also be done around the same timeline.
- *Sarah Dillon* asked if IT has asked for funding in the past. Alice clarified that prior to the ORG's restructuring, IT was eligible to receive funding; however, that is no longer the case.
- *Sally Tavizon* asked if the Committee would maintain Monday meetings. *Chair Funanya Ikechukwu* stated that a Doodle Poll will be sent out to finalize meeting dates for Spring Quarter.

8. Adjourn: **12:30 PM**

- *Motion to Adjourn by Andrew Wong, Seconded by Rishika Salvi*
 - ***Adjournment Approved without Objections.***