Graduate Student Commons Year-End Report 2018-19
Prepared by the Graduate Student Commons Executive Committee

President: Sara Nasab
Vice President: Giselle Laiduc
Treasurer: Cyril Focht
Programming Coordinator: Alexandra Race
GSC Graduate Intern: Gillian Bogart
Director of Graduate Student Life: Rachel Neuman

GSC GOVERNANCE BOARD MEMBERSHIP:
Governance Board Voting Members:
Governance Board Non-Voting Members:
- Sara Nasab, Gillian Bogart, Rachel Neuman

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
- Professional Development
  - Workshops with Nancy Heischman
  - Preparing for the Academic Job Search with Gwynn Benner
  - Collaborations with Grad Div to offer a variety of presentations
- Social
  - Slug Crawl (orientation, spring) was a success!
  - First Friday: catered March (wings) and June (Chinese)
  - Coffee, Bagels, Donuts
  - Crafternoons
  - Bob Ross
  - Wine Tour
- Health & Wellness
  - Quarterly massage/acupuncture/sound healing event
  - Qi Gong
  - Food Pantry
  - Beating Imposter Syndrome
- Financial
  - Connected with Laura Crymble, a financial advisor from Fidelity Investments who is assigned to work with UCSC employees. She hosted a workshop in Winter
Quarter and 1:1 advising sessions in the Spring. 1:1 sessions were more popular than the workshop and are worth organizing again in the future.

- **Diversity**
  - ODEI Roundtable Series
  - Collaboration with RCs
    - Grad Wellness Event
    - Swing into Spring

- **Recreational**
  - Collaborated with OPERS to host 10 outdoor adventures and classes for graduate students (3 canceled due to weather)

- **Writing Support**
  - Writing Together sessions
    - GSC sponsored and hosted sessions every week for the entire academic year (consistent attendance of 4+ participants, sometimes as high as 9)
    - Collaborated with Grad Div to increase the number of Writing Together weekly sessions during Fall Quarter. GSC provided space and snacks, Grad Div provided a host
    - Supported a newly formed international student WT group by providing a gathering space and helping them connect with organizations/divisions with resources to fund their logistical needs like snacks.
  - Increased the number of members for a Writing Together Google Group in order to promote attendance and share information (current membership 29 people)
  - Applied for and won SFAC funds totaling $7,600 to design, organize, and implement a Graduate Writing Retreat in AY2019-20 (Winter Quarter?). Collaboration with Grad Division is likely.

- **Outreach**
  - **Newsletter**
    - We implemented a new template through Mailchimp
    - Trained interns on how to design flyers for Canva
    - Developed process for creating newsletter/checking it before sending it out

  - **Outreach**
    - We had the biggest governing board ever

  - **Attendance Report**
    - Daily usage attendance for the academic year:
      - 3,497
    - GSC Social Event Total Attendance:
      - 1,508
    - Professional Development Event Attendance:
      - 288
Finance:

- SFAC Funding Awards (Total Awarded: $158,974)
  - Furniture: $48,620
  - HVAC Retrofit: $87,500
  - Coffee, Bagels, and Donuts: $2,000
  - Graduate Writing Retreat: $7,600
  - Graduate Orientation: $13,254
- Outside Funding Request Awarded (Total Spent: $2,250, remaining funds $250)
  - Queer Grad Lunches $700
  - Queer Film Series $400
  - WoC Graduate CommUNITY $200
  - Stonewall Speaker Series $200
  - Trans Justice Forum $750

Other:

- GradLab
  - Needs to be restructured for next year.
  - Need to figure out if GSA furniture fund should be part of GradLab budget
- Facilities
- GSC Intern
  - Secured permanent funding for this position through Grad Div
  - Gillian had a baby

UPCOMING PROJECTS FOR THIS SUMMER/NEXT YEAR:

- 2018-19 and 2019-20 executive board retreat
- Graduate Writing Retreat planning
  - Gillian, Alexandra + Giselle (if there is funding)
- Update website (RJ needs access)

Notes

New ‘19 - ‘20 events

- Healthy and wellness
  - Food & U w/ nancy from CAPS
    - More events centered around food
    - More resources available around that
- Getting people from Arts and Humanities
  - Maybe due to masters students
- Need to just find people at first fridays, need to get to know them
- Need to learn how to allocate volunteers to make an event happen and go smoothly
  - Events during the school year – do we need to make these areas where people can volunteer.
  - Might be too many emails for students.
  - No need for people to have certain roles given that the interns help out.
- GradLab
  - Should the GSC be on it?
  - GradLab as the sole place for students to get funding?
  - Hard to run GradLab while also being as part of the GSA and GSC.
    - Who should be on this board?
  - How should we handle the money – as part of the GSC/GSA, or alone.
  - Possible avenues
    - GSC + GSA puts all funding into gradlab
    - Deplete GradLab then focus outside funding as part of the GSC.
      - GSA for more political stuff
      - So that there is a clear single place for students to go to for funding.
- How to work with GSA?
  - Should meet with the new GSA and just talk about it, early on.
  - See how we will collaborate throughout the year.
  - Can collaborate on: international outreach, advocacy, etc.
  - Differences / complementary programming.
- Budget
  - Shifting our rental income to GradDiv. Talk to Jim.
  - Talk about it now and not shift later.

Concerns for Next Year

- Programming: Want to increase involvement and more students helping on.
  - Want to do more but events need people to run them and take ownership.
  - Showing up to meetings isn't much -- need different/more ways to get involved and help run events.
- President: Orientation
  - First task for us to figure out how to work together, manage volunteers, and help out.
  - Resource fair or social.
  - Ryan stand up on stage and represent the GSC.
  - And a video
  - Flyer to showcase the GSC – first impression to new students
○ Week long welcome week – building as sense of community.
● Summer work for prepping Orientation
  ○ No GSC stipend – thoughts about summer quarter stipend.
● Treasurer:
  ○ 18-19 goal: Increase transparency about budget
    ■ Share with the rest of the GBoard.
  ○ Think about ways to generate more money to support students.
  ○ 19-20 goal: SFAC
    ■ We spend a lot of money for labor – infrastructure in place
    ■ Ask SFAC (or GradDiv) for money for programming.
      ■ Funding to increase stipends for current officers, or increase # of paid volunteers.
      ■ Want a carry forward every year of $10k
● Iveta lease is up in June 2020
  ○ Need to figure out if they want to stay or if they want to renegotiate.
  ○ We could help out with advertising – strict rules about how they advertise.
  ○ If not, we need to start searching now.
  ○ Cocktails for Change
    ■ Partner with campus organization: a portion of the money for a certain drink/menu item goes to that organize.
  ○ Meet more often with the management of Iveta – once a quarter.
    ■ Are invited as non-voting members to our meetings, better to have our own meeting with them.
  ○ Establish a routine – have more routine/reliable events.

Questions from New eBoard to Old

● Catering FFs
  ○ Costs a lot more.
  ○ Relatively equivalent labor either way.
  ○ Better for less attended events (near end of quarter) or special occasions – don’t need to order as much.
  ○ Costco pizza is a good idea, just need to coordinate.
● Events to plan for
  ○ Orientation Wednesday Sept. 25 – school starts on 26th
    ■ October 4th is the first FF
    ■ Halloween Carving
FF
○ SFAC Calls
○ Slug Crawl
○ Expand our welcome week events
  ■ Just need to coordinate volunteers.
● Figure out when we want the eboard and gboard meetings.
  ○ Typically gboard the week of the first frid
    ■ Earlier email about gboard with reminder about FF
    ■ And eboard meeting week before that
    ■ Plan it early, lock it down, and reserve the rooms
      ■ Better in the evening.
      ■ Order the food 3 business days before
        ■ Iveta sandwiches – create PO in advance and have interns handle it.
    ■ Orientation on the 25th, SlugCrawl on the following Friday, following Monday gboard, and following Friday is the FF.
      ■ Or have gboard after the FF, and advertise at FF, the gboard following Monday after.
● How to keep track of volunteers and attendance to gboard meetings?
  ○ GSC associates list (email blast)
    ■ Part of the sign in and add people in
  ○ This is how we send out the volunteer calls.
  ○ President handles the stipend part.
    ■ Spreadsheet for this.
  ○ If 4 people want to all join
    ■ The board votes on who gets to join
● Update on hiring the new GSC Intern
  ○ We will know on Friday
● Silicon Valley Campus
  ○ Connection with them
  ○ Students at computational media, who handle community building
  ○ Hopefully there is a representative from Silicon Valley
    ■ Students there who want to start their own events and involve students near that location.
  ○ How can we be involved and assist these student leaders in holding these events, and how can we help advertise for them?