



Student Government Association

Student Government Council – Modesto A. Maidique Campus

GPSC Committee

Meeting Date: August 31st, 2020

**Start Time: 2:45 pm**

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Roll Call

*Chair: Shahnawaz Rafi*

Shahnawaz Rafi	present
Christian Perez	present
Sandro Alvarez	present
Kamila Fernandez	present
Nitya Ramalingam	present

### 3. Open Forum

- Kamilla raises the question to hold biweekly meetings for the GPSC
- Rafi says we can discuss the possibility and see if we can go to the biweekly format.
- Michelle says that the GPSC regularly met every other week in the past so it would be okay to meet biweekly.
- We must be content and mindful to have only one hour per two weeks to discuss.
- Vote conducted on biweekly meetings: 4 Yays, 2 Nays
- Biweekly meetings are now enforced.

### 4. Old Business

#### ● **SGA Food Pantry**

1. SGA is doing an initiative with the FIU food pantry and you can go to the go link for donations to the pantry.
2. You will get credit for your donation and also would be good to campaign to get the word out on this initiative.
3. Nitya says that she could recreate a social media post on this topic.

### 5. New Business

#### ● **GPSC Budget Update**

1. Michelle says that the budget is pending the add/drop period that should be ending this week.
2. We are taking a cautious approach as the CFO is running the numbers as we speak.
3. It should take a week to process the budget and travel is currently on hold.
4. Only permission travel is allowed for research and all other avenues are on hold.

#### ● **Issue of Double Funding for Student Conferences**

1. Is there anyway that a double funding event would occur due to the summer issues with COVID-19.
2. A proposal that they have sent Rafi regarding the travel funding situation.
3. Sandro believes that we shouldn't commit double funds based on the current virtual conference rules.
4. Nitya agrees with Sandro on this matter.
5. Kamilla states that she is not too familiar with this situation.
6. Rafi seconds the idea that the current travel fund situation is correct. All members vote nay to this alteration to the current policy.

7. Michelle agrees that it's better to proceed with what we have.

- **GPSC Newsletter**

1. GPSC newsletter objective is to inform the community on the efforts of the GPSC.
2. Also, the newsletter will highlight specific students and ideas of upcoming programs/initiatives and ways we help students in UGS.
3. The newsletter will require a time commitment but is a good endeavor if it's done properly.
4. Nitya says that doing a newsletter once a semester would be a reality.
5. Rafi mentions to Christian to share the newsletter template to the committee.
6. Kamilla states that one of her clubs conducts a semester newsletter that is similar to what the GPSC is pitching.
7. It would be beneficial to assign a certain section of the newsletter to each member of the committee.
8. Michelle recommends that we work with UGS to see if they are creating a newsletter to see if the GPSC can pitch in to a newsletter.
9. If not, the publications team can send out the newsletter at the time of the deadline.
10. JP can help with the formatting of the newsletter, but he needs to know what the context is. It would be beneficial to see what the senior director of publications would need to see if the newsletter works.
11. We will invite JP and/or John to the next meeting.

- **GPSC Townhall Meeting**

1. The town hall meeting from last March was never conducted and it would be beneficial to do one now.
2. Dr. Kos says she is very eager to organize the town hall in the Fall perhaps mid-october.
3. Kamilla says the best way to go about this would be to ask Dr. Kos and Dr. Gil to see what days they are available.
4. Suggestions are for September, October, & November.
5. Plans also include coordinating with Dr. Rosenberg.
6. Sandro states that the time frames should be late October and/or early November.
7. The UGS administration would have to agree with our committee on a certain date.
8. In the past we've reached out to UGS over email, GAB meetings, and other platforms.
9. We will reach out this week.

- **GPSC Gradskellar**

1. Kamilla is trying to see how to conduct the gradskellar for graduate students over Zoom.
2. It's difficult to do social events given the current situation.
3. Nitya explains that in Med school a mixer event was conducted on Zoom using breakout rooms where groups chatted for 15 minutes.
4. Reassorting of rooms was done every 15 minutes.
5. 60 members came to this mixer event which shows the ability to conduct a Gradskellar over Zoom.

6. The organizers made sure upperclassmen facilitated conversation and different types of icebreaker ideas.
  7. A brainstorm session will be done before the next meeting.
  8. Rafi recommends a meet & greet session.
  9. Kamilla explains that the mixer event was a good idea.
- **Call for Papers for GSAW**
    1. Chairman Rafi explains that starting out early with the communication of GSAW papers would be beneficial.
    2. Explains that possible rounds of paper submission could be beneficial for some students.
    3. In the past, most papers were circulated in late November and then the rest was circulated in Spring.
    4. Nitya explains that it could be a good idea to start communication earlier but not necessarily the submission process.
    5. More reminders would be better across the academic calendar.
    6. The deadline starts in late February and/or late March.
    7. Rafi asks if the professional students participate in GSAW?
    8. It's explained that medical students and law students conduct research/reviews that can be beneficial to the event.
    9. GSAW abstracts did not highlight the law and medical students very much.
    10. Constant legal research is being done and should be showcased.

6) Announcements

- Current conduct review is being done for the new graduate student representative in the committee.

Adjournment

Meeting is adjourned at 3:31 PM