



Student Government Association

Student Government Council – Modesto A. Maidique Campus

GPSC Committee

Meeting Date: September 14th, 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

- Visiting PhD candidate Rimon discusses the email in regards to the advisor and advisee relationship.
- For example, the D forms seem to be delayed at times but there is a miscommunication regarding the deadlines.
- The purpose for the email to the GPSC was regarding journal papers. Many times the journal papers are not reviewed for a year or more.
- This is leading to emotional issues because there is no clear communication regarding how the paper will be reviewed.
- Sometimes students feel uncomfortable by how their advisors are responding to their situation, often contributing to a negative effect to student productivity.
- Chairman Rafi asks why would D forms be delayed?
- Advisors may tell you that they will work on their situation plan but sometimes it may seem that they keep their students longer for other purposes possibly.
- In a previous advisor meeting Rimon felt as if they only covered what the requirements are to go from one stage of the PhD to another.
- Is this situation unique to your advisor? Can certain added stipulations be done by the advisor and said committee.
- Rafi asks what is the average time for PhD completion in Rimons lab?
- Rimon responds that his advisor has not graduated any previous students.
- Rafi asks if Rimons credits have been accepted from his Masters degree into his PhD.
- International students may have a problem with the language barrier and this leads to potential cases of bullying.
- Advisors have been reported for bullying due to this language barrier, sometimes for more than a year.
- This led to not attending lab meetings because the atmosphere was uncomfortable to the students.
- Rafi asks, does your socioeconomic status or religion play a potential role in this bullying?
- Kamilla and Dr. Castro recommended going to the Omnibud person to help you deal with conflicts and help heal this matter in an anonymous matter.
- Rafi asks how the various environmental issues in the doctoral advisor and advisee relationship led to productivity issues?
- Rimon responds that it leads to low self esteem and confusion as to how to move forward.
- Sometimes, the advisor sees it as just a situation of stress and how you deal with the challenges posed by your doctorate. Maybe a situation of miscommunication here.
- What would GPSC be able to do to help situations such as Rimons? Rimon responds that people with authority can help mediate these concerns between students and faculty/administrators. The committee could transfer a list of complaints or grievances held by students towards their advisors. Potentially form a student committee that can help deal with this situation.
- Survey will be conducted to cover this situation between advisor and advisee.
- Hamzah is speaking..
- He explains that the same feelings and problems have been experienced by him as well.

- He favors a student committee that helps clarify these problems experienced by students at the graduate level and can help make this relationship work much better.
- No mistreatment or feeling of bullying should be allowed in a PhD program.
- These issues must be represented by the student body and its important to keep these complaints anonymous if asked so.
- In Pakistan, Hamzah had a student body that was elected each year for the protection of student interests.
- Rafi mentions SGA,GPSC, and GAB as potential resources for representation.
- On the basis of religion, no grievances are reported by Hamzah personally however several students who are Muslim have experienced problems due to religious practices/customs.
- There is no prayer room for Muslims to help them practice their religion. The EC/ MMC campus has these rooms but not up to standard.
- Hamzah describes his advisor to be good at meeting D form deadlines however he feels uncertain if his D-forms may be getting delayed.
- Michelle says to email Dr. Trellis and go over the TITLE IX procedures.
- This can be a situation of general advocacy and communication with the appropriate parties to help mend these situations.
- CAPS and other resources help with AS fees for PhD and masters students to have good mental health.

4. Old Business

- **GPSC Townhall**
 - 1.

5. New Business

- **Budget Update**
 1. No update at the moment regarding the budget.
- **Student Survey**
 1. Rafi raises the issue of beginning a student survey, with brainstorming starting on **Thursday**.

2. Nitya believes it's a good idea and raises a question on logistics.
3. Dr. Castro can review the survey and make sure the questions are good.
4. Kamilla raises that the old survey sent out in the Spring can be used as a potential template for the new survey.
5. General outreach questions can be inputted into the survey and can be focused on outreach to the right students.
6. Sandro states that it's a good idea to use the old survey.
7. Kamilla states that she never received the survey as a law student. Maybe the listserv doesn't include professional students?
8. Nitya states that the survey was specific to graduate students only, not professional.
9. Medical student council sends out surveys as well to students and may not be necessary for the GPSC to make one for them.
10. Recently, a climate survey was sent out to medical students and also tuition issues.
11. HWCAM financial aid advisor discussed a possible collaboration with GPSC to address the tuition issue.
12. Kamilla will double check with the president to see what questions were asked by the law council survey and also that climates may be different than graduate school so a survey wouldn't be fit.
13. A possible split in the survey between Masters and PhD would be possible.
14. Sandro supports one combined survey, but based on the responses two surveys might be good.

- **GAB Progress**

1. No word yet on how GAB is progressing this semester.
2. Rafi will email a member of GAB

- **Gradskellar**

1. **Any potential expenses will have to be approved by the student affairs office with the appropriate request submitted on time.**
2. **Due to budget concerns this issue hasn't been raised.**

6) Announcements

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Adjournment

Meeting is adjourned at 3:47 PM