



GSA Fall 2014 Officer's Report



Fall quarter 2014 was busy for the GSA! We kicked off the quarter with our new student orientation, in collaboration with the Graduate Division where we welcomed more than **1,000 new students to UC San Diego!**

Our new **GSA Travel Grants program** has been in high demand. This fall we funded **40 graduate students** to travel and present at conferences in their field! The **Winter deadline is January 20. [Apply now!](#)**

GSA Council discussed many topics including new ideas and opportunities for **graduate student professional development, the future of Porter's Pub and a [report](#) on the CHE Cafe**. We hosted a visit from the new Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Juan Gonzalez and other campus officials. Remember! **[GSA Council Meetings](#) are open to the public** and you can always **view the minutes on our [website](#)**.

We are hosting an informal town hall on **Tuesday, Jan 13 at 6pm** in the Price Center Forum to discuss **the future of [graduate housing](#) and residential living at UCSD**. If you've ever complained about UCSD housing policy, this is your chance be heard!

GSA allocated over \$6,000 to graduate student organizations and departments. We have **\$24,000 left for the rest of the year**. Make a **[finance request](#)** now! Also, our events were popular and highly attended. See pics from our **[Fall Halloween Party](#)** that had **more than 800 attendees!**

Winter promises to be just as active! Stay tuned for the **[Interdisciplinary Research Awards](#)**, CV/Resume Speed Dating and the ever-popular SNOW GODDESS party, as well as more excellent Roaming socials, Grad Nights @ The Loft, Cultural Events and Grads&Grubs!

Don't forget to [LIKE US](#) on facebook and check our [events calendar](#) to keep up with all GSA events, activities and news! And join us for a coffee and bagel breakfasts every other Wednesday morning at 9am in the GSA offices (starting Wednesday Jan 14).

Read below for more details from each of your elected GSA officers. And, as always please **don't hesitate to email me at president@gsa.ucsd.edu** with any questions, suggestions or comments about **how GSA can better represent and serve you!**

Best,

Jonathan Monk
GSA President

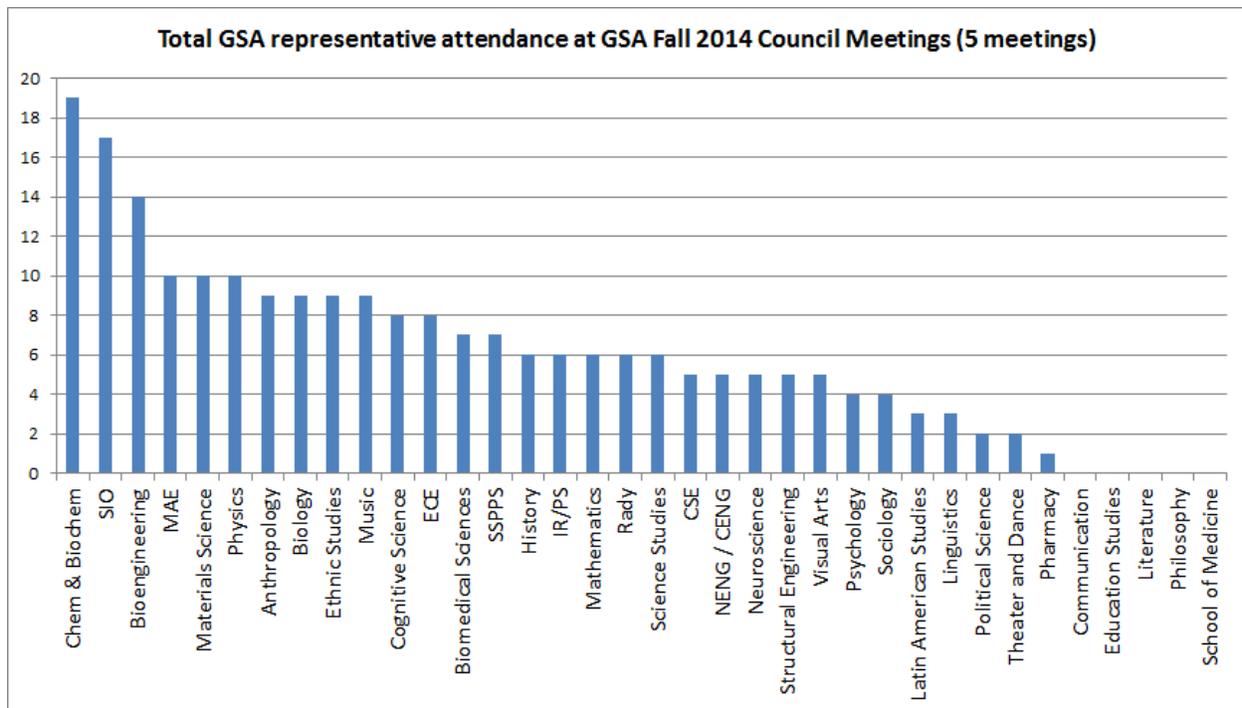


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Chief of Staff, Natalie Larson

GSA Fall 2014 Department Representative Total Attendance by Department



*Based on sign-in sheets at GSA Council meetings. Don't forget to sign in!

**See appendix below for full breakdown

VP Academic Affairs, Holly Dembinski

The **Interdisciplinary Research Awards** will be held on February 24, 2015 at the Loft 4 – 6 pm, and the call for nominations will go out Friday, January 9, 2015; Dean Barrett is scheduled to give opening remarks and deliver awards throughout the ceremony. In conjunction with the Campus Climate Intern, Betty Ramirez, we will host a series of **CV/Resume Speed Dating** events throughout the Winter and Spring Quarters during which graduate students will cycle through faculty members seeking feedback on their CVs or resumes—stay tuned for sign-up information. In coordination with the Career Services Center, the plans for the **PhD Career Conference** have largely been ironed out, and the event will take place May 16, 2015. We have a meeting scheduled with the Academic Senate Chair and Vice Chair during Winter Quarter Week 2 to discuss the status of the **Graduate**



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Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. While the plans are in flux, we plan to host a **Drinks and Dissertations** to showcase the research efforts of GSA Travel Awardees on May 15, 2015 in conjunction with the May Grads and Grub event.

VP External Affairs, Garrett Bredell

The office of the Vice President of External Affairs, with the support of both the Legislative Liaison for State Affairs and the Legislative Liaison for National Affairs, continued to advance our advocacy efforts through the Fall quarter. Electoral changes and political developments in both Sacramento and Washington D.C. resonate with graduate students and graduate student interests, and we continue to push our representatives and lawmakers to give greater attention and consideration to graduate student needs.

At the national level, UCSD's GSA sent participants to two conferences hosted by two distinct, nationally representative bodies of graduate students. The first conference was hosted by the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students. There Vice President of External Affairs and the Legislative Liaison for National Affairs networked with graduate student advocates from other universities, engaged professional analysts working in science, technology, information science and other related industries, and developed a docket of advocacy priorities based on legislative forecasts for the 114th Congress. Most importantly, our office's participants in the conference joined other graduate student advocates in a mass "Legislative Action Day", where conference attendees visited their respective Congressperson's offices to speak to staff and education related legislative associates about issues related to graduate student research, financial affairs and quality of life.

The second conference attended by the VP of External Affairs was hosted by SAGE, the Student Advocates for Graduate Education. The focus of this meeting was to establish the group's legislative stance and priorities for an upcoming legislative action day on the Hill in the Spring. Thanks to financial support from the Graduate Division and Dean Kim Barrett, four UCSD participants were able to attend this conference. (GSA President, VP External, VP Campus and Social Coordinator - Dan Jacobsen) where they networked with other graduate student participants from fellow universities, and promoted graduate student concerns raised at our own GSA for inclusion in SAGE's white papers. We also exchanged accounts of our university's best practices with respect to quality of life and campus affairs with other SAGE attendees.

At the state level, we collaborated with SOVAC (Student Organized Voter Access Committee) on voter registration at orientation and the first Loft GSA party to get incoming graduate



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students registered in San Diego. We also collaborated with SOVAC on their Fall Speaker Series where 52nd Congressional District candidates Congressman Scott Peters and Carl DeMaio came to UCSD for a candidate Q&A session.

We have been and will continue to hold monthly GSA lobby corps meetings. The purpose of the lobby corps is for graduate students to lobby and advocate for higher education on behalf of fellow graduate students. In the past meetings we've had lobby training to prepare the students for in district lobby visits to state representative offices during the the 2015 state legislative session. Now that the legislative session has started and the governor has released the budget, we are planning on meeting with representatives and advocating for bills and budget plans that benefit graduate students.

We look forward to continuing to monitor national and state level politics and their interaction with education policies and graduate student legislative interests. During the Winter academic quarter the VP of External Affairs in conjunction with the Legislative Liaison for National Affairs and our counterparts at UCLA will be drafting the white paper for SAGE concerning immigration law and its impact on non-citizen graduate students. This paper will orient SAGE's legislative posture on immigration for the Spring advocacy campaign.

VP Financial Affairs, Negin Nazarian (with Mukanth Vaidyanathan)

In the fall quarter, the finance committee has worked on improving several financial procedures to make the finance request form more user friendly for both the requestor and GSA. We have worked at integrating TAP (Triton Activity Planner) with our GSA finance request forms . The current record of approved funding requests:

FUND	Budget Funds	Funds Remaining	TOTAL REQUESTS so far:
GENERAL REQUEST FUND	\$10000.00	\$6070.00	9
ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL REQUEST FUND	\$10000.00	\$7775.00	6
LOUNGE IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$3500.00	\$2800.00	1



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DIVERSITY REQUEST FUND	\$5000.00	\$4950.00	1
SERVICE REQUEST FUND	\$1500.00	\$1100.00	1
FAMILY FRIENDLY FUND	\$2500.00	\$2300.00	1

There has been an increase in requests through the General Request Fund (GRF) as we have reached out to many student organizations have funded a lot of first time events. The 2013-14 DPCs have been rolled back and we are working on 2014-15 DPCs. The current year DPCs are available for use. We have also funded the successful fall free for all event, happy hour and wednesday's coffee with bagels.

VP Student and Campus Affairs, Lindsay Freeman

In fall quarter, the campus team worked on several initiatives to improve graduate student and campus life. Representatives for housing, transportation, student health, and university centers committees have all been appointed. The building advisory committee (BAC), with graduate students Cory Stevenson and Brandon Stephens, dedicated a significant amount of time to choosing the company that will build the new grad housing, set to open in 2017. They will continue to meet in the winter quarter and receive input from graduate students. For more information, check out <http://gsa.ucsd.edu/grad-housing> or email housingbac@gsa.ucsd.edu. The Student Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC), which will oversee policies and revenue from the 2014 Student Transportation Fee, has had its charter written with the help of GSA rep Daniel Jacobsen. The SHIP committee, with reps Andrew Richards and Kevin Vu, lowered the requirements for waiving out of SHIP, so graduate students can more easily opt out of SHIP insurance. Handa Yang and Bryan Arias, our UCAB representatives, have worked on final designs for the Starbucks and participated in discussions regarding changes to the language of the Master Space Agreement between GSA/AS and the Co-Ops. The Co-Op Advisory committee, which has been defunct for several years, is in the process of being reformed.

The Graduate and Professional Student Experience and Satisfaction (GPSES) Survey was completed by over 1650 students. Jessica Blanton and I will lead a committee composed of 6 GSA reps, 2 grad life interns, and the VPs of Academic and Diversity Affairs, to write a report regarding the key elements of the results for publication by the end of the quarter. The report will contain several suggestions for improving graduate student life.



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I met with the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Juan Gonzalez, multiple times during the quarter. We have had discussions regarding the implementation of a universal ID card system that can be slowly rolled out in the upcoming years, and I stressed the importance in ensuring that future MTS access is student ID card based, rather than sticker based.

I have worked on improving community grad areas. With the help of the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Housing, Dining and Hospitality (Mark Cunningham), we have gotten a coffee and new food/drink vending machine installed in Cafe Vita. We hope to have vending machines in the Graduate Student Lounge when it opens. The student lounge will be opened this quarter, and with the help of the Grad Division Interns Betty Ramirez and Jeanelle Horcasitas, we will be revamping the space with artwork to provide more of a community feel.

The social and cultural coordinators hosted several successful events. The fall free for all Halloween event had its greatest attendance ever with over 800 attendees. The social hours were overwhelmingly successful to the point that not a drop of food or drink was left, thanks to the hard work by our social coordinators Dan Jacobsen and Alex Georges. Our cultural coordinator, Handa Yang, hosted a brewery and walking food tour and sold tickets to the family friendly Grinch and Nutcracker shows. The campus budget for the fall quarter can be found at http://gsa.ucsd.edu/advocacy/offices/campus-affairs/budget_fa14.xlsx. We have continued using facebook and our website to advertise events by GSA and other graduate student departments/organizations.

VP Diversity, Service, Equity and Inclusion, Don Johnson

Fall quarter has been a very busy time for this office. We move into the winter quarter with several major accomplishments under our belt. As a result of a series of financial by-law reforms regarding this office and diversity related events, we have established a stronger supporting standard for funding family friendly and diversity related events on campus. We have also drawn up better definitions for the Diversity Event Fund. Other by-law reforms include the formation of the community outreach coordinator, a new process for establishing and organizing committees, and a balanced approach to representing graduate students. While overseeing all these changes, I still found time to chair the Ad Hoc GSAUCSD CHE Committee, make a total of 24 appointments to the various committees I work with, continue executing and leading policy driven initiatives in the GSA Diversity Committee, and establish collaborations with Betty Ramirez, the new co-chair of the Cultural Student Organization Council (CSOC). To update council on the specifics, I will only focus on (1) the Ad Hoc CHE Committee activity, (2) community outreach coordinator position, (3) current direction of the GSA Diversity Committee, and (4) direction of CSOC.



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Since the formation of the Ad Hoc committee to evaluate GSAUCSD's relationship with the CHE, we have moved swiftly in producing a report for council based on our discussions with the University, the CHE, and various other sources. I believe this report is sound in its accuracy on the events that transpired. From this document, GSA council can move forward with legislation without any question of the events. I have enjoyed working with the awesome folks on this committee. I also would like to acknowledge their hard work over the winter break. While most of us have been away from GSA business, these GSA representatives have spent hours working directly with CHE leadership and the University to craft a list of proposals for council, which will be separate from the report. The proposals are only meant to give council an idea of what both sides are willing to agree on. At the same time, the ASUCSD has also been working with us on the proposal, as this will be the key product of their committee.

Yes! We have a new appointed officer position. The community outreach coordinator position is meant to remove some of the work that has accumulated on my position, while at the same time providing an alternative stepping-stone for any aspiring candidates for the VP Diversity position. The community outreach coordinator will pick up a large portion of my logistical work, when it comes to event planning or working with the directors of the various campus community centers. My eventual goal is to get the campus community centers to work closer with graduate students as this has been a historically deficient area. The community outreach coordinator will also be tasked with directing the GSA's community service efforts. Finally, this position will give us this office the bandwidth to tackle service projects.

Keeping our eyes on the prize, the GSA Diversity Committee has continued its work in understanding the various ways a graduate student receives mentorship aside from their advisor. We drafted a letter to the divisional deans last quarter requesting more information from them about their recruitment initiatives and provide pressure to departments that have not responded. We are also reviewing the GPSES data that relates to advisor/advisee dynamics. By mid quarter, expect a report from the committee on this work. We have also decided to address how we raise awareness of campus diversity. Martin Boston and Adam Morgan have decided to lead this effort. We also hope to raise awareness and dialogue with a town hall on community based policing.

I have a spent time with the newly formed Academic Senate Taskforce on Improving Family Accommodations, where because of the great work put together by Brandon Stephens, Tara Pixley and Rochelle Lorkovic, the Academic Senate also saw similar issues with childcare access for faculty. Since addressing this taskforce, they have agreed to form a subcommittee that will focus on childcare options for faculty and graduate students. I presented it to them as a recruitment and retention tool. As of now, I am the representative on this committee but I



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am hoping to bring Brandon and Tara back in as consultants, or representatives once things get moving.

Finally, I have a co-chair for the CSOC, and she is awesome. Betty Ramirez, our new Campus Climate Intern has agreed to be the co-chair to this committee in the hopes of bridging stronger ties amongst the various cultural organizations. The diversity luncheon was a first step in this direction, and I am looking forward to an exciting spring quarter event we have in mind for the campus.

If you have any questions comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at my email.

Appendix:

GSA Representative Attendance Fall 2014

Name	Department	Meeting #1 10.13.14	Meeting #2 10.27.14	Meeting #3 11.10.14	Meeting #4 11.24.14	Meeting #5 12.08.14
Abdul Hassan	School of Medicine					
Alireza Sarebanha	Structural Engineering					
Amanda Cachia	Visual Arts		x		x	x
Amelia Ray	Chem & Biochem	x	x	x	x	
Amit Pandey	MAE			x	x	x
Amy Reid	Visual Arts			x		x
Andrew Richards	Bioengineering	x	x	x	x	x
Arjun Baraji	IR/PS					
Boke Saisi	Ethnic Studies	x	x	x	x	x
Brandon Stephens	SIO		x	x		
Brittany Newton	SSPPS	x				
Bryan Arias	Biology		x	x	x	
Chad Koll	SIO	x	x	x		



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Chris Pierse	Physics					
Colin Doberstein	IR/PS			x	x	
Cory Caswell	Science Studies (alternate)		x	x	x	x
Cory Davia	Philosophy					
Cory Stevenson	Bioengineering	x	x	x	x	x
Damien Vira	Rady		x		x	
Daniel Alejandro Gutierrez	Latin American Studies		x			
Daniel Hoff	Mathematics			x	x	x
Daniel Koestner	SIO		x	x	x	x
Dorothy Yen	CSE (alternate)					
Eammon Riley	Biology (alternate)					
Emily Foeke	IR/PS					
Emily Nardoni	Physics	x	x	x	x	x
Emma Sopadijjeva	IR/PS (Alternate)	x			x	
Emmanuel Garcia	SIO	x		x	x	x
Eric Hahn	Materials Science	x	x	x	x	x
Eric Meindhart	Linguistics					
Frank Beckwith	Structural Engineering	x	x	x	x	x
Garrett Bredell	Political Science (alternate)	x	x			
Gautum Akiwate	CSE	x				
Gina Tuazon	CSE					
Harrison Carter	Sociology (alternate)					
Haydee Smith	Literature					
Hiu Lau	Biology			x	x	x
Jamie Weisman	Rady	x		x	x	x



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Jared Markowitz	Education Studies					
Jasmine Roberts	ECE (Alternate)					
Jason Raby	IR/PS	x	x			
Jeffrey Narkis	MAE					
Jeremy Semko	Mathematics	x				x
Jess Shuen	School of Medicine					
John Reimer	Theater and Dance	x				x
Johnny Zhou	SSPPS					
Joseph Connelly	ECE	x	x	x	x	
Joseph Ponsetto	ECE	x	x			
Josh Kenchel	Biology	x		x	x	
Josephine Vo	SSPPS	x		x	x	
Justin Humphres	Theater and Dance					
Kashyap Tumkur	CSE					
Kathleen Blackwell	Political Science					
Katie Simpson	Communication					
Ke Li	ECE			x		
Kevin Ross	Biomedical Sciences	x	x		x	x
Kevin Yang	School of Medicine					
Kyle Begovich	Biology					
Kyle Blair	Music	x	x	x	x	x
Kyle Rowan	Music		x	x	x	x
Lauren Curley	Cognitive Science	x	x	x	x	x
Lauren Lee	Political Science					
Leandra Boucheron	Physics	x		x	x	x
Leroy Arciniega	Sociology	x				
Lindsay Dawson	Chem & Biochem	x		x	x	
Lynn Waterhouse	SIO (alternate)		x	x	x	x



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Mark Irish	Anthropology	x	x	x	x	
Mark Lin	SSPPS			x	x	x
Marla Rosner	Linguistics		x	x	x	
Maya Sapiurka	Neuroscience			x	x	x
Maylinn Paulsen	Chem & Biochem		x	x	x	x
Melissa Troyer	Cognitive Science (Alternate)		x			
Michael Goldflam	Physics (alternate)	x				
Michael Paluch	Rady					
Miren Edelstein	Psychology	x	x			
Morgan Manduley	Visual Arts (alternate)					
Mukanth Vaidyanathan	NENG / CENG		x	x	x	x
Natalie Larson	CSE		x	x	x	x
Nathan Jameson	Biomedical Sciences					
Nathaniel Wood-Cohan	Chem & Biochem	x	x	x	x	x
Nicole Henniger	Psychology	x	x			
Nikola Bulajic	Latin American Studies	x	x			
Noel Martin	Philosophy					
Olivia Quintanilla	Ethnic Studies (Alternate)					
Omar Padilla	Ethnic Studies	x	x	x	x	
Pai-Kai Huang	Cognitive Science	x	x			
Paolo Gabriel	ECE		x			
Paul Tchir	History	x	x	x	x	
Robet Won	Mathematics	x				



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Scott Oullette	Structural Engineering (alternate)					
Shuxia Tang	MAE			x	x	x
Sibai Xie	Materials Science	x	x			x
Sohini Manna	NENG / CENG	x				
Sophia Hirakis	Chem & Biochem (alternate)			x	x	x
Stephanie Gomez	Literature					
Steve Niemiec	School of Medicine					
Steven Rees	Biomedical Sciences	x	x			x
Tara-Lynne Pixley	Communication					
Teresa Zimmerman	Sociology	x	x			x
Travis Chamberlain	Science Studies		x			x
Troy Kokinis	History		x			x
Viktoria Gisladdottir	MAE		x	x	x	x
Vincent Sherman	Materials Science	x	x			
Vladimir Jovanovic	Neuroscience	x	x			
Whitney Russell	Anthropology	x	x	x	x	x
Will Warren	Structural Engineering					
Wun Kiat Tan	Bioengineering		x	x	x	x
Yolanda Hartley	Science Studies					
Johnny Zhon	Pharmacy		x			