



University of California, San Diego
Graduate Student Association

2017-18 Council Meeting #4
Monday, November 20, 2017
6:00 pm, Price Center Forum

I. Call to Order 6:05pm

II. Approval of Agenda

A. Move to approve, second, approved

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes [5 minutes]

A. [Minutes from CM3](#)

B. Move to approve, second, approved

IV. Public Comment and General Announcements [10 minutes]

A. Public Comment

B. DPC funding for 2017-2018 has been allocated (VP Finance)

C. SFAC [Student Fee Ideas Survey](#) (Hayley Weddle, SFAC Representative)

D. Unscheduled comments/announcement

1. VP Social: Next Wednesday is the first GSA Karaoke night

2. Sophie: Question to VP Finance with regards to the delay of the funds?

a) VP Finance: It is not delayed.

3. Cultural Coordinator: Tickets on sale for Nutcracker. San Diego Ice Hockey Game will go on sale Dec 1st.

V. Presentation on System-wide UC SHIP Committee [10 minutes]

A. Julia Busch (UCSD UC SHIP Graduate Student Representative)

1. UC SHIP is entirely student run, only students have voting right.

2. Would like to make the process more transparent and get student feedback (e.g. changes next December on bring IUD placement to student health rather than referring it out)

3. Anyone with any comments on UC SHIP should contact Busch.

4. Sophie: How can we contact you?

a) Julia: Will forward contact infos to REP's tonight.

5. Valarie: Are you involved when they got a in house Psychologist at student health? Is there anyway to promote that?

a) Julia: I am passionate about how to educate people on how to navigate the insurance.

VI. Vote on Finance Bills (Appendix A) [10 minutes]

A. Zihan Xu (Vice President of Financial Affairs)

1. Sophie: What are the changes to the requirement for finance bills?
 - a) Finance Chair: The only change is that I need to receive the ad by the Thursday before council.
 - b) President: Finance committee does not approve bills, they only recommend. Only council approves bills.
2. Move to approve as slate, second, approved

VII. GSA Fee Referendum [60 minutes]

A. President: Will yield to Parliamentarian for the duration of this item.

B. Hayley Weddle (Chief of Staff), Melissa Viperman-Cohen (Vice President of Social Affairs)

1. [Budget proposal for additional fee revenue](#)
2. The first paragraph is legistice and required by UC system.
3. Proposed an increase of 19.90. 29% of the increase will be return to aid.
4. The 6 bullet points are corresponded to language that explains it in later part of the documents.
5. The last paragraph states how much the fee will be after the increase. We will be adding an elevator model to the fees and it will be tied to CPI. If this passes, no referendum until 2021.
6. We are not voting on the budget today, it is to support the proposed increase in referendum.

C. Q&A

1. Sophie: Why isn't the elevator model included in the first paragraph. It feels like you are trying to blindsighted people into the increase.
 - a) This referenda follows the template of referendum in UC's. We can look to amending it.
2. Valerie: Have you done a smaller number and see what we can do with a smaller increase?
 - a) By increasing to 17 dollars, that will only cover inflation. We will not be able to bring anything new. If we increase it by 19.90 it will bring new programs, but not everything we want.
3. Luke: My department was surprised that monies are going to basic needs and EDI effort because they did not know that was an initiative the exists. I think it is more important to put the that in the beginning so that it will appeal to more students.
 - a) Social is the more significant increase.
4. Sabrina: I am surprised that you plan to spend \$100,000 on an

administrative person. What is the benefit of that?

- a) That number is not the salary, that also includes their benefit. The benefit, it is not only not irresponsible to run this many new programs without programs, campus may also not approve events without staff support. It is not appropriate the put so much administrative responsibilities on students and that they are missing out on their education; In terms of Institutional memory - a staff member will be very helpful.
 - b) President: It is extremely overdue for an organization this size. The referendum is not just meant to bring us up to speed, but also to project forward in the future.
5. Ed: I have question about the escalator, why is it based on the CPI?
- a) We are not required to use the CPI, but it has been used in the UC systems.
6. Rep: Have you guys put anywhere in the document that states that an increase to \$17 is only catching up on inflation?
- a) The referenda language has to be rather neutral. But there is a pro and a con statement. Many of the things that we might want to put it but realized that it is not neutral. But someone can write a pro or con statement in response to that.
 - b) Parliamentarian: Council can modify this with debate.
7. Valarie: What have been looked at the fund these new proposals?
- a) This is the main way GSA get their funding.
8. Sophie: Why can't we add that 17 is only for inflation?
- a) She was referring to that the language in here isn't very clear statement
 - b) Sophie: Would you consider including languages on the historic context of the increase.
 - (1) The language of when was the last time the fee was increased is in the language. But other languages that contextualizes we have considered not neutral.
9. Rep: Do you have a a portraits of where the return to aid funds will be going.
- a) President: Graduate Division controls this money, they have a financial aid department. I am not sure how they utilize that fund.
10. Jacob: Who writes the for and against statement?
- a) GSA does not have a well defined process on who does

that. But it will be an open call potentially.

b) President: I would say that it is likely for Judicial Branch.

11. Eric: Is the budget proposal publically posted?

a) It will be posted once the minutes is posted.

12. Sophie: When do we project the referendum going happen? If it passes tonight.

a) April

b) Sophie: If we cannot pass the language tonight, will we still make it for that date?

(1) Today is not the last chance to make that date.

13. Iulia: What if the language is not proposed by this body today?

a) Nothing happens after that. Or we can discuss it again.

b) Iulia: What if it does not pass by student?

(1) No increase in fees.

14. Rep: Have you done any survey to assess the tolerance of the student population.

a) This is the survey, you are the representative body.

15. Rep: It is possible to run a survey to see public opinion?

a) The public is unlikely to be okay with increase because no one wants to spent more money. And it is okay that individuals do not want an increase. This is the body that represents what their student body thinks.

D. Debate:

1. Rep: Survey can potentially get a better idea of the opinions

a) VP Academic: I do not think that it is reliable to do a survey because it might lead to very skewed opinion.

2. Sophie: I think it is better to present them with the relevant informations in the digest to encourage them to vote yes.

a) VP Campus: The president has been having office hours for reps to come in. I am not sure how helpful it is if reps haven't been communicating this plan to the body. Reps should be having conversations with their constituents and bringing back conversations that have had to council.

b) Chief of Staff: This is should not the last conversations on this language if we pass it, we should continue to educate our constituents on the topic.

c) VP EDI: I know there are people who gets grad emails and delete it. I do not think we should continue push this back and send more emails as it is most likely going to be deleted.

3. Raul: I echo that we need to continue this language. Maybe there should be a cap on the CPI incase it gets too high.
4. Jacob: The other side of things is that is that we can shape the opinion of our constituents. As that we are educated on this issue, be able to inform them, and advocate for the bill.
5. Rep: I think it is not helpful to do a general body poll if reps in this body is already polling their constituents. Semetics in the last language has no limit on a referendum that would cap the fee increase.
6. Luke: Just to speak on the CPI. There is a projected number of CPI until 2020. **Move to amend the increase amount to “increase by 2% annually to account of inflation”.**
 - a) VP Social: I do not oppose to a fixed percentage, but I am not comfortable with a percentage that is arbitrary.
 - b) Luke: I chose the 2% because it is below the projected inflation and it is a concrete number. I am okay with amending it to 2.5%.
 - c) Larry: I would be opposed to a fixed percentage. CPI will allowed us to capture any changes in value of money.
 - d) Sophie: I am in favor of having it tied to the CPI.
 - e) Culture Coordinator: Second what Larry said. If this passes we cannot change if for 3 years if any drastic changes occurs in the next 3 years.
 - f) President: This is how the undergrad fee works. It is common practice.
 - g) Valarie: The students transportation fee will be a 1.5% increase.
 - h) Raul: I would propose CPI with a cap of 4%.
 - i) Move to call the question.
 - j) **Vote to change to the increase to 2%.**

(1) Amendment fails.
7. VP Campus: Please know that if you want to change any language on the document, this is the space and time.
8. Sophie: **Move to add the inflation escalator language model in the first paragraph of referendum language.**
 - a) Culture Coordinator: maybe be can add that to the end of Fall Quarter 2018.
 - b) President: The language of the document is not intended to confuse anyone as that’s how language is generally done. I

do not think that it is a necessary change. Adding this details might make the language more confusing than transparent.

- c) Sophie: I just want to have a the most transparent language. There are people who do not trust GSA because they do not know what is going on within.
 - d) VP Social: I agree with transparency. I do think that we need to have a lot more context for the language to add inflation language earlier in the document.
 - e) Rep: I think we are adding too many language to the document. I agree with transparency, but the language should be on the bottom.
 - f) Raul: I think it might be easier if we have the most important languages in the very beginning we might be more likely to vote yes.
 - g) Rep: How was the turnout of previous referenda vote?
 - (1) President: Around 25%.
 - h) Sophie: **Move amend the previous amendment, to remove the word of the language with CPI, to “adjusted annually to account for inflation...”**
 - (1) Second, objection**
 - (2) President: This amendment will be more troublesome, as the language became less specific. Will likely to be rejected by UCOP.
 - (3) Cultural Coordination: Is it possible to add information in the footnote?
 - (4) Chief of Staff: This language might be more confusing after the removal of reference to CPI in the.
 - (5) Vote to call to question**
 - (a) Yes: $\frac{2}{3}$, approved**
 - (6) Vote to approve amendment to amendment**
 - (a) Amendment failed.**
 - i) **Move to call to question (adding CPI to the first paragraph):**
 - (1) Vote to approve amendment:**
 - (a) Yes: 17 No: 19 Abstain: 0**
 - (b) Amendment failed**
9. Rep: A lot of people believes that GSA is still functioning as an organization and meeting the needs of many students. Having a more than double proposed increase is overreach. Suggest that we

lower the increase in fees.

10. Move to changing the order of the bullet points:

- a) Second, objection.
- b) VP Academic: We have been lacking in EDI effort to put it as the first bullet. Rather we should have the Basic Needs Initiatives as the first one.
- c) Jacob: Why are these things part of GSA's responsibilities?
- d) Larry: I feel like the money should be proportionate to what is needed.
- e) Sophie: Not everyone wants to put money in the certain initiatives. It is a valid point that we need to consider how to get them vote yes on the referendum.
- f) Rep: Things like Basic Needs Initiatives obviously have needs to that.
- g) Jacob: I think the confusion of why do we need to lose money so then the campus is then giving us free food or to give us financial aid? Why the shuffling of the money?
- h) Rep: This is the same as taxes because centralization of the money allows money to be effectively allocate to area that needs money.
- i) VP Academic: I think a lot of these confusion is from the administration not putting in the enough of support for that and that it must come from the GSA resources.
- j) Call the question

k) Vote to rearrange bullet shown:

(1) Yes: Majority approved.

11. President: I would like to address the amount proposed. We need an increase in the fee so that we can project for the future and allow us to do new programs in the future in various offices.

12. Elizabeth: Are the bullets arranged in the order that is proportionate to the amount allocate.

- a) Chief of Staff: The order does not change anything. And there is no lock-in language. Students will vote on the budget in spring if this were to pass.

13. Rep: Based on what I know, students will not read pass the first 2 sentences because it is too long.

- a) VP Academic: You can look at the language of previous referenda.

14. Raul: **Move to amend the increase amount to adjusted annually**

according to the CPI (not to exceed 4% annually).

- a) Move to approve, second, object.
- b) Rep: I don't know why we keep proposing an arbitrary cap on a number that predicts the future. I want people to consider that this is not arbitrary and that the cap is prevent the fees from going out of control.
- c) Valerie: I think that the cap is important because our salary does not follow inflation.
- d) Rep: If the increase number is not an arbitrary number, we do not need to have a cap as it will put in as it will put more hindrance for future gsa.
- e) **Call to question, second, object.**
- f) **Vote to approve amendment:**
(1) Yes: 20 No: 15, approved.

15. Valerie: Move to amend the amount increase to \$12.

- a) Second, Object.
- b) VP Social: if we only increase by 12, it will only account for inflation. 19.90 is not arbitrary.
- c) Valerie: we have been operating this budget for these past years and that we don't need that big of an increase for continue to operate.
- d) Sabrina: A large sum of this money will only go to salary and not to organization operations.
- e) President: We only have 60,000 in reserves that can be approved by this body to use in one time expenditures. There are ideas to prosed the pilot program using out reserve. However, if we only increase by 12, we will only be able to hire a staff and nothing new.
- f) Chief of Staff: having a staff will results in an increased efficiency by 10 folds.
- g) Burgundy: I think the school is getting a lot of free labor and that's not fair. Maybe can go with a lower number and removing the language of limiting referendum to the next event.
- h) Mark: Where did you get 12 from?
- i) Valerie: It same from the budget sans the budget for a staff member. Also would like to spark a conversation on a lower budget number.
- j) Cultural Coordinator: Having a staff will increase the efficacy

of many administrative tasks. And we can see the effect of it.

k) VP Finance: move to amend amendment to 17.50.

(1) Valerie: 17.5 is too high.

(2) Larry: Wouldn't it be a case that the money we are allocating would help people who are having trouble paying for the fee.

(a) Chief of Staff: It might not be a one to one case. There's mechanisms that tries to capture that but not one to one

(3) Eric: The fee for GSA is miniscule compared to the other fees that we are paying.

(4) Amber: I do not think this referendum is going to pass. I think we should lower the fees so we can at least get some increase and remove the language that limits referendum in the next 3 years than try to add more.

(5) VP Social: We need to help our consistents understand why this fee is important.

(6) President: I opposed to lower the number. We have proposed two times to try to increase the fee with a more modest amount and failed. So it is not about the amount. It is more about how it was marketed. We either go big or go home.

(7) Amber: I would like to request for more a breakdown of why the budget is (how the salary is and what the duty is)

(8) Valerie: I think it might be worthwhile to see if we can share the staff member with another organization. I think we need to be be careful since we are running to another referendum for fees that we do not have control as the same time.

(9) Vote to amend the amendment from 12 to 17.50

(a) Yes: Majority, approved.

l) Sophie: Table the vote to the next meeting.

E. [Vote on Approval of Referendum Language](#) to be submitted to students, pending administrative approval

VIII. Committee Reports [5 minutes]

IX. Appointments [5 minutes]

A. GSA Elections Committee (Council)

1. Christina Alarcon (Biomedical Sciences)

2. VACANCY
3. VACANCY
- B. GSA Finance Committee (VP Finance)
 1. Luke Stroth
- C. GSA Academic and Judicial Committee (VP Academic)
 1. Thomas Grubb
 2. Tran B Nguyen
- D. GSA Social Programming Committee (VP Social)
 1. John Renner
- E. GSA Student Affairs Committee (VP Campus)
 1. Valerie Sapp
 2. Sean Paknoosh
 3. Jacob Schalch
 4. Hayley Weddle
 5. Wil Schreiner
- F. Transportation Policy Committee (VP Campus)
 1. Jacob Schalch
- G. Academic Integrity Review Board (VP Academic)
 1. Matthew Wnuk
- H. Academic Senate VACANCIES (VP Academic)
 1. Campus Community & Environment
 2. Co-curricular Record Committee
 3. Graduate Council (2 positions)
 4. Library
 5. Senate Awards

X. Open Floor and Call for Council Agenda Items [5 minutes]

XI. Adjourn 9 pm

Appendix A: Finance Bills

FUND	Budget Funds	Funds Approved	Funds Remaining	Funds Under Request	Funds Remaining If the Requests Approve
Early Request Fund	\$2,500.00	\$2,415.00	\$85.00	\$0.00	\$85.00
General Request Fund	\$10,000.00	\$950.00	\$9,050.00	\$0.00	\$9,050.00
Academic & Professional Request Fund	\$11,000.00	\$1,751.00	\$9,249.00	\$461.00	\$8,788.00
Lounge Improvement Fund	\$4,500.00	\$320.00	\$4,180.00	\$0.00	\$4,180.00
Diversity Request Fund	\$5,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$210.00	\$2,790.00
Family Friendly Fund	\$1,200.00	\$420.00	\$780.00	\$0.00	\$780.00

Funding Requests:

Fund	# of Grad	Amount	Title	Time	Organization /Department	Funded Before?	AD?
APRF7	10	70	Digital Humanities Interdisciplinary Group	2017-12-01	Literature	No	Yes
APRF8	57	391	Professional Head Shot for Graduate Students	2017-12-04	Grad Life	Yes	No
DRF5	30	210	Surviving Grad School	2018-02-22	GradWIC	No	NA

Description of Events:

APRF7: This group began as a Digital Humanities (DH) reading group initiative last year that was very

successful. This year, we kicked off our first meeting and would like to build on what we did for last year. Therefore, we would like to have snacks/coffee/lunch for those who attend our group meetings or the talks/field trips we plan on campus. So far, we have 10 that went to our first meeting, but a lot of interest overall from a ranger of departments, such as: communications, ethnic studies, sociology, literature, etc. We meet bi-weekly and would like to request funding for the remaining meetings for this quarter on 12/1 at \$7 per graduate student - this group is open to all grad students as well.

APRF8: Grad Life and GSA are partnering to provide free professional head shots to graduate students in order to support their professional development.

DRF5: GradWIC is inviting Masha from BoldAdulting to lead a workshop on surviving grad school, focusing on dealing with topics such as imposter syndrome, lack of confidence, failure and rejection, bias and prejudice, and international student issues.

Upcoming Events:

Fund	Location	Title	Time	Organization
APRF2	TBA	Coffee Chat Series with Alumni	10/18/17~ 12/01/17	Jacob Grad Student Council (JGSC)