

GSA Council Meeting #10  
March 10, 2014  
6pm, Price Center Forum

- I. Call to Order [6:04pm]
- II. Approval of Agenda
  - A. *Motion to Amend*: move Finance Bills to #5; move #7 to after #5; move Draft Council Resolution to after that
  - B. *Motion to approve, seconded*
- III. Old Business - Approval of Council Meeting 9 Minutes
  - A. *Motion to approve, seconded*
- IV. Public Comments and Announcements
  - A. Nominations for officer elections are open. Elections will be during Council meeting on April 7, the first meeting of spring quarter. Nominations will remain open until the actual election.
  - B. Holly, Leg. Liaison: I'm developing the Lobby Corp; I'm sending around a sign-up sheet. There will be free dinner.
  - C. PhD Conference coming up for May 17 and I need volunteers for it. Email Jordan if you want to sign up
  - D. Ash: the TA union may hold a strike during the first week of April depending on how the negotiations go. Also UCSA news: Irvine AS has pulled out of the Association and there are rumors that other GSAs may also leave
    1. Why did they leave?
      - a) Contentious environment and a little toxic. Irvine AS has found that involvement in UCSA has not been beneficial for them, especially the way UCSA reacted to Janet Napolitano's appointment as UC President and not paying attention to the needs undocumented students, etc. We will be debating whether or not to stay in the spring and will reassess the situation then.
  - E. Last roaming Social Hour this Friday, Jacobs Engineering building 3<sup>rd</sup> floor patio, 5-8pm.
  - F. Timia: this week, students can purchase wine tasting tickets. The event is on April 19<sup>th</sup>
  - G. Jon: Free for All: Spring Fling coming up
  - H. Dorothy: Chief of Staff for ASCE: our biggest event, Sungod, is coming up. I'm here to recruit graduate student volunteers. We want to pool from more mature, responsible students. If you're interested, I have copies of the volunteer form
- V. Finance Bills
  - A. APRF 09: Anthropology conference between us and University of Arizona. \$400
    1. *Motion to approve, seconded.*
  - B. GRF 7: AIGS is putting on a Festival of Color, expecting 125 grad students; previously got 145 attendees. Want to use money for snacks
    1. *Motion to approve, seconded*

C. GRF 8: annual Luau Happy Hour for the Pharmacy department. They're working with VP Campus and making the event one of the roaming social hours. \$775 for food.

1. *Motion to approve, seconded*

VI. Draft Council Resolution 7: Healthcare SHIP resolution

A. The draft was sent out over the listserv; we're looking for feedback

B. For the most part, I agree with the document, except for projecting what the next council will do. We should just suggest that next year they reassess the situation.

1. *Motion to strike the two "be it resolved" clauses that have to do with next year. Seconded.*

a) *Objection to motion:* We should keep the 2015-2016 one, because our goal is to get it to 125% as quickly as possible. I agree that the long-term shouldn't be listed here, but its important we get it to 125% without the labor of next year's council.

b) *Motion fails.*

C. *Motion to amend:* strike the 100% clause and edit the next clause to incorporate the ACA. Make it mandatory so healthy people will buy into the plan and decrease the cost for everyone.

1. *Seconded and passed.*

D. \$51 per quarter?

1. No, per year.

E. *Motion to amend:* dependent premium will be set to 125% automatically next year unless GSA acts on it.

1. *Seconded and approved.*

F. *Motion to approve Draft Resolution 7, seconded*

1. *Vote: 38-0-0, resolution passes*

VII. Student Transportation Referendum Ballot Language

A. This language was passed by AS and approved by UCOP, so this is our final vote on this. If we vote yes, it will go to students in the spring and 20% of students will have to vote. It will need a clear majority of that 20% to be passed.

B. Differences between the last version?

1. This version is more specific and has more concrete language. It specifies what students will be getting, and what will be happening.

C. *Move to approve, seconded*

1. *Objection to the motion:* the new language ties students hands. TPS gets all the power about oversight and use of that money. We're basically handing money to TPS; they can ignore staff altogether.

a) To respond, that's true. The reason is that we can't enter a contract with MTS, and if later decide to exit that contract, the university would face legal trouble. It does tie TPS hands as well, as they can

only spend that money for the bus passes. So it disempowers both them and us--everyone has to abide by the contract.

- D. 70% of the fee will directly go to MTS, so TPS also has no power to change or take that money, it goes directly to MTS. We'll be tied to that rate for 4 years.
  - 1. Did we get a new rate?
    - a) Yes, we didn't get a huge decrease, but they added resources. They added a universal bus pass that anyone can use on any MTS bus. We're not paying per ride, they did the calculations based on 30,000 passes. We don't care how many people are using it. The more people who use it, the better for us
  - 2. Is Coaster included?
    - a) No, but when trolley is finished it will be included

E. *Motion to vote on the referendum, seconded*

- 1. Vote: 41-1-0, *referendum passes*

VIII. Proposed Constitutional Amendment

A. *Motion for 90-second max per person for speaking list, seconded*

- 1. *Objection*: would rather it be 2 minutes
- 2. Vote: *passes*

B. *Point of Information*: per person or per slot?

- 1. Each person is only allowed to speak a maximum of twice up until everyone else has spoken.

C. Background: This came from conversations with the current VP Internal. The job is overwhelming so we thought of ways we can redistribute the workload to other VPs. VPs currently don't have a voice with administration: the President meets with the Chancellor, Dean, and Vice Chancellors, but the other VPs don't work with them at all. UCSD has recently restructured, so it makes sense for GSA to do the same. We don't appreciate the animosity that we as execs are getting for trying to make GSA more effective. During this conversation, we should avoid name-calling.

D. President: this is my 6<sup>th</sup> year on council and I've seen a lot. Don's position has worked very well with VPEDI: things go faster if the Exec-respective VC relationship is strong. This restructure: each VP meets with respective VC, so there is a better link between council and the administration

E. I think it's interesting that previous Executives are contributing to the conversation, but I don't think they know what's happening in our council right now. I'm hesitant to take their word. I think we should be listening to Ted most of all, and he's weighed in heavily. This is a way to make council more efficient. The Chief of Staff position won't be fun all the time, but neither is VPI.

F. I'm a little confused about the Chief of Staff position: he would do a lot of the work that VPI was doing; all the administrative work and committee

appointments. Is the salary specified? And is it lower than VPI? Or is it redistributed? If this salary is lower, we could increase the other VP salaries.

1. As it stands, there's nothing that is suggesting otherwise. The Chief of Staff salary would be \$2000
  2. Are the salaries set during the budget convo?
    - a) Yes, so that hasn't happened yet.
- G. I sent out the messages to previous EVPs, because Council may not work the way it has in the past, but it should be helpful to have perspective from former executives. I think this is going faster than it needs to go: this could be done at any other time. We're going through this too quickly and without great inspection of bylaws and Constitution. It was pointed out that the documents on the website aren't current, so its very difficult to even find the necessary information to make a well informed and good decision
- H. I am an example of a situation where committees have been taken from Internal and transferred to Diversity. As a result of the childcare issue being moved to my office, we've been able to get some good results. At the same time, I'm an executive, not a Council-member. I really want to urge council-members to talk to Ted and Rahul and be introspective of this. When Diversity was created, it was a reactionary move so the bylaws weren't that great, and it took me a year to make better bylaws. The CoS position will be the same, it will take time to formulate properly.
- I. *Point of information:* are we voting today?
  1. No, this is just a presentation.
- J. *Point of information:* were the changes made to the current Constitution?
  1. Last year's VPI did not making sure that all the documents were current. This is another example of GSA putting all our eggs in one basket--if the VPI fails, everyone suffers.
- K. The position is overwhelming, and we can redistribute a lof of work to a new student worker, or even one of the current workers.
- L. The main objection seems to be that CoS is appointed rather than elected. A little about what I do: all the secretarial work, like getting food and meeting set up, committee oversight, and cheerleading, which I've neglected and which consists of reaching out to departments and making sure reps are coming to meetings. These tasks are all pretty separate in my mind and I found it impossible to do them all well. It makes sense for committee work to go to Campus, and the person who's involved with academic affairs to handle the academic issues. The things we're asking the CoS to do is the secretarial work, getting the food, and making sure reps are coming to meeting, and website maintenance. It's not a great weight on one person, and they don't have a lot of power over decisions so it doesn't make sense for them to have to be elected

- M. I helped author bylaws, they can be changed. These are the leftover responsibilities after redistributing all the tasks under VPI. The one exception is marketing, which would be the website, Facebook, Twitter, etc., which we added.
- N. The separation of the committees isn't supposed to lead to any one person hogging all the power. There's a disconnect between the committee, and the VP, and the administration. We had issues about healthcare, ie why we didn't hear about it before it became a larger issues, so this is a better setup: 1 person and 2 or 4 committees vs. 1 person with 15 committees. This is not a power grab and it's offensive to suggest that.
- O. My main question for the execs: I understand Ted's point about why the CoS should be appointed. From my position, this CoS would be representing the council, so it makes sense that they should be elected. I can see a situation where an exec chooses a CoS that they like but who doesn't get along with the rest of Council.
- P. We have a number of appointed positions, the spirit is that they serve the executive body. Also, the people who appoint the role are elected by the general body.
- Q. *Point of information*: all appointed roles are approved by the council
- R. Straw poll: the majority of people like the idea; a few are opposed
- S. Can we get the most current constitution and bylaws available to us, if this isn't something we're voting on tonight?
1. Webmaster: I can't speak to the accuracy of the docs that are currently on the site
- T. I don't agree with the idea of appointing this position. I don't like the idea of replacing a position that was elected with an appointed one, especially one that requires organizational and communicative skill and a lot of power over communication. The appointees should be screened by GSA so we all can see who we want to do this job
- U. *Motion to extend by 5 minutes, passes*
- V. I understand that there's a lot of reservation in appointing somebody, but the Leg. Liaisons are appointed and they meet with state and local authorities. What's important is that we elect the person who appoints these roles.
- W. Council has the power to make any changes to duties, if they have 2/3 majority. My question: if this position was so difficult, why wait so long for these changes? You could've asked us a while ago to transfer committees or allocate more money for another student worker. Why were we not told that VPI was overwhelmed earlier? We don't even have to change the Constitution. If execs are having trouble with their job, they can tell us

- X. Its' not so much about VPI not being able to do their job, but its just so much work. If Jon could do some of Ted's work better because it's more focused, that's what's important and what we're trying to change.
- Y. When does this need to be approved?
1. We vote on the Constitutional amendments today; the bylaws are presented today, and the vote on them is next meeting.
- Z. Addressing the question about salary: appointee are paid half what elected officials are paid, and we wanted to hire a new social coordinator. This new person would help organize parties while VP Campus focuses on other things. The fact that we don't even know where the most recent Constitution is and that there are issue with the website just shows that we need this. We have a month to change the actual specific language before our next meeting, April 7.
- AA. *Motion to postpone vote to next meeting and for the most recent Constitution to be presented to Council, seconded*
1. *Objection*
    - a) There were no objections during open discussion, and it says precedence: so I don't think we can entertain this motion, the debate was already closed
  2. *Point of Information*: the reason we want to vote today is otherwise, someone might run for the position and win in the upcoming election.
  3. *Motion to lay aside the previous motion temporarily*
- BB. We are back in debate so we can recognize the motion.
1. Vote to move to an official vote: 18-19-0, so we are going back to debate
- CC. *Motion to postpone voting on the const. until current complete bylaws and the const are presented, seconded.*
1. *Objection*: I think we owe people who are considering to run for elections to decide now, at least we can change the Constitution. We're just talking about changing Ted's position, so that will affect those who are thinking about running or getting involved with this orgnization
- DD. *Point of clarification*: is there any way to move the vote?
1. No, Constitution mandates the election timetable. If we create a new position, we can elect that position at any time. If not one is nominated for a position, it stays open until someone is nominated and appointed.
- EE. Back to discussion: before the cutting of this position, I was considering VPI, but because we are talking about cutting it, I am staying in Diversity. I think pushing elections back could be an amicable resolution,
1. We cannot suspend the Constitution
- FF. Can we get some kind of organizational chart showing us who is responsible for what?
1. It was sent out via listserv

- GG. If we vote today, what exactly will happen?
1. The vote today is to eliminate the position from the Constitution. It will then need to be voted on again at the next meeting
- HH. So if we do vote yes, then is CoS automatically a position?
1. Yes, it's a bylaw
- II. Can we change the wording from app to elected?
1. Yes
- JJ. *Point of information:* if we don't vote tonight, we'll have to have a second meeting, right? Can that happen at a specially called meeting?
1. We would need quorum, but yes.
- KK. Is there a minimum amount of time between meetings? So we can have a meeting, adjourn, then have a special meeting right after?
1. There needs to be a 3 day warning of special meeting
  2. It would be at the discretion of Chair, and the Chair would not recognize that as it is not fair to constituents.
- LL. Should we vote today? For the sake of getting the ball rolling? As long as we don't ratify next week, it all goes back to 0, right?
1. Yes, I think we should vote no on postponement, see if 2/3 of the council wants this. Then if they do, people can research and convince other people not to vote yes at the next meeting, or make another amendment. That is a good solution. We had a week to know about these changes. People can meet outside of meeting to work on bylaws, then present to Council. So we can go ahead on voting.
- MM. *Motion to call the question, seconded*
1. Vote to end debate: it wins. Debate has ended
  2. Vote to postpone vote to next meeting: it fails. Vote is not postponed to next meeting.
  3. Vote on the changes to Constitution: 33-7-3. *Changes have passed*
- NN. People can sit on a committee and look at bylaws. People who are interested: Jon, Negin, Timia, Tara, Hailee, Nathaniel, Don, Cody, Lindsay.
- OO. Official bylaws and Constitution are really old, so I want to make an official request that the current versions are disseminated.
- IX. Call for Council Meeting 11 Agenda Items; send nominations for officer positions. There will be a presentation on the Bill of Rights next time as well as a 15 minute presentation from the State and Local Legislative Liaison.
- A. Nominations:
1. Don Johnson for Diversity; nomination accepted
  2. Timia Crisp for VP External; nomination accepted
  3. Holly Dembinski for VP Academic; nomination accepted
  4. Jon Monk for President; nomination accepted

5. Lindsay Freeman for VP Campus; nomination accepted

6. Negin Nazarian for VP Finance; nomination accepted

X. Adjourn [7:24pm]