SFAC Winter Meeting #10
3/13/15 11:00AM-1:00PM
PC West Earl Warren College Room

Call to Order at 11:06

Present: Paul Tchir, Jackie Markt-Maloney, Prasad Radhakrishna, Mihiri Ukuwela, Andrew Thai, Ashraf Ramzy Beshay, Mukanth Vaidyanathan, Ivan Evans

Absent: Ellen Kim, Darlene Nguyen, Akshay Tangutur, Jennifer Huerta, Norienne Saign, William McCarroll, Sylvia Lepe-Askari, John Hughes

Approval of Meeting 9 Minutes: Motion by Mihiri, seconded by Prasad

Presentation from Jon Monk, Graduate Student Assembly President

1. GSA Travel Grants Program
   a. Submitted last year, was denied
   b. How have they improved the proposal, had funding for a pilot funding from the Chancellor, Graduate Division and VCSA office
   c. Traveling for graduate students is important because it's one of their only times to talk to experts in their field and it helps to go out and meet others that know a lot about the specific field you're talking about
   d. Offering micro grants of $300-$500 to spur research advisors to help fund students
   e. Hard for students studying in the Humanities and Social Sciences fields because they are underfunded facilities
      i. Travel grant seeking to help them - Social Sciences were 36 out of 103 applicants, for Arts and Humanities they numbered 14– strong demand for these liberal arts and have a strong yield for traveling
   f. Pilot program was divided into 4 quarters, got an extra $10,000 in funding
   g. 118 applicants, funded 103 so far
   h. gsa.ucsd.edu/travelgrants
   i. Benefits of the travel grant program
      i. Develops presentation skills, meet with other peers and network (developing future opportunities for you by meeting other people), effectively engage (beyond just presenting your research, there are more professional opportunities to go through)
   j. Case Studies
      i. Kristen Secora – traveled to Germany – vital that she presented her work to researchers and got their feedback, cutting edge research being conducted, networking with other researchers in her field
      ii. Meilin Zhan – Portland, Oregon - presenting work in Linguistics to a national audience and gaining feedback from her peers, great benefit to her career as a graduate student at UCSD
      iii. Bridget Druken – Indonesia - developing professional skills, chance to present and receive feedback from professionals, engaging with scholars at this conference, supported her creative and collaborative research

        iv. Cailey Bromer – Washington - first opportunity to present research in her field, wonderful experience

  k. Other UC programs
        i. Berkeley has a $150,000 program, only LA and SD don't have graduate student programs
        ii. Making it last longer than just one year
  l. No extra staffing, all the money goes back to the graduate division and they process all of the awards
  m. $300 for the state of CA, $500 for anything else
  n. Important for grad students in socials sciences and humanities - it's hard to get funding other than your department
  o. Division of funds, how much have they received in the past? Initially used a random selection process, working on making it more selective, 50% happened to be humanities/social sciences
        i. Don't allow people to get more than one grant per year, if it looks less equitable, they would adapt and change their random algorithms
  p. Fall round, 55 applicants, 40 were funded, 63 applicants in winter, funded everyone because they received extra funds from the Chancellors Office
  q. Inviting travel grant awardees to come back for a social and to talk about their experiences, etc.
  r. How do you choose which grants are awarded? Right now it's all randomized. Shouldn't be evaluating other graduate's research, rather look at how much a division has received this quarter, and evening it out with other less funded ones.
  s. Assessment on the student's academic standing? It's all through the graduate division, so they verify it before. They also submit a letter.
  t. Since you expect this program to grow, how have you already been publicizing your program? List-serve, publicized on the Facebook a lot, advertise at GSA meetings, sending it to GS representatives, they distribute that info to other students, also on the front page of their website, funding block with the Graduate Division

2. GSA Fund Manager
  a. 8% of their budget is used for their Fund Manager, charged .25% FTE annually for the position
  b. Budget is structured on Salary and Wages, GSA Events, Appropriations, Office and Operating Expenses, and Reserves
  c. 25% of their salaries and wages budget goes to the Fund Manager
        i. According to their bylaws, salaries and wages shouldn't exceed 25% of their overall budget
  d. They're at their cap, they want to hire a community outreach coordinator
  e. AS has a position covered by student fee funding that is a full, 100% time person
        i. More equitable if their staff member could be covered by student fee funds also
  f. Important because they've been growing, more people have been coming out, more demand for their events and services, hard to get more people involved, sounds selfish but they don't get paid very much, so it helps that they're being paid a little bit more

g. No incentive for graduate students to come and work with the GSA, give them something back as a thank you
h. The 25% time is sufficient for the fund manager
i. Population of GSA - 2-4 people from different departments, GSA council has 100 people, representatives elect officers, 6 elected officers, appoint 6 more officers, student workers including the webmaster.
j. 15 people are being paid right now – appointed get $2000, elected officers get $4000.
k. $16000 is for one fund manager, they could potentially get 4 more elected officers, but they're aiming for more appointed officers
l. They already have the position in mind, what it's duties would be, strong demand for it, already voted and approved that position
m. They feel that it's fair because AS gets a full FTE position paid for
n. Since there are already two paid interns in the Graduate Division involved with community outreach, how do you envision this new position? Complementing, replacing, and/or working in tandem with? Collaborating more with different positions, there's concern amongst council positions having positions being paid for outside sources; concerned they'd be advocating what the graduate division wants rather than what the students want. Be more beneficial to have a community outreach coordinator to be in contact with these other interns
    i. It's already written in their bylaws to collaborate with the interns

Continued discussion on updated SFAC draft/template recommendations

1. Going over the criteria that we used to determine our recommendations
2. Defining what our bullet points mean
3. Mentioning the Zone in both sections? In retrospect it can work, but it falls more under Wellness, we don't want to give a misunderstanding that we think the Zone is so important that it goes under two categories
4. Highlight other things rather than ICA being less appreciated
5. Do we want to highlight a more specific or broad terms?
    a. Focus on the needs to highlight these terms
6. Reword it differently, state that it's an important concern that's being addressed, said in a more direct way
7. Emergency call boxes
    a. Issue of them being visible and the quantity of them
    b. Ivan: Personally wouldn't know where to go or what to press if in danger. A lot more education can be done for it so that we're more prepared for any drastic events on campus
        i. Raise it with Student Safety
    c. More discussion once we get more information regarding the call boxes
8. Changing SLS and Financial Advising into the umbrella of "Stress relief resources"
9. Regarding ICA – expressing the importance of stress relief/community building with IM sports
    a. Do we want to strike this out for the Winter Recommendation and have a better, more cohesive/coherent response for our final recommendation?

10. Would it better to add a summary paragraph at the end, that all of these separate services have a common goal and effect on the students?
11. Detracts from the focus on the three things we want to talk about – there's a trend that we've identified
12. Financial stress – is it too much to say that the majority of students have stress from finances? A survey said roughly 40% of students said there were under stress
    a. We can assume that the actual percentage is higher than the reported amount
    b. Comfortable with using the wording "majority of students" regarding financial stress and concerns
13. Campus climate vs campus culture?
    a. Need to define our own definition of climate and culture and our use of it in our recommendation
14. Student engagement – how involved students are with the campus
15. Concerns with CSI and TAP creating barriers to their success
    a. The foundation of student engagement are student organizations
    b. Overall student orgs are having trouble with TAPs, and CSI staff have also brought up barriers and concerns
16. Career services – broadening our bullet points by including mentorship programs, alumni resources, job shadowing, etc. – encompassed by "career opportunities"
    a. Need more graduate career advising counselors?
17. Do we want to support services that focus on engaging students that aren't already engaged? Will be discussed in regards to the final presentation/recommendation
18. More resources that attain to post graduation – supporting the idea that there is a dissatisfaction with career services focusing solely on post-graduation – desire more of all types of preparation for the future
19. Regarding the Career Fair, we're trying to get student input, but we're also going against it at the same time by saying their idea might not work. This is what the students want, but we as experts don't think it would be possible, but we understand the problem that is raised and can be better addressed in a different way.
    a. Instead of focusing on an actual career fair, there are students in non-STEM fields that want more opportunities – more concerted efforts towards expanding alumni networking etc., students in on-stem fields in particular want more advising, opportunities, networking, job/career fairs geared towards them

Adjournment at 1:02
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