



# GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

*University of Southern California*

Trimester Newsletter - Fall 2018

## Letter from the GSG President



To all new and continuing Trojans, welcome home to USC and the beginning of the 2018-2019 Academic Year! The Graduate Student Government (GSG) Executive Board has been working hard over the summer to assess and revamp existing resources and programs, advocate on your behalf to the administration and campus partners, and organize exciting new events for the fall. Our mission at GSG is to enhance your experience as a USC graduate student and support you during your time here, so please be sure to come out and meet us at our offices and upcoming events!

In this newsletter, you will find an overview of GSG and the purpose of our organization, an introduction into some of our programs and important updates, our ongoing advocacy initiatives, details about upcoming social events, and opportunities for students to get involved. Although our capabilities may sometimes be limited since we are entirely run by students, we will always do our best to provide a diverse array of benefits for and meet the needs of all 20,000+ of you.

Regarding the series of instances of sexual violence at USC revealed within the past year and the University's plan to identify a new president this semester, the GSG Executive Board has repeatedly and persistently requested that there be student representation within decision-making bodies -- particularly a spot in the Presidential Search Advisory Committee -- as well as a permanent position among the Board of Trustees. However, we have been denied a seat at the table, even though students have been impacted the most by the recent scandals. In short, there will be no student or staff representation on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee this fall. GSG and Undergraduate Student Government (USG) will continue to push for a more significant student voice in the governance and management of USC to ensure that we have a meaningful say in the direction of our University and the moral and ethical values of the Trojan Family. Any student with questions, comments, or concerns regarding the lack of student representation may directly contact Chairman Rick Caruso at [rick.caruso@usc.edu](mailto:rick.caruso@usc.edu).

If you would like to learn more about GSG or inquire about specific issues, you can find our contact information on the last page of this newsletter. There, you can also sign up to receive our weekly UPC and HSC Newsletters so you can stay up-to-date on everything GSG has to offer.

We hope to see or hear from you soon, and as always, Fight On!

**Joycelyn Yip**  
**USC Graduate Student Government | President, 2018-2019**



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Graduate Student Government (GSG) is an organization run entirely by your fellow graduate students and is responsible for the proper management of use of the Graduate Student Programming Fee. The Executive Board of GSG consists of 27 members, and this group of leaders works closely with USC administrators and other campus partners and organizations to sponsor social events, advance University-wide and school-specific interests, and administer programs that target and benefit the entire graduate student population.

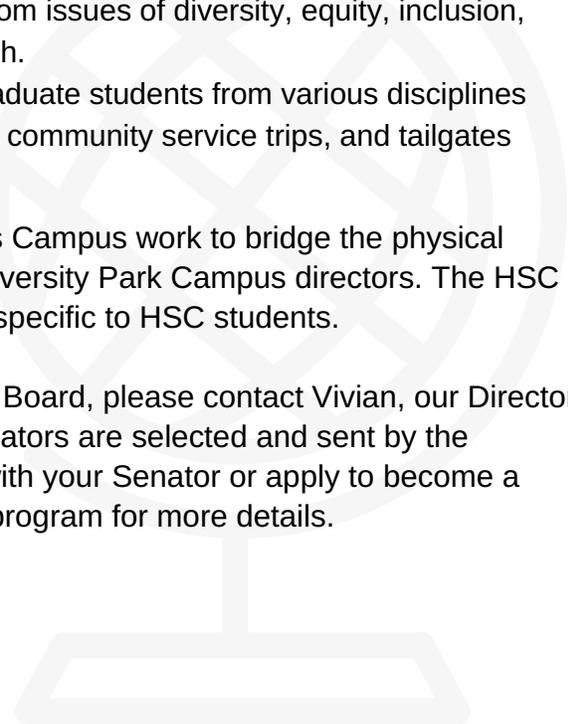
To help guide the Executive Board and to assist in communicating with the hundreds of graduate programs that USC has to offer, GSG also has a Senate made up of ~65 student representatives from the various schools and departments across USC. This structure, which will be transitioning into a 50-member senate that is allocated based on current enrollment next year, ensures that your concerns and needs are represented at the highest level. The Senate meets monthly to discuss different graduate student issues, and votes on how GSG should best move forward.

GSG's activities can broadly be divided into 3 pillars: **Administration**, **Advocacy**, and **Programming**.

- The **Administration team** handles the operation of GSG, as well as the many services GSG provides, such as reduced-cost public transportation U-PASS cards, supplemental travel grants for academic conferences, and funding for graduate student organizations to host their own events.
- The **Advocacy team** meets with USC administrators to find ways to address the various needs that graduate students have in an ever-changing University environment, ranging from issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access to resources for issues such as mental and physical health.
- The **Programming team** plans events to provide opportunities for graduate students from various disciplines to get to know one another. We host happy hours, subsidized events, community service trips, and tailgates both on and off our campuses throughout the year.

Amongst the three teams, 6 directors representing the Health Sciences Campus work to bridge the physical divide between the campuses through collaborative efforts with the University Park Campus directors. The HSC directors work on programming and advocacy initiatives that are often specific to HSC students.

If you would like to learn more about the GSG Senate or the Executive Board, please contact Vivian, our Director of Elections and Recruitment, at [gsg@usc.edu](mailto:gsg@usc.edu). Please note that Senators are selected and sent by the individual departments or schools, so if you would like to get in touch with your Senator or apply to become a Senator, please contact the student organization that represents your program for more details.



••••• **GSG PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES** •••••

GSG has a number of different programs and resources available to students. If you have questions about any of our funding sources that cannot be answered by the appropriate director, please contact Skye, our Vice President of Administration, at [gsgvpadm@usc.edu](mailto:gsgvpadm@usc.edu).

**Registered Student Organization (RSO) Event Funding** - [gsg.usc.edu/student-funding/rso-event-funding](http://gsg.usc.edu/student-funding/rso-event-funding)

GSG provides limited funds for graduate student clubs for programming and events. Organizations that have been officially recognized by [USC Campus Activities](#) and complete our [Finance Orientation and Assessment](#) are eligible to submit Funding Applications on [Pluto](#) for review by the GSG Finance Committee, which includes GSG Senators representing various schools. Funding is available for social, volunteer, social justice, and joint events. Funding Applications must be submitted according to the [Calendar of Submission Deadlines](#) for approval.

To stay on top of updates and opportunities, please thoroughly review the [GSG Finance Policies](#), subscribe to our [GSG Finance Newsletter](#), and direct all subsequent questions and concerns to Alex, our Director of Finance - Education & Access, at [gsgfinea@usc.edu](mailto:gsgfinea@usc.edu).

**Travel Grants Program** - [gsg.knack.com/tg](http://gsg.knack.com/tg)

The GSG Travel Grants Program provides partial reimbursement for expenses incurred by graduate students traveling to conferences that are related to the student's major field of study. The goal of the program is to help graduate students disseminate knowledge generated at USC and to increase the presence of the USC brand in the academic conference world. The program is intended to be a last-resort source of funding for students who have not been able to obtain travel funding from their programs, advisors, or conference organizers, or who have obtained funding that did not cover their full travel expenses. Eligibility, qualifying expenses, program limits, and deadlines can be found at our [GSG Travel Grants Portal](#). Any questions not answered there can be directed to Andres, our Director of Grants, at [gsgtgea@usc.edu](mailto:gsgtgea@usc.edu).

**U-Pass Transit Program** - [gsg.usc.edu/resources/tap-program](http://gsg.usc.edu/resources/tap-program)



The Universal College Student Transit Pass (U-Pass) program provides students with a reduced-fare, semester-long pass for unlimited rides on Metro rail and bus lines. To qualify for the Fall U-Pass card, you must be a graduate student who is enrolled in classes and has paid the Graduate Student Programming Fee in Fall 2018. Passes cost \$105.50 and are valid from August 13th, 2018 to January 20th, 2019. Passes must be purchased online before September 14th and picked up in person at our offices at UPC and HSC. Students who have previously purchased cards in the past will also need to stop by to have them reloaded.

Eligibility and instructions on how to purchase a U-Pass card can be found at our [U-Pass Transit Program website](#). If you have further questions, please contact Monica, our Director of Campus Affairs, at [gsgcamp@usc.edu](mailto:gsgcamp@usc.edu).



**Childcare Subsidy Grants Program - [gsg.usc.edu/childcare-subsidy-grants-program](https://gsg.usc.edu/childcare-subsidy-grants-program)**

GSG provides fifteen \$1,400 awards to assist eligible student parents with the costs of childcare. Graduate students in good standing who pay the GSG Programming Fee and who have primary childcare responsibilities for a child in the infant through pre-school age range may apply. Applicants must provide proof of their child's dependency and enrollment in a licensed childcare facility.

APPLY NOW! Applications for Fall 2018 Grants are due by September 7, 2018. For deadline updates and additional application requirements, please refer to the [Childcare Subsidy Grant Program website](#). Questions can be directed to Monica, our Director of Campus Affairs, at [gsgcamp@usc.edu](mailto:gsgcamp@usc.edu).

**Emergency Fund Program - [gsg.usc.edu/emergency-fund-program](https://gsg.usc.edu/emergency-fund-program)**

The GSG Emergency Fund Program is designed to help students with unforeseen expenses arising from a crisis. The fund offers limited help as a stop-gap measure in an emergency situation. The funds are not a secondary form of college financing. These funds are a last-resort measure provided to quickly address financial setbacks, and to help students stay focused on their coursework while progressing toward graduation. Originally established to assist fellow graduate students negatively impacted by the federal travel ban, the Emergency Fund has also been used for visa and DACA renewal fees, legal fees, and other costs associated with emergency travel and accommodation.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Due to the ever-changing political climate and the needs of graduate students, the GSG Emergency Fund policies are likely to change in order to provide assistance to students most in need. To stay updated, please refer to our [Emergency Fund Program website](#). Questions and concerns can be sent to Monica, our Director of Campus Affairs, at [gsgcamp@usc.edu](mailto:gsgcamp@usc.edu).









