



# GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

*University of Southern California*

## Spring Newsletter

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from Graduate Student Government!

We hope you have enjoyed your holiday season and were able to enjoy your time with family and friends. This past fall was a busy semester for GSG; we advocated for students on campus, phone banked our national representatives to push back against provisions harmful to graduate students in the recent tax bill, and organized several community service and social events. We'd like to thank everyone who supported our work this semester—without you, none of what we do would be possible.

Additionally, I would like to introduce the President-Elect of GSG, Joycelyn Yip. Joycelyn is currently a 3rd-year PhD student in Biomedical Engineering, and she has been heavily involved in student government and leadership throughout her seven years at USC. Last year, she was the President of Viterbi Graduate Student Association (VGSA), and currently, she is serving as the Vice President of Administration for GSG. Joycelyn will be joined next year by Skye Parral as the Vice President of Administration, Emmett Harsin Drager as the Vice President of Advocacy, and myself, Kris Coombs, as the Vice President of Programming.



In this newsletter, you will find brief updates from each of the three branches of GSG, an overview of GSG and our continuing programs, and opportunities for students to get involved. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, our contact information is on the last page of this newsletter. There, you can also sign up to receive our weekly newsletter so you can stay up-to-date on everything GSG has to offer. We hope to see you see or hear from you soon, and as always, fight on!

Sincerely,

**Kris Coombs, Jr.**

USC Graduate Student Government  
President, 2017-2018

# GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## GSG 101

*Graduate Student Government is an organization run entirely by your fellow graduate students, and is responsible for the proper management of the Graduate Student Activities Fee.* The Executive Board of GSG has over two dozen members who work closely with administrators and other student leaders and organizations to sponsor social events, advance interests, and administer programs that target and benefit the entire graduate student population.

To help guide the E-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 over 60 student representatives from the

various schools and departments across USC. The Senate meets monthly to discuss different graduate student issues, and votes on how GSG should best move forward.

If you'd like to learn more about the Senate or the Executive Board, please contact our Director of Elections and Recruitment at [gsger@usc.edu](mailto:gsger@usc.edu). Please note that Senators are sent by the individual departments or schools, so if you'd like to learn how to become a senator, please contact the student organization that represents your program to learn about their selection processes.

# USCGSG

## GSG'S ACTIVITIES CAN BROADLY BE DIVIDED INTO THREE 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 stickers, 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 issues such as mental and physical health.

- The **Programming team** plans events to provide an opportunity for graduate students from various disciplines to get to know one another, such as through happy hours, community service events, and tailgates.



# SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT FUNDING SOURCES

## GSG FUNDING SOURCES

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



## STUDENT ORGANIZATION FUNDING

GSG provides limited funds for graduate student organizations, and the processing of these funding requests is handled by the GSG Finance team. Student organizations may submit budget requests six weeks in advance of their event, and once approved, expense requests (which state the payment method) must be submitted three weeks in advance of the event.

Funding is available for both umbrella, sub-umbrella, and independent graduate student organizations. On our website, students can find the new application forms, an online orientation explaining the funding process, and finance guides to help with event planning.

To stay on top of updates and opportunities, please read the GSG Finance Policies on our website at <http://gsg.usc.edu/student-funding/finance-policies> and direct all subsequent questions and concerns to the GSG Director of Finance—Education & Approvals at [gsgfinea@usc.edu](mailto:gsgfinea@usc.edu).

## TRAVEL GRANT

This program provides limited reimbursements for students participating in conferences. Reimbursement requests may only be made for conference registration fees, transportation, and lodging expenses, and GSG will fund a maximum of 50% of the total travel costs (with caps depending on the geographical zone). The program is intended to supplement funding a student has received from their department and other external sources, and may not be used as the primary funding source for conference travel.

Guidelines and policies can be found on the GSG website (<http://gsg.usc.edu/student-funding/travel-grants/>), and all question and concerns not answered there may be directed to the GSG Director of Travel Grants—Education & Approvals at [gsgtgea@usc.edu](mailto:gsgtgea@usc.edu).



# GSG PROGRAMS & RESOURCES



## METRO U-PASS PROGRAM

The Universal College Student Transit Pass (U-Pass) program provides students with a semester-long transit pass. To qualify for the U-Pass program, you must be a graduate student who has paid the Graduate Student Programming Fee. Passes cost \$107, and are valid for unlimited rides from January 8 thru June 3, 2018. Passes must be purchased online and picked up in-person. Spring passes will be sold from January 8 thru February 1.

Additional information can be found on our website (<http://gsg.usc.edu/resources/tap-program/>). If you have further questions please contact the GSG Director of Campus Affairs at [gsgcamp@usc.edu](mailto:gsgcamp@usc.edu).

## CHILDCARE SUBSIDY GRANTS PROGRAM

GSG provides \$1,400 awards to eligible students to assist with childcare costs. Students must be enrolled in a full-time graduate program at USC, and must provide proof of their child's dependency and enrollment in a licensed childcare facility. Students are eligible for a maximum of two semesters of support. Although applications for Spring 2018 are now closed, the application process for Fall 2018 will open in February and will be announced via our weekly newsletter (sign-up information on the last page).

If you have further questions please contact the GSG Director of Campus Affairs at [gsgcamp@usc.edu](mailto:gsgcamp@usc.edu).

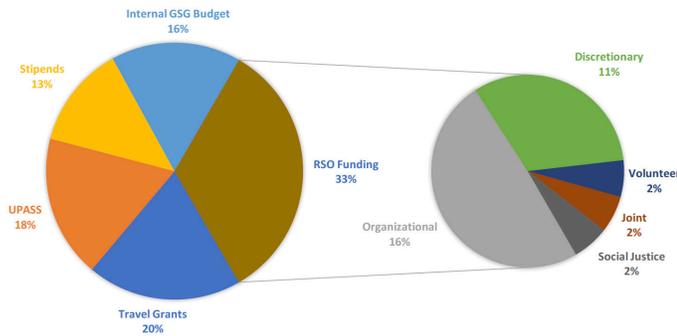
## EMERGENCY FUND

Emergencies and disasters may strike at any time. Through this program, GSG will provide limited reimbursements to students requiring additional support for unforeseen expenses, including those as a result of medical emergencies, the passing of close loved ones, automobile accidents, and changing travel bans/immigration policies. Students must be enrolled in a USC graduate/professional degree program and must provide financial documentation. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

Please contact the GSG Director of Campus Affairs at [gsgcamp@usc.edu](mailto:gsgcamp@usc.edu) with further questions.

# FALL 2017 GSG FINANCE REPORT

## GSG BUDGET 2017-2018



This report is based upon the most recent numbers available to us including final amounts submitted to USC Accounts Payable, quoted amounts from vendors, and requested spring amounts which have not yet been processed as expense requests. With our finance reports, we hope to educate our applicants and the graduate student body on the use of our funding. We aim to help demonstrate how to fund various aspects of events beyond food, which accounted for 75% of Fall 2017 requests.

We have approved 400 applications and 13 Umbrella Disbursements for a total of \$490,790.44

2017 Fall Semester	Discretionary	Joint	Organizational	Social Justice	Volunteer
<b>Final Amount</b>	\$103388.63	\$4461.84	\$104581.56	\$8125.17	\$26799.42
<b>Requested</b>	\$133690.55	\$4957.00	\$228660.00	\$9266.00	\$31791.00
<b>% Budget Requested</b>	69%	13%	78%	25%	86%

2017-2018 Overall	Discretionary	Joint	Organizational	Social Justice	Volunteer
<b>Budget</b>	\$193100.25	\$36781.00	\$294248.00	\$36781.00	\$36781.00
<b>Requested*</b>	\$195921.44	\$5757.00	\$233082.00	\$19709.00	\$36321.00
<b>Used**</b>	\$103388.63	\$4461.84	\$211176.10	\$8125.17	\$26799.42

\*Includes data for spring applications submitted during the fall semester.

\*\*Based on submitted quote amounts. Quote amounts are generally equivalent to finalized amounts. Typically, 91% of an approved budget is utilized based on data from finalized fall payments.

## VOLUNTEER AND DISCRETIONARY FUNDS OFFICIALLY CLOSED

Discretionary and Volunteer may re-open pending senate vote on reallocation of unspent funds from other GSG programs. As of now, Volunteer and Discretionary Funds are officially closed until further notice. We will attempt to address the need for more RSO event funding in next year's budget and, hopefully, by proposing to next year's Senate an increase in the student programming fee. In order to guarantee funding for future events, please pay close attention to our Calendar of Submission Deadlines which accounts for holidays, spring break, study days and finals.

Due to changes to our University accounts, we are restricted to when we can fund events during the summer. There will be a blackout period between June and August during which we cannot fund events. Any events taking place after finals but during this fiscal year (before June 30th) will have to be paid in advance. More details on this deadline and deadlines for the new fiscal year (after July 1st) will be released. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page has been developed to help applicants understand our policies, especially our deadlines. Please email [gsgfinea@usc.edu](mailto:gsgfinea@usc.edu) with any questions you feel should be included!

# GSG EVENTS & INITIATIVES



## GSG EVENTS

GSG is proud to sponsor a variety of events this upcoming semester. This spring, you can expect to see the following events:

- **Pronunciation Workshop**  
Office of International Services @ HSC  
Wednesday, January 17th
- **International Student Appreciation Week**  
February 5th-9th @ UPC  
Wednesday, February 7th @ HSC
- **Spoken Justice**  
Thursday, February 1st
- **10th Annual Graduate Research Symposium**  
Monday, February 12th @ UPC  
Tuesday, February 13th @ HSC
- **Cultural Humility Conference**  
Late February @ HSC
- **GSG Annual Spring Formal**  
Friday, March 30th

In addition, GSG sponsors dozens of events put on by other graduate student and University organizations. Information about these events will be sent out in our weekly newsletter. If you have questions or ideas for future events, please contact Vice President of Programming at [gsgvppro@usc.edu](mailto:gsgvppro@usc.edu).

## GSG ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

Our advocacy team has been hard at work all semester. Accomplishments include:

- Improving the Childcare Subsidy review process and expanding qualifying categories for use of the Emergency Fund
- Connecting with USC lobbyists in DC, Sacramento, and in L.A. and creating the Legislative Affairs Committee to keep tabs on local, state, and federal issues
- Securing the Diversity Space “House” (located in the basement of UUC), researching PAC-12 University name change policies and initiating the Anti-Racist Pedagogy Collective
- Hosting several events including an Immigration Law & Advocacy Panel, an HSC Dinner & Discourse on Women in STEM, Spoken Word event focusing on identity and social justice issues, and a phonebank to respond to measures harmful to graduate students included in early drafts of the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act

This semester, directors will work on issues such as travel and research funding, professionalization and career support, mental health support, access to academic and disability accommodations, and preferred name and pronoun usage across campus life. In addition to their own work, GSG Executive Board members participate in University committees tasked with addressing these various issues. If you would like to get involved, have questions, or have a suggestion for an issue GSG should tackle, please contact our VP of Advocacy at [gsgvpadv@usc.edu](mailto:gsgvpadv@usc.edu).

# CONTACT INFORMATION

In order to stay up-to-date on GSG policies, programs, and initiatives, we invite you to sign up for our weekly newsletter at the following link: <http://eepurl.com/cfthgD>. The newsletter is our primary way of actively contacting the graduate student body, so we hope you'll sign up! If you are an HSC student, please contact [gsghsc@usc.edu](mailto:gsghsc@usc.edu) to sign up for HSC-specific updates.

Finally, we hope you follow us on our various social media platforms for additional news and fun! Find us at USCGSG on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**Subscribe to our Newsletters:** <http://eepurl.com/cfthgD>



## UNIVERSITY PARK CAMPUS (UPC)

Ronald Tutor Campus Center  
Steven & Kathryn Sample Hall  
(SKS) 410 - Los Angeles, CA 90089  
Hours: M-F 9am-6pm  
Phone: 213-740-5649 \*  
Email: [gsgcomm@usc.edu](mailto:gsgcomm@usc.edu)

## HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS (HSC)

1969 Zonal Avenue  
(Next to Starbucks)  
Los Angeles, CA 90033  
Hours: M-F: 12pm-1pm  
Phone: 323-442-1257 \*  
Email: [gsghsc@usc.edu](mailto:gsghsc@usc.edu)

\*Phones only staffed during office hours\*



#USCGSG @USCGSG

[gsg.usc.edu](http://gsg.usc.edu)