



# GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

*University of Southern California*

Trimester Newsletter - Spring 2019

## Letter from the GSG President

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM GRADUATE  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT!



We hope you all had a fun and relaxing holiday season with your family and friends. GSG accomplished a lot last fall: we advocated for students throughout the USC presidential search process, celebrated our fellow Trojans from abroad during our second annual International Student Appreciation Week, registered and educated students leading up to the November midterms, launched the Trojan Food Pantry to support our peers, and organized many other community service and social events. Thank you to all of our supporters and partners for making our programs possible!

As we head into this semester, GSG will be slowly transitioning to our next team - the 2019-2020 Executive Board. Leading this new group will be two incredible

individuals that I am so happy to introduce. The President-Elect of GSG is Skye Parral, a 4th-year PhD student in Quantitative Psychology and our current Vice President of Administration. The Senior Vice President-Elect is Sam Cwalina, a 3rd-year PhD student in Preventative Medicine and our current HSC Director of Social Programming. Joining them will be Melisa Osborne as the Vice President of Administration, Cassandra Flores-Montano as the Vice President of Advocacy, and Bryce Tappan as the Vice President of Programming. All five are strong leaders at USC and are eager to advance our programs and initiatives next year!

In this newsletter, you will find brief updates from each of the three branches of GSG, an overview of our ongoing programs and advocacy initiatives, details about upcoming social events, and opportunities for students to get involved. 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.

Have a wonderful semester, 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.

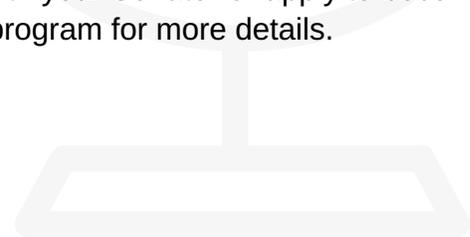
To help guide the Executive Board and to assist in communicating with the hundreds of graduate programs that USC has to offer, GSG also has a Senate made up of ~65 student representatives from the various schools and departments across USC. This structure, which will be transitioning into a 50-member 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 the 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.





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



Spring 2019 passes are \$105.50 and are valid for use from January 8th to June 2nd, 2019. Fall 2018 passes will remain valid until January 20th, 2019. Passes must be purchased online before February 8th 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](https://gsg.usc.edu/resources/tap-program). 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 awarded 15 \$1,400 grants to student parents in Fall 2018 to assist with the costs of childcare. Applications for Spring 2019 grants are due by February 22nd, 2019.

For deadline updates and additional application requirements, please refer to the [Childcare Subsidy Grant Program website](https://gsg.usc.edu/childcare-subsidy-grants-program). 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](https://gsg.usc.edu/emergency-fund-program). Questions and concerns can be sent to Monica, our Director of Campus Affairs, at [gsgcamp@usc.edu](mailto:gsgcamp@usc.edu).









