



GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

University of Southern California

Trimester Newsletter - Spring 2020

Letter from the Interim GSG President



We hope you all had a fun and relaxing winter break with your family and friends, and that your spring semester is off to a great start. GSG accomplished a lot last fall: We added a new Director of Sustainability position to our executive board, advocated for graduate student interests in Washington, D.C. through our annual NAGPS lobbying trip, facilitated town hall discussions with campus partners on AAU Campus Climate data on sexual misconduct, and organized many other community service and social events. Thank you to all of our supporters for making our programs possible!

As we head into this semester, I will serve as Interim President for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. We will also begin transitioning in our next leadership team, the 2020-2021 Executive Board. Leading this new group will be two incredible individuals that I am so happy to introduce. The President-Elect of GSG is Melisa Osborne, a 2nd-year PhD Student in the Molecular Biology program at Dornsife and our current Vice President of Administration. The Senior Vice President-Elect is Sam

Garza, a 2nd-year PhD student in the Molecular Pharmacology and Toxicology program in the School of Pharmacy and our current Director of Operations. Joining them will be Caitlin Mills as the Vice President of Administration, Esthelle Ewusi Boisvert as the Vice President of Advocacy, and Sana Khalid as the Vice President of Programming. All five have strong partnerships with allies both on and off campus, 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 information on campus resources. 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 newsletters. Take advantage of what we have to offer and have a wonderful semester!

Sam Cwalina | PhD Student, Keck School of Medicine
USC Graduate Student Government | Interim President, 2019-2020



..... **G S G 1 0 1**

Graduate Student Government (GSG) is an organization run entirely by your fellow graduate students and is responsible for the proper management and use of the Graduate Student Programming Fee. The GSG Executive Board consists of 27 members, and this group of leaders works closely with USC administrators and other campus partners to sponsor social events, advance University-wide and school-specific interests, and administer programs that 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 comprised of student representatives from schools and departments across USC. This structure ensures that your concerns and needs are represented at the highest level. The Senate meets monthly to discuss different graduate student issues and vote on how GSG should best move forward.

If you would like to learn more about the GSG Senate, please contact our current Director of Elections and Recruitment, Matt Multach, at gsgsr@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's activities can broadly be divided into 3 teams: Administration, Advocacy, and Programming.

- The **Administration Team** handles the operation of GSG, as well as the many services GSG provides, such as supplemental travel grants for academic conferences and funding for graduate student organizations to host their own events.
- The **Advocacy Team** is principally concerned with addressing the various issues of diversity and equity that affect graduate and professional students. Through a combination of resolution writing, collaborating with USC administrators, and developing innovative programs, our team is dedicated to supporting and meeting student needs.
- The **Programming Team** plans events to provide opportunities for graduate students from across USC to get to know one another. We host happy hours, subsidized group events at theme parks and fun venues around LA, community service trips, cultural events, and tailgates both on and off our campuses throughout the year.

Within the three teams, five directors representing the Health Sciences Campus work to bridge the physical divide between the campuses through collaborative efforts with the rest of the Executive Board. The HSC directors work on programming and advocacy initiatives that are often unique and specific to HSC students. The Senior Vice President oversees the HSC team (gsgsvp@usc.edu).

..... **GSG PROGRAMS & RESOURCES**



GSG has a number of different programs and resources available to students, including funding for student-organized events, scientific conference travel, and childcare subsidies. If you have questions about any of our budget or resources outside of RSO funding, please contact Melisa Osborne, our Vice President of Administration, at gsgvpadm@usc.edu.

Registered Student Organization (RSO) Event Funding Updates

RSOs are eligible to receive GSG funding each semester to organize social, volunteer, professional development, and advocacy events. Learn more about our funding policies and different funding mechanisms [here](#).

This report is based upon the most recent numbers available to us including final amounts submitted to USC Accounts Payable, quotes from vendors, and requested spring amounts which have not yet been processed. With our finance reports, we hope to educate our applicants and the graduate student body on the use of our funding.

RSO Fund	Budget (\$)	Funds Utilized (\$)*	Funds Remaining (\$)	Utilized (%)	Approved FAs**
Umbrella***	325,788.00	269,487.14	56,300.86	83%	25
Discretionary	268,296.00	204,821.97	63,474.03	76%	450
Joint	57,492.00	53,781.69	3,710.31	94%	87
Volunteer	57,492.00	30,443.24	27,048.76	53%	52
Social Justice	38,328.00	18,093.17	20,234.83	47%	60
Total	\$747,396.00	\$576,627.21	\$170,768.79	77%	674

*As of February 6, 2020.

**Funding Applications (FAs) counts the number of applications approved through Pluto.

***The Umbrella Fund accounts for applications through Pluto, as well as disbursements done through the Umbrella Fund Disbursement Program (UFD) agreement. As of February 6, 2020, 70% of UFD funds have been transferred. The remaining 30% is being processed for disbursement, pending submission of Intent to Use forms. Any unclaimed Umbrella funds will be reallocated to other areas of the total budget.

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

Travel Grants Program Update - gsg.knack.com/tg

In Fall 2019, GSG supported 228 applicants who attended 152 conferences hosted in cities from Cape Town, South Africa to Singapore. Students have been reimbursed an average of almost \$500 per conference, exhausting all \$120,000 allocated for the funding cycle. These students carried the USC flag throughout the world, by presenting original research, participating in case competitions, speaking on panels, organizing committees, and even presenting a smartphone app.

Applications are now open for the Spring 2020 funding cycle, which covers travel to conferences between January 1st and June 30th, 2020. More than \$30,000 in funding have already been requested, and we are on track to exhaust the \$120,000 allocated for the entire funding cycle, so please make sure to apply as early as possible! 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 Andrés Benitez Pozo, our Director of Grants, at gsgtgea@usc.edu.



*Advocacy Team during our
Fall 2019 Retreat*

Emergency Fund Program -

gsg.usc.edu/emergency-fund-program

The GSG Emergency Fund Program is designed to help students with unforeseen expenses arising from a crisis, offering limited help as a stop-gap measure in an emergency situation. 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.

Applications are reviewed by a committee of graduate students on a rolling basis. To stay updated, please refer to our [Emergency Fund Program website](#). Questions and concerns can be sent to Rhiann Joshua, our Director of Campus Affairs, at gsgcamp@usc.edu.

Childcare Subsidy Grants Program - gsg.usc.edu/childcare-subsidy-grants-program

GSG awarded 15 \$1,400 grants to student parents in Fall 2019 to assist with the costs of childcare. The Fall 2020 application cycle will reopen the first week of classes Fall 2020.

For deadline updates and additional application requirements, please refer to the [Childcare Subsidy Grant Program](#) website. Questions can be directed to Rhiann Joshua, our Director of Campus Affairs, at gsgcamp@usc.edu.

U-Pass Transit Program Update

GSG no longer sells or distributes the subsidized U-Pass for graduate students. The USC Department of Transportation now oversees this program, and information on how to apply can be found [here](#).

..... **GSG ADVOCACY INITIATIVES**

Our Advocacy team accomplished many initiatives last semester, including:

- Creating a **quick guide** for making your classroom more accessible as TAs
- Passing a **resolution** advocating for food vendors and food markets on all USC campuses become CalFresh authorized vendors, to allow students and local community members to use their CalFresh benefits on campus
- Traveling to Washington, D.C. to meet with legislators to **advocate** for protections and improvement in the new Title 9 guidelines, federal student loan policy, and policy affecting undocumented and international students
- Organizing a Women in Health luncheon at the Health Sciences Campus to recognize, celebrate, and provide an opportunity to meaningfully network with women at HSC
- Conducting ADA compliance assessments of buildings across UPC and developing a report with recommendations for improvement

Ongoing projects include:

- Identifying and providing resources for graduate students dealing with sexual assault and sexual- or gender-based violence
- Assessing ADA compliance issues at HSC and making recommendations, and organizing an accessibility issues tour with top administrators at UPC
- Improving healthcare provision for LGBTQ students
- Funding students expenses through the Emergency Fund and Childcare Subsidy Grants
- Setting legislative priorities for our March 2020 trip to Washington, D.C.

GSG Executive Board members tackle these topics by participating in many University committees, such as the Board of Trustees' Student Affairs and Alumni Affairs Committees, the Nomenclature Task Force, the Provost's Student Well-being Council, the Trojan Council (Academic Senate, Staff Assembly, GSG, Undergraduate Student Government), the AAU Campus Climate Survey Task Force, the Sustainability Steering Committee, President Folt's Sustainability Working Group, the HSC Student Affairs Council, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, the Norman Topping Student Aid Funding Governing Board, and many more.



USCGSG

If you would like to get involved, learn more about our many advocacy initiatives, or have a suggestion for an issue GSG should address, please contact Cassandra Flores-Montaña, our Vice President of Advocacy at gsgvpadv@usc.edu.

..... **UPCOMING GSG EVENTS**

GSG is looking forward to hosting a variety of opportunities for graduate students to socialize, explore the city, and give back to the community. This semester, you can expect to see the following events - events marked with (V) are community service events. All event dates and times are subject to change - subscribe to our [newsletters](#) to stay up-to-date on event details!



East Area Community Showcase (V)
Wednesday March 4th 5:00-7:00pm
Plaza de la Raza in Lincoln Park (near HSC)



GSG LA Football Club Night
Sunday March 8th @ LAFC Stadium
Subsidized ticket sales coming soon!



Outfest Fusion: LGBTQ People of Color Film Festival
Friday March 6th - Tuesday March 10th
Subsidized ticket sales coming soon!



Paint Night
Tuesday March 17th @ Pinot's Palette
Sign up link coming soon!



Bowling Night
Thursday March 26th @ Highland Park Bowl
Sign up link coming soon!



Beyond the Classroom (V)
Saturday April 11th 9:00am-3:00pm @ UPC
Lunch provided. Volunteers needed!



Board members at President Folt's Inauguration!

Spring Formal
Saturday April 18th 7:00-9:00pm
Location TBD - stay tuned!



For more information about our various events, please follow us on [Facebook](#) and sign up for our weekly [UPC and HSC newsletters](#). If you have questions or ideas for future events, please contact Bryce Tappan, our Vice President of Programming, at gsgvppro@usc.edu.

Be sure to mark your calendars and engage with us!

..... **CAMPUS WELLNESS RESOURCES**

Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) - studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault/

RSVP provides immediate and confidential support services for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (e.g., sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence). Advocates provide confidential ongoing support in-person and can be reached at 213-740-9355 (WELL) at any time, including nights, weekends, and holidays. The RSVP office is located in the Engemann Student Health Center Suite 356. In addition to counseling, triage care, and victim support, RSVP also offers workshops, programs, trainings, and opportunities to volunteer.

Student Health Counseling Centers - studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling/

Counseling Centers are located in both Eric Cohen (HSC) and Engemann (UPC) Student Health Centers. Students can receive confidential individual counseling sessions or sign-up for group counseling. Browse the wide range of group counseling topics [here](#). Appointments can be made through usc.edu/myshr or by calling 213-740-9355 (WELL). For crisis support, students may walk-in during open hours to be seen without an appointment or call the 24/7 support line 213-740-9355 (WELL).

Office of Ombuds - ombuds.usc.edu

The Office of Ombuds is a safe and confidential space to share USC-related concerns, such as problems with your advisor or other students. Staff are trained in conflict mediation and can offer impartial information on options to manage your concern. The UPC Ombuds Office can be reached at upcombuds@usc.edu or (213) 821-9556 and the HSC Ombuds Office can be reached at hsccombuds@usc.edu or (323) 442-0382.

Disability Services & Programs (DSP) - dsp.usc.edu

DSP is responsible for ensuring equal access for persons with all types of disabilities and removing disability-related obstacles. Students registered with DSP may be eligible for accommodations and auxiliary aids. Their office can be reached at DSPFrontDesk@usc.edu or (213) 740-0776.



Did you know that all USC students get free access to the New York Times?

GSG and USG have established a partnership with the New York Times, allowing all students free access to this service. Head to nytimesaccess.com/usc to register!

..... **SPRING 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Vice President of Administration
Melisa Osborne

Vice President of Advocacy
Cassandra Flores-Montaño

Vice President of Programming
Bryce Tappan

Dir. of Elections & Recruitment
Matt Multach

Dir. of Academic Affairs
Golnaz Kamalinia

Dir. of Communications
Brandon McFarlin

Dir. of Operations
Sam Garza

Dir. of Accessibility Affairs
Stephen Tonti

HSC Dir. of Communications
Jessi Tobin

Dir. of Grants
Andrés Benitez Pozo

Dir. of Campus Affairs
Rhiann Joshua

Dir. of Community Service
Joycelyn Yip

Dir. of Finance - Approvals
Tomasz Fechner

Dir. of Diversity & Equity
Quinn Anex-Ries

HSC Dir. of Community Service
Brooke Bell

Dir. of Finance - Education
Caitlin Mills

HSC Dir. of Diversity & Equity
Cynthia Ramirez

Dir. of Social Programming
Alexis McDonald & Sana Khalid

HSC Dir. of Finance
Christine Naya

Dir. of External Affairs
Markie Anderle

HSC Dir. of Social Programming
Georgia Christodoulou

Dir. of Finance - Disbursements
Kris Coombs

Dir. of Globalization & Inclusion
Cristian Torres

Dir. of D&E - Programming
Xavier Hernandez

Office hours and email addresses for each VP and Director can be found [here](#). Newsletters are our primary means for communication with our constituents and the best way to stay up-to-date. You can sign up for our weekly newsletters [here](#)! You can also connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

University Park Campus (UPC)

Steven & Kathryn Sample Hall - SKS 410
3607 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, CA 90089
Hours: M-F 9am - 5pm
Phone: (213) 740-5649*
Email: gsgpres@usc.edu

Health Sciences Campus (HSC)

Seaver Residence Hall - SRH 101A
1969 Zonal Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90032
Hours: M-F 12pm-1pm & by appointment
Phone: (323) 442-1257*
Email: gsgsvp@usc.edu

**Phones only staffed during office hours.*