



GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

University of Southern California

TRIMESTER NEWSLETTER

Letter from the GSG President



Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

It's been a busy year for Graduate Student Government, and both the GSG Executive Board and the GSG Senate have made several accomplishments. These feats include passing six resolutions, funding and supporting hundreds of events across campus, hosting the inaugural International Student Appreciation Week, and celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Graduate Research Symposium. We have also worked with USG on the creation and implementation of an on-campus food pantry to support students in need; we worked with USG to administer a campus-wide survey to understand the student need for legal services on campus, and connected with campus partners and alums to find ways to provide these services; and Executive Board members have been working to design a study to understand the specific issues graduate and professional students face in dealing with and reporting instances of sexual harassment, assault, and/or misconduct. Please

find statements from GSG in response to the Dr. George Tyndall sexual abuse scandal [here](#) and [here](#).

Though the year (and my term as President) may be drawing to a close, the incoming GSG Executive Board will continue to work over the summer to improve our services, bolster our programs, and advocate for graduate students across campus. As we are all students, we will be operating in a limited capacity, but we encourage you to reach out to us should you need anything.

In this newsletter, you will find brief updates from each of the three branches of GSG, an overview of GSG and our continuing programs, upcoming summer social events, and opportunities for students to get involved in the fall. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, our contact and social media information is on the last page of this newsletter. There, you can also sign up to receive our weekly newsletter (which will resume in the fall) so you can stay up-to-date on everything GSG has to offer.

Thank you all for a wonderful year. It has truly been a privilege and an honor to serve as GSG President, and I am confident I am leaving you in wonderful hands with Joycelyn.

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

Kris Coombs, Jr.
USC Graduate Student Government
President, 2017-2018

GSG 101

Graduate Student Government is an organization run entirely by your fellow graduate students, and is responsible for the proper management of use of the Graduate Student Activities Fee. The Executive Board of GSG has over two dozen members, and this board of leaders works 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 70 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.

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 an opportunity for graduate students from various disciplines to get to know one another, such as through happy hours, community service events, and tailgates.

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 specific to HSC students, as well.

If you'd like to learn more about the Senate or the Executive Board, please contact our Director of Elections and Recruitment at gsg@usc.edu. Please note that Senators are nominated and 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.

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.

Note: The period to request funding for summer events has closed. We aim to begin accepting requests for fall events in mid- or late July.



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 [here](#), and direct all subsequent questions and concerns to the GSG Director of Finance—Education & Access at gsgfinea@usc.edu.

Travel Grants Program

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. New guidelines and policies can be found [here](#), and all question and concerns not answered there may be directed to the GSG Director of Grants at gsgtgea@usc.edu.

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 Summer U-Pass program, you must be a graduate student who has paid the Graduate Student Programming Fee and who will be returning to take classes in the fall. Passes will cost \$70 for the summer semester, and must be purchased online and picked up in person at the GSG office. Sales begin May 15, 2018 and end June 7, 2018.

Once you have purchased a U-Pass, you will receive a physical card that can be reloaded as needed. If you previously received a sticker featuring smart-chip technology that was placed on your USC student ID card, you may receive a card instead. If you already have a card, it will simply be reloaded. Passes are good for unlimited rides on Metro rail and bus lines for the entire summer. If you have further questions, please contact the GSG Director of Campus Affairs at 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 Fall 2018 are now closed, the application process for Spring 2019 will open around October 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.

GSG Emergency Fund

This program was originally established to assist fellow graduate students negatively impacted by the federal travel ban. Through this program, GSG will provide limited funding students requiring additional support for visa renewal fees, DACA renewal fees, legal fees, and other costs associated with emergency travel and accommodation. Students must be enrolled in a USC graduate/professional degree program and must provide financial documentation. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Due to the ever-changing political climate and the needs of graduate students, Emergency Fund policies are likely to change in order to provide assistance to students most in need. Updates will be posted on our website.

If you have further questions please contact the GSG Director of Campus Affairs at gsgcamp@usc.edu.



GSG Advocacy Initiatives

Our advocacy team reaches out to graduate students to better understand the current challenges they are facing in order to work with administrators to provide the support students need to complete their education and thrive at USC. Ongoing projects include:

- E-mail and official USC name changing protocols to support professional communication efforts of international, trans*, and recently married students
- Assisting students in understanding renter's rights in California and various parts of Los Angeles
- Diversity, equity, access, and inclusion barriers in University admissions as well as in representation among faculty (both tenure and non-tenure), staff, and administrators
- Resources for graduate students dealing with sexual assault and sexual or gender-based violence
- Improved access to mental health support and care
- Initiatives surrounding cultural competency and cultural humility in healthcare and academia
- Efforts to create a graduate lounge for HSC students
- Creating a more environmentally friendly and sustainable campus

GSG Executive Board members participate in many 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 Vice President of Advocacy at gsgvpadv@usc.edu.



GSG Events

GSG is looking forward to piloting a variety of events this upcoming summer. This summer, you can expect to see the following events:

- Happy Hours and Mixers at bars and restaurants near both the University Park Campus and the Health Sciences Campus
- Team-based competitions (e.g. Escape Rooms)
- Subsidized tickets to movies and concerts

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events!:

GSG Night at XLanes

June 8

8 PM
XLanes

GSG Movie Night

June 13

6 PM
Regal LA Live

Game Show Night

June 15

7 PM
The Lab Gastropub

**A Night in Paris - Speed
Friend Dating**

June 19

7 PM
Le Petit Paris

**USC Night at the
Standard**

June 22

8 PM
The Standard

Please check our [Facebook page](#) for information about events (including purchasing tickets). If you have questions or ideas for future events, please contact our Vice President of Programming at gsgvppro@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](#). The newsletter is our primary way of actively contacting the graduate student body, so we hope you'll sign up! Newsletters will begin again in the fall.

Our (new!) office is located in SKS 410 with the Office of Campus Activities, and our HSC office is located at Seaver Hall 101A (next to Starbucks). We encourage you to stop by to say hello and meet members of the Executive Board. If you would like to contact a specific director, please find their contact information at <http://gsg.usc.edu/aboutgsg/executive-board>.

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.

Have a wonderful summer!

USC Graduate Student Government

USCGSG

University Park Campus (UPC)

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Steven & Kathryn Sample Hall
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Hours: M-F 9am - 6pm
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Email: gsgcomm@usc.edu

Health Sciences Campus (HSC)

1969 Zonal Avenue
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*Phones only staffed during office hours

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