Letter from the GSG President

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S T O T H E C L A S S O F 2 0 1 9 !

The Graduate Student Government (GSG) Executive Board and Senate accomplished a lot this past year, from funding over 700 student organization events to restructuring our senate model to properly represent our broader campus community. We strengthened our relationships with campus partners, working closely with Undergraduate Student Government (USG), Academic Senate, and Staff Assembly on common initiatives and goals. In addition, we successfully launched the Trojan Food Pantry with USG to uplift our peers, celebrated our diverse student body during our 2nd International Student Appreciation Week, highlighted original student work at our 11th Graduate Research Symposium, and engaged with local high schools during our 2nd Beyond the Classroom event. Thank you to all of our supporters and partners for making our programs possible! 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 for the summer, 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 (which will resume in the fall) so you can stay up-to-date on everything GSG has to offer. During the summer, the incoming GSG Executive Board will continue to work to improve our services, bolster our programs, and advocate for graduate students on campus. Although our capabilities may sometimes be limited since we are entirely run by students, we will always do our best to support all 27,500+ of you!

Thank you all for your unwavering support this past year. It has truly been an adventure and honor serving as GSG President during this challenging time, and I am humbled and inspired by the resilient students, staff, and faculty working hard to make USC a place where everyone can thrive. The future is bright with the incoming leadership -- I am confident that Skye and Sam’s clear vision and steadfast values will take us to new heights!

Please keep in touch over the summer, and as always, Fight On!

Joycelyn Yip
USC Graduate Student Government | President, 2018-2019
GSG 101

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 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 rest of the Executive Board. The HSC directors work on programming and advocacy initiatives that are often unique and specific to HSC students. In addition, we have updated the position of Director of HSC to Senior Vice President. The SVP will be the second-ranking officer in GSG and represent all campuses beyond UPC, including HSC, Alhambra, City Center, Wrigley, and more.

If you would like to learn more about the GSG Senate or the Executive Board, please contact Matt, our Director of Elections and Recruitment at gsger@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 academic program for more details.
GSG has a number of different programs and resources available to students, which were described in our Trimester Newsletter - Fall 2018 | Volume II - Issue 1. If you have questions about any of our funding sources that cannot be answered by the appropriate director, please contact Melisa, our Vice President of Administration, at gsgvpadm@usc.edu

Registered Student Organization (RSO) Event Funding - https://gsg.usc.edu/student-funding/rs-event-funding/

GSG successfully spent 92% of the Discretionary, Joint, Volunteer, Social Justice, and Umbrella funds this year. As we continue reconciling all expenses and closing out the fiscal year, the Finance Team will be thoroughly reviewing the GSG Finance Policies and making adjustments to ensure that we are supporting your programming as efficiently and effectively as possible.

While the period to request funding for summer events has closed, we aim to begin accepting requests for fall events in late July. To stay on top of updates and opportunities, please subscribe to our GSG Finance Newsletter, and direct all subsequent questions and concerns to Caitlin, our Director of Finance - Education & Access, at gsgfinea@usc.edu

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

This academic year, GSG supported 650+ applicants who attended conferences hosted across 19 countries and 26 US states. Students have been reimbursed an average of over $500 per conference. These students carried the USC flag throughout the world, by presenting original research, participating in case competitions, receiving awards, organizing conference committees, and even being a judge at a gaming festival.

We still have some remaining funds in this year’s budget, so if you’re traveling to a conference in June, make sure to apply right away.

If your conference is after June, we have started accepting applications for the upcoming funding cycle.

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, our Director of Grants, at gsgtgea@usc.edu
U-Pass Transit Program Update - gsg.usc.edu/resources/tap-program

Summer 2019 passes are $70.00 and are valid for use from May 13th to August 25th, 2019. Passes must be purchased online before June 21st and picked up in person at our UPC office ONLY -- the HSC office will be closed over the summer. 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 Rhiann, our Director of Campus Affairs, at gsgcamp@usc.edu.

NOTE: UPASS will be transitioning to USC Transportation in the fall and will no longer be operated through GSG after this summer. Eligibility and instructions are likely to change, so please be sure to check the USC Transportation website for any updates. We will also be posting their updates to ease this transition period. Thank you for your patience!

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

GSG awarded 30 $1,400 grants to student parents these past two semesters to assist with the costs of childcare. Applications for Fall 2019 grants are due by September 13th, 2019!

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

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. 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 Rhiann, our Director of Campus Affairs, at gsgcamp@usc.edu.
**GSG Advocacy Initiatives**

Our Advocacy team accomplished many initiatives this past year, including:

- Working with the University Registrar to establish official protocols for updating preferred names and pronouns in MyUSC and other campus systems
- Recommending students, faculty, and staff for a university-sanctioned task force to investigate the history of race and racism at USC and make recommendations for campus change
- Collaborating with Undergraduate Student Government, USC Hospitality, and Campus Activities to launch the Trojan Food Pantry to support students experiencing financial and food insecurity
- Working with USC Civic Engagement to better connect students with our local communities and developing educational tools for those experiencing housing insecurity

**Ongoing projects include:**

- Promoting the importance of diversity, equity, access, and inclusion in University admissions as well as representation among faculty (both tenure and non-tenure), staff, and administrators
- Identifying resources for graduate students dealing with sexual assault and sexual- or gender-based violence
- Fostering relationships with local, state, and federal government representatives to advance legislation that benefits and protects graduate students
- Improving access to mental health support and care
- Requesting additional staff support, food options, parking areas, and graduate student lounges and spaces on HSC
- Creating a more environmentally friendly and sustainable campus

GSG Executive Board members tackle these topics by participating in many University committees, some of which are the Board of Trustees’ Student Affairs and Alumni Affairs Committees, the President’s Culture Commission, the Alumni Association Board of Governors’ Student Outreach Committee, the Provost’s Student Well-being Council, the Trojan Council (Academic Senate, Staff Assembly, GSG, USG), the Provost and Academic Senate’s Task Force on Sexual Harassment, the Sustainability Steering Committee, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, the Norman Topping Student Aid Funding Governing Board, and many more. Members of GSG also attend an annual conference in Washington D.C. hosted by the National Association of Graduate Professional Students to learn about legislative issues that affect graduate students, in addition to advocating on behalf of graduate students in meetings with various political staffers.

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, 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 summer, you can expect to see the following events (events marked with (V) are community service events):

MOVIE NIGHT: DARK PHOENIX
Wednesday, June 12th @ ~8:00pm
Regal Cinemas, LA Live

MOVIE NIGHT: MEN IN BLACK - INTERNATIONAL
Monday, June 24th @ ~8:00pm
Regal Cinemas, LA Live

INTRO TO ROCK CLIMBING
Thursday, June 13th @
Cliffs of Id, Culver City

GSG AT SIX FLAGS
Saturday, June 29th @ ~9:00am
TBD

USC NIGHT AT THE STANDARD
Saturday, June 15th @
The Standard, Downtown LA

ESCAPE ROOMS
Tuesday, July 16th @ ~7:00pm
TBD

PAINT NIGHT
Monday, June 17th @ ~6:30pm
TBD

BEACH CLEANUP (V)
Saturday, July 20th @ ~9:00am
Transportation TBD

Please follow us on Facebook for more details on these upcoming events, which are subject to change without notice. If you have questions or ideas for future events, please contact Bryce, our Vice President of Programming, at gsgvppro@usc.edu
Are you especially seeking to help local communities, learn about Los Angeles, and meet new people? You can accomplish all three by signing up for the GSG Volunteering Newsletter and getting involved! This newsletter will keep you updated on opportunities within the LA area and USC campuses. Our overarching focus this year is sustainability, so please sign-up if you are passionate about environmental awareness and learning more about the ongoing initiatives at USC and in Los Angeles.

To add your name to our mailing list, send an email titled “Volunteer Newsletter” with your name and preferred address to Joycelyn, our Director of Community Service, at gsgcs@usc.edu. For more specific opportunities at HSC, you can reach Brooke, our HSC Director of Community Service, at gshsccs@usc.edu.
C O N T A C T I N F O R M A T I O N

You can always stay up-to-date on GSG policies, programs, and initiatives by checking our website at gsg.usc.edu, following us on Facebook and Instagram, and signing up for our weekly UPC and HSC Newsletters (which will resume in the fall). For more specific interests, you may also subscribe to our Finance Newsletter or Volunteer Newsletter (described on the previous page) for important changes and service opportunities. Newsletters are our primary way of actively contacting the graduate student body, so we hope you’ll sign up!

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

For further involvement with GSG, you may take part in one of our committees led by our directors. Updated information on this year’s working groups can be found at gsg.usc.edu/get-involved/committees.

Take advantage of what we have to offer and have a wonderful summer!

USCGSG

UNIVERSITY PARK CAMPUS (UPC)

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

HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS (HSC)

Seaver Residence Hall - SRH 101A
1969 Zonal Avenue
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Summer Hours: By Appointment
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*Phones only staffed during office hours.
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