**Student Fee Advisory Committee**

**3:00-5:00pm**

**Friday, January 8, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Attendees:**

Graduates: **Jackie Markt-Maloney, Gaby Barrios, Paarth Shah, Laxman Dahal**

Undergraduates: **Atreyi Mitra, Bradley Alvarado, Devanee Matcham, Samantha Solemnidad**

Administration: **Carina Salazar,** **Erinn McMahan, Charles Turner**

Faculty Rep: N/A

SFAC Advisor: **Christine Wilson**

APB Advisor: **Ellen Hermann**

**Atreyi Mitra** called the meeting to order at 3:03pm.

1. **Approval of Agenda for Week 1 Winter Quarter** 
   1. **Bradley Alvarado** motioned and **Devanee Matcham** seconded to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.
2. **1. Community Sharing - What are you looking forward to this quarter/semester?** 
   1. **Atreyi Mitra** opened the floor for the committee to share what they are looking forward to this quarter/semester.
3. **Approval of Minutes for Fall 2020 Week 9 (12/04/20)** 
   1. **Gaby Barrios** motioned and **Samantha Solemnidad** seconded to approve Week 9 (12/04/20) minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. 3. **Discussion of Subcommittees**
   1. **Atreyi Mitra** opened the floor for committee members to discuss their subcommittees:
      * Charter and Bylaws subcommittee lead by **Atreyi Mitra –** members; **Erinn McMahan, Bradley Alvarado, Gaby Barrios** and **Christine Wilson.**
      * Compensation Policy subcommittee lead by **Bradley Alvarado –** members; **Charles Turner** and **Jackie Markt-Maloney.**
      * Social Media subcommittee lead by **Bradley Alvarado –** members; **Devanee Matcham, Atreyi Mitra** and **Gaby Barrios** (tentative)
      * Grad Student Needs subcommittee lead by **Gaby Barrios –** members; **Jackie Markt-Maloney, Gaby Barrios, Laxman Dahal, Atreyi Mitra** and **Bradley Alvarado**
5. **Presentation + Graduate Student Allyship Discussion with GSA (Letty Trevino, GSA VP of Academic Affairs)**
   1. **Atreyi Mitra** opened the floor for Letty Trevinoto share about what graduate students are experiencing right now in relation to student services and how SFAC as a community can be in better allyship.
   2. Letty Trevinoshared GSA guiding principles are transparency, accessibility and collaboration (TACO):
      * Transparency - what they are saying to administrators, they are saying to their undergraduate and graduate peers, and faculty.
      * Accessibility – they understand everyone engages different. How can GSA make services resources accessible to everyone?
      * Collaboration – GSA believes in working with people, not against, to make change – change in policy, if necessary, to reflect what student needs actually are.
   3. Graduate student experience:
      * Graduate Programs – Masters, Doctorate, Academic and Professional.
        + Can range anywhere from 1-10 years (depending on the program).
      * Graduate Education – Courses, labs, field work, reading/writing, internship, service work, publication and conferences.
      * Graduate Funding – Student loans, fellowships, savings and employment. Many students are employed by the university – TAships, GSRships and campus workers.
   4. Current Grad Preoccupations:
      * Time to Degree
      * Research
      * Teaching
        + Designing remote courses, working as unpaid tech support for faculty
        + Advocating for undergrads
      * Financial Security (was already a long-standing issue)
        + Basic needs concerns
      * Health
        + Anxiety and depression, isolation
      * Mentorship Abuse, Microaggressions, Systemic Violence
      * Visa concerns, ICE, Deportation
   5. Graduate Support:
      * Advisor, Department/Division
      * Academics
      * Field-specific professionalization
      * Graduate Division – oversees:
        + Graduate Education
        + Administers School-wide Policies
        + Recruitment
        + Fellowships
   6. Student Affairs Support:
      * Professional Development
      * Academic Support
      * Community
      * Basic Needs
      * Coping w/ University Life
      * Maneuvering the University
      * Non-academic Activities
   7. Letty Trevino shared that she wanted to be clear that most departments do not provide the kind of resources that are expected of them. This is a problem across the board if not all departments, advisors, divisions are providing the basic resources that UCLA promises to give students when they arrive. She shared that most graduate students feel isolated, overwhelmed and confused. In conclusion, she shared that graduate students need everyone’s help – administrators, staff, faculty and SFAC. Letty Trevino opened the floor for questions. **Jackie Markt-Maloney** shared her thoughts about graduate students expected to provide unpaid tech support work for faculty and that the university should be providing this support and not students. She asked what kind of programs or ideas would be a good solution to some of these complex problems. Letty Trevino shared that the university is well aware that this is a problem and that the university has allowed this to happen. Unfortunately, there is no clear solution. However, long term, the solution may be to create a culture at UCLA where faculty are self-aware of their abuses of power, whether or not if it’s intentional. For those faculty members who do not care to be self-aware, perhaps a system of repercussion so that at the very least, faculty members are threatened into behaving. **Bradley Alvarado** asked if there are services that undergraduates have that graduate students do not have that are essentials for graduate students. Letty Trevino said yes and that there are many - orientation, True Bruin Welcome, This is Bruin Life, university communication (social media does not work for them), workshops specific to graduate students, and many others. **Atreyi Mitra** asked what the committee can say to units to make sure that they increase accessibility in way that graduate students envision. Letty Trevino shared that making all of their promotional materials explicitly state that the programming is for undergraduate, graduate and professional schools and that the material must state graduate and professional schools because most professional students do not consider themselves graduate students. She shared that she firmly believes that most accessible programming for graduate students is remote, digital and asynchronous resources because of their schedules. Accessible online resources, checklists, and infographics on up to date websites would be extremely helpful too. **Christine Wilson** shared that units need to be asked when planning services for students, if they are picturing undergrads and thinking about their needs. She also shared that unites need to be advised that graduate students do not want to be grouped in with undergrads because their issues and needs are different. **Bradley Alvarado** shared that when the committee gets all the unit reviews back, they can check if units have made their online resources, checklists, and infographics accessible and if their websites are up to date and to see what steps they have taken to adapt to the online environment. **Carina Salazar** and **Ellen Hermann** shared that unfortunately, updating websites is complicated and costly and that this is a university issue for students, staff and faculty. **Jackie Markt-Maloney** shared that units should also be asked if there is enough tech support for instructors and researchers. **Bradley Alvarado** shared that a lot of departments are not transfer friendly, which is why transfer students advocated for themselves for their own space, which is now the Transfer Center. He suggested presenting an awareness training, so that units understand the issues and needs of graduate students and how they can possibly change in an overall setting. **Gaby Barrios** shared that if faculty members are not willing to change it will be hard for the graduate student situation to change.
6. **Discussion on Adoption of Unit Review Process for Coming Year** 
   1. **Atreyi Mitra** opened the floor for the committee to discuss the adoption of the unit review process for the coming year and how they would like to proceed. **Laxman Dahal** shared that he personally thinks having subcommittees do a deep dive and assigning individuals to review the units would be best. **Jackie Markt-Maloney** shared that a subcommittee of three to four people for unit reviews would be ideal. Creating a spreadsheet so that each individual can go through the sheet to rank and make comments will also make the process faster. **Samantha Solemnidad** shared that when assigning the subcommittee groups that it is important that the university is properly represented, meaning each group should have a staff member, undergraduate and graduate student to provide proper representation. **Atreyi Mitra** shared that her thought is having four subcommittees and having all unit reviews completed by the end of winter quarter and then in the spring, the committee would work on the individual recommendations.
7. **Announcements** 
   1. N/A

**Samantha Solemnidad** made a motion to adjourn the meeting and **Bradley Alvarado** seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:51pm.