

**UNITED GOVERNMENT OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER**

ASSEMBLY MEETING AGENDA – September 3, 2014
ATLAS 229
5:00 PM

- I. Welcome / Food**
- II. Call to Order 5:07**
- III. Introductions**
 - A. What is UGGS?
 - 1. Assembly meetings are every other Wednesday. Agendas are posted a few days early, but email uggsinfo@gmail.com if you have items you'd like to bring up. We welcome topics from all reps
 - 2. For more information, visit <https://www.colorado.edu/uggs/> or email uggsinfo@gmail.com
 - B. Introduce officers
 - 1. See <https://www.colorado.edu/uggs/rep> for information on officers and weekly office hours in UMC 127
 - 2. Introduce assembly
- IV. Goals for academic year**
 - 1. We have 2 main goals
 - 2. Department representation
 - 1. We are missing about 1/3 of departments. We focused a lot on orientation this semester to try and reach out to departments we didn't have existing reps for. Over the next few weeks we will continue to get the word out for our departments that don't have reps yet. If you have ideas let us know.
 - 2.
 - 3. Graduate student climate issues
 - 1. Some issues that our survey noticed:
 - 1. Many people said they didn't feel valued in the community or have gotten good feedback from their advisor
 - 2. The university is working on a climate survey for undergrads, and had ideas for a graduate student survey, but as of now the items didn't really get at important graduate student issues (the committee didn't have any grad students sitting either). Soon we will have a completed version of the survey to ask you about before we sent it out
 - 1. Casey – ENVIS – do we have any way of figuring out other areas where grad students are not represented yet?
 - 1. We usually start with the dean of the graduate school, who is very helpful, but this time he didn't even know about this survey. We'll keep our eyes open in the future

2. Xi – ENVS – lot going on in the boulder faculty assembly right now. Do we have representations?
 1. John – PSYC – yes we do
 2. Xi – do you plan on reporting back to us so we have an idea about what is going on in these meetings
 3. John – sure, we will try to bring this info back to UGGS when they start meeting
3. Mike – ECEN? – if data from the survey comes back and we realize there are issues, how do we go about making changes
 1. John – We can go to the dean of the graduate school to help send messages out to different departments. For example, we had a fee timing issue last year (how much they knew about fees and how hard it was to pay them especially at first). Many advisors didn't realize students were forced to pay fees before their first paycheck. Informing departments was very effective, and we were able to make administrative changes.

V. Travel and Group Grants - Dan Gustavson

1. Travel grants deadline on September 17th
2. We will grade on the 21st (probably at Half Fast)
3. Decisions will be made and emailed on the 26th
4. More info on website
5. Students get a 5% bonus on travel grants if their departments have been here for 75% of meetings

VI. NAGPS national conference - Kate Allison

1. National Association of Graduate Student Professional Students. A national-level version of UGGS with over 1 million students. We hosted the national conference in 2012.
2. This year they will have a national conference in November at University of Missouri. They also have Legislative Action Days each semester with reps to advocate for graduate student issues (in Washington DC).
3. The call for the national conference will be soon. It's about 4 days with many sessions, but it is a good opportunity to see other grad student governments etc. We know the date and theme but I'll give you some more information in the next few weeks. We presented the grad student climate data last year and that got a good amount of interest from other programs.

VII. Graduate student fee increase

1. Last semester we voted to increase the graduate student fee from \$4.50 per semester (from the 90's) to \$5.50 starting next year. It funds everything we do here. Orientation, meetings, travel grants, etc. We were operating in a surplus for a long time, but we have spend through all of our surplus and had to make a lot of budget cuts last year.

2. If graduate students respond very negatively you can tell them that we only have control of this \$5.50 fee – all of the money of which goes back to graduate students

VIII. Announcements, Questions, Concerns

1. Revisit budget after fall census is complete - [link to current budget](#)
 1. Questions, feel free to email uggsinfo@gmail.com
2. New graduate student fee payment schedule
 1. Make sure grad students know about this (it's on our website and in the grad student newsletter). Now all graduate students on appointment (TA or RA), you can wait to pay your fees on the second due date instead of the first.
3. Meeting format (introduce open forum, voting, etc.)
 1. Please raise your hand, tell us your first name and department so we can take good notes
 2. The first thing we do each week is open forum. These issues are limited to 2 minutes. If you want to talk longer, then bring it up with us and we'll add to the agenda
 3. Will – CHEM – I'm a codirector of science ethics and policy (?). We have an event coming up. Information on FOCEP.colorado.edu. I'll message details later
 4. Will – PHYS – We had a committee meeting over the summer and are still meeting. We are interested in a rep from political science for help, but we will bring this up to the assembly in a few weeks.
 5. Sarah – LING – in CUSG legislative council we had a resolution for .3% sales tax increase for a huge lighting project on the hill. Also improvement on boulder creek (not just lights). It sounds like it will be passed unanimously. The resolution is in support of the City of Boulder ballot issue.
 1. Laura – PSYC – it is important to note the difference between a resolution and a bill. Resolutions say we support and issue and bills actually do something
 6. Alan – CHEM Engineering – we discussed last year some issues about transportation between east and main campus. RTD will be increasing the amount of Stampede bussed Mon-Fri. This is only temporary. When the new civil engineering building is finished next fall, they will begin building light-rails between the campuses. (There is also a 50 year plan). Also starting next fall, the city will be dividing the buff bus so that Williams Village will make it easier to get to east campus
 7. Mike – ECCN – this year I was told I was going to be a TA (like I've been funded the past 2 years) in addition to my RA, that I basically have to do for free. This was a forced position that the department said is part of the agreement. Another student is doing this too. I don't want to complain but think this issue is an important one.
 1. John – PSYC – basically they are forcing him to teach as part of a class requirement and am not getting

compensated in any way. Has anyone else heard of this? We hadn't heard of this before

2. Xi – ENVS – I think there are university rules for teaching over a certain amount of hours. Our program admin mentioned this over the summer.
3. Jackie – ATLAS – I'm a first year. How do you address these issues?
 1. John – We will first talk to the dean of the graduate school and probably schedule a longer meeting with him to go over the department policies etc. This are usually case-by-case so we often ask the assembly, and if we can't get information easily, the dean of the grad school is often very helpful
4. Voting – we vote with Robert's rules. There is a cheat sheet that goes over exactly how we vote. Email if you're interested, but we will go over this process as we get to issues. But if we are voting on something and you are unsure, please speak up.

IX. Meeting Adjourn 6:01 - Please join us at Secret Bar on the Hill for an informal meet & greet.

Name	Dept
Jeff Brzezinski	ANTH
Drake Ranquist	APS
Krystle Kelley	ARTH
Charles Brechtel	ASEN
Eric Threet	ASEN
Jacqueline Cameron	ATLS
Richard Bateman	ATOC
Christopher Maloney	ATOC
Xavier Espinet	CEAE
Alan Izar	CHBE
William Hartwig	CHEM
Alexandra Jackson Nevis	COMM
Colin Wichman	CUSG
Melinda Markin	EBIO
Mike Coffey	ECEN
Kate Allison	EDUC
Paty Abril Holt	EDUC

Logan Blizzard	ENGL
Xi Wang	ENVS
Kelsey Cody	ENVS
William Anderson	FRIT
Max Counter	GEOG
Daniel Taylor	GRMN
Patricia Helfenbein	HIST/ALAC
Chelsea Daggett	JMC
Sarah Alcorn	LING
Evan Coles	LING
Justin Whiteley	MCEN
Nicole Ridgwell	MUSM
Chaz Vollmer	PHIL
AJ Johnson	PHYS
Paige Warmker	PHYS
William Ames	PHYS
John Lurquin	PSYC
Laura Michaelson	PSYC
Dan Gustavson	PSYC
Scott Schafer	PSYC
Scott Brown	RLST
Kelly Van De Wyngaerde	SLHS
Benjamin Lamb-Books	SOCY