A resolution providing direction for the work of the UC Graduate and Professional Summit.

WHEREAS the University of California Student Association (UCSA) is the *de facto* recognized student organization at the system-wide level, representing the 240,000 students of the University of California to the UC Board of Regents and the University of California Office of the President; and

WHEREAS graduate and professional students are a unique population, with distinct needs, issues, and desires from those of undergraduates, faculty, or staff, which are often unrecognized in the general narrative of higher education; and

WHEREAS it is one of the primary goals of graduate and professional student leaders to establish their constituents as an independent party to all conversations on university policy and higher education, thus advancing advocacy efforts for all graduate and professional students; and

WHEREAS graduate and professional student members of the UCSA Board of Directors have expressed concerns about the organization's governance, efficacy, structure, and inconsistent and inequitable attention to graduate and professional student issues, including but not limited to graduate cost and standards of living, the lack of legislative issues relevant to graduate students, and professionalization; and

WHEREAS the priorities adopted by the UCSA Board of Directors and its respective committees do not always reflect the advocacy priorities of graduate students, who seek a more autonomous structure to better advance advocacy efforts for their constituents; and

WHEREAS both undergraduate and graduate students have raised concerns about their group’s autonomy and representation in the UCSA Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS in the 2016-17 academic year the UCSA Graduate-Professional Committee discussed options for addressing the aforementioned concerns and increasing the graduate student autonomy, including internal reform within UCSA or the creation of a sister organization; and
WHEREAS the UCSA Board of Directors adopted a resolution during the May 2017 Board meeting directing the Board to draft bylaw amendments addressing the Graduate-Professional committee’s will to move toward autonomous divisions, outlined in the resolution “Restructuring UCSA into Undergraduate and Graduate/Professional Chapters”, to be presented and brought to the July 2017 Board meeting; and

WHEREAS the proposal presented at the UCSA July 2017 Board meeting, containing amendments to satisfy the directives adopted in the May 2017 resolution, was not adopted by the UCSA Board of Directors by a vote of 9-9, with all graduate representatives unanimously voting yea and all nine undergraduate representatives unanimously voting nay; and

WHEREAS an independent voice for graduate students would serve to elevate underrepresented bodies in the pursuit of effective student advocacy, and would not preclude the ability to jointly advocate on issues of mutual concerns via robust collaboration among advocacy groups; and

WHEREAS delegates from every UC graduate and professional student government subsequently convened at the inaugural “UC Graduate-Professional Student Summit” to address aforementioned concerns in solidarity;

WHEREAS, despite unilateral agreement on the importance of joint advocacy, the graduate and professional students have increasingly observed that UCSA has heretofore been unable to adequately address these issues; and

WHEREAS, in order to address the grievances brought forth by the UC Graduate and Professional students, UCSA must be open and willing to undergo structural changes; and

WHEREAS an ad-hoc committee has been created by the UCSA Board of Directors to study and recommend major structural changes to UCSA; and

WHEREAS the development of an organization for graduate student advocacy can proceed in tandem with work of the ad-hoc committee; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the undersigned delegates hereby establish the UC Graduate-Professional Coalition (UCGPC), an autonomous graduate and professional system-wide coalition comprised of representatives of each UC graduate student association; and be it further
RESOLVED, the undersigned delegates commit to begin drafting a Charter for the UCGPC to be completed by the September Board meeting, to serve as either a charter for a division within UCSA or as the charter for an organization distinct from UCSA, to be circulated for adoption by all individual graduate campus associations upon its approval by the delegates; and be it further

RESOLVED, the undersigned delegates authorize the election of an interim UCGPC Executive Committee including, but not limited to a President, Treasurer, Chair, Secretary, and any other members to act on behalf of the organization until the adoption of a Charter; and be it further

RESOLVED, the undersigned delegates express confidence in the appointment of five graduate students to serve on the ad hoc committee to advocate for necessary changes to UCSA; and be it further

RESOLVED, the ad hoc committee and the UCSA Board of Directors will have until the end of the September UCSA board meeting to adopt the new structure; and be it finally

RESOLVED, if UCSA adopts more partitioned structural changes compatible with the UCGPC charter, the July 2017 divisional proposal, and with the general will of graduate and professional students as expressed at the UC Graduate and Professional Student Summit, UCGPC will vote to define itself as either a separate organization or the graduate division of UCSA before end of the October Board meeting, when said charter will take effect as either the Graduate-Professional Division Charter or the UCGPC Charter.
Board of Directors
University of California Student Association

Dear UCSA Board of Directors,

Graduate and professional students are a unique population, with distinct needs, issues, and desires from those of undergraduates, faculty, or staff, which are often unrecognized in the general narrative of higher education. It is one of the primary goals of graduate and professional student leaders to establish their constituents as an independent party to all conversations on university policy and higher education legislation, thus advancing advocacy efforts for all graduate and professional students. In furtherance of this goal, delegates from each UC campus convened a UC Graduate and Professional Summit at UC San Diego, the weekend of July 29-30, 2017.

At the UC Graduate and Professional Summit, the delegates adopted Resolution 170729-1: Providing direction for the work of the UC Graduate and Professional Summit. The resolution establishes the University of California Graduate and Professional Coalition (UCGPC or GPC), an autonomous coalition to represent graduate and professional students from the UC system. The resolution also expresses confidence in the work of the University of California Student Association (UCSA)’s ad hoc committee established in July to study and propose significant reform to the structure of UCSA.

As provided for in the linked resolution, the GPC will serve as an autonomous governance structure for graduate and professional students. The GPC, as established, is intended to either function as an organization independent of UCSA, or as the graduate and professional division within UCSA, should satisfactory changes be recommended by the ad hoc committee and approved by the Board.

The delegates voted to establish the key elements listed below as an enumeration of the elements identified as critical to graduate and professional students in the reform of UCSA:

1) Autonomy in governance (including advocacy topics, priorities, organizational structure, and representation)
2) Autonomy in budgeting
3) Board meeting schedule & agendas conducive to empowering divisions
4) Coordination when joint advocacy priorities exists via a communication structure.

The resolution creating the GPC stipulates that a vote of the Coalition will occur subsequent to the September Board Meeting of UCSA to evaluate any adopted governance changes and determine the appropriate course of action: namely, whether the GPC will become the governance structure of a division of UCSA for graduate and professional students, or that of a separate and distinct legal entity.

In the interim, the delegates adopted an interim governance document and elected an interim executive committee to facilitate sustainable development of the GPC. We express confidence in the work of the ad hoc committee members to come forward with a proposal that is mutually beneficial. Regardless of the outcome, we look forward working together on shared advocacy to address the needs of all UC students.

Sincerely,

Becky Hofstein Grady
Interim President of the University of California Graduate and Professional Coalition
Over the last six months, the representatives from graduate and professional student governments across the University of California system have engaged a series of discussions about the goals of UC graduate and professional students in system-wide advocacy efforts and the potential organizational means to achieve them. One primary long-term goal was to develop the “voice” of the graduate and professional students as a distinct and recognizable identity and constituency in all conversations of University decision making, which is essential to advocate for the unique concerns and needs of our students. On September 28th, 2017, these representatives voted to establish the UC Graduate-Professional Coalition to advocate for graduate and professional students at the system-wide and state-wide level. It will have one voting member from each campus, and will elect leadership positions that will interface with administrators and other external parties to advocate for the shared graduate student voice.

Previously, these representatives were members of the UC Student Association, a similar organization that advocates for all UC students. Though we remain partners and will continue to work together, graduate and professional student representatives decided that we could best serve our constituents in a new, independent organization centered around graduate and professional student concerns. UCSA has done exemplary advocacy in the past for both undergraduate and graduate students, but these representatives came to the decision that we needed a separate organization. All too often, in meetings with lawmakers, regents, or campus decision-makers, graduate and professional students are forgotten in the narrative of higher education, with the word “student” bringing up only the prototypical image of the undergraduate college student, without consideration of how policies or proposals would impact graduate students in a different way. We serve at the intersection of education and employment, navigating our roles as students, colleagues, employees, funding sources, and researchers, all while trying to live our lives under a decent standard of living. This new organization will be entirely dedicated to advocating for these issues, and will help make sure that people understand the graduate student identity and the unique concerns we face. Though we share many issues and concerns with undergraduate students, we have different needs and priorities in many areas such as tuition, employment policies, child care resources, career development, title IX policies, and many more, that merit an additional voice at the table.

Over the next month, we will finalize our charter, submit it to the graduate student associations on the ten UC campuses for approval, hold elections for long-term leadership, and seek formalized recognition by UCOP and the Regents of the University of California and the legal status of a non-profit corporation. There will certainly be a transition process, but we will continue to advocate strongly for graduate student concerns throughout this time. Our advocacy agenda for the year can be found here, and we will be look forward to hearing working with students, administrators, and lawmakers to work for the needs and concerns of our graduate and professional students.

Respectfully,

Becky Hofstein Grady, Interim-President of UC Graduate-Professional Coalition
ARTICLE I. RESERVED
ARTICLE II. PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS

Section 1. Purpose.
The Coalition shall have as its general objectives:

Provide a forum for the expression and recognition of Graduate/Professional students’ needs and rights within the University of California system

Promote the needs, rights and interests of the current and future Graduate/Professional student body both to the University of California and to outside entities, including local and state legislative bodies

Support communication, cooperation, and collaboration among individual Graduate and Professional student governments on each campus

Section 2. Non-Profit Status and Compliance
The Coalition shall operate as an unincorporated non-profit association for the betterment of the social welfare of former, current, future and prospective University of California graduate and professional students pursuant to California Corporations Code Section 21300 and in compliance with IRC 501(c)(4) and University of California Regents’ Policy PACAOS-60.

Section 3. Function.
The Coalition shall serve as a coordinating and service agency for the several individual Graduate and Professional Student Associations on separate campuses of the University and will represent them to all state- or university-wide agencies on issues of common concern. It will gather and disseminate information on issues before the legislative and executive branches of California’s government and the United States government, other relevant state units dealing with higher education, the University administration, and the Board of Regents. It will monitor and may attempt to influence any pending administrative policy, Regents’ policy, legislation or otherwise affecting graduate and professional students of the University of California, to the extent permissible by University of California Regents’ Policy.

Section 4. Association Development.
The Coalition shall also encourage and assist the development or expansion of or coordination between the various campus Graduate and/or Professional Student Associations.

Section 5. Autonomy of Associations.
Nothing in these Articles is intended to preempt, preclude, or in any way interfere with the actions of any individual Graduate and/or Professional Student Association in dealing with
graduate and professional student interests on any particular campus, or to preclude any Student Association from taking positions on statewide issues. The Coalition will not take a position on issues pertinent only to a particular campus unless requested to do so by all member Graduate and Professional Associations of that particular campus.

Section 6. Independence.
The Coalition shall carry out its functions independent of the activities of the University of California, but may enter into agreements with other entities including the University of California facilitating the operation of the Coalition, for functions consistent with the purpose of the Coalition, or recognition by the University of California.
ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Criteria.
Membership in the Coalition is open to any Graduate and/or Professional Student Association on a campus of the University of California which subscribes to the objectives and purposes of the Coalition and which accepts the principle that membership should, in general, correspond to status as a Graduate or Professional Student upon a single campus. In the case that a campus has separate or multiple Graduate and/or Professional Student Association, the Coalition shall determine, in consultation with the multiple Graduate and/or Professional Student Associations of the affected campus a means of recognising a conglomerate of the multiple Graduate and/or Professional Student Associations from the affected campus within a single voting membership.

Section 2. Membership Benefits.
Membership in the Coalition shall entitle a campus Graduate and/or Professional Student Association or conglomerate of such Associations to a vote in the Coalition, with no more than one voting membership to be recognized per campus.

Section 3. Membership Recognition.
Membership shall be recognized by vote of the Coalition finding the Association or conglomerate is in keeping with the criteria in this article.
ARTICLE IV. DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. Payment.
Each Association or conglomerate recognized with membership shall pay annual dues to
the Coalition that are assessed for the purposes of the operation and programming of the
Coalition in accordance with University of California Regents’ Policy on student government
payment of dues to external organizations,

Section 2. Delinquency.
Any Association or conglomerate which is delinquent as defined by the board of the
coalition in the payment of dues to the Coalition shall thereby cease to be in good standing
and shall be restored to good standing only by action of Coalition.

Section 3. Waiver.
The Coalition may waive dues for any Association or conglomerate in the case of
demonstrated financial hardship by vote of the Coalition.

Section 4. Dissolution.
In the event of dissolution of the Coalition, after payment of all outstanding debts or
liabilities, any remaining assets shall be distributed among the member Associations in
proportion to their respective assessed dues in the absence of a vote of the Coalition to
distribute remaining funds to a subsequent organization with a purpose consistent with the
purpose of the Coalition.
ARTICLE V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 1. Board of Directors.
The Board of Directors shall act as the governing and fiduciary body of the Coalition. The Board of Directors shall consist of delegates from each Association or conglomerate recognized for membership in the Coalition. These delegates will be selected in such manner and for such terms as determined by each individual Association or conglomerate and shall represent that Association or conglomerate on all matters determined by the Board. The Student Regent, Regent Designate, and Student Advisor to the Regents, as well as the Graduate Chair of the UC Council of Student Body Presidents shall be \textit{ex officio} non-voting members of the Board of Directors. The Coalition may also recognize other \textit{ex officio} members from other organizations with which it establishes \textit{memoranda} of understanding effecting such.

Section 2. One Vote Per Campus.
The Association or conglomerate representing each campus in good standing shall be entitled to a single delegate responsible for casting the vote of the Association or conglomerate on the Board. Associations may designate alternate delegates for recognition in the absence of a primary delegate. Additional non-voting delegates selected by Associations or conglomerates are encouraged to attend and reflect the diversity of the campus.

Section 3. Officers of the Coalition.
The officers of the Coalition shall be at minimum, a President (CEO), a Chair (COO), a Secretary (CIO), a Treasurer (CFO), and Parliamentarian. These officers shall serve on the Executive Committee. The Coalition may designate additional officers or members of the Executive Committee as necessary in fulfilling the purpose of the Coalition.

Section 4. Election and Removal of Officers.
The officers of the Coalition shall be elected by vote of the Board. They may be removed from office, during a term via vote of the Board.

Section 5. Vacancy.
Upon a vacancy of the President, the Chair shall serve as interim President until the next properly noticed meeting. Upon the vacancy of another officer position, the Executive Committee shall appoint an interim officer until the next properly noticed meeting. A special election to fill a vacant position shall occur as the first item of business at the first properly noticed meeting subsequent to a vacancy.

Section 6. Voting Privileges of Officers.
Associations or conglomerates shall endeavor to elect or appoint an alternate who shall be
recognized on behalf of the Association or conglomerate should a delegate be elected to an officer position. An officer may vote on behalf of their association or conglomerate in the case that an Association or conglomerate does not have an alternate present.
ARTICLE VI. OPERATIONS

Section 1. Meetings.
The business of the Board may be conducted at in-person meetings, via teleconference, or by email, provided that an in-person meeting of the Board shall be held at least once each year and shall be called upon a request of the majority of the Board. A meeting of any type must happen at least once every other month. An in-person meeting may be attended via teleconference in the case of financial or other hardship, as recognized by the Board. Unless otherwise procedurally specified by the charter or by-laws, meetings shall follow the Robert’s Rules of Order (newly revised).

Section 2. Bylaws.
The Board may adopt bylaws providing for the operations of the Coalition in keeping with the purpose of the Coalition and this Charter.

Section 3. President (CEO).
The President shall serve as the chief executive officer of the Coalition and maintain signing authority for the Coalition. The President shall chair the Executive Committee. The President may be assigned additional duties by the Board.

Section 4. Chair (COO).
The Chair shall serve as the chief operating officer of the Coalition preside over and facilitate meetings of the Board of Directors. The Chair may be assigned additional duties by the Board.

Section 5. Secretary (CIO).
The Secretary shall serve as the chief information officer of the Coalition and maintain minutes, positions, and records of the policies and positions of the Coalition. The Secretary may be assigned additional duties by the Board.

Section 6. Treasurer (CFO).
The Treasurer shall serve as the chief financial officer of the Coalition and be the custodian of Coalition funds, responsible for keeping these funds in a suitable depository, for keeping the Coalition financial statement up to date at all times and for making it available to the members of the Coalition upon request. The Treasurer shall prepare a financial report for distribution to the members of the Coalition at least once every three months. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the disbursing of funds of the Coalition as authorized by the Executive Board. The Treasurer may be assigned additional duties by the Board.
UCGPC Interim Election Results

President: Becky Grady (Irvine)

Treasurer: Reza Khorasani (SF)

Chair: Jonathan Morris (Berkeley)

Secretary: Michelle Viorato (LA)

Parliamentarian: Richard Prince (Irvine)

UCSA ad hoc Committee Nominees
Katia Polster (Irvine)
Reza Khorasani (SF)
Jeremy Prim (Davis)
Michelle Viorato (LA)
Rachel Roberson (Berkeley)