

The Graduate Student Society (TGSS) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Focus: Club Status, Upcoming Events, Grad School Fair, Marketing, and Annual Event Planning

Date: 9/29/26

Meeting Time: Tuesday at 4:00 PM

President: Michelle Bradley

Vice President: Jocelyn

Treasurer: Christina

Attendance

Attendees included Advisor Megan, TGSS executive members Michelle, Jocelyn, and Christina, along with Ameya, Kaylia, William, and Pedro. Kaylia, a student in the Master of Psychological Science program, was welcomed as a new member.

1. TGSS Club Status and General Updates

The group confirmed that TGSS is now officially chartered as a recognized student organization. Members discussed accessing club funds for future activities, events, promotional items, and merchandise.

The established meeting schedule of **Tuesdays at 4:00 PM** was reviewed. Members were also reminded that the GroupMe chat will continue to serve as the primary communication channel for club updates, ideas, and announcements.

Michelle advised that additional opportunities remain available for members who would like to become more involved in TGSS leadership and volunteer roles.

2. Open Roles and Member Involvement

Michelle discussed opportunities for members to take on active roles within the organization, including marketing and note-taking responsibilities. These positions were presented as opportunities for members to gain leadership experience, build their resumes, and receive mentorship.

Kaylia expressed interest in serving as the club's **note-taker**. Michelle will provide additional clarification regarding the responsibilities associated with the position.

3. Annual Free Event Planning

Members discussed TGSS's annual free event and began brainstorming possible themes and activities.

Ideas included:

- Holiday-themed events
- A pie and coffee gathering
- Partnerships or collaborations with other campus departments
- Potential collaboration with Alumni Affairs
- Utilizing campus spaces such as Coyote Commons

The group discussed possible catering and venue considerations. It was noted that Coyote Commons may offer space to recognized clubs and organizations under certain circumstances, although catering and private-event costs may still apply.

Members agreed to continue developing ideas and share suggestions in the GroupMe chat. The group will vote on possible event concepts prior to or during the next meeting.

4. Pendant Contest

The group discussed participating in the campus pendant contest.

Potential design concepts included themes related to:

- Graduate degrees
- Graduate student identity
- "Pending" degrees or degree completion
- TGSS and the graduate student experience

Michelle and Ameya will collaborate on ideas and work toward creating and submitting a pendant design based on feedback from the group.

5. Grad School Fair – October 24

TGSS members discussed participating in the upcoming **Grad School Fair on October 24**.

TGSS will represent current CSUSB graduate students and interact with prospective graduate students. Members may help answer general questions, share their graduate school experiences, and direct prospective students to specific academic programs and university resources.

Members were asked to volunteer for approximately **15–20 minute shifts** at the TGSS table and notify Michelle of their availability as soon as possible.

Megan will coordinate with the Career Center regarding the possibility of obtaining additional meals for TGSS members volunteering at the event.

6. TGSS Marketing and Promotional Materials

The group discussed creating additional promotional materials to increase TGSS visibility at campus events.

Possible items included:

- TGSS t-shirts
- Stickers
- Bookmarks
- Other promotional swag

Ameya will contact Printing Services or ScriptGrad to explore options for creating bookmarks or stickers.

Michelle will continue researching t-shirt and swag options that TGSS members could wear or distribute during events.

7. TGSS Website and Coyote Connections

The group discussed increasing TGSS's online presence and ensuring that accurate club information is available to graduate students.

Megan will work on updating the Graduate Student Society page on the Graduate Studies website or coordinate with Amber regarding access to Coyote Connections.

8. Graduate Student Recruitment and Engagement

Members discussed ways TGSS can support graduate student recruitment and engagement.

The group reflected on common concerns prospective students may have about returning to school and discussed how current graduate students can provide reassurance by sharing their experiences.

Michelle shared that her graduate school experience has felt different from her undergraduate experience and emphasized the importance of helping prospective students better understand what graduate education is like.

Members also discussed changes in academia, research, and education resulting from the increased use of artificial intelligence.

9. AI Workshops and Campus Resources

William announced upcoming workshops related to artificial intelligence, including a session addressing **copyright and information privacy**.

Additional information regarding these workshops and other campus resources will be shared through the TGSS GroupMe.

10. Grad Slam Competition

Megan shared information about the upcoming **Grad Slam competition**, which gives graduate students an opportunity to present their research in a three-minute presentation.

Members were informed that monetary awards are available, including:

- **\$500 First Place Award**
- **\$250 People's Choice Award**

Members interested in research, public speaking, or professional development were encouraged to consider participating.

11. Student Research and Travel Funding

The group discussed **Student Research and Travel (SRT) funding opportunities** available to graduate students.

Members were encouraged to explore these funding opportunities for eligible research activities, academic presentations, conferences, and travel.

Michelle will gather additional information regarding TGSS club funding and provide an update at the next meeting.

12. Upcoming Campus Events

Several upcoming graduate student and campus events were discussed, including:

- **Beyond the Degree** sessions
- Program Board Adventure – **October 22**
- Grad School Fair – **October 24**
- Grateful and Grounded Mixer – **November 5**
- AI-related workshops
- Grad Slam activities

Additional details will be shared through the GroupMe as information becomes available.

Action Items

Responsible Person	Action Item
Michelle	Follow up on TGSS t-shirt and swag options.
Michelle	Obtain additional information regarding club funding before the next meeting.
Michelle	Share the meeting agenda in the GroupMe chat.
Michelle & Ameya	Collaborate on a design for the pendant contest and incorporate group feedback.
Ameya	Contact Printing Services or ScriptGrad regarding bookmarks, stickers, or other promotional materials.
Kaylia	Begin serving as TGSS note-taker after responsibilities are clarified with Michelle.
Megan	Coordinate with the Career Center regarding additional meals for TGSS volunteers at the Grad School Fair.
Megan	Update the TGSS page on the Graduate Studies website or coordinate with Amber regarding Coyote Connections access.
All Members	Share annual event ideas in the GroupMe for group consideration and voting.
All Members	Confirm Grad School Fair volunteer availability and provide preferred 15–20 minute shift times to Michelle.

Items to Revisit at the Next Meeting

The group will follow up on annual event ideas and voting, pendant contest progress, Grad School Fair volunteer assignments, promotional materials and t-shirt options, TGSS funding opportunities, and updates to the club's online presence.