SAGE Coalition Call
July 8, 2019, 9pm EDT
Zoom Link to call in: https://unc.zoom.us/j/492481850

Call started: 9:02 pm EDT

Attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Attending</th>
<th>Representatives</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
<td>INACTIVE</td>
<td>Danielle Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Ohio State University</td>
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<td>Rutgers University</td>
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<td>SUNY Stony Brook</td>
<td>INACTIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Purna Doddapaneni</td>
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<td>University of Arizona</td>
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<td>University of California-Berkeley</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of California-Davis</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Gwen Chodur</td>
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<td>University of California-Irvine</td>
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<td>University of California-Los Angeles</td>
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<td>University of California-San Diego</td>
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<td>University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign</td>
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<td>University of Maryland</td>
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<td>University of Michigan</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Ashley Melnick, Alex Vazsonyi</td>
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<td>University of Minnesota</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Manny Hernandez, Cody Love, Karson Nelson</td>
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<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
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<td>University of Texas-Austin</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Samantha Fuchs, Kathryn Abercrombie</td>
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<td>University of Virginia</td>
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<td>University of Washington</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Maggie Dunham Jordahl Abbie Shew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total in Attendance</td>
<td>6</td>
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Old Business:
1. Coalition Call
   a. May Coalition Call minutes can be found [here](#).
      C: Do not have quorum, so minutes cannot be approved.

**Executive Board Reports**
1. Chair - Manny Hernandez (chair.sage@gmail.com)
   a. General Update
      C: With the summer, not too much has been occurring. We’ll give a general overview. We are reaching out to all SAGE institutions to provide a welcome/information packet as well as a newsletter summarizing 2018-2019. We’ll also talk about some of the inactive institutions.
   b. Bills:
      i. HR 3334 - Expanding Access to Graduate Education
      ii. S. 1204 - Higher Education Mental Health Act
      C: There are two bills of interest that are worthy of our attention. HR 3334 submitted on June 19th. Amends federal Pell Grant program to allow grad students who received pell grants as undergrads who are still income-eligible to apply to continue for that program. The other came out a couple of months ago. Establishes a mental health commission to study mental health. Involves higher education members, individuals, student groups, etc, to provide recommendations for higher education policy. Not sure how these bills will progress, as they are still in committee.
   c. Reauthorization of Higher Education Act
      i. GRADPlus Loan
      C: Not a lot of movement right now. Some groups are writing letters to congressmen, some sent out already, to include specific needs for graduate students when considering HEA. We were asked to participate, but the turn around was too short to have a coalition call and vote. GRAD Plus loan is something we want to have discussed. SAGE will discuss a potential letter of our own.
   d. Increases in fees for International Students
      C: Increases in costs for F1 student visas - $200 to $350 dollars. Institutions also having to pay more for certification - $1700 to $3000. Fee is for foreign nationals to pay to US government.
      VC: Who will be writing a letter to HEA? Volunteers?
      C: Exec board will take it on initially and then open to the institutions for feedback.

2. Vice Chair - Samantha Fuchs (vicechair.sage@gmail.com)
   VC: For new people, we’re following Robert’s Rules for meetings. Necessary to state name and position, represented institution. Good way to get to know each other and have productive meetings.
   a. Active Status of Institutions
      VC: VC is in charge of Parliamentarian and manager of institutions, active or inactive. Inactive institutions need only ask to be reinstated. They need to participate in a call and call a vote to be reinstated. Institutions currently listed as active can be called inactive at the discretion of the chair. If they’ve been absent for more than two meetings in a year. There are a number of institutions that have been absent. We will be voting on this soon.
b. Memorandum of Understanding with CPAGE
VC: CPAGE is our sister organization of alumnus SAGE members. CPAGE controls our finances. We have a Memorandum of Understanding that controls our financial relationship, signed by the boards of both SAGE and CPAGE. The MOU will be discussed in the next meeting with CPAGE, and an updated MOU will be sent out soon.

c. First President’s Call - August 19th
VC: VC manages calls with Presidents of GSAs of member institutions. First president’s call will be next month (Aug 19), welcoming new presidents to the SAGE family, asking for input and advice. VC will prepare questions and topics ahead of time, but primarily as a meet and greet. A week after our normal coalition call.
UT Austin: Sounds good. You are talking about presidents of GSAs?
VC: Yes, but SAGE reps will be on the call as well, but will not have speaking priority,
UT Austin: Is this based on the timeline of coming back to school/having new presidents coming in? Will this be too much for a new president to handle?
VC: Good point, open to input. Institutions start at a wide range of times.
UW: We don’t start until the end of September.
UT Austin: Probably won’t be an ideal time. Great idea.
C: August allows us to hear from presidents on what they’d like to accomplish at individual institutions to have more communication between institutions.
UC Davis: We’re in the quarter system like UW, don’t start until late September, but the GSA uses August as a time to prep for the year.
VC: There will be another call in early October to discuss federal issues, but this meeting is still TBD.

d. Fall Summit - University of Arizona
VC: Will be meeting to discuss general scheduling, hotel blocks, and time for Fall Summit. Would weekend of 18-19th or 25-26th of October work better?
UC Davis: Either works great.

3. Political Director- Abbie Shew (policy.sage@gmail.com)
   a. Tracking summer legislative issues
PD: Manny (Chair) has begun listing the legislative issues we’re looking. Tracking bills on the Congressional side and meeting with University federal relations people to see what bills they are tracking. The goal is to be prepared by Fall Summit what issues are going on in Congress to see what the White Paper groups could be most effective for next year.
   b. Meeting with university federal reps to follow up on SAGE day topics
   c. Ideas about presidential election?
PD: It’s an election year (2019-2020). We can have a role in that. So far, the idea is to review the education platforms of different campaigns are to judge their impact on graduate students. Hopefully, we could get specific provisions about graduate students onto their platforms.
UNC: Looking at their policies, do we plan to try and endorse certain candidates? Or is that not going to be an outward statement?
PD: We have talked about potentially endorsing a candidate. The potential problem with that is we are a non-partisan organization, so not sure if we’re allowed to do that.
C: This is a question we’ve had. I’m going to be speaking with our advisor about some of these issues, if we have any kind of flexibility on endorsing candidates. It’s to be decided.
IA: A way we can support is a specific platform point - endorsing a statement.
VC: Could have an information packet if all else fails (purely informational, like ‘supports student loan debt forgiveness, yes or no’
PD: We will do that anyway, that sounds nice to do.

4. Communications- Ashley Melnick (communications.sage@gmail.com)
   a. Website changes http://www.sagecoalition.net/
   Com: Created a member resources tab for our coalition. There’s a general information tab, a welcome packet will be added when it’s updated, plus bylaws and minutes. We'll also have events with zoom links to the coalition calls. Last thing will be the newsletter. Will have a Fall summit newsletter, a post-Day on the Hill newsletter, and an annual large summary (summer recap). Send me an email if you have other suggestions or things you need to see.

   b. Follow us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/sagecoalition/ and Twitter https://twitter.com/sagecoalition?

   i. Institution Highlight
   Com: Follow us! We do have an instagram, don’t really know what to do with it. We would like to keep you updated on issues, but also share anything significant coming from your institutions about graduate student wellness. Can send an email communications.sage@gmail.com or the facebook message app.

   VC: Please share facebook and website with everyone at your respective institutions! Great way to recruit new reps or just share info.

5. Internal Affairs- Cody Love (internalaffairs.sage@gmail.com)
   a. Internal Affairs working group 2019-20
   IA: Actively recruiting members to join the working group. It’s primary purpose is to gather information about graduate student life and our individual member institutions, be it their GPSF or administration issues, or state legislation that affects graduate students. This is to develop best practices or more information to share. I’d really like to look into student finances - the fees that we pay, and stipends and insurance/benefits we get. I am open to looking at other things as well. I will send out a recruitment email, and if you respond I will put your email on a separate list and schedule a brainstorming meeting, ideally for this month, but maybe as late as August. Any questions? (none.) Again, I welcome everyone, especially experienced members.
   
   b. SAGE bank account statement history from CPAGE
   IA: VC already mentioned the MOU. We are still discussing that. We want to have a record of all bank account information for full oversight across the years.

Old Business
1. None.

New Business
1. None.

Announcements
1. Next Coalition call will be August 12th, 9pm EDT
2. Next President’s call will be August 19th, 9pm EDT
C: Look out for emails with agendas and call in information. Informational packet/newsletter will be out in early August.

**Open Forum**

IA: Reminder to please login on the attendance sheet.

Michigan State University, Danielle: Hi all, we were involved in the past but were inactive recently. I was recently elected as Vice President of External affairs and one of my goals is to get more involved with outside organizations. We really want to get involved again!

C: We’re so excited to have you!

VC: Danielle, all you have to do is repeat the pitch next month at our next coalition call. Hopefully we will have sorted our active/nonactive institutions sorted so we can have quorum and vote for your reinstatement.

Motion to Adjourn - UC Davis, UW - seconds.

Adjourned at 9:39 pm EDT