SAGE Coalition Call
August 12, 2019, 9pm EDT
Zoom Link to call in: https://unc.zoom.us/j/411875871

Call started: 9:04 PM EDT

**Attendance:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Attending</th>
<th>Representatives</th>
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<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>
<td>X</td>
<td>Stephen</td>
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<td>Rutgers University</td>
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<td>SUNY Stony Brook</td>
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<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Shannon, Purna</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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<tr>
<td>University of California-Irvine</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Connor</td>
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<td>University of California-Los Angeles</td>
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<td>University of California-San Diego</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Victor Wang</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>
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<td>Marshall, Ashley Melnick</td>
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<td>University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Carlos, Manny Hernandez</td>
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<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
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<td>University of Texas-Austin</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Lucy Blevins, Samantha Fuchs</td>
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<td>University of Virginia</td>
<td>INACTIVE</td>
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<td>University of Washington</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Maggie Dunham Jordahl, Abbie Shew</td>
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<td>Total in Attendance</td>
<td>9</td>
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**Minutes:**

1. **Coalition Call**
   a. May Coalition Call minutes can be found [here](#).
i. July call did not reach quorum, so May meeting minutes remain unapproved.

b. July Coalition Call minutes can be found here.

Chair: Asks for a motion to approve both.
UC Davis motions to approve, UW seconds.
Approved unanimously.

Executive Board Reports

1. Chair- Manny Hernandez (chair.sage@gmail.com)
   a. Institution communication
   C: We have a number of inactive institutions as a part of our coalition. I have been reaching out to institutions that are inactive/been declared inactive in order to get our numbers and support back. This is a primary focus for us for August.
   b. HEA Reauthorization
   C: There are a number of different groups who have been writing letters of support/indications for needs out of the Higher Education Act reauthorization which is being discussed in Congress. Myself and Abbie, PD, are working together on drafting a letter about getting graduate students included in those needs.
   c. 5-year Strategic Plan
   C: I am working on creating a plan for the next five years. We’ve had a lot of success since our inception and we want to continue that. I want to reach out to more institutions who will be new, active members. I’ll be sending out a survey for feedback for additional discussion.

2. Vice Chair- Samantha Fuchs (vicechair.sage@gmail.com)
   a. Active Status of Institutions UPDATED
   VC: Many institutions are still inactive because they have violated absence policy, which we have been lax on. According to our bylaws, institutions must only miss 2 or fewer coalition calls in a year. We only enforce it when its significant. Because of significant absense in 2018-2019, the Chair has declared UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, and Maryland inactive. If the institution appeals returns within a month, they can be automatically reactivated. UC Irvine is reactivated.
   Welcome!
   VC: Reactivation can be considered at anytime outside of that month, too. Michigan is working on reinstating active status. This can be done with an appeal and a simple vote by the coalition. Please check bylaws for details on member status and responsibilities.
   b. First President's Call - August 19th, 9pm EDT
   VC: All GSO Presidents welcome to talk about prepping for the start of the year, inter-institution communications and questions, and questions or requests for SAGE. More discussion-based than our Coalition calls. Agenda will be sent out tomorrow. Please get your Presidents on the coalition email if you have not already done so.
   C: Meeting is open to anyone in the Coalition.
   VC: Primarily for Presidents, but yes, open to anyone.
   c. Fall Summit - University of Arizona
   VC: Fall Summit will be this October in Tuscon, hosted by the University of Arizona. The dates are set for October 18th & 19th. Schedule is still being finalized but standard Friday and Saturday with breakfasts, lunch and possibly Friday dinner provided with social gathering (TBD). Attractions include Saguaro National Park. Arizona does not observe Daylight Savings Time (DST), so please consider this when booking flights. Hotels being finalized, but when it has we will send out details with an eventbrite link for # of people, dietary restrictions, etc. This will be open for a number of weeks and be closed three weeks before the event.
   d. SAGE Welcome Page/Information Packet
VC: Please share the welcome page and information packet with your GSO’s and interested people within it. More people will be joining in September and October, so I’ll be continuing to share these. Please reach out if you have questions/comments.

Com: Uploading the packets to the website for reference.

UCSD: Any penalties for not attending Fall Summit or related events?

VC: According to bylaws, it is required for each institution to send at least one delegate to Fall Summit and Day on the Hill. We have generally been lax about Fall Summit, and more strict about DOH because of its importance. Possible CPAGE will offer a travel grant for institutions that need it, but still working out details. We can also talk about digital attendance for Fall Summit.

C: We can definitely work something out if needed.

3. **Political Director- Abbie Shew** (policy.sage@gmail.com)
   a. HEA reauthorization letter
      i. Example of a letter that went out last month

   PD: As Manny said, we’ve been looking into writing a letter in support of various parts of the Higher Education Act Reauthorization that’s being debated currently. There was a letter focusing on graduate needs which was also signed by NAGPS, so it’s great to see support there. We will want to add our own because there is a slew of undergraduate and technical college letters as well.

   PD: Article - explains why HEA is taking so long - it’s because of Title IX. Department of Education had an open comment period with a lot of responses, including our own.

   UCSD: My school went to DC in June. From our understanding, Senator Alexander said it was contention between democrats and republicans about Title IX.

   PD: On the top of my head, I don’t know much about that. We did talk about Title IX at Day on the Hill and it was , so I’m not surprised to hear it was divided on part lines.

   VC: Senator Alexander was the leading Republican in the Senate who had developed the republican’s version of HEA - PROSPER ACT along with Representative Fox in the House, that did not get voted on or passed.

   b. HR1044/S386

   c. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/570bafe962cd9451e951e4ba/t/5cff03603b7ecf001e4356b/1560216421027/Immigration_Final.pdf

   PD: This bill puts a cap on percentage on types of high skilled individuals who can come from certain countries - namely India and China because of their high quantity of visa requests. This bill passed in the House and is currently being considered in the Senate. It was somewhat contentious in the Senate.

   Texas A&M, Purna: The reasoning for this in the past was that India and China are a large portion, but there were also large populations from Iran and other countries because there was going to be a removal of caps and they wouldn’t have a chance of getting a visa. I haven’t kept up with it so I don’t have any other updates.

   PD: A number of people have asked us to write a letter to clarify our stance. We talked in executive and we in exec don’t really oppose this bill. It says no country can get more than 85% of the visas in a particular year. Do we still want to oppose this? NAGPS, National Association of Graduate and Professional Students, wrote a letter saying they supported it but also proposed an amendment that no graduate or professional students should be blocked from getting a visa.

   UC Davis: Our response was more nuanced - that we wanted to increase the ability for students to get visas, but were worried about caps. We didn’t know how the regulation would be enforced. I don’t think that the premise about the bill is a problem, but still worried about execution.
PD: I put a link to our white paper on immigration which included HR1044 and we were concerned about what the caps would look like in implementation. I don’t know if this is enough for us to write a letter.

UC Davis: What offices have reached out?
PD: Not offices, but students.
Chair: Yes, one student from UC.
PD: And NAGPS wrote a letter of support.
Chair: This is a lot, so would you all like to think about it and respond in a couple of days or vote now on a potential response?
PD: We could also wait until next call because congress is on recess. There would be a quick turnaround then, but it’s still possible.
A&M (Shannon): Has the student provided justification of what they wanted?
Chair: The concern was for graduate students needing to leave.
UT Austin: I would like to motion to postpone to have a discussion in the next call.
UNC: Seconds.
Chair: All in favor: 7, Nay: 0 abstention 2 (UCSD, UT Austin). We will have more information out for next coalition call.
PD: Included in that, we’ll have NAGPS, our white paper, any additional immigration working group info, and the requests from those students who want us to write an opposing letter.
A&M (Purna): I have a powerpoint from those who asked us to opposed it.
PD: Have that in the google drive for last year’s working group.

4. Communications- Ashley Melnick (communications.sage@gmail.com)
a. Newsletter
Com: Newsletter is going out! If you have fellows not on the coalition email, please share with them.

b. Website
Com: There have been significant updates. There is a member resources tab with the welcome packet, informational packet, bylaws, and now events tab with coalition calls and presidents calls. If you have any suggestions, let me know.

c. SAGE Apparel
Com: We’re thinking of making some SAGE apparel. What do you want? We’re working on creating a store that you could order through our website. There would be products that you could order individually instead of needing a bulk order.
VC: T-shirts would be desirable.
UNC: What is the purpose of apparel?
Com: It was desired by students at day on the hill for some unity.
PD: One thing would be lapel pins that could identify us at Day on the Hill.
UMichigan: Agreed, lapel pins would be great.
Com: That would have to be more of a bulk order.
UCSD: Folder/padfolio with the SAGE logo.
Com: You can also send me an email with more suggestions.

5. Internal Affairs- Cody Love (internalaffairs.sage@gmail.com)
a. Internal Affairs Working Group
i. Governing Docs & GSA Budgets from all member institutions
ii. Work-up for Fall Summit
iii. Still accepting new recruits!
IA: We had our first WG last week and established a few goals: collect governing documents and budgets from all of our members’ GSAs so we have some data to compare across institutions. It would be to present that information at Fall Summit. Keep an eye out for emails from us requesting information. A long term goal would be a survey/form on student funding.
There’s a total of 5, including myself, but we are open to more people working on internal data collecting.

b. CPAGE MOU & Financial Records
i. MOU not expired until June 2020.
ii. Have reviewed and working on updates for that time.
iii. Still working on gathering financial history.
   IA: Sam and I have had a conversation with CPAGE. MOU - Memorandum of Understanding is our non-binding agreement as to how we communicate and share our financial resources. They control our finances. It does not expire until June of next year, and there’s nothing pressing to seek to modify right now. We do have updates for next year. We’re also seeking a full financial history. Our funds are currently in a paypal account and CPAGE is switching to a traditional bank account. Once we have that information, we’ll share it.
   Chair: More information on CPAGE is in the information packet!

Old Business
   1. None.

New Business
   1. MSU Activation
      Chair: MSU, via Danielle, has reached out to us for Michigan State University to rejoin as an active SAGE institution.
      MSU: We were active before, but then our government decided it wasn’t something they intended to pursue. We would like to be active again.
      Chair: We now have to have a vote by the coalition. Do I have a motion.
      University of Michigan Motions, Irvine seconds.
      Roll call:
      Ohio State: Yes
      Texas A&M: Yes
      Davis: Yes
      Irvine: Yes
      San Diego: Yes
      UMichigan: Yes
      UNC: Yes
      UT Austin: Yes
      UW: Yes
      Chair: Unanimous approval. Welcome back, Michigan State!

Announcements
   1. None.

Events
   1. Next President’s call will be August 19th, 9pm EDT
   2. Next Coalition call will be September 9th, 9pm EDT
   Chair: Emails with agendas will be sent out one week before events.

Open Forum
IA: One quick thing to add for CPAGE/Fall Summit. We just received an email from CPAGE. Institutions can apply for a Fall Travel grant capped at $500, but there could be wiggle room.
VC: These sorts of travel grants are what we can use the profits from selling apparel for.
Motion to adjourn: UMich motions, UCSD seconds. Adjourned at 9:55pm.