SAGE Coalition Call
October 14th, 2019, 9pm EDT
Zoom Link to call in: https://unc.zoom.us/j/461478277

Call started:

**Attendance:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Attending</th>
<th>Representatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Meagan Abel, Danielle Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ohio State University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutgers University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNY Stony Brook</td>
<td>INACTIVE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Arizona</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California-Berkeley</td>
<td>INACTIVE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California-Davis</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Gwen Chodur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California-Irvine</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Connor Strobel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California-Los Angeles</td>
<td>INACTIVE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California-San Diego</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Quynh Nguyen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign</td>
<td>INACTIVE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Maryland</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Annie Rappeport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Ashley Melnick, Marshall Case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Minnesota</td>
<td>INACTIVE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Manny Hernandez, Cody J. Love, Carlos Patiño Descovich, Chastan Swain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas-Austin</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Samantha Fuchs, Kathryn Abercrombie, Christina Baze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Virginia</td>
<td>INACTIVE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Washington</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Abbie Shew; Maggie Dunham Jordahl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total in Attendance</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Approval of Minutes:**

1. **Coalition Call**
   a. September Coalition Call minutes can be found [here](#).
Executive Board Reports

1. Chair- Manny Hernandez (chair.sage@gmail.com)
   a. Requirements for Active Institutions
      i. Virtual Representation
      C: Our bylaws do allow for virtual representation at Fall Summit to count for membership requirements. We do prefer at least one person to be present, but we understand financial burdens can be a problem. Reminder that our membership requirements allow only 2 absences from the monthly coalition calls.
   b. Presidents Call - Union Speaker
      C: We have been working with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Union, which includes graduate students. Trying to bring someone in to bring them in to have a conversation with them. Stay tuned.
   c. Council of Graduate Schools
      i. Mental Health Initiative
      ii. S.1204 - Higher Education Mental Health
      C: We’ve been in contact with CGS. They shared great resources with us, including letters they have written and different organizations have signed on to. There are a few we might sign on for (see New Business). This is something to consider. We had previously talked about Mental Health. There had not been much momentum for mental health at the national level. First is a data collecting initiative. Second is a Bill that doesn’t seem to be going anywhere, but this is movement.
      VC: WE’ve talked about mental health for the last two years, but there typically is no legislation about mental health (excluding suicide prevention, which is generally wrapped up in specific interest groups like vets, youth, and indigenous peoples), so it’s good that we’re at least talking about it.

2. Vice Chair- Samantha Fuchs (vicechair.sage@gmail.com)
   a. Fall Summit
      i. Drive Access for FS
      VC: Fall Summit is in five days and I’m excited to see everyone! All of our materials for Fall Summit in the Google Drive (which you have view access to). There is a schedule, which was sent out via email today, with speakers and information about how to get from the hotel to the conference hall. We will walk over together on friday morning from the hotel lobby. If you have questions, find me or Marie Teemant.
      ii. Schedule
      iii. Questionnaire - Please fill out by Wednesday
      VC: We’ve also put together a questionnaire to prompt you and give us some information about how to shape discussion at FAI1 Summit (including concerns at the institutional and federal level). Please fill that out by Wednesday so we can get them sent to the speakers and review them ourselves.
      iv. Carpool from Airport on Thursday - anniemf@email.arizona.edu
      VC: Arizona has provided drivers for Fall Summit (they aren’t attending due to conflicting eboard meetings). If you would like to use this service on Thursday, please contact Annie at the email on the agenda.
   b. Institution Voting Members
   VC: Please fill out the institutional voting members record so we can get to know you all and figure out how to best manage the group. If you have a President’s email that stays the same from year-to-year, that will also help us remain in contact with the group.
   i. Institution Voting Members 2019-2020 - Please fill out
c. President’s Call 2
VC: This call will hopefully be in the end of November or early December, and will primarily be focused on unionization. We are still determining a speaker, but stay tuned for details.

3. Political Director- Abbie Shew (policy.sage@gmail.com)
a. HEA Reauthorization - New bill by Sen. Alexander
   i. Text of bill
   ii. One Pager
   PD: At the end of September, Sen. Alexander released this information. Won’t go into too much detail, since it will be discussed significantly at Fall Summit. Being branded as HEA Reauthorization, but it does not actually reauthorize HEA. Recommend you review this before Fall Summit for a quick minute.
   UC San Diego: What is going on at the House side for HEA? They may be something coming along in November?
   PD: I have not heard of anything on the House side. Nothing is released yet.
   C: Speaking with some of our contacts, Chairmen Scott (House Labor and Ed) are planning on releasing an HEA reauthorization. Similar to Aim Higher Act of last congress. Will probably be partisan (Democrat), and may be unlikely to be enacted this congress.
   UC Irvine: Heard there was some disagreement within the party. Want to be able to have points of negotiation prepared ahead of time. Also that there’s a few folks on the edges who don’t want to give the Senate a win.
   PD: Yes, have heard some of that. I’m trying to find out this week to see how this bill is being received, since it’s marketed as HEA reauthorization and it is not.
   VC: Will have Ellyn Perrone, government relations to ask questions at Fall Summit.
   b. STEM Talent Act
   VC: ‘Stapling a green card to a STEM diploma!’ - like a bill from 2012ish, where that was the marketing
   PD: Letter from Rep Foster’s office, asking if we would want to support this. We likely would, because it summarizes our opinions on immigration. Provides citizenship after graduation. Vote on whether we want to support at Fall Summit
   UNC Chapel Hill: Does this bill limit access to any specific countries?
   PD: No caps based on country.
   c. Quick update on immigration (HR1044/S286)
   PD: Discussed in Old Business.

4. Communications- Ashley Melnick (communications.sage@gmail.com)
a. Volunteers for social media feature (voting members first)
   Com: Thank you for engaging with social media posts! It gets our name out there to other graduate students and graduate student organizations. Wisdom Wednesday posts on Facebook and Twitter with tips on advocacy from the E-board. I would like to open this up to voting members of the coalition. Would anyone like to volunteer to be featured?
   Maryland: We volunteer. Irvine, then UC Davis next.
   Com: Thanks! Anyone else, email me here. Do these features on Wednesdays, ask for information by the Monday before.
   b. Lapel Pins for DoH
   Com: Delay on shipping, so won’t have lapel pins for Fall Summit, but they will be available for DoH.

5. Internal Affairs- Cody Love (internalaffairs.sage@gmail.com)
a. Registration & Fees
   i. Great job registering!
   ii. Eventbrite Fees
   IA: 35 total registrants!
b. Fall Summit  
i. Remote access available - see schedule (contact IA with questions)  
   1. Can communication through chat with IA (or VC)  
ii. Contact IA with questions  
   IA: Aoom links on the schedule, in the email. If you have any issues, email me. I will act as representative for those who are not physically there. If you have questions during speakers or discussions, put it into the chat and I (or Sam) will be monitoring and be sure to get your questions addressed.  
   Maryland: Thank you! We’re really glad since we were not able to be there in person.

**Old Business**  
1. H.R. 1044 - Update  
   PD: keeping this fairly brief, since this will be a topic of conversation at Fall Summit and it’s been a hot topic at previous coalition calls. 1044 passed the house, put up for a vote in the Senate by unanimous consent, but was blocked. It’s an immigration bill that puts country caps on the two largest countries (India on Chinese) on a particular type of skilled worker visa. It is not specific to student visas, but it’s a type of visa that many researchers and grad students would apply for after graduation. We will discuss it again because we need to vote whether we want to continue our opposition. Last year we did oppose it in our white papers, and we have had members request that we write a letter to the senate. It is fairly non-controversial in Congress, and many members of Sage do not want to oppose the bill. This is an opportunity to think about this, and speak on this bill if you’re not going to make it to the summit.  
   Chair: CGS has information that Durbin put a hold on this in the senate because he wanted to focus on a Dreamers fix before going to skilled worker visas. So this isn’t an imminent issue.  
   UC Davis: Durbin also introduced the STEM Talent Act (s1744).  
   PD: Yes, these two bills have significant impact on graduate students.

**New Business**  
1. Interest of UC Santa Cruz in joining SAGE Coalition  
   a. New Members require a ⅔ vote of the coalition  
   b. We can invite prospective SAGE members upon an agreed vote at FS or Day on the Hill  
   C: Interest from UC Santa Cruz. They registered for Fall Summit. We’re trying to get a feel for if they want to participate more in SAGE.  
   Rebecca, UC Santa Cruz: I’m on the call.  
   C: Hi! We’re excited to have you here.  
   UC Santa: Thanks, glad to be here. We have some specific aims for this year and we want to see if we align with SAGE.  
   C: We can formally send invitations to be a part of SAGE. We vote on whether to extend an invitation. If you know of other institutions that you think we should invite, keep that in mind.  
   VC: Can think strategically, if there are some states unrepresented that we want to invite.

2. Community Letter - SAGE Interest?  
   a. Grad Plus Loan  
   i. Letter to Tri-Caucus Support  
   1. Tri-Caucus Priorities  
   ii. Letter to Education and Labor Committee  
   b. HR 3334 - Expanding Access to Graduate Education  
   C: CGS has invited us to sign on to letters about Grad Plus Loans and Pell Grants. The Tri-Caucus - Asian, Black, and Pacific American caucus. Great information on supporting affordability, access - such as through Pell grants for graduate programs and expanded eligibility for subsidized loans. The letter touches on Grad Plus loans specifically, and wanting to
protect that. CGS has asked if SAGE would support that letter. Second, is letter to education and labor committee, again on grad plus loans.
C: Letter on HR 3334 - Expanding Access to Graduate Education written to Congresspeople who introduced the bill. It amends current pell grants. You have 12 semesters of pell grant funding. If you don’t use all of that, this bill would allow you to use that for post-bachelor’s study. Any thoughts on that?
VC: Sounds good to me.
UNC: Sounds great. Support post-Baccs.
MSU: This would be great. We have been concerned about Grad Plus loans. Any action we can take to support that is great.
C: This is an easy way to get behind all of that, in line with the conversations we have been having. This is a good way to push the conversations ahead.
C: Could I get a motion to approve all three letters?
MSU motions, UT Austin, seconds
Roll Call Vote:
MSU: Aye
UC Davis: Aye
UC Irvine: Aye
UC San Diego: Aye
Maryland: Aye
Michigan: Aye
UNC: Aye
UT Austin: Aye
UW: Aye
The motion passes.
C: We will pass this on to our contacts at CGS.
MSU: Will you send this to us once our name is on it?
C: Yes, and we will post it on our website.

**Announcements/Open Forum**
1. Watch the Presidential Candidate debate and check in for things related to education.
2. Irvine - folks who are interested - HR 4297 - Increase access to SNAP - allow credit hours to count as eligibility for food snaps.
   a. Maryland: Question - concerns about food insecurity on our campus, but worried about international students attempting to use food stamps or SNAP, because that would make them ‘ineligible’ as a public charge.
   b. Irvine: Yes, that’s an immigration issue. It’s currently on hold in the courts.
   c. UC Davis: We have a CalFresh who has a rep there for SNAP 40 hours a week, we promote it.
   d. MSU - we operate a food bank, so there’s no tracing.
   e. UT Austin: I worked at a food bank, so I know some policy. I would be happy to figure out what we can do. Fears like that, where it’s not set in policy but up to interpretation by this administration are a genuine concern. How we might want to advocate to do good for a lot of folks, so international students have the resources they need without risk.
   f. Chair: We do have some time laid out for best practices, so this is something we can discuss if we want to expand on.
   g. Maryland: Awesome. Yes, I’d like to take you up on the opportunity to learn more.
3. Maryland: Of the schools we have here, how many institutions charge and international student fee?
   a. Irvine does not, but aspects of nonresident supplemental tuition add burdens. Davis tried, but fought it until it stopped.
a. UT Austin does, UNC does, Texas A&M, Michigan has a $500/semester, Santa Cruz does (does not specify undergrad or graduate - international students are more expensive and therefore disincentivized for lab groups to take on)
b. MSU - a fee AND cost per credit hour is higher (out-of-state rate)
c. Maryland - yes, would like to start asking internally. We are resisting. $125 per semester, not going through the same student advisory committees. Seems like it’s just being used to support the university particularly, not international students. No transparency/accountability.
d. Chair: might contact international student office director - they could have a conversation and pursue more activities.
e. Maryland. Thank you. We have tried. Have sought to account for the money in the provost, but only accounted for $80,000 of the 1 million collected. Shady.

**Events**
1. Fall Summit will be October 18th-19th in Tucson, Arizona!!
2. Next Coalition call November 11th, 9pm EDT

**Open Forum**
UT Austin: Dress code?
VC: Nothing is official. Business casual is the practice.
Chair: We are taking photos. It's not formal.

Chair: Motion to Adjourn?
UT Austin motions, UC SD seconds. Unanimous approval.
Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm EDT.