SAGE Coalition Call
November 11th, 2019, 9pm EST
Zoom Link to call in: https://unc.zoom.us/j/477613255

Call started: 9:02 PM EST

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>X</td>
<td>Danielle Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Ohio State University</td>
<td><em>INACTIVE</em></td>
<td>Tamr Atieh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rutgers University</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Tamr Atieh</td>
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<td>SUNY Stony Brook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Anna David</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Arizona</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Marie Teemant</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>Eric Barraza</td>
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<td>University of California-Los Angeles</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of California-San Diego</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Victor Wang, Quynh Nguyen</td>
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<td>University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign</td>
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<td>University of Maryland, College Park</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Rachel Lamb, Annie Rappeport</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>RJ Batas, Sarah Bork, Lucca, Ashley Melnick, Caroline G. Adams, Marshall</td>
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<td>University of Minnesota</td>
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<td>University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Manny Hernandez, Carlos</td>
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<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Amanda Jonathan</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Texas-Austin</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Samantha Fuchs, Christina Baze, Kathryn Abercrombie</td>
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<td>University of Virginia</td>
<td>INACTIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Washington</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Giuliana Conti, Abbie Shew</td>
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Total in Attendance: 12

Approval of Minutes:
1. Coalition Call
a. October Coalition Call minutes can be found here.
C: Motion to approve, any edits?
UCSD motion approves, UMD seconds. Unanimous approval

2. Fall Summit
a. Fall Summit minutes can be found here for Day 1 and Day 2.
C: I highly recommend you take a look at the minutes for good information. Thank you to everyone for attending, thank you to Arizona for hosting.
VC: Need a motion to approve.
UT Austin motion to approve, Mich seconds, unanimous approval

Executive Board Reports
1. Chair - Manny Hernandez (chair.sage@gmail.com)
a. Ohio State inactive
C: We’re going to try to get through executive board reports quickly since we have new business to discuss. Ohio state is not on the call. Ohio has state has been inactive due to not attending coalition calls not attending Fall summit.
   b. DOH
i. Informal Poll - March 22nd-25th, March 29th-April 1st, April 5th-April 8th
   C: We want to take a quick poll in terms of potential attendance for Day on the Hill. I want to see where people’s thoughts are. We are checking hotel costs. This is a Sunday to Wednesday.
   Mich: all three work
   Rutgers: all three work
   A&M: March 22nd-25th, March 29th-1st, unsure on third
   Davis: all three work, but 29th-1st are last choice
   Irvine: all three
   San Diego: first two work
   Maryland: first two work, third don’t work
   Michigan: all three
   UNC: all three, week with the 5th is hardest
   Pitt: first week is last choice, but all three could work
   UT: first and third work for kat, all three work for christina (first is worst)
   UW: all three work, second two are optimal
   Chair: Thanks, all!
   Pitt: Last week is national grad and professional appreciation week, so that may be difficult
   UW: Would it be good to capitalize on that?
   Chair: Many schools have events at their schools that week
   c. Membership
   Chair: Leaving this discussion to open forum. We’re reaching out to our inactive members.

2. Vice Chair - Samantha Fuchs (vicechair.sage@gmail.com)
a. Fall Summit Summary
i. Drive Folder
   VC: Thanks to all for attending. We have info and photos on the drive link above. There’s a good info sheet, advice from our speakers, and advice on best practices. These will lead into conversations on the Pres calls.
      ii. Recap Document
   b. CPAGE Updates
      ii. CPAGE Event Fund here
   VC: CPAGE is offering this fund to use for advocacy events outside of your typical GSA budgets. This is ideal for funding outside of legal avenues for your GSAs, and use for food, printing, etc.
ii. **Funding:** Amazon Smile page [here](#), or by searching for "Council for the Promotion of American Graduate Education"

VC: You can donate automatically to CPAGE through Amazon by using CPAGE’s Smile account.

iii. Graduating? [Membership form](#)

VC: CPAGE membership application and information can be found at the link. Ideal if you are graduating. We will be meeting with CPAGE this week to go over details on our MOU and funding opportunities.

c. President’s Call 2

VC: This call will be focusing on unions. No date yet, because we are waiting to hear from our guest speaker on their schedule. Will probably be a week night the first week of December, between 8-10pm Eastern.

C: We will be speaking with the Comms director for UE. We’re excited to speak with him.

UA: Pending the speaker’s availability, a Monday would not be ideal for U of A, and we’d like to be on the call if possible.

C: We are still waiting to hear from the speaker, but we will keep that in mind.

3. **Political Director- Abbie Shew** ([policy.sage@gmail.com](mailto:policy.sage@gmail.com))

a. Working Groups

PD: I do not have much in terms of updates. I want you to be aware of the working groups sign up form. We are encouraging everyone to be signed up by the end of this week, the 15th. I am compiling a list of the signees to send to the working group chairs. Make sure you are sending the survey link to those at your institutions to find who are interested. Make sure you sign up!

UNC, Carlos: Is there is a maximum number you would limit working group sign up?

PD: There is no maximum. If as a chair you feel it isn’t manageable, that’s up to you.

UNC: After you send that email, are those folks automatically in the working group?

PD: We asked for top choice, and second choice on the form. So student finance has 10-11 signed up right now, may ask them to join less populated groups. Not because 10 may be too big, but because we want more distribution. But if they clicked it, they’re not tied to it.

UNC: Thank you.

VC: And if someone isn’t participating, you can kick them out.

UMich, Sarah: There will be a chair call next Monday to talk about details?

PD: Yes, next Monday, we’ll be having a call at this time. It’s not mandatory for all chairs to be there, but one per group will be great. Mostly logistics.

4. **Communications- Ashley Melnick** ([communications.sage@gmail.com](mailto:communications.sage@gmail.com))

a. Need Volunteers for Wisdom Wednesday!

Com: I hope that you are all following us on facebook and twitter. I am looking for more volunteers. We are reaching a lot of people, according to facebook logistics. If you are interested in being featured, tell us your name and institution. And if you don’t want to do it now, email me after the meeting.

b. Website for resources [http://www.sagecoalition.net/](http://www.sagecoalition.net/)

Com: I want to reiterate that the website is constantly being updated. Letters we have written, minutes for the calls.

c. Newsletter coming soon!

Com: If the recap isn’t enough, there will be a newsletter coming soon.

Maryland: If it encourages people, the facebook thing is really easy to do!

Com: Yes, it’s just name, institution, and a question or piece of advice.

UT Austin, Christina: Are you still looking to hear from voting members, or anyone?

Com: Anyone form the coalition

UT Austin: Cool, I’ll send you an email.

5. **Internal Affairs- Cody Love** ([internalaffairs.sage@gmail.com](mailto:internalaffairs.sage@gmail.com))
IA: Thank you so much for your participation in the internal affairs presentation at Fall Summit. I have interest for a few people who want to join the working group. I’ve been a bit busy working on my master’s thesis, but we will have a meeting before the end of the month to set up our direction for the next research. If you want to join, it’s never too late to jump in. Finance-wise, everything is paid up for Fall Summit.

**Old Business**

1. None

**New Business**

1. Proposal by NAGPS - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Chair: We, executive board received this email from NAGPS. In the spirit of transparency, we want to share this with you and provide some context. The President of NAGPS has reached out, prior to this year as well, wanting some collaboration between our two organizations. They want to push their advocacy piece of their organization. I had a conversation with their president at fall summit (he’s there at Arizona). He basically expressed interest in creating this MOU as a way to share information. Part of their argument is that they could provide resources we are lacking. We already have an MOU with CPAGE.

VC: NAGPS - they’re public and private, larger, charge membership fees. Don’t have the same clout on the hill according to UT Austin governmental lobbyist.

UMich: I think you have institutional knowledge that is not clear to me.

Arizona: SAGE broke away from NAGPS because their numbers, strategy on advocacy is not as strong. They do bring in a lot of numbers, So, staffers can say, ‘this number of people came and spoke up.’ What’s in this MOU though, is different. Licensing is very different. On the website as a partner, maybe, but ‘you promote it, use our logo’ is odd. My experience has been both positive, I’ve had president come to speak to me (ASU, not UA). They go full-fledged at some things in a panic, not necessarily thinking through things before taking a stance. I think if we’re going to build an MOU with them there should be something substantial. More of the calls to action, and advocacy. Not ‘one decides to do something and tags on the other’s name.’

Chair: Thank you for details and background. One thing to note was the MOU was directly from the NAGPS President. If there was something we wanted to move forward on, there would be substantial discussion and amendments possible.

Chair: I will also note that their executive board has more power in making decisions for sudden issues. They have more autonomy in that sense. SAGE has a process with the coalition for making those decisions. That’s something to think about with how we go forward with certain issues. For example, the tax bill. Two years ago, we wrote a letter and sought approval from the coalition, but NAGPS responded very quickly.

UT Austin: Thinking about this, and our membership discussion in the next agenda item. An MOU might be a way to reach out to more schools without changing our membership

Maryland: We are also in both organizations. I’m less comfortable talking about NAGPS, I went to a regional conference. They’re organized at the regional level, so there’s more reliance on the regions to be able to put it all together. I’ve heard the northeast region does well. Does anyone else know about that regional structure.

Chair: Personally, I do not. Would the coalition benefit from having and explanation of how NAGPS operates?

UA: The regional organization doesn’t affect how legislative affairs operates. We coordinate with ASU, so that’s a benefit. Regional doesn’t have sway on the national advocacy.

Chair: Any other comments?

Com: Reading note from Gwen, UCD: they elected new board this weekend. They still on board?
Chair: No, did not know that. Thank you for bringing that up. We’ll need to double check. This is the first initial conversation about this. We’ll contact their leadership, get more information to continue having this conversation.

Com: Reading from note from Gwen: Brad Sommer from Carnegie Mellon is new President.

**Announcements/Open Forum**

1. SAGE Membership Requirements - R1 and public
   a. Quick history of bylaws amendments before discussion

Chair: After the 2016 elections, multiple schools wanted to join (AAU, public, private, non-AAU). We had previously had two years of shrinkage. AAU has 62 schools, 31 are public, and not all of them have a graduate student organization. The removal of the AAU designation was to increase membership since there was a struggle with membership, particularly with reaching quorum. We didn’t have a formal relationship with AAU, so it made sense to remove the AAU requirement.

VC: ADditionally, in the backstory we opened from AAU, because those schools are typically all democratic districts and R1s cover more breadth.

UMich: Our statement on website says we represent across the nation.

UA: Disagree, we are national.

UMich, Sarah: Transparency is necessary. We should be clear on the website, that we are R1 public.

VC: Yes, we can change that to be clear.

UMich. Caroline: My concern is not the transparency, but the principle. Why only R1? On the home page we say public universities. To echo Marshall, to be clear what we represent, we need to be explicit. The argument I made at Fall Summit, is that this is not inclusive. If you are advocating, not on behalf of all, but you are advocating for things that are going affect all, and you’re going out of your way to exclude people that these laws are going to affect, I have a problem with that. This isn’t just about language. This is about the action that follows that language.

UMich, RJ: As shared by a speaker, representation is the backbone of the advocacy. By having classification on R1, we are excluding a huge part of graduate students at our table. Most of the issues we discuss are universal. I’ve heard arguments against it are logistics.

UCSD: You all bring up good points, but I’m thinking about - what would differentiate us from NAGPS? We hone in specifically on research universities. That gives us an identity within the advocacy sphere. We also try to support increased funding for research. That helps support the fact that we are a coalition of research institutions.

UT: Building on that, it would be interesting to know more about NAGPS to see what they do compared to us. Their DC advocacy? What is the utility of doing the same thing as them, versus representing a specific group?

Chair: NAGPS does their own legislative days, twice a year.

UMich, Marshall: Two big things that differentiate us from NAGPS - organizational structure and exec board power, and that they don’t do data-driven advocacy. Neither of these things would necessarily be affected if we change our membership criteria. (added after the fact)

PD: Advocacy perspective on this: In terms of thinking through white paper asks and the structure of working groups (and anticipated topics for the next year) all impact institutions, but I would push back that they impact all institutions the same way. I am open to discussion to expanding R2s, but not for private since they are so very different, legislatively.

UA: I’ve really been thinking about this at our institutions - they want to know what institutions that look like us are doing. We may not agree with how universities have been categorized, but the administrations want to know what our peers are doing, how we compare. We need that for
advocacy at the institutional side to know what other R1 institutions are doing, hearing from you guys. This is something that administrators.
UMich, Caroline: I want to echo Marshall’s point. The research point is the only one that sets us apart from an R2. They’re still R2s, and that doesn’t seem justifiable to me. You can walk and chew gum at the same time. That could be a break out group at SAGE. I agree that private is another ball game. Mental health is on a broader landscape.
VC: From the membership perspective, even though we opened up to non-AAU, we have had no other participation. We need to actively recruit if we want other new members.
Umich, Lucca: invite-only. We still need to decide as a coalition to choose them. It’s not that hard to reach out.
VC: It is actually very difficult to do, Manny and I have been trying to get inactives back for 6 months.
Chair: From the executive end, I’ll take these comments, along with questions about NAGPS, to see what we can do moving forward. We’ll gather information from everybody. I know that’s vague, but this is great feedback.
VC: Bylaws amendments are voted on at our in person conferences, so we have plenty of coalition calls for discussion before Day on the Hill.
Chair: Please reach out if you want to expand on anything. Thank you for sharing your thoughts!

Events
1. Next Coalition call December 9th, 9pm EST
2. Next President’s Call - ?

Open Forum
UMich, Sarah: I would appreciate if Exec would set up a call specifically for this, since we keep getting limited by time.
UCSD, I’d be down.
UNC, Hallee, yes
VC: Okay, we’ll schedule something for the topic.

UMD: I wanted to follow up on a few other topics. How do I support the bench-marking, data research?
Chair: That’s for being in contact with Cody.
UMD: Thank you.
IA: Yes, we’ll be putting together surveys for more information.
UMD: Awesome, thank you Cody!

Chair: Motion to adjourn?
UMD motions, UA seconds. Unanimous approval.