SAGE Coalition Call  
December 9th, 2019, 9pm EST  
Zoom Link to call in: [https://unc.zoom.us/j/854092373](https://unc.zoom.us/j/854092373)

Call started:

### Attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Attending</th>
<th>Attending Reps</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Danielle Jones</td>
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<td>The Ohio State University</td>
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<td>Rutgers University</td>
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<td>Tamr A tieh, Nathaniel Flores</td>
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<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
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<td>Dylan Barton</td>
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<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>Eric Hernandez</td>
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<td>University of California-San Diego</td>
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<td>Quynh Nguyen</td>
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<td>University of Maryland, College Park</td>
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<td>Annie Rappeport</td>
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<td>University of Michigan</td>
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<td>Ashley Melnick, Marshall, Sarah Bork</td>
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<td>University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill</td>
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<td>Manny Hernandez, Karson Nelson, Carlos Patino Descovich, Chastan Swain</td>
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<td>University of Texas-Austin</td>
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<td>Samantha Fuchs, Kathryn Abercrombie</td>
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<td>University of Washington</td>
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<td>Abbie Shew, Maggie Dunham Jordahl</td>
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<td>Total in Attendance</td>
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**Approval of Minutes:**

1. **November Coalition Call**
   a. November Coalition Call minutes can be found [here](#)
C: Motion to approve?
UC Davis, Michigan seconds - unanimous approval.

2. Special November Call
   a. November Special Call on Membership Eligibility minutes can be found here
C: Definitely recommend everyone look this over. We had a great conversation with a lot of insights.
VC: Need to approve this, even though it wasn’t a standard call so that we can post it officially for transparency.
UT Austin motions, Michigan seconds. Unanimous approval.

3. President’s Call 2
   a. Minutes can be found here
C: We had our second President’s call, conversations around unionization and conversations around it. Emails for our guest speakers are on there and available to answer questions. Do I hear a motion to approve the president’s call?
Maryland motions, UArizona seconds. Unanimous approval.

Executive Board Reports
   1. Chair- Manny Hernandez (chair.sage@gmail.com)
      a. Potential Membership Ad hoc committee
C: From our conversation on the special membership call on eligibility, on R1 requirements, and R2 institutions. Part of the conversation has driven the need to gather more information, to think about what recommendation we would need to make to update our policy and bylaws, and more importantly, what that would mean for membership. This is the need for an ad hoc coordinator or committee who would like to be in a group. We would look at broad questions and recommend how we would change our bylaws AND our day-to-day policies. There could also be a recommendation to make a permanent membership director.
UNC: So this is.. Exploratory?
C: It is, for getting information. But also considering retention and recruitment. Multiple things at play. Something that an individual or group of individuals can provide information.
UNC: If this is voted on, when?
C: When we want. It’s something that would be created, position would last until Day on the Hill.
VC: This came directly out of our membership call, of asking more questions about the membership change and what it would actually affect us in day to day operations. This committee would have multiple members to research and come to a consensus and present back to the coalition what they found.

2. Vice Chair- Samantha Fuchs (vicechair.sage@gmail.com)
   a. President’s Call
   i. Call 2 on Unions
VC: Last week we had our President’s call. Not as well attended but very useful, delved into legal aspects of right to work states, how to build support, how to operate in “right to work” states and put pressure on admin. UW Union very helpful in this. Please check the minutes and keep talking about unions.
   ii. Call 3
VC: Next Pres Call in mid Feb. Mental Health is the most popular request. May be a more open roundtable conversation, as no one has requested a guest speaker. We could bring in an APA speaker.
UA: May be nice to have a roundtable discussion on best practices. We are building a white paper based on internal research here, and we’d love to share and hear what other people are doing.
U Pitt: I agree, but it would also be nice to have a guest speaker with expertise or experience.
VC: I will try to get a guest speaker. Bylaws say we are supposed to have four, so Feb would be good to give us time for a fourth.

Mental Health Chair: Can UA and Pitt add their info to our working group folder?
UA: At Fall Summit I reached out to the chair, I’d be happy to share.
Pitt: Our info is in the folder already.

b. SAGE-CPAGE MOU
VC: CPAGE is our sister/alumni organization and our financial arm. Our relationship is governed by an MOU (memorandum of understanding). This is not a legally binding contract, but it does guide our relationship in writing. It will expire this Spring, so we need to vote to renew it this DOH. Please find the original and edited version below. If you have suggestions, questions, or comments, please add them to the google doc below. We'd like to have edits made by Jan, a final draft by Feb, so that we are ready to quickly vote in DC.

C: If there are any questions or substantial changes, we will be sure to circulate the answer to the entire coalition. We're in contact with CPAGE about this.

UNC: Could you summarize the differences?
IA: Some wording changes about the nature of our relationship, like ‘future-binding contract’ between us, we changes to ‘future non-binding contract’ so that we will continue to be governed by an MOU. Some edits to officers. No dramatic changes to the relationship.

UNC: Thank you.

i. SAGE-CPAGE MOU 2018-2020
ii. SAGE-CPAGE for review

4. Political Director- Abbie Shew (policy.sage@gmail.com)
   a. DoH Dates
   PD: In the new business section, we will be voting on proposed dates for DoH. In our poll, the dates were very close, but the later set of dates were preferable. After that vote, I will reach out to legislators to start scheduling meetings, which is very exciting.
   b. Jan call vote on Legislator of the Year
   PD: In the Jan call, we will vote on legislator of the year. This is an award to a legislator who has been a very active proponent of graduate education in legislation. We have had three proposed nominations. We have nominations still open through the January call. We want to do this early so we can schedule a meeting with the actual Legislator. It was disappointing to only give Bobby Scott’s award to an intern last year. If we vote in January, we will have enough time to schedule a meet and greet. Any questions? Does anyone else come to mind for a nomination?
   UC Davis: Mark Pocan, given the great talk about unionization. He is from Wisconsin. He recently proposed ‘Respect Graduate Student Workers Act’ which would protect our right to unionize - in public - I mean private schools.
   PD: Also for Day on the Hill, I will be compiling a list of legislators I would like to schedule for SAGE day, in education committees. State day is coordinated by your school. But, if there are any legislators you want to meet with personally, or you think SAGE should definitely meet with that isn't obvious. Send me an email and I will try to get that arranged.
   c. WG chairs - be ready to present on Jan call
   PD: Working group chairs, you will all be given your progress reports and your anticipated asks. VC: If State and SAGE day overlap, who gets dibs? And how early should people get the list of their interested legislators to you?
P: State gets dibs, if it’s their state. You will schedule your STATE Day! If there is someone that you can’t meet with on state day, cause they’re busy, we can try to get them for SAGE day. You might not be able to.

UNC: We have about 10 people in our group, and with time limitations, we haven't been able to have everyone meet in one meeting. With a high number, it's difficult to coordinate.
UMich, Sarah: We’ve had similar logistical concerns. Two meetings, first was many people, second people was for those who couldn’t make the first. The way we’ve been mitigating is clear documentation, and clear assigned goals or tasks. We understand we won’t get everyone at once. Separate 30 minute calls for face-to-face if everyone needs.
UNC: Great suggestions. Are you expecting that to continue?
UMich: Yes, everyone will have a time eventually to look at the working paper. Even though there won’t be one meeting for everyone to chat at once, everyone’s voice will be heard.
UT Austin, co-chair for sexual misconduct: Ditto everything you said. We’ve been struggling, but documentation and email correspondence have been helping.
PD: Great suggestions. And a reminder to the chair, it is up to you have you want to run meetings. But it is up to you if you want to go through the effort of finding a time for everyone, or multiple meetings, or have one assuming not everyone will make it. Keep the others updated via email and google folders.
VC: This is better than a working group of 1.
PD: Yes, these are great problems to have. Too many people and scheduling is much more positive than last year.
4. Communications- Ashley Melnick (communications.sage@gmail.com)
a. DoH prep sheet
Com: I have one update. I am going to be working on a Day on the Hill Prep sheet. I know some of you will be there the first time, and some will have been there a million times. It'll explain things to do, what to wear, definition of business formal, that sort of things. If you have suggestions of things you have done that you suggest, or wish you had known, email me.
5. Internal Affairs- Cody Love (internalaffairs.sage@gmail.com)
a. SAGE Account Balance
b. Working Group
IA: CPAGE has moved SAGE funds into a separate paypal account dedicated for us. They had sent me a ledger. $1241.78 is our current balance. Me and the folks at CPAGE are working on keeping track of our money at the same time. We’re getting to a better place. Any questions?
IA: Working group is getting coordinated on meeting up to put together surveys for the spring on internal research on finances. If you’re interested in joining, it’s never too late. We’re meeting this week, if you’re interested.
Old Business
1. Proposal by NAGPS - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
C: We have received a proposed MOU from NAGPS. They have a new executive board, since they had elections since this was sent. They are still interested, but they have questions for us. And we have questions. We would like to have a conversation with their new executive board, so we can ask each other questions. We would like to ensure we are asking questions that YOU, the coalition wants us to ask. If you have questions you want us to bring up, reach out to us and we'll compile them. I don’t think the document itself is comment-able, so just look at it.
UA: Where should we send those questions?
C: Just email us.
UNC: You had mentioned that NAGPS had changed presidents, and that it was the previous president who was excited about it. So what’s their perspective?
C: Yes, we have made contact with the new board, new as of last month. They are still interested in moving forward.
New Business
1. Nominations for Ad Hoc Membership Coordinator or Committee
C: Any nominators for an ad hoc membership coordinator or committee. The document is listed under Chair report. I will entertain any nominations. This is for looking at membership change, implications of R1 vs R2, and looking at practices for retention and recruitment. UMich, Marshall, I would like to nominate myself and RJ Batas from Michigan. UNC, Chastan: I will self-nominate as well. VC: Anybody want to be in charge? C: Let’s go ahead and make this an ad hoc committee. VC: According to our bylaws, the Chair has officially formed the membership ad hoc committee,appointing these three individuals. MSU: Yes Rutgers: Yes UA: Yea Davis: Yea Irvine: Yes San Diego: Yea Maryland: Yea Michigan: Yes UNC: Yea UT: Yea UW: Yea 10 Ayes. The membership committee is formed. C: We’ll email you three afterwards to start.

2. Day on the Hill - Exec Board Proposed Date: March 29th-April 1st C: We got responses from the poll, and this date worked best. Not necessarily for everyone, but for the majority. We now have to have approval from the coalition for this to be confirmed. Are there any comments first? UCDavis: That conflicts with the AAAS casework workshop. UMich: This is the intro to policy version for the AAAS fellowship. C: We’ll keep that in mind. We did have a poll. UtAustin: Can you outline the procedure if a chair can’t make it, or a delegate can’t make it? C: For chairs, it seems that at least one of the chairs can make it. PD: Yes, each of the working groups had at least one chair had at least one delegate who can make it. C: And with the voting member, there is the option for a second delegate for voting power. VC: We can also do as we did for Fall Summit, with conference calling in for the first two days. C: Motions? UCSD motions to vote, UNC seconds. MSU: Yes Rutgers: Yes UA: Yes Davis: No Irvine: Yes San Diego: Yes Maryland: Yes Michigan: Yes UNC: Yes UT Austin: Yes UW: No 9-2-0. The motion passes.
C: We will officially be having our Day on the Event from March 29th-April 1st, 2020. I know there are issues, but we will do the best we can.
VC: And we will get you hotel block room rates as soon as possible so you can start budgeting travel.

**Announcements/Open Forum**

**Events**

1. Next Coalition call January 13th, 9pm EST
C: Motion to adjourn?
Maryland motion, UCSD seconds. All in favor.
Meeting adjourns at 9:53pm EST.