

Message from the Grad Student Chair: Welcome Back

Happy New Year! (Hopefully, this is the last time you'll read that in an email for 2025!) I hope your holiday season was restful, filled with family, friends, and perhaps a bit of reflection and planning for the year ahead. If you're interested, I've shared my own thoughts on 2025 and a fun look back at my Spotify Wrapped from last year: [2024 in Review, My Spotify Wrapped: We Listen and We Don't Judge](#).

I also hope your first week back wasn't as hectic as mine.

To kick off this year, I'm experimenting with a new, more structured newsletter format. Your feedback is welcome—please let me know how it can be improved. This edition includes a brief campuswide GSA update, news from the Chancellor's search committee, reminders about conference travel, and key departmental dates and information.

Also, if you're attending WPSA or MPSA and haven't already, please fill out this [survey](#). Lastly, I want to acknowledge the devastating fires currently affecting Southern California. Many of you have been closely following these events, and some of our colleagues—both graduate students and faculty—may be, or have already been, directly impacted. On behalf of all graduate students, our thoughts are with those affected. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you need any support or assistance.



UAW UPDATE



As many of you know, our union ratified a contract extension late last year. This extension shifts the contract's expiration from May to December 31, with new contract negotiations set to begin in July. The extension also includes a 4% raise starting in October, and all campuses will pilot a transitional funding program as part of the agreement.

For more details about the contract extension and ratification, please visit the union's website: <https://www.uaw4811.org/ase-ratification-vote>.

Lastly, our union has selected me as a new delegate, the Inland Empire Labor Council (our AFL-CIO affiliate).

New Chancellor Search

As a reminder, Chancellor Wilcox will be stepping down later this summer, and President Drake has formed a committee to lead the selection process for his successor. Last week, the committee visited campus to hear from various UCR stakeholder groups, which delayed this newsletter's release by a week. I had the privilege of testifying on behalf of UCR graduate students, with invaluable support from several GSA members who helped shape my testimony. I'd also like to thank everyone who completed the survey I circulated—your input was instrumental in addressing what we want in our next chancellor.

To learn more about the chancellor search process, please visit chancellorsearch.ucr.edu. You can also provide written feedback on the search using their [online feedback form](#).

Additionally, town halls with the search committee are scheduled for this week. The student town hall is happening today, January 13th, from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM. You can register to attend here: [Student Town Hall Registration](#).

For faculty members receiving this email, the faculty town hall is also today, from 3:15 PM to 4:15 PM. The registration link is here : [Faculty Town Hall Registration](#).

UCR GSA UPDATE

The January GSA meeting focused primarily on administrative matters. An interim Finance Officer was appointed to fill the vacancy left by the previous officer, who recently graduated. The Graduate Council has decided to permanently fill the position through an appointment process, with details on how to apply coming soon from the GSA communications office. We also updated the bylaws. As always, be sure to check out the GradSuccess Padlet for upcoming events and resources: <https://padlet.com/ucrgradsuccess>.



UPCOMING EVENTS

IF YOU HAVE EVENTS YOU WOULD LIKE ADDED TO THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE
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Speaker Series

- Monday, January 13 (12:10 PM-1:20 PM - HMNSS 1503) -- [Constantine Manda](#) (UC Irvine) will give a talk entitled "Gods, Kings, and Missionaries: Legacies of Ancient States and Christian Missionaries on Religion in Africa"
- Monday, February 3 (12:10 PM-1:20 PM - room TBD) -- [James Martel](#) (San Francisco State University) will give a talk entitled "Countering Left-Wing Melancholia: Lessons from Past and Present Political Forms that Win"
- Monday, February 24 (12:10 PM-1:20 PM - room TBD) - [Kenneth Scheve](#) (Yale University) will give a talk entitled "Market Power and Distorted Democracy in the Progressive Era"

Talks

- Book Talk: Monday, March 10 (12:10 PM-1:20 PM - room TBD) - [Kevin Pham](#) (University of Amsterdam & UCR Alumnus) will give a talk about his recent book entitled "The Architects of Dignity: Vietnamese Visions of Decolonization" ([link](#))
- Political Economy Talk: Thursday, January 23 (12:00 PM-1:20 PM - HMNSS 1500) - [Rosanne Logeart](#) (Copenhagen Business School) will give a talk entitled "Does Access mean Success? Connection to Policy-Makers and Lobbying Success of Political Actors"

Conferences

- [Southern CA Political Conference](#): Friday, January 24 (9 AM-5 PM - Rooms TBD) - We will be holding the Southern California Political Behavior Conference at UCR.
- [MPSA](#): Thursday, April 3rd to Sunday, April 6th in Chicago, IL.
- [WPSA](#): April 17th to 19th in Seattle, WA.

As always, please feel free to reach out if you need anything!

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