



3-2021

## The Pacifcan March 2021

University of the Pacific

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/pacifcan>

---

### Recommended Citation

University of the Pacific, "The Pacifcan March 2021" (2021). *All Issues - Student Newspaper, The Pacifcan, Pacific Weekly*. 1179.

<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/pacifcan/1179>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspaper, The Pacifcan, Pacific Weekly at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Issues - Student Newspaper, The Pacifcan, Pacific Weekly by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [mgibney@pacific.edu](mailto:mgibney@pacific.edu).

Mar 26 Written By Liliana Lopez

# PACS to be Guttled for New GE Program



Liliana  
Lopez

Editor in  
Chief

Third  
Year  
History  
and  
English  
Majors  
with a  
Religious  
Studies  
Minor

A part of  
The  
Pacifcan  
since  
2019

Ever since 2006, PACS (Pacific seminar) courses have been a graduation requirement for all Pacific undergraduate students. That's about to change.

PACS is a part of the GE, or, general education system. The purpose of the GE system is to expand students' knowledge, and to allow them to connect their major to other areas of study. At Pacific, 3 PACS courses are a part of that requirement. Generally speaking, students take PACS 1 and 2 during their freshman year, and PACS 3 during their senior year. These classes explore the broad philosophical and ethical questions of "what is a good society?" and "what is an ethical life?" They are taught by faculty members in various departments, mostly from the College. These courses are not uniform, as faculty usually tailor them to their own departmental and research interests.

However, the university has decided to discontinue the PACS program, starting in Fall 2021. This comes along with a redesigning of the GE program as a whole. Dr. Christopher Goff, professor of mathematics and Director of General Education, explains some of these changes.

"The new program consists of two seminars, CORE 1 and CORE 2, seven breadth areas, and the diversity requirement," he says. Unlike in the current GE program, there is no CORE 3 to replace PACS

3, and the GE breadth requirements have been reduced from nine to seven.

The new program will take effect in the fall, with the class of 2025 being the first students to take CORE 1. Sophomore, juniors, and seniors, who are caught in between the two GE programs, may either opt for the new program, or, if they stay in the old one, may take an additional class that fulfills GE 2A or 2B instead of PACS.

The CORE classes will still be somewhat similar in content to the PACS classes. According to Dr. Goff, CORE 1 will focus on exploring a “wicked” problem, which “cuts across multiple disciplines, and has unclear, often contested pathways towards a solution.” CORE 1 will also be “writing intensive,” and teach students oral and written communications skills, as well as information literacy. CORE 2 will focus on critical thinking. As with PACS, there will not be a set curriculum for the CORE courses, and professors will be able to design the courses as they like.

For seniors such as Mackenzie Wieland, Graphic Design, ‘21, the new CORE classes (and reduced) set of requirements is something that they won’t be able to benefit from. For her, the CORE program sounds very much like the PACS program, which she says “had no influence in my major or person. I see the PACS program as another set of hurdles to jump over in the collective group of requirements to graduate.” Wieland sees the PACS courses more as general overviews of a topic or a question, without much room for the reflection that the classes are said to offer.

Some students such as Namorrah Ward, English, ‘24, however, see the focus of PACS in a very different way. For Ward, PACS serves as an “introduction to how college works. The first class will introduce you to the modes of writing and thinking that will be required going forward and the second one gives you a chance to practice that on a chosen topic.” She sees such a class as a good starting point for incoming freshmen, as it exposes them to some of the academic expectations that they will encounter at Pacific. Additionally, Ward says, PACS courses have helped her explore ethics and “improve my writing skills and critical thinking.”

Wieland is correct in thinking that the new CORE curriculum is intended to be an “alternative to the [PACS] program that may act in the same way just under another name.” Nevertheless we remain curious to see how this new program plays out for both students and instructors.

Mar 26 Written By Angel Zhong

# ASuop Elections Continue Through the Pandemic

Angel  
Zhong

Like every other aspect of campus life, the Associated Students of the University of the Pacific (ASuop) Elections have had to undergo a significant and unprecedented transition this year to an entirely remote, virtual format. In the past, candidates' flyers and faces were, by this time of the year, a familiar sight at many of Pacific's social hotspots—the DeRosa University Center, the McCaffrey Center, etc. Many current students can likely recall listening to the ASuop Presidential and Vice Presidential debate while enjoying a meal with friends in the Lair.

Outreach has been a particular challenge for both candidates and election officials. Social media is both expansive and limiting as a primary campaign platform. On one hand, it enables a single Instagram post or story to be ostensibly seen and interacted with by potentially hundreds of prospective constituents in a relatively short period of time; on the other, its scope is generally restricted to people already familiar to oneself. Scout Cooper-Wilson, Critical and Cultural Studies and Economics, '22, an ASuop presidential hopeful, has experienced this.

"Online we can't reach the people that we don't already know," she said. "Because when you're on campus you're able to run into strangers you know at the UC or the library or something like that, but online you can't. That's just not how the internet works. You can't find people you're not looking for."

This sentiment is echoed by fellow presidential candidate Reese Romero, Music Performance - Horn, '23, as well as Jasmin Arenal, Sociology, '21, the Elections coordinator.

"Last year, we were actually able to host the events in person, and it kind of gives that more personal kind of connection," Arenal said. "So I think that maybe, just like on a personal level, getting to know the candidates and things like that wasn't as intimate as it could have been if we were in person."

"The biggest challenge that I know is just getting people involved and engaged," stated Romero. "And making sure that people know what's happening, that people are aware of voting, or even if they know the elections are happening."

Nevertheless, both the Elections organizers and the candidates have invested considerable time, energy, and creativity into overcoming this hurdle, and their substantial efforts have produced fruitful results. Though turnout to recent Elections' events—such as the Presidential and Vice Presidential Debate and the Senator Town Hall—did not fully match last year's, students did attend and exhibit active interest in

and engagement with their future representatives despite the present era of Zoom fatigue. Arenal attributes this to the dedication and enthusiasm of the candidates.

“It really has been the candidates and other Pacific students that have pushed this [election] forward, I would say,” shared Arenal.

Beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, both presidential tickets have aspirations of building a more robust Pacific community through their roles in ASuop. Areesh Ilyas, Political Science and Computer Science, ‘22, Romero’s running mate, aims to strengthen the link between ASuop and the broader Pacific student population.

“What I’m familiar with is ASuop’s relationship with the student body, because I’ve been in that student body for the past three years,” she said. “So that’s the dynamic; Reese’s focus is on the internal structure and making sure it’s open to the student body, and I want to foster further relationships and enhance [ASuop’s] relationship with the student body.”

Similarly, Tierra Smithson, Political Science, ‘22, Cooper-Wilson’s running mate, wishes to cultivate more individualized, personal connections between ASuop officers and their constituents through the implementation of programs such as an ASuop book club and coffee talks that would be open to all students.

Regardless of the Elections’ outcomes, ASuop is an organization that is driven by the motto “students serving students.” Besides voting, be sure to assert your voice by attending or watching Senate meetings, going to ASuop office hours, and reaching out to your representatives.

Here is a quick look at this year’s ballot:

**President and Vice President:**

*Ticket One:* Scout Wilson, Tierra Smithson

*Ticket Two:* Reese Romero, Areesh Ilyas

**Candidates for schools/colleges:**

Mah Noor, School of Engineering and Computer Science

Madeline Brown, School of International Studies

Jane Hwang, College of the Pacific

Ana Jimenez, College of the Pacific

Emily Winsatt, Conservatory of Music

Mario Di Santi, Eberhardt School of Business

Heather Greenup, Graduate School

Serena Young, Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health

**Senator at Large:**

Ainsley Berryhill

Marissa Gandolfo-Gillaspy

Joaquin Gonzalez

Taylor Lam

Arshita Sandhiparthi

Matthew Sontoyo

Lorenzo Spacarelli



Mar 26 Written By Isabel Acevedo

# Recalling Gavin Newsom

Isabel  
Acevedo

Editor

Third  
Year  
English  
Major  
with  
Writing  
and Film  
Studies  
MinorsA part of  
The  
Pacifcan  
since  
2020

On March 19, 2021, almost two million signatures were turned in aiming to recall the 40th governor of California, Gavin Newsom. If the recall process continues, Californians will then decide in a matter of months whether or not to recall the current governor. Currently, as the signatures are waiting to be verified, many people are taking a look at his time as governor and how he dealt with the nation-wide COVID-19 pandemic, which, like several other government officials, he and his office had little preparation for.

Newsom was elected governor of California in January 2019 with 62 percent of the vote. He ran on a platform that aimed at expanding and standing up for California's values. One of the ways he would do this was through fixing the affordability crisis in the state. This goal was aimed to help families that could no longer afford the Californian dream. As a Democrat, he also had similar pledges to that of his party's pledges. He aimed to jumpstart the marriage-equality movement which aimed to normalize and protect same-sex marriages. Newsom also had a plan to pass universal healthcare as well as push gun-safety and criminal justice reforms. He pledged to make California a noteworthy model of inclusive and progressive government for the rest of the nation to see.

The year 2020, however, proved to be an especially challenging obstacle for Newsom's plans as governor. After just one year in office, Governor Newsom faced a record wildfire season, a deadly pandemic, and an economic decline as a result of businesses shutting down due to a nation-wide

mandated quarantine. In fact, it was his handling of the pandemic that has made this recent recall attempt gain far more traction than its predecessors.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Governor Newsom issued a stay-at-home order and began shutting down public places such as beaches, schools, and small businesses. Due to this, many people thought he was being too restrictive and causing small businesses to struggle, therefore declining local economies. Most voters hated his restrictive tactics; they hated even more when he opted out of his own stay-at-home order to attend a birthday dinner of a long-time friend which was at a restaurant that hosted many people outside of his household. This hypocrisy angered several people who called out Newsom for failing to lead by example. He has since apologized, but the damage was already done. His popularity as governor was decreasing.

Despite his shortcomings, Governor Newsom is determined to continue his duties as governor, one of which is ensuring that Californians receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The stay-at-home order is still in effect, as it is still crucial to quarantine and stay safe while vaccinations are being distributed. He tweeted by saying he refuses to be distracted by the recall against him, but he is determined to fight it.

Although Gavin Newsom's term as governor is not one filled with perfect choices and zero mistakes, he was faced with a challenging situation that was new for everyone. He had to make a choice that could sacrifice a lot of American lives. Opening small businesses could lead to more cases, which meant they had to close even if it meant a blow to the economy. He supported California hospitals as much as he could and updated California residents on COVID-19 updates and protocols as much as he could. Although he did not take the pandemic as seriously as I would have liked in the beginning, his stay-at-home order did help the case numbers stabilize in counties that followed the order. Given the sudden emergence of the pandemic and its unfamiliarity, it could be argued that Governor Newsom simply tried his best in a year that left every Californian questioning when their new normal was going to end. If the vote passes, it will be up to California residents to decide whether or not Gavin Newsom's best was enough.

Mar 26 Written By Jasmin Prasad

# Stockton’s UBI: The Progress Achieved When the Poor are not Criminalized



Jasmin Prasad

Editor

Third Year 3+3  
Pre-Pharmacy  
Major with a  
Communications  
Minor

A part of The  
Pacifcan since  
2020

Imagine being able to *breathe* after years of disparity: with no help from those in your community who would otherwise criminalize you for nothing other than your socioeconomic status. This is unfortunately the experience of many nationwide, but thankfully, the recipients of Stockton UBI were able to take a breath.

Guaranteed income programs are coming to different parts of California: namely Oakland and Marin County. It is important to note, however, that this does not come randomly: it is after the success of the UBI implemented in Stockton by the previous Mayor Michael Tubbs.

The Oakland and Marin County UBI’s are being conducted in a way similar to the one proposed by Tubbs; where in Stockton, \$500 was given to 125 people. In Oakland \$500 is being given to 600 people, and in Marin, \$1,000 is being given to 125 people.

The success and influence of the Stockton UBI obviously begs the question: what made it work?

Perhaps it was steering away from the criminalization of the poor: trusting that these individuals will put the money to good use. This is opposed to the backwards -- and criminalized -- thinking that money given to poor people would go to alcohol and drugs.

For some, it may be hard to wrap their head around the idea that those beneath the median household income would actually use the money for good -- after all, this is a Randian capitalist’s nightmare.

It is important to recognize here, the difference between the UBI conducted by former Mayor Tubbs and that proposed by former presidential candidate, Andrew Yang.

Professor Sharmila King, the Chair/Professor of Pacific’s Economics department comments on the funding for Yang’s proposal: “I don’t know how [Yang] would finance it... through borrowing funds from the national government, the federal government, or increases in taxes on the ultra rich.”

Conversely, the Stockton UBI was funded from donor money.



“I think there was a lot of angst [about Tubb’s proposal]... people asking why they are paying for it when they weren’t. It was donor funds,” King says.

A quick look at the statistics should convince anyone who is still skeptical about the success of a UBI program. According to SEED (the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration), *less* than 1% of the money given was spent on alcohol or tobacco. Where, 37% went to food, 22% to home goods and clothes (which included dollar stores and Walmart), 10% to auto costs, and 11% to utilities. It was also reported that those who received the money went from “part time to full time employment at more than twice the rate of those who didn’t...a 12 percentage point increase in the recipients full-time employment.”

The most critical part of the data collected by SEED doesn’t necessarily deal with the data. Those who received the money saw improved health coupled with less anxiety.

According to an article written by NPR, a team of independent researchers found the same results when studying Stockton analytics for a year since February 2019.

NPR found that “full-time employment rose... financial, physical, and emotional health improved... [there are] new opportunities for self determination.”

Money was able to go to areas that were otherwise ignored like “caring for ill family members, school or sports supplies, transport to doctor’s appointments... commonly utilized by women who typically bear the brunt of most unpaid work.”

It is pertinent to note that UBI should not then be considered as a replacement for safety nets or welfare programs: many of these are safety programs intended for the survival of children and families.

King mentions a great example of how UBI acting as a replacement is disastrous in the case of emergency. “For about 40% of Americans -- if they had a \$400 emergency, let’s suppose a tire goes out or their car breaks down -- they wouldn’t be able to afford to get a replacement because they wouldn’t have the cash on hand,” says King.

Having guaranteed income is especially critical during the times of economic turmoil the country has seen due to COVID-19. However, there are still proponents who spout claims of possible inflation.

“\$500 in the grand scheme of things is not a lot of money. If you limit the \$500 to those who are close to the poverty line right below median income and don’t give it to those individuals who don’t need it then it’s very unlikely that it’s going to be enough to push up the inflation rate,” King warrants.

With some of the most common criticisms dispelled and with the statistics given, it is still clear that there is more work that needs to be done. Best put in the words of King, the fact that 40% of Americans wouldn’t be able to sustain an accident monetarily “is a disgrace in the richest country in the world.”

Criminalization of the poor does nothing to reduce societal ills or to empower them to lift them out of poverty.

“We hear all the time that the poor are just lazy... it’s not laziness whatsoever, it’s because they are trapped in their situation and they’re trapped by the fact that they’re struggling from day to day,” says King.