

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday December 3, 2002
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cordero, Dahle, DerManuelian, Eastman, Harmetz, LaFlamme, Lam, Leyco, McLaren, Nelson, Styczynski, Yu

ABSENT: Clark, Diaz, Grace, McElwain, Neal, Tuttle, Wilson

GUESTS: Thai-Anthony Lam, Gideon Baum, Stephen Klass, Matthew Kaczmarek, Menaka Fernando

I. A. Call to Order

-Due to the absence of quorum, Dahle called the meeting to order as a Committee of the Whole. He explained to Council that without quorum, they would not be able to take action at this meeting but would be able to discuss the non-action items, and receive reports and announcements.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

-Due to the absence of quorum, attendance was not recorded at this meeting.

II. Approval of the Agenda

-Due to the absence of quorum, the Agenda was not approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes

-There were no Minutes this week.

IV. Special Presentations

Lawrence H. Lokman, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Communications

-Lokman introduced himself as the new Assistant Vice Chancellor of Communications. He said that he has a background in social marketing. He said that he just wanted to introduce himself to Council and to make them aware that his office is open to any suggestions or concerns that the students may have. He said that his immediate responsibilities are marketing and communications, including the website magazine, the UCLA Today newspaper, and the University's media relations. He said that he is responsible for the communications at the College of Letters and Sciences and at the Chancellor's office. He said that many of the people who held his position in the past focused on excellence. He said that that is a good thing to focus on but that he also wants to focus on what happens to people here and how the things that happen affect their lives. He said that he wants to tell a story. He said that one example is the story of how UCLA changed from a commuter campus to a residential campus. He said that UCLA is one of the few public universities that is on a par with the private universities. He said that he is happy to be serving UCLA and that he would be happy to answer any questions or consider any suggestions.

-Cordero asked how Council could contact Lokman.

-Lokman said that he would pass out his card.

-Nelson said that Lokman is showing a sincere concern for what students think. He said that Council should avail themselves of Lokman and his staff's services. He said that it is nice to know that there is a receptive entity on campus. He said that the fact that Lokman came to this meeting is a credit to that.

V. Appointments

Financial Aid Policy Committee**SPARC Committee*****Wooden Center Board of Governors**

-Due to the absence of quorum, Council could take no action on the recommended Appointments this week.

VII. Fund Allocations

-There were five contingency requests submitted to the Finance Committee, two of which were rejected by the Committee, and three of which were discretionary.

Queer Alliance / Mishpacha

Requested : \$280.00

Recommended: \$200.00

DerManuelian authorized the allocation of \$200.00 upon his own discretion in compliance with the 2002-2003 USA Finance Committee Guidelines for the partial cost of Facilities for the UCLA vs USC Queer Softball Game.

VNLC

Requested: \$1165.63

Recommended: \$0

FiCom did not approve any allocation for the VNLC Winter Retreat due to the fact that the information provided was incomplete and inconsistent.

Community Service Commission

Requested: \$245.00

Recommended: \$0

FiCom did not approve any allocation to the Community Service Commission due to the fact that this was a capital item request and should be resubmitted during the capital funding process.

Alpha Epsilon Omega

Requested : \$350.00

Recommended: \$300.00

DerManuelian authorized the allocation of \$300.00 upon his own discretion in compliance with the 2002-2003 USA Finance Committee Guidelines for the partial cost of Facilities for the Alpha Epsilon Omega Winter Retreat on December 20th through the 22nd.

Golden Key International Honour Society

Requested : \$350.00

Recommended: \$350.00

DerManuelian authorized the allocation of \$350.00 upon his own discretion in compliance with the 2002-2003 USA Finance Committee Guidelines for the partial cost of Graphics for the Sophomore Recognition on January 21st.

VI. Officer and Member Reports

President

-Dahle said that his office along with Harmetz and Styczynski's offices had sent out the student surveys. He said that the results would be compiled at the end of this week. He said that they had received UCOP's approval for the Student Fee Referendum. He said that that makes the results official.

Internal Vice President

-Cordero said that he and Neal would be talking with the OCHC about minimizing the cost increase.

Administrative Representative - Berky Nelson

-Nelson said that there would be a Post-traumatic Stress Disorder conference featuring the former mayor of New York, Rudolph Giuliani. He said that there is a sense of panic right now since this presentation is in Royce and there have only been 60 tickets sold. He said that students may be interested in hearing Giuliani speak regardless of their political views. He said that Giuliani has a lot of experience.

ASUCLA Executive Director - Patricia Eastman

-Eastman said that Dahle had made a good presentation at the Board of Director's Leadership Committee. She said that the Leadership Committee is a way to bring student leaders together to discuss their responsibilities. She said that Committee has started learning about each of the member's groups and that they will now be working together on improving the experience of each group. She said that on Friday at Noon she would be meeting with Executive Vice Chancellor Neuman and that she plans to use part of Dahle report.

-Dahle thanked the Council members who returned his e-mail regarding that presentation.

VIII. Old Business

-There was no Old Business this week.

IX. New Business

***UCSA Budget Approval**

-Dahle said that due to the absence of quorum, no action could be taken on this item, but that Council could hear a presentation by those present from UCSA. He introduced Matthew Kaczmarek and Stephen Klass, the president of the UCSA.

-Klass said that he would pass around an annotated budget but that he could not pass out the line item budget that was requested as it is confidential.

-Kaczmarek said that Neal couldn't attend the meeting and that Neal had turned the presentation of the budget over to him. He said that he knows that the discussion of this item has been lengthy and that he assumes that everyone has read the budget. He said that he would be happy to answer any questions.

-Dahle asked where the \$7000 difference between the budget they had received last meeting and the one that was just passed out came from.

-Klass said that that is explained in the annotations on the budget that was just passed out. He said that some of it is due to the fact that one of their staff members didn't work for half of the month of December.

-Kaczmarek said that the contribution from UCSD had also increased.

-Thai Lam said that he was certain that Berkeley cut their contribution and wondered why that was not noted.

-Kaczmarek said that the numbers on the budget were the last official numbers they were given by the schools.

-LaFlamme asked why the increases in campus contributions were given but not the decreases.

-Kaczmarek said that two budgets have been approved, one was approved by the old board and one was amended by the new one.

-Dahle noted that the contribution listed for UCSD was the same on both budgets that council had received.

-Klass said that the budget does not yet reflect that increase. He said that this budget was accurate as of October.

-LaFlamme asked why USAC was originally given the other budget.

-Kaczmarek said that he was not sure.

-Klass said that he was not sure of what Neal presented. He said that UCSA is looking at about a \$17000 deficit. He said that the budget shows that they are not spending frivolously. He

said that it was approved because UCSA is looking at expanding its organization. He said that they are taking some money out of their reserves and using it towards this purpose. He said that the stipends were approved, not on the basis of the budget situation, but on an ideological standpoint. He said that they were approved because of the extra work done by the Chair and the Vice Chair of the organization.

- Dahle said that he had heard that UCI is stopping its payment to UCSA. He asked how that would affect their deficit.
- Klass said that he has not heard that. He said that they cannot stop a payment from a referendum. He said that the UCI Graduate Students have had problems with the UCSA budget, but that their opinion is in the minority. He said that they may stop payment but they will still benefit from UCSA. He said that as of late they have been unresponsive to UCSA's e-mails.
- Kaczmarek said that in terms of UCLA's portion of this budget he would hope that Council feels that they receive benefits from the money they contribute, regardless of what other campuses are doing.
- Nelson said that the contributions on the budget that are not bold tend to be Graduate Student Organizations. He asked if there was a reason for that. He also asked if UCLA was "more equal" than other institutions since it contributes more money to the UCSA budget. In other words, does UCLA get anything extra for their higher contribution.
- Kaczmarek said in response to Nelson's first question that graduate students tend to be less involved in UCSA. In response to the second question he said that each organization has one vote and therefore UCLA does not have more pull on the Board of Directors of UCSA. He said, however, that since UCLA has more students they have priority when receiving benefits from a statewide issue.
- Harmetz asked when UCSA had last had a discussion with UCI.
- Klass said that it had been in November.
- Dahle asked if UCSA is considering revising their budget.
- Klass said that they are. He said that the problem is that people have raised concerns about deficit spending, however they give no constructive criticism. He said that that leaves UCSA little to work with. He said that he sent a letter to the presidents of all of the student associations but got no real response.
- Dahle asked if UCSA has considered cutting the stipends.
- Klass said that there has been discussion on how to cut the budget and still allow the stipends. He said that if a clear majority of the associations are against stipends then they will discuss it. He said that the major issue is deficit spending as a whole.
- Thai Lam asked why there are discrepancies between this week's budget and last week's budget. He also wondered why specific line items had been changed.
- Klass said that he is not sure. He said that it could be a typo or that it could be an actual change. He said that UCSA has not approved a new budget.
- Thai Lam said that he was asking because last week they were told that the budget they received was the approved budget and that this week they have been given another "approved" budget with different numbers. He also asked if this organization was a public organization. He asked if he was correct in thinking that in that case the budget should be published and salaries should not be confidential. He said that it would also be helpful to see the changes in the budget from last year.
- Klass said that the changes from last year are minimal except for changes in staff. He said that UCSA has been frugal in the past. He said that they keep their budget confidential so that their staff can't compare salaries.
- Thai Lam said that he is asking these questions to help USAC make a sound judgment.
- Klass said that this is the most annotated budget that UCSA has ever made. He said that if USAC wants a fully detailed budget it would take up the time of the Executive Director of their association. He said that the budget is skeletal but more than they have received in the past.
- Thai Lam said that he feels that it is important to see a budget history for UCSA when making decisions.

- Klass said that he agrees but that he is not sure how much USAC would be able to pull from the previous budgets.
- Dahle asked if UCSA's budgets were approved in May.
- Klass said that the previous board approves a budget for the next board in May. He said that around November the new board has preliminary discussions and then votes on an amended budget.
- Dahle said that he is concerned that the vote of the member associations is just a formality. He said that it would seem that the associations should discuss the budget before it goes to the UCSA Board for approval, or that they should at least have some input during the actual process.
- Klass said that this is a statewide organization and that a process including so many associations would be very lengthy.
- Dahle said that the process still seems backwards to give the associations a budget that has already been approved and to tell them that their vote basically doesn't matter.
- Klass said that the associations do have a say. But what that say is, is not concrete. He said that if two-thirds of the associations do not approve this budget then UCSA has to review it again.
- Dahle asked how many associations have rejected the budget so far.
- Klass said that he was not sure. He said that he thought about five have approved he budget so far and four have rejected it.
- Thai Lam asked Eastman and Nelson if this budget should have been approved earlier since it is a fiscal year budget and thus already in effect.
- Nelson said that this process does seem awkward. He also said that UCSA is a year around institution and this budget was probably approved taking that into consideration. He said however that it seems disingenuous to bring back to Council, for approval, a budget that has already been approved and that is already in use.
- Eastman said that she also feels that it is a bit out of sequence. She said that it seems odd to have a budget approved months after it has already gone into effect. She said she feels that USAC's questions are appropriate.
- Klass said that many of the associations have different election periods and that the first possible time that UCSA can meet is in August. He said that that cannot be pushed back any farther.
- Dahle asked if UCSA always votes on their budget before it is presented to the members or if some EVPs present the budget to their Council before UCSA approves it.
- Klass said that the early discussions just revolve around changing numbers and that the associations are just sort of a rubber stamp. He said that it would be nice to have everyone on board though.
- Dahle said that he has the feeling that a lot of Councils were not even aware of the UCSA budgets in the past.
- Klass said that that was true of the past.
- DerManuelian asked for a point of clarification on whether the UCLA Graduate Students had voted against this budget.
- Klass said that they did. He said that the UCLA GSA representative voted for the budget at the UCSA meeting but that the UCLA GSA as a whole voted against the budget.
- DerManuelian said that he is surprised that the representatives from UCSA are surprised about the amount of opposition from USAC when they came with no real report and only asked for questions. He said that this budget seems to be a truncated version of what was approved by the UCSA. He said that he would like a detailed explanation of the budget. He said that secondly it seems that UCSA updated some numbers but not others, such as the Amounts Receivable remaining.
- Klass said that it is not within UCSA's procedure to give out an updated budget.
- Dahle asked if that was true even if the contributions of the campuses changed.
- DerManuelian asked if UCSA ever changed the figures on the budget.
- Klass said that they do after they receive formal notice of a change in any of the numbers.
- Yu asked what benefits UCLA receives from its contribution.

- Kaczmarek said that that is based on UCSA's action agenda. He said that UCLA receives benefits from the Youth Vote, No on the Information Ban and No Tuition Increase campaigns. He said that UCSA also lobbies on behalf of the associations at the state level. He said that UCSA also helps in the search for a student regent. He apologized for today's presentation and said that he would be happy to return with a more fundamental look at the budget.
- Dahle said that he would appreciate it if someone could contact the various associations and find out the actual amount that each association will be contributing to UCSA.
- LaFlamme asked if UCLA received any of the Youth Vote grant money.
- Klass said that that program was specific to Berkeley.
- LaFlamme said that he finds that troubling.
- Klass said that Youth Vote is a nationwide campaign which designates specific cities for the money to go to. He said that the grant was specifically given to Berkeley. He said that UCSA is also the recognized voice of the students to the Regents, UCOP and the State Legislators. He said that campuses that pull their funding mainly miss out on programming that is specifically focused on their campus. He said that it is important to get every organization involved.
- LaFlamme asked about the discrepancies in the contributions. He asked why UCLA pays double the amount of every other campus, and he said that he is trying to understand what extra advantages UCLA gets for that extra money.
- Klass said that he can't name any specific thing that UCLA gets extra. He said that if something important happens that affects UCLA that UCSA will send staff members to UCLA to help work towards the cause.
- Nelson asked if Santa Cruz would get that same benefit.
- Klass said that they would but that, if UCSA had to choose between the two, UCLA would have priority. He said that UCLA is one of the few campuses with referendum based funding. He said that the numbers for the other campuses are not ideal but have evolved due to budget cuts within individual associations.
- Dahle asked how many people UCSA employed.
- Klass said that they had three employees and that they are in the process of hiring a fourth.
- Gideon Baum said that Tuttle had stated at a prior meeting that the Brown Act requires that staff information of public organizations should be made available to the public. He asked Nelson if he was of the same opinion.
- Nelson said that he would assume that that is correct, but that he didn't think that it was because of the Brown Act. He said that at a public institution every salary should be public. He said that it is important to remember that past Councils have seen an advantage in having such a statewide organization. He said that the basic issue though is essentially what is UCLA's bang for their buck and why is UCSA presenting a budget that has already been approved. He said that it is not his intention to put anyone on the hot seat but that he feels that some explanation should be given about what benefits UCLA receives from their allocation.
- Thai Lam said that he feels that having a locked in contribution promotes fiscal irresponsibility. He said that he is not questioning what UCSA does but that such a policy promotes a tendency to be more lax. He said that he would suggest that next year's budget be given to the associations before the fiscal year begins. He said that the previous board should approve the budget for the incoming board.
- Kaczmarek said that the fact that UCLA's allocation is locked cannot be understated. He said that fact is what allows UCSA to prepare a budget to begin with. He said that the referendum did not make the contribution to UCSA continuous and that it would end in the next few years.
- Thai Lam said he is fairly certain that many associations have already approved their final allocation amount. He asked if UCSA found out those amounts on their own or if Berkeley and/or other schools had to inform them of the change. He said he didn't think that USAC wants to keep tabs on the UCSA, but that they do want to see a return for their money.

-Klass said that he thinks there are pros and cons to the referendum process. He said that with a state organization they must rely on their members to bring the issues back to their respective association. He said that they would have to work on both levels for accountability.

-Kaczmarek said that he was available to address any questions and concerns.

-Klass asked if Dahle could send a copy of his letter to the rest of Council. He said that they are trying to pick up the pieces from previous UCSAs that have not gone back to the associations that funded them.

***Approval of Proposed use of Student Fee Referendum Funds**

-Due to the absence of quorum, Council could take no action on this item.

X. Announcements

-Kaczmarek said that the University had informed them that the teaching evaluations for Fall Quarter of 2001 had been lost. He said that the University had contracted the evaluations out to a new company which folded soon after. He said that he just wanted to let Council know.

-Dahle asked if the University had any legal stance.

-Kaczmarek said that he wasn't aware of one.

-Thai Lam announced that this would be his last meeting and that he would be returning to Berkeley. He said that he would miss UCLA very much.

XI. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

-Due to the absence of quorum, attendance was not recorded at this meeting.

XII. Adjournment

-Due to the absence of quorum, there was no motion to adjourn this meeting.

XIII. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Araiza
USAC Minutes Taker