

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday September 2, 2003
417 Kerckhoff Hall
6:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chen, Gaulton, Husse-Jerome, Kaczmarek, Kozak, Lam, Lawson, McKesey, McLaren, Nelson, Palma/Saracho, Schreiber, Tuttle

ABSENT: Chiang, Eastman, Grace, Nguyen, Saldaña, Wynn

GUESTS: Menaka Fernando, Zara Bukirin, Brian Neesby

- I. A. Call to Order
-McKesey called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.
- B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet
-Chen passed the Attendance Sheet around.
- II. Approval of the Agenda
-Kozak and Schreiber asked to be added to the Officer and Member Report section.
-Schreiber moved and Kaczmarek seconded to approve the Agenda.
-McKesey asked if there were any objections to approval of the Agenda, as amended, by consent.
There being no objections the Agenda, as amended, was approved by consent.
- III. Approval of the Minutes
***August 5, 2003**
-Lawson said that he had some changes to make to the minutes of August 5. He said that he had proposed these amendments at the last USAC meeting, but the matter was tabled pending a review of the Minutes Taker's notes from the August 5 meeting.
-After reading through Lawson's proposed revisions, Araiza said that the changes seemed to be reasonable. He apologized for not being able to make the minutes as detailed as Council Members might like.
-Kaczmarek moved and Lam seconded to approve the Minutes from August 5, 2003, as amended to include Lawson's changes. Council voted to approve the motion with 8 votes in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.
-Lawson's amendments, along with his complete written statement, will be incorporated into the August 5, 2003 Minutes.
- IV. Special Presentations – Minimum Progress Requirement, Sophia Kozak and Linda Lam
Minimum Progress Requirement
-Lam said that after Fall Quarter, 2001, students were expected to enroll in a minimum of 13 units per quarter, as well as follow a minimum progress chart. She said that this policy has a negative effect on a great number of students, including commuters; students who study abroad; those who want to participate in extracurricular activities; and others. She said that no exemptions are made for such students.
-Kozak said that an ad-hoc committee of the College of Letters and Sciences created the Minimum Progress Requirement Policy. She said that the College of Letters and Sciences Faculty Executive Committee then approved the policy. She said that it then went through several committees of the Academic Senate for approval. She said that the reason that it was

approved was to follow a ten-year plan to increase the student workload each Quarter in order to reduce the time it took for students to graduate.

- Tuttle asked if any exemptions were made for working students.
- Kozak said that there was some mention of an exemption in the minutes of the meeting, but no official action was ever taken to make any exemptions.
- Tuttle said that at a university like this many people have to work their way through school. He said that this should be taken into consideration.
- Kozak said that this policy disproportionately affects students of color and working class students.
- Palma/Saracho asked if any of the committees that approved the Minimum Progress Requirement had student representatives.
- Kozak said that the Undergraduate Council has four student representatives and the Faculty Board has one. She said that those students have no vote on the committee.
- Nelson said that UCLA has become an elitist institution. He said that the faculty assumes that the students do nothing but study and come to class. He said that it will be interesting to see the response when the students try to get the point across to the faculty.

V. Appointments

- McKesey said that there are still appointments to be made. She said that the most pressing of the appointments is the alternate appointee for the Community Activities Committee.
- Nelson said that they should be aware that whoever is appointed to the CAC position will not be entitled to receive the full stipend because they will be appointed too late to participate in the very important initial meetings.
- McKesey said that they hope to have the appointments ready for next week.
- Nelson asked if any of the applicants have been contacted.
- McKesey said that they have, but that many of them have not returned the calls.
- Nelson asked how many have been contacted.
- McKesey said that five applicants have been called.

VI. Budget Review Committee

***Base Budget Appeal**

- Palma/Saracho said that he had received a petition from the Jewish Student Union to appeal their Base Budget Allocation. He said that the appeal was received on Friday, August 22. He said that Council must now vote on whether or not it will hear the JSU's arguments. He said that he contacted the JSU President last week and was told that they could not tonight's meeting. He said that groups are given two weeks to appeal their allocation. He said that if the appeal is accepted by Council, they then have three weeks to come before Council. He said that he believed Council should agree to hear JSU's arguments.
- Palma/Saracho moved and Lawson seconded to accept the Jewish Student Union's Base Budget Appeal and to table the hearing until September 16th.
- McKesey said that the appeal could also be heard during the zero week meeting. She said that the JSU would have the option of coming to Council on either the 16th or the 23rd.
- There being no further discussion, Council voted to approve the motion to accept JSU's appeal with 8 votes in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

VII. Fund Allocations

***Contingency**

- Chen said that the Muslim Student Association application would have been late due to the way that meetings fell. She said that for that reason she had to approve the request with her discretionary power.
- Palma/Saracho moved and Kozak seconded to approve the Fund Allocation to the African Student Union in the amount of \$600.00.
- McKesey asked if there was any discussion. There being none, Council voted to approve the motion with 8 votes in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

- Lam moved and Lawson seconded to approve the Fund Allocation to the Engineering Society of University of California in the amount of \$738.00.
- McKesity asked if there was any discussion. There being none, Council voted to approve the motion with 8 votes in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- Schreiber moved and Lawson seconded to approve the Fund Allocation to Bruin Partners in the amount of \$230.68.
- McKesity asked if there was any discussion. There being none, Council voted to approve the motion with 8 votes in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- Kaczmarek moved and Palma/Saracho seconded to approve the Fund Allocation to the Armenian Students Association in the amount of \$374.50.
- McKesity asked if there was any discussion. There being none, Council voted to approve the motion with 8 votes in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

African Student Union**Requested: \$4382.50****Recommended: \$600**

FiCom recommended the allocation of \$450 for facilities and \$150 for transportation for the Harambee Council Retreat

Engineering Society of University of California**Requested: \$1173****Recommended: \$738**

FiCom recommended the allocation of \$500 for facilities and \$238 for advertising for the Engineering Welcome Day.

Bruin Partners**Requested: \$230.68****Recommended: \$230.68**

FiCom recommended the allocation of \$200 for facilities and \$30.68 for supplies for the Bruin Partner Retreat.

Armenian Students Association**Requested: \$449.50****Recommended: \$374.50**

FiCom recommended the allocation of 374.50 for facilities for the Executive Retreat.

Muslim Student Association**Requested: \$755.00****Recommended: 307.00**

Chen authorized the allocation of \$307 for travel and \$55 for registration upon her own discretion in compliance with the 2003- 2004 Finance Committee Guidelines for the MSA National Conference.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President

- McKesity said that last year student media offered to do the websites of student groups. She said that she is going to meet with the Student Media Director, Arvli Ward, about doing the same this year. She said that Kozak and she would be meeting with the SIOC and CRC about their priorities for the year. She said that the SIOC is facing budget cuts. She said that she has received information about a National Conference on Student Affairs which will be held in several places throughout the United States. She said that one of the

sessions will be San Diego and another will be somewhere in Florida. She said that the conference is very expensive.

Internal Vice President

-Palma/Saracho said that last Wednesday a few Council Members organized a voter registration meeting with CalPIRG and the Bruin Democrats. He said that they have a collective goal of registering 10,000 students. He said that he also spoke with the Vice President of Internal Affairs of the GSA, Victoria Irigoyen. He said Irigoyen told him that one of GSA's major priorities is to defest Proposition 54. He said that the next meeting of the voter registration group is tomorrow, and that everyone who's interested is invited to attend. He said that Friday of last week he met with the Undergraduate Representatives to the ASUCLA Board of Directors to talk with them USAC's proposed Appointee Accountability Guidelines. He said that their main concern was the number of USAC meetings they would have to attend to comply with the guidelines

External Vice President

-Kaczmarek said that the Chancellor agreed to send out two emails to all students, one regarding the need to register to vote and the other regarding Proposition 54. He said that the L.A. County Registrar will provide 15,000 voter registration forms for USAC to use. He said that the outgoing UC President, Atkinson, and the incoming President, Dynes, would be holding a press conference against Proposition 54 at the next Regents Meeting on September 17th and 18th. He said that a National Affirmative Action Day is being planned for October 30th.

Academic Affairs Commissioner

-Kozak said that Eric Barba has come back from San Francisco and will be working on outreach in her office. She said that she has been talking to Schreiber about USAC holding a carnival during Welcome Week. She said that she will also have a presentation on the Diversity Requirement ready for next week.

Community Service Commissioner

-Schreiber said that he talked to several Council Members about putting on a carnival. He said that they are trying to find more community service groups to be involved, and they are looking for a name group to play at the event.

Administrative Representative – Berky Nelson

-Nelson said that he had spoken with a reporter from CNN about MEChA de UCLA. He said that they were doing a follow up on a story, by Fox News, that connected Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante to a MEChA at another school. He said that they then went on to say that MEChA was involved in \$500,000 in property damage in 1993 and had been involved in a number of beatings. He said that Fox News did no fact-checking on the report that they aired. He said that Fox News' claims were outrageous.

-Palma/Saracho said that he is disappointed by this demonization of MEChA based on information found on a website.

-Nelson said that the person he spoke to CNN said he had heard only positive things about MEChA de UCLA.

IX. Subcommittee Reports

Connectivity Committee

-Lam said that the committee prepared an agenda for the presentation USAC will be making at one of the orientation sessions for Office of Residential Life student staff.

-Chen said that she and Lam will be leading a game called MUSAC at the training session.

-Lam said that people will have to match names of Council Members to their offices and to issues they are responsible for.

-McKesity said that the presentation will begin at 11:30am in Northwest Auditorium.

IX. Old Business

***Approval of Summary Resolution Regarding USAC Presidential Appointee Accountability Guidelines**

- Kaczmarek said that he, Palma/Saracho and McKesey met during the previous week to make some changes to the Presidential Appointee Accountability Guidelines. He said that they made changes to clause #1 to require that a form be filled out. He said that #7 was deleted and #4 was changed to require one informational presentation. He said that they also changed things to say that USAC would only audit appointees based on requirement 1-4.
- Kaczmarek moved and Lam seconded to approve the USAC Presidential Appointee Accountability Guidelines, with the change that ASUCLA Board of Directors members need only attend three meetings.
- McKesey asked if there was any discussion.
- Lawson said that he had a few points to make. He said that Article V.A.1.d. of the USAC Constitution states that the Constitution and the Bylaws are to be the sole guidelines that appointees must follow. He said that Article I.D.4. of the Bylaws specifies certain responsibilities the appointees are to meet. He said, included in that section is a requirement that appointees make at least one report to USAC either in writing or through a special presentation. He said he thought that doing anything more than that should be the choice of the appointee. He said that, that section requires all appointees to attend at least 2/3 of their committee meetings, and that failure to attend 2/3 of the meetings will result in dismissal of the appointee, unless the USAC president authorize an excused absence. He said that appointees are also required to report to USAC any major policy changes proposed by their committee before they are to vote on the proposed changes. He said that failure to comply with these guidelines could result in the dismissal of the appointee by USAC, not the ARC.
- Brian Neesby introduced himself as Lawson's Chief of Staff. He said that the guidelines place the ARC as the oversight committee for applications and appointments. He said that they have jurisdiction over nominees and not over appointees that have taken their positions. He said that they may review appointees to two year terms at the mid-point of that term. He said however that Council is the sole judge of cause for removal. He said that the ARC has no jurisdiction to remove appointees.
- Lawson said that there is also the issue of this being an Ex Post Facto decision. He said that McKesey placed a description of each position in the application packet. He said that beyond that the only source available for applicants to learn of the responsibilities of their positions is from the guiding documents and from the ARC. He said that, had the applicants and the ARC known that there would be these additional demands on their time, then decisions on both sides may have been different. He said that the Bylaws already include a list of responsibilities that appointees are expected to meet. He said that the main problem is that those responsibilities are not enforced. He said that it would not be fair to the appointees to change the criteria now, after their terms have already begun. He said that if a change must be made, then the correct method would be to make changes to the USAC Bylaws. He said that he feels that the only way to be fair is to enforce what is already in place.
- Kaczmarek said that the ARC would not have the right to remove appointees, only to investigate their adherence to the guidelines.
- Lam said that she feels that these guidelines are a complement to the Bylaws. She said that these guidelines are a means to ensure that the Bylaws are followed.
- Tuttle said that the text should be clear that Council has the final decision on the removal of appointees. He said that if these proposed guidelines are approved, it may well invite a J-Board case. He said that both sides have made excellent points. He said that it may save time in the long run to review this for a while longer. He said that he is very worried about the Communications Board and the J-Board being held to these accountability guidelines. He said that that may be an issue.

- Kaczmarek called the question.
- Husse-Jerome asked if Palma/Saracho met with all members of the BPD
- Palma/Saracho said that he met with all of them except Emmanuel Martinez, the Alternate.
- Lawson said that he does agree that appointees should be held more accountable. He said that there are already guidelines in place for that to happen. He said that he does not want to politicize the Communications Board and the J-Board further than they already are. He said that he thinks that the proposed guidelines before Council would be fine as recommendations, but that he would be wary of making them mandated guidelines.
- McKesey said that she would invite Lawson to revisit the discussion on this matter from the previous USAC meeting. She said that reasons were given for the inclusion of SFAC, Comm. Board and the BOD in the Accountability Guidelines.
- There being no further discussion, Council voted to approve the motion to approve the 2003-2004 Accountability Guidelines for Presidential Appointees with 5 votes in favor, 3 against and 0 abstentions.

***Approval of USAC Ad-hoc Committees**

- McKesey said that Council created several different Ad-hoc committees at the USAC retreat. She said that there will be five committees including the ASUCLA, BruinGo!, Budget Cuts, Connectivity and Housing Costs Committees. She said that every Council member is on two committees.
- Kozak moved and Lam seconded to approve the USAC Ad-hoc Committees.
- McKesey asked if there was any discussion.
- Husse-Jerome asked if members not on a given committee can still attend the meetings.
- McKesey said that they would be able to. She asked that Council Members prioritize the Committees that they are on.
- Lawson asked if there was anyone set out as the contact person for each committee.
- McKesey said that she would be the contact person for the ASUCLA Committee and Nguyen would be in charge of the BruinGo! Committee.
- Schreiber said that he would be willing to head up the Budget Cuts Committee.
- Lawson said that Wynn should head up the Connectivity Committee.
- Husse-Jerome said that she would be willing to lead the Housing Costs Committee.
- There being no further discussion, Council voted to approve the motion with 8 votes in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

X. New Business

***Approval of Resolution Regarding Proposition 54**

- Kaczmarek said that this is a resolution that staff members and Council Members worked on together. He said that it describes the impact that Proposition 54 would have on the state. He said that the resolution is that USAC oppose Proposition 54.
- Husse-Jerome moved and Schreiber seconded to approve the Resolution Opposing Proposition 54.
- McKesey asked if there was any discussion.
- Lawson asked what was needed in regards to time and resources.
- Kaczmarek said that anything that the offices could give would be appreciated.
- Nelson asked if any exemptions have been made for Medical studies in Proposition 54.
- Lam said that there have been some exemptions but that they do not include some medical studies.
- Palma/Saracho said that they also do not provide exemptions for routine medical visits.
- Tuttle asked if all the time and effort will be put in on this campus.
- McKesey said that it will.
- There being no further discussion, Council voted to approve the Resolution Opposing Proposition 54 with 8 votes in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- Kaczmarek moved and Kozak seconded to publish the resolution as a full page advertisement on October 6th and 7th.

- McKesey asked if there was any discussion.
- Lawson asked if there was a reason to spend the extra \$1,000 to run the ad on two days.
- Kaczmarek said that they want to reach as many students as possible.
- There being no further discussion, Council voted to approve the motion to publicize the Resolution Opposing Proposition 54 with 8 votes in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

XI. Announcements

- There were no Announcements this week.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

- Chen passed around the Attendance Sheet.

XIII. Adjournment

- Lawson moved and Schreiber seconded to adjourn the meeting. There being no objection, the motion was approved with 9 votes in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions and the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Araiza
USAC Minutes Taker