

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday

February 3, 2004
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chen, Chiang, Gaulton, Husse-Jerome, Kozak, Lam, Lawson, McKesey, McLaren, Nguyen, Palma/Saracho, Schreiber, Tuttle, Williams, Wynn

ABSENT: Grace, Kaczmarek, Nelson

GUESTS: Janina Montero, Melody Hanatani, Paul Marian, Brian Neesby, Amy Lucas, Pavan Tripathi, Elizabeth Alamillo, Christopher Moritz, Matthew Knee, Mariam Jukaku, Kian Bolori, Jonathan Cayton, Eric Lopez, Tom Hartman, Rudolph Grant

- I. A. Call to Order
-McKesey called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
- B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet
-Chen passed the Attendance Sheet around.
- II. Approval of the Agenda
-Schreiber, Nguyen and Lawson asked to be added to the Officers and Members Reports.
-Palma/Saracho said that the E-Board Chair item under Appointments would not be an action item.
-Schreiber moved and Kozak seconded to approve the Agenda, as amended.
-McKesey asked if there was any discussion. There being none, Council voted to approve the Agenda, as amended, with 10 votes in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
- III. Approval of the Minutes
***October 21, 2003**
-Chiang moved and Nguyen seconded to approve the Minutes of October 21, 2003, as submitted.
Council voted to approve the motion with 10 votes in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.
- IV. Special Presentations
Bruin Republicans Presentation
-Jonathan Cayton, chair of the Bruin Republicans, said that they would give a brief presentation. He said that their general purpose is to highlight a problem within MEChA. He said that one of MEChA's guiding documents, El Plán de Aztlán, promotes violence and the rights of Chicano/as over other races. He said that the UCLA chapter of MEChA is an upstanding group. He said that it is disturbing that this document is attached to the group. He said that they would like MEChA to distance themselves from that document.
-Matthew Knee, a member of the Bruin Republicans, said that in the efforts of the Bruin Republicans to shed light on this subject, many of their messages were lost. He said that this is not a campaign against Chicano/as. He said that it is a campaign against a particular document. He said that this document is part of MEChA's ideology. He said that they are calling for MEChA to renounce this document. He said that the document says that this country is not legitimate and that no Europeans belong here, in Aztlán (the Southwest).

He said that MEChA, as a group, should be about helping people. He said that they should not accept a document that promotes violence.

- Elizabeth Alamillo, the chairwoman of MEChA, said that she was present to address these claims. She said that MEChA was formed in San Diego in 1969. She said that its purpose was to improve Chicano/a access to education. She said that it made a call for self-determination at a time when people were being killed in a communal struggle for equality. She said that Chicanos and Chicanas were here tonight to support them. She asked the Bruin Republicans to back up their claims of racism with evidence. She said that she finds it irresponsible to make these claims without approaching MEChA members first.
- McKesey asked if the Bruin Republicans were asking USAC to adopt a resolution.
- Cayton said that they were.
- McKesey said that any resolution that comes before them must first have three council members as sponsors. She said that she would begin a speakers list.
- Randolph Grant said that he saw the demonstration on Bruin Walk. He said that there were points that did concern him. He said that there is a crisis on the border at this moment. He said that border patrol agents are being shot and killed. He said that there are real concerns about returning Aztlán to Mexico.
- Tom Hartman said that he had a factual matter to report. He said that Miguel Perez of Cal State Northridge MEChA has called for opposition groups to be quashed and expelled from Aztlán.
- Eric Lopez said that he would like to clarify that this presentation deals with MEChA de UCLA and not Cal State Northridge. He said that MEChA de UCLA is an admirable organization. He said that they bring 1,200 students a year to a youth conference here on campus. He said that they work actively in the Student Retention Center. He asked what specific evidence there is against MEChA de UCLA, not MEChA's on other campuses.
- Mariam Jukaku said that MEChA de UCLA has the full support of MSA. She said that, after 9/11, one of the only organizations that offered support to the Muslim population at UCLA was MEChA. She said that they offered security during their evening prayer. She said that MEChA has done many good things on the UCLA campus.
- Chiang said that this seems to be a situation that would best be solved by a discussion between the two groups, rather than something Council should be asked to resolve.
- Chris Moritz, a member of the Bruin Republicans, said that they have tried to talk to MEChA several times. He said that he was told today by a MEChA member that he was naturally an oppressor because he is white. He said that he thinks that MEChA de UCLA is a great organization, but that they need to renounce El Plán de Aztlán.
- Gaulton said that this sets a bad precedent. He said that these groups should sit down and work things out. He said that this many people should never feel attacked at UCLA. He said that if Council is to do its job effectively it should not read about this sort of thing in the newspapers before it is presented to them. He said that Council should act as mediators, not riot police.
- Lawson said that he agrees that the discussion should focus on MEChA de UCLA. He said that he went to the MEChA's website and looked at their constitution. He said that their constitution never mentions El Plán de Aztlán. He said that the Bruin Republicans should not base their arguments on a plan that does not affect this chapter.
- Knee said that he is hearing a lot of equivocating about how MEChA is part of a national organization but does not follow the same documents. He said that these documents are accepted by the national organization. He said that the Bruin Republicans are just looking for MEChA de UCLA to say that they do not stand for the ideas put forth in El Plan de Aztlan.
- A guest said that MEChA de UCLA is out in the community every day combating the ideas that the Bruin Republicans have put forward. She said that MEChA will not apologize for El Plán de Aztlán when it was people like the Bruin Republicans who made it necessary in the first place.

- Kozak said that USAC respects everyone's right to free speech but that the Bruin Republicans should do more research before making accusations such as these. She said that she feels that many of their comments are inaccurate.
- Yousef Tajsar said that even if MEChA de UCLA follows El Plán de Aztlán, it does not follow every word. He said that there are ideas in El Plán de Aztlán that are very real. He said that the ideals of the United States are based on a Constitution that was also racist at one time. He said that a large portion of society was relegated to the status of being only three-fifths of a citizen. He said that this presentation is ridiculous and a waste of time. He said that there are real issues affecting students, such as fee increases and decreases in financial aid., that Council Members, and all other UCLA students, should be dealing with.
- Palma/Saracho said that a couple of months ago, USAC wrote a certificate of appreciation to MEChA de UCLA for its contributions to the campus. He said that USAC has shown their support of MEChA.
- A recess was called at 8:12 pm, while the guests exited.
- Council reconvened at 8:18 pm.

V. Appointments

Election Board Chair

- McKesey said that an appointee for the Election Board chair could not be forwarded because all of the prospects have withdrawn their applications. On a related matter, she said that an application for the vacant General Representative 3 position has been made available, and that the deadline to apply is next Thursday. She said that the ARC will review all applicants that she forwards to them.
- Lawson asked how many people the ARC will interview.
- McKesey said that will depend on the size of the applicant pool.
- McKesey said that an advertisement will be run this week announcing both the opening for Election Board Chairperson and for the General Representative position.

VI. Fund Allocations

***Contingency**

- Wynn moved and Lawson seconded to approve the Fund Allocations.
- McKesey asked if there was any discussion. There being none, Council voted to approve the motion with 10 votes in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Campus Events Commission

Requested: \$1,116.00

Recommended: \$ 200.00

FiCom recommended the allocation of \$200 for programming for The Rundown, which will be playing on January 29th and 30th.

Campus Events Commission

Requested: \$776.00

Recommended: \$150.00

FiCom recommended the allocation of \$150 for programming for The Animation Show on February 5th and 6th.

CSC/Project WILD

Requested: \$450.00

Recommended: \$450.00

FiCom recommended the allocation of \$450.00 for facilities for the Project WILD Staff Development and Team Building on February 29th.

UCLA Association of Chinese Americans

Requested: \$4,321.00

Recommended: \$3,321.00

FiCom recommended the allocation of \$3,321.00 for facilities for the 15th Annual Chinese American Culture Night February 14th.

VII. Officer and Member Reports

General Representative – Joshua Lawson

-Lawson said that he had an update on the UCOP Guidelines. He said that they were supposed to come out today, but didn't, and are expected to be out soon. He said that they are not the actual guidelines, just a second draft. He said that the first broadcast of Bruin Beat will be next weekend.

Facilities Commissioner

-Nguyen said that last Monday her chief of staff attended the Wooden Center Board of Governors meeting. She said that her office is also working on a USAC brochure. She asked that everyone send in their personal information and a list of the projects their offices have carried out. She said that her office will have a workshop during 7th week. She said that her office's web page will be done next week.

Community Service Commissioner

-Schreiber said that on Sunday there will be a budget workshop. He said that the Our Lady of Peace Health Fair will be coming up soon, and they need volunteers. He said that the Tet Festival is also coming up soon.

Internal Vice President

-Palma/Saracho said that there is a Student Advocacy Collective coming up. He said that it will be a great event. He said that 5th week he and Kaczmarek will be putting together a budget forum on how the Governor's budget affects higher education. He said it will be held on February 11 from 3:00 to 5:00pm. He said that the Constitutional Review Committee is working on preparing a comprehensive report for Council. He said that he also attended a Save Labor meeting recently.

President

-McKesity said that members of the Student Affairs Administration and Council would be having dinner soon so that the two groups can engage in dialogue. She said that there are three options for the meeting times. She passed around a sign-up sheet and asked that people mark the best time for them. She said that the internship program is going well, and that many ideas are being generated. She said that this week there will be training in grassroots organizing. She said that there is also a brown bag discussion coming up in a few weeks.

VIII. Old Business

-There was no Old Business this week.

IX. New Business

-There was no New Business this week.

X. Announcements

-Kozak said that the AAC is trying to educate students on the possibility of creating their own majors.

-Wynn said that her office is still recruiting for WorldFest. She said that they are also starting the Butterflies and Brainwash series. She said that the Acoustic-Electronic series is playing downstairs in the Kerckhoff Coffeehouse this evening, as they always do on Tuesdays.

- Chen said that the Capital Items request forms are due next week. She said that the oral arguments for the Jewish Student Union v. USAC Judicial Board case will be next Monday at 7:00pm. She said that Kaczmarek will be acting as counsel for the case.
- Gaulton said that on Thursday and Friday there will be an animation show.
- Wynn said that on Thursday there will be a spoken word program called Eclectic.
- McLaren announced that the student art that was submitted to the Art in the Union program is being displayed in the Kerckhoff Art Gallery this week, and invited Council Members to drop by and see all the great art pieces students had created. She said that all of the winning works will be hung in Kerckhoff or Ackerman.

XI. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

- Chen passed around the Attendance Sheet.

XII. Adjournment

- Husse-Jerome moved and Nguyen seconded to adjourn the meeting. There being no objection, the motion was approved with 10 votes in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions and the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

XIII. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Araiza
USAC Minutes Taker