

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL

Tuesday August 17, 2004  
417 Kerckhoff Hall  
6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Avila, Bhuiyan, Gruenberg, Harbottle, Kurita, Lee, McLaren, Martinez, Nelson,  
Palma/Saracho, Tuttle, Villarin, Vu, Williams, Wood

ABSENT: Chan, Gaulton, Tripathi, Tseng

GUESTS: Eric Barba, Jeannie Biniek, Tina Park, Priscilla Rangel, Roy Samaan, Joseph Vardner

I. A. Call to Order

- Palma/Saracho called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

- Harbottle passed around the Attendance Sheet

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Palma/Saracho said that he would be presenting two additional appointments for approval.
- Wood asked to be added to Officer/Member Reports with regard to the USAC Retreat.
- Vu moved and Martinez seconded to approve the Agenda, as amended.
- Palma/Saracho asked if there was any discussion. There being none, he asked if there were any objections to approval by consent. There being none, the Agenda was approved, as amended, by consent.

III. Approval of the Minutes

**July 27, 2004**

- Gruenberg asked for a change to be made on page 6. He said that he had been speaking about whether or not all groups required to sign the Non-Discrimination Policy had been adequately notified, not just the religious group in question.
- Vu moved and Lee seconded to approve the Minutes as amended.
- Palma/Saracho asked if there was any discussion. There being none, he asked if there were any objections to approval by consent. There being none, the Minutes of July 27, 2004 were approved, as amended, by consent.

IV. Special Presentations

**USAC Delegation to USSA**

- Vu said that he and a delegation had gone to the USSA congress in Pittsburgh. He noted that he had taken several people and asked that they introduce themselves.
- Roy Samaan identified himself as a 4th-year student.
- Tina Park identified herself as a 2nd-year student.
- Jeanne Biniek identified herself as a 3rd-year student.
- Vu said that the USSA is the largest and oldest student lobby organization in the United States. He said that their goal is to increase access to higher education for students, and added that "Education is a Right" is the motto of the organization. Vu said that UCLA was a founding member of this organization, and thus has played and will continue to play a large role in the direction of USSA. He added that USSA serves as a resource to national educational movements, like Student-Initiated Outreach. Vu explained that every summer, students from different campuses meet to determine the

- direction that USSA will take in the coming year. He said that three action items had been established for the coming year. Vu said that they were: (1) Get Out The Vote (GOTV), to ensure student-voter turnout.
- Park said that (2) was Higher Education Activation Authorization. Park added that Congress has recessed, which has delayed this item, so this was a good time to work toward on this action item. She said the goals of this item are to get more financial aid and to increase loan limits. Park said that campaigns were forming in support of this effort and that legislators would be lobbied in March at the Legislative Conference.
  - Samaan said that (3) was entitled Campaign Fighting for Immigration Rights and Education. He said that USSA had worked on this last year, and that the organization had made a lot of headway on it. The focus of this action item is to reach immigrant communities and educate them about their rights. Samaan said that this campaign was partnering with the Immigration Act campaign to help ensure that same-sex partners could achieve citizenship through marriage. He added that this was particularly important in higher education environments, where people were coming from all over the world and meeting one another.
  - Vu said that the USSA conference had been a continuation of past efforts. He added that campaigns often take years to go all the way through, but that several should come to fruition this year. Vu said that elections for new officers had been held at this conference, and that Ajita Talwalker from Milwaukee was elected President and Eddie Moralez from Oregon would be the new Vice President. Vu concluded by saying that Jeannie Biniek would be serving on USSA as a council member and that he (Vu) had been given an executive position working on student movements on a national level.
  - Biniek said that the week was intense, filled with workshops and information. She said that caucus groups had discussed different issues facing groups on campus. She said further that all the diversity groups were covered at the conference, and said that it had opened her eyes to various experiences of different people across the country. Biniek said that it was good to talk to other people and to see differences and similarities between students across the country.
  - Williams asked how many schools had been in attendance.
  - Vu said that approximately 50 schools were there, with a total of about 500 students. He added that the conference could not have been larger because of its location, which imposed travel, registration, and housing expenses on student attendees. Vu said that UCLA had sent a delegation of 10 people, which was one of the largest there.
  - Biniek added that a delegation had been sent from Santa Monica Community College, which was great because USSA is trying to add more community colleges to their membership.
  - Palma/Saracho said it was an intense week, with delegates working from about 9:00 in the morning until at least 11:00 at night. He said that the last days of the conference are for planning discussions, which are traditionally very long. Palma/Saracho said that, this year, the planning discussions had lasted from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., which was shorter than last year's sessions which went from 8:00 in the morning to 3:30 the following morning. He said that the discussions had been good, and he commented on how positive it was that students from all over America could come to a consensus on these three issues. Palma/Saracho said he wrote three drafts of one of the action items. He finished by saying that it showed USAC's ability to rally together and to get things accomplished.
  - Vu said that many people from the UCLA delegation had been nominated to positions of responsibility.
  - Palma/Saracho said that it had been a great experience, that many connections had been made, and many resources had been shared.
  - Vu said that a training session was to be held at Santa Monica Community College the weekend of September 10th, 11th, and 12th. He explained to council that board members of USSA are obligated to meet 6 times a year. He said that the first meeting occurred right after congress, that the next meeting would be in December in Washington D.C., the meeting after that would be held at SMCC in January, then again

at Malcolm X Community College in Chicago in May, then again in Washington D.C., and then, a year from now, at the next Conference. Vu explained that the Board had decided to hold the meetings at community colleges because this would help recruit them to USSA.

- Gruenberg applauded USAC's efforts and accomplishments at USSA. He then asked what was happening with regard to the letter that was to have been sent to President Dynes.
- Vu said that a couple of meetings had been held about it, and that the letter was being worked on.
- Palma/Saracho said that the letter had been drafted and that it would hopefully be ready to be presented at the next meeting of council.
- Park said that if there had been any question about UCLA's involvement in USSA, those questions should be put to rest through the knowledge that UCLA is admired and looked up to by other colleges and universities as one of the best lead campuses in USSA. She added that several returning UCLA members had been nominated to USSA positions.

#### V. Appointments

- Palma/Saracho said that, because Chan could not be at the meeting, he had sent an email to everyone on Council about the appointees to the Community Activities Committee (CAC) and the Campus Programs Committee (CPC). He noted that, in the email, Chan had reported that the two nominees had been unanimously approved by the ARC.

##### **Community Activities Committee (CAC)**

- Gruenberg moved and Martinez seconded to approve the appointment of Lucero Chavez as the Alternate to the Community Activities Committee.
- Palma/Saracho asked if there was any discussion. There being none, he asked if there were any objections to approval by consent. There being none, the appointment of Lucero Chavez as the Alternate to the Community Activities Committee was approved by consent.

##### **Campus Programs Committee (CPC)**

- Villarin moved and Avila seconded to approve the appointment of Kian Bolori as the Alternate to the Campus Programs Committee.
- Vu called for Acclimation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclimation. There being none, the appointment of Kian Bolori as the Alternate to the Campus Programs Committee was approved by Acclimation.
- Tuttle raised a Point of Order and told council that Acclimation was a powerful voting mechanism, and offered the examples of the 1952 and 1972 nominations of Republican presidential candidates which Tuttle said had been done by Acclimation. He pointed out that a good working knowledge of the rules of order can result in getting motions approved efficiently which can be beneficial to the makers of the motions. Tuttle said he was sure that council members who learn about this procedure now would be applying it later in life in governing situations.
- Palma/Saracho said that the other two nominees before Council tonight had been forwarded to the ARC several weeks ago but that ARC had not been able to meet with either of them. Palma/Saracho said that, in order to expedite appointments in a timely manner, the USAC Bylaws has a provision which allows the nominating officer to bring the nominees directly to council for consideration and approval in instances where the ARC had been unable to meet within a reasonable period.

##### **Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC)**

- Palma/Saracho asked council to consider the appointments of Roy Samaan and Eric Barba to the Student Fee Advisory Committee. He said that they were both good

- people for the committee which, among other things, requires good people skills with both students and administrators. Palma/Saracho said that Samaan was aware of student fees and how they work and that Samaan's experience last year as Election Board Chair would enable him to be an effective member of the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) in providing services to students. Palma/Saracho said that Eric Barba is an undergraduate representative on the Racial Relations Committee. He also said that Barba works with the Admissions Board, so he knows and works with administrators. Palma/Saracho said that services to students could be maximized, despite the limited budget, with Barba in this position.
- Samaan said that, through his involvement with UCSA, he had become aware of how student fees were handled. He said he was troubled about the trend in which students didn't find out about decisions affecting their fees until after these decisions had been made. This meant that there was nothing the students could do to prevent or change the outcome. Samaan said that he sought to change things from the inside, so that students would know of *impending* decisions. He said that this would give students the opportunity to change the direction of the decisions, rather than rallying after the fact.
  - Barba said that student fees bothered him because students pay a lump sum every quarter, but they don't know where their money goes. He said that he wants to show students exactly where their money goes so they can be assured that it is getting back to them in education and services. Having been a former member of SFAC, Barba said he was concerned that student fees were being spent on things that should really have been paid for with education fees. Barba said he wanted to make sure that these types of things don't happen in the future.
  - Gruenberg asked both candidates if either had any reservations about working with his commission, since their goals overlapped. *Both candidates indicated that they had no reservations about working with the Financial Supports Commission.*
  - Martinez asked if both of these appointments were for two years.
  - Palma/Saracho said that was the case, and that this would serve to create a good mix of experience because the other two were returning members.
  - Martinez moved and Gruenberg seconded to approve the appointment of Eric Barba to the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC).
  - Villarin called for Acclimation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to calling for approval by Acclimation. There being none, the appointment of Eric Barba to the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) was approved by Acclimation.
  - Vu moved and Villarin seconded to approve the appointment of Roy Samaan to the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC).
  - Lee called for Acclimation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to calling for approval by Acclimation. There being none, the appointment of Eric Barba to the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) was approved by Acclimation.

## VI. Fund Allocations

- Harbottle said that two of the three recommendations were via her discretionary authorization. She explained that the first two recommendations had been presented to Council last week but, because Council did not make Quorum, they could not take any action. As a result, they were carried to tonight's meeting but, because of timing, Harbottle had to use her discretionary authorization. She pointed out that this request had come from an Independent organization and that she had had them sign the Non-Discrimination statement and that it was on file. She said FiCom was recommending the allocation of funds for their top item.
- Lee moved and Martinez seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Villarin called for Acclimation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclimation. There being none, the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations were approved by Acclimation.

**Armenian Students Association****Requested: \$450.00****Recommended: \$200.00**

In compliance with the discretionary authorization granted to her in the 2003-2004 Finance Committee Guidelines, Harbottle recommended the allocation of \$200.00 for the partial cost of Facilities for the Executive Retreat to be held from August 20th to 22nd.

**IFC/PC/AGLA/NPHC****Requested: \$8,824.00****Recommended: \$ 600.00**

In compliance with the discretionary authorization granted to her in the 2003-2004 Finance Committee Guidelines, Harbottle recommended the allocation of \$600.00 for the partial cost of Printing for the 2004-2005 Greek Life Handbook to be printed by August 3rd.

**Dialogue Society****Requested: \$1,325.00****Recommended: \$ 400.00**

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$400.00 for the partial cost of Facilities for the "Music: A Universal Language for Harmony" Program to be held on September 11th.

## VII. Officer and Member Reports

**External Vice President - John Vu**

- Vu said that he had spoken earlier about USSA, and told council that this past weekend he had gone to the UCSA Conference. He said that it was similarly structured to USSA, but much less intense. He said that, similar to the USSA model, UCSA members agreed on three Action Plans. These were: (1) Get out the Vote (2) Education, and (3) Eligibility. He said that, concerning Eligibility, the intention was to increase eligibility of high school students for the Universities of California this year. Vu said that much has happened since the formulation of the UC Master Plan, and that it was somewhat outdated. Vu said that plans were also to expand Eligibility in local context from 4 to 8 percent, and also to set up summer alternate pilot programs on two University of California campuses. Vu said that the next meeting for UCSA would be held at Berkley. He also said that he had been elected as the Vice Chair of the Legislative Committee. Vu said that the Students of Color Conference was coming up, and that students from all campuses were currently determining what the conference would look like. Finally, Vu said that the UC Regents were going to vote on raising the GPA requirement, but that this had been postponed for the time being.

**President - Allende Palma/Saracho**

- Palma/Saracho said that he went to USSA with the delegation. He said that GOTV was an issue discussed at some length. Palma/Saracho also said that there was E-Training on September 10th, 11th, and 12th. He also said that he had received parking permit applications for USAC for Fall Quarter, and that anyone on Council who wants an application should email him. He said that there were enough permits allocated to USAC for each office to have at least one. Palma/Saracho also said that he had received an invitation from the LA Dodgers for he and other Council members to go to College Night on September 13th. He said that tickets would be especially cheap, and he thought it would be fun for Council to go to the game together. He said that up to 30 people can go, and that he would talk about it more at the next meeting.
- Palma/Saracho said that he had a meeting with Bob Naples earlier in the day, and that the idea had come up to revive the Governance Conference for Students, potentially to be held on Wednesday of Zero Week of Fall Quarter, perhaps from

9:00a.m. to 2:30p.m. Palma/Saracho said that this would be a chance for USAC, the Graduate Students Association (GSA), and Administrators to have a discussion about student concerns. He encouraged everyone who is interested in participating to let him know. Palma/Saracho said that the day would probably cover breakfast, lunch and two sessions. He said that the Chancellor would be available during lunch for at least an hour. He said that Naples had asked for a list of issues that council wanted to talk about. He said that this would be a good opportunity to meet and talk with administrators, and get their take on issues that Council wants to address. He said that this event would be held on Wednesday, September 29, from 9:00a.m. to 2:30p.m. Palma/Saracho also said that the New Student Welcome event would be on Monday of Zero Week of Fall Quarter at Pauley Pavilion. Palma/Saracho said that he would be one of the speakers to address the incoming students, and that there would also be entertainment, videos, cheerleaders, and a barbeque afterward. He said that there would also be entertainment by campus groups, such as the Lion Dance performed by the Association of Chinese Americans. Palma/Saracho said that council was planning lots of things for Welcome Week. For example, USAC would be holding an Open House one night during Zero Week. He said that this would consist of an initial greeting by council, tours through council offices, and possibly food in most of the USAC offices. Finally, Palma/Saracho said that he had received four boxes of software from Microsoft, called "1 Note", and that it was intended for taking notes on laptops. He said anyone who is interested in this software should let him know.

#### VIII. New Business

- There was no New Business this week.

#### IX. Old Business

##### A. Discussion of USAC Retreat Agenda

- Wood said that the USAC retreat would be held in Palm Springs at the Alluring Sun resort. She said that everyone should bring their swimsuits. Wood said that there would be 18 beds, but that everyone should bring sleeping bags. She reminded council that each office was to bring one additional person. Wood said that they would be leaving at 6:00p.m. from Lot 6, and she asked who could drive. *Avila, Palma/Saracho, and Wood said that they were all willing to drive.* Wood said that everyone would need to chip in 15 dollars for food, and that each person should come with extra spending money to have dinner out. She also said that, by the end of the retreat, a description of each office would be needed for the Base Budget presentation. Lastly, Wood asked if there were any special dietary needs of council members. *Lee indicated that both she and her staff member were vegetarians.*
- Palma/Saracho asked that each council member forward to him the name of the staff member they were bringing so that a final list of attendees could be put together.
- Wood said that directions to the retreat site would be handed out at Lot 6.
- Palma/Saracho asked each officer to put together a written description of the programs his/her office would be working on for the coming year so that this information could be included in the packets that would be handed out at the retreat.
- Villarin said that she might have to work later than 6:00pm on Friday and wondered if anyone was planning to leave later than 6:00pm
- Palma/Saracho suggested that Council members could have dinner in the Westwood area and then come back to campus to load the vehicles. He said this might help to avoid some of the peak-hour traffic. He then asked the

Administrative Representatives if they planned to attend. Nelson and Tuttle both indicated that they would like to attend, but each said that they had some family health concerns that might keep them from being there. .

- Palma/Saracho went over the agenda for the USAC retreat.
- Vu said that each officer would be developing a GPOA by the end of the retreat, and that this would represent what they planned to accomplish, how they planned to bring it about, and a timetable of their plan of action.
- Palma/Saracho said the purpose of this effort was to set goals and deadlines, so that council could determine what they want to accomplish during their term in office, and what issues on campus they want to address.
- Lee asked who was shopping for the food, and when.
- Palma/Saracho said that Chan would be handling that responsibility, and suggested that Lee talk with Chan to get the specific time.

X. Announcements

- McLaren asked if anybody had received the email that Tony Ta, USAC's Webmaster, sent out several weeks ago offering his assistance to all Council Members who wanted to establish, or improve, their web page on the USAC site. Several officers acknowledged that they had received Ta's message, but none had responded to his offer. McLaren urged all Council Members to use this resource as a free and effective way to provide information about their projects and programs to all UCLA undergrads, as well as to make that information more readily available and accessible to all on-campus and off-campus entities.
- Palma/Saracho reminded council that next week's meeting would begin at 7:30p.m., and also reminded them that it was a tremendously important meeting because the Budget Review Committee would be making a presentation on their recommended allocations to USAC offices and student groups. He said that all items for the agenda should be sent to Chan no later than 5:00p.m. on Thursday.
- Gruenberg said that the Office of Residential Life was having a fair during Welcome Week for incoming freshmen, and said that USAC could have a table at the fair if they notified ORL before September 17th.

XI. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

- Harbottle passed around the attendance sheet.

XII. Adjournment

- Martinez moved and Avila seconded to adjourn.
- Villarin called for Acclimation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclimation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19p.m

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael Keesler  
USAC Minutes Taker