

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday September 7, 2004
417 Kerckhoff Hall
6:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: Kurita, Tripathi

GUESTS: Frank Lee, Nicolas Taborek

I. A. Call to Order

- Palma/Saracho called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

- Harbottle passed around the Attendance Sheet

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Palma/Saracho said that he wanted to add an item under new business. He said that it would be section C, and would be the Approval of the Action Agenda Items for 2004-2005.

- McLaren asked if appointments were going to be made at the meeting.

- Palma/Saracho said that there were. He said that three appointments would be made, one to the Judicial Board, one to the Communications Board, and one to the CS Mini Fund.

- Martinez moved and Tseng seconded to approve the Agenda, as amended.

- Martinez called for Acclimation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclimation. There being none, the Agenda was approved, as amended, by Acclimation.

III. Approval of the Minutes

August 17, 2004

-Palma/Saracho asked if there were any changes or additions to the August 17 Minutes.

-Lee said that, on Page 6, the name of the Palm Springs resort where USAC was holding its retreat should be changed from "Learning Sun" to "Alluring Sun."

- Martinez moved and Villarin seconded to approve the Minutes of August 17, as amended.

- Martinez called for Acclimation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclimation. There being none, the minutes of August 17 were approved, as amended, by Acclimation.

August 24, 2004

- Gruenberg said that on page 11, where he commented on why he had abstained from voting on the Base Budget Allocations, he would like the record to reflect that he had abstained because he had not been able to review several elements of the Base Budget process. Specifically, he said that he would have liked to have been giving the opportunity to review BRC's notes from the hearings, as well as any notes that were taken during the deliberations. Gruenberg said that he felt that his concerns were valid.

- Williams said that on page 3, under Officer and Member Reports, his comment to Darren Chan was simply to ask Chan if he was referring to David Lowenstein when Chan reported that he would be meeting with "the former Director of Mardi Gras."

- Harbottle said that on Page 5, under “Approval of the Base Budget Allocations,” where Ohara presented information on the number of groups that applied, the total number should have been 134, not 133, and that the number of groups that had been denied funding should have been 43, not 42. Harbottle also clarified a statement she made on page 6 concerning the amount of time allocated for each hearing. She asked that the minutes be amended to state that the BRC had originally planned to allocate up to 20 minutes for each group’s hearing but, because of the unusually large number of groups that applied, they had to reduce each hearing to a maximum of 15 minutes. Harbottle stated further that, on page 9, where it indicates that she was the only member of the committee that asked each group whether they felt they met the minimum criteria, she that all members of the BRC asked the questions about the criteria. She said she had just one more change to make, which was that in Bhuiyan’s statement on Page 10 that 42 groups had not been funded, the number 42 should be changed to 43.
- Avila moved and Gruenberg seconded to approve the Minutes of August 24, as amended.
- Martinez called for Acclimation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclimation. There being none, the minutes of August 24 were approved, as amended, by Acclimation.

IV. Special Presentations

- There were no Special Presentations this week.

V. Appointments

- Chan said that the ARC had met earlier in the day to interview several appointees.

Community Service Mini Fund Committee

- Chan said that Joel Verceles was up for appointment to the position of chairperson of the CS Mini Fund Committee. He said that Verceles was a committee member this past year, and that he knows the responsibilities. Chan said that Verceles hopes to carry out what Crystal Lee did last year as the chairperson, and to maintain the continuity of the position. Chan said that the ARC thinks Verceles has more than enough experience and knowledge about the CS Mini Fund Committee to handle this position, and added that the ARC voted in favor of approving Verceles as chairperson.
- Villarin moved and Martinez seconded to approve Joel Verceles to the position of Chairperson of the Community Service Mini Fund Committee.
- Villarin called for Acclimation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclimation. There being none, Joel Verceles was appointed as the Chairperson of the Community Service Mini Fund Committee by Acclimation.

USAC Judicial Board

- Chan said that Michelle Enchill was up for appointment to the Judicial Board. He said that she is a second-year student and the co-director of a student organization which she had revitalized last year when the organization was dying. He also said that she is part of the African Arts Ensemble. Chan said Enchill mentioned that her objective was to leave a legacy of fairness, and this struck Chan and the rest of the ARC as a simple word choice, but precisely what they were looking for. Chan said that she has extensive knowledge of what this position entails, and is even trying to learn more about it by researching Judicial Board history. Chan said that the ARC looked favorably upon all the work that she has been doing, and voted in favor of her appointment.
- Gruenberg asked Chan if people who were presented for appointments were invited to attend the USAC meeting at which they were to be approved.

- Chan said that this was usually so, but the notice had been so short for these appointees that they may not have been able to attend.
- Wood said that, since the ARC usually interviews nominees at least one day prior to the meeting at which they are being presented for USAC approval, there is usually time to invite them to the meeting and have them available for any questions that Council members might have. Wood said that the ARC might have forgotten to invite the nominees that were being presented tonight.
- Wood moved and Chan seconded to approve Michelle Enchill to the USAC Judicial Board.
- Avila called for Acclimation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclimation. There being none, Michelle Enchill was appointed to the USAC Judicial Board by Acclimation.

Communications Board

- Chan said that Shiva Bhaskar was up for appointment to the Communications Board. Chan said that Bhaskar was on the USAC Election Board last year. He said that the ARC had interviewed Bhaskar when Palma/Saracho first nominated him, and ARC had voted to recommend him for Council's approval. However, Chan said that because the Comm Board position was for two years and Bhaskar was going to be a graduating senior, he had declined to take the position so that another qualified applicant who could serve the two-year term could be appointed. Chan said that, since then, circumstances had been worked out which now allowed Bhaskar to serve on Comm Board for a one-year term.
- Palma/Saracho said that Bhaskar is very qualified, and that he really wants him to serve on the Communications Board. He said that Bhaskar had been a Daily Bruin columnist for two years, and had developed a great relationship with the paper during that time. He said that the only reason Bhaskar declined the appointment earlier was because of the two-year requirement. Palma/Saracho said that, if there had been a better candidate who could fill this position for two years, he would have forwarded that person to the ARC. He said that Bhaskar really is the best possible candidate, and that was why he was recommending that Council approve Bhaskar for one year. Palma/Saracho said that USAC has members who are well informed about the newsmagazines and other student media, but said that USAC does not have anyone with Bhaskar's unique knowledge of the Daily Bruin.
- McLaren asked if Bhaskar's inability to serve a two-year term would cause any problems for Student Media.
- Palma/Saracho said it would not, more than half of the committee would be returning to serve the second year of their term, so that would aid in the transition. He also said that exceptions like this had been made before with committees such as SFAC.
- Wood moved and Martinez seconded to approve Shiva Bhaskar to the Communications Board for a one-year term.
- Avila called for Acclimation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclimation. There being none, Shiva Bhaskar was appointed to the Communications Board for a one-year term by Acclimation.
- McLaren asked if the ARC would please submit to Michael Keesler, USAC's Minutes Taker, a written statement of their recommendations so they can be included in the permanent records of USAC's meetings. She also asked, as a Point of Information, if ARC's vote to recommend tonight's nominees had been unanimous.
- Chan said that he would provide official documentation of ARC's recommendation, and confirmed that each vote had been unanimously in favor.
- Palma/Saracho said that it had been his fault for asking the ARC to interview these nominees and bring their appointments to Council on such short notice.

VI. Fund Allocations

- Harbottle said that there were five Contingency requests this week, two of which were handled through her discretionary authorization. The first was for Inner Warmth which usually receives funding in Fall Quarter, but had come forward at this time to obtain funds they need now to rent storage space for all the donations they have received. With regard to the other discretionary allocation, Harbottle reported that Sigma Pi Fraternity was holding a barbeque as part of an altruistic experience for this group at an off-campus location. She said that Contingency funds could not be used for labor costs, but that she had allocated funds under her discretionary power for advertising the event. Next, Harbottle said that CSC's Project Literacy had raised half the funds needed for their Staff Retreat, and that FiCom was recommending Council's approval of the additional funds needed for their event. Next, she said that FiCom was recommending funds for a conference that the Latin American Student Association was co-programming with CSC. Finally, Harbottle said that FiCom was recommending partial funding of the program CSC is planning for the Welcome Week Carnival. She said that Welcome Week events were being co-programmed by a number of USAC offices, and suggested that everyone on Council that was interested lend them a hand.
- Gruenberg 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.

Inner Warmth**Requested: \$108.06****Recommended: \$108.06**

In compliance with the discretionary authorization granted to her in the 2004-2005 Finance Committee Guidelines, Harbottle recommended the allocation of \$108.06 for the rental of storage space for the month of September.

S P - Sigma Pi Fraternity**Requested: \$1,000.00****Recommended: \$ 250.00**

In compliance with the discretionary authorization granted to her in the 2004-2005 Finance Committee Guidelines, Harbottle recommended the allocation of \$250.00 for the cost of Advertising for the Open BBQ at the Rose Bowl to be held on September 4, 2004.

CSC / Project Literacy**Requested: \$290.63****Recommended: \$290.63**

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$290.63 for the partial cost of Facilities for the Staff Retreat to be held September 17 – 19.

Latin American Student Association**Requested: \$1,581.81****Recommended: \$ 446.00**

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$446.00 for the partial cost of Facilities for the Conference to be held September 24 – 26.

Community Service Commission**Requested: \$1,676.79****Recommended: \$ 838.40**

The Finance Co mmittee recommended the allocation of \$838.40 for the partial cost of Programming for the Welcome Week Carnival to be held on September 26, 2004.

VII. Officer and Member Reports

External Vice President - John Vu

- Vu said that he had been very busy with UCSA getting things together for the year. He said that in his position as Vice Chair for the Legislative Committee for UCSA, he had held conference calls with Brian Guinness from UC Davis, trying to establish what the various committees will all do. Vu said that they were also preparing for the Executive Committee Retreat this coming week and the coming board meeting in Berkeley. On a campus-wide scale, Vu said that he was working with the General Representatives and other student leaders. He said that he had been meeting more frequently lately, and also preparing for a statewide conference call. Vu said that he was still looking for speakers for the upcoming event and added that anyone on council was welcome to offer suggestions. Vu said he was also still working on Get Out The Vote, and following up with other things that were set up at the retreat. Vu reminded council about the training session that would be held at Santa Monica College on September 11th and 12th. He also said that he had participated today with Chan and Palma/Saracho at the ASUCLA Entities meeting.

Internal Vice President - Darren Chan

- Chan said that at the last meeting he had spoken about ORL's leadership intern program. He said that since then, he had the opportunity to speak with the head of the leadership committee. Chan said that it had taken her a long time to get back to him because of all her new staff coming in and with the hiring of new resident directors. Chan said that now that this work is done, she has had chance to look over the internship proposal. He said that she was happy with it, and Chan said that he would present a revised proposal at the next meeting of council. Chan said that he also just interviewed a potential Executive Director for Mardi Gras, and hopefully his office will make strides in ensuring that this event happens. Chan said that he had met with Vice Chancellor Montero, and had spoken with her about issues regarding council. Chan said that they also spoke about making sure that USAC's Action Agenda items could be accomplished this year. Chan said that she is already taking the initiative to email other administrators to let them know what is happening at the meetings. He said that he would be talking to council members about this, and hopefully everyone can talk with the Vice Chancellor about these issues.

President - Allende Palma/Saracho

- Palma/Saracho said that last week he went to a conference at UCLA regarding the plan proposed by State Senator Richard Alarcon with regard to admissions policies. Palma/Saracho said that this would be taking into account eligibility in a local context. He said that there was a problem in the LA. area especially, where lately a disproportionate number of students from local high schools are not being admitted to UCLA. Palma/Saracho said that what this means is that the deal that Governor Davis signed, that the top 4 percent from each local area high school can attend a UC in their area, is not being honored. He said that there had been a good press conference held, with lots of news coverage of the event. He said that the conference was pretty short, but he thought it went over very well. Palma/Saracho said that the reporters were asking the right questions, and added that admissions should be considered, especially considering the lack of diversity lately. Palma/Saracho then spoke about the ASUCLA Entities Committee that was formed last year. He told council that it was formed out of a need for direct communication among the four different entities of ASUCLA. Palma/Saracho said that each group works individually, but really the groups need to be working together on some big issues. He said that, initially, the committee met once a quarter, but they were considering increasing that to twice each quarter, starting with Fall Quarter. Palma/Saracho said that there are specific things that need to be discussed, including space, funding, construction, and services on campus. Palma/Saracho also said that he has had had conversations with units on campus about

their need to be represented to council through committees. He reminded council that many positions oversee small committees, and stressed the importance of attending the meetings of these committees so that their concerns could be brought to council.

Palma/Saracho told council to check their Bylaws to see which groups they oversaw, and told council to make sure they at least had someone attend these meetings in their stead. Palma/Saracho also said that he had spoken with the Office of Residential Life, and said that they would like council to make a presentation to their staff. He said that he had forgotten to bring the date, but said that he knew it was coming up soon.

- Chan said that it would be within the next two weeks.
- Palma/Saracho reported that, this coming weekend, he would be attending the UCLA Alumni Retreat. He said that if anyone on Council wanted him to inform the Alumni on any issues, they should let him know.

VIII. New Business

A. *Approval of the 2004 - 2005 USA Finance Committee Guidelines

- Harbottle said that she had not changed any of the guidelines that were in effect last year because she felt they had been very satisfactory. She referred council to the proposed Finance Committee Guidelines for 2004-2005, which were in their Agenda Packet. Regarding item two, Graphics, Harbottle said that the cap would be \$500.00 for each group. Regarding item four, Harbottle said that allocations for Parking were granted only in extreme cases. Regarding item six, Travel, Harbottle said that it is important for everyone to attend meetings, conferences, and retreats, so the Finance Committee thought it was important to fund Travel for such purposes. Harbottle said that the discretionary cap for the Finance Committee Chairperson was still set at \$600. She concluded her remarks by pointing out that, in certain situations, exceptions could be made to some of the Guidelines but that no exceptions could be made to item seven (Discretionary) or item eight (Summer Contingency Funding).
- Gruenberg asked if there had been any changes in the level of contingency funding.
- Harbottle said it has always been 10 percent of student fees. She said that now that Independent groups are eligible for funding, the Finance Committee must anticipate that more groups will request money. Harbottle said that this is likely to result in a decrease in the amount each group would receive because of the increase in the number of groups seeking funding.
- Nelson said that, all the years he had served on Council, Base Budget allocations have been a concern. He said he had waited until now to make the following comments, but said he felt it was important to state them at this time. Nelson said that it seemed to him that, this year in particular, the members of the Budget Review Committee had bent over backwards to be fair. He said that, based on all the scuttlebutt he has heard, this needs to be said. Nelson gave an example of Lyndon Johnson who, while doing all sorts of things to minimize problems with racial inequality, was criticized most severely by those who could benefit from the liberalizing of resources. Nelson said that, based on his observation of how thoroughly the BRC went through the entire funding process, it was his opinion that there have been some very unfair comments made by certain students about the Budget Review Committee. Nelson said that Base Budget allocations are especially hard when resources are diminished. He said, however, that he had not seen or heard of any decisions by the BRC that were political in nature or that would have gotten in the way of completely fair allocations. Nelson said he thought that the BRC, and other council members, had done a very good job on the Base Budget process, and that they should have gotten more credit than they did.

- Avila moved and Lee seconded to approve the 2004 - 2005 Finance Committee Guidelines.
- Martinez called for Acclimation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclimation. There being none, the 2004 - 2005 Finance Committee Guidelines were approved by Acclimation.

B. Finance Committee Chairperson Report

- Harbottle said that the BRC had to make a correction to Table 3 (Reasons Denied Funding) from the last meeting's Agenda Packet. She said that there had not been 42 groups that were denied Base Budget funding, but that there were actually 43.
- Villarin asked if everyone could get copies of this table after the changes were approved.
- Palma/Saracho said that this would make sense to him.
- Villarin indicated that a guest at the meeting already had been given a copy of the revised version of Table 3.
- Palma/Saracho said that such information is public knowledge, but is usually not considered official until approved by council.
- *Nicolas Taborek, Daily Bruin reporter, handed to Pat McLaren the copy he had of the revised version of Table 3.*
- Gruenberg asked if the group that had been left off the list had been notified that they had been denied funding.
- Harbottle said that Ohara had informed them of the Budget Review Committee's decision not to fund them.
- *Lili Harbottle read a statement to council in which she officially submitted her resignation from the position of USAC Finance Committee Chairperson.*
- Palma/Saracho thanked Harbottle for all of her work, and asked that her request that her reasons for resigning not be made public.

C. *Approval of the 2004-2005 USAC Action Items

- Palma/Saracho said that he wanted to formally approve the action items decided on at the USAC Retreat. He suggested that Council review them carefully before voting on them so that a clear wording of each action item could go into the record. Palma/Saracho said that the action items were:
 1. Get out the Vote: to increase voter registration and education.
 2. To deal with the issues and concerns of Expected Cumulative Progress. To perform data gathering, address retention problems, and address quality of life issues for many students at UCLA.
 3. Campus Programming Autonomy Campaign (FREE UCLA Campaign)
- Avila explained that the third Action Item was an attempt to hammer out a new policy for outdoor programming at UCLA.
- Villarin moved and Martinez seconded to approve all of the USAC Action Items for the 2004-2005 school year.
- Council called for Acclimation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclimation. There being none, the USAC Action Items for the 2004-2005 school year were approved by Acclimation.

IX. Old Business

- There was no Old Business this week.

X. Announcements

- There were no Announcements this week.

XI. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

- Harbottle passed around the attendance sheet.

XII. Adjournment

- Martinez moved and Lee seconded to adjourn.
- Tseng called for Acclimation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to adjourning by Acclimation. There being none, the meeting of September 7, 2004 was adjourned at 7:02 by Acclimation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Keesler
USAC Minutes Taker