

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday November 23, 2004
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Avila, Bhuiyan, Chan, Corella, Gruenberg, Kurita, Lee, McLaren, Martinez, Nelson, Ohara, Palma/Saracho, Tripathi, Tseng, Tuttle, Villarin, Vu, Williams, Wood

ABSENT: Gaulton

GUESTS: Hays Witt, Ricardo Rodriguez, Joseph Vardner, Saba Riazati; Kristina Doan; Janina Montero

I. A. Call to Order

- Palma/Saracho called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Corella passed around the Attendance Sheet

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Martinez asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Tseng asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports. He also asked that a Resolution be addressed after Special Presentations. He said that this was a Resolution in Support of Living Wages at UCLA.
- McLaren suggested that council discuss whether or not to hold a meeting during Tenth Week. She suggested that this be addressed under New Business.
- Villarin asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Martinez moved and Tseng seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.
- Villarin called for Acclamation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Agenda was approved as amended by Acclamation.

III. Approval of the Minutes

*There were no minutes up for approval this week.
Tseng was not ready to make his presentation, so council moved on to Appointments.*

IV. Appointments

Palma/Saracho passed out his appointment recommendations, as well as a letter from Karen Salazar, Chairperson of the Student Fee Advisory Committee, regarding the Student Affairs Budget Review Team (SABRT) Appointment.

***Office Space Allocation Committee**

- Palma/Saracho said that the Office Space Allocation Committee had been brought to the attention of council by Tripathi. Palma/Saracho recommended that there be four council members in addition to Tripathi as chair, and said that they would be Wood, Villarin, Lee, and Bhuiyan.

***Chancellor's Enrollment Advisory Committee (CEAC)**

- Palma/Saracho said that he was forwarding Alexandra Ramos as his recommendation for the CEAC. He said that she was very qualified, and he listed some of her credentials.
- Martinez said that Ramos had worked in his office for two years now, and said that she had a lot of experience in the area. He said that this new endeavor would be in line with the work that she had been doing.
- Palma/Saracho said that the committee had already been meeting, and required someone quickly.
- Wood moved and Vu seconded to approve the Appointment of Alexandra Ramos to the Chancellor's Enrollment Advisory Committee.
- Martinez called for Acclamation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Appointment of Alexandra Ramos was approved by Acclamation.

***Student Affairs Budget Review Team (SABRT)**

- Palma/Saracho said that SABRT was rather unique, as it was a subcommittee of the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) in some regards. He said that historically there were two representatives from USAC and two from GSA. Palma/Saracho said that one of these two automatically came from SFAC, and the other was to be chosen by council. He then proposed Roy Samaan as the non-SFAC representative from USAC.
- Avila moved and Martinez seconded to approve the Appointment of Roy Samaan to the Student Affairs Budget Review Team.
- Vu called for Acclamation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Appointment of Roy Samaan was approved by Acclamation.

V. Special Presentations

***Resolution in Support of a Living Wage at UCLA**

- Tseng said that he was bringing this resolution to council because people forget about the workers who make life at this campus possible. He said it is important that council recognize the workers of the university. Tseng said that workers are being mistreated by the university, and he introduced Ricardo Rodriguez, a representative of AFSCME, to tell Council about the workers' concerns.
- Ricardo Rodriguez, a security officer at UCLA Medical Center, said that there were three major things that his Union, AFSCME, was seeking to gain. He said that these were a Living Wage increase, the chance for advancement, and the maintaining of parking rates at an affordable level, respectively. Rodriguez said that his union represented workers on campus, including housekeeping workers in the UCLA hospitals and residence halls. Rodriguez said that the workers had not received a raise in the last three years, and the university did not want to give them a raise for another three years. Rodriguez gave an impassioned description of the responsibilities that these workers have, and the pride that they take in their supportive role. Rodriguez said that a lot of his coworkers had to work two jobs because the pay was so low. He said that the problem has been worsened because they are currently short-staffed, which means that each worker has to pick up additional chores. He explained the Catch-22 problem of having high standards to which potential employees must measure up, and the fact that those who were qualified often took better-paying jobs elsewhere. Rodriguez said that his work with the Union has prevented him from taking a second job. He pointed out that he had come to the meeting to represent the hundreds of workers who could not be here themselves. Rodriguez said that there are about 1,000 members in the union living below the poverty line, and only about 100 who were living at, or just above, the poverty line. He said that since there have not been pay increases, the problem continues to worsen. Rodriguez said that employees are

- concerned about going on strike because they would not be able to meet the needs of the patients and the students. He said that he had stayed at the University because he started working here when working conditions were better, and there was a good benefit package. He reiterated that the current situation is not good enough. Rodriguez said that UCLA was becoming like a private organization, trying to save money, rather than paying their employees what they should. Rodriguez said that he was here seeking council's support, and said he'd be glad to answer any questions they had. He also introduced Hays Witt, an AFSCME officer, to make a brief statement to USAC.
- In an effort to engage Council Members in a dialogue, Hays Witt asked why they did what they do.
 - Vu said he felt that Council Members ran for office so they could work for their constituents; the students who elected them.
 - Martinez said that it was a forum for holding the university accountable, and making sure that everyone was treated equally and benefited from their university experience.
 - Wood said she got involved because she feels that there are a lot of ways that the university can improve, including access to resources and accountability.
 - Witt said that the employees were providing a service, while struggling, at a time when there is little opportunity for them to advance. He said that there are a lot of limitations on upward mobility. He then asked if Council Members had any questions.
 - Gruenberg asked if UCLA set the wages for service workers in accordance with the UC-wide system.
 - Witt said that the University of California did recommend an amount, but it was not a set number.
 - Gruenberg asked if UCLA increased its wages for workers, would that force the hand of other UC campuses to increase their wages.
 - Witt said that UCLA was the fifth largest employer in Los Angeles, and there had to be some allowance for the cost of living in each particular campus region. He said that he thought the managers wanted to pay more, but they were unable to do so.
 - Rodriguez added that there were different starting rates among the UC campuses. He gave an example of this by saying that the starting pay rate for his job description was higher at both Berkeley and Irvine than he was making even now.
 - Gruenberg asked if there were actual starting pay rates that they were trying to achieve at this time.
 - Witt said that the idea was to open a dialogue so that increased pay rates could be figured out.
 - Tseng directed council to a packet that he had passed out which had a table showing some of the living wages and salaries.
 - Wood asked what the university was doing about each of the three points in the contract.
 - Rodriguez said that often the university would meet one of the three points but would then retract another. He offered an example where the university would give employees a raise, but then negate it by raising the price for parking. Rodriguez said that the university needed to hold on all three points in order for any one of them to have effect. He elaborated on the issue of potential for advancement by citing an example of someone taking time off from work to go to technical school, and then being able to come back to a better job. He said that, right now, such possibilities do not exist.
 - Williams asked where the numbers came from for the chart on the back of Tseng's packet.
 - Witt said that the website at www.cbp.org presents this information in a clearer manner.
 - Williams asked if it was a case of nobody at UCLA getting raises, not just the workers represented by the Union. He also asked if the University was actually talking about giving no raises for the next three years.
 - Rodriguez said that the last time they met with University representatives was in June at Riverside. He said it was at that meeting that the University representatives had talked about no raises for three years.

- Witt said that Williams' point was well-taken that the whole system was hurting, but said he believed that what needed to be looked at was the pay rate of the people who were having trouble surviving. He said that Williams' point had been expressed a lot, but reiterated that the people who suffered the most from the pay freeze were the ones at the bottom of the rung.
- Palma/Saracho said that he thought a lot of people did not understand the term "living wage", and asked Witt to define what it meant.
- Witt said that it was based on a cost index which included average rent, food, gas, etc. for a given area. He said that it is calculated on how much two people would need to earn from full-time jobs in order to support a family of four.
- Williams said that, bottom line, the workers were making about \$27 to \$28 thousand a year.
- Tseng said that he would like to point out that UCLA has invested tremendous amounts into faculty, buildings, and the hospital, but very little in either the students or the workers. Tseng also brought up the issue of the \$98,000 that UCLA just spent to buy a new logo. He said he found it hard to see UCLA deny pay raises to the workers when they have wasted almost \$100,000 on a new logo. Tseng said that, in Maryland, the students and workers got together, went to the State Capitol, talked to the state legislators, and succeeded in getting the workers the right to form a union. He said that this has also happened in Minnesota. Tseng said that this was a great time for the students to explore other avenues by which they could increase their advocacy powers, and in doing so they would be taking a step in the right direction. He said that the first action council could take would be to approve and publish this Resolution in Support of a Living Wage at UCLA. Tseng said that the resolution recognizes some of the injustices being committed against the workers and also reflects the solidarity between the UCLA students and the workers.
- Tuttle asked if the other Unions were on board with this.
- Witt said that they were not.
- Martinez moved and Vu seconded to approve the Resolution.
- Palma/Saracho called for a vote. Council voted to approve the Resolution in Support of a Living Wage at UCLA, with a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions
- Tseng told council that he would like to have the Resolution published in the Daily Bruin.
- Tseng moved and Wood seconded to publish a 1/3 page advertisement in the Daily Bruin on Monday.
- Avila called for Acclamation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the decision to publish the Resolution in Support of a Living Wage at UCLA as a 1/3 page ad in the Daily Bruin on Monday was approved by Acclamation.
- Tuttle said that he wanted to express his appreciation for the work done by Rodriguez and his colleagues, as the amount that they were paid was not enough to do the job that they did. He said that he had seen it being done a lot lately, and he appreciated it.
- Rodriguez thanked him for his acknowledgement.

VI. Fund Allocations

- Corella said that 1 of the 9 recommendations were via her discretionary authorization.
- Avila moved and Tseng seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Martinez called for Acclamation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations were approved by Acclamation.

Bruin Partners/Community Service Commission**Requested: \$688.00****Recommended: \$300.00**

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$300.00 for the partial cost of Transportation to the Marina del Rey Middle School site in Mar Vista.

L Q N - Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc.**Requested: \$1,000.00****Recommended: \$ 447.00**

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$447.00 for the partial cost of Transportation for the Latina Youth Leadership Conference to be held on November 20, 2004.

UCLA Dance Marathon**Requested: \$1,542.27****Recommended: \$ 940.80**

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$940.80 for the cost of Facilities and the partial cost of Supplies for World AIDS Day to be held on December 1, 2004.

UCLA Run/Walk – Student Welfare Commission**Requested: \$594.27****Recommended: \$357.80**

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$357.80 for the cost of Facilities for the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament.

MEChA**Requested: \$680.00****Recommended: \$450.00**

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$450.00 for the partial cost of Facilities for MEChA's General Body Retreat in Big Bear December 3-5, 2004.

Armenian Students Association**Requested: \$160.00****Recommended: \$ 40.00**

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$40.00 for the partial cost of Food for High School Day at UCLA on December 1, 2004.

University Buddhist Association**Requested: \$320.00****Recommended: \$ 50.00**

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$50.00 for the partial cost of an Honorarium for a Lecture by Tibetan Buddhist Monks on November 22, 2004..

Samahang Pilipino**Requested: \$500.00****Recommended: \$250.00**

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$250.00 for the partial cost of Food for Samahang's One-Day Conference on December 3, 2004.

A Night of Cultura**Requested: \$346.49****Recommended: \$100.00**

In compliance with the discretionary authorization granted to her in the 2004-2005 Finance Committee Guidelines, Corella recommended the allocation of \$100.00 for the cost of Graphics for A Night of Cultura to be held on April 22 and 23 of 2005.

VII. Officer and Member Reports

Office of the General Representatives – Wood, Tseng, Villarín

- Tseng reminded council that the delegated assignments on the ECP campaign which were made last week needed to be done by Tuesday of next week. Tseng said that the ECP Task Force would be meeting this Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and apologized for any confusion, as there had been a lot of unforeseen holdups. Tseng also said that if anyone wanted to come to the meeting they should feel free. He said that last week a lot of members had promised to send someone from their office to the General Body Meeting, but no one showed up. Tseng said that he would continue to make the meeting times very clear.
- Gruenberg asked what meeting was on Wednesday.
- Tseng said that Wednesday was the ECP Task Force Meeting. He said that there would not be another General Body meeting this quarter.
- Martinez said that he and Tseng had gotten tired of going to the same meeting twice, so they were combining the two into one.
- Palma/Saracho said that the first General Body meeting was scheduled for Zero Week or First Week of Winter Quarter.
- Villarín said that she thought the Students of Color Conference went really well. She reported that, this last weekend during SOCC, Tina Park's laptop had been stolen from 417 Kerckhoff. She said that there should be no reason that people cannot leave things in their offices. Villarín said that she would be making signs reminding people to lock their doors.
- Wood said that, except for the theft of Park's laptop, SOCC had been a huge success. Wood said that there had been around 500 students in attendance. She said that there were a lot of productive goals and strategies set, and said that it had been a great opportunity for people to meet each other and come away with something positive. On another matter, Wood said that anyone who still owed money for USAC T-Shirts should email JK at jenkim83@ucla.edu.
- Avila said that he never got his shirt.
- Wood said that she would get it to him.

Academic Affairs Commission – Eligio Martínez

- Martínez said that he had decided that he would no longer remain in charge of the ECP campaign. He said that in order to maintain the neutrality of the ECP survey, he needed to remove himself, as he already had a strong opinion on ECP. Martínez said that he had talked to many people and they all thought that this was the best thing to do. He urged council to renew their efforts on ECP because there has not been much work done of late. Martínez said that Tseng would now be solely in charge of the campaign.
- Chan asked if Tseng could send everyone some information about what they could do to become more involved. He said that he had tried to go to one of the meetings, but it had been cancelled. Chan said that there is only so much time to communicate at the weekly USAC meeting, so increased communication would help him to do what needed to be done.
- Wood said that requesting more communication was good, but attending the meetings was of paramount importance. She said that the way to get things done was for each Council member to at least send a staff member to the meetings that they themselves could not attend.
- Tuttle asked if Palma/Saracho was requiring updates on all of the USAC Action Items.
- Palma/Saracho said that was his intent, and he asked that every elected officer attend, or send at least one person, to each of the meetings.

ASUCLA – Patricia McLaren

- McLaren said that she had learned recently that every computer has a distinctive identification which is referred to as its "MAC Address". She explained that "MAC"

is an acronym for “Media Access Control”, and does not refer only to Macintosh computers. She said that the MAC address is the hardware address that uniquely identifies each computer and is even more distinctive than the computer’s Serial Number which can be removed. She recommended that everyone record the MAC address of their computers because it is very good information to provide in the police report when a computer is stolen. She said she would be handing out information on how to find a MAC address.

External Vice President – John Vu

From the report issued to council by External Vice President John Vu:

UC Regents Meeting (November 17 and November 18, 2004)

- As you have read, the Regents decided to increase student fees by 8% and decrease financial aid (from 33% return to aid, to 25% return to aid). Now, students are paying more and getting less. In addition, the Regents also decided to not support Regent Connerly’s Multi/Bi-Racial checkbox, which would have prevented students who are multi/bi-racial to check off every race with which they identify. Nearly 100 students statewide attended this event and took part in an action. Although it may have been sensationalized, students felt that since the Regents were taking so much from students financially, that the only possessions students had to pay the Regents were the shirts off their backs. Thus, shirts were taken off during Public Comment and during the disappointing vote, where only one regent, Regent Jodi Anderson, voted against the increase of student fees. Students felt further disenfranchised because one of the regents who voted in favor of the fee increase said he did not know what was going on, but would vote in favor of the increase, anyway.

UCSA Board meeting (Friday, November 19, 2004)

- The November UCSA Board meeting was packed into 3 hours, where there was a debriefing on the Regents meeting and several actions, including a unanimous vote in favor of a resolution in support of a diversity requirement at UCLA. We will be having follow-up and wrapping the quarter up with our December Board conference call.

Students of Color Conference (November 19 - November 21, 2004)

- Thank you everyone who volunteered and contributed so many hours to make this conference a success! We had 550 students registered and over 450 students statewide who attended the 17th annual Students of Color Conference! We had positive feedback (workshops, speakers, smoothly-run conference) from so many students and have definitely set a good tone for the organizing that will be done on all 8 undergraduate campuses, and set the bar for all future statewide conferences! Great job, Conference Committee!

Travel

- During Week 9, I will begin my visits to Sacramento to develop relationships between our elected officials such as Representative Karen Bass, UCLA’s state representative and Students of Color Conference keynote speaker. I am also beginning to write policies on eligibility and outreach that will be introduced in the State Legislature.

Reminders

- November 25, 2004-Jason Gaulton’s Birthday
- December 18, 2004-Pavan’s Birthday

Internal Vice President – Darren Chan

- Chan said that December 1 would be the joint meeting between UAAC and On Campus Housing Council (OCHC) in the Covell Private Dining Room. He said that people should come around 5:15pm to get swiped in and get food, and hopefully they could start the meeting around 5:30pm. Chan said that he wanted to make sure OCHC was clear on the ECP campaign, and noted that he had forwarded council an email from OCHC expressing their support of the ECP campaign. Chan said that immediately following the meeting there would be another meeting for the coordinating of the

Student Leadership Summit. He said that the latter meeting would last for about an hour and a half (which would be in addition to the earlier meeting).

- Tuttle asked what the date of the Leadership Summit was.
- Vardner said that it would be on Thursday, January 20.

President – Allende Palma/Saracho

- Palma/Saracho said that he had been busy with coordination for, and attendance at, the UC Regents meeting last week. He said that there had been a lot of good speakers during Public Comment and a good showing at the Rally. Palma/Saracho said that there had been some incredible analysis of the costs of tuition and education by law school students. He said that they had spoken both on Wednesday and again on Thursday, and that he felt they had broadcast a good message about Student Initiated Outreach. Palma/Saracho said that this was one of the biggest successes, and the Regents had really thought about what they were saying. Palma/Saracho also said that there had been a great press conference on Thursday, with speakers from both the undergraduate perspective and the graduate perspective. He said that the position of the students had included the argument that it did not make sense to decide to raise student fees before the Governor even showed his January Budget for the 2005 fiscal year. Palma/Saracho said, lastly, that it had been great to take their shirts off, signifying that the Regents were taking the shirts off the backs of the students. He said that the end results had not been great, but the Outreach discussion had been good. On another matter, Palma/Saracho said that there were about 28 interns in the President's Empowerment Internship Program at this point, and he said that he would try to have their names and information to council by next week.

VIII. New Business

***Resolution in Support of a Multicultural Center at UC Berkeley**

- Vu directed council to the resolution that was included in the Agenda Packet. He said that UC Berkeley was known for their student activism on campus, and said that during one protest there had been an agreement by the University to establish a multicultural center on campus. He said that, today, five years later, there was still no center. Vu said that, in the interim, student diversity was declining, and said that this resolution would support the temporary establishment of the center. He said that Berkeley was one of the only campuses without this type of center, 'though others might not use the same name.
 - Gruenberg asked if UC Berkeley had authorized the establishment of the center.
 - Vu said that they had, but this Resolution was trying to ensure that it was done soon.
 - Wood moved and Gruenberg seconded to approve the Resolution in Support of a Multicultural Center at UC Berkeley.
 - Tseng called for Acclamation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Resolution in Support of a Multicultural Center at UC Berkeley was approved by Acclamation.
- Vu did not seek publication of this Resolution.*

Discussion on Meeting During Tenth Week

- Palma/Saracho said that Councils sometimes met during Tenth Week, and sometimes they didn't. He said that a lot of his finals were during Tenth Week.
- Wood said she thought council should meet Tenth Week, especially with the ECP campaign looming early in Winter Quarter.
- Vu asked Corella how Contingency allocations would be affected were council not to meet Tenth Week.
- Corella said that it depended on how much a group would be asking for, as some requests could be handled through her Discretionary Authorization. She pointed out, however, that this option wouldn't help groups that needed large amounts.

- McLaren suggested that, if Council decides they want to meet during Tenth Week, Palma/Saracho might want to get a show of hands on whether they could meet quorum during Tenth Week. She reminded Council that, without quorum, they would not be able to take action on the Contingency Requests, and that they'd have to be tabled until the meeting the first week of Winter Quarter.
- Tuttle suggested a "snap-poll".
An informal poll indicated that council would be able to meet quorum during Tenth Week

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

X. Announcements

- Avila said that SWC's Blood Drive was next week. He said that the registration for the UCLA Run/Walk Basketball tournament would be open until next Wednesday. Avila encouraged council to come to the World AIDS Day Solidarity March next Wednesday, and said that he would remind them again at next week's meeting.
- Wood urged everyone to participate in the march and to get tested. She said that she would pass around fliers with the events of the day outlined, and asked council to please email this information to their staff members. Wood said that the documentary, "A Closer Walk", would be shown at 7:30pm in AGB, along with a little clip about the UCLA AIDS Institute.
- Bhuiyan said that "Boku" would be playing at noon tomorrow in Bruin Plaza. He also said that the Eclectic and Jazz series would be going on next week.

XI. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Corella passed around the attendance sheet.

XII. Adjournment

- Martinez moved and Tseng seconded to adjourn.
- Avila called for Acclamation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 P.M. by Acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Keesler
USAC Minutes Taker