

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday February 8, 2005
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: Crystal Lee

GUESTS: Michael Cox, Kristina Doan, Melinda Dudley, Paul Marian, Charles Proctor, Saba Riazati, Joseph Vardner, Greg Wannier

I. A. Call to Order

- Palma/Saracho called the meeting to order at 7:07 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.
- Gaulton asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports, and to be granted a Special Presentation.
- Villarin asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports, and to have a CRC Report added under Old Business.
- Tripathi asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Avila asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Gruenberg asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Wood asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Tseng 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 this week

IV. Special Presentations

California Student Sustainability Coalition – Michael Cox

- Michael Cox representing the California Sustainability Coalition (CSC) said that he was here to update council on sustainability on campus. Cox said that the first topic to discuss was the creation of a Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability. He said that right now Mary Nichols was going to be the Co-Chair of that committee along with other members of campus. He said that Jared Fox, GSA President, was also serving on this committee, since USAC did not have a representative. Cox said that the first meeting of this committee would be on February 22nd. Cox said that the second project he was working on was the campus sustainability audit. He said that the idea

behind this was to create ways to measure how UCLA rates with regard to sustainability. Cox said that this would provide concrete numbers that would then, in turn, guide the actions of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee. Cox said that a full campus audit would cost around \$30,000, but only \$8,000 was currently available. He said that the extra cost could be cut, however, by having students aid in the audit process. Cox said that it had been arranged for students from the Sustainability Coalition to help with the audit and also get course credit. He said that this would raise an extra \$20,000, and he asked if maybe council would put forth the remainder of the money to get the audit done.

- Wood said that she was reminded of the Chancellor's fund on research, and suggested that Cox check into that. She said that she could suggest other areas that Cox could apply to in order to help raise this money instead of just asking USAC for it.
- Villarin said that she was not knowledgeable, but she asked what the sustainability audit would be and what its purpose is.
- Cox says that it would be a research project, and it would investigate UCLA's sustainability factor. He said that it would provide information about how well UCLA recycled, how much it wasted, and the implications of these things economically.
- Wood said that it sounded like a good project, but said that, typically, USAC funds programs, so she would be happy to help him find other sources of funding.
- Gruenberg asked if there were other entities on campus that investigated these things.
- Cox said that there was a similar group under GSA, and he also said that he worked with Engineers Without Borders and Environmental Bruins.
- Gruenberg said that some of the eateries may have some of the data that Cox is looking for, and asked if he had contacted ASUCLA about the information.
- Cox said that he had not.
- Tuttle said that it was his impression that GSA was very interested in this subject.
- Cox said that the Environmental Coalition is a body of GSA, and that this is where the \$8,000 is coming from. He said that the California Sustainability Coalition is a multi-campus entity, and there were lots of things that they worked on across campuses.
- Tuttle said that he remembered when Cox came to Council two years ago, and what he remembered was that, by adding together the sustainability information from all of the UC campuses, one can get an idea about energy consumption. He said that what this meant is that a report would eventually come out showing the impact of the universities.
- Cox said that the UC system has become a leader in sustainability, and an initiative started by them had been adopted by the Cal-State System. He said that the issues here belonged in a much larger context.
- Palma/Saracho asked if Cox had an email address where he could be contacted about the issue.
- Cox said that he did, and asked how he would learn more about council's interest in being involved in the audit.
- Palma/Saracho said that he would help with the coalition, and that, as Wood had stated earlier, she would help Cox find more sources of funding.
- Tseng asked if there was any one thing that Cox was working toward.
- Cox said that there were a lot of projects that he was working on, addressing multiple issues.
- Gruenberg said that it would be helpful to him and everyone if Cox emailed council with more information.
- Cox said he wasn't familiar with the process for obtaining funding from council.
- Martinez said that, if this project was for a class, there was a separate fund.
- Cox said that it was sort of for a class, but really it was for information that would lead to the creation of a class.
- Wood said that, perhaps before Cox wrote a proposal to council, they could talk about other sources of funding.
- McLaren asked for the name of the group that conducted such audits on campuses.
- Cox said that he did not have that name.

- Palma/Saracho closed by saying that Cox should talk with Wood, because there are only certain things that can be funded by council.

Outdoor Policy Proposal – Jason Gaulton

- Gaulton said that his policy proposal was an attempt to gain access to outdoor space between 12:00 Noon and 1:00 p.m. He said that things that affected this proposal were access, student involvement, and community involvement. Gaulton said that the proposal would guarantee that, five times a quarter, amplified sound could be present on campus locations with special permission granted by a USAC committee. He said a couple of the provisions regarded midterms and finals. Gaulton said that between 3rd and 7th week, there could only be one event per week. He added that Thursday of 9th week would be the cutoff, saying that no events could take place after that date because of finals. Gaulton said that Wilson Plaza, Meyerhoff Park, and one other were the three target areas of this proposal. He said that the proposal would also allow for more than the five allotted dates if the university granted permission.
 - Palma/Saracho said that he thought the proposal was well written. He asked if Gaulton had considered including the Los Angeles Tennis Center on the list.
 - Gaulton said that LATC was not covered in this proposal, and use of that venue was still up to UCLA Administration.
 - Wood asked if Sunset Recreation Center was the same as LATC.
 - Gaulton said that it was.
 - Wood asked if this was a first-come first-serve system of applying for one of the five slots.
 - Gaulton said that would be determined later, but that he intended for there to be a committee that would set deadlines and would oversee which events were selected.
 - Tripathi asked what kind of response Gaulton anticipated from the administration.
 - Gaulton said that he thought it would be positive.
 - Palma/Saracho asked if USAC would determine what the five dates would be, or if the groups which applied would propose the dates.
 - Gaulton said that the groups would specify the dates.
 - Tuttle said that, to look at this proposal from the perspective of the faculty, or from that of students who take night classes, he said that Gaulton might want to anticipate questions from them with regard to Perloff Quad and Schoenberg Quad. He added that the geography might take care of the sound, but that it might help to consider some of these areas.
 - Gaulton said that they had anticipated this, and they were dealing with these issues by saying that only speech could take place in certain areas, and also by saying that these events would have to be approved.
- Martinez left the meeting.*
- Wood asked how the deadline worked.
 - Gaulton said that ideas had to be proposed at the beginning of the quarter, but that the final details like bands had to be approved at least two weeks ahead of time.
 - Palma/Saracho asked who oversaw this policy.
 - Gaulton said that it was through CSP.
 - Wood asked if Gaulton needed support from council, since this was an action Agenda Item.
 - Gaulton said that he had it covered.

V. Appointments

There were no Appointments this week.

VI. Fund Allocations

- Corella said that, of the five Contingency Fund Requests this week, one had been handled through her discretionary authorization, and the remaining four were before Council for their consideration and approval.

Martinez returned to the meeting.

- Villarin moved and Tseng seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Villarin 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.

UCLA Dance Marathon

Requested: \$6,277.73

Recommended: \$3,129.19

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$474 (the Advertising cap) for the partial cost of Advertising, and \$2,655.19 for the partial cost of Supplies for Dance Marathon on February 26th and 27th.

Bruin Raas Team

Requested: \$990.00

Recommended: \$190.00

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$190.00 for the partial cost of Travel for the West Coast Gujarati Conference to be held on February 12th.

Pilipinos for Community Health

Requested: \$859.99

Recommended: \$638.56

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$500.00 (the Graphics cap) for the partial cost of Graphics, and the allocation of \$138.56 for the partial cost of Supplies for the Our Lady of Peace Health Fair to be held on February 13th.

Academic Affairs Commission

Requested: \$3,324.00

Recommended: \$1,600.00

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$1,600.00 for the partial cost of an Honorarium for Rhymes of Resistance to be held on February 9th.

UCLA Students for Tsunami Relief

Requested: \$1,208.80

Recommended: \$ 600.00

In compliance with the discretionary authorization granted to her in the 2004-2005 Finance Committee Guidelines, Corella recommended the allocation of \$281.00 for Facilities and the allocation of \$319.00 for the partial cost of "Other: CTO Fees", for the Dodgeball Tournament which was held on February 4th to benefit the Tsunami Relief Fund.

VII. Officer and Member Reports

Financial Supports Commissioner – Alex Gruenberg

- Gruenberg said that he had coordinated a series of FAFSA workshops for the weekend of the 23rd and 24th, since the FAFSA was due March 1st. He said that the workshops would be held both in Ackerman Union and on the Hill, and said that it was important to get the word out. Gruenberg said that on March 22nd there would be a Special

Presentation by AVC Tom Lifka and Ron Johnson on Financial Aid. Lastly, Gruenberg said that the Financial Supports Commission Website would be up soon, and said that he hoped it would be both helpful and lasting.

General Representative #3 – Anneli Villarin

- Villarin said that she had talked with Nancy Greenstein from UCPD about campus safety. She said that one of the things discussed was the presence of the emergency posts. Villarin said that she was going to work with UCPD to create a map of the emergency posts to give to students, and also talk about the possibility of creating more posts. Villarin said that she wanted to create a publicity campaign to tell students that if they dial 911 from UCLA, the call goes to the California Highway Patrol. She said that this resulted in a lot of time lag before an emergency could be responded to, and added that it was much faster to call UCPD directly.
- McLaren said it was her understand that, if someone dials 911 from a campus phone, the call goes directly to UCPD but, if someone calls from a cell phone, even from on campus, that call would go to the CHP.
- Villarin said that she had also talked about having more student participation. She said that there would be weekly checks to make sure that the emergency posts worked.
- Tuttle said that one thing to explore was whether or not the problem with where 911 calls are directed could be fixed. He said that UCLA is one institution and CHP is another. He said that it might be possible to just make a simple technical fix that might improve this problem.

At the conclusion of Villarin's report, Martinez asked if the Textbook Resolution could be dealt with immediately because the presenter was not able to stay through the entire meeting..

Accordingly, Palma/Saracho moved up New Business Item A.

A. *Resolution in Support of Affordable Textbooks – CalPirg Representative

- Greg Wannier, a student representative of CalPirg, said that someone who has been working on the textbook campaign was supposed to make the presentation, but they had gotten sick, so he was making it instead. He said that it was important to pay attention to the rising cost of textbooks, as students were often pressed for funds. Wannier said that CalPirg has been examining the costs of textbooks and why they are so expensive. He said that many of the opinions about why textbooks cost so much, like royalties, are incorrect. Wannier said that Calpirg had published two reports, one called "Ripoff 101", showing that textbooks in certain fields are particularly expensive. In addition, he said that it did not make sense that new editions were coming out once every couple years, with the same authors, same topics, and essentially the same approach, but with very few things being changed. Wannier said that, because of the changes that are made, students cannot sell or trade their old editions, and new students aren't able to use the old editions because of those changes. He said that one thing they found was that the information is often on different pages in the new editions than it is in the old editions. He said that another interesting fact that CalPirg learned was that the same textbooks were 40 % cheaper in the UK, despite the fact that they are American published, with the factor of export costs. He asked council if they had any questions about the resolution.
- Gruenberg said that his office conducts a Textbook Lending Program and that they have found that textbooks of a couple editions back are often still usable. He said he felt that this discredited, to some extent, Point C of the resolution they were discussing.
- Wood said that she was not familiar with the bill in legislation regarding textbook costs.
- Vardner said that the report done last year had been the first one to get national coverage. He said that the coverage had been so great that several committees had felt compelled to pass resolutions in support of the issue.
- Wannier acknowledged that there were some bills in legislation, but pointed out that CalPirg's goal was to target the textbook manufacturers themselves, as they believe it is more effective to target a problem at its source. He said that one accomplishment

thus far had been to get less expensive versions of the textbooks published. He said that these texts were usually in black and white, instead of in color, and usually did not include the “bonus materials”.

- Tuttle asked if the underlying problem was a breakdown in the market.
- Wannier said that the problem was that only a few publishing companies controlled the market.
- Tseng moved and Vu seconded to approve the Resolution in Support of Affordable Textbooks.
- Council voted to approve the Resolution in Support of Affordable Textbooks with a unanimous vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

After the resolution, Palma/Saracho returned to the Officer and Member Reports.

General Representative #1 – Jenny Wood

- Wood said that she had gone to a meeting of the UCLA Happenings Committee, and that she is serving on the Student Affiliation subcommittee. She said that, one suggestion that has been made was to improve the communication between UCLA Happenings and the student organizations. Wood said that she would be working with them to make facilitate this communication. She said that another matter they discussed was to have the UCLA Happenings website add information about how to get involved in different student organizations. Wood said that a link to The Volunteer Source would also be put on their website. Wood then reported on the Dodgeball Tournament, saying that 34 teams had registered and more than \$4,000 had been raised for Tsunami Relief. She again reminded council to donate money for Tsunami Relief at ASUCLA eateries and stores.
- Palma/Saracho said that Wood had done a great job, and said that he heard a lot of non-students had a great time at the tournament.
- Wood said that it was very cool to see the whole university come together.
- Tripathi asked who won.
- Wood said that Sigma Alpha Epsilon - ΣAE won against Sigma Phi Epsilon - ΣΦΕ in the finals.
- Tripathi asked if the commissions were still donating money to the relief fund.
- Wood said that she would be giving council the budget transfer forms.

General Representative #2 – Tommy Tseng

- Tseng said that a Labor Teach-In would be held next week on February 15th. He said that in the primary session, a speaker from the union representing hospital workers in the state of California would be holding a seminar. Tseng also said that Reverend James Lawson, essentially the right-hand-man to Martin Luther King, would be giving a talk. Tseng said that this teach-in was being held under the idea that information should be shared among groups in the community. He recommended several of the workshops that council should go to, particularly Lawson’s on Civil Disobedience.
- Gruenberg asked if there would be same-day registration or if both seminars needed to be attended.
- Tseng said that there would be on-site registration, and that one didn’t have to attend both seminars.
- Palma/Saracho said that Tseng had done a great job to get this thing together. He said that the three most powerful unions were going to be here together at this Teach-In, and that he was very impressed about that fact.

Student Welfare Commissioner – Jason Avila

- Avila said that tomorrow was the beginning of Chinese New Year, and that he was giving Council good luck red envelopes. He said that there were a lot of events coming up, including a blood drive and also fund-raisers at some of the Westwood eateries. Avila said that there would be fundraisers for Valentine’s Day with the selling of roses and orange crush. He also said that the SWC was still selling space in its publication, and passed out information about how to advertise,

- Wood asked how the basketball tournament went.
- Avila said that about \$1,400 had been raised.
- Wood asked when the registration for the UCLA run walk was.
- Avila replied that the date had not yet been set.
- Tseng said that if anyone had leftover food from Valentine's Day, then they could bring it to the ECP meeting that would be later that night.
- Avila lastly said that there were signboards on Bruinwalk about Multicultural Crafts Day. He also said that Super CPR Sunday was coming up. Avila said that it was the same day as Dance Marathon, but he said he was inviting everyone who was participating in that fundraiser to also try and make it to Super CPR.

Facilities Commissioner – Pavan Tripathi

- Tripathi said that last week had been Campus Safety Awareness Week. He said that it had been a big success, and due to a communication error with the Daily Bruin, the 911 alternate number had been advertised every day of the week. Tripathi said that he was also working on the safety around the perimeter of campus, with lighting and fountains. He said that first the administration needed to make sure that everything was okay with the neighbors and the environmental issues, but hopefully some progress would be made next year with getting better lighting.

Academic Affairs Commissioner – Eligio Martinez

- Martinez said that this was Global Consciousness week, which would conclude tomorrow with a concert from 8:00-11:00 p.m. Martinez said that he had a meeting with other Academic Affairs Commissioners, and it had been interesting to learn how other campuses were operating. Martinez also said that yesterday he had been at a meeting of the University Committee on Education Policy, where they looked at a proposal from 2003. He said that it was for a fee policy that would tax students who went over 110% of the unit cap, but the committee felt that this policy would cost more to monitor than it would actually bring in.
- Palma/Saracho asked if the excess fee was something done on the Regental level.
- Martinez said that he thought so.
- Palma/Saracho said that he recalled that students who went over the unit cap would be charged out-of-state tuition, and he would be personally interested in any updates on this issue.
- Martinez said that it would be good to show council's opposition to this policy

Campus Events Commissioner – Jason Gaulton

- Gaulton said that on Thursday at 7:00 p.m., Campus Events would be screening "Inside Deep Throat". He added that a Government ID would be required to prove that attendees were at least 18 years of age. Gaulton added that on Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. would be a Slam Poetry Show. He said that the Spongebob Movie was also being shown the same night at 7:00 and 9:00. Gaulton also passed out the new Campus Events Calendar. Gaulton told council that the UCLA Happenings meeting on Wednesday had basically been him and Bhuiyan telling them how it's done. Gaulton recommended that everyone keep sending information on all of their events to UCLA Happenings.
- McLaren asked Gaulton if he knew whether UCLA Happenings was expecting to get refunded after their grant expired at the end of June.
- Gaulton said that, as of now, they were not expecting to be refunded.
- Palma/Saracho said that all of the great movies were on Tuesdays, and asked if he could come see them next year as an alumnus.
- Gaulton said that he thought it might be possible.

Administrative Representative – Berky Nelson

- Nelson reminded Council members about the dinner with Student Affairs administrators on February 22nd, prior to the Council meeting. He said this dinner will provide a good

opportunity for student leaders to exchange insights with members of the Administration.

- Palma/Saracho said that if anyone had something that they wanted on the Agenda they should send it to Vice Chancellor Janina Montero.

External Vice President – John Vu

- Vu apologized for not being here last week, and went on with his report.

From John Vu's Weekly Report to Council:

UCSA Update

- This weekend, we had our UC Student Lobby Conference and was well-attended with a delegation of 36 UCLA students.
- The three-day conference consisted of workshops on UCSA's lobby visit items (outreach, financial aid, enrollment, UC Labor Centers) and lobby workshop sessions. The day after the conference (yesterday) was our Lobby Day.
- We lobbied on mainly two of UCSA's action agenda items -Get Out the Vote and prioritization of higher education. We asked for the increases in funding to financial aid, particularly with return to aid, outreach/academic preparations programs, and the UC Labor Centers.
- As an office, we will be following up with any questions the legislators or staff members had. In addition, we will be having an in-district visit next month and an additional Sacramento visit closer to the May Revise.

USSA

- Attended Replenishing Democracy conference in New Orleans, LA on the weekend of January 28-30, 2005.
- This weekend consisted of presentations and strategy sessions on how to build relations between students, workers, and religious group on and off campus and was attended by students, staffs, community leaders, and seminarians from around from the nation.
- We are also working on the Student Labor Week of Action, during the week of March 30-April 2005, an annual action that happens on over 350 campus nationally, where each campus works on a variety of actions, from educational forms to demanding their administration to support and improve the conditions of on-campus service workers. For UCLA, this will occur during Spring quarter due to the actual week of action occurring during Spring break.

Future travels

- UCLGBTIA/Western Regional at UC Davis, February 11-13, 2005.
- California Budget Summit at CSU Channel Islands, February 18-20, 2005.
- UC Regents Meeting at UCLA, March 16-17, 2005.
- USSA Legislative Conference: March 18-22, 2005

(end of John Vu's Report)

- Tripathi asked how the Check thing went.
- Vu said that the simulated checks, representing \$2 million dollars in debt, had been submitted to the Governor, and said that it had been a very powerful demonstration.
- Wood said that one thing that had been cool about the debt-check campaign was that it only represented six percent of the debt, because it was only from UCLA students. She said that it had been a great learning experience, and said that a lot of the State Senators she had spoken with were very receptive to what the students were interested in.
- Martinez said that he had not been able to go to Sacramento because he was attending a meeting with UCOP, but it had been a good experience.

Internal Vice President – Darren Chan

- Chan said that tomorrow would be the joint USAC / OCHC meeting. He asked who would not be able to come because, if USAC's attendance would not be substantial, he thought the meeting should be rescheduled.

Tripathi, Martinez, Villarín, and Bhuiyan indicated that they could not come.

- Chan asked, for those who could come, to please meet at 5:15 p.m. outside of Covel Commons.
- Wood asked if the USAC/OCHC meetings were every two weeks or, if not, was there some pattern to the meetings.
- Chan said that this particular meeting had been set last week because this was the second week of the ECP campaign. On another matter, Chan said that the more people who were interested in the IVP publication project, the better it would be.
- Vardner reported that the Transportation Services Advisory Board (TSAB) was doing well in negotiating with MTA to incorporate the BruinGo! routes. He said that they had agreed to the terms, but had not signed, so nothing was official yet. Vardner said that Lot 32 was empty most of the time, so they were also exploring options about raising money using that lot. He lastly said that there was discussion on altering the TSAB constitution to add a student representative since the students were currently a minority.

President – Allende Palma/Saracho

- Palma/Saracho said that he and Chan had gone to the ASUCLA Entities Committee meeting on Friday. He said that a few corrections had been made to the language for the proposed fee referendum, and that students would be able to review it, which was good since this was their investment. He said one point that was brought up was a need to show that the students care about safeguarding the Student Union. Palma/Saracho said that it is important for the students to know what they are buying into, and that this was an important example of student governance. Palma/Saracho said that this Friday the Board of Directors would be meeting at noon to vote on whether the fee referendum should be run in the Spring election. Lastly, Palma/Saracho said that the internship seminar last week had been about Gender issues, and this week would be about raising sensitivity. He said that the class would be held in Ackerman 2408.
- Palma/Saracho said that on February 16th he would be going to the Alumni meeting followed by a dinner with the Chancellor. He also said that he would be meeting with the Labor Center. He said that they wanted to put on either a “toxic tour” about pollution in Los Angeles or maybe a tour of the Garment District.

VIII. Old Business

A. ECP Task Force Report

- Tseng said that they were in the last stretch of the ECP Survey campaign. He encouraged everyone to make the classroom presentations, email friends, and send Facebook messages. Tseng said that the Daily Bruin had written something about the language being unclear, so he asked council not to use the first set of language that he had provided them with. Tseng said that the survey would end Monday morning, so the task force would change from intense advertising to compiling of the data. He said that on March 4th, a proposal would be submitted regarding the data compiled.
- Wood said that there were four days left, and asked if any commissions wanted to spearhead the efforts on any of those days. She said that she knew Gaulton was interested in a day.
- Gruenberg asked what this entailed.
- Wood said that this required calling the volunteers the night before, making sure that they had the necessary information, and then actually being on Bruinwalk to be a leader and a point-person.
- Palma/Saracho said that his office took on Monday, and he had encountered the fact that people were attracted to taking the survey on the laptops if someone was actually there with them, telling them what needed to be done.
- Tseng said that he was just told that the survey would end on Friday night, not Monday morning.
- Gruenberg said that he would take a day.

- Avila said that his commission would be advertising for their Spring Blood Drive, so they could promote ECP at the same time.
- Gruenberg asked how many surveys had been completed.
- Martinez said that he could not release that information.

B. Constitutional Review Committee (CRC)

- Villarín said that the CRC had met last night. She said that last night and had decided to look at the Bylaws and some of the language that they wanted to adjust. Villarín said that once they had some recommendations for council, she would bring them to the table. She said that one thing they had done was revise the language concerning “Officially Recognized Student Organizations”, and modifying it to include Independent groups and to reflect the need to accept the non-discrimination clause. Villarín also said that the next meeting would be on Monday, but the time had not yet been set.

IX. New Business

B. *Resolution in Opposition to Senate Bill 5

- Martinez said that Bill 5 was called the “Student Bill of Rights”. He said that this seemed wrong, though, because it limited the abilities of professors to speak on certain issues, the ability of council to fund certain things, and placed several other restrictions.
- Vu said that other UC schools had taken a stance on this Bill, and added that UCSA was opposed as a whole.
- Martinez said that this bill was trying to go behind everyone’s back to take away freedoms.
- Tseng said that this was very symptomatic of Sacramento influencing academic policy. He said that last year the governor had eliminated the Institute for Labor Employment and Outreach. Tseng said that this was happening again this year with the new budget, where outreach funding had been coupled with enrollment growth. He said that this was an attempt to violate the very academic freedoms of the university.
- Martinez said that this is also part of a larger trend across the United States. He said that universities should challenge students to think critically, and by teaching right down the middle, this stifled students’ education.
- Gruenberg said that he had read over the bill and he thought that it was good intentions coming from the wrong source. He said that the bill was also poor verbiage, implying that students are incompetent to decide what is best for them.
- Nelson said that one thing a university is supposed to do is encourage critical thinking. He said that what is most important to take from an education is a critical assessment of everything. Nelson said that Senator Morrow does not understand this concept, and said that he thought it a slap-in-the-face to say that the educators at the university did not know what the academic curriculum should be.
- Tripathi asked if a specific event had triggered this bill.
- Martinez said that campuses across the nation called for academic freedom. In terms of Morrow, he said that there were too many speakers on campus fighting with counter protestors.
- Tseng moved and Bhuiyan seconded to approve the Resolution in Opposition to Senate Bill 5.
- Council voted to approve the Resolution in Opposition to Senate Bill 5 with a unanimous vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

X. Announcements

- Wood said that the last day to register for Dance Marathon was Valentine’s Day.
- Palma/Saracho asked what the prize for the Texas Hold’Em Tournament would be.

- Wood said that the winners would not receive a prize, but that they would get to decide which dancer the funds would support. In other words, all of the money raised will go into the fundraising pot.
- Chan said that for anyone interested, UniCamp applications were available. He said that it is a unique opportunity to take inner-city kids to summer camp for 9 days away from Los Angeles. Chan said that the applications were available online.
- Martinez said that council had been challenged by CPO to play basketball on Friday.

XI. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Corella passed around the attendance sheet.

XII. Adjournment

- Martinez moved and Villarín seconded to adjourn.
- Tseng called for Acclamation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 P.M. by Acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Keesler
USAC Minutes Taker