

FINAL

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday April 12, 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, Wood

ABSENT: Lee, Williams

GUESTS: Eric Barba, Melinda Dudley, Ani Garibyan, Bernice Ines, Raffi Kassabian, Farheen Malik, Richard Meng, Saba Riazati, Shant Taslakian, Greg Wannier

I. A. Call to Order

- Palma/Saracho called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Corella passed around the Attendance Sheet

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Lam asked if the Election Board Appointment could be moved to after Old Business because the appointee would not arrive until 8:30p.m.

Approval of the Election Board Publicity Chairman was moved to after Old Business and before New Business.

- Martinez asked to move up New Business Item C, Discussion of Proposal by the Faculty Executive Committee of the College to Amend Late Drop Policy, to after the Special Presentation.

New Business Item C was moved to after Special Presentations.

- Palma/Saracho asked if anyone would object to him moving up New Business Item D, *Approval of ASA's Resolution: Fight to Protect Human Rights in Turkey, to after Special Presentations.

New Business Item D was moved to after Special Presentations and before New Business Item C.

- Farheen Malik said that Lee was not able to attend this evening, and asked if she could give an Officer's Report on Lee's behalf. She also asked to remove from the agenda New Business Item B, Review of Revised Language for PULSE Referendum

New Business Item B was removed from the Agenda.

- Martinez asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.

- Villarin asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.

- Bhuiyan asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.

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

- Tseng 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

CALPIRG 2003-2004 Annual Report, UCLA Chapter

- Greg Wannier, CalPirg representative, said that he had brought 12 copies of CalPirg's Annual Report so that there would be one for every USAC Officer.
- McLaren, commenting that there were actually thirteen election USAC Officers, asked Wannier if he happened to have another copy with him. He replied that he did not, but that he would be sure and get it to USAC very soon.
- Wannier began by saying that, under CalPirg's agreement with UCLA, they were required to make an annual report each year to both of UCLA's student government bodies, GSA and USA.
- Wannier said that CalPirg works on public interest issues and coordinates student efforts in the areas of research, teaching, and service. He then talked about a major campaign CalPirg conducted last year regarding the high prices of textbooks, and cited a number of specific things they had done to get prices lowered. First, he said they distributed a lot of information about the problem. Next, he said that a group of students had met with the Higher Education Advocate for California and had developed a plan of action for improving the textbook situation. He said that the responses to the questionnaire they developed and distributed regarding high textbook prices were compiled into a report which they ultimately entitled, "Ripoff 101". In addition, he said that pressure from CalPirg had caused textbook manufacturers to publish less expensive editions, with fewer frills.
- Wannier then talked about what CalPirg had done last year in the area of service. He said that participants in the Hunger and Homelessness Program made 20 visits to shelters, and had put on events to promote community service as a whole. Wannier said that, on the issue of hunger, CalPirg had coordinated the Hunger Cleanup project, which ranged from activities such as packaging food in kitchens, to visiting shelters where they helped to distribute food. He wrapped up his statements on "service" by saying that the Homelessness Campaign had raised \$300 for the homeless and \$1,200 for Habitat for Humanity
- Wannier said that CalPirg's third commitment was to teaching. He said that CalPirg volunteers are not only well-versed in everything they do, but that they are also good teachers who have helped others learn how to be more outgoing, philanthropic citizens.
- Wannier said, in addition to the three major projects that CalPirg worked on last year, they had also worked on environmental issues, including the publication of information on mercury pollution; teaching schoolchildren about the importance of conserving water; and following up with a river cleanup project
- Wannier then said that 250 people in the Los Angeles area had worked with CalPirg last year, with more than 120 of them being from UCLA. He then provided a little history on the organization by saying that CalPirg had become involved with UCLA in 1983, with its funding coming from UCLA students. He said that the UC Regents had eliminated the original funding process in 1989, but that a compromise had been reached in 1992, which was still in effect today. He closed by saying that CalPirg was not as well funded as it was in the past, stating that the original funding of approximately \$700,000 was now down to approximately \$400,000.

V. New Business

D. *Approval of ASA's Resolution: Fight to Protect Human Rights in Turkey

- Raffi Kassabian, President of the Armenian Student Association, said that he was here to present a resolution to protect human rights in Turkey. He said that this was not just about the Armenian Genocide, rather about the fact that there were still issues today concerning the violation of human rights. Kassabian said that he was asking USAC to pass a resolution that would put economic pressure on the U.S. Government by not selling Turkish products at UCLA. He said that, since USAC had passed a resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide, it only made sense that they also pass this

resolution. Kassabian said that it is not just the Armenians, but also the Kurds and Africans that are being oppressed by the Turkish Government. He said that there are human rights violations happening in Turkey every day because the Turkish Government refuses to acknowledge its past. Kassabian said that it was frustrating because a lot of people had not even heard of the genocide.

- Palma/Saracho said that the ASUCLA's Interim Executive Director, Bob Williams, was not at tonight's meeting, and he asked Kassabian if the ASA representatives had spoken to him about this proposal.
- Kassabian said that he had spoken with Williams who told him he did not think that they had any Turkish products for sale in the Student Stores, but that he would like to look into it further. He said that Williams told him he would appreciate receiving more detailed information about Turkish products so he could have someone on his staff check further.
- Gruenberg asked if the ASA was doing any outreach on campus.
- Kassabian said that their annual candlelight vigil in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide would be held in Bruin Plaza this Quarter and that there would also be a silent march on campus. Kassabian said that more events would be taking place, and that anyone who was interested could get a flyer from ASA about them.
- Palma/Saracho said that if this Resolution was approved, he was sure that ASUCLA would continue working with ASA to remove Turkish products from the shelves.
- Martinez moved and Villarín seconded to approve the "Fight to Protect Human Rights in Turkey" Resolution.
- Council voted to approve the "Fight to Protect Human Rights in Turkey" Resolution, sponsored by the Armenian Student Association, with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Palma/Saracho thanked the ASA for bringing this issue to USAC and to ASUCLA. He asked if they wanted to have the Resolution published.
- Kassabian asked if the Resolution could be published in the Daily Bruin on Thursday, April 21st.
- Tseng moved and Vu seconded to publish a 1/3 page advertisement of the "Fight to Protect Human Rights in Turkey" Resolution in the Daily Bruin on Thursday, April 21st.
- Council voted to publish the resolution in a 1/3 page advertisement in the Daily Bruin on Thursday, April 21st, with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

C. Discussion of Proposal by the Faculty Executive Committee of the College to Amend Late Drop Policy

- Martinez said that this was a follow-up to the report he made last week. He said that he thought this was a bad move by the Faculty, and was another attempt to undermine the rights of the students.
- Bernice Ines introduced herself and said that she was here to present the information on the proposal to amend the Late Drop Policy by changing the deadline to Fourth Week. She said that the issue has been repeatedly tabled for the last two years, and that lots of changes have been made during that time. Ines said that someone from the Academic Senate had contacted her recently and said that the students had just one month to respond and comment on this proposed amendment.
- Martinez said that, actually, the Faculty representatives had given him only two days to respond, which he said caused him to further question their accountability and their willingness to really consider USAC's input and feedback.
- Eric Barba, another member of Martinez's staff, said that, currently, any student could drop a non-impacted class up to Tenth Week with a transcript notation and a fee. He said that the policy which is now on the table would change the deadline to the end of Fourth Week. Barba said that the Academic Senate's stated reason for this proposed change was student absenteeism, even though the Faculty does not have any evidence which shows that a change in the Late Drop Policy would offset the absenteeism.

- Martinez said that a lot of the Faculty members also felt that students were dropping classes at the last minute because they believed they weren't going to get as high a grade as they hoped to get. He said that some Faculty members think that students who drop classes very near the end of a session waste time and resources by doing this.
- Barba said that many students were concerned because they could go through an entire Quarter without being given any form of examination until the Final Exam, so they had no way of knowing how they were doing in the class until the very end. He said this prompted them to drop the class and not take a chance on getting a low grade that would affect their overall GPA.
- Palma/Saracho said that, under such a situation, students who had not even been given a midterm exam would have to decide whether or not to drop the class for academic reasons without any idea of how well they were actually doing.
- Barba said that a lot of courses had too few examinations to have such a restrictive drop policy.
- Ines said that the Faculty also felt that this led to grade inflation, as the lower end of the curve was dropping out. She said that UCLA had been compared to Harvard and Berkeley, even though both of those campuses were on the semester system, so this was not a fair comparison.
- Villarín asked if there was any data on the number of students dropping.
- Ines said that students were actually dropping fewer classes than in the past, but said that the Faculty was attributing this improvement to ECP.
- Martinez said that this was just another example of how little sense this made.
- Palma/Saracho said it sounded like the Faculty members were looking out for students, avoiding grade inflation and whatnot. He asked if Professors got any benefit from students not dropping their classes.
- Barba said that the only benefit to Professors from this change was that they would not have to read essays of students who would end up dropping the class at the last possible opportunity.
- Wood said that the policy currently gave the faculty discretion on whether or not to allow students to withdraw from classes late. She said that, if Faculty members did not want students to drop their class, they did not have to sign the petition.
- Martinez said that another argument he had heard was that the Faculty felt disrespected when students dropped their classes. But he said that, when Faculty members state that students who drop classes are just lazy, they were actually being disrespectful to the students. Martinez said that maybe it wasn't so much that students were lazy, but rather that the Faculty members were not challenging the students. He said that perhaps if Faculty members were less concerned with research and more concerning with teaching, then students would be dropping classes less frequently.
- Avila asked what plan of action was being proposed.
- Martinez said that Judy Smith, Vice Provost, Undergraduate Education and Robin Garrell, Chair of the Faculty Executive Committee, wanted to meet with him and Bernice Ines, and that he and Ines were currently drafting a statement in opposition to the proposed change. He said that they would also be writing a Resolution and circulating a petition in opposition to the proposed revision to the Late Drop Policy.
- Palma/Saracho asked if this proposal had been published, or distributed in any way.
- Melinda Dudley said that the Daily Bruin had not published or distributed it.
- Palma/Saracho said that this issue has the ability to affect a lot of students, and said he thought it would be good to inform students immediately about this possible change.
- Martinez said that another thing the faculty can do is petition for their courses to become impacted, and they don't want all of the courses to become impacted. He said, however, that this new policy essentially makes all classes impacted. Martinez said that this would also increase the workload of the counselors, and it ultimately raised the question of whether the Faculty members worked to help students graduate, or simply worked on enforcing Academic Policies.
- Palma/Saracho asked if there were ways to drop impacted classes.

- Martinez said that there were exceptions, such as a death in the family, but these exceptions were all subject to approval by someone in the counseling office.
- Tripathi said that it sounds exactly like the way such matters are handled in the School of Engineering, and suggested that Martinez, Barba and Ines speak with them.
- Martinez said that this Policy had been established 10 years ago, and he was not sure why. However, it seemed wrong for them to just go back on this.
- Vardner said that the issue was written about in the Faculty Newsletter in the context of grade inflation.
- Martinez said that the Faculty was concerned about the curve being skewed, but said he felt that, if the curve became a problem, then perhaps it should just be abandoned. He said that one student's grade should not depend on another's.

VI. Fund Allocations

- Corella said that three of the thirteen recommended allocations were made via her discretionary authorization.
- Wood moved and Tseng seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Avila 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.

Queer Alliance

Requested: \$554.85
Recommended: \$436.50

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$279.96 for the cost of Cloth, \$37.89 for the cost of Supplies, and \$118.65 for the partial cost of Advertising for the National Day of Silence to be held on April 13.

UCLA Armenian Student Association

Requested: \$2,489.75
Recommended: \$1,828.75

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$400.80 for the partial cost of Transportation, \$378.95 for the cost of Graphics, \$575.00 for the cost of Facilities, and \$474.00 for the cost of Advertising for the 90th Anniversary of Armenian Genocide Commemoration Month.

Pacific Islands Students Association

Requested: \$1,037.00
Recommended: \$ 500.00

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$500.00 for the partial cost of an Honorarium for Trouble in Paradise/Earth Day to be held April 21st.

A Night of Cultura

Requested: \$5,885.62
Recommended: \$2,000.00

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$2,000.00 for the partial cost of Facilities for A Night of Cultura presents: "American Herstory" to be held April 22nd and 23rd.

Hanoolim: Korean Cultural Awareness

Requested: \$2,445.39
Recommended: \$1,000.00

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$1,000.00 for the partial cost of Facilities for Korean Culture Night 2005 to be held April 15th.

American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Tau Beta Pi, UCLA Robotics, Eta Kappa Nu, Society of Women Engineers, Engineering Society of UC, American Computing Machinery, Association of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and Society of Automotive Engineers.

Requested: \$371.00

Recommended: \$118.00

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$118.00 for the partial cost of Supplies for the UCLA Engineers Beach BBQ to be held on April 16th.

CalPirg

Requested: \$3,500.00

Recommended: \$ 500.00

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$500.00 for the partial cost of an Honorarium for Solar Forum 2005 to be held on April 20th.

Cultural Affairs Commission

Requested: \$450.00

Recommended: \$200.00

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$200.00 for the partial cost of an Honorarium for Eclectic: Open Mic Night.

Student Welfare Commission

Requested: \$474.00

Recommended: \$474.00

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$474.00 for the cost of Advertising for "Depression, Unplugged" or "Demystifying Depression" to be held April 19th.

Latin American Student Association

Requested: \$7,000.00

Recommended: \$2,000.00

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$2,000.00 for the partial cost of Facilities for Festival Latino to be held on April 16th.

??? - Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity

Requested: \$1,019.42

Recommended: \$ 316.00

In compliance with the discretionary authorization granted to her in the 2004-2005 Finance Committee Guidelines, Corella recommended the allocation of \$316.00 for the partial cost of Advertising for Spring Recruitment 2005 held April 4th through 8th.

Central American Student Association

Requested: \$900.50

Recommended: \$250.00

In compliance with the discretionary authorization granted to her in the 2004-2005 Finance Committee Guidelines, Corella recommended the allocation of \$250.00 for the partial cost of an Honorarium for "Café con Pan" held April 11th.

? F ? - Zeta Phi Rho Fraternity

Requested: \$188.56

Recommended: \$ 90.00

In compliance with the discretionary authorization granted to her in the 2004-2005 Finance Committee Guidelines, Corella recommended the allocation of \$90.00 for the partial cost of Graphics for Spring Recruitment held April 4th through 8th.

VII. Officer and Member Reports

Cultural Affairs Commissioner – Shantanu Bhuiyan

- Bhuiyan said that he wanted to talk about the three big events for the quarter. He said that the first big event was Awareness Week which would be held during Week 4. He said the week's events would include a panel discussion in Ackerman Grand Ballroom, featuring Spinderella, Big John, and Professor Paul Brown; a group from the Bay Area playing on Tuesday; a film on Graffiti Art on Wednesday night; a hip-hop jazz-fusion concert on Thursday; and that the week would wrap up on Friday with a huge concert being co-sponsored by Cultural Affairs and Campus Events. He said that he was currently working on getting sponsors for Welcome Week. Bhuiyan then reported on the second huge event, World Fest, which would take place during Week 5. He said that each day would feature a specific area of the world, with Monday presenting cultural events from Africa; Tuesday would cover the Middle East; Wednesday would present Western European countries; Thursday would cover the Americas; and the week would conclude on Friday with Asia. He explained that there would be student groups tabling all week, with performances on Monday and Thursday. He told council that there would be a lecture series at night, with a discussion on Global issues in Ackerman 2408, and that a film festival would be held in Ackerman Grand Ballroom, to include the film "Invisible Children", as well as films from other independent producers. He said that he needed more student groups to table or sell food all week, and to let him know about any student groups they thought would be interested in participating. Bhuiyan said the third major event that was coming up was the 19th Annual UCLA Jazz Reggae Festival which would be held on Sunday, May 29th and Monday, May 30th, with Jazz on Sunday and Reggae on Monday. He said that India Arie would be the featured artist for the Jazz day, and that he had a list of all the other performing artists for anyone who wanted to see it.
- He said that admission was free for students this year, and that tickets for non-students were on sale now. He said that non-students could get a deal if they bought tickets for both days at the same time. He said there would be a special discounted rate for student groups. He said that, even though this event will be held on Memorial Day weekend, he was hoping that even more people would attend this year than in the past. Bhuiyan said that he was still working on getting more sponsors and vendors for Jazz Reggae, and said he especially wanted to get craft vendors. Bhuiyan said that Scion was giving \$20,000, and Power 106 and the Beat were giving 48 radio spots, totaling roughly \$70,000, in airtime value. Bhuiyan said that he was also talking to MTV to see if they wanted to film the whole festival, but he was not sure where that would go.
- Palma/Saracho asked how many students could come for free.
- Bhuiyan said that all students could come for free, not just a maximum of 3,000 like last year.
- Nelson asked how many came last year.
- Bhuiyan said that 3,000 came last year, and said that he was hoping for 6,000-8,000 this year.
- Nelson asked how many people could be on the field at any one time.
- Bhuiyan said that he didn't have the answer to Nelson's question.
- Tuttle asked how much advertising of the event had been done.
- Bhuiyan said that this year was about the same as last year, but they were increasing on-campus advertising this year. He said that there had been about 35 ads in total last year, but this year there would be 48 for each day, totaling 96 ads for the weekend.
- Tuttle said it sounded like they were getting close to drawing the maximum occupancy, and suggested that Bhuiyan should be careful about having too many people there.
- Nelson said that he was concerned about the attendance factor, as well, because one of the reasons that UCLA no longer holds the Mardi Gras carnival is because too many people came, and had to be turned away when the maximum occupancy was reached. He said that, unfortunately some of the people who were turned away found other ways

to entertain themselves, which resulted in vandalism of neighboring properties, including places in Westwood Village.

- Bhuiyan said that most of the advertising they were running was for Jazz Day because attendance at Jazz Day had been very low last year.
- Nelson said that was good, but asked Bhuiyan to make sure that they had contingency plans ready in case there was an overflow crowd on either day.
- McLaren asked what the hours would be.
- Bhuiyan said that both days started at 11:00am and were scheduled to wrap up around 7:00 p.m.

Office of the General Representatives

- Villarín said that this weekend would be the Women's Collective. She said that she had put flyers in mailboxes, but also passed flyers around the table. Villarín said that she had done outreach to Professors in Women's Studies to get them involved. She said that she was also row-walking the event. Villarín said that what they wanted to happen outside the workshops was to establish a collective goal that everyone could work on this year and into next year. She said that she was hoping that an offshoot student group might be created to further women's issues at UCLA. Villarín said that, if each Council member could send one staff member, that would be wonderful.
- Wood said that the Student Advocacy Collective event which was scheduled for this Thursday had been cancelled. She said that, since there was a strike going on at the campus, she felt it would be wrong for people to cross the picket lines to enter Ackerman Union. Wood said that programming workshops would be held in the coming week, including such topics as "How to Program on the Hill," "How to Program On Campus," and, "Everything You Need to Know About USAC's New Funding Procedures."

Academic Affairs Commissioner – Eligio Martínez, Jr

- Martínez said that the conference call regarding Educational Policy had taken place yesterday morning, and one of the main things they discussed was lack of diversity. He said that the committee was trying to come up with different ways to retain students of color and women.
- Avila said he felt that there was a huge lack of understanding about the Diversity Requirement, and suggested that the Academic Affairs Commission might do an educational workshop on this topic.
- Nelson said that, when he first came to UCLA, he was one of the two Associate Deans, and his responsibility had been to divvy up a million dollars between the Latino and African American students in Graduate School. He said that the situation was as bad today as it was then, but now it's even worse because there's no money to be given out.
- Martínez said he found it interesting that the UC system knew that it was in a crisis, but was not doing anything about it.
- Nelson said that there had been funds for the white students, also. He said that the focus had been on Graduate students, but it also seemed wrong to turn their backs on the undergraduates.

Community Service Commissioner – Farheen Malik

- Malik said that CSC had gone on a staff retreat to Las Vegas. She said that next week would be Advocacy Week on Child Abuse Awareness. Malik said that there would be a movie screening during the week, and there would also be a fundraiser on Bruin Walk.

Administrative Representative – Dr. Berky Nelson

- Nelson said that Council should be mindful at the Union Rally on Thursday, which begins at 3:00 pm, that the Armenian Student Association needed to start their remembrance event at 5:00 pm that same day.

- Tseng said that he thought that the Union would be meeting at the Bear. He said that the picket line would only be in place from 5:00am to 12:00 noon.
- Nelson said that his concern was about the people who did not want the Union to get wage increases, and asked Council Members to tell him, or others in his office, about any confrontations that occur.

External Vice President – John Vu

From John Vu's Weekly Report to Council

UCSA

- Working with Amalia Chamoro, UCSA Legislative Director on assigning dates on when I should be in Sacramento for key budget committee meetings.
- Working on the Statewide Day of Action in Sacramento on April 20, 2005. This is a collective effort between UCSA, CSSA (California Statewide Student Association), and CalSACC (California Student Association of the Community Colleges) to demand prioritization of higher education from our elected. We plan to send a busload of students for this important action. Roy Samaan, is currently working on this.
- Working on follow up calls on legislators to apply pressure on the regents to increase Return to Aid. Jeannie Biniek, is currently working on this.
- Working on in-district visits for State Legislature, which will be happening next week.

USSA

- Board report-Jeannie Biniek, National Affairs Director next week!

Womyn of Color Conference Update

- 4th annual conference at UC Santa Barbara. This conference consisted of workshops on issues relevant to womyn of color-globalization, queer womyn demands in Mexico, womyn's sexual health, coalition building, and panel discussions from community activists, and speakers, including playwright and essayist Cherrie Moraga and performance artist, videomaker, and community activist Margarita Alcantara-Tan.

Travel Updates

- Sacramento visits, various throughout the quarter
- UCSA Board of Director's Meeting @ UCSF, May 6-8, 2005.
- USSA Board of Director's Meeting @ Malcolm X Community College, Chicago, IL, May 13-15, 2005.

Internal Vice President – Darren Chan

- Chan said that work on the Unofficial Guide was coming along as planned. He said that he was also working with the Student Alumni Association (SAA) to make sure that the two bodies worked together. Chan said that SAA was more interested in working at a student level, and now that they had the support there, they would like to increase the discourse between themselves and this council. He said that since the IVP office was responsible for outreach to student groups, a member of the IVP office was now going to all of their meetings. Chan said he hoped that next year's Council would continue to work with SAA and to co-program.
- Tuttle said that he was wary of having USAC working too closely with SAA, as Council was an elected body, while SAA was not. He said that if they were interested in co-programming, that was fine, but he was still a little concerned about this kind of pairing. Tuttle reiterated that SAA is not a student government as is USAC, and that SAA is empowered by a different system altogether. Tuttle said that, if and when a crunch occurred, he wouldn't want anyone in the University Administration to be unsure of whom to go to.
- Chan said that SAA had told him more than once that they had absolutely no interest in getting involved in the politics of USAC.
- Tuttle said that the statement of Chan's he was responding to was directed towards Chan's use of the term "joint-meetings."

President – Allende Palma/Saracho

- Palma/Saracho said that he had designated Jeannie Biniak to go to the UCSA and USSA meetings as his representative, and said that the next meeting would be held at UCSF. Palma/Saracho said he thought that the Womyn of Color Conference had been very worthwhile. With regard to the discussions on Return to Aid, Palma/Saracho said that he has scheduled a meeting with Vice Chancellor Montero to discuss and solidify the information on RTA that would be on the ballot. He said that the Regents had wanted to discuss whether or not it would be good to return campus-based fees to financial aid. Palma/Saracho said that this had come up because some other campuses have approved referenda with huge fee increases. Palma/Saracho said that, in actuality, UCOP had the right to make changes about who should be responsible for this type of legislation on campus. He said that there had been messages from UCOP about whether or not this should be put on the ballot. Palma/Saracho said there had not been much discussion back and forth on this subject, with the basic view of the council that Return to Aid is a good thing. He said, however, that they believed that the policy should be consistent, and that it should not be imposed in the middle of a school year. Palma/Saracho said that this had led to a lot of confusion, especially because a lot of other campuses were doing this. He said that, in discussions with Bob Williams, they had decided that this would be a good idea, but had not yet decided whether it would be set at 25% or 33%. He said it was his personal belief that any fee implemented by the Regents should be implemented the year after their decision, not within the same year. Palma/Saracho said that, overall, it was a good idea, but that the students should be informed about what they are investing in. Palma/Saracho said that he would be meeting with the Chancellor either Wednesday or Thursday morning to smooth out these issues, because he felt it was necessary for all referenda on the same ballot to have the same standards.

VIII. Old Business

ECP Task Force Updates

- Tseng said that there would be a press conference next Tuesday to tell the world about what USAC had learned about the Expected Cumulative Progress Policy. He said that ECP's Publicity Committee would also be distributing flyers and other forms of information to let the students know what was going on. Tseng said that the ECP Task Force members would be shifting from policy work to advocacy work. He closed by saying that he had written a Resolution on this matter that would be presented to council next week for their approval.
- Palma/Saracho asked how he could get copies of the petition to circulate.
- Tseng then passed copies out at the table.
- Palma/Saracho said that a really good way to get signatures on the petitions were announcements at the beginning of classes.

IX. Appointments

***Approval of Election Board Publicity Chairperson**

- Lam thanked council for their support of the Election Board, and then introduced Richard Meng, his nominee for the position of Election Board Publicity Chair.
- Meng introduced himself by saying that he was a third-year Political Science major. He said his goals as Publicity Chair included making sure that the student body really knows about the upcoming election, and making sure that each candidate has the same opportunities. Meng said that, through his publicity outreach, he would be able to ensure that all candidates came to all of the informational meetings. In closing, he mentioned that he might set up debates in the dorms to increase awareness on the Hill about USAC.

- Lam said that holding debates in the dorms had actually been his idea. He said he was very excited about being able to make this happen now that he has found a Publicity Chairperson.
- Villarín asked Meng what his publicity experience was.
- Meng said that he had a lot of experience with graphics, and the Daily Bruin was a great resource. He said that he still lived in the dorms and would be able to coordinate publicity efforts on the Hill.
- Palma/Saracho said he thought that, last year, the Daily Bruin and its T.V. News Channel had expressed interest in supporting a USAC Elections debate, and suggested that Lam and Meng might want to look into the possibility.
- Tuttle prefaced his remarks by telling Meng that he always asked the following questions of students who were being appointed to critical positions. He then asked Meng if he could set aside any relationships and biases, and avoid political discussions or anything else that might affect his neutrality as a member of the E-Board.
- Meng said that he understood confidentiality issues, as he has worked in a law firm. He said, with regard to other issues, he had served on the Conduct Board in the residence halls, and he always felt that he had served as an unbiased judge.
- Tuttle asked Meng if the Conduct Board might have any overlapping jurisdiction.
- Meng said that the only issue the Conduct Board dealt with was violations of the Housing Policies.
- Tuttle said that about 70 percent of the people who have been connected with UCLA in any way tend to stay in the area, and asked Meng if he appreciated that the fairness with which he conducted himself on the Election Board would be talked about for 30 or 40 years to come.
- Meng said that he appreciated the potential ramifications of any biased decisions, and said that he thought it best to approach his job with a mission-orientation.
- Tuttle asked where he thought confidentiality played in.
- Meng said Tuttle had made the statement that people might be approaching Meng with information and, if that happened, he felt he would need to maintain confidences.
- Tuttle said that he had misspoken, that he was not interested in confidentiality, but had actually been concerned only with the integrity of the nominee.
- Lam said that, last week, he had been trying to maintain the most transparent operation as possible, and pointed out that, on occasion, confidentiality would be very important. He said that there was certain information that needed to be guarded.
- Tseng moved and Martínez seconded to approve the Appointment of Richard Meng to the position of Election Board Publicity Chairperson.
- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Richard Meng to the position of Election Board Publicity Chairperson with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

X. New Business

A. Election Board Updates

- Lam said that candidate packets were available, and had been available for a couple days now. He said that the packets were due on Friday by 3:00 p.m. rather than 5:00. Lam said that the packets this year had been put on CD, but the oversight was that people had been burning them. He said that he would appreciate if nobody burned a CD for friends, as he would like to discuss the election with any potential candidates.
- Villarín asked if there was a sticker asking that the CD not be burned.
- Lam said that those had just been added today.
- Palma/Saracho asked if there was a number that corresponded to each application.
- Lam said that had not been possible with the CDs. He also said that the student endorsement packets were available, and were also due on Friday. Lam said that the office was usually open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., but he would not be in the office because of the workers' strike. He said that he realized that it was problematic to not be in the office the day before they were due, but he would sooner be fired than cross the UCLA workers' picket line.

FINAL

- Neesby asked if all three co-signatories needed to go to all endorsement hearings.
- Lam said that only two needed to come to the endorsement hearings, and also someone could come in their stead with written permission. He added that they did not need to come all three days.
- Palma/Saracho asked if the three signatories needed to hold offices in the organization or if they needed to prove membership.
- Lam said that they did not, but that he would look into getting proof of membership.

XI. Announcements

- Avila said that there would be free Tay-Sachs testing this week. He also said that UCLA Run/Walk registration was available online. He added that the Run/Walk itself would be May 22nd, and said that if anyone registered late they would have to pay a late fee.
- In Lee's absence, Malik announced that CSC would be voting on their In-House candidate tomorrow, so the name of the likely future commissioner should be known soon.
- Gaulton said that the \$2 film this week would be Hotel Rwanda. Gaulton also said that Rusty Wilson would be in Kerckhoff on Monday at noon, talking about the war in Iraq. Gaulton said that there would be an advance screening of the Kutcher Peet film. He ended by noting that the Spring Film Calendar was out, and passed them around to everyone at the meeting.
- Lam thanked the CSC for changing their In-House nomination meeting to accommodate the election schedule.
- Tseng said that, when council was done with the ECP petitions, to put them in his mailbox.
- Palma/Saracho said that this Saturday there would be a Latin American Festival in Wilson Plaza with free food and entertainment.
- Wood said that ECP meetings were from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays, and asked council to send representatives.
- Avila said that next Wednesday there would be an interactive panel discussion on depression.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Corella passed around the attendance sheet.

XIII. Adjournment

- Martinez moved and Avila 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 9:09p.m. by Acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Keesler
USAC Minutes Taker