

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday May 17, 2005
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.
Outgoing Council

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

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Combiz Abddrahim, Linda Chu, Melinda Dudley, Marwa Kaisey, Steven Ly, Richard Meng, Lauren Miller, Morgan Miller, Janina Montero, Jacob Morrow, Tina Park, Saba Riazati, Leonid Rustilnikov, Roy Samaan, Debra Simmons, Ryan Smeets, Christine Sol, Charlie Stein, Joe Vardner, PC Zai

I. A. Call to Order

- Palma/Saracho called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Corella passed around the Attendance Sheet

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Avila asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Nelson asked to add a Discussion Item on The Administration of the Judicial Board under New Business.
Palma/Saracho placed The Administration of the Judicial Board under New Business as Item C
- Wood asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Vu asked that the Special Presentation and accompanying Action Item on the University of California Student Association 2005-2006 Budget be postponed until the projector was set up.
- Lee moved and Martinez seconded to approve the Agenda, as amended.
- Villarín 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. Appointments

There were no Appointments this week.

V. Fund Allocations

- Corella said that one of the seven recommendations had been made via her discretionary authorization. She noted that all of the numbers in the table were correct, but that some of the numbers in the Summary should be changed to reflect those in the table. She clarified that the two groups whose amounts needed to be corrected were MEChA and the Indian Student Union. She said that the two groups' numbers had been reversed in the summary, and also that the

MEChA Allocation was for \$469.49, not \$474.00. Corella pointed out that there were also two Capital Item Requests that were indicated in bold.

- Lee moved and Martinez seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Council voted to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Hanoolim: Korean Cultural Awareness Group

Requested: \$5,191.33

Recommended: \$2,438.73

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$474.00 for the partial cost of Advertising, \$500.00 for the partial cost of Graphics, \$1,000.00 for the cost of an Honorarium, and \$464.73 for the cost of Supplies for the 1st Annual Korean-American Career Fair to be held on May 21st, 2005.

Campus Events Commission

Requested: \$679.68

Recommended: \$474.00

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$474.00 for the cost of Advertising for the Campus Events Comedy Show to be held on May 18th, 2005.

UCLA Bruin Dragon Boat

Requested: \$424.99

Recommended: \$224.99

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$224.99 for the cost of Supplies for the College / High School Race to be held on May 22nd, 2005.

MEChA de UCLA

Requested: \$684.49

Recommended: \$469.49

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$200.00 for the partial cost of an Honorarium and \$169.49 for the cost of Supplies for the 2nd Annual Raza Day to be held on May 20th, 2005.

Indian Student Union

Requested: \$24,505.60

Recommended: \$ 3,000.00

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$3,000.00 for the partial cost of Facilities for the Annual Culture Show to be held on May 28th, 2005.

Women's Studies Student Council

Requested: \$3,090.55

Recommended: \$ 995.55

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$563.55 for the cost of Graphics, \$307.00 for the cost of an Honorarium, and \$125 for the cost of Decorations for Women Studies Graduation to be held on May 18th, 2005.

? S T – ? (Delta Sigma Theta / Pi Chapter)

Requested: \$1,701.50

Recommended: \$ 600.00

In compliance with the discretionary authorization granted to her in the 2004-2005 Finance Committee Guidelines, Corella recommended the allocation of \$600.00 for May Week to be held May 14th through 21st.

Latino Student Health Project

Requested: \$883.78

Recommended: \$883.78

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$883.78 for a Computer as a Capital Item.

Pilipino Transfer Student Partnership

Requested: \$814.54

Recommended: \$814.54

The Finance Committee recommended the allocation of \$653.33 for a Laptop Computer, \$89.99 for a Filing Cabinet, \$33.24 for a Laptop Lock, \$28.49 for a Carrying Case, and \$9.49 for Shipping Fees as Capital Items.

VI. Officer and Member Reports

Office of the General Representatives – Jenny Wood

- Wood said that the General Representatives would be holding a USAC Banquet on June 1st at 7:00 p.m. She said that the attire would be semi-formal, and invitations would be going in the mail soon. Wood said that there would be speeches, food, and dancing. She said that if anyone wanted to participate in the program, such as by giving a speech, to please tell her now.

Lee was the only one that didn't want to give a speech.

- Wood asked Council to please limit guests to 10 from each office, and said that it would be in Kerckhoff Grand Salon. She said that there would also be a slide show, and asked Council to please get as many pictures to her as they could.

Student Welfare Commissioner – Jason Avila

- Avila said that UCLA Run/Walk would be in one week, and told everybody to sign up. He said that there were fundraising events in the near future, and asked Council to take their staffs to the sponsoring restaurants. Avila said that next week would be Disaster Awareness, and also said that the Total Wellness Newsletter would be coming out this week. He ended his report by passing out a list of SWC's accomplishments during his term.

External Vice President – John Vu

- Vu said that Biniek would be giving the EVP Office's report tonight at the first meeting of the Incoming Council, which would take place immediately after the incoming officers were sworn in, and Biniek was USAC's official External Vice President.

Internal Vice President – Darren Chan

- Chan said that it was time for the "Bruin-Up Books" project, and said that there was a classroom he would like Council to adopt. He said that the teacher had requested 40 books, each of which cost only 1 dollar. Chan said that any amount would be appreciated, and he then passed around an envelope for any donations that Council Members might want to make. He said that for each dollar donated, the donor would be given a sticker that they should sign, and that sticker would be put inside the book to identify who donated it to the classroom. Chan also said that he would be passing around a Scholastic Arrow pamphlet like everyone used to get in grade school, and invited council to flip through and see if there were any books that interested them. He said that if any USAC Office wanted to adopt a classroom on their own, in addition to the one classroom being adopted by the entire Council, he would be happy to provide them with another packet to do so.

- Tuttle asked for an update on the Unofficial Guide that Chan was working on.

- Chan said that his successor, Kristina Doan, would be continuing where he left off and would be working on it in the coming year.

President – Allende Palma/Saracho

- Palma/Saracho said that, next week, the Chicano Studies Department would be celebrating its recognition as a Department, and said that the event would be held in the Sculpture Garden. He

said that, thanks to the work of such individuals as Eligio Martinez, Chicano Studies had finally been elevated to Departmental status.

VII. Old Business

A. Election Board Updates

- Lam said that the USAC Elections were over, and said that one thing he wanted to address tonight concerned the Election Code. He said that, before the Elections process began, he had tried to close any and all loopholes in the E-Code. He said, however, that it had become apparent in the Spring Election that he had not succeeded. Lam said it was his opinion that the Election Board was too limited in its responsibilities to be able to establish a totally fair election process. He said that, because he had realized this fact just recently, he felt that his job was not over yet. Lam ended by saying that he had a lot of ideas about what could be done to improve things.
- Steven Ly, E-Board Staff Member, then announced that they would be holding a Grand Assembly to get everyone together to work out what E-Board believed were the major problems faced this year, and in years passed.
- Palma/Saracho asked if they had decided on a date yet for this Assembly.
- Ly said they had not, and that he first had to find out when everyone who should be involved would be available.

VIII. New Business

A. *Approval of the USA Spring 2005 Runoff Election Results

- Lam pointed out that everyone's Agenda Packet had a copy of the Runoff Election Results. He said that the information was pretty straightforward, but that he did need Council to officially approve the results.
- Martinez moved and Lee seconded to approve the USA Spring 2005 Runoff Election Results.
- Council voted to approve the USA Spring 2005 Runoff Election Results with a unanimous vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

C. Discussion on Administration of the Judicial Board

- Nelson said he was bringing a matter to Council's attention that he thought they should be aware of. Nelson said that on the eve of the Runoff Election, the University's designated Advisor to the Judicial Board had emailed all Judicial Board Members to recommend that the Judicial Board meet as soon as possible. He said that this was to discuss, and be prepared to deal with, any complaints or potential challenges to the verification of USAC's Election Results, and also to ensure that a Chief Justice was selected. Nelson said that one of the Justices replied to the Advisor's email with the message that J-Board was going to conduct such a meeting themselves that night, and would also be holding hearings the following day. He told Council that the J-Board representative said further that they did not see any reason for the Advisor to be at either meeting. After learning of this response, Nelson said that he had gone to the Judicial Board office the next day to express to the J-Board members his concern about their unwillingness to meet with their designated Advisor. Nelson said that what he learned was that there had been no communication between the Judicial Board and the Administrative Advisor since June 2003. Nelson said that he did not want his report to get into personalities, but rather to inform the current USAC Members about a problem that had not been dealt with in a proper way. He said, further, that he thought the Judicial Board needed to keep USAC informed about what was going on, because it was not a good situation when neither USAC or the Administration knew what was going on with one of the entities that was part of the undergraduate governing structure. Nelson closed by saying that it was fortunate that the election results had not been contested.
- Tuttle said that he shared Nelson's concern about this situation. He said he agreed that the hearings should be open, although he said he respected the right of the Judicial Board to deliberate in private.

- Palma/Saracho said that it was a concern of his that there were so many new Justices this year who did not know what to do because past Justices had instructed them, without including their Advisor. He said that the most recently-appointed Justices had wanted to meet with Kenn Heller, but were operating under the instructions of the Justices who had been in position longer than they were. Palma/Saracho said that he had spoken to four of the six Justices, and they were all in agreement.
- Nelson said that, if they were unwilling to work with their current Advisor, it might be necessary for the Chancellor to designate a new Advisor for the Judicial Board.
- Tuttle said it was important to make sure that certain policies and procedures of the Judicial Board be made clear to Council, and that it was vital that these things be out in the open. Tuttle said that an argument could be made about the separation of the different branches of the government, but reiterated the necessity for the different branches to communicate regularly.
- Lam said that he wanted to echo the concern of the importance of having an Administrative Representative as an Advisor. He said, based on firsthand experience, he would have been lost without the guidance of Mike Cohn, the Election Board Advisor. Lam said that the Judicial Board had made a mistake in something they did directly with Lam, and said they did not correct their error until he contested it. He said that it is important for everyone on J-Board, especially new appointees, to know the rules.
- Sargent said that Council should be able to look at all the entities of USAC regarding the need to have designated Advisors. He suggested that perhaps Council could rectify this situation over the summer.
- Palma/Saracho said that he thought there just needed to be a mediating space between the Justices and the Administration. He said that it might be good to sit down together and see what the problems were.
- Nelson said that he would be happy to be that mediator. He said that a precedent had already been set in 2003 that could have had dire consequences in 2005 if the Election Board had not interceded. Nelson said that he wanted to review the Judicial Board's guiding documents to make sure that they include a role for advisory oversight.
- Tuttle said that he thought they would want to be careful not to overstep the rights of the Judiciary. He commented that plenty of Advisors had made mistakes, but pointed out that the present focus needed to be directed by the experts on the matters at hand.
- Tripathi asked what the reason was for Judicial Board not wanting to deal with the Advisor.
- Nelson said that a former Chief Justice who wanted to set up the Judicial Board Rules to mirror the rules of the Supreme Court of the United States felt that the Justices didn't need to be held accountable to, or have dialogue with, Administrative Advisors. Nelson said further that the Chief Justice he referenced had apparently convinced several other Justices, who are still on the Judicial Board, to concur in his views. Nelson said that his primary concern at this time was over the likelihood that the Judicial Board might have been required to rule on complaints regarding USAC's Spring 2005 elections.

IX. Special Presentations

University of California Student Association 2005-2006 Budget

- Samaan said that he would be giving an overview of what UCSA was and why it was important for UCLA to remain a member. He said that it is a system-wide coalition of associations, with 5 full-time staff members, including a full-time lobbyist. Samaan said that UCSA unifies student voice on system-wide issues and also pools resources and information. He said that UCSA represents all the UC's, and when UCSA speaks, it speaks for all of the UC's. Samaan said certain resources and benefits are available to USAC only because of USAC's membership in UCSA. He said that one very significant example was the four slots USAC was given for "whiteliners". He said that UCSA is the 12th most powerful lobbying organization, and leads national efforts to promote the interests of all college students in California. Samaan then listed some of the recent accomplishments of UCSA, including the prevention of a fee hike for Graduate Students, which resulted in a saving per student of \$1,038, and the restoration of more than \$300 million to the UC budget. Samaan said that there were three Action Items guiding the efforts of UCSA this year, including the Get Out the Vote Campaign. He said that the goal to

increase voter turnout by 5% had been beaten because they had increased turnout by 8%. Samaan said that, in the future, the Governor was planning to increase fees to students and to decrease funding of outreach programs. He said that a second goal of UCSA this year had been to Prioritize Higher Education, and said they had accomplished this with the high volume of “debt checks” that were sent to the Governor by UC students. Samaan said that UCSA’s third major goal this year had been to increase access. Samaan said that UCSA had also advocated on behalf of UC Graduate Students to obtain health insurance for them, and that UCSA had campaigned on other matters for the Graduate Students. Samaan said that anyone could get involved in UCSA by coming to UCSA Board meetings on campus or simply by getting involved in their campaigns.

- Tuttle asked what a “whiteliner” was.
- Samaan said that “whiteliner” was the term used to describe someone who was allowed to go inside the velvet rope to speak directly to the Regents at their Board meetings on behalf of the students.
- Lam asked if the “whiteliners” for next week had been chosen already.
- Samaan said that they had. He also told Council that another way to support UCSA was to pay student fees, because a portion of their fees went to fund UCSA.
- Vu then distributed copies of the UCSA budget for next year. He said that the first page showed how much UCLA has contributed to UCSA. Vu said that both the 2004-2005 budget and the proposed budget for 2005-2006 were on the sheet.
- Nelson asked why UCLA was spending significantly more than Berkeley, even ‘though the number of students was comparable.
- Vu said that the way it is structured, each campus is supposed to give one dollar per student. He said that UCLA had passed a referendum which increased that amount to \$1.25 per student.
- Sargent asked if the amount was all from a Referendum fees, or if the amount was supplemented by a different funding source.
- Vu said that it was all from referendum fees.
- Tripathi asked which other campuses had approved a referendum to obtain fees for membership in UCSA.
- Vu listed several campuses that had done so. Vu then directed Council’s attention to the second page in the packet where a breakdown was given on how UCSA spent its money. He said that the stipends that each member of the UCSA Board received were listed on that page, and explained that each of these members worked more than 20 hours each week. Vu said that there was also discretionary money allocated to these members which they could use for programming on their campuses. He said, in terms of salaries, that UCSA currently has five full-time staff members. Vu said that everything had been kept pretty similar to past years, and explained that the bonuses given to the staff members were a form of “thank you” from UCSA. He said that all the UCSA employees were former UC students, so most of them had debts that they had to pay back. Vu said that the next section was about the expenses to run the UCSA Oakland office, and said that there had been some increases in those numbers which were related to the cost of buying advancements in technology. He said that there are two offices, one in Oakland and another in Sacramento. Vu explained that, in addition to other fee increases, rent and parking fees for these two offices had also gone up. He said that there were also funds allocated to professional services, including payroll, Internet hosting and upkeep, staff recruitment, and other logistical expenses. Vu continued to read to Council other expense items that were included in the budget. Vu said that UCSA also has to pay membership dues to USSA. He said that there was also a lot of travel done by the members of UCSA, and this was all factored into the budget. Vu said that UCSA also puts on two major conferences, the main conference and the Students of Color Conference. He said that there were also miscellaneous expenses, ‘though those had undergone budget cuts in the projected budget for next year.
- Nelson asked if UCLA gets any perks or any recognition for the unusually high amount of money that they contribute per student.
- Vu said that they did. He said that, when UCLA has Weeks of Action, organizers from UCSA usually come to campus to help out. Vu reminded Council that there had been members of UCSA in Los Angeles for the entire week preceding the Students of Color Conference.

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- Samaan added that the staff was incredibly well qualified to help out and had provided a lot of valuable assistance.
- Williams asked if there was any indication that the other campuses would be catching up to the amount that UCLA paid.
- Vu said that there was, and said that UCSA would be expanding in the coming years, when these other campus increase their contribution.

X. New Business

B. *Approval of the University of California Student Association 2005-2006 Budget

- Villarin moved and Tseng seconded to approve the University of California Student Association 2005-2006 Budget.
- Council voted to approve the University of California Student Association 2005-2006 Budget with a unanimous vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

XI. Announcements

- Corella said that she was passing around the Year-end Closing reminder. She said that the last day to turn in Contingency Requests would be May 23rd. Corella said that the Budget Workshop dates were also listed on the sheet she had handed out.
- Palma/Saracho asked if May 23rd was also the last day for Capital Item requests.
- Debra Simmons, Student Government Accounting Manager, said that it was. She said that June 17th was also the last day to use the telephone codes.
- Corella asked Council Members to please make sure that they submitted their requests on time.
- Wood said that CalPirg had asked her to make an announcement about the filibuster they would be holding from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
- Lee said that CSC had a bagel sale today and that they had *lots* of leftover bagels if anyone wanted some.
- Villarin said that she was passing around flyers for a benefit to be held this Sunday to raise funds for the toxic waste victims in the Philippines.
- Gaulton said that there was a band playing in the Kerckhoff Coffee House right now and, if everyone hurried, they could catch the last part of their act. He also said that there would be an advance screening of "The Longest Yard" Wednesday night.
- Bhuiyan said that the CAC would be having an event in the Coffee House Thursday night.
- McLaren said that the decision on the date for USAC's Installation Celebration would be finalized very soon, and told Council to "stay tuned."

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Corella passed around the attendance sheet.

XIII. Adjournment

- Martinez moved and Villarin seconded to adjourn.
- Vu called for Acclamation. Palma/Saracho asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. by Acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Keesler
USAC Minutes Taker