

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday October 4, 2005
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Biniek, Doan, Hawkins, Kaisey, Malik, Neesby, Nelson, Pham, Sargent, Smeets, Tuttle, Vardner, Villasin, Williams, Wood, Zai

ABSENT: Kaminsky, McLaren, Sassounian

GUESTS: Combiz Abdobrahim, Melinda Dudley, Steven Ly, Jerry Mann, Janina Montero, Tina Park

I. A. Call to Order

- Wood called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Villasin passed around the Attendance Sheet

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Pham, Vardner, and Hawkins asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Doan said that the Special Presentation by Eric Barba on UC Admissions should be removed from the Agenda. In addition, she asked that the LGBT Resource Advisory Board and the Committee on Instructional Improvement Programs (CIIP) be added under Appointments.
- Vardner asked to add under New Business a discussion item on the ASUCLA Library space, but Wood said that she would like to discuss that at a later time rather than at this meeting.
- Villasin asked to move the item entitled Approval of Amendments to the Finance Committee Guidelines to immediately follow Approval of Contingency Fund Allocations.
- Wood said that she would like to delay the item under Old Business entitled Approval of Proposed Amendments to Article VI.C.5. of the USAC Bylaws. Neesby suggested that, instead of removing the item, Council deal with it at this meeting as a discussion item instead of an Action Item.
- Wood then said that a Special Presentation by Tina Park on the Board of Directors should be added to the Agenda.
- Biniek moved and Pham seconded to amend the Agenda to add the LGBT Advisory Board and the Committee on Instructional Improvement Programs (CIIP) to the Appointments.
- Neesby moved and Vardner seconded to amend the Agenda to include a Special Presentation by Tina Park, ASUCLA Board of Directors member.
- Wood said that council next needed to decide whether or not to add the discussion of the ASUCLA Library space to the agenda as Vardner had requested. She said that Vardner had pointed out to her that he'd like to discuss the matter at this meeting because the deadline on how to allocate the space was coming up very soon. Wood then said that she thought it might be better to handle this matter over email.
- Biniek moved and Neesby seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.
- Smeets called for Acclamation. Wood 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

ASUCLA Board of Directors

- Tina Park gave a brief report to Council, notifying them that a decision has been made to allocate the ASUCLA Library space to USA and GSA. She said that there will be a discussion in the near future about how the two governing bodies can make the best use of that space.

V. Appointments

Financial Aid Policy Committee

- Wood said that there were two undergraduate seats on the Financial Aid Policy Committee. She said she wanted to fill one of those slots and that she was recommending Jeannie Biniek for the position.
- Neesby moved and Smeets seconded to approve the Appointment of Jeannie Biniek to the Financial Aid Policy Committee.
- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Jeannie Biniek to the Financial Aid Policy Committee with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Advisory Board - LGBT Resource Center

- Wood said that she was forwarding Erica Lindsten for appointment to the Advisory Board of the LGBT Resource Center. Wood said that, among other qualifications and experience, Lindsten actually already worked in the LGBT Resource Center. On behalf of the ARC, Biniek said that both voting members had voted in favor of Lindsten's appointment. Zai asked Lindsten what she did for the LGBT Center, to which Lindsten replied that she was there on work study.
- Biniek moved and Doan seconded to approve the Appointment of Erica Lindsten to the LGBT Resource Center Advisory Board.
- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Erica Lindsten to the LGBT Resource Center Advisory Board with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Instructional Improvement Programs (CIIP)

- Wood said that she was forwarding Jesse Castro for appointment to the Committee on Instructional Improvement Programs. Wood said that Castro had already worked with the Academic Affairs Mini Grants Fund in the past, and had done other work for the Academic Affairs Commission. Doan said that the ARC had voted unanimously in favor of the appointment of Castro, based mostly on his extensive work and experience in related fields.
- Biniek moved and Pham seconded to approve the appointment of Jesse Castro to the Committee on Instructional Improvement Programs.
- Council voted to approve the appointment of Jesse Castro to the Committee on Instructional Improvement Programs with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

VI. Fund Allocations

Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations

- Villasin said that \$1,478.48 had been requested from the Contingency Fund in the last week, and that the committee was recommending the total allocation of \$1,078.00. She also made a correction to one item on the UCLA Pre-Law Society Mock Trial Try-outs. She said that, under the column "Total Amount Requested", the entry "Advertising" should be changed to "Transportation."
- Vardner again reminded Villasin that he wanted to see estimates from groups. He said that documentation was important since Contingency Funding was an easy way to get money.
- Biniek moved and Hawkins seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Council voted to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations with a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

The Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations are attached to the Minutes.

Approval of the 2005-2006 USA Finance Committee Guidelines

- Villasin said that she had made some revisions to the 2004-2005 USA Finance Committee Guidelines and was presenting to Council for their approval the recommended USA Finance Committee Guidelines for 2005-2006. She then presented specific details of the changes the Finance Committee was recommending for the 2005-2006 term. For the first item, Advertising, she said they had decreased the cap from the cost of a one-half page ad in the Daily Bruin to the cost of a one-third page ad in the Daily Bruin, with the result that the Advertising cap for 2005-2006 is set at \$328.00. Under Retreats, she said she had removed the word “conferences.” Under Travel, Villasin said that she is recommending that the allowance for ground travel be increased from \$30.00 per day to \$40.00 per day because of the considerable increase in gasoline prices this year. She said that, in Item 7, Discretionary, and Item 8, Summer Contingency Funds, she had corrected a typographical inaccuracy which referred to “graduate Independent” organizations, because it should have been “undergraduate” Independent organizations. In response to a question from Sargent about the Discretionary cap, Villasin said that the \$600 cap was the amount that was set last year. Tuttle pointed out that, in the past, Independent organizations were ineligible for funding, but that this restriction had been changed. He expressed his appreciation to Villasin for revising the Finance Committee Guidelines to reflect this change.
- Neesby moved and Vardner seconded to approve the Amendments to the 2005-2006 Finance Committee Guidelines.
- Vardner suggested amending the guidelines to include a requirement that groups must include quoted estimates and a breakdown for all funding requests in order to obtain funds. Biniek pointed out that the cost of many things that groups request funding for, such as advertising and travel, are the same and are well-known. Neesby said that he agreed with Vardner that there should be a breakdown of costs as is required for Base Budgets. Vardner reiterated his position that, without such paperwork, groups should not be funded until they provide it. Tuttle and Biniek both made the point that this might be unfair to new groups that were unfamiliar with such “hoop jumping”, and might result in new groups not being able to get funding. Mann pointed out that the document that was before Council concerned about the maximum amount allowable for certain line items, whereas what Neesby and Vardner were talking about was really the issue of eligibility. Addressing Tuttle, Mann said that content neutrality was always used, and that each funding body was aware that they needed to be certain not to disadvantage the independent groups that were formerly ineligible. Neesby said he recognized Tuttle’s point, but reminded him that groups would have two weeks between the time they submit their application and the time when they actually need the funds to correct any errors in their application. He agreed with Mann that, perhaps the concerns he and Vardner had were not relevant to the specific document under discussion, but stressed that he believed Vardner’s points were well-made. Villasin encouraged any concerned Council Members to speak with her about this issue outside of the council meeting. Vardner said that he would be speaking with Villasin outside of the meeting, but again reiterated his earlier points.
- Council voted to approve the Amendments to the 2005-2006 Finance Committee Guidelines with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

VII. Officer and Member Reports

Cultural Affairs Commissioner – Todd Hawkins

- Hawkins said that his office had been very busy recently recruiting staff members. He said he was really excited about their success because every one of CAC’s programs has lots of volunteers signed up. He said some of the programs had not been really active for a long time. Hawkins also told council that the African American Music Festival was set to begin late this month and said that he had brought the official press release for Council to see. He said there would be many well-known artists participating in a wide range of genres, including jazz, blues, gospel, hip-hop and R&B, and that every event would be free. He said that the producers of the festival really wanted to make sure that students and other members of the campus community were educated about the various roots of this incredible music. Sargent asked if this was being marketed to the Black Alumni Association, to which Hawkins replied that, as far as he knew, it

was not. Hawkins and Sargent agreed to meet later to talk about ways to get the word about the Festival out to members of the BAA.

Facilities Commissioner – Joe Vardner

- Vardner said that he had held his first very successful staff meeting last week, and said that his office had begun putting out a newsletter each week. He said that the newsletter covered important matters that often did not appear in the Daily Bruin, simply because of its space constraints. Vardner reported that he had met with the directors of ORL and Housing Services, during which they talked about how University Housing staff members could work better with the on-campus student population. He said that he was interested in suggestions from Council Members, and encouraged everyone to email their ideas to him. Vardner said that he was still waiting to receive from some offices the names of people who would be their sustainability representatives. On another matter, Vardner said that he had recently learned about and visited the Student Business Center (SBC), which is in the Student Activities Center. He said he discovered that only one student group is currently registered to use the space and the equipment that is housed there, and that he was looking into a way to allow more student organizations to have access to that space.
- Tuttle asked how he could get a copy of the Facilities Commission's newsletter, to which Vardner replied that he would make sure Tuttle got one. Tuttle also asked how wide the distribution of this newsletter would be, to which Vardner said that it went to the student leaders that he was in touch with. Tuttle then raised his ongoing concern about the unofficial circulation of information. Sargent encouraged Vardner to allow an opt-out option for the newsletter, to which Vardner said that he would make sure one was created. Villasin pointed out that the newsletter listed Ryan Smeets, the Financial Supports Commissioner, as the contact person for funding issues that actually were under USAC's Budget Review Director, and she asked Vardner to list Diem Tran instead of Ryan Smeets. Hawkins asked if other offices could contribute items to this newsletter, to which Vardner replied that he would have to speak with the person in his office who had spearheaded the newsletter. Hawkins then followed up on Villasin's comment about the correct contact for funding bodies by recommending that someone create an accurate list with the main contact person for each of the different funding committees because he felt that it was very confusing right now.

Student Welfare Commissioner – Tracy Pham

- Pham said that today had been the second day of SWC's Blood for Books drive. She said they collected 95 units today which, combined with yesterday's collection, gave a total of 154 units of blood for this special drive. She said that there was a CPR training class coming up soon and that it would be free for anyone who agreed to serve as the instructor for four subsequent classes. Pham reported that the SWC-CSC "Healthy Service in a Small World" Recruitment Carnival had been held today and that there was a great turnout, with many students who signed up for various committees and projects of both commissions. Pham ended her report by saying that the Katrina Relief efforts were going very well.

External Vice President – Jeannie Biniek

- Biniek said that she would be emailing out her officer report, and passed out a press release by the UCSB students. She then asked Amanda Martin, the UCSA Field Organizer, to introduce herself and give a brief presentation about UCSA.
- After telling Council a little about herself, Martin said that UCSA was a coalition of 19 UC's across the state, and their mission was to empower students to advocate on their own behalf. She also said that UCSA was the officially recognized voice to UCOP for the 200,000 students in the UC system. Martin said that Biniek was *very* knowledgeable about UCSA, and said that she was a great resource for any further information Council members were interested in. Martin said that council would be voting on UCSA's three Action Items at their next meeting. She closed by saying that she hoped USAC was ready to get behind UCSA.

Internal Vice President – Kristina Doan

- Doan said that she would be meeting with VC Montero about Student Governance Day, and said that they would be working on Student Psychological Services and other projects between the two offices. Doan said that, with regard to the Office Space Allocation Committee, Vardner had asked that her office conduct the annual evaluation of the student advocacy groups which is specified in USAC's Bylaws. She said that she would be creating criteria for evaluating these groups, and encouraged input from council about the best way to do this. Neesby asked for clarification, to which Doan replied that USAC-Sponsored groups are supposed to submit to USAC each year a copy of their current guiding documents, as well as to provide information on anything changes to the structure of their group. She said that this annual evaluation apparently has not been done reliably in recent years. Sargent asked if there was a timeline on when she expected to have this completed. Doan replied that she would be working on it in the near future.
- Combiz Abdobrahim, Doan's Student Groups Director, handed out invitations to the Student Leadership Summit, and told council that there would be a pre-summit gathering on Thursday, October 27th, at 6:00 p.m. in Kerckhoff. He said that the event would be geared toward student leaders on campus. Sargent said that the description of the event was rather vague, and asked how this event fit into the USAC's overall mission. Abdobrahim said that this was geared toward fostering relationships between Council members and other student leaders on campus, and would be a good way for them to learn how to work together. Doan added that it was more of a social event, and would be a precursor to the Student Leadership Summit itself which would have a workshop format.
- Tuttle said that it was very important to talk about student advocacy groups with regard to space in Kerckhoff Hall. He said that, in particular, African American students had been "getting their teeth kicked in" since the passage of Prop 209. He said that, as a result, African American students had almost disappeared from UCLA's student population. Tuttle said that they needed some outlet or resource on campus, and said that there was some sensitivity here. He said that council needed to be very attentive to these issues, and suggested that they not get tied up in criteria and bylaws. Wood clarified that Doan's evaluation of the groups would be independent of OSAC's decisions, although it would be considered in the space allocation process. Neesby asked if any standard evaluation forms were already available from earlier years. Doan said that she was waiting for McLaren's return from vacation to find that out. Wood said that she did not think there were any records and that Doan would be starting from scratch. Sargent disagreed, saying that when *he* was on council, they had the same rule and, even 'though his council didn't necessarily enforce it, he believed there were some historical records that were kept. Vardner responded to Tuttle's concerns by saying that OSAC would be very cautious about making major changes to space allocations for student groups that had perhaps just fallen on hard times.

President – Jenny Wood

President Jenny Wood's Officer Report is attached to the Minutes.

Questions and Comments followed Wood's report.

- Pham said that SWC would be interested in helping out with World AIDS Day.
- Tuttle asked Wood to again talk about what her office's Student Advisory Council would be doing. Wood explained that it would be bringing together as many student groups as possible to talk about how they could all work together and with USAC.

VIII. Old Business

A. Discussion of Bylaw Amendments

- Neesby said that he was postponing the vote on this item because he wanted to make sure that everyone was happy with the Bylaws at the end of the day. He said that he wanted to have a discussion on the proposed amendments before taking the actual vote on them. Neesby said that one of the major things he wanted to talk about was the funding deliberation process, which he feels is becoming very formulaic. He said that one of his concerns was that the deliberations have been very brief. Another concern he expressed was that there was no plan to transcribe

them. Neesby said that his intent was to increase openness and consistency and, as long as it did not become a logistical nightmare, he would like to see these recommendations put into place.

- Wood told Neesby and Council that she thought this was something that needed to be discussed within the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC).
- Tuttle added that he would be interested in speaking with Neesby at greater length outside of the meeting about these proposed changes, but also wanted to express at the moment some concerns he had about the court rulings, and Council's ability to present documentation that proved they were compliant with the laws that require fair treatment to all groups. He said he did feel better that there would be a taped record on file, even if it was restricted to certain individuals, just in case a judicial issue arose. Neesby said that it was still his plan to require a taped record of the meetings.

IX. New Business

A. Approval of USAC Concentrations

- Wood said that everyone on Council had worked on the concentrations together, and asked if there was any need for further discussion or changes. Kaisey suggested the removal of the extraneous exclamation points in the documentation. Vardner also pointed out that one of the concentrations was about more than recycling print cartridges, and that its purpose was to actually create a recycling program open to all students.
- Sargent told council that, in his experience, every strategic plan he had seen listed a point person for each subject area, and remarked that he did not see such information on the document before Council. Wood said that there was an internal document which included the names of the point people for each specific item. Tuttle asked Wood if she would like to add the names of the point people to the document before them, to which Wood replied that she did not want to do so.
- Vardner moved and Hawkins seconded to approve the 2005-2006 USAC Concentrations.
- Council voted to approve the 2005-2006 USAC Concentrations with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Tuttle asked if there was a timetable for a report on each of the concentrations. Wood said that would be up to the point people on each separate item. Tuttle encouraged Council to establish a timetable or some sort of deadline for the reports.

B. Resolutions in Opposition to Proposition 74, Proposition 75, and Proposition 76

- Malik introduced these items by saying that council would be voting tonight on three resolutions which were in opposition to three propositions that will appear on the November 8 ballot. She said she believes it is the duty of Council to look out for the best interests of UCLA students and to advocate on their behalf concerning issues both on and off campus. Biniek interjected that, that, before moving to a vote, she wanted to propose an amendment to each of the three Resolutions so that each would reflect the fact that Council would not be engaging in one-sided education about these propositions. She said her specific proposal was to strike the final clause on each of the three resolutions.
- Neesby asked who the three sponsors were, to which Wood replied that they were Malik, Biniek, and herself. Neesby said that he was personally opposed to partisan-based resolutions. He said that one of his campaign promises was that he would not vote for any resolution that he could not directly attribute to student issues. Neesby then passed out a document which listed his three criteria for the approval of resolutions. Briefly, they were (1) the resolution must be directly linked to students, (2) the resolution must represent the stance of the majority of students, and (3) all resolutions should be geared more toward education than on taking one-sided stances. Neesby said he felt that it was a disservice for USAC to take a partisan stance in resolutions that they claim are on behalf of all UCLA students. He said further that he felt it was certainly improper to use student funds to articulate partisan views that misrepresent those students who do not share those views. He said it was his belief that council should not deal with these three issues at all. In response to Neesby's statements, Biniek said that she would be going through each of the resolutions, and outlining how each of them were relevant to student issues.
- Biniek moved and Malik seconded to approve the Resolution in Opposition to Proposition 74.

- Neesby said that what he would eventually like to see is for council to come to a consensus, either through official policy or understanding, about just what was required of resolutions for council to pass them. Hawkins said that, while he agreed with the points that Neesby had made, he felt that these particular resolutions were ones that directly affect students. Kaisey said that, because she is a General Representative and, since her political leanings were not known by her constituents, she would not feel right voting for any of these resolutions, one way or the other. Doan said she knew that endorsements meant a lot to council members. She said that she believed in non-partisan education on all issues. She said further that she thought council members should give serious thought to the resolutions that they sponsor and sign their names to. Zai also said that she felt uncomfortable voting for an issue on one side of the political spectrum.
- Zai called the question. Neesby objected to the calling of the question.
- Neesby said that he wanted to hold a forum to present these arguments. Neesby said that he wanted to create substantial criteria for what makes a resolution non-partisan. He said he had heard a lot of good issues being brought up during this discussion. Biniek said that Council Members were elected to represent students, and it was their responsibility to take positions on issues that represent students. She said that she was open to Neesby's idea to create criteria, but said that she also wanted to be allowed to vote her leanings. Sargent said that he did not see how Proposition 74 applied to UCLA undergraduates.
- Biniek moved and Malik seconded to table the Resolution in Opposition to Proposition 74.
- Vardner called the question. Council voted to table the Resolution in Opposition to Proposition 74 with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Biniek moved and Neesby seconded to table the Resolution in Opposition to Proposition 75 and the Resolution in Opposition to Proposition 76.
- Council voted to table the Resolution in Opposition to Proposition 75 and the Resolution in Opposition to Proposition 76 with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

X. Announcements

- Neesby said that as of now, the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) would be meeting between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. on Thursdays. Wood said that she would not be able to attend at that time, so Neesby said that he would try to find a time when everyone could attend.
- Smeets said that the official total for Katrina Relief fund was up to \$1,210.00. He said that the new USAC T-shirts had come in and were ready to be picked up.
- Malik said that she had flyers for CSC, and passed them out to council. She also said that Community Service Day would be the upcoming Saturday, and encouraged Council Members to sign up to participate. Malik said that the Mayor's Service Day was also approaching, and said she would have more information about that later. Tuttle encouraged Council members to wear their new USAC T-shirts to the Service Day event.
- Vardner said that the 10th anniversary of the LGBT Center would be on Thursday, October 6th. He also said that the kickoff for the "Go Metro" Program was approaching.
- Biniek said that next week would be National Coming Out week.

XI. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Villasin passed around the attendance sheet.

XII. Adjournment

- Biniek moved and Malik seconded to adjourn.
- Doan called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m. by Acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Keesler, USAC Minutes Taker