

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday October 18, 2005
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Hawkins

GUESTS: Nairi Chopurian, Melinda Dudley, Steven Ly, Jerry Mann, Janina Montero, Tina Park, Debra Simmons, Vanda Suvansilpakit, Eric Thai, Diem Tran, Greg Wannier

I. A. Call to Order

- Wood called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Villasin passed around the Attendance Sheet

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Biniek asked to remove the Special Presentation on Freedom of Speech
 - Villasin asked to move the Undergraduate Students Association Board of Directors (USABOD) Presentation to the beginning of Special Presentations.
 - Wood said that the Darfur Action Committee was running late, and would make their presentation once they arrived. Wood suggested a 15-minute time-cap on Special Presentations, in addition to Bylaw-mandated 15-minute time-cap on Discussion and Action Items, and a 3-minute time-cap on Reports.
 - Kaminsky moved and Sassounian seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.
 - Biniek 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.
- Quorum was lost at 7:12 when Pham left the room.*

III. Approval of the Minutes

There were no Minutes this week.

IV. Special Presentations

Undergraduate Students Association Board of Directors (USABOD)

- Tina Park introduced herself

Quorum was regained at 7:14 with Pham's return.

- Diem Tram introduced herself to Council. Tram said that 18 groups had applied, which was an increase of 7 since last year. She said that they would be going over the calendar for the coming year. Tram said that allocations had finished on the 14th, and the meeting to follow had been on the 18th. Park said that each group was given a score sheet; taking into account the university required minimum criteria, quality of proposal, quality of meeting, and the USA priorities. Park said that the score sheet itself was very similar to the Student Organizational Operating Fund (SOOF) application. She also said that they had asked about whether or not the groups had sought out other sources of funding, whether or not they were effective, and other practical aspects of the group. Park showed council that they had used a standard sliding scale for the different criteria on the score sheet. Sassounian said that the hearings had begun with

introductions, opening statements, a 10-minute question and answer session, and finally a two-minute closing session. She continued that groups were examined to make sure that they met the qualifications for funding, based on both BOD and University Guidelines. Tram said that the deliberation process had been identical to the SOOF process, with each proposal examined, an equation followed, and groups being given a final score according to their average score across the different dimensions. She said that the amount available for the USABOD was \$266,474 for the year, with roughly half coming from each the Undergraduate Students Association and the Board of Directors. She said that the total requested had been \$61,049.10 with \$42,501.00 recommended.

- Sargent said that he was not clear about what program each of the groups were being funded for. Tram replied that the information was on the first page of the pdf that had been emailed out, as she had not wanted to print it out.
- Wood asked if the group could articulate the importance of turning in the evaluations, to which Park explained that each group had been asked to provide a critique of the funding body. Tram elaborated that failure to turn in the evaluation would negatively affect the group the next time they applied for funding.
- Sargent asked if there were any groups that applied for funding that were not funded. Tram said that there was one group that had been ineligible because the program was to be held off-campus.
- Neesby asked if the proportion of the total funding allocated had been typical of the historically allocated proportion. Tram answered that it had been typical, as the number of groups applying increased with each quarter, so the amount funded would also increase.
- Sargent asked if the details of these events would be provided to council, since council was co-sponsoring the event. Tram replied that she did not think that was part of the deal, but each group did have to turn in the recreation form, so the information would be available. Wood explained that if Council members did want to attend the events, then she was sure that Tram could provide those dates to council.
- Vardner asked for a copy of those dates, to which Tram said that the dates that were on the proposals were only tentative. She said that it would be an inefficient use of time for her to keep tabs on all of the changing dates.
- Neesby moved and Biniek seconded to extend the time limit of the Special Presentation by the USABOD by 10 minutes.
- Kaminsky called for Acclamation. Wood asked for any objection to calling for Acclamation. There being none, the time limit of the Special Presentation by the USABOD was extended by 10 minutes.
- Tuttle said that knowing that dates could change, many problems could occur. He said that it might be more practical actually not to provide tentative dates.
- Tram lastly added that the Ballroom dance club had missed a mandatory meeting, and would not be funded.

Student Advisory Council (SAC)

- Gwen Litvak said that from 3:00-6:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 23rd, in the Ackerman 2nd Floor Lounge the SAC would hold its kickoff event. She said that they were trying to add an avenue for student involvement and an avenue for co-programming. Litvak said that there would also be a discussion of the USAC concentrations. She said that there would be other discussion items, ending with a general discussion about the SAC and its future. Litvak lastly passed out fliers to council.

Darfur Action Committee (DAC)

- Matthew Saab from the DAC said that he wanted to talk to council about stopping the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. He said that Feb 23rd the government of Sudan had begun the systematic genocide of Darfur civilians. Saab said that over 400,000 had been killed, and he said that the United States had done nothing up until now. He said that there was also very little attention by the international community. Saab did say, however, that there had been a call for divestment. He said that this would be a pullout of investments in companies that do business in Sudan. Saab said that companies that would affect the people would be divested from, which would

create pressure on the government, and hopefully the genocide would stop. He said that the university had approximately 4 billion dollars invested, and there had been some investigation into whether or not any of that was invested in Sudanese business. Saab said that the goal was to get the university to divest its Sudan-based investments. He said that the same process had been used to end apartheid in South Africa, and UCLA had been the first university to do it. Saab said that Harvard and Stanford had already divested. He said that the divestment by just those two universities had initiated the pullout from Sudan by a Canadian Oil Company, sparking a peace treaty to the 21 year civil war in the nation.

- Neesby asked if Saab knew what the Regents' stance was on divestment. Saab replied that the Regents still invested solely based on financial reasons, not social. However, he again pointed out that the divestment from South Africa had been initiated by the UC Regents. Saab said that the more support they had the more likely it would be to have effect.
- Wood asked Saab to explain how this resolution directly affected students. Saab said that students' money that went to the university allowed it to thrive, and nothing was being done by the university.
- Biniek also said that the Regents could not divest until they found another place to put the money. Saab said that the DAC had actually given the Regents a divestment and reinvestment plan.
- Wood asked for motion to move up the Resolution in Support of Divestment from Sudan.
- Vardner moved and Biniek seconded to move up the Resolution in Support of Divestment from Sudan.
- Sassounian called for Acclamation. Wood called for Objections to calling for Acclamation. There being none, the Resolution in Support of Divestment from Sudan was moved up in the Agenda.

V. New Business

A. *Resolution in Support of Divestment from Sudan

- Sargent asked how council intended to meet the requirement in the Resolution that USAC obtained signatures for the petition. Biniek answered that Council Members could circulate the petition online.
- Doan made a brief grammar correction to the Resolution.
- Vardner moved and Biniek seconded to approve the Resolution in Support of Divestment from Sudan.
- Council voted to affirm the Resolution in Support of Divestment from Sudan. with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

VI. Special Presentations

Budget Reconciliation - CalPirg

- Greg Wannier said that there were attempts being done to create budget reconciliation, which would cut student grants and loans greatly. He said that UCLA was a public university, so students were very affected by the bill. Wannier said that the resolution in the packet was shorter than a newer version, which he then passed out to council.
- Biniek said that she was actually going to bring a similar resolution forward, but would instead like to add a "Whereas" to Wannier's resolution. She edited the second-to-last "Whereas" to include the names of the groups that were working so hard on the initiative. Biniek also passed out a handout about the same things that Wannier had just said.
- Wannier also said that USAC and Calpirg were working together to have a call-in to the California senators to tell them how the students felt about budget reconciliation. He said that they would also be creating a photo-yearbook of the students across the nation that would be affected; outlining how much debt they would be graduating with. Wannier also added that KABC7 news would be showing up to cover the event, as well as the Daily Bruin.
- Kaminsky asked where the statistics came from, to which Biniek said that the research was done by USSA.

- Neesby moved and Biniek seconded to move up the Resolution in Opposition to Budget Reconciliation in the Agenda.
- Sassounian called for Acclamation. Wood asked for objections to calling for Acclamation. There being none, the Resolution in Opposition to Budget Reconciliation was moved up in the Agenda.

VII. New Business (cont'd)

B. *Resolution in Opposition to Budget Reconciliation

- Vardner moved and Doan seconded to approve the Resolution in Opposition to Budget Reconciliation.
- McLaren asked about the footnote about Student Support Services, to which Biniek said that it referenced the director of Student Support Services in the President's Office.
- Neesby asked if Budget Reconciliation was a process or if that was a part of the bill. Biniek said that it was a process used to cut funding. Wannier elaborated that the resolution did not oppose a balanced budget or Budget Reconciliation as a process, just this particular planned reconciliation.
- Sargent asked if Council wanted to take the money from pensions. Biniek said that there were other places where cuts could be made, such as the interest rates to the lenders to the university.
- Neesby said that it looked to him as if the language implied that USAC opposed Budget Reconciliation as a process. Wannier noted the concern, and suggested to amend the language to clarify that. Biniek also pointed out that by putting this through the Higher Education Act, it would solidify these cuts for many years to come.
- Biniek moved to insert "HR609 and Budget Reconciliation as it now stands with regard to educational funding" into the first "Therefore."
- Kaminsky suggested to correct grammar in the "Whereas's" and the inconsistency of the use of the words bill and proposal.
- Council voted to approve the Resolution in Opposition to Budget Reconciliation, as amended, with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

VIII. Appointments

Finance Committee

- Villasin said that she was forwarding Eric Thai for appointment to the Finance Committee, and outlined some of his experience and qualifications. She spoke of his many experiences with various forms of funding and experiences on different funding bodies.
- Neesby moved and Pham seconded to approve the Appointment of Eric Thai to the Finance Committee.
- Thai said that he always liked being part of something that affected his peers, and said that funding was very important to all student organizations. Sargent asked what forms of programming he would prioritize, to which Thai said that he would be unable to say until he saw what was before him.
- Neesby asked Thai if he would be biased by any of his relations with various student groups on campus. Thai replied that he did not hold grudges, and if anything, he would expect more of the groups with whom he was affiliated.
- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Eric Thai to the Finance Committee with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Villasin said that she was also forwarding Vanda Suvansilpakit for appointment to the Finance Committee, and outlined some of her experience and qualifications. She said that Suvansilpakit had founded a group on campus, and had done many other activities outside of campus.
- Biniek moved and Doan seconded to approve the Appointment of Vanda Suvansilpakit to the Finance Committee.
- Sargent said that he saw that Suvansilpakit had withdrawn from Amnesty International, and asked why she wanted to do this for her senior year. Suvansilpakit replied that she wanted to be a part of the body that helped decide which groups got funding.

- Neesby asked if Suvansilpakit would be willing to recuse herself from decisions concerning the groups she was affiliated with to which she said that she would.
- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Vanda Suvansilpakit to the Finance Committee with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Villasin said that she was also forwarding Maryanne Cabrera for appointment to the Finance Committee, and outlined some of her experience and qualifications. She said that Cabrera worked for SPACE and the CSC, and would do well on the committee.
- Biniek moved and Vardner seconded to approve the Appointment of Maryanne Cabrera to the Finance Committee.
- Sargent said that Cabrera looked like a very involved person, and wished aloud that she be present to affirm her availability.
- Villasin said that SPACE only required one day a week, and Malik said that CSC only required minimal time from her.
- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Maryanne Cabrera to the Finance Committee with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

IX. Fund Allocations

- Villasin said that the total requested was \$9,508.00 and \$1,301.00 had been recommended. She said that \$1,000 had additionally been requested, with \$500 recommended for allocation.
 - Neesby said that the situation with Hillel was that the event had been cancelled. Wood recommended that council not approve that particular item, or council could approve it and then Hillel could return the money if they weren't going to use it. Neesby recommended tabling the Hillel matter until everything can be clarified.
 - Neesby moved and Sassounian seconded to table the Hillel allocation
 - Kaminsky called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any Objections to calling for Acclamation. There being none, the motion to table the Hillel allocation was tabled.
 - Vardner again asked Villasin if the other organizations would be providing documentation about their funding needs. Villasin said that she had still not contacted the groups.
 - Biniek moved and Smeets seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
 - Council voted to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations with a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- The Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations are attached to the minutes.*

X. Officer and Member Reports

Financial Supports Commissioner – Ryan Smeets

- Smeets said that the Katrina Relief Committee would be meeting on Thursday from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., and they would be talking about the Dodgeball Tournament. He said that they wanted to register 70 groups, raising \$6,000 dollars. Smeets said that KROQ or Indie103.1 would be there also.

Academic Affairs Commissioner – Michelle Sassounian

- Sassounian said that she had a great staff, a staff meeting, and two workshops for students. She said that many students had attended, and she was excited about getting people interested. Sassounian lastly passed around a flier about student run courses and the USIE program.

General Representative #2 – Bryan Neesby

- Neesby said that his office was doing well in intramural dodgeball, and he was working on Poolside by the Bayside on October 25th at 8:00 p.m. He also said that there would be a CRC marathon meeting soon, and asked Council to tell him about their availability. Wood asked what would be shown at Poolside Bayside, to which Vardner said that it would be episodes of "Saved By the Bell".

Facilities Commissioner – Joe Vardner

- Vardner said that his office's newsletter would be going out later in the week, and asked Council for contributions. He also said that he wanted to work on the jogging trail around UCLA, and had been approved by his office and by Mick DeLuca. Vardner said that it would be .3 miles shorter than the actual perimeter, and would be well lit. Vardner also said that a transportation meeting would be coming up, after which he would not have any more information, but starting in January the Big Blue Bus would not be accepting co-payments. He said that the technology on the busses was outdated, but there was more to it than that. Vardner said that a solution would have to be sought out before then.
- Biniek asked what this meant, to which Vardner said that there were still a lot of alternatives, but it had to be worked out.
- Sargent asked if there were any initiatives or campaigns that USAC could endorse in preparation for the next TSAB meeting when they would talk about this. Vardner said that the meeting would be him and Dorothy Kim educating council about transportation issues.
- Kaminsky moved and Biniek seconded to extend the time limit on Facilities Commissioner Joseph Vardner's Officer Report by five minutes.
- Zai called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to calling for Acclamation. There being none, the time limit on Facilities Commissioner Joseph Vardner's Officer Report was extended by five minutes.
- Vardner also said that they were working on making more recycling stations on campus, since so many of them were often overflowing. He said that the Hill also had a highly fluctuating recycling system, since it was usually student-driven.
- Sargent suggested Vardner get the council behind him on this issue. Vardner replied that he would be bringing an all-encompassing resolution to council, including sustainability, campus beautification, and some other issues. Vardner also said that there would be a sustainability meeting coming up soon, and he wanted to make sure that all of the student groups were together on this.
- Biniek asked if Vardner would be focusing on campus workers and if USAC would spearhead sustainability. Vardner explained that a company that employed disabled individuals, who did a great job, maintained the campus, and he would make sure that everyone was working together on the issue. Vardner also said that OSAC would be meeting soon, where they would be talking about the space surveys. He also said that he was working on students getting some storage space on campus. Vardner asked OSAC members to email him their availabilities. Vardner lastly said that his office was making standard signboards for USAC, and volunteered to have his office make them for everyone.

General Representative #3 – Marwa Kaisey

- Kaisey thanked her staff for coming to the Council meeting.
- General Representative 3 Marwa Kaisey's Officer Report is attached to the Minutes.*

External Vice President – Jeannie Biniek

- Biniek moved and Vardner seconded to extend the time limit on her Officer Report by five minutes.
- Zai called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to calling for Acclamation. There being none, the time limit on External Vice President Jeannie Biniek's Officer Report was extended by five minutes.
- Biniek said that her office was filling out postcards to invite Fabio Nunez to the UC Regents meeting. She said that her office would also be road tripping to the UC Regents meeting. Biniek said that the UCSA meeting had been recently held, and the Students of Color Conference had been scheduled at UC Irvine. She also said that they had appointed all but one of the system-wide representatives. Biniek said that she would be going to UC Irvine on the 19th to talk to the Regents about Return to Aid. She also said that UCLA would be sending 100 students to the meeting, adding to the total 1,000 students. Biniek reminded council that the call-in day would be the 19th, and National Affirmative Action Day would be October 20th. She also said that the UCSA voter guide would be available soon. Biniek also said that Bruin Debate was interested in having debates on the propositions on the upcoming ballot, and invited council to give her

names of anyone that would be interested in debating. She said that applications for trial grant were due on the 28th.

- Tuttle asked for a description of the voter guide, to which Biniek said that it included 3 points for and against each proposition, as well as UCSA's stance. Tuttle also asked about the library committee, to which Biniek said that it was a system wide situation.
- Ly asked about Get Out the Vote, to which Biniek said that her office was working to register voters.

Internal Vice President – Kristina Doan

- Doan said that Agenda Items would be needed sooner before the next meeting. Doan also said that there had been a viewpoint in the Daily Bruin about mental health, as October was Mental Health Month. She said that her office would appropriately be working on campus to promote mental healthiness. Doan also said that the Student Leader Networking Night was going very well. She said that she was working on getting state senator Sheila Kuehl to come that night. Doan said that her office was also working on campus sustainability. She noted that there would be room for displays or presentations at the networking night.
- Kaminsky asked if Doan was working with the Government Relations Office, to which Doan said that she was.

President – Jenny Wood

- Neesby moved and Doan seconded to increase the time limit on President Jenny Wood's Officer Report to 6 minutes.
- Zai called for acclamation. Wood asked for objections to calling for Acclamation. There being none, the time limit on President Jenny Wood's Officer Report was extended to 6 minutes.
President Jenny Wood's Officer Report is attached to the Minutes.
Questions and comments followed Wood's report.
- Sassounian suggested inviting Judy Smith to the meeting with Student Affairs.
- Vardner asked if there would be any curriculum outlines for the internships, to which Wood said that her office would be giving a presentation. He also asked if there would be an introduction session, to which Wood said that there would be a meeting on November 1st.
- Ly asked how soon offices would be receiving the interns, to which Wood said that it would be in early November

XI. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

XII. New Business

C. Welcome Week Expenditure

- Kaminsky said that Welcome Week and Bruin Bash had gone very well, but due to late production costs and commitments from the administration, both his and Hawkins' offices had overspent. He said that some of the groups had already added some more money, and both his and Hawkins' offices had put in much more money than they had planned. Kaminsky said that he would like to ask council for the ability to access \$14,000 from surplus.
- Wood added that this was the second year in a row that this kind of overspending had happened, but steps were being taken to make sure that it did not happen again. She said that this was an emergency, and it was exactly the type of thing that surplus was for. Wood also said that there was well over \$100,000 in surplus at the present time. Vardner added that in addition to the surplus fund, there was an additional \$20,000 emergency fund.
- Villasin, however, interjected that Debra Simmons from Student Government Accounting had not known how much was in surplus, and suggested tabling the issue until the next meeting.
- Kaminsky said that the bills had already been paid by his and Hawkins' offices, but they would like to be funded that amount back. Nelson asked Kaminsky if his office would be negatively affected by waiting another week, to which Kaminsky said that there was not one program that

- would be cut or otherwise affected, but he would feel less comfortable about signing on new programs, so essentially everything would be indirectly affected.
- Tuttle asked how soon the surplus number would be available, to which Villasin said by the end of the week. Tuttle suggested that council could make a motion to authorize the allocation *pending* the confirmation that the surplus was at least a set amount. He said that this would be a couple days faster than tabling until the next meeting, but would still keep council secure against further overspending.
 - Vardner moved and Biniek seconded to allow the reimbursement of up to \$14,000 from the USAC Surplus Fund to the Campus Events Commission and Cultural Affairs Commission.
 - Sargent asked what was being done to ensure that this did not happen again, to which Wood said that she was working with the administration to ensure that a predictable amount of money would be guaranteed in the future, as well as setting aside a block of funding for Welcome Week.
 - Tuttle asked Vardner if he still wanted to fund if there was only \$30,000 in surplus. Tuttle said that there should be a clause in the motion that made the funding pending to the confirmation of the amount in surplus.
 - Nelson said that since Welcome Week had done so well, and he knew that council was seeking more funding from the administration, he would not want to see the efforts of council curtailed by their overspending.
 - Council voted to allow the reimbursement of up to \$14,000 from the USAC Surplus Fund to the Campus Events Commission and Cultural Affairs Commission with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

D. USAC Sponsorship Discussion

- Doan said that she wanted to bring up the issue of group sponsorship to council. She said that the Bylaws outlined the goals of sponsorship and the groups that were sponsored. Doan said that mandates were written into the Bylaws that were not being followed, and she wanted to make sure that the groups USAC was sponsoring were legitimate groups. She said that they would be collecting the groups' constitutions and mission statements. Doan said that these were supposed to be turned in to CSP and the IVP's office. She said that this information would then be passed along to OSAC, who would then conduct a closer evaluation of the groups.
- Tuttle told council to be careful and to handle this situation with sensitivity. He said that Doan should find people and talk to them instead of just moving papers around, and since space was an issue, there existed the potential for groups to get singled out and penalized. Tuttle said that if the group did not exist, it was another matter, but names change, and paperwork gets lost.
- Doan said that nobody would be losing an office over not having a piece of paper, but it would initiate a closer investigation.
- Neesby asked if there was still an officially recognized designation within CSP. He said that there was also a clause in the Bylaws about resource allocation, and if USAC sponsorship was based on CSP's recognition, then groups could be negatively impacted by not being recognized by CSP.
- Nelson said that Officially Recognized Student Organizations (ORSO) could use the university name, get funding, and get space. He said that Independents could not. Nelson said that independents could however get funding from Contingency if they had a content neutral program.
- Neesby asked if the document about ORSO's denoted that the groups could not be religiously or politically affiliated. Nelson said that they could not. He said that they could get funding, and while he recognized the interest in equity, that had to be viewed with regard to funding and space. Nelson said that funding was available, but space was not. Neesby said that his impression of the Supreme Court cases referenced facilities, so this might have to be looked at by council at a later date.
- Doan said that she could not evaluate all of the groups right away, especially since there was little to no precedent. She was, however, planning on doing this in the near future.
- Sargent asked if student advocacy groups were currently sponsored by USAC with regard to their CSP registration.
- Wood said that they were.

XIII. Announcements

- Malik announced that she had made a calendar of all the funding due dates, and passed them around to council. She also said that nobody from USAC had signed up for Community Service Day.
- Vardner announced that Target would be at the Homecoming game, and the student group who had the most attendees at the Target tent would get \$1,000.00.
- Sassounian announced that she had dropped her phone in chicken noodle soup, so she would be unreachable on her cell phone.
- Kaminsky passed around fliers for the upcoming CEC events.
- Pham announced that there would be a CPR class on the coming weekend.
- Sargent announced that there would be a meeting on the 19th at the Tom Bradley center about consulting.
- Wood announced that she would be MC'ing an event on the 19th about the propositions and the special election. She said that Karen Bass would be there speaking.
- Vardner announced that the student business center would be opened up later in the week.

XIV. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Villasin passed around the attendance sheet.

XV. Adjournment

- Biniek moved and Pham seconded to adjourn.
- Kaminsky called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m. by Acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Keesler
USAC Minutes Taker