

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 25, 2005  
417 Kerckhoff Hall  
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Sargent

GUESTS: Felicia Cruz, Cindy Fang, Jeremy Jacquot, Gwen Litvak, Peony Liu, Steven Ly, Joel Rodriguez-Flores, Michael Sataee, Bill Shiebler, Martin Tolosa, Cordero Vigil

I. A. Call to Order

- Wood called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*Villasin passed around the Attendance Sheet*

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Kaisey, Sassounian, Smeets, Vardner, Pham, and Hawkins asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Kaisey asked to add the Appointments of the UCLA Recreation Advisory Board.
- Sassounian asked to move Undergraduate Students Initiated Education (USIE) to the beginning of Special Presentations, and for the corresponding Resolution to follow directly after.
- Biniek moved and Vardner seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.
- Kaminsky 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

**September 6, 2005**

- Pham said that she and Hawkins had both requested that Officer Reports be added to the Agenda. She said that the words "to fund" should be struck from the last line of her Officer Report.
- Wood said that the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Appointments to the USA/BOD Programming Fund Committee were never actually made.
- Sassounian moved and Kaminsky seconded to approve the Minutes of September 6, 2005 as amended.
- Zai called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. Vardner objected to approval by Acclamation.
- Council voted to approve the Minutes of September 6, 2005, as amended, with a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

**September 13, 2005**

- Kaisey said that the last sentence of her Officer Report should be struck.
- Pham moved and Hawkins seconded to approve the Minutes of September 13, 2005 as amended.
- Kaminsky called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to calling for Acclamation. There being none, the Minutes of September 13, 2005 were approved, as amended, by Acclamation.

## IV. Special Presentations

**Undergraduate Students Initiated Education (USIE)**

- Cindy Fang said that USIE was a program designed to provide students the opportunity to facilitate a course at UCLA on their own. She said that students would need to find a faculty mentor, and that the mentor should be in a related field to the subject of the course they want to teach. Fang said that applications were due by November 10, and that the Joint Student Faculty Advisory Committee would review applications during weeks 7 and 8. She said the joint committee would choose 20 Facilitators whose classes would be held during Spring Quarter. She said that the Facilitators would be enrolled in 188SA during Winter Quarter where they would learn to create syllabi and also how to facilitate a class. Fang said that in Spring Quarter the Facilitators would be enrolled in 188SB, and would facilitate their own classes. She said that it was important for student leaders to get involved in the USIE program, and that she would appreciate Council's involvement.

## V. New Business

**A. \*Resolution in Support of Undergraduate Students Initiated Education (USIE)**

- Sassounian said that the Resolution was simply in support of the USIE program. She said that this would be one of the first programs to open the doors of teaching to students here at UCLA.
- Vardner moved and Kaminsky seconded to approve the Resolution in Support of Undergraduate Students Initiated Education (USIE).
- Vardner suggested rewriting the first "WHEREAS" to include "and developing new institutions for students to enhance their own education."
- Neesby made a grammatical correction to the last "WHEREAS". Kaminsky said that the word council should be capitalized in another "WHEREAS."
- Council voted to approve the Resolution in Support of Undergraduate Students Initiated Education (USIE), as amended, with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

## VI. Special Presentations

**University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) Legislative Body**

- Felicia Cruz, External Vice President of the UCSB Legislative Body, introduced herself to Council. Cordero Vigil, Joel Rodriguez-Flores, and Bill Shiebler, other members of the UCSB Legislative Body, also introduced themselves to Council.
- Cruz said that they were all here to talk about freedom of speech.
- Rodriguez-Flores said that their Council had unanimously passed a Resolution to oppose Proposition 76, because Prop 76 which have a lot of detrimental impacts on students. He said that their Council had also decided to pursue legal action, if necessary.
- Vigil said that Proposition 76 granted budget veto power, which was very bad for students at all campuses in the UC system. He said that it was important to maintain some form of checks and balances.
- Cruz said that, after the UCSB Legislative Body had voted to oppose Proposition 76, they decided to also educate students about why the Proposition was bad. She said, however, that certain fee policies prevented them from using students' own fees to educate them about the very Proposition which negatively affected them. She said that the policies in question, Fee Policies 64 and 65, stated that Councils could not use student fees to take stances and/or to educate student bodies about propositions. Cruz said that UC Irvine, UC Berkeley and UC Davis had all passed UCSB's Resolution on Free Speech, and were all writing Resolutions against Proposition 76.
- Shiebler said they felt that the structure should allow for students to elect leaders who can then advocate for them and who can educate other students to the best of their abilities. Shiebler said he believed that it was the right of the students to express their views about propositions which directly affect them.

- Biniek said that there were a lot of issues that had to do with statewide affairs, and she invited Council members to question the UCSB Legislative Body representatives on any matters of concern to them.
- Neesby said that he had been reading some documents that went against what UCOP was saying, and which suggested that Councils were entitled to advocate on one side of an issue as long as there was an opportunity to present counter arguments, as well. He asked Cruz if such a dialogue had taken place. Cruz said that their meetings were open to all members of the student body, and that they also held an Open Forum in which students could express their opinions. She said that she knew about viewpoint-neutral funding, which Neesby was referring to, and said there were various avenues by which students or outside speakers could advocate a counterpoint.
- Rodriguez-Flores said that the Legislative Body had not provided any education in favor of Proposition 76, even though there were members on their Council that had been in favor of it. He said that they had decided, instead, to take a united stand against Proposition 76, because doing otherwise would have undermined their whole case.
- Biniek asked what the vote had been, to which Cruz replied that it had been unanimous. Sassounian asked why some members had changed their votes. Rodriguez-Flores replied that no one had changed their vote, rather they had voted against their personal politics because they saw the stance against Proposition 76 as being best for the students.
- Cruz said that the Resolution that had been put on the table was not only against Proposition 76 but also in favor of free speech, in general.
- Tuttle asked if the Legislative Body had published their Resolution against Proposition 76, to which Cruz said that they had not. She said they did, however, allocate \$1,000 toward educating the students about the issue.
- Neesby moved and Biniek seconded to extend the time limit on the Special Presentation by the UCSB Legislative Body by 15 minutes.
- Kaminsky called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to calling for Acclamation. There being none, the time limit on the Special Presentation by the UCSB Legislative Body was extended by 15 minutes.
- Tuttle asked about the status of the court case between UCSB and UCOP. Cruz answered that they were in the process of talking to lawyers about the UCOP Policy and were exploring their options.
- Tuttle remarked that USAC had recently chosen not to approve a Resolution in opposition to Proposition 76. He said that, for the first time in 40 years, USAC had failed to take a position on a proposition. Tuttle said, as he understood it, this was not a free speech issue, rather it was a student fee usage issue. He said that, historically, USAC had published its Resolutions, thus using student fees to take stances on propositions. Tuttle said that the procedure at UCLA was that Council had to approve the language, which then had to be approved by the Administration, after which it would be published so that the student body and other members of the campus community would be aware of the action they had taken. He said the rules required that counter-arguments, or at least references to counter-arguments, for example, websites, were to be included in all published Resolutions.
- Nelson said that he found all this very fascinating, because this was an issue that had gone back and forth for some time. He said that he had always recommended to Council that they not look to the adult community as a model for what to do. Nelson suggested that Council look at precedents that had been set by prior student Councils. He said what bothered him was the existing hypocrisy. He said that there should be consistency so that Councils should either be allowed to get involved in politics or not be allowed to do so.
- Shiebler expressed his opinion that, when looking at precedent, it is important not to use a narrow scope, because precedent is always changing. He said he thought it was important to consider the issues because, even though many people see Proposition 76 as very political, he sees it as something that is very related to higher education. Shiebler said that he believed it was the role of student governments everywhere to take a stance one way or another. He pointed out that viewpoint neutrality was a viewpoint in itself, so shouldn't really be used as a parameter.
- Rodriguez-Flores said that he was aware that USAC had taken political stances in the past, such as removing Taco Bell from the UCLA campus and approving the Resolution in Support of

Divestment from Sudan. He urged USAC to take a position on Proposition 76 and to educate the student body about the issues.

- Cruz said that it went beyond campus issues for Councils to take stances and to educate the student body.
- Sassounian thanked the UCSB Legislative Body for their special presentation to Council. She said it was her opinion that there is an important distinction between a decision to divest from Sudan and a decision on whether or not to take a stance on budget changes in the state of California. She said that denouncing genocide was very different from imposing political beliefs on students. Sassounian said that USAC had discussed whether or not the proposition would affect students, and had decided that there was not a strong enough connection for them to take a stance.

*Farheen Malik arrived at 8:00p.m.*

- Biniek moved and Vardner seconded to extend the time limit on the Special Presentation by the UCSB Legislative Body by an additional 5 minutes.
- Zai called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to calling for Acclamation. There being none, the time limit on the Special Presentation by the UCSB Legislative Body was extended by an additional 5 minutes.
- Biniek said that student fees would not be used for the divestment issue, and said that was an important distinction.
- Cruz said, with regard to the debate over whether or not Councils should take a stance that some of their student constituents disagreed with, she happened to know students from Sudan who did not believe in the divestment. Cruz said that she acknowledged the difference, but wanted to make the point that Councils could, and had, taken stances against the majority of their student constituents.
- Rodriguez-Flores said he thought that there was a parallel between divestment and student fees with regard to a Council's willingness to take a stand.
- Vigil ended the presentation by saying that student fees had to do with Return to Aid, and divestment was much like trying to discourage businesses from investing in the government if they tried to cut funding to higher education.

*Kristina Doan arrived at 8:05p.m.*

#### **Freshmen/Transfer Advisory Council (FTAC)**

- Peony Liu and Jeremy Jacquot introduced themselves to Council by saying that they were working with Gen Rep Zai on a project she had initiated entitled the Freshmen/Transfer Advisory Council. They said that one of the many reasons for the project was to help incoming students learn how to negotiate the bureaucracy at UCLA.
- Liu listed some of the special features of the project, including leadership workshops and the opportunity to be mentored by a member of Council and to co-program with a USAC officer. Liu said that the Council members who agree to serve as Mentors would be asked to reach out to the student they are assigned to mentor. She said that the students who are selected for the program would be encouraged to get involved with other campus organizations besides USAC which would help them to branch out.
- Jacquot talked about what would be expected of the students who participate in this project. He said that they would have to attend at least four Council meetings, as well as a series of workshops and seminars. Jacquot said that they would also be asked to spend at least two hours with their mentor, and would have to attend a retreat with other participants and mentors. He said that there would be a graduation ceremony at the end of the program, and said that the committee hoped that the program would encourage students to continue working in student government in the future, either in an elected or appointed position.
- Liu said that there would be an information session on Thursday, November 10, and that applications would be due by Friday, December 2. Lastly, Liu said that they really needed Council members to sign up to be Mentors. She said the committee was hoping that students who choose to participate would be able to help Council members with their programs.
- Jacquot said that information would be available in Zai's office, or by emailing them at UCLAFTAC@gmail.com.

- Neesby asked Liu and Jacquot to email their PowerPoint presentation to Council. He also asked if Council members' staff could be Mentors, to which Liu replied that they would prefer having the Council members, themselves.
- Kaminsky asked how many incoming students would be involved in this project, to which Liu replied that they wanted to keep it at a maximum of 20 to 25 students.
- Kaisey asked if the participants would be working on existing programs, or if they would be creating their own program. Liu explained that they hoped to have them set up their own program.

#### **National Take Affirmative Action Day (NTAAD)**

- Martin Tolosa said that Thursday, October 27 was National Take Affirmative Action Day. He said that this event was established because student government recognized the need for equality of opportunity in higher education. He said that the two main goals of the event were to raise awareness of educational inequalities, and to advocate for new parameters in admissions, including such factors as socioeconomic status and race. Tolosa said that, at some high schools, more than 80% of entering freshmen meet the UC eligibility criteria upon graduation. Despite this fact, Tolosa said that students from low socio-economic status were seven times less likely to graduate from college. Tolosa told Council that African Americans represent 10.5 percent of the Los Angeles County's population, but only .5 percent of the UCLA population. He also said that, while Hispanics make up 45 percent of the Los Angeles population, they make up only 10.5 percent of the UCLA population. Tolosa lastly said that the number of African American freshmen admits had dropped from 470 to 199 in the years from 1997 to 2004. Tolosa passed around copies of the agenda for National Take Affirmative Action Day. He said that the day's events would include educational games which were intended to spark debate among students and discussions about how the track system in High School disadvantages students that were not on the College-Bound track. He said balloons and pins would be distributed at the event to get the message out to as many people as possible.
- Sassounian moved and Neesby seconded to extend the time limit on the Special Presentation on National Take Affirmative Action Day by 10 minutes.
- Biniek called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to calling for Acclamation. There being none, the time limit on the Special Presentation on National Take Affirmative Action Day was extended by 10 minutes
- Tolosa said that they would also be creating a "wall of expression", where students would be able to write about the day and their feelings about Affirmative Action. Tolosa said that there would be statements by several prominent members of the University community, as well as a performance by hip-hop artists. Tolosa wrapped up his presentation by passing around a sign-up sheet for Council members who were interested in volunteering to help out with the day, or who would be willing to carry a picket sign to class.

#### VII. Appointments

##### **Campus Retention Committee**

- Wood recommended Jason Kaminsky for the Campus Retention Committee.
- Neesby moved and Vardner seconded to approve the Appointment of Jason Kaminsky to the Campus Retention Committee.
- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Jason Kaminsky to the Campus Retention Committee with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

##### **UCLA Recreational Advisory Board**

- Wood said that she was forwarding Andrew Green for a seat on the UCLA Recreational Advisory Board. She said that Green had originally applied for appointment to the Wooden Center Board of Governors, but now wanted to apply to this new board instead. Doan said that the ARC had voted unanimously to approve Green to the position. She said that he was very familiar with UCLA's various recreational facilities.
- Zai moved and Vardner seconded to approve the Appointment of Andrew Green to the UCLA Recreational Advisory Board.

- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Andrew Green to the UCLA Recreational Advisory Board with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.  
*Smeets was out of the room during the vote.*

## VIII. Fund Allocations

- Villasin said that \$10,294.49 had been requested from Contingency, and that the Finance Committee was recommending total allocations of \$3,966.52. She said that there were three corrections to be made regarding the amounts recommended for the United Khmer Students Fall Retreat. She said the recommended amount for Facilities should be \$200, not \$700, the recommended amount for Transportation should be \$200, not \$500, and the recommended amount for Supplies should be zero, not \$50. Therefore, the Total Amount Allocated should be \$400.
- Neesby moved and Vardner seconded to approve the Finance Committee's Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Council voted to approve the Finance Committee's Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.  
*The Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations are attached to the Minutes.*

## IX. Officer and Member Reports

**Cultural Affairs Commissioner – Todd Hawkins**

- Hawkins said that the Cultural Affairs Commission staff was completely full this year, which was the first time this had happened in a long time. He said they had 80 staff members, plus volunteers, and they had held staff training last week. In response to a question from Nelson, Hawkins said they had a huge increase of first years and transfer students sign up with CAC this year. Hawkins then reported that the African Music Festival would begin tomorrow, Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup>, and said that the event would be free to all students. Hawkins also said that CAC was working on developing some new fundraising projects.
- McLaren remarked that one of the best line-ups for the African Music Festival would be performing on a Tuesday evening, which meant that she would have to choose between the music and the Council meeting. ☹

**General Representative #2 – Brian Neesby**

- Neesby said that he had an event going on at Sunset Rec right now, and said he hoped that it was going very well. On another matter, Neesby said that the Constitutional Review Committee's marathon meeting had been cancelled, and was being rescheduled to Halloween Night at 7:00p.m. Neesby next told Council that his office's website was functional, and could be viewed at [www.genrep2.com](http://www.genrep2.com). He also said that he was working with Kappa Delta on a Katrina Relief Toy Drive. He said that collection boxes were located on several floors in Ackerman and Kerckhoff. Neesby ended by saying that he and Jesse Melgares were working on getting more lighting for the crosswalks on campus, but had been meeting with some opposition.

**Academic Affairs Commissioner – Michelle Sassounian**

- Sassounian said that funds were now available from the two Academic Affairs Commission grants, the AAC Mini Grant and the Academic Success Grant. She then handed out application forms for both grants. Sassounian said that, if any organizations were interested in applying for funding for an academic program, they could apply directly to her, at least 14 days before the program. She said that the Mini Grant had a cap of \$500. Sassounian gave Council one example of a program that would qualify for a grant by saying that it could be a program teaching freshmen on the Hill about how to enroll through URSA.
- Neesby asked if the program had to be held on the UCLA campus, to which Sassounian replied that the program had to advocate for UCLA.

**Student Welfare Commissioner – Tracy Pham**

- Pham said that she had met with Nancy Greenstein from UCPD about ways in which SWC could help get the word out to the students about campus safety issues. She said that, in addition to distributing fliers which listed emergency contact information, they wanted to plan some programs which would educate students about a range of different safety issues .
- Doan added that UCPD wanted to institutionalize a liaison between USAC and UCPD to ensure and improve communication and cooperation.
- Pham continued her report by saying that SWC was holding CPR and First Aid Instructor training, with classes on Friday and Saturday.
- She said that SWC was having a Halloween party in their office this Thursday evening at 8:00p.m. She invited Council members to join them, and said there would be some food, but she wasn't sure what. She said they were encouraging everyone to come in costume.
- Vardner suggested that Pham talk with Nancy Greenstein about their plans to hire a new Deputy Police Chief. He said that the search was going on now because UCPD plans to have the new Deputy Chief move up to the position of Chief of Police when the current Chief retires in the next 3 or 4 years.

**Financial Supports Commissioner – Ryan Smeets**

- Smeets reported on various fundraising efforts that were being conducted for Katrina Relief. He said that there would be a Texas Hold'em poker tournament at the Beta House, co-sponsored by IFC and Panhellenic. He said that Kappa Delta was holding a toy drive. He ended his report by saying that they would be holding a Dodgeball Tournament, with a suggested donation of either \$5 or a new toy to participate. Smeets said that, thus far, all the Gen Reps had signed up for the Dodgeball Tournament, as had the IVP and "Michael, the Minutes Taker."

**Facilities Commissioner – Joseph Vardner**

- Vardner said that Dorothy Le would be making a Special Presentation at next week's meeting about transportation issues. He said that the Office Space Allocation Committee would be meeting soon.
- Vardner reported that next Wednesday was National Day of Sustainability which would be celebrated at UCLA with events throughout the day and evening. He specifically mentioned that there would be informational tables set up in Bruin Plaza from 11a.m – 1:00p.m., with a concert at noon. Kaminsky said that the noon concert was going to be awesome !!
- Vardner next said that he was working with OCHC on the housing contract. He said he had more information to report on this subject, but he had noticed that his allotted time was up.
- Zai moved and Neesby seconded to extend the time limit on Vardner's Officer Report by two minutes.
- Hawkins called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to calling for Acclamation. There being none, the time limit on Vardner's Officer Report was extended by two minutes.
- Vardner said that On Campus Housing had moved up the deadline on contracts for continued housing so that they would now be due in February. He said that this proposed change had major implications because housing decisions had to be made by both the on-campus residents and the apartment community residents together. Vardner said that he was not sure if the decision to move the date up was finalized yet but, if it was, then his office would work on educating students about this change. He speculated that the reason for changing the timeline was because On Campus Housing was now dealing with 2,000 more beds than they had in the past. Vardner said that they might also be trying to increase retention rates by forcing students to decide early. He said that, if the date is moved up, there wouldn't be the advantage of being able to choose a room, because the freshmen would not have been admitted by that time.

**General Representative #3 – Marwa Kaisey**

- Kaisey said that her office was working on Campus Community Involvement. She asked Council to fill out a card with information on how they could help with this concentration.

**Chancellor's Representative to USAC – Dr. Berky Nelson, Ph.D.**

- Nelson said that he had spoken with Kaliko Komatami who was eager to talk with Council about setting up the Hiroshima Art exhibit.

**External Vice President – Jeannie Biniek**

- Biniek said that UCLA had a great call-in day, and that they had made almost as many calls as UC Santa Barbara had. She said that she had met with Fabian Nunez last Friday to talk about the upcoming UC Regents Meeting, and would be following up with him in the coming weeks. Biniek told Council that she would be meeting with the Los Angeles-based Regents to talk about the upcoming budget discussions in November. She said that she was also in contact with the Student Regent to discuss how they can win the swing votes on the budget so that it will be in the students' favor. She said she had been at UC Irvine last week and had met with former student leaders. She said that her office had held its staff retreat over the weekend. She said that the Student Action Network would be kicked off at a meeting tomorrow night. Biniek announced that there would be a 5K Walk for Women and Children at Cal State Dominguez Hills in April 2006. She briefly described the EVP's Travel Grants and suggested that Council members submit their requests to her office.
- Wood asked about the new proposed cuts to higher education. Biniek said that there was a bill in Congress which would cut \$9 million dollars from federal aid, and another bill in the Senate which would cut more, causing students to graduate with an average of \$5,800 more in debt than the current average. She said that members of the UCSA Board would be going to D.C. on Thursday to attend the House and Senate hearings and to lobby against the proposed legislation.

**Internal Vice President – Kristina Doan**

- Doan said that Student Leader Networking Night would be held this Thursday evening. She said that V.C. Montero's office had given them funding for food. She said further that State Senator Sheila Kuehl might attend. Doan said that a lot of the USAC officers would be speaking at the event.
- Doan told Council that she had attended OCHC's meeting which was held this evening, prior to the Council meeting. She said she had given them information about USAC's Concentrations and had told them which USAC officers to contact for each of the Concentrations.
- Doan ended her report by announcing that there would be a reception in De Neve this Friday from 4:00-6:00p.m. for students affected by Katrina. She said it would be a "pseudo" tailgate party. Doan said that the guests would be given meal tickets. She said that the event would immediately precede the Katrina Relief Dodgeball Tournament which Smeets talked about in his officer's report.
- Sassounian asked for more details on the meal tickets, to which Doan replied that UCLA students had donated some of their meal "swipes" for the benefit of the Katrina students who attended the event.

**President – Jenny Wood**

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

*Questions and Comments followed Wood's Report.*

- Neesby asked about the USAC Reception, to which Wood said that it would be a time for attendees to learn more about the different offices.

## X. Old Business

**A. \*Amendments to USA Bylaws Article VI.C.5**

- Neesby gave an overview of the proposed changes by saying that, on the third page, they would be adding the position of the Administrative Representative to the Bylaws. He also said that there was now a unanimous vote required to allow outside individuals to attend budget hearings. Neesby said that the last item, under 2.c., was that documentation and records be kept for as long as was practical.
- Biniek asked if that issue had been tabled until the equipment was available.



- Neesby said that it had been tabled for two weeks, or until the equipment was available. He said he wanted to approve this amendment now, with the understanding that the technology would improve with time.
- McLaren said that, before the equipment was purchased, they wanted to make sure that the digital recorder had the capacity to do everything they wanted it to do.
- Biniek moved and Sassounian seconded to approve the Amendments to the USA Bylaws, Article VI.C.5.
- Tuttle said that he had some concerns about the transparency issues, even ‘though there had been good arguments on both sides. He said that his second concern had to do with the applicable Supreme Court cases, and making sure that the actions of the Council were in keeping with judicial rulings. Tuttle said that someone might bring a judicial action if Council acted inappropriately. He said that the University of Wisconsin at Maryland was currently operating under the supervision of a Federal judge and, under a similar matter, it had gone up to the Appeals Court, and then again back down to the Federal judge. Tuttle said that it seemed to him that the proposed amendments worked, and that it would be good to keep the records for as long as feasible in case an issue did come up. Tuttle continued, saying that the checks and balances on this year’s Council were very strong.
- Neesby said, with regard to legislative intent, it was not meant to prevent court-ordered subpoena.
- Council voted to approve the Amendments to the USA Bylaws, Article VI.C.5. with a unanimous vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Tuttle requested that Council be kept apprised on the acquisition of the recording equipment.

#### XI. New Business (Cont’d)

##### **B. \*Resolution in Support of Student Participation in the November 8 Special Election**

- Kaisey said that this was a general Resolution, and was pretty self-explanatory.
- Doan reminded Council to apply the changes that had been included in Biniek’s email.
- Kaisey said they would be striking the last half of a sentence in the last WHEREAS; “rather...” She also said that, to clarify, the WHEREAS should read “allow for” not simply “allow”.
- Doan also said that they would be adding a clause, corresponding to Biniek’s email, as the last WHEREAS.
- Kaminsky suggested including “on their own” in the last WHEREAS clause, per Biniek’s suggestions.
- Neesby said that there should be commas instead of colons after the WHEREAS-es.
- Sassounian moved and Neesby seconded to approve the Resolution in Support of Student Participation in the November 8 Special Election, as amended.
- Council voted to approve the Resolution in Support of Student Participation in the November 8 Special Election, as amended, with a vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

##### **C. \*Resolution in Support of National Take Affirmative Action Day**

- Wood said that this was a simple Resolution, along the lines of the Special Presentation that had been made earlier in the meeting. She said that they wanted to both educate students about inequality and to encourage them to seek ways to amend admissions criteria to improve diversity at UCLA. Wood said that dozens of schools across the nation would be taking part in this day of action.
- Neesby amended the Resolution to correct several points of grammar, and to correct the places where “UCSA” was intended to be “USAC.”
- Kaminsky amended the Resolution to change “and” to “THEREFORE” on “BE IT RESOLVED.”
- Kaisey asked if the first WHEREAS was addressing UCLA or UCSA, because it might be better to just support UCLA’s efforts.
- Pham made a grammatical correction to the second WHEREAS.
- Hawkins moved and Malik seconded to approve the Resolution in Support of National Take Affirmative Action Day.

- Biniek said that, endorsing UCSA, was endorsing the reasons behind having this event. She said that it was about increasing diversity and maintaining equality.
- Sassounian said that she wanted to be sure what she was voting for on the national level. She said that the theme for the national day seemed to be different from UCLA's goals. Sassounian said that it also seemed to frame the issue as saying that race should be considered as a factor in admissions.
- Biniek said that they were advocating for race to be considered, as well as socio-economic status, and life experience. She said that they were doing everything within their power to make sure that the doors were open to all students, regardless of their background and where they came from.
- Wood said that race was inherently intertwined with inequality in the higher education systems. She said that, currently, segregation in Los Angeles County was worse than it was before the Civil Rights Movement.
- Neesby said that he saw this as a simpler question. He said that he understood UCLA was doing education, but he questioned taking a stance about Affirmative Action specifically. Neesby said that Council should support what their campus was doing, but he was skeptical about UCSA's efforts.
- Biniek said that she had been on UCSA for two years, and was on the executive board, and felt that she had answered all the questions about UCSA's intentions.
- Kaminsky said that he liked the point about education, reading aloud some of Biniek's email to Council.
- Doan suggested adding the statement to the Resolution, as the last WHEREAS.
- Biniek said that, at UCLA they realized that Affirmative Action was illegal, but they wanted to ensure equality. She said that they were supporting the consideration of race, but they did not support illegal action.
- Vardner said that, while he was highly troubled by the racial under-representation at UCLA, he was still unsure about where he stood on race-based Affirmative Action. He said that, personally, he was more inclined toward socio-economic status-based Affirmative Action.
- Sassounian said that the information in the UCSA packet on the Resolution had bothered her, saying that she thought some of the language was not only inflammatory, but perhaps illegal, as well. She read certain statements in the packet, and said that she was uncomfortable taking such a radical stance. Sassounian asked Biniek what the intention of the packet was.
- Biniek said that it had been intended to help organize student organizations and how to conduct themselves on the day of action.
- Wood said that the general message was that there inequality exists, and that the removal of Affirmative Action had been detrimental to equality and diversity.
- Kaisey moved and Neesby seconded for a 10-minute recess.
- Sassounian said that she agreed with Wood in general, but said that her problem with the rhetoric in the packet was that the program on the national level seemed more prescriptive in nature, as contrasted with the UCLA programming, which seemed to be more educational.
- Kaisey moved to amend her motion for a 10- minute recess by reducing the time to just 7 minutes.
- Council voted to go into a 7-minute recess with a vote of 5 in favor, 4 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

*Council went into recess at 9:57*

*Council returned to session at 10:04*

- Tuttle asked if the Supreme Court had ruled on the University of Michigan case about the quota system. He also said that there was another case where race could be considered in comprehensive review. Tuttle asked Biniek if it was the case that the Supreme Court had ruled on in 2003 which said that, while quotas were prohibited by law, race could be considered. He asked if California was the exception that prevented the use of race. Biniek replied that California chose not to use it, though it was allowed by the Federal government. Tuttle asked if page 5 of the national pamphlet was the matter in question, to which Wood and Biniek said that it was. Tuttle said that if page 5 was the subject of debate, then the motion might be narrowed to that specific document.

- Biniek said that the audience for the organizing manual was students who were passionate about the issue, so some of the rough language was being used as a motivational tool. She reminded Council that they were not approving the organizing manual, only the Resolution.
- Nelson said that the exclusion or inclusion of race reminded him very much of the debate that occurred back in 1949 about whether or not the United States should recognize the People's Republic of China. He said that the United States decided *not* to recognize China, despite the fact that it had more people in the world than any other nation. Nelson said that Rosa Parks had died the day before, and there was still inequality present in this day and age. He said that, to assume that inequality did not exist was ridiculous. Nelson said that the reality was that we had an unequal society, and the demographic most benefited by Affirmative Action were actually white women. He also said that the UC President's appointment had been an act of Affirmative Action, which he then took away, and was a fool for it. Nelson said that there were some things taking place that were keeping women back, and keeping minorities back. He said he had spent many years studying these issues, and he wanted to see things improve. He told Council that they needed to think critically about these issues.
- Neesby moved and Sassounian seconded that Council amend the Resolution to say that, "USAC recognized National Take Affirmative Action Day and UCLA's activities in keeping with that."
- Wood said that she was unsure why he was making that motion, as the same issues were happening across the country. She said that, anyone who is opposed to the Resolution is entitled to vote "No" on it.
- Biniek reiterated Wood's comment that anyone who was opposed to the Resolution should vote "No." She said that the Resolution was about National Take Affirmative Action Day, not about UCLA.
- Wood said that inequality was a national issue, and it should be recognized as such.
- Doan said that she agreed with Neesby's amendment. She said further that, if other campuses decided to act unconstitutionally, she did not feel comfortable advocating such actions.
- Hawkins said that this was specifically a national issue, and called for Council to react on a national level.
- Vardner moved and Sassounian seconded to extend the discussion by 10 minutes. Wood asked if there was any objection to the motion. There being none, the discussion was extended by 10 minutes.
- Vardner agreed that this was a huge issue, which was why he wanted to pass a Resolution. He said that the reason why he had some issues supporting the national program was because it was highly oriented toward a racially-based Affirmative Action. Wood corrected Vardner, saying that race was not the only issue in the efforts. Vardner said that he thought a comprehensive review, with regard to all aspects of college applicants' background, should be implemented.
- Biniek said that Vardner's statements were confusing because he said that he did not support race-based Affirmative Action but supported it as a subset of overall Affirmative Action. She said it seemed to her that some members of Council failed to recognize that they were part of something bigger.
- Biniek asked if it was possible to remove the Resolution from the Agenda as it had been amended. Neesby said it would be an amendment to remove a previously adopted item (the Agenda) which would require a 2/3 vote. He pointed out, however, that the amended Resolution was national in its scope because of its language.
- Wood said that they were not calling for a repeal of Proposition 209, they were just trying to recognize that race should be an issue in admissions.
- Tuttle asked if Wood was supporting the Bolinger Supreme Court Case, which took race into account as part of a comprehensive review. Wood said that she did support the case. Tuttle said that the Resolution was now the property of the body, therefore, without a super-majority, it would be unable to withdraw the motion.
- Wood again told Council the purpose of National Take Affirmative Action Day at UCLA and on the national level.
- Vardner asked if the language to include disability and socio-economic status could be added to the Resolution.

- Wood pointed out that the Resolution already included a reference to low-income communities.
- Neesby called for a vote on his proposed amendments to the Resolution. Sassounian seconded the motion. Council voted to approve Neesby’s amendments to the Resolution with a vote of 7 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 abstentions.
- Wood called for a Roll Call Vote on the Resolution, as amended. Each Council Member’s vote is listed below.

Doan	Yes
Biniek	Yes
Zai	Yes
Neesby	No
Kaisey	Yes
Sassounian	Yes
Kaminsky	Yes
Malik	Yes
Hawkins	Yes
Vardner	Yes
Smeets	No
Pham	Yes

- Council voted to approve the Resolution in Support of National Take Affirmative Action Day with a vote of 10 in favor, 2 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

X. Announcements

- Kaminsky passed around fliers for the upcoming movies.
- Malik said that, on January 25, Pi Kappa Phi and CSC would be having a Battle of the Bands, and that they were looking for bands who would like to participate in the event.

XI. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*Villasin passed around the attendance sheet.*

XII. Adjournment

- Biniek moved and Kaminsky seconded to adjourn.
- Sassounian called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 p.m. by Acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael Keesler  
USAC Minutes Taker