

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL

Tuesday November 15, 2005  
417 Kerckhoff Hall  
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Biniek, Malik, Nelson, Sargent, Sassounian

GUESTS: Combiz Abdolrahini, Andy Botros, Andy Botros, Gregory Cendana, Terence Chan, Constance Dillon, Julia Erlandson, Cynthia Gonzales, Gwen Litvak, Jesse Melgares, Jason Mizzell, Janina Montero, Rebecca Powell, Roy Samaan, Carlos Saucedo, Jeanalee Ubergfell

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

- Doan asked to remove the Appointments for Financial Aid Policy Committee and the UCLA Recreation Advisory Board.
- Tram asked to have Assistant Budget Review Director added to Appointments.
- Neesby asked to move the Senate discussion to immediately after the Special Presentation on the same topic.
- McLaren said that because of the hearings of the Student Organization Operational Fund (SOOF) which begin at 9:00 pm tonight the SOOF committee will have to take the tape recorder. Wood reminded Council of the time limits and said that the meeting should be done by 9:00 pm.
- Doan suggested moving Appointments to before Special Presentations.
- Kaminsky, Vardner, and Pham asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Kaminsky moved and Kaisey seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.
- Council voted to approve the Agenda, as amended, with a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

III. Approval of the Minutes

*There were no Minutes this week.*

IV. Appointments

**Assistant Budget Review Director**

- Tram said that she had e-mailed to USAC Terence Chan's application for the position of ABRD. She said that he had shown a lot of enthusiasm about the position and that he possessed the skills needed for the job.
- Neesby asked what exactly the role of the ABRD would be, to which Tram said that it would be to oversee the SOOF operations. She said that a lot of the responsibilities would be similar to her own.

- Neesby asked Chan if he would recuse himself if he was in the position of voting for or against a group with which he was affiliated, to which he said that he would. Neesby also noted that, since the ABRD had similar power to the BRD, he would appreciate the position similarly going through the ARC process in the future.
- Vardner said that he was excited about Chan as the new ABRD.
- Neesby moved and Doan seconded to approve the Appointment of Terence Chan to the position of Assistant Budget Review Director.
- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Terence Chan to the position of Assistant Budget Review Director with a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

*Todd Hawkins Arrived*

#### V. Special Presentations

##### **November Regents Meeting**

- Samaan said that the UC Regents would be having their second meeting of the quarter, and added that UCLA students would be going to the meeting. He said that the Regents would be voting on the budget at this meeting, which included an 8% fee increase, and a maintenance of last-year's cuts to Return to Aid. Samaan said that this made funding higher education harder, and said that it resulted in a severe monetary block to students. He said that this was the last year of the compact, so it was hard to repeal this especially since Schwarzenegger and Dynes were both still in office. Samaan said that students would be taking a bus up to Berkeley where they would then protest the financial irresponsibility of the UC Regents. He also said that they would be offering a "Financial Aid Yearbook" to give to the UC Regents, which consisted of student profiles and how the fee hike had affected each of them personally. Samaan lastly said that they were only two votes away from getting Return to Aid back.
- Williams asked if the increase of 33% in Return to Aid would cause the tuition to climb beyond 8%. Samaan answered that it would not, as a 7% increase from 25-33% in Return to Aid was worth far less than 1% in tuition increase. Samaan said that UCSA had even found areas in the budget that could be cut in order to fund Return to Aid.
- Wood added that in terms of student fees, it was very difficult for the Regents to work with the amount that they were being given by the state, indicating a much larger problem of state cuts to higher education. Samaan added that the higher education fee increase of 8% was really a backdoor solution to the state cuts to higher education.
- Tuttle said that he had a copy of Lou Cannon's book on Reagan's governorship and its effects on the California budget and economy, recommending it to anyone who might be interested in learning about the historical context of California's economic problems.
- Wood told Council that it was critical that a lot of students attend the UC Regents meetings. She said that the presence of so many students at the Divestment hearing with the Regents had been what led them to consider divestment from Sudan.

#### VI. Fund Allocations

- Villasin said that the applications for Contingency fund for events in 10<sup>th</sup> week would have to be received by 9<sup>th</sup> Week. With regard to the Contingency requests on tonight's agenda Villasin said that, \$8,447.47 was requested with \$2,805.84 recommended for allocation. She said that, after approval of these allocations, the balance in the Contingency Fund would drop from \$29,137.97 to \$24,823.13.
- Neesby moved and Doan 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.*

## VII. Special Presentations (cont'd)

**USA Senate Proposal**

- Neesby said that since he was hard to get in touch with now, he suggested that Council use Jesse Melgares as the point person for discussing the proposed Senate system. Neesby then introduced the Senate Proposal, saying that tonight he would just be explaining the system so that Council had a better understanding of it.
- Tuttle asked Neesby if there was anything for Council to look at while Neesby gave this presentation, to which Neesby said that they were still "working the kinks out of it", but Council would have documentation within a couple of days.

## VIII. Officer and Member Reports

**Campus Events Commissioner – Jason Kaminsky**

- Kaminsky said that today he had hosted Stan Lee, who had drawn a crowd of nearly 400 people. He also said that Dan Glickman would be coming to campus Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., and asked Council to let him know if anyone was interested in speaking with Glickman personally.
- Kaminsky said that Dr. Nelson who could not be at tonight's meeting, had asked him to pass out some information fliers. He said that the fliers were for an information night at Mount Sac, and they had invited three members of USAC to come to this event and talk about student government at UCLA..

**Facilities Commissioner – Joseph Vardner**

- Vardner said that On-Campus Housing had agreed to push back the deadline for underclassmen to decide whether or not to live-in. He said that, additionally, OCHC has now been invited to come to the On-Campus Housing meetings. Vardner said that his staff had finalized what they wanted to accomplish in Westwood, and said that he would be continuing to work with Westwood businesses, and would update Council on his progress.

## IX. Special Presentations (cont'd)

**USA Senate Proposal (cont'd)**

- Jesse Melgares and Andy Botros said that they would be giving a PowerPoint Presentation to Council on the USA Senate Proposal.
- Melgares said that the proposal would increase Council to a 20-member Senate with 7 members on a Judicial Branch.
- Tuttle asked if the Executive Board would attend Council meetings, to which Melgares said that the IVP would attend the Council meetings. Botros said that there would be 21 individuals at the meeting, but only 20 of them would be Senators. Melgares said that the Internal Vice President would sit on the Senate, and would vote in case of a tie.
- Melgares said that the Internal Vice President would sit on the Senate, and would also break tie votes. He said that the Executive Branch would consist of the Executive Cabinet, made up of the President, Internal Vice President, External Vice President, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs, and the Commissions, which would be made up of the Cultural Affairs Commission, the Student Welfare Commission, the Academic Supports Commission, the Community Services Commission, and the Campus Events Commission.
- Botros said that the President would be the leader of the Executive Cabinet, direct Executive Orders to ensure efficient and responsible operation of USA, have signature authorization over budgetary expenditures, have a power to veto Senate legislation, and to appoint a USA Advisory Corps .
- Tuttle asked if the powers of the President were similar to those of the President of the United States Government, to which Botros said that they were somewhat similar.
- Melgares said that the responsibilities of the Internal Vice President would be to Chair the Senate, vote to break ties in the Senate, nominate members to Senate committees for consideration by a majority vote of the Senate, produce the Senate Agenda, publicize all Senate

- meetings, events, actions, and projects, and generally be responsible for the initial orientation of Senate members and for their continued education on issues relating to the business of the Senate.
- Tuttle pointed out that the budgetary powers of the new Vice President would exceed those that were now in place.
  - Botros said that the External Vice President would represent and advocate on behalf of students on a local, state, and national levels, appoint representatives to lobbying organizations and UC system-wide committees, and be the students' liaison to UC Regents and UC Campuses - Coordinates campaign efforts on behalf of student interests.
  - Melgares said that The Vice President of Academic Affairs would make appointments to the Academic Senate on behalf of the students, be generally responsible for USA relations with the Academic Senate, and inform and advise the Executive Cabinet and Senate on all academic matters.
  - Botros said that the Senate would be made up of 20 members, including the 7-member Judicial Branch, and the USA Advisory Corps, made up of the Attorney General, Parliamentarian, Finance Officer, Office Space Director, The Administrative Representative, The Alumni Representative, The Faculty Representative, and The Executive Director of ASUCLA .
  - Wood asked if the allocations of funds out of different offices like CS Mini Fund would additionally have to be approved by the Senate.
  - Williams asked if the IVP would be required to vote the way the President told him or her, to which Neesby said no. Williams pointed out that this would then weaken the President.
  - Kaminsky asked if he would have to have all of his referendum spending approved by the Senate, to which Neesby said that allocations had to be approved, but referendum spending did not.
  - Zai asked how the commissioners would be held accountable, since they would now be depoliticized.
  - Neesby moved and Kaminsky seconded to extend the time limit on the Special Presentation by 15 minutes.
  - Smeets called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to calling for Acclamation. There being none, the time limit on the Special Presentation was extended by 15 minutes.
  - In response to a question by Tuttle, Neesby said that there were earmarked funds. He said that it was an issue, though they had not come to a complete solution. Tuttle said that what he feared was a return to the bureaucracy of ASUCLA that was in place in 1965.
  - Tuttle asked who made the new appointments, to which Melgares said that the IVP would now make the appointments. Tuttle confirmed that the new IVP would sit on the Senate, break tie votes, AND make appointments.
  - Botros said that there would be more seats on the proposed Senate, which would mean more representation for student groups, a division of tasks leads to greater efficiency where it matters most, and lead to more deliberative discussion of funding allocations and advocacy efforts.
  - Tuttle expressed some concerns about the new system, saying that this was a form of instant election. He asked how the presenters saw this as corresponding to slates, to which Melgares said that a candidate would need 4% of the campus to vote for him or her. He said that this would decrease slate politics because now a senator required much less of the campus population to vote for him or her.
  - Neesby moved and Vardner seconded to extend the time limit on the Special Presentation 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 was extended by 15 minutes.
  - Melgares said that the new voting system would use the Hare Voting System, which would protect minority voices and give fair representation for majority voting blocs. He also said that the Hare System would minimize the competitive advantage that organized slates have, and ideologies would be represented whether a slate or an independent facilitates them.
  - Doan pointed out they were going to lose quorum before being able to vote on the upcoming Action Agenda Items.

## X. Old Business

*There was no Old Business this week.*

## XI. New Business

**A. \*Allocation of 313 Kerckhoff for Communal Space**

- Carlos Saucedo and Cynthia Gonzales from the President's Office said that they were working to convert 313 Kerckhoff to a communal space for student organizations. Cynthia said that they had some cost estimates, which were included in the Agenda Packet. Carlos said that they were asking Council to approve the use of this space as well as an allocation of \$10,324 this year, and an ongoing annual allocation of \$10,600.
- Neesby asked what the money set aside for the Internet by the 2004-2005 council was, to which Wood explained that it was surplus that had not been used. Vardner added that it was part of the \$20,000 that had never been spent, as other actions needed to be taken before the Internet could be updated.
- Vardner moved and Pham seconded to allocate Kerckhoff 313 as Communal Space for Student Organizations.
- Vardner said that OSAC had voted unanimously for this allocation of space, which was important because there really is not enough space on the campus for every student group to have its own office. He said that this communal space was a great solution to the space problem.
- Kaminsky asked if the \$6,000 per year requested for a student employee would result in the hiring of a new student. McLaren said that it would pay for more hours of work, either for already employed students or for a new one to be hired.
- Tuttle asked if this was a space that would be under the jurisdiction of the President's Office, to which Wood said that it wouldn't really be under anyone's jurisdiction, but rather operated by ASUCLA and funded by USAC. Tuttle asked who would oversee the space, making sure that there was time for everyone to be there, to assign time slots, and to determine priority.
- Doan asked who would determine the hours of operation, to which Saucedo said that McLaren and her staff would service the room.

*Todd Hawkins left the meeting.*

- Doan also asked if this space would be available to USAC office staff, to which Wood said that it would.
- Tuttle said that there may be times that staff could be using the space when student groups wanted it, which again emphasized the need for management and oversight of the space.
- Council voted to allocate Kerckhoff 313 as a Communal Space for Student Organizations with a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

**B. \*Allocation of Start-Up Costs for Communal Space**

- Vardner moved and Pham seconded to allocate \$10,324 from USAC Surplus to the President's Office for the Start-Up Costs of the Communal Space.
- Council voted to allocate \$10,324 from USAC Surplus to the President's Office for the Start-Up Costs of the Communal Space with a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

*Ryan Smeets left the meeting.*

**D. USA Senate Proposal Discussion**

- Samaan warned that the voting system proposed by the Senate structure was used at UCSB, which allowed slates to have even more power to create a supermajority.
- Vardner said that this was not much different from what was currently in effect at UCLA. He said that, in the last 10 years, one slate or the other had always dominated USAC. Vardner said that the Hare voting system was used in many countries, and most recently UC Davis and the city of Santa Monica had decided to implement the system.

- Samaan countered by saying that the slates had more power to influence the final results.
- Neesby said that he had taken this system directly from UC Berkeley, where they had a multi-party system. He also said that this system was actually better at representing the minority opinion.
- Wood said that she thought there was a lot more discussion required on the issue away from the council table. She said that changing the entire student government structure bothered her. Wood spoke highly of the current system, pointing out its advantages and how admired it was by other student governments across the nation.
- Neesby said that he agreed that more discussion was needed. He said that he would be available to talk about ideas that everyone had about the proposed system.
- Tuttle said that he understood the advantages of the proposed system, but there may be other ways to accomplish such advantages without a complete rewriting of said guiding documents. He said that he was concerned about there being so many separate elections and by the removal of power from the President.

## XII. Officer and Member Reports (cont'd)

### **Student Welfare Commissioner – Tracy Pham**

- Pham said that the SWC Blood Drive was coming up, and passed out fliers to Council. She said that there were prizes being given out for donating blood. Pham said that they had gotten over 100 units of blood earlier in the day, and told Council that they should all give blood. Pham also said that SWC was hosting a Thanksgiving Feast, which people needed to sign up for. She also said that Multi-Cultural Craft day would be next Thursday, which would be right at the council table.

*Council applauded Pham's success with the Blood Drive.*

### **Internal Vice President – Kristina Doan**

- Doan said she got the order placed for all the materials for the Resource Fair, and thanked council members for their assistance. She said that her office will soon begin issuing an internal weekly calendar of all projects and events that USAC officers and commissioners are working on so that everyone would be aware of what others were doing and so they could support each other's efforts when possible. She said that Jason Mizzell would be the point person for compiling this information, and she asked that council members email their items to him. She said that they were still developing the format for this, and said that one idea they had was to feature one office or commission each week. On another matter, Doan said that there would be a memorial service on Friday for the student who committed suicide last year. She said that her office was working with some of the SHAC appointees about holding a workshop on mental health issues.

*Tracy Pham left the meeting.*

### **President – Jenny Wood**

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

*Questions and Comments followed Wood's Report.*

- Kaminsky asked if her application for parking had been emailed out, to which Wood said that she would send it again.

## XIII. New Business (cont'd)

### **C. Campus Community Concentration Discussion**

- Kaisey said that tomorrow her office would be hosting an event called "Jump Start Your Career", which would be held at Hedrick Fireside Lounge at 7:00 p.m. She said that the event would be geared toward educating students about getting involved in student groups on campus. Kaisey also said that she had a discussion last week about marketing the events on the campus calendar to make it friendlier to students.

- Hillary said that Kaisey's office would also be hosting "Take it Like a Fan" on Wednesday of Blue and Gold Week. She said that during lunch, there would be basketball hoops on campus and pom-poms available for distribution. Hillary said that they were also having a meeting with the Student Alumni Association, who were very interested in the event. She said that they would be publicizing the event by fliering Bruin Walk, holding contests for the most spirited bruin, and doing other promotions. Hillary said that there would be a lot of other sporting and non-sporting events during Blue and Gold week, and they would be promoting all of these to freshmen who wanted to get involved.
- Zai said that Blue and Gold week would also include security for the Bruin. She said that this would be fun, and also have a practical value. Zai said that Sunday would be invitation only, with Monday being the official kickoff of the week-long event.
- Vardner said that, during the week, SAA would be giving out 120 reasons why UCLA rocked. He said that there would also be customizable ones on which individuals could write their own reasons, which would then cover the tarp over the Bruin. He said that by Friday of the week he expected the entire tarp to be covered.
- Doan said that she could see other concentrations being included in this event, such as campus safety.
- Wood asked what invite-only meant, to which Zai said that it was more of just a special invitation night for the student groups.

#### XIV. Announcements

- Doan said that Romeo and Juliet would be shown on the Hill this week.
- McLaren said that some members of Council were already in the EOL system for reserving rooms for events, but not all were. She said that Kenn Heller from CSP had asked her to make sure that everyone got on the system, and she passed out the forms to council.
- Neesby said that CRC would be meeting on Wednesday at 10:00 am again.
- Zai said that she had gone to the Safety and Security meeting, and the Saxon foot trail had been brought up as a safety issue. She said that different ideas had been brought up including putting up a fence or rerouting the trail around the parking lot.

#### XV. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*In Villasin's absence, McLaren passed around the attendance sheet.*

#### XVI. Adjournment

- Vardner moved and Zai 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 9:40 p.m. by Acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael Keesler  
USAC Minutes Taker