

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday January 10, 2006
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Kaminsky, Sargent, Tuttle

GUESTS: Combiz Abdolrahimi, Erin Choi, Constance Dillon, Julia Erlandson, Ashley Gamayo, Michael Garner, Karen Noh, Shannon Raj, Jay Ramsey, Meghan Sullivan

I. A. Call to Order

- Wood called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Villasin passed around the Attendance Sheet

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Malik, Vardner, Kaisey, Sassounian, Hawkins, and Pham asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Vardner added the Office Space Allocation Committee (OSAC) Guidelines under New Business.
- Villasin said that the Fund Allocations were not an action item this week.
- Doan asked to allow brief announcements before the meeting since the announcers had been waiting patiently
- Vardner moved and Zai seconded to move Special Presentations by Dance Marathon and After Hours Access to before Approval of the Minutes.
- Williams said that After Hours Access presentation should not be made until Wood arrives.
- Vardner and Zai accepted Williams' amendment to the motion.
- Vardner moved and Pham seconded to approve the Agenda, as amended.
- Zai called for Acclamation. Doan asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Agenda was approved, as amended, by Acclamation.

III. Special Presentations

UCLA Dance Marathon

- Shannon Raj said that she and her friends had brought handouts about UCLA Dance Marathon and about how to get involved. She said that a big part of advertising for Dance Marathon was the T-Shirts, which reflected this year's theme, which was World Tour, Destination: The Cure. Raj said that Dance Marathon was a 26-hour dance-a-thon, going from 10:00 a.m., Saturday, February 18th, to 1:00 p.m., Sunday, February 19th. She said that the foundation supported by Dance Marathon was named after Elizabeth Glazer, whose son had even come to the event last year. Raj said that each dancer was required to raise \$200 for the foundation, and moralers were also encouraged to make donations. She said that there were currently 600 dancers already signed up, and she recommended signing up to be a moraler earlier rather than later.
- Raj, the chair of the volunteer committee, said that there were ways to get involved other than by being a dancer or moraler. She said that they were looking for volunteers who would be doing a variety of services, and said that the contact information for volunteering was on the handout.

- Meghan Sullivan said that volunteers could write letters, check in dancers, help with food service, and lots of other things. She said that they were looking for people that wanted to be part of something larger.
- Ashley Gamayo said that a lot of money had been raised the previous year.
- Raj said that donations were also welcome and being accepted on the dance marathon website. She said that if there was a group that wanted to participate, they needed ten percent of their members to be signed up in order to represent that organization.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

October 11, 2005

- Sassounian moved and Neesby seconded to approve the Minutes of October 11, 2005, as submitted.
- Council voted to approve the Minutes of October 11, 2005, as submitted, with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

October 18, 2005

- Doan said that on page seven, under her Officer Report, the State Senators' name was Sheila *Kuehl*, not Sheila "Keyes."
- Sassounian moved and Smeets seconded to approve the Minutes of October 18, 2005, as amended.
- Council voted to approve the Minutes of October 18, 2005, as amended, with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

President Jenny Wood arrived at the meeting.

November 8, 2005

- Sassounian moved and Kaisey seconded to approve the Minutes of November 8, 2005 as submitted.
- Neesby called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to calling for Acclamation. There being none, the Minutes of November 8, 2005, were approved, as submitted, by Acclamation.

November 15, 2005

- Neesby said that on pages two, three, and in the list of attendees on page one, Andy "Bowman" should be Andy *Botros*.
- Smeets moved and Neesby seconded to approve the Minutes of November 8, 2005, as amended.
- Vardner called for Approval by Unanimous Consent. Wood asked if there were any objections to calling for Approval by Unanimous Consent.. There being none, the Minutes of November 8, 2005, were approved, as amended, by Unanimous Consent.

November 22, 2005

- Pham said that on the first page, under her Officer Report, she had six teams, not three.
- Biniek said that there was a typo on page three, as she is the *External* Vice President, not the Internal.
- Sassounian moved and Neesby seconded to approve the Minutes of November 22, 2005, as amended.
- Council voted to approve the Minutes of November 22, 2005, as amended, with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

November 29, 2005

- Sassounian moved and Kaisey seconded to approve the Minutes of November 29, 2005, as submitted.
- Council voted to approve the Minutes of November 29, 2005, as submitted, with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

V. Special Presentations

Student Empowerment Internship

- Jay Ramsey said that this quarter the interns were being integrated with council's staff. Ramsey said that they were also beginning the weekly development sessions. He added that this year, for the first time, the interns would be given one unit of credit for the class. He said that to qualify for one unit of pass/no pass credit they would be required to give a presentation during ninth week.
- Erin Choi said that the weekly development sessions were designed to train the interns as programmers, and to teach them to be leaders on campus and in the community. She also noted that the Intern Committee would be working with the interns to help them develop their topics.
- Ramsey said that they also had the syllabi, and would pass them out to council. He said that the Student Research Project office had suggested that the interns work with professors with whom they already had personal relationships.

After Hours Access – ASUCLA, Karen Noh

- Karen Noh said that she was present to give Council some background on this proposal and get their input on it. She said that ASUCLA was seeking a more efficient and safer way to ensure after-hours access to Kerckhoff for members of Council. Noh said that there were two doors to Kerckhoff that had keypads with keycard access. She said that what she needed to talk to council about the process for managing who would be able to get after-hours access. Noh said that one of the handouts she had distributed lists the hours that Kerckhoff is open for public access while classes are in session, but what she needed to find out from Council was the hours that they would need access to Kerckhoff when the building is not open to the public. She said that the form she had handed out allows for each member of Council to approve access for three people from their office. Noh said that the way this would work would be to program the Bruin Card number of each student who is authorized to be in the building after hours. She pointed out that, among other things, each time a student entered or exited the building, the system would track that information. She said that, for this reason, it would not be a good idea to lend you Bruin Card to anyone because abuse of the system could be tracked.
- Williams said that allowing three people per Council Member was just a proposal. He said that they didn't want the number to be too small because it might encourage students to prop the doors open or to climb in through the windows, nor did they want it to be so large that it could be a free-for-all. He reiterated Noh's statement that they were seeking input from Council Members on this matter. Williams said that they would also be rearranging the schedule of the security guards to focus on just Kerckhoff, and that they would also look into hiring more security guards.
- Neesby asked when this was expected to be implemented.
- Noh said that they could proceed immediately with the current proposal, while retaining the option of making changes later. She said that they were very flexible. Noh added that if people already had a key access form on record then they just needed to fill out their names on this new form. Noh also explained that after-hours access was not restricted just to three people per Council Office, but was available to three people per student organization that had office space in Kerckhoff.

UC Divestment from Sudan

- Michael Gamer said that he had just come back from a divestment meeting, and said that they were looking to coordinate the efforts of the different groups involved. He said that they were fliering every day on campus, and were also doing row-walks this week to the Fraternities and Sororities. Gamer also thanked Council for their support in funding the full-page ad on the Divestment resolution as well as for the additional funds they provided to the campaign. He reminded Council that the vote on divestment would be on Thursday, January 19th. He said that they were trying to get students to go to the UC Regents Meeting the day of the vote, and encouraged Council to attend.
- Williams asked how the divestment would affect him as the Executive Director of ASUCLA and his oversight of the student store and other ASUCLA services and enterprises.

- Gamer said that they were asking for the UC Regents to divest their investments from Sudan-based companies.
- Williams asked what types of companies these were.
- Gamer said that there was a list of 17 companies, and this list excluded any agricultural, pharmaceutical, or health-care companies; the intent being to hurt the government without hurting the people. He said that the companies targeted were primarily petroleum and telecommunications, as the government had a habit of shutting down phone service to towns immediately preceding an attack on that village. He said that one of the 17 companies is now turning in terrorists because they fear the divestment of their stock by western powers which oppose the genocide. Garner stated that political pressure on the Sudanese Government by large corporations would hopefully lead to social and political change. Gamer said that there were other companies that the UC could move their money into. He said that there would be several events this week, including petition signing, a mock UC Regents Meeting, a press conference, and a simulated refugee camp. Gamer said that he wanted to bring 300 people from UCLA to the meeting on January 19th.
- Wood asked Council to try to guarantee a certain number of their staff members who would be at the UC Regents meeting on January 19th.
Wood went around the table, asking each Council member how many people they expected to be able to bring from their offices.
- Wood said that they were also fliering all day on Wednesday and Thursday of the present week, and asked for volunteers to help with that.
- Biniek said that they had been limited by the number of volunteers that had shown up for the last fliering event so there were not enough volunteers to talk to all those who were interested in the issue.
- Doan said that her office would be having an event on Tuesday, January 17th, if the DAC wanted to put anything on display.

VI. Appointments

There were no Appointments this week.

VII. Fund Allocations

- Villasin said that approval of the allocation of Surplus Funds would probably be on the agenda at the next meeting. She also said that the Finance Committee had received applications for Contingency Funds last year at the very end of Fall Quarter, which she had allocated under her discretionary authorization. She said that Council had not yet seen information on these allocations and said that the attachment with her agenda presented the information. Villasin said that a total of \$10,129.35 had been requested from Contingency, with \$1,306.00 recommended for allocation. She said that the allocation of these three items would decrease the running balance from \$18,927.19 to \$17,621.19.
- Doan asked why these requests had been funded after the fact, to which Villasin reiterated her comment that the requests had not been received until the end of tenth week, and council had not met after tenth week.

The Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations are attached to the minutes.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

Community Service Commissioner – Farheen Malik

- Community Service Commissioner Farheen Malik's Officer Report is attached to the Minutes.

Academic Affairs Commissioner – Michelle Sassounian

- Sassounian said that the very first Student-Facilitator class for the USIE Program had been held earlier that day. She said that it had been really cool to see all of the student facilitators in one place. Sassounian also said that she had a really long meeting with the administration regarding the late-drop policy because they were trying to repeal that policy which would prevent the

possibility of dropping classes up until the final with a signature from the professor. Sassounian said that she had spoken with the Faculty Executive Committee, and she felt like they were working toward a compromise. She said that it looked like they would be trying to curb the quantity of drops that took place each tenth week, and she said that there would be more updates as the committee worked toward their decision.

- Nelson asked if they could distinguish drops due to grades from other reasons for dropping classes in the tenth week.
- Sassounian said that they had gotten a lot of information from the Registrar's Office on that and related topics. She said that, it seems that their current assessment is that the students who were dropping classes during ninth and tenth week were the problem. Sassounian said that the FEC was looking for a way for students to be able to drop, but not create grade inflation and too many drops.

Cultural Affairs Commissioner – Todd Hawkins

- Hawkins said that, tomorrow night, his office would be hosting a reception with music and food for the exhibit that is in the Kerckhoff Art Gallery this week. He said that the exhibit features local artists and would include screenings of student-made films. On another matter, Hawkins said that his office would be holding its first meeting on the Jazz Reggae Festival at 6:00p.m. on Thursday January 12th. He then told Council that his office would have a small hip-hop concert on February 11th, and a Jazz concert on Wednesday of Week 3 that would feature 3 different UCLA-based Jazz groups. Hawkins said that his office would be having a retreat in the near future, and he would know more about all the upcoming events after that. Hawkins also said that his office would be hosting a resource night for different cultural groups that wanted to hold large events in Spring Quarter. Hawkins lastly said that his office was working on having an event to celebrate Black History Month.
- McLaren said that she and several students were looking at the exhibit Hawkins mentioned that is in the Kerckhoff Art Gallery now. She said they all agreed that it was an excellent exhibit, but were trying to find some information about the artists. She asked Hawkins if they planned to post any such information in the gallery.
- Hawkins said that, having no information was part of the feel that the artists wanted to have, and said that the artists would all be at the opening reception on Wednesday night at which time they would explain their art pieces to the attendees.

Student Welfare Commissioner – Tracy Pham

- Pham said that SWC's first blood drive had been held on Monday, January 9th, and donors had been given a fast-pass to let them cut into the textbook line at the bookstore as a thank you. Pham also told council that she would be holding a staff retreat the coming weekend. She said that they would be focusing on the each of the projects they sponsor and talking about whether to add additional ones. Pham lastly said that she was helping out with the upcoming production of the Vagina Monologues, and said that auditions would be held soon.

General Representative #3 – Marwa Kaisey

- Kaisey said that her office would be focusing on South Campus this quarter. She said that they would be talking with the South Campus Student Organizations, finding out what they needed, and letting them know that USAC was interested in helping them. Kaisey said that, hopefully, this outreach would culminate in a fair on South Campus at the end of the quarter.

External Vice President – Jeannie Biniek

- Biniek said that the Senate had just voted 51 to 50 to cut \$12.7 billion from student loans, with Dick Cheney breaking the tie vote. She said that USSA had made more than 20,000 contacts from September to the time of the vote. Biniek said that they were also working on appropriations, and USSA would be having a meeting this coming weekend. Biniek said that the governor was planning on retracting the fee increases, and she wanted to make sure that the legislature supported this. Biniek said that she and Wood had met with the Alumni Association to talk about working together, and they wanted to work on how to get messages to the legislators. Biniek reminded council that the UC Regents meeting was coming up, and the

divestment vote would be held. She said that they would also be talking about a transportation policy, and Vardner knew a lot about this and sustainability. Biniek said that the USSA Board of Directors would be having their meeting at Riverside that month. Biniek also said that she had a meeting to talk about the effects of budget cuts on students. She also said that she had been working a lot with the Student Action Network.

- Sassounian said that she had gotten a lot of questions about travel grants, and asked what the caps were.
- Biniek said that the caps were set per application, and priority was given to groups, although individuals were also allowed to apply.

Internal Vice President – Kristina Doan

- Doan said that the Student Leadership Summit was coming up, and introduced Combiz Abdolrahimi who was coordinating this event
- Abdolrahimi said there would be a lot of workshops which would be led by different members of Council and their staff members. He encouraged everyone to invite as many students as they thought might be interested in learning how to lead.
- Doan reminded council that the event was 4 hours long, but said that people didn't have to stay for the whole time. She said, in fact, they could come for just one particular session if they cared to. Doan then reminded Council about the OCHC/USAC joint meetings and asked if they would be available for a dinner meeting on Wednesday, January 18th, at 5:00 p.m. Doan then said that she had been working with McLaren and Tony Ta, USAC's Webmaster, about ways to improve the USAC site, and said that Ta would be launching the new site very soon. She said that the redesigned site would include a number of new features, including photographs of all the members of Council and a change from the dark colors to lighter ones. Doan lastly said that she had been in contact with Nancy Greenstein, UCPD Director of Community Service, and was hoping to set up a meeting about the shooting in Westwood and the sexual batteries that had occurred recently on the fringe of the campus.

President – Jenny Wood

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

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

X. New Business

A. Office Space Allocation Committee (OSAC)

- Vardner said that he had emailed members of OSAC to ask when they could all meet, but was still waiting to hear back from some of them. He said that the Communal Space office in Room 313 Kerckhoff was supposed to be finished by next week, which meant that Council now needed to figure out the management of that space and its resources. Vardner asked Council to email him questions about this issue so that OSAC could come up with a proposed plan. Vardner said that the guidelines had already been drafted, and were designed to simplify the operation of the services. He said that input from Council would help OSAC to determine what type of services the communal space office could provide that would be relevant to undergraduate student groups.

XI. Announcements

- Biniek said that Assistant Vice Chancellor Keith Parker had told her that he would be hosting a luncheon meeting on campus with the Associated Students of Santa Monica College (ASSMC), and said that the ASSMC leaders wanted to meet their UCLA counterparts. Biniek said that Parker had invited USAC to attend the luncheon, and she asked that anyone who wanted to participate should let her know. She pointed out that "there was a free lunch in it."

- Doan said that she had just received an email on her laptop notifying her that about 10 members of OCHC would be able to meet with USAC on Wednesday, January 18th, at 5:00 p.m., and told Council that she was going ahead with scheduling that joint meeting, and reminded Council that it included dinner on the Hill.
- Kaisey said that all three GenReps would be holding office hours on Bruin Walk this quarter, and said that they would be held on Thursdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Villasin passed around the attendance sheet.

XIII. Adjournment

- Vardner moved and Biniek seconded to adjourn.
- Zai called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m. by Acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Keesler
USAC Minutes Taker