

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday February 14, 2006
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: Farhad Mofidi, Lena Cai, Constance Dillon, Shaun Doria, Julia Erlandson, Renee Fortier, Eric Lew, Jason Mizzell, Janina Montero, Pooja Patel, Theri Pickens, Kevin Potter

I. A. Call to Order

- Wood called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Villasin passed around the Attendance Sheet

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Vardner moved that Council strike Officer Reports from the Agenda.
- Neesby said that Steven Ly was not going to be present, and suggested that Council wait to appoint Ly.
- Herzog asked to move Election Board Appointments to ahead of Special Presentations.
- Wood said that Theri Pickens from the Black GSA would be making a Special Presentation.
- Wood said that she would be adding a discussion item regarding a CS Mini Fund Appeal.
- Parking Services said that they really needed to go first. Wood said that the order of the amended Agenda would be Parking Services, Election Board, BGSA, and then on down the Agenda.
- Sassounian moved and Smeets seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.
- Zai 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

June 17, 2005, Session B

- Sassounian moved and Kaminsky seconded to table the Minutes of June 17, Session B.
- Council voted to table the Minutes of June 17, Session B with a vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

IV. Special Presentations

UCLA Parking Services

- Renee Fortier from UCLA Parking Services introduced herself to Council.
- Eric Lew from UCLA Parking Services introduced himself to Council.
- Fortier said that Transportation Services at UCLA had a lot of guidelines that it had to adhere to in conducting UCLA's transportation and parking services. She said that the budget for transportation was about 5.8 million, mostly paid for by parking fees. Fortier said that there were several subsidies that came from this budget, including the bus subsidies, carpool subsidies, and other programs as well. She said that most recently, Parking Services was trying to implement a more comprehensive bicycle program for students, lending bikes and offering

lockers. Fortier said that due to the services offered by UCLA, over 1.5 million trips were saved by commuters to and from UCLA. She said that this was part of their efforts regarding increasing campus sustainability. Fortier said that they were also trying to improve sustainability by increasing on-campus housing. Fortier said that currently, the campus had a little over 23,000 parking spaces, but would be expanding that to 25,000 in the near future. Fortier said that revenues came from a lot of different sources. She said that it came from quarterly parking permits, from day passes, and from special event parking. Fortier said that parking fees supported staff, various subsidies, rent, and other programs. She said that this year they would also begin construction on a new parking structure for the Child Care Center, and that Parking Services was also still paying off debt from past construction projects. Fortier told Council that next year, parking service fees would be going up, because they would need to generate more revenue. She said that they would be paying off more debt in the next year, and there was obviously the rising cost of vehicles and gas to contend with. Fortier said that parking services was also taking steps to mitigate impacts on parking fees. She said that they would be reducing field staffing costs and downsizing the campus shuttle service. Fortier said that the fee plan was for an increase this year. She said that services whose fees would be increased included Yellow, Blue, and X permits; 2-person carpool per person; and 3-person carpool per person. Fortier said that, compared to other urban UC's, UCLA was actually quite affordable. She said that the only thing that was more expensive at UCLA was the daily permit. Fortier said that, compared to the local market, (Westwood), UCLA was also much more reasonably priced. She said that the fee increase was proposed to begin in July.

- Biniek asked how much Parking Services was expecting to save by reducing labor costs, to which Fortier said that it would be a quarter-million dollar cut. She said that they did not want to lay off anyone, so they had been using temp agencies to fill vacancies instead of hiring new employees, so that nobody would have to be fired once the time to downsize arrived.
- Biniek asked what the total cost of the labor was right now, to which Fortier said that it was around 6.7 million dollars.

V. Appointments

Election Board External Relations Chair

- Pooja Patel introduced herself to Council.
- Herzog said that Patel was a very dedicated student, saying that she was involved in community service and on Council. She said that she thought Patel was particularly well-suited to the position because of her communication skills and leadership style.
- Patel said that she knew this was a new position on the Election Board, and she hoped to use her skills to define this position well.
- Biniek asked Patel if she had any experience working on the Hill, to which Patel said that last year she had been a leadership intern, and she was also a floor president this year.
- Tuttle said that a lot of UCLA Alumni stayed connected with the university, and a lot of them liked to talk about USAC, politics, and the government. He said that if Election Board goes dirty, if there's corruption, or if one is perceived to do so, then that would follow one throughout their life, such that their children and their childrens' children would know about it. Tuttle asked if Patel understood this.
- Patel said that she understood.
- Biniek asked Patel if she anticipated any problems, and how she planned to deal with them.
- Patel said that she knew campaigning on the Hill had been a problem in the past, and she was planning on doing more education on the Hill.
- Tuttle said that there had been discussion about voter privacy, which Council had talked about for the last several weeks, and asked Patel if she knew about this.
- Patel said that she did.
- Vardner moved and Kaisey seconded to approve the Appointment of Pooja Patel to the position of Election Board External Relations Chair.
- Zai said that she, Biniek, and Vardner could help point Patel in the right direction about campaigning problems on the Hill, and asked Patel to speak with them.

- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Pooja Patel to the position of Election Board External Relations Chair with a unanimous vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Election Board Endorsements Co-Chairs

- Kevin Potter introduced himself to Council.
- Farhad Mofidi introduced himself to Council.
- Herzog said that Potter had a good grasp of what the endorsement procedure was about. Herzog said that Mofidi was very good at organizing groups and communication. She said that she saw the two as complementing one another.
- Mofidi said that he was looking for a way to get involved, and said that he saw this as a way to make a difference. He said that if he did his job well, then the elections would be fair and unbiased.
- Potter said that this was his second quarter at UCLA, but that he had been very involved with student government at his community college. He said that he was big on working as a team to accomplish a common goal.
- Kaisey asked if either of them had any concrete ideas for getting new groups interested in endorsements.

Both said that they would give the subject some thought.

- Tuttle asked the two if they understood what he had asked Patel.

Both acknowledged that they understood Tuttle's point.

- Vardner asked Herzog how this would change the dynamic of the Election Board. He said that as he saw it, one vote would now be split between two. Herzog said that she felt that this was the format that would best suit the committee, and felt that the benefit outweighed any concerns regarding the splitting of the vote.
- Vardner also said that having one more person on the E-Board made it that much harder to get the entire group together.
- Smeets moved and Neesby seconded to approve the Appointment of Kevin Potter to the Position of Election Board Endorsements Co-Chair.
- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Kevin Potter to the Position of Election Board Endorsements Co-Chair with a unanimous vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Kaisey moved and Hawkins seconded to approve the Appointment of Farhad Mofidi to the Position of Election Board Endorsements Co-Chair.
- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Farhad Mofidi to the Position of Election Board Endorsements Co-Chair with a unanimous vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Election Board Publicity Chair

- Herzog said that Lena Cai had experience in advertising, so she was well-qualified for the position of Publicity Chair. She said that Cai was, in fact, probably overqualified for the position.
- Cai said that she had been into design since she was young, and she had been getting paid for work in this field for years, so she felt qualified.
- Tuttle asked Cai his standard question, and Cai said that she understood Tuttle's point.
- Sassounian moved and Smeets seconded to approve the Appointment of Lena Cai to the Position of Election Board Publicity Chair.
- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Lena Cai to the Position of Election Board Publicity Chair with a vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Election Board Investigations Chair

- Herzog said that Jason Mizzell was very well-suited to this position, and said that she thought his loyalty to the guidelines superceded any loyalties he might have to any certain person or position.
- Mizzell said that he would be completely impartial, and would exhibit a high level of integrity.
- Biniek asked Mizzell if he had been in other positions where he had been required to pass judgment on people that he knew personally. Mizzell answered that he held a similar job in high school, except that he completely oversaw elections there. He said, in that case, he had friends on both sides, and had to be impartial toward all of them.

- Wood asked Mizzell if he was involved in other groups on campus, to which he said that he worked with his floor government, Bruin Democrats, and the Office of General Representative Zai.
- Tuttle asked Mizzell if he had any political aspirations this year, to which he said that he did not.
- Vardner moved and Zai seconded to approve the appointment of Jason Mizzell to the position of Election Board Investigations Chair.
- Council voted to approve the appointment of Jason Mizzell to the position of Election Board Investigations Chair with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Election Board Vice-Chair

- Herzog said that she wanted to forward Alexandra Weinstein for the position of Election Board Vice-Chair, and pointed out that Weinstein was not present because she would not be able to attend any Council meetings because of time conflicts. She said that Weinstein was a third-year biology major, so she was very meticulous and attentive to detail. Herzog said that Weinstein had a lot of leadership skills, and her level of integrity would allow her to fulfill her position, even Herzog's if need be.
- Sassounian asked if Weinstein had any relevant leadership experience, to which Herzog said that Weinstein had founded a music group on campus, and also chaired other groups.
- Tuttle asked for some assurance of Weinstein's availability to fulfill this position based on her schedule. Herzog said that Weinstein was cognizant of the time commitments required by this position, and she was willing to schedule her hours such that she could do it all.
- Tuttle asked Herzog if Weinstein would be able to come to Election Board meetings, to which Herzog said that she would. Herzog said that she knew Weinstein to be very honest, and that she made all decisions with a lot of consideration.
- Neesby asked if Weinstein's availability would allow for the administration of a Special Election this quarter. Herzog said that Weinstein's job was fairly flexible, and she was prepared to make changes to her schedule if absolutely necessary.
- Biniek asked how likely a Special Election was this quarter. Neesby said that he thought it was more likely than not, but certainly not guaranteed.
- Biniek moved and Doan seconded to approve the Appointment of Alexandra Weinstein to the Position of Election Board Vice-Chair.
- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Alexandra Weinstein to the Position of Election Board Vice-Chair with a vote of 9 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention.

VI. Special Presentations

Black Graduate Students Association – Theri Pickens

- Theri Pickens, Chairperson of the Black Graduate Students Association (BGSA), said that there had been lots of mention of the BGSA recently in the Daily Bruin. She said that tomorrow they would be trying to open a campus-wide discussion about lynching. Pickens said that the first event would happen at noon, with actors at Powell Library re-enacting a lynch mob, moving from in front of Powell Library to Bruin Plaza, where the lynching itself would be reenacted. Pickens said that at 6:00 p.m. there would be a time for reflection with photographs, and in Dodd Hall 167 at 6:30 there would be a panel discussion. Pickens added that Dr. Nelson would be one of the keynote speakers. She said that their intent was for people to understand that lynchings were a part of American History. Pickens said that they were not intending to scare or demonize any individuals, but rather their intent was to create more of a sense of community and understanding of this issue.
- Kaisey thanked Pickens for telling USAC about what was going on.
- Pickens said that there would also be a teaser article in the Daily Bruin tomorrow morning.
- Biniek said that she was impressed that there were students on this campus who were so courageous to take on such a subject. She asked if there was any contact information, to which Pickens said that she was listed in the UCLA directory.
- Wood asked if there was any way that Council could help with the event tomorrow, to which Pickens asked that Council come to the event and help explain to onlookers what was going on and why.

VII. Fund Allocations

- Villasin said that \$14,114.41 had been requested from the Contingency Fund, with \$8,732.47 being recommended for allocation. In addition, Villasin said that she had allocated \$1,111.00 through the Discretionary authorization granted to her in the Financial Guidelines. She said that upon approval of these recommended allocations, the running total in the Contingency Fund would drop from \$74,269.55 to \$65,537.08.
 - Vardner asked what “quoted Albertson’s for cost” meant, to which Villasin said that they had priced items from the store. She said that by law, students had to be fed if they were at an event for a specified period of time.
 - Vardner moved and Smeets seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
 - Council voted to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations with a vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- The Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations are attached to the minutes.*

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

There were no Officer/Member Reports this week.

IX. Old Business

A. OSAC Guidelines

- Vardner said that there were minimal changes since the last review, and he submitted these for approval.
- Binieki moved and Neesby seconded to approve the OSAC Guidelines.
- Vardner said that Article III.C.1 and 2 should have the same sub-points, b and c, as are under Article III.C.3.
- Vardner moved and Sassounian seconded to add “ ‘b. Have applied for campus funding (from any source) for at least four consecutive years or as long as the group has been eligible.’, and ‘c. Have utilized campus facilities at least once each year for at least four consecutive years.’,” under Article III.C. 1 and 2.
- Council voted to approve the proposed changes with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Neesby pointed out that Article IV.G.1.e.iii. really didn’t belong, and that Article IV.G.1.e. ‘i.’ and ‘ii.’ were mislabeled.
- Neesby moved by Unanimous Consent and Sassounian seconded that on Page 2, under Article IV.G.1.e., iii. should be deleted, and that ‘i.’ and ‘ii.’ should instead be IV.G.1. ‘f.’ and ‘g.’ respectively.
- Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Unanimous Consent. There being none, the motion was passed by Unanimous Consent.
- Neesby moved by Unanimous Consent and Biniek seconded that on Page 2, Article IV.J. read, “OSAC Allocation Recommendations must be placed on the USAC Agenda for its first meeting in September.”, and that Article IV.J.1 be struck.
- Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Unanimous Consent. There being none, the motion was passed by Unanimous Consent.
- Neesby pointed out that on page 3, under Article VIII.A., a one-week deadline might be a little rushed.
- Neesby moved by Unanimous Consent and Doan seconded that under Article VIII.A., “one week” be changed to “two weeks.”
- Neesby said that on page 3, under Article VIII.E.1., he did not think it was right to reject appeals. Biniek said she thought that, if the reason for the appeal was because of the amount of space, then a hypothetical group would also be appealing the process. Doan said that she thought it was like budgets, such that you could not appeal the amount, only the process. Neesby and Biniek went back and forth on the subject. Wood said that the sub-point had been put in so that students

could understand the ability to appeal. Kaisey said that they could put “appeals based solely on amount of space would not be heard.” Biniiek said that putting that in the Bylaws set it in stone, while that was something that could just be clarified in the documentation. McLaren suggested adding an ‘i.e.’ to that effect. Neesby said that he could see defining procedural appeals as something else.

- Neesby moved by Unanimous Consent and Sassounian seconded to strike Article VIII.E.1.
- Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Unanimous Consent. There being none, the motion was passed by Unanimous Consent.
- Vardner moved by Unanimous Consent and Smeets seconded to change the title to Organizational Space Allocation Guidelines.
- Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Unanimous Consent. There being none, the motion was passed by Unanimous Consent.
- Neesby said that he was a little worried about having a negative check off system. He said that the removal from an office would take two years, and would only follow being under 60% funding. Neesby said that to get a group out of an office, it would have to go under-funded, face a volatile decision by OSAC, and a vote by USAC. He said that he saw it as important that groups that needed space got it, so he suggested that allocations be for three years, after which there would need to be a reapplication to remain in the space. Neesby suggested that this review be staggered, but the question was what would happen if a group had a bad year the particular year that they went under review.
- Biniiek said that she had reservations because of the premise of Neesby’s belief that organizations would never get kicked out. She said that the new language had been sent out only minutes before the Council meeting, and she thought there was a lot more time needed for review on this topic.
- Neesby said that he had not meant to sound as if they wanted to get groups kicked out, but rather that the students who needed and deserved the space got it, and he wanted to ensure that could actually happen. He said that the discussion would be on whether or not to base this on Student Organizations Operational Fund (SOOF).
- Tuttle said that he acknowledged the pressure and difficulties of removing groups from their offices. He also pointed out that, setting aside commission-related groups, there were really only a couple of groups being talked about.
- Wood made a Point of Clarification, saying that USAC-Sponsored Groups were guaranteed offices.
- Tuttle said that what concerned him was that a disconnection existed between the new OSAC Guidelines and the Bylaws about student groups. He said that if the issue was removing groups from offices, then that needed to be dealt with.
- Neesby said that USAC Sponsored groups were not really applicable here.
- Malik agreed with Biniiek that this decision should not be made at this meeting, because they didn’t even know what space was currently available. She said that she thought there should be more discussion and progress made in that regard.
- Wood said that she was uncomfortable with the power allotted to USAC in Article VI.C. She said that she thought the wording should be changed to, “Should the need for additional USAC office space arise, OSAC will evaluate the space available and make the appropriate recommendations.”
- Neesby moved by Unanimous Consent and Vardner seconded that Article VI.C. read, “Should the need for additional USAC office space arise, OSAC will evaluate the space available and make the appropriate recommendations.”
- Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Unanimous Consent. There being none, the motion was passed by Unanimous Consent.
- Doan moved by Unanimous Consent and Neesby seconded that Article IV.D. read, “USAC requests that the CSP contact all student organizations about the application schedule”, and that Article IV. ‘D.’ and ‘E.’ be relabeled ‘E.’ and ‘F.’ respectively.
- Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Unanimous Consent. There being none, the motion was passed by Unanimous Consent.
- Kaminsky suggested that OSAC talk about implementing a transition period.

- Tuttle asked what would happen to the student groups if USAC continued to expand. Vardner said that they would be reviewing USAC Sponsorship and exactly what that meant. He also said that there was the possibility that more space would be opening up, and if the ASUCLA BOD decided to do so, then that space might be allocated to USAC.
- Council voted to approve the OSAC Guidelines, as amended, with a unanimous vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

IX. New Business

A. Community Service Mini Fund Appeal

- Wood said that an appeal had been submitted by an organization that had not been funded because they missed their hearing. She said that, in her opinion, the group did not have grounds for an appeal based on the provisions in the Bylaws. Wood then read the Grounds for Appeals as set forth in Article VI.C.6.b. of the USAC Bylaws, and said that none of the qualifications had been met in this situation.
- Kaisey asked if Council could recommend that the group apply for Contingency Funding or some other source.
- Malik said that she did not think the appellate was at all knowledgeable about the appeals process or the funding process, and said she was already working with them to explain how everything worked, and to inform them about various funding sources.

X. Announcements

- Kaisey said that the South Campus Activities Fair was coming up, and passed around fliers.
- Zai said that her office was co-sponsoring "No More", which would be held in the next couple of days.
- Kaminsky said that CEC would be hosting Morgan Freeman on March 8th for the Spencer Tracy Award and Kevin Smith in the Spring for the Jack Benny Award.
- Doan said that the Bruin Democrats would be hosting Howard Dean next Wednesday, February 22.
- Sassounian said that the "Why Medicine?" program would be on Wednesday, February 15.
- Wood told Council that the Thinking Globally, Acting Locally event was coming up, and passed around fliers for it. She also said that the Chancellor search was underway.
- Malik said that she was working on institutionalizing community service on the Hill, and asked Council to send their input to her.
- Pham said that the Blood Drive was going on all week, and they were also selling crush grams. She also said that Dance Marathon was the coming weekend.
- Vardner said that the first meeting of the Undie Run Task Force would be held on Thursday, February 16 at 2:00 p.m.

XI. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Villasin passed around the attendance sheet.

XII. Adjournment

- Sassounian moved and Hawkins seconded to adjourn.
- Smeets called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m. by Acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Keesler
USAC Minutes Taker