

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL

Tuesday, February 28, 2006  
417 Kerckhoff Hall  
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Sargent, Villasin

GUESTS: Catherine Avendano, Ashley C. Barton, Dawn Batiste, Peter Bautista, Erik Bayana, Maurice Tuiasosopo Bell, Matthew Bukirin, Terence Chan, Lucero Chavez, Julia Erlandson, Carri Fierro, Bryan Furukawa, Adriana Garcia, Nicole Granby, Vanessa Portillo, Brenda Roller, Angelo Sandoval, Justin Schreiber, Pritika Singh, Vanda Suvansilpakit, Arithu Vuizan,

I. A. Call to Order

- Wood called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*In Villasin's absence, Bryan Furukawa passed around the Attendance Sheet*

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Vardner, Pham, and Sassounian asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Biniek added a Special Presentation by the Student Initiated Access Committee (SIAC), formerly known as the Student Initiated Outreach Committee (SIOC).
- Neesby removed the New Business Item B, Election Code.
- Vardner asked to add a discussion item for Campus Vehicle Visibility Guidelines.
- Biniek asked to move the Resolution up to follow the Special Presentation by the SIAC.
- Sassounian moved and Pham seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.
- Neesby called for Unanimous Consent. Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Unanimous Consent. There being none, the Agenda was approved, as amended, by Unanimous Consent.

III. Approval of the Minutes

**February 7, 2006**

- Kaminsky said that on page 3, under his Officer Report, he had actually already reserved Ackerman, and in addition to the panel there would also be a music performance.
- Vardner said that on page 7, about two-thirds of the way down, where he moved and Neesby seconded, there was a quotation mark left out at the beginning of "Student Organization Signboard."
- Vardner said that on page 8, about two-thirds of the way down, he never calls for "Acclamation", and asked that it be changed to "Vardner called for Unanimous Consent."
- Smeets moved and Doan seconded to approve the Minutes of February 7, 2006, as amended.
- Pham called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Minutes of February 7, 2006 were approved, as amended, by Acclamation.

## IV. Special Presentations

**Student Initiated Access Committee (SIAC) – Lucero Chavez**

- Lucero Chavez and the other members of the Student Initiated Access Committee (SIAC) introduced themselves to Council.
- Chavez said that SIAC was at the meeting to ask USAC to pass a resolution in support of the SIAC Budget. She said that, right now, they were facing more steep cuts by the Governor, and they wanted Council's support to protect funding for their outreach efforts.  
*Each member of the SIAC read aloud a provision of the Resolution until the entire document had been read.*
- Chavez said that similar Resolutions that were approved by USAC in prior years had outlined the services that the Student Initiated Access Committee, formerly known as the Student Initiated Outreach Committee (SIOC), performed for students and the community. She said that they had come to tonight's meeting to enlist the help of USAC in working together against the proposed budget cuts.
- Biniek added that the SIAC would be doing a lot of programming and activities in the next quarter, and reiterated that they would appreciate USAC's support. She said that it would be good to get the word out about all the programs and activities that SIAC sponsors, as they were the strongest Student Initiated Outreach group in the country. Biniek said that the Governor has proposed to completely eliminate funding for SIAC this year, and this was unacceptable.
- Tuttle thanked the group for coming to Council, and said that he appreciated what they were doing. He said that, regard to the low ratio of African American students UCLA, "we were getting our teeth kicked in." Tuttle said that "each year was a repeated kicking in of our teeth." He said that there should be efforts to work within the framework of Proposition 209, and offered to do whatever he could to be supportive of SIAC's efforts. He remarked that had not been a bad year economically for California, so the fact that the Governor was eliminating funding for outreach programs was that much more significant.
- Sassounian also thanked all the SIAC members for coming to the meeting, saying that she fully supported their efforts.
- Biniek said that, when they were lobbying in Sacramento last weekend, there was a student with them who had benefited from SIAC and told them that the only reason she had come to UCLA was because UCLA students had outreached to her. She said that students at underprivileged schools had a chance to come to UCLA only because of the outreach done by UCLA students.
- Tuttle commented that, in politics in Los Angeles, everyone involved seemed to be UCLA Alumni. He said that it was that personal connection that was important and that made a difference.
- Wood added that within the State Legislature, there was a lack of knowledge about Student Initiated Outreach. She said that they did not understand that these students were working with underprivileged students and that they helped them to get into one of the UC's. Wood said that the Chancellor had been supportive of outreach efforts, and she passed around a letter that Chancellor Carnesale had written to the Legislature in support of SIAC.

## V. New Business

**A. \*Resolution in Support of Prioritizing Funds for Student Initiated Access Programs**

- Biniek moved and Vardner seconded to approve the Resolution in Support of Prioritizing Funds for Student Initiated Access Programs.
- Biniek moved and Neesby seconded to add "and incoming Chancellor" after "to the Legislature".
- Neesby asked who would be writing the letter, to which Biniek said that she and Malik would write it.
- Neesby asked how Council would be supporting this, to which Biniek said with signboards and other efforts.
- Biniek called for a Roll Call Vote on the Resolution in Support of Prioritizing Funds for Student Initiated Programs, as amended. There being no objection, Council proceeded to the vote.

The vote of each Council Member who was at the table when the Roll Call vote was taken is listed below:

Kristina Doan	Yes
Jeannie Biniek	Yes
Brian Neesby	Yes
Michelle Sassounian	Yes
Jason Kaminsky	Yes
Todd Hawkins	Yes
Joe Vardner	Yes
Ryan Smeets	Yes
Tracy Pham	Yes

Council voted to approve the Resolution in Support of Prioritizing Funds for Student Initiated Access Programs, as amended, with a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

#### VI. Special Presentations (cont'd)

##### **Federal Budget, Jeannie Biniek**

- Biniek said that the president had come out with the federal budget and wanted to tell Council about potential impacts to higher education. She said that 42 programs in the department of education would be eliminated, and 6 of those were higher education programs. Biniek said that this would also include the new SMART and Academic Competitiveness Grants. She said that this was great and all, but it neglected need-based scholarship. Biniek said that the programs proposed for elimination included Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnerships (LEAP), Perkins Loans, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), Talent Search, Upward Bound, and the Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity Program. Biniek said that this would hurt the Cal Grant. She explained how important the Perkins Loans were, saying that they even forgave loans for students who taught after graduation. Biniek said that the administration had criticized the effectiveness of some of these programs, but the truth was not only that these programs were still very new, but also that evidence was showing that they were effective. She said that the Talent Search and Upward Bound also helped individual students who qualified. Biniek said that the Thurgood Marshall Legal Education Opportunity Program helped students while they were in law school. Biniek told Council that the Pell Grant was being kept, though while fees in California had increased by 79%, the Pell Grant had not increased a penny. She also said that there had been a surplus in 2006, so while they could be increasing the maximum award, they were instead deciding to allocate it elsewhere. Biniek told Council that USSA would be launching "Grant Aid Now", which was USSA's campaign to oppose the President's proposals and encourage Congress to increase funding to these programs. She said that they would be working with the Student Aid Alliance and the Committee for Education Funding. Biniek also said that they would be launching the campaign at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual National Grassroots Legislative Conference, on the weekend of March 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> in Washington D.C. Biniek passed around some additional documentation explaining in writing what she had just verbally described.
- Nelson said that when he was in college, he could work during the summer and make enough money to pay for tuition, room, and board for the rest of the year, and still graduate with money in his pocket. He said that it did not matter how smart one was if their parents did not have enough money to send them to school. Nelson said that a democracy can exist only with an intelligent electorate, and without that things will happen counter to democracy. He said that, additionally, he was concerned that America was bound for a more class-based society. Nelson said he was further troubled by the fact that there were people in high places who think that inequality is alright. He said that this could not possibly be the best in the long run. Nelson said that not everyone was born into a family that could afford to pay for higher education, and we needed our best and brightest to get the best education available to them.

#### VII. Appointments

- Wood asked to add an item to the Agenda for an appointment to the USA/BOD Programming Committee
- Neesby moved and Zai seconded to add a USA/BOD Programming Committee Appointment to the Agenda.
- Kaminsky called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to calling for Acclamation. There being none, a USA/BOD Programming Committee Appointment was added to the Agenda.

#### **USA/BOD Programming Committee**

- Wood said that she was appointing Marwa Kaisey to serve on the USA/BOD Programming Committee.
- Smeets moved and Neesby seconded to approve the appointment of Marwa Kaisey to the USA/BOD Programming Committee.
- Biniek called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to calling for Acclamation. There being no objection, Marwa Kaisey was appointed to the USA/BOD Programming Committee by Acclamation.

*Hawkins left  
Kaisey and Malik arrived*

#### VIII. Fund Allocations

- In Villasin's absence, Bryan Furukawa and Vanda Suvansilpakit, members of the Finance Committee, reported that \$19,716.83 had been requested from Contingency Funding, with \$8,998.06 recommended for allocation. They said that, in addition, the Finance Committee Chairperson, Hazel Villasin, had allocated \$1,200 through the Discretionary Authorization granted to her in the Finance Committee Guidelines. They said that, upon USAC's approval of FiCom's recommended allocations, the running total in the Contingency Fund would drop from \$55,610.68 to \$46,612.62.
- Pham moved and Zai 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 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.  
*The Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations are attached to the Minutes*
- Furukawa and Suvansilpakit reported that requests totaling \$4,514.54 had been submitted for Contingency Capital Items, with the Finance Committee recommending total allocations of \$3,782.96. They said that, upon USAC's approval of the Finance Committee's recommended allocations, the balance in the Capital Items fund would drop from \$25,684.05 to \$21, 901.09.
- Pham moved and Sassounian seconded to approve the Finance Committee's Recommended Allocations for Capital Items Requests.
- Council voted to approve the Finance Committee's Recommended Allocations for Capital Item Requests with a vote of 9 in favor, 2 opposed, and 0 abstentions.  
*The Contingency Capital Items Allocation Recommendations are attached to the Minutes.*

#### IX. Officer and Member Reports

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

- Pham said that March 6<sup>th</sup>, Monday of 9<sup>th</sup> Week, the CSC would be having a Food Festival in the Grand Salon at 11:00 a.m. She also said that RollAIDS was coming up on March 8th, and all the proceeds would be going to Camp Laurel. She also said that the Vagina Monologues were coming up, and urged Council Members to get their tickets.

**Academic Affairs Commissioner – Michelle Sassounian**

- Sassounian said that the Undergraduate Students Initiated Education (USIE) Website was almost complete, and at least had the course listings up. She said that the Facilitators were also doing well, and enrollment for the sections would be starting during Spring Break. Sassounian encouraged Council to take one of the classes. Sassounian also said that they were working on the Service Transcript, and they had recently been talking with Judy Smith to see how that was coming. She also said that on Tuesday they would be having a fair in Bruin Plaza with all of the USIE Facilitators to promote their classes.
- Kaminsky said that the website was very nice.

**Facilities Commissioner – Joseph Vardner**

- Vardner told Council that De Neve buildings E and F had been chosen to test the pilot recycling program next year. Vardner also said that the Golden Paw Award application would be going out to Westwood businesses later in the week. Vardner told Council that the Office Space Allocation Committee (OSAC) would be meeting on Sunday night, but he would be trying to get that time changed. He also said that, after talking with Student Affairs, he had learned that they would be closing down an office in the Student Activities Center that was designed for student organizations to use. Vardner said that, if USAC would allow the respective student organizations that had been using the office in the Student Activities Center to use the USA Communal Space in Kerckhoff 313, Council could get some computers that will be coming out of the office that is to be closed. He said that, since the groups under discussion hadn't used the space in the SAC, he did not foresee them using the Communal Space very much, either.
- Tuttle asked who Vardner had spoken with about the computers, to which Vardner replied that he had talked with Chad Brown. Tuttle asked what other groups would be coming over, to which Vardner said that, as far as he knew, it would just be the Student Initiated Access Committee (SIAC) and Bruin Corps. Tuttle said that he just wanted to remind Council that the communal spaces in Kerckhoff Hall had been designated specifically for USAC and GSA. Wood clarified for Dr. Tuttle that USA's communal space had been created for any registered undergraduate group on campus.
- McLaren said that when Chad Brown had given she and Jerry Mann a tour of the office under discussion, she had seen three monitors which were networked through just one CPU. Vardner said that it was his understanding that three complete computers were being offered for the USA communal space.
- Pham asked what the space that was being vacated would be used for, to which Vardner replied that was being worked out.

**Chancellor's Representative to Council – Berky Nelson**

- Nelson said that he was coming to Council for assistance. He said that the end of the Quarter was fast approaching, and the University was faced with a decision regarding the Undie Run. Nelson said that their primary concern was a health and safety issue. He said that, when the run was begun, people were running on the sidewalks, but now they were running in the streets. Nelson said that the University did not have the jurisdiction to block off city streets, which meant that one of their options was to just let LAPD take over. He said that he had been around when LAPD came onto campus and had beaten students up, and he did not want to see anything like that again, which was what might happen if LAPD take over the Undie Run. He also pointed out that cars would probably not be able to stop in time if they suddenly came upon Undie Runners in the street. Nelson said that Vardner had been working very hard to get this situation taken care of, but time is running out and something definitive needs to happen. He also pointed out that the Westwood Groper had not been apprehended, and he could not think of any positive things that could happen at the Undie Run in that light. Nelson said that the University did not want to keep students from having fun; they just wanted students to be safe. He said that he wanted Council to come forward with an option for the Undie Run that would move it from its planned route. Nelson said that the University did not want to strong-arm this event, but they also had an obligation to students' safety. He said that, as the event now stands, the University would have to put a stop to the Undie Run.

- Neesby asked if moving the Undie Run on to campus would be a good idea. Vardner answered that it would be a great idea. He said that the University Administration would even prefer that students run down Gayley through De Neve Plaza, and then onto campus. Vardner said that the students who plan to participate don't seem to understand how close they are to having LAPD in charge.
- Neesby asked who facilitated the Undie Run these days, to which Vardner said that it wasn't really any one person anymore. He said that he had been working with IFC, Panhellenic Council, and some of the Undie Run founders. Vardner said that the Administration's greatest concern was that nobody really seemed to care about the problems with the Undie Run, despite it being so high on their list.
- Zai said that, because of her being a member of USAC, a number of students had told her not to get rid of the Undie Run.
- Nelson said that there were currently two things that could happen, neither of which were good. He said that the first thing would be to let LAPD take over. Nelson said that they were all about authority and cracking heads. He said that another thing that could happen is that students would be cited for being in the streets, which would hopefully entail UCPD along with LAPD. Nelson said that the Administration was frustrated by the attitude of the student body regarding the Undie Run. He said that the Administration did not want to serve as parents, but they also did not want students to get hurt.
- Vardner said that only one other student leader was working with him, so he really needed to go to groups to impress the time-urgency of this matter.
- Wood suggested that, rather than making the event something that students were not allowed to do, it might be better to encourage students to choose a better, safer route. She said, if it would help, USAC could have a subcommittee meeting to find an acceptable solution.
- Doan agreed that it might be best to provide an alternative. She said that had worked really well when they replaced Black Sunday with Welcome Week.
- Nelson said that the Undie Run was going to be closed down if nothing was done, so it would be better to be proactive than to force the university to be reactive.

#### **External Vice President – Jeannie Biniek**

- Biniek said that her office had met with ORL about incorporating voter registration into the housing registration process. She also said that this weekend had been UCSA's fourth conference. She said that they had spent the weekend in workshops, training sessions, and briefings. Biniek said that yesterday they had lobbied on the Student Compact. She said that the Student Compact would set up a long-term fee policy based on what families could afford. Biniek also said that they were working with Assemblywoman Karen Bass to get the language put into a resolution that Bass could bring before the State Assembly. She said that they would be writing additional resolutions. Biniek said that UCSA was working to increase the stipend on the Cal Grant as fees increased. Biniek also said that they had lobbied on the long-term fee policy bill. She said that there had been an exception in the language that allowed for steep increases during a "fiscal emergency", so they would be trying to amend that language to prevent the possibility of steep and sudden fee increases. Biniek said that the last bill they were working on was the California Dream Act. She said that this would allow for students who had gone to California high schools for three years to get the in-state tuition rate. Biniek said that the only problem was that most of these students would not be able to pay even the in-state fee. She said that this bill would make the UC Grants Program available to such students, and it would actually not even be that expensive. Biniek also said that they were working on restoring funding for academic preparation, which was the exact kind of thing that the earlier resolution had been about. Biniek said that UC Day in Sacramento was also coming up, and also the Odessa Johnson Forum about building the Student Compact. She also said that they wanted to do in-district visits next quarter with SIAC.

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

- Doan said that Jason Mizzel and Pat McLaren had been discussing the possibility of moving the Agenda deadline up to 3:00 p.m. on Thursdays, rather than 5:00 p.m., so that the agenda packets could be available to Council Members on Thursday afternoon instead of on Friday.

- Biniek said that she would rather have the extra two hours to submit her items. Neesby agreed.
- Wood asked Doan to have Mizzell scan the documents and email them out again.
- Doan said that she had sent out the USAC Appointee review forms. She said that they had tried to get one submission from each committee, and they would be following up with the committees that were not able to be active. Doan asked Council to try to pay special attention to Committees that applied to specific offices, and said that a lot of these individuals would be interested in working with USAC in the future. Doan said that she had also met with Kenn Heller earlier in the day about storage of sign boards in the Communal Space during Finals Week and Spring Break. She said that it would be really helpful to groups without offices to allow them to do this. Doan said that Kenn Heller told her this sounded like a good idea, so she would be talking to OSAC about the logistics. She said that the Search Committee for the Director of Student Psychological Services would be meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, and she would be eliciting suggestions from SHAC and other committees regarding this.

**President – Jenny Wood**

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

*Questions and Comments followed Wood's Report.*

- Kaisey asked Wood about the appointment of the next UC Student Regent. Wood said that she was not on the committee, and that she had given her proxy to another student. She gave an overview of the selection process, however, by saying that the first step would be a paper cut, followed by an interview process, then nine sub-finalists would come before the committee, then three finalists would be chosen from the sub-finalists, and then the choice would be made on which of the final three would be selected.
- Kaisey asked Wood if it was Doan's right to take Wood's place on this selection committee, to which Wood said that her chosen proxy was very well-qualified.
- Doan said that she did not want to serve on the selection committee, but said she thought it would have been considerate of Wood to let Council know about such decisions.
- Tuttle asked if the rule still applied that student body presidents could not serve as the Student Regent. Biniek said that someone could not hold an elective position and, at the same time, be the Student Regent.. Tuttle told Council that the Board of Regents had just recently given power to the Student Regent.

X. Old Business

*There was no Old Business this week.*

XI. New Business (cont'd)

**C. Campus Vehicle Visibility Guidelines**

- Vardner said that the campus currently did not have any vehicle display guidelines. He said that the new guidelines said that vehicles could no longer be in Bruin Plaza, and they suggested in its place that vehicles be in North Poly Concourse. Vardner said that he wanted Council's input.
- Kaminsky said that the document had been drafted by only two people, so they wanted to get a lot of student input.
- Vardner said that a big issue was safety, as lots of times vehicles would block fire lanes or whatnot.
- Sassounian asked if this policy change had already been put in place, to which Vardner said that it was just a proposal.
- Hawkins said that he had not seen the map, but he was most concerned about the IM Field. He said that, rather than just saying no vehicles at all, why not just have strict guidelines. Hawkins said that last year when Scion had sponsored Jazz Reggae, there had been a lot of rules about their vehicle, including such things as having the gas tank empty, having boards under the tires, and also having to actually remove the battery. He said he thought one rule should be that CSP approval was required. He said another rule that he recommended was that the keys to the vehicle should be surrendered to a UCLA official immediately after the vehicle was parked. Hawkins said that it would be terrible to eliminate such a great funding source.

- Kaminsky said that one thing that had been mentioned at the meeting was that certain events would not have to adhere to the proposed guidelines, but that had been really vague.
- Pham agreed with Hawkins, and said that the whole idea behind Get Tested Week was to have the vehicle in the quad where people would see it and get tested. She said that, under the proposed new guidelines, they wouldn't be able to bring a Bloodmobile on campus anymore if they wanted to.

X. Announcements

- Kaminsky said that Walk the Line would be shown on Thursday and Friday for \$2. He said that the Spencer Tracy Award would be held on Tuesday at noon in Royce Hall, and that the award was being given to Morgan Freeman this year. He asked Council Members to email him if they wanted to attend the event..
- Malik said that next week would be Advocacy Week on Homelessness. She said that they would be working with OxFam and many other groups on this effort.
- Kaisey said that this week would be "Take it like a Fan", with a number of sports-related events on the UCLA campus. She said that this week would also be the rematch between Pepperdine and UCLA Men's Volleyball.
- Zai said that the Westwood Groper had struck again on Sunday, so this was still going on. She also said that the Vagina Monologue tickets were still on sale.
- Smeets said that FAFSAs were due on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Neesby said that the CRC might be meeting soon.
- Malik said that she and Kaisey had been presenting to OCHC about community service on the hill, and they were trying to get a community service representative on the hill.
- Wood said that she had gotten an email from Bob Naples' office saying that there was no more funding available from his office for this Quarter due to the fact that USAC had been asking for a lot of money and that they wanted to fund groups that had less access to funding.
- Vardner said that the Undie Run meeting would be on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

XI. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

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

XII. Adjournment

- Hawkins moved and Smeets 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 9:09 p.m. by Acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael Keesler  
USAC Minutes Taker