

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

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

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

ABSENT: Biniek, Sargent, Smeets

GUESTS: Combiz Abdolrahimi, Constance Dillon, Julia Erlandson, Michael Garner, Anat Herzog, Diem Tran, Justin Yang

I. A. Call to Order

- Wood called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Villasin passed around the Attendance Sheet

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Malik, Kaisey, Kaminsky, Zai, Sassounian, Hawkins, Vardner, and Pham asked to be included in the Officer and Member Reports.
- Tram asked to move the vote on the Student Organizations Operational Fund (SOOF) to immediately follow its corresponding Special Presentation.
- Neesby asked to move the Election Code up to immediately after the SOOF Special Presentation and Vote.
- Wood added a Special Presentation by the Darfur Action Committee.
- Neesby moved and Vardner seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.
- Kaminsky called for Acclamation. Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Agenda was approved, as amended, by Acclamation.

III. Approval of the Minutes

***January 24, 2006**

- Kaminsky said that under Announcements, the movie had been “Everything *is* Illuminated,” not “Everything’s Illuminated.”
- Nelson said that Jonathan Curtiss’ name appeared twice in the list of Guests who attended the meeting.
- Vardner moved and Pham seconded to approve the Minutes of January 24, 2006, as amended.
- Vardner called for approval by Unanimous Consent. Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Unanimous Consent. There being none, the Minutes of January 24, 2006 were approved, as amended, by Unanimous Consent.

IV. Special Presentations

Darfur Action Committee – Michael Garner

- Michael Garner thanked Council for all their help both with the Darfur Action Committee and with the Task Force. Garner said that the UC Board of Regents would be voting on March 16th on whether or not to Divest from Sudan. He said that he was present at the meeting to again ask for USAC's support, and to field any questions that they might have on this issue. Garner said that the delay of the vote to divest had been unanticipated, so the Task Force had failed to request any additional funding. He said, because of this delay, they needed to continue their awareness campaign, but have no funds to do so. Garner listed some of the things they needed funding for, including an Awareness Concert, publicity for the event, transportation and lodging for speakers. He said the publicity would be a full-page advertisement in the Daily Bruin. Garner said that, right now, it was more important than ever for the Regents to see that this was an issue of great concern to the students. In addition, he said that phone banking and tabling/flying would be very important in the coming days leading up to the vote. He passed around a sign-up sheet for members of Council to volunteer their time toward tabling on Bruin Walk or helping with the phone banking campaign.
- Tuttle asked Garner if he was the one who had coined the phrase "raise the gates", to which Garner said that he was.
- Nelson said that while it seemed like a minor issue, it had come to his attention that the name "UC Sudan Task Force" suggested affiliation with the Office of the President, which might not go over well. He said that it might be a good idea to change the name to "UC *Students* Sudan Task Force." Garner said that he had actually talked with the Regents about just that issue, and to this date there had been no objection.
- Garner again emphasized to Council that this was targeted divestment, not just divestment from anything involved with Sudan.
- Wood asked Garner if he could update Council on the Study Group, to which Garner said that the Study Group was comprised of several professors and two students. He said that the group had met three times in Oakland to research the implementation of this proposed divestment, as they wanted the proposal to be finalized in its feasibility before being voted on by the Regents. Garner said that the divestment would be from both direct and indirect holdings that were hurting the people of Sudan.
- Williams asked Wood if the concert expenses could be covered by Waiver Pool. Wood said that the pool was first-come-first-served, and the event had not been booked enough in advance to do that. Williams said that if he increased the Waiver Pool fund, then perhaps the Task Force could still apply.
- Wood told Council that she thought it would be a good idea to go around the table and find out what each individual Councilmember could contribute to the campaign.
- Garner said that the Regents Meeting would be on the 16th, and they were asking students to come to Covell Commons at 8:00 a.m. on that day to make sure that they would be there for Public Comment.
- Neesby said that he would bring people from his office to the Regents meeting.
- Sassoulian pledged to bring 10 people to the meeting.
- Zai said that she would consult her staff and bring as many to the meeting as possible.
- Hawkins said that he would definitely advertise the meeting, would try to get as many staff as possible to come, and would contribute \$100.
- Doan said that she would bring as many people as possible.
- Kaminsky said that he would try to bring people, and would also chip in \$100.
- Kaisey said that she would bring 10 people and she pledged \$100.

- Malik said that she would talk to her staff and Project Directors to try to get as many people as possible, and said that she would also \$100.
- Vardner said that he would come to the meeting and would also work on getting food for the students who attended the meeting.
- Williams said that he would look into expanding the Waiver Pool fund limit.
- Pham said that she would be there, and would try to bring her staff.
- Herzog said that she would be there.
- Tuttle said that he would be there, along with Dr. Nelson.
- McLaren said that she would talk to Student Support Services staff.
- Garner said that there were more opportunities to help out than just at the Regents Meeting.
- Wood said that her office could help in tabling, would send out email blasts, and would donate \$150.
- Pham asked if there were fliers, to which Garner replied that he didn't have any with him, but would be happy to drop some off for her office and others to distribute.

USA SOOF Spring Allocations

- Diem Tran said that 105 groups had applied for the Undergraduate Students Association Student Organizations Operational Fund (USA SOOF). She said that this quarter, they had changed the deadline to allow groups an extra week to get in their applications. Tran said that the allocations would be going out on Wednesday of the current week.
- Hawkins said that each BRC member had filled out a score sheet for each of the applying groups. He said that the things taken into consideration included several different measures, and the scores were broken down into the quality of the proposal and the BRC's priorities. Hawkins said that the applications were also considered for promptness as well as completeness.
- Malik told Council that the hearings had been granted only to groups applying for the first time.
- Villasin said that the deliberations had included a review of the proposals, checking them for any miscalculations, and adjusting excessive requests. She said that groups were given a final score according to the average score, which was the sum of each BRC member's score, divided by the total BRC score.
- Tran said that the allocations took into account the amount available, the SOOF adjusted, and the organization's need. Tran said that \$134,410 had been available for the year, with \$57,604 allocated for Fall Quarter, \$38,403 for Winter Quarter, and \$52,860 for Spring Quarter. She explained that the Spring Quarter amount included the Spring Quarter allocation plus Fall Quarter's surplus.
- Tran said that the amounts had been adjusted based on whether or not groups needed funds for assistance, supplies, graphics, advertisements, or for retreats and conferences. She said that the recommended allocations for this year were short of the total \$274,000 requested, with \$52,860 recommended for funding. She said that 96 groups were funded, with nine groups being denied funding. She said that, of those none, eight had failed to submit their mandatory evaluation, and the Darfur Action Committee had submitted an incomplete application.
- Tuttle asked if there was any differential treatment between the groups that were formerly classified as Independent and those that were formerly classified as Officially Recognized Student Organizations (ORSOs). He said that he wanted to be sure that the process of equalization was moving forward smoothly. Neesby said it seemed to him that groups formerly categorized as Independent were being funded fairly, and added that he realized there was a learning curve about the process for any group that had just started applying.

- Neesby said that the funding seemed to be more oriented toward the amount requested, not toward the score of the application. He said that groups with similar scores were being given drastically different amounts of funding in relationship to the amount that they had requested. Neesby said he felt this was something would need to be fixed in the future. Tran responded that many times where there was a drastic difference, it was due to what exactly was being requested. She said that this was what the SOOF Adjusted Score was used for, which had to do with how groups budgeted their funds. Tran said it was possible that the formula may need to be revised, because, as it is now, there are a lot of things taken into consideration.
- Williams said he thought that Neesby had made a good point. He said that there was definitely a learning curve, where people learn how to do a better presentation, but there was also a learning curve for how to work the system, in that groups learned they could get more money by asking for more.
- Neesby said that it was not just about working the system. He said it was about the possibility of having the final allocation be more than a group actually deserved. He said that he just saw a big discrepancy this time.
- Wood said that, while the process could always be improved, she thought that the process as it stood was pretty efficient. She said that it made sense to give more money to organizations which demonstrated a greater need.
- Williams asked Tran if she would recommend continuing the three separate funding opportunities. Tran said she would not like to see that process continued because it generated a lot of extra work for everybody involved. She said that she would be holding a meeting at the end of the year about reworking the process.
- Tuttle asked if any groups had applied that had not applied before, to which Wood replied that 19 groups had applied for the first time this year. Tuttle said that there may be some benefit to having more groups applying.

V. Fund Allocations

- Pham moved and Doan seconded to approve the Undergraduate Student Association Student Organizations Operational Fund Spring Allocations.
- Council voted to approve the Undergraduate Student Association Student Organizations Operational Fund Spring Allocations with a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.
- Tran then surprised Council by announcing that she had just confirmed that she would be eligible to graduate at the end of Winter Quarter, which meant that she would be resigning and that Terence Chan, the Assistant Budget Review Director, would be taking over after she left.
- Wood thanked Tran for all her hard work, for improving the funding process for student organizations, and for developing a clean and transparent system for allocating funds. *Council applauded Tran for her hard work and her commitment to improving the funding process for student organizations.*

VI. Appointments

There were no Appointments this week.

VII. New Business

A. Election Code

- Herzog said that she had emailed Council her proposed changes to the Election Code, which would be an Action Item at next week's meeting. She then proceeded to give Council the gist of the changes she was recommending. Herzog said that contrary to a previous change that was made, the Election Board does have to stamp all the fliers, because that is how they can keep track of the number of fliers that are being used in the campaigns. She said, in addition, they also had to order non-stampable material for the fliers through Student Government Accounting (SGA) for the same reason. She said that this meant that forms that would be going to SGA would thus have to first go through Election Board.
- Kaminsky asked if Herzog was just putting back in the E-Code some of the items she had taken out a couple of weeks ago. Herzog said that it was more of a reworking of the same areas.
- Vardner said that he had not seen any regulation about the size of the USAC logo on documents, to which Herzog said that they had established a regulation that the logo must take up at least 1% of the printed area.
- Kaminsky asked if anything about the donation amounts had been changed, to which Herzog replied that they would be added to the total cap.
- Herzog also told Council that they had been talking about problems on the Hill. She said that they had decided that an Office of Residential Life (ORL) representative would be attending the Candidate Orientation Meeting, and an external representative from Election Board would be attending the Residential Life meetings. Herzog said that a protocol would also be created for Resident Advisors on floors, so they would know what to do in case of a voting infraction. She also said that they would be holding meetings for all Residential Advisors who were involved in the election on how they could separate their duties as Residential Advisors and their personal stances with regard to the election.
- Wood asked Herzog about the Election Calendar, to which she said that it was pretty self-explanatory, except that the entry on the 10th should be removed.
- Neesby said that he also had some proposed changes to the E-Code, and he then passed them out to Council. He said that he had reworked the code so that the first pages were the Election Code as it now stands, and the later pages present the new structure that he has laid out.
- Wood interrupted Neesby, saying that he was proposing a lot of incredibly detailed changes which she thought should be taken first to either the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) or the Election Board. Neesby said that the reason he was giving his proposed changes out at the table tonight was because they would have to come to Council eventually for a vote.
- Neesby said that he would try to limit himself to discussing just the major changes. He said that one change had been the addition of the Single Transferable Voting (STV) system. Neesby also said that he had added a clarification for campaign paraphernalia, which would now be somewhat regulated, as it had previously been under the radar. Neesby said that he had also made a distinction between signboards and A-Boards. Neesby said his next concern was about the way students' names are listed on the ballot. He said he thought that candidates should have the right to be listed with the name they are known by. Neesby next said that he felt that the right to campaign for all candidates should be open to everyone, not just to UCLA students. He said that it was his understanding that it was actually illegal to prevent non-UCLA students from campaigning for someone they support. Neesby told Council that he was also

proposing a change regarding write-in candidates because, as it currently stands, write-in candidates can go under the radar and can be unregulated. Neesby said that the last big change he was proposing concerned a campaign finance reform, regarding how fliers can be divided up or shared. Neesby said that what he would be doing next would be taking his proposed changes to the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) and then also would be talking with Herzog about them.

- Tuttle said that he had just consulted the Bylaws, and he saw that Neesby's proposed changes require only a simple majority vote for passage. He said that this placed a burden on the standing majority of the Council. Tuttle said, in his opinion, the biggest issue on the table was that runoff elections would no longer be held. He said that this was an important matter which would impact the dynamics of the campus and student government.
- Nelson asked about the color-coding on the table on contents that Neesby had handed out. Neesby replied that clauses were color-coded for where they currently are located in the Bylaws and where they would be located if his proposed changes are approved.
- Vardner encouraged expediency in dealing with Neesby's proposed amendments because all changes needed to be voted on in time to be included with the information that is in the Elections Packets. Herzog agreed with Vardner's statement and said that she would like to push that vote to tenth week, because far too many people would be invested in the code by the beginning of Spring Quarter.
- Tuttle said he appreciated that steps were being taken to address the problems of voter privacy on the Hill. He encouraged Herzog to extend this concern to beyond the Residence Halls, incorporating the Greek houses, the apartment buildings, and the co-ops.
- Vardner said that there was only so much that Council could do, as people could do what they want in their own homes.
- Tuttle said that perhaps what they could do was to promote education about this matter by emphasizing the issue of individual voting rights.
- Neesby said that he had been reminded of two additional changes he was proposing. He said that the first was that people could vote anywhere, including cell phones and palm pilots. He said that he wanted to keep the spirit that way. Neesby said that the second thing was about stamping election materials, and said that he agreed with Herzog on this matter.
- Tuttle said that he had not reviewed the current language or the proposed language, but what he was encouraging was a clear declaration regarding the right to privacy.
- Wood asked Neesby why it would be good to implement Single Transferable Voting and limit dialogue between candidates to one week. Neesby said that was not his point, rather his idea was to apportion the votes more effectively. He said that it would ensure that the people elected into office would better represent the student body.
- Wood asked if the Single Transferable Vote would be used only for the General Representative Positions, to which Neesby said that it would, as that was the only position that had multiple elected positions in one office.
- Kaisey added that the STV would allow people to vote for the candidates they thought had the best chance of winning.
- Neesby agreed with Kaisey, saying that previously the only way to ensure the efficacy of one's vote would be to vote along party lines.
- Vardner said that in the statement about where students were allowed to post advertisements, he could help Herzog with the locations that were allowable.
- Tuttle again encouraged Council to think carefully about this and not to vote along party lines when it came time to vote.

Kaisey left the meeting

VIII. Fund Allocations (cont'd)

- Villasin said that \$21,749.20 had been requested from Contingency, and that the Finance Committee was recommending total allocations of \$7,627.48. In addition, she said that she had allocated \$247.00 through her discretionary authorization. Villasin said that, upon USAC's approval of these recommended allocations, the running total in the Contingency Fund would drop from \$46,365.62 to \$38,738.14.
- Neesby moved and Sassounian seconded to approve the Finance Committee's Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Vardner asked why SWC had not been approved for the Tables, to which Villasin said that they had been funded for everything else.
- Vardner asked about Bruin Debate, to which Villasin said that they had maxed out their allocations.
- Neesby asked if that policy was across the board, to which Villasin said that it was. Neesby said that Bruin Debate had contacted him, because there were other groups who had been funded more than four times. Pham explained that SWC's and CSC's projects were each counted separately.
- Neesby asked if this was a new policy which had been implemented, to which Villasin said that it was.
- Council voted to approve the Finance Committee's Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations with a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

The Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations are attached to the Minutes.

- Villasin said that a total of \$3,531.13 had been requested from the Contingency Capital Items fund, and that the Finance Committee was recommending total allocations of \$2,427.85. She said that, upon approval of FiCom's recommended allocations, the remaining balance for Contingency Capital Item funding would drop from \$21,901.09 to \$19,473.24.
- Neesby moved and Sassounian seconded to approve the Finance Committee's Contingency Capital Items Allocation Recommendations.
- Council voted to approve the Finance Committee's Contingency Capital Items Allocation Recommendations with a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

The Contingency Capital Items Allocation Recommendations are attached to the Minutes.

- Malik reported that, since the time that Project Literacy's funding appeal was denied, they have raised in the last two weeks the entire amount that they needed.

IX. Officer and Member Reports

Student Welfare Commissioner – Tracy Pham

- Pham said that the Multicultural Food event had gone really well, and they had actually run out of food. She said that Wednesday night would be Roll-AIDS, which would go from 7:00-10:00 p.m. with donations going to Camp Laurel.

Facilities Commissioner – Joseph Vardner

- Vardner introduced Angela who was the head of the recycling project on campus. He said that she had led an amazing meeting on the Hill, after which ORL had agreed to buy 1,000 recycling bins for De Neve, and also mentioned that they would be reinvesting money earned from the program right back into it. Vardner told Council

that invitations had gone out to Westwood Businesses for the Golden Paw Award, with half-page ads going in the Daily Bruin. Vardner said that the Office Space Allocation Committee had also met, and they would be sending out new applications soon.

Vardner said that the new Undie Run route had also been published on the front page of the Daily Bruin, without even having put USAC's name on it.

- Nelson said that UNC had just had an incident with a student running over several students, and this was just another reason that it was good to get Bruins out of the street.
- Zai said that they were putting a positive but also anonymous tag on the Undie Run changes, as there was a lot of student resistance to the changes. She said that they might need to advertise the consequences of not taking the new route to students.

Cultural Affairs Commissioner – Todd Hawkins

- Hawkins said that every quarter there had been an Eclectic Open-Mic Night, which would be next week of the current quarter. He also said that Hip-Hop Awareness Week was coming up, though there was a lot less funding for the event this year than in years past. Hawkins said that there would be an event in the Kerckhoff Art Gallery, a panel on where Hip-Hop was going, and a big concert on Tuesday night. He pointed out that Hip-Hop Week usually took place during Week 6, which was also the week of USAC's Runoff Elections..

General Representative #1 – PC Zai

- Zai said that Vagina Monologues would be the coming weekend. She said that the Friday night show was almost sold out, with a little space still left on Saturday and Sunday. Zai said that her office would also be holding an event in Northwest Campus Auditorium, which would be the screening of "Born into Brothels."
- Tuttle asked Zai if she had any idea about how much of a problem this was in Los Angeles. She replied that she assumed since it was a large metropolitan area it was going on, but she was not really sure.

Academic Affairs Commissioner – Michelle Sassounian

- Sassounian said that the USIE fair had taken place in Bruin Plaza earlier in the day, and most of the facilitators had tables set up. Sassounian said that they were also in the process of approval of the USIE programs, with the syllabi going up for review. She said that there had been a couple of concerns about a few of the proposals, but those were being dealt with. Sassounian said progress was being made on the diversity requirement, and they were trying to set up a dance-off in Bruin Plaza, as well as a "taste of diversity" day with food in Bruin Plaza. She said that the current direction was emphasizing a more complete proposal, addressing some of the concerns of the administration. Sassounian also said that they were working on Expected Cumulative Progress (ECP) with Judy Smith, and they would be conducting another survey on ECP through MyUCLA. She said that another new initiative was that they were trying to get students course credit for work they were doing outside of the university. She said that she hoped there would be concrete steps taken in that direction next Quarter.
- Tuttle said that another issue was that UCLA took pride in being a top university which also educated a lot of lower-income students. He encouraged Sassounian to look into the issue of students getting credit for doing work that they had to do in order to pay their way through the university.
- Neesby asked what Sassounian meant by credit for student organization work, to which she said that students would get course credit for the number of hours that they put into leadership on campus.

- Wood asked what the pilot group was that Sassounian was working with. Sassounian replied that she was talking with the Student Retention Center. She said that they had a vested interest in keeping students enrolled and with meeting their ECP requirements.
- Malik asked Sassounian if she knew about the Center for Community Learning, to which Sassounian said that she did, and would be incorporating them into the new model.

Campus Events Commissioner – Jason Kaminsky

- Kaminsky said that the Spencer Tracy Awards event had gone really well, with somewhere between 800 and 1,000 people in attendance. He thanked Council for their help and support. Kaminsky said that there had been a total of about 140 news reports on the event, about 40 of which ran on the day of the event, so it had been a resounding success. Kaminsky said that there were three more events for the current week, and four more the next week, and he passed around fliers about the upcoming events. He said that a Disney Imagineer would be coming, free sneaks, a concert, and even a theoretical physicist.
- Tuttle congratulated Kaminsky on the success of the Spencer Tracy Award event. He then suggested that Kaminsky expand the CEC constituency by advertising the Theoretical Physicist.
- Hawkins recommended that everyone check out Marty Sklar the Disney Imagineer.

Community Service Commission – Farheen Malik

- Malik said that in the past few weeks there had been a grant workshop as well as a discussions held on retention. She also said that there were two associate projects going up for CSC status this year, which would be voted on at the meeting during Week 2. Malik said that the Hunger Banquet had also been held, with people divided up into income brackets and differentially fed. She said that it had been a very cool event. Malik said that Advocacy Week was also coming up, and they would be conducting education on campus as well as site visits. She said that she was also working on Community Service on the hill, and they had just recently presented to 13 associations on the hill about the initiative. Malik also said that they were now sending out electronic newsletters to students on the hill. She lastly said that the Charles E. Young Humanitarian Award application was due soon.

Internal Vice President – Kristina Doan

- Doan said that the appointee update forms had been sent out, and they would be following up with appointees who had made specific requests of Council. She also said that she had gotten some suggestions about how Student Psychological Services (SPS) could be improved, which were being included in the search for the new SPS director. Doan also told Council that the application for the Sustainability competition would be emailed out soon. She said that the application would get to all of the student groups through CSP, and they would have until April 14th to turn it in for a \$500 prize.
- Abdolrahimi told Council about Earth Day, and said that the sustainability competition was open to student groups and associations on the hill to apply. He said that this was more of a grant than a prize, because it would be for a sustainability project as described in the application. Abdolrahimi said that Earth Day was April 25th, and there was a lot going on that day in Bruin Plaza. He said that there would be food, activities, and a bike show.

President – Jenny Wood

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

X. New Business

**A. Discussion of Allocation of Funds for Sustainability “It’s Our Future”
Competition**

- Wood said that this was coupled with Earth Day, and she wanted to propose a couple of different options for where this funding could come from. Wood said that one idea would be to go around to all the offices and collect the money. She said that another idea would be to take that money from Contingency. Wood lastly said that they could count on a donation from a private organization. She said that based on the limited funding in offices, she saw the best idea as taking it from Contingency.
- Neesby agreed that the best idea was to take it from Contingency, saying that his office would simply not be able to contribute.
- Doan said that OCHC had approved \$200, so there was only \$300 left to be made up. She said that they would continue to get private donations, and she would bring the remaining balance to Council next week, which could possibly be made up by Contingency.
- Abdolrahimi said that this was more than just a grant, but rather an investment, as it would be a chance for one student group to model behavior for all student groups on campus. He also thanked Council for making this such an important issue.

XI. Announcements

- Vardner said that he had been talking with GSA leaders about their Sustainability Resource Center which is on campus. He said he thought that USAC should be able to claim some of that space because undergraduates have a sustainability committee.
- Doan said that tomorrow would be International Women’s Day, with a resource fair from 12:00 to 1:00. Malik added that tomorrow would also be Daisy Day.
- Kaminsky said that he really liked the new Communal Office Space, and it was great to have a new copier so close to everyone’s office.
- Tuttle said that the Center for National Women’s Studies would have a big issue coming up with the South Dakota trial beginning.
- Neesby said that the CRC would be meeting at 11:00 a.m. at Covell Commons.
- Zai said that Daisy Day would be two-part, with the handing out of flowers with literature, and the sale of pots in which to plant daisy seeds.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Villasin passed around the attendance sheet.

XIII. Adjournment

- Sassounian moved and Pham 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 10:06 p.m. by Acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Keesler, USAC Minutes Taker