

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday May 2, 2006
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Hawkins, Malik

GUESTS: Constance Dillon, Julia Erlandson

I. Officer and Member Reports

Campus Events Commissioner – Jason Kaminsky

- Kaminsky said that the free film promotion had started, and it had been a big success thus far. He said that they had been showing “A New World” and would be showing “Poseidon”. Kaminsky also said that CEC had a cool Argentinean event earlier in the day.

External Vice President – Jeannie Biniek

- Biniek said that UCSA would be meeting with the Governor on Thursday. She also said that the interviews for the UC Student Regent selection would be on Friday. Biniek said that the UCSA Board Meeting would be held over the weekend at UC Santa Cruz. She also said that there would be an electoral action event on May 21st and 22nd, and said that invitations had been sent out.

Internal Vice President – Kristina Doan

- Doan said that not much had happened in the last week, which was why she had not sent out the weekly report. She said that currently her office was working to finish the Unofficial Guide to UCLA. Doan also said that someone had contacted her about having an immigration discussion here at UCLA, and she would be talking with them before the next Council meeting.

Sassounian Arrived

President – Jenny Wood

- Wood said that Wednesday had been the National Day of Silence, and she and Biniek had both been keynote speakers. She said that on Thursday there had been a speak-out on diversity in Meyerhoff Park, and they had asserted that there was a problem at UCLA. She added that the LA Times had covered it. Wood said that on Monday her office had sponsored the AIDS Diary event that took place in Covell Commons, which had been two Africans documenting their lives about living with AIDS. Wood told Council that there was also a lot of media coverage about the selection of UCLA’s new Chancellor, and said that she had been contacted numerous times with probing questions about who was being considered for the position. She said that the process was entirely confidential, and could not talk about it, but assured Council that she would tell them as much as she could at the appropriate time.

- Nelson asked if something vicious had been done with regard to the leaking of information about the search in order to scare away candidates. Wood said that all she had heard was that people were upset about the LA Times reporting the name of an individual who was being considered to be UCLA’s next Chancellor.

- Kaminsky asked what the timeline was for announcing the new Chancellor. Wood said that all she could say was that it would obviously be before July 1st which is the actual date when Chancellor Carnesale will leave office.

II. 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

III. Approval of the Agenda

- Sassounian removed New Business Item G, *Disapproving of Hate Speech on Campus Resolution.
- Villasin asked that New Business Item D, *Transfer of Funds from Contingency Capital Items Fund to Contingency Programming Fund, be moved to immediately after Fund Allocations.
- Pham removed the Special Presentation by UCLA Run/Walk.
- Biniek moved and Vardner seconded to approve the amended Agenda.
- Wood explained that the Muslim Students Association had encouraged Council to speak with them individually before moving forward with the Resolution on Hate Speech. Sassounian said that she would talk with them, and said that she would be bringing forward a broader resolution against hate speech on campus at the next Council meeting.
- Council voted to approve the amended Agenda with a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

December 6, 2006

- Biniek moved and Sassounian seconded to approve the Minutes of December 6, 2006, as submitted.
- Council voted to approve the Minutes of December 6, 2006 as submitted with a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

V. Special Presentations

There were no Special Presentations this week.

VI. Appointments

There were no Appointments this week.

VII. Fund Allocations

- Villasin said that \$16,740.06 had been requested from the Contingency Fund, with \$6,740.01 recommended for allocation. She said that, upon USAC's approval of the recommended allocations, the running total in the Contingency Fund would drop from \$11,186.92 to \$4,446.91. Villasin said that a total of \$2,956.98 had been requested from the Contingency Capital Items Fund, with \$2,563.80 recommended for allocation. She said that, upon USAC's approval of the recommended allocations, the remaining balance for Capital Item funding would drop from \$12,683.20 to \$10,119.40.
- Doan moved and Vardner seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations and the Contingency Capital Item Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Kaminsky asked if a group that requested funds for a computer did not request funds for a computer lockdown device, was there any way to ensure that the computer would be safeguarded. Wood said that Student Government Accounting (SGA) requires them to buy a lock.
- Sargent asked if Villasin required applicants to get price quotes for the computers that they wanted to purchase. Villasin said that the Finance Committee just looked at the quotes to see if

- they seemed reasonable. Sargent said that it seemed like the cost of computers was pretty standard, especially with the discount offered by ASUCLA. He pointed out that some groups were buying \$1,100 computers while others got funding for \$1,400 laptops. Villasin said that it also depended on what operating system the groups wanted. Sargent said that for what student groups needed, they could get a great computer for not too much. McLaren said that many of the student groups do a lot of graphic designing, and the Macintosh was still the best for that.
- Kaminsky asked what the Unicamp allocation was, to which Villasin said that she was unsure because of the typo. Biniak gave her the originals, and she said that the allocation should be \$225, not \$300, which would drop the total recommended allocation to \$6,665.01 and raise the remaining total to \$4,521.91.
 - Neesby asked Villasin what she was recommending to transfer into contingency. Villasin said that it really depended on what Council thought, otherwise it was going to run out at the next allocation.
 - Council voted to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations and the Capital Request Allocation Recommendations with a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
The Contingency Funding Allocation Recommendations are attached to the minutes.
The Capital Request Allocation Recommendations are attached to the minutes.

VIII. New Business

D. *Transfer of Funds from Contingency Capital Item Fund to Contingency Programming Fund

- Villasin passed out the figures to Council, saying that the Contingency Programming Fund would be in the negatives after the next Council meeting's allocation if they did not first transfer money into the fund. She recommended at least transferring the deficit, but told Council that Debra Simmons from SGA had suggested pooling the two funds together. Villasin said that she did not recommend that, because it was hard to use one pool for two funds. She said that even with a transfer of funds, the amount would just run out a week later.
- Neesby asked if there was anywhere else to get the money from, to which Villasin said that there really was not.
- Tuttle asked if Council needed to give notice if they were going to take money from the Capital Items Fund and put it into Programming. He said that he did not know if there was any precedent. Wood said that there had been no recent precedent set.
- Tuttle asked if there was urgency to this, to which Wood said that there was, as the recommended allocations exceeded the balance. He said that parliamentary, since this was an Action Item, there did not have to be a supermajority.
- Smeets asked Villasin if there was a way for Council to find out what these pending recommendations were for, since they were essentially being asked to approve next meeting's contingency by transferring that money. Wood said that what had been brought up at the last meeting was that some undisclosed amount would be transferred, not just the balance. Smeets said that on a personal level, he needed to know what the allocations were that were going to put the fund in the hole. Villasin said that they had been planning to recommend more than the \$3,000 as they knew it was going in the negative.
- Neesby asked if Council ran out of Capital each year, to which Nelson said that they did not.
- Wood said that looking at what could be proposed at the next meeting as well as the trend through the year; she would recommend the transfer of at least \$6,000 since there was quite a lot of programming being requested and a lot less capital being requested. She said that after that, if Council ran out of money there was nothing left to do.
- Sargent asked if there was anticipation that there would be any more capital requests. Villasin said that she knew of at least three that were coming in. Sargent said that Council might as well transfer the funds; otherwise it just went into surplus, so they might as well spend what they had allocated. He said that programming always ran out around this time of year, but if there was extra in the Capital Items Fund that should be moved and spent.
- Kaminsky asked when the events whose funding would be approved at the next meeting were being held, to which Villasin said that they would be held 7th and 8th week.

- Neesby asked where the 10% for Summer came from, to which Villasin said that it came from the current fiscal year, or in other words, the fiscal year preceding Summer. Neesby asked if that amount was usually all spent, to which Villasin said that it was.
- Vardner pointed out to Council that the three allocations were all in the \$1,200 to \$1,500 range.
- Pham said that the Contingency Fund would be better because it could serve more groups and more students, and recommended transferring the funds.
- Pham moved and Biniek seconded to transfer \$6,000 from the Capital Item Fund to the Contingency Fund.
- Vardner suggested transferring the exact amount needed to zero out the deficit instead of just a big chunk of cash; then they could always transfer more at a later date.
- Biniek said that Council should consider what their priorities were, and her priorities were programming on this Campus. She said that programs either happened during spring or didn't happen. She said that Capital Item Requests could still be submitted over the summer.
- Neesby asked how that worked exactly, to which Villasin said that Capital Items would not open again until February of the next year. Vardner said that the only reason Capital Requests had been granted last summer were because of Surplus from the previous year.
- Neesby said that he agreed that programming was more important, but he agreed with Vardner that it made sense to transfer only as much money as they had to, instead of just arbitrarily moving chunks of money.
- Wood said that it was pretty clear that within Capital Item Funding, it was available until it ran out. She said that had always been the understanding, and there may be groups with Capital Item Requests out there, so any groups still applying should have known that it was a first come, first serve basis. She said that programming was the same way, but groups relied more on that than on Capital.
- Nelson said that Council was on the horns of a dilemma, and that was that there were going to be more groups requesting money. He said that in years past, groups had padded their budgets. Nelson said that right now it seemed like groups were being more honest, and they requested exactly what they needed, which meant that when they did not get it they were in real trouble. Nelson said that if Council wanted to see the level and the quality of programming to which they had become accustomed, he thought that there was going to have to be a referendum to increase student fees to add money to Contingency Funding. Nelson said that this was good because it was indicative of more groups applying and programming, but unfortunately this seemed like the only viable long-term solution.
- Sargent said that there might be a compromise between the motion and Vardner's suggestion. He said that if Council got a better idea of where the Contingency Funding was going, by looking at all of the individual requests, then perhaps they would feel more comfortable about transferring that extra funding.
- Council voted to transfer \$6,000 from the Capital Item Fund to the Contingency Fund with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.
- Nelson asked when the cutoff date for application for Contingency was, to which Villasin said it was the end of May, because Summer Contingency opened in June.
- Kaminsky asked if Villasin could send out some notice that the money had run out when that time came so that groups did not waste time applying.
- Sargent said that groups could still come to Council to ask for funding, as money could still be taken from individual office accounts. He said that Council could always decide to fund them through other sources.
- Nelson said that Jazz/Reggae always seemed to run into problems toward the end, and said that the bailouts usually came out of the various offices. Wood said that usually Council lent them money, which was then repaid after the proceeds were collected from the event itself.

IX. Old Business

Operational Changes

- Neesby said that Council needed to re-approve the changes to the Bylaws that had been undone at the last meeting.

- Tuttle did not understand, to which Wood explained that these were the changes to the Bylaws that had been approved, minus the OSAC changes. She said that this was the one-week notification that would then be voted on at the next meeting.
- Kaminsky asked if Council was going to have to remake the changes, or if they could just look at the minutes. Keesler said that he would hurry to draft the changes that had been made at the April 18th meeting so that Council could just look at what they had already done.

Kaisey Arrived

X. New Business (cont'd)

A. *Recognize the Federal Role” Student Government Resolution

- Biniek said that she had emailed out background information on the proposed resolution. She said that 64.6% of UCLA students graduate with debt, which was up from 51% in past years. She said that this was an average of about \$15,000. Biniek added that this was in line with most of the national figures.
- Wood said that the Commission of Higher Education did not have any student representatives on it, and almost none of them had any experience working with affordability or other relevant experience.
- Tuttle said that it struck him that during the Civil Rights Movement, the secretary of defense had made a positive comment about the movement, and had said that they needed to unleash the full potential of the American people, regardless of their income or race. Tuttle said that the cold war was over, and America was now part of a global economy. He said that this could be applied here, and the way to get massive bi-factional and bipartisan support would be to unleash the full potential of the American people.
- Vardner moved and Smeets seconded to approve the “Recognize the Federal Role” Student Government Resolution.
- Kaminsky asked about the United States Student Association Foundation (USSAF). Biniek said that the Foundation did a lot of the fundraising that USSA was not allowed to do. She said that it was parallel to a lot of the work done by USSA, but it was a way to keep the finances separate. Biniek said that it was the “USSA” and the “F” of the “USSAF”.
- Kaminsky moved and Neesby seconded to change “is” to “are” after “the United States Students Association and Foundation (USSA/F)” in the ninth “WHEREAS”.
- Biniek called for approval by Unanimous Consent. Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Unanimous Consent. There being none, “is” was changed to “are” after “the United States Students Association and Foundation (USSA/F)” in the ninth “WHEREAS”.
- Sargent said that the first “THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED” read a little funny.
- Vardner moved by Unanimous Consent and Biniek seconded to change “that makes” to “that advocates making” in the first “THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED”.
- Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Unanimous Consent. There being none, change “that makes” was changed to “that advocates making” in the first “THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED”.
- Biniek said that in the UC Cal Grants were the foundation of federal student aid, and said that since a third of the students were on Pell grants, it was particularly important that this resolution be passed.
- Council voted to approve the “Recognize the Federal Role” Student Government Resolution with a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

B. Discussion of Community Service on the Hill

- Kaisey said that she and Malik had been working on the hill to create a community service leader in every building on the hill, and then after that to add someone on every floor of every hall on the hill. She said that she had talked to the On Campus Housing Council (OCHC) to find out how adopting their new Community Service leader was going, and had found out that they did not have the money to appoint the new position. She said that Hedrick and De Neve had one, but Canyon Point did not. Kaisey said that it seemed like this had been largely forgotten about, despite OCHC’s expressed enthusiasm at USAC’s initial suggestion.

- Wood asked what the money issue was, to which Kaisey said that the Community Service Leader position had to be stipended, which cut into the other stipends.
- Biniek said that it might be best to start with the leaders at the floor level, since they would not require stipends, and then work upward; Bottom-up instead of top-down change. She said that it was also part of the mission of the Office of Residential Life (ORL) to provide Community Service Opportunities to the Hill, so perhaps Kaisey should focus on that issue when talking to OCHC about it.
- Tuttle congratulated Kaisey on continuing to pursue this. He said that perhaps she should broaden the circle a little bit, which could lead to increased interest in the residence halls.
- Kaminsky said that the Programming Assistants (PA's) had to do some programming, and said that it might be a good idea to give them some community service-related things that they could do with their floors. Pham said that the problem with that was that ORL was kind of getting rid of PA's, and the Resident Assistants (RA's) already had a lot of work to do.
- Tuttle said that another thing to do would be to get people on the hill into a routine of doing community service, which would then serve to bring more people into it.
- Neesby asked if the only real opposition to creating the position was that it was stipended. Kaisey said that she thought it was that *and* that the On Campus Housing Council (OCHC) was apathetic. Neesby said that if OCHC was opposed to it, then perhaps Kaisey could get them to create a voluntary position, which would then later be institutionalized, even though it would be just a foot in the door for now.

C. Discussion of USAC Banquet

- Wood said that Kerckhoff Grand Salon had been booked for May 30th for USAC's year-end banquet.
- Sassounian said that the after party would be at her apartment.

E. Westwood Update

- Vardner said that the Civic Group was up and running. He said that parking was also being worked on along with rent and other things that were still up in the air.

F. Office Space Allocation Committee (OSAC) Changes

- Neesby said that this would hopefully go through the Constitutional Review Committee, but he had trouble getting in touch with them. He said that the changes were ones that he had recommended earlier, and they had said that they would be brought back later.
- Wood said that she thought that this should go through OSAC and also CRC first, and then Council could approve it after they were done with it.

XI. Announcements

- Sargent apologized to Council, saying that his announcement was going to be more of an officer report. He said that he had been talking to Malik about integrating the Alumni Association with the Community Service Commission. He explained that there were a lot of Alumni who were big on community service. He also noted that there was interest in instituting a kind of Community Service Commission within the Alumni Association, which would allow for the institutionalization of joint community service projects between the Alumni Association and Undergraduates. Sargent said that he also wanted to talk about events held by the Alumni Association outreaching to students admitted to UCLA to convince them to come, or increase "yield", and said that, thus far, everyone had done a pretty poor job integrating the programs. He said that he would like to talk to Sassounian and Kaminsky about brainstorming some ways that these students could be better reached out to. Sargent said that he would again encourage the institutionalization of an alternate Alumni Representative so that he and his successors could alternate weeks, instead of having to be at Council meeting every week or have no Alumni Representative there at all. Sargent said that lastly, he had to give a year-end report to the Alumni Association, and said that if Council could give him anything that would be great. He said that this included referendums, events, and whatever else they thought should be included.

- Neesby asked where Sargent would want the alternate position codified, to which Sargent said that they had not found any documentation about an alternate, thus he would like the current Council to pass a resolution in favor of it, such that the Alumni Association could then put it into their documentation. Wood said that there was really no need for a Resolution because she was going to write a letter to the Alumni Association about this matter.
- Pham said that Dance Marathon would be having a Thank You Event on Friday, and also told Council to sign up for Run/Walk. She said that people could register online or at the SWC office.
- Vardner said that his office was working on helping UCLA getting a Goodwill Donation Center such that people could donate their things when they move out instead of having them just put things out on the curb.
- Doan said that Wednesday there would be a memorial for Julian D'Avanzo in the Horizon Room. She also said that Malik asked her to announce that the Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's second Day of Service would be held on May 7.
- Sassounian said that Academic Affairs had been outreaching, as that was how UC Berkeley had brought the USIE program here to UCLA. She said that now she was trying to similarly outreach to other universities, including four universities in New York that wanted to talk to her, two of which were NYU and Columbia. Sassounian said that her office was also working on getting course credit for students for non-academic work that they were doing.
- Kaminsky reminded Council to get him any information they had about potential sponsors for Bruin Bash.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

Villasin passed around the attendance sheet.

XIII. Adjournment

- Vardner moved and Biniek seconded to adjourn.
- Pham called for approval by Unanimous Consent. Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by Unanimous Consent. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m. by Unanimous Consent.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Keesler
USAC Minutes Taker