

**FINAL**

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL

Tuesday May 9, 2006  
417 Kerckhoff Hall  
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Constance Dillon, Shaun Doria, Adam Elsayed, Julia Erlandson, Maureen Hagan, Lena Khan, Matthew Knee, Uzma Kolsy, Kacie McFarland, Fanny Yeung

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

- Pham added a Special Presentation by UCLA Run/Walk.
- Sassounian said that the Muslim Students Association (MSA) was present to give a Special Presentation in response to her Resolution. Wood asked if the entire Resolution should be moved up, such that MSA could speak on the Resolution. Sassounian said that was fine, except that Vardner wanted to be present for the discussion and would not be at the meeting until 8:30. Wood moved the MSA Special Presentation and Resolution to the end of Special Presentations.
- Malik and Sassounian asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Sassounian moved and Kaminsky seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.
- Neesby called for approval by 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

**\*March 14, 2006**

- Biniek said that under the Guests section, Constance's last name should be "Dillon", and Andrew's last name should be "Loera."
- Kaminsky said that under Approval of the Minutes, he had called for approval by Acclamation, not by Unanimous Consent.
- Smeets said that under his Officer Report, he had been at the AIBAC Conference, not the APEC Conference.
- Smeets moved and Pham seconded to approve the Minutes of March 14, 2006 as amended.
- Council voted to approve the Minutes of March 14, 2006, as amended, with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

**\*April 4, 2006**

- Pham moved and Smeets seconded to approve the Minutes of April 4, 2006.
- Council voted to approve the Minutes of April 4, 2006 with a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

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### IV. Special Presentations

#### **UCLA Run/Walk, Kacie McFarland**

- Kacie McFarland said that UCLA Run/Walk was a 5-kilometer run on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> to benefit AIDS research. She said that she had brochures, and said that people could sign up online if they wanted to. McFarland said that this year their goal was \$50,000, as last year they had raised a little over \$41,000.

#### **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz/Reggae Festival, Cultural Affairs Commission**

- Hawkins said that Jazz/Reggae Festival was going to be held over Memorial Day Weekend. He said that the lineup was confirmed, and the headliners would be Diane Reeves and Floetry. Hawkins said that they had been getting a lot of good feedback, especially about the jazz lineup, which usually did not get nearly as much press. He said that they had decided to open the day by getting all of the jazz artists to perform with the UCLA Jazz Ensemble, and then conclude the day with the two headlining solo acts. Hawkins said that this would make everyone happy about when they had to be there to see what they wanted to see, and they wouldn't be annoyed about having to see what they didn't want to. Hawkins said that since this was going to be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, there would also be a pre-reception on Friday night at the James E. West Alumni Center, and it was going to be the red carpet event of the year. He said that they would be giving a lifetime achievement award as well as various "Thank You" awards. Hawkins said that everyone on Council was on the list for the festival with a plus one, and said that they should offer the plus one to students from other schools who could not otherwise get free tickets like UCLA students can. He said that UCLA students could get free tickets prior to the event, but on the day of the event they would have to pay. Hawkins said that if anyone wanted to volunteer they could contact the volunteer coordinators, and there would be a volunteer orientation on Thursday and then again the week prior to the show. Hawkins asked that anyone who listens to the three main Jazz radio stations, to please let him know if they were hearing any of the advertisements that the Cultural Affairs Commission was running to promote Jazz Reggae. He said that CAC had paid good money for the ads, and that they had spent a lot more on ads this than they usually spent. Hawkins lastly said that they were hoping to have 10,000 people on Jazz day and 15,000 on Reggae day.
- Sargent asked Hawkins if a survey was ever conducted to find out how people heard about the Jazz/Reggae Festival, to which Hawkins said there was none done in the past but that one would be conducted this year, especially since so much was being spent on advertising.

#### **University of California Undergraduate Experiences Survey (UCUES), Fanny Yeung**

- Neesby moved by General Consent and Biniek seconded to allow a Special Presentation on the University of California Undergraduate Experiences Survey (UCUES).
- Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by General Consent. There being none, a Special Presentation on the University of California Undergraduate Experiences Survey (UCUES) was allowed.
- Fanny Yeung said that the University of California Undergraduate Experiences Survey (UCUES) was administered to all of the UC Campuses. She said that the last one was done in 2004, and a lot of information about students at UCLA was garnered from the study. Yeung told Council that a lot of UC students were born in the United States, but many were born outside of the U.S. She also said that while half of the students spoke only English, the other half spoke another language with English or another language by itself. Yeung said that the survey also provided information about the goals and values held by students, and said that it had been nice to learn that students placed the highest value on pursuit of their careers. She said that over half of UCLA students participated in clubs on campus or performed community service, and that this was in contrast to the less-than-half average of most of the Universities of California. Yeung said that other information from UCUES included satisfaction of the overall experience at UCLA, utilization of campus departments, and the added ability to aggregate data on specific populations. She said that this meant that they could determine specific data on specific groups. Yeung said that the big promotion this year was that an iPod Nano was going to be given away every day from May 4<sup>th</sup>, the first day of the study, all the way into the summer, and that this

would hopefully get people to complete the survey. She said that Judith Richlin-Klonsky was the Director of the department and should be contacted with further questions.

- Neesby asked how many students filled out the UCUES in 2004, and asked how many times a student could fill out the survey. Yeung said that each person could fill it out only once, but said that there was a raffle every day, so the earlier one filled it out, the more drawings they could be entered in.
- Biniek said that UCSA used this information a lot, so it was really important to get as many students as possible to complete the form.

V. New Business

**A. \*Resolution Against Hate Speech**

- Sassounian passed around the Resolution, saying that few changes had been made since she had shared it with Council. She said that it was primarily the same as what had been on the Agenda at the last Council meeting. Sassounian said that her rationale for bringing the Resolution to Council was in light of the fact that the Muslim Students Association (MSA) would be bringing Norman Finkelstein to campus. She said that she had done some research on him, and she found his ideas to be racist and bigoted. Sassounian said that it was very clear to her that the Holocaust occurred, and that it occurred to the degree that it is described. She said that to imply that the Jews have fabricated and exaggerated the scale of the Holocaust for self-gain were all beliefs held by Norman Finkelstein, and it was not a stretch to say that someone who believed in these ideals was a racist.

*Vardner arrived*

- Sassounian said that she had been approached by students who were concerned because of racism and hate speech that was already happening on campus. She said that when a speaker was being brought to campus who would build racial tension, it was important to take a stance on this, and it was something happening on campus that also affected the students. Sassounian said that some of the concerns brought to her were from the MSA. She said that these essentially amounted to the fact that the speaker was not invited to speak about the Holocaust, so that whole point should be moot. She said that she still felt strongly about the resolution, though, because this was a racist person, and he stood for racist ideals. Sassounian said that if a man or woman who believed that African Americans were inflating the numbers of slavery or exaggerating the experiences in order to aid them in self-gain, then that individual would pretty obviously be seen as a racist. She said that to slander one racial group is racist, and she would not invite that person onto campus to speak about anything, and it was not worth talking to him. Sassounian said that this was how she felt about Norman Finkelstein, and though he was coming for Palestinian Awareness Week, she did not support his coming to campus, and she did not think he had any place on the UCLA campus. She said that she did not know how Council felt about this on the whole, and wanted to open up a discussion on the issue.
- Zai asked if the Resolution was against this one presenter or against hate speech and intolerance in general. She said that recently there had been some very anti-Semitic remarks made in Meyerhoff Park, and was concerned about this. Sassounian said that this concern had occurred to her, and while it might be better to make the Resolution more broad, this particular Resolution had been made out of specific student concerns brought to her. She said that she would be more than willing to add language to the Resolution to make it even more specifically against hate speech in general, though she did want to keep in the language regarding the said event.
- Neesby asked who the other involved student organizations were. Sassounian said that she did not know, though the event as a whole was part of Palestine Awareness Week, which she thought was a joint event between MSA and Students for Palestinian Awareness (SPA).
- Biniek said that it was of concern to her because this resolution was being brought up specifically at the time of this event. She said that this made it seem like it was more against MSA and their event than against Hate Speech in general.

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

#### **Norman Finkelstein and USAC's Resolution Against Hate Speech, Muslim Students Association**

- Lena Khan from the MSA thanked Council for the forum to bring up her concerns and clear up any misconceptions. She said that on behalf of MSA she wanted to say that they were hurt by the Resolution. Khan said that they would obviously support any resolution against Hate Speech, and with that said, they wanted to address some of the concerns in the resolution in particular. Khan passed around documents outlining inaccuracies in the resolution. She said that calling Norman Finkelstein a Holocaust Revisionist was a serious charge and should be avoided. Khan said that one important distinction to make was that Finkelstein had not denied the number of victims, but instead said that one should avoid inflating the number of survivors, because that would diminish the number of victims. Khan also said that anytime a scholar wrote on a controversial issue, there were going to be both positive and negative reviews. She said that anytime there was a controversial issue, it still had to be talked about, as one could not deny oppression, but must also not manipulate the truth. Khan also said that while the Resolution was broad against hate speech, it did end with censorship of the MSA, which was a problem. She said that it was not USAC's place to decide who could come speak at campus, because then they would be deciding what kind of education students got. Khan said that another thing that was really important was that USAC should encourage academic debate. She said that issues of academic freedom were very important, and again thanked Council for hearing them.
- Neesby asked why exactly Finkelstein was coming instead of someone else, since no good reason for bringing him had been offered. Khan replied that they were not saying that they were bringing him to not talk about the Holocaust. Neesby asked then why he was coming. Khan said that it was about Palestine. She added that the United Arab Society (UAS) and SPA were also sponsoring the event.
- Nelson said that he wanted to thank Sassounian and the MSA for bringing this issue forward. Nelson said that many years ago UCLA had two interesting speakers on campus at almost the same time, arguing about the same issue that was being discussed at the Council table at the moment. He said that ironically, students had filled out the facilities use form, but had then changed the date before turning it in to operations. Nelson said that in the end there were two very conflicting speakers in Ackerman Grand Ballroom with only an hour separating them. He said that Kuai Matora was on the anti-Israel side, and Amer Kahana was on the anti-Palestinian side. Nelson said that what was interesting about it was that the groups had just barely missed each other, and it could have ended very badly if the two groups crossed paths. Nelson said that he had mentioned this because it was important to consider the impression of ideas. He said that he did not know what the truth was about Finkelstein, and it might be worth it to find out. Nelson said that his point was that this is a University, and he thought it was healthy to air opinions and open up debate.

### VII. New Business (cont'd)

- Sassounian moved and Smeets seconded to approve the Resolution Disapproving of Hate Speech on Campus.
- Sassounian thanked MSA for coming, and appreciated their understanding that this was an issue of two groups disagreeing about what was ethically right to do. She said that Students for Justice in Palestine, Arab Students Association, and MSA were all bringing Finkelstein, and she would be happy to name all of the groups in the resolution, because she was not trying to single out MSA. Sassounian said that there was someone coming to campus to exacerbate racial tensions and it was important to note that he was not just showing up, but rather groups were bringing him; inviting him to come and do so. She said that she thought it was important to name the sponsoring groups to put this into context. Sassounian said that Biniek had noted other hate speech instances had gone unaddressed by USAC, and Sassounian said that she would be more than happy to write up a whole new resolution against all hate speech in general. She said that the reason she had written this resolution was because she had been approached by many students with concerns about this particular event.

- Biniek said that Sassounian did not seem to have a legitimate concern, because this seemed like it was her opinion, and that she alone was judging what was right and wrong. She said that by naming groups, it also drew a line between them, and implied that said groups supported hate speech, which was not fair. Biniek said that Council should be finding a way to unite students on this issue, and by doing this they were dividing students.
- Neesby said that Council wanted to oppose what they saw as hate speech, but it did not seem fair to single out student groups. He suggested removing the singling out of student groups in the Resolution, but otherwise passing it as submitted.
- Khan reminded Council that the issue was not that they did not want ownership of Finkelstein, but rather that they did not see him as a deliverer of hate speech.
- Sassounian said that a direct response to Neesby would be that she did not have allegiance to naming MSA in the resolution, but rather by saying that Finkelstein was being brought by student groups on the UCLA campus. She said that bluntly this was more than just some guy showing up. Sassounian said that she would be willing to compromise that MSA not be named, but rather just to say that he was being brought by students.
- Neesby said that he had done some research on Finkelstein, and he could not get past the fact that Finkelstein did, in fact, say that the number of victims of the Holocaust had been exaggerated. Khan said that Finkelstein's assessment of the situation was merely to make the Holocaust seem like a more academic issue, and his concern for the numbers was simply to point out that even for a tragedy, it was important to be specific and accurate about the number of victims. She also said that Finkelstein had quoted the numbers from Raul Hilberg, another scholar of the Holocaust.
- Neesby said that as he saw it, Finkelstein said that Jews were exaggerating the number of the victims of the Holocaust, and anyone who did that was diminishing the tragedy of the Holocaust. He said that anytime someone diminished the effects of genocide this was problematic. Neesby said that the Jewish Student Union (JSU) and MSA were working together on the Kosher/Halal Food Campaign, and it seemed like it would be detrimental to the campus and to these student groups to bring such a contentious speaker to campus. Neesby said that Finkelstein had said that the Jews were using the Holocaust for political gain, and this was inciteful, thus the resolution was just a suggestion about what should be done.
- Khan said that the number of victims of the Holocaust and the number of survivors of the Holocaust were two separate issues, and a lot was disputed regarding both these numbers. Khan said that when someone was contentious like this, people were going to dispute it regardless of the data. She also said that they did not want MSA's name out of the Resolution, they just did not want Finkelstein to be misrepresented. Khan said that it was bad to go off of scant information.
- Sargent said that UCLA had a rich tradition of controversial speakers on its campus. He said that he did not know anything about Finkelstein other than what he had read here, but he was worried about precedent. Sargent said that the last "WHEREAS" of the Resolution greatly concerned him, as it was completely opinion-based. He also said that the way the Resolution was written worried him about precedent, and if people disagreed with Finkelstein, then let him come and disagree with him in person.
- Wood said that what she saw here were two very different opinions, and a Resolution with a lot of citations, but a very long and cited disagreement with the Resolution. She said that, as the USAC President, she could not condemn an organization's decision to bring a speaker to campus. Wood said that she thought it was the responsibility of the student leaders to lead by bringing the speaker and letting the discussion take place, rather than closing the doors.
- Sassounian said that it seemed like a lot of the same things were being said. She said that the issue was being misunderstood as an agreement versus disagreement issue on campus. Sassounian said that the focus of the resolution was not about trying to prevent the speaker from coming or about getting him to leave. She said that the Resolution was instead about taking a stance. Sassounian said that there were plenty of things at UCLA that she disagreed with, but she had never before written a Resolution on them. She said that for every direct quote by Finkelstein that the MSA offered, she could probably find ten more to back up her stance. Sassounian said that she was not bringing this Resolution forward because she disagreed with Finkelstein, which she did. Rather, she said that she was bringing it because Finkelstein was a

- racist, a bigot, and an anti-Semite. She said that she was sure everyone agreed deep down, but perhaps was unable to voice as much in this context.
- Khan said that this was an issue of agreeing or disagreeing, and it was fine to agree or disagree.
  - Biniek said that one justification for the Resolution had been by Neesby, and that was that JSU and MSA were working together. She said that she did not believe this was the best way to keep them together, though. Biniek said that by Council taking a stance they were going to make the campus even more divided. She said that it seemed to her that Council should not just pass a Resolution in opposition to something rather than addressing the underlying issue. Biniek said that Sassounian was asking Council to take her word on what she was saying.
  - Kaisey said that she saw both sides of the issue, and she did not want MSA to think they were being censored. She said that as long as there were people on the campus who wanted to have the speaker come, then he should be allowed to, and if he started to spout anti-Semitic rhetoric, she would be the first to speak out against him.
  - Zai said that it seemed like Council agreed that UCLA had a history of controversial speakers. She said that she was against hate speech, and would be in favor of bringing forward a more general resolution.
  - Kaminsky thanked MSA for coming. He said that he was no expert on the issue, but he felt like he should talk about it. Kaminsky said that it seemed like there was already the potential for a divided community and that, if someone viewed as an anti-Semitic bigot came to campus, then there could only be more of a divide. He also said that if someone came to campus who incited violence or hatred to brood dislike or distrust, then this could not be a good thing for the campus community.
  - Sassounian said that she wanted to be honest and say that she thought the event itself was a mechanism behind the divide in the student population. She said that there really should be no right for someone to come and deliver hate speech anywhere. Sassounian said that she saw two issues before Council which contradicted one another. She said that one argument was that Finkelstein was not a racist, and the other issue was that something more broad should be done. Sassounian said that these two issues seemed in conflict with one another. She also said that she was not asking anyone to take her word for it.
  - Khan said that she wanted to say again that this man was not an anti-Semite, and to say that would be to discourage people from coming to the event. She told Council that they were essentially voting on whether or not this man was an anti-Semite. Khan said that for something so disputed as this, it was important not to set precedent by condemning this speaker and condemning what he was going to say. She said that people could come to the program and disagree, they could protest it, or do whatever they wanted.
  - Vardner said that three years ago there had been a bake sale on campus. He said that USAC had thought about condemning the Affirmative Action Bake Sale, but they had not, as free speech trumped all. Vardner said that he believed that USAC did not have the right to condemn programs or the student groups that put them on. He also said that, in light of this and other issues, it would be a good idea for USAC to bring forward a more general resolution opposing hate speech.
  - Vardner moved and Zai seconded to table the motion to approve the Resolution Disapproving of Hate Speech on Campus.
  - Wood said it was her opinion that those who disagreed with the Resolution should vote it down rather than tabling it.
  - Sassounian said that the majority of Council had legitimate issues with the Resolution. She said that she was not one who was unmoved by that, and she was alright with delaying the Resolution until more people agreed with it.
  - Neesby said that this did not seem like an issue of agreement versus disagreement. He suggested strongly that MSA not bring this speaker to campus. Neesby said that there was a large constituency that was concerned about this speaker inciting hatred or violence, and as a personal suggestion it seemed like MSA was going to divide this campus. He said that even if that was not their intent, and especially if that was not their intent, then perhaps they should bring another speaker.
  - Biniek said that Neesby shouldn't make personal recommendations.

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- Wood asked Sassounian what her intention was at this point. Sassounian said that her intention was to take the Resolution home and rework it such that it would be more general about an issue that more, or all members of Council, could get behind. She said that she was not sure if that meant she should table it or withdraw it.

*Smeets left*

- Tuttle said that he was unsure of parliamentary procedure at this point, but he said that perhaps the best thing would be to withdraw the motion at this point, with the permission of Sassounian's co-sponsors and the body because, once the motion had been seconded, it became the property of the body. He said that if Sassounian then wanted to bring forward a more general Resolution to the table, she could do so at a later time. Tuttle said that perhaps it should be re-crafted to have broader implications and then brought back to Council at the next meeting. He said that the options were to withdraw the motion or to table it.
- Neesby said that there was a motion on the table to table the Resolution. He said that it could be taken from the table at any time, though they had verbally stated that they would probably bring it back next week. Sassounian interjected that was what she would do.
- Wood said that what she was hearing was that people were directly opposed to this Resolution, and that tabling the Resolution was not voting it down, but was rather tweaking it. Nelson added that the simplest thing was to vote the resolution up or down and then bring a fresh one at a later date.
- Neesby called the question on the Motion to Table the Approval of the Resolution Disapproving of Hate Speech on Campus.
- Council voted to Table the Approval of the Resolution Disapproving of Hate Speech on Campus with a vote of 8 in favor, 3 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Khan said that MSA would come back to Council at some time with a revised Resolution.

### VIII. Appointments

*There were no Appointments this week.*

### IX. Fund Allocations

#### **Approval of Contingency Fund Allocations**

- Villasin said that \$31,649.45 had been requested from Contingency Funding, with \$10,405.52 recommended for allocation. She said that an additional \$2,900.00 had been requested from Contingency via discretionary, with \$300.00 recommended for allocation. Villasin said that, upon approval by USAC of these recommended allocations, the running total in Contingency Funding would drop from \$15,820.47 to \$5,414.95. Villasin said that a total of \$789.14 had also been requested from Contingency for Capital Requests, with \$789.14 recommended for allocation. She said that, pending approval by USAC of this allocation, the remaining balance for Capital Requests would drop from \$4,175.85 to \$3,386.71.

*Kaminsky, Zai, and Vardner left the room. Council lost quorum.*

### X. Officer and Member Reports

#### **Academic Affairs Commissioner – Michelle Sassounian**

- Sassounian said that she would be going to New York soon to talk to people about the USIE Program. She said that with regards to ECP, she had also been working with Judy Smith to get extracurricular activities credited so they could help students meet their ECP requirement. She said that huge strides had been made, and said that a pilot program for crediting students for extracurricular activities had been established. Sassounian said that hopefully in the 2006-2007 school year, students would be able to gain course credit for things that they were doing outside of class.

*Kaminsky and Zai returned to the room. Quorum was restored.*

XI. Fund Allocations (cont'd)

**Approval of Contingency Fund Allocations (cont'd)**

- Villasin said that she would be notifying student groups that the contingency programming fund was close to depletion since Council had not approved any more funding for the next week. Villasin also said that Summer Contingency would begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>, but could not be applied for until Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. She said that she had given reports to Council such that they could figure out if they had funding to give to groups for graduation events.
- Wood said that Bob Naples had also set aside money for graduation events.
- Neesby asked if it would be easier to defer groups to individual offices for funding, or if the offices should give funding to Villasin to facilitate the process. Villasin replied that Simmons had recommended deferring students to the individual offices.
- Biniek said that it did not seem fair to her to defer groups to offices, as different offices had different amounts of funding left over. She said that it would make more sense to her to pool all the funding in one place so all the groups could apply for it equally.
- Wood said that since that had never been done, it sounded like everyone should talk to Simmons about putting that money into a single fund.
- Neesby said that this sounded like a time-sensitive issue, such that Council should perhaps make a decision at the present moment. He asked if there was an account number that Villasin could forward to Council so they could get started on that funding. Villasin answered that she could and would.
- Wood asked Villasin to delay sending out the notice until Council had a chance to put money in the fund.
- Biniek moved and Neesby seconded to approve the Contingency Fund and Capital Item Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Kaminsky said that he was confused by the numbers. He said that he knew they added up to \$6,000, but it didn't seem to add up when he looked at it. Villasin said that last week Council had already accounted for the groups that would be funded several weeks later, so the funding totals reflected that calculation. She said that since the balance would no longer be running out, those groups' allocation would now be calculated in at a later date.
- Tuttle asked Biniek what the UCSA Electoral Action Training was, to which Biniek said that it was a two-day conference on teaching students how to register to vote, how to work with the administration, how to capture data on how many students were voting, and more.
- Tuttle asked what Malik's gas grill was for, to which Malik said it was for any CSC group to use for barbecuing, particularly for the purpose of raising funds at lunchtime on Bruin Plaza. Tuttle asked McLaren if she felt this was a safety issue. McLaren said that she was very concerned about storing such a large gas grill in any of the offices in Kerckhoff because of the safety issue. Tuttle said that he was worried about this, too, saying that Kerckhoff Hall is an old, dry building and that there's a lot of paper in every office. He said that, looking at the documentation, he did not feel that McLaren's questions and concerns had been addressed by the student who was applying for funds for the grill.
- Williams said that someone could not store a propane gas tank in a USAC office, but that did not mean that there was not a way to work it out. McLaren said that they were trying to find a solution to the problem before an allocation was made and a grill was purchased. She ended by saying that it was her understanding that the student who wrote the proposal has been very busy lately and has not had time to respond to the questions she had raised.
- Tuttle said that he would be alright with deferring this matter with the guarantee that the grill would not be bought until the safety issue was worked out satisfactorily.
- Council voted to approve the Contingency Fund and Capital Item Fund Allocation Recommendations with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

*The Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations are attached to the minutes.*



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### XII. Officer and Member Reports (cont'd)

#### **Community Service Commissioner – Farheen Malik**

- Malik said that the approaching Saturday would be Promoting Understanding Through Learning. She said that there were T-shirts for the event if anyone wanted one. Malik also said that Wednesday would mark the arrival of the new CSC van to replace the one that had died a couple months prior, the one they referred to as “Deathtrap.” Malik also said that the Mayor’s Day of Service had been held on May 7<sup>th</sup>, and 24,000 people had been in attendance.

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

- Biniek said that last week she had gone to Oakland to meet with UC President Dynes. She said that two different California State Senators had called for his resignation, which had been very interesting. Biniek said that she had met with several different administrators, and they had talked about financial aid, the student compact, SIOC (Student Initiated Outreach Committee), Get Out the Vote, and other topics as well. She said that the most productive conversation had been about SIOC, as the administration apparently did not have a good idea of just how crucial this was and how important it was that it got funding. She said that it had seemed like this money would be coming from the legislature. Biniek said that another thing they had talked about was the Get Out the Vote efforts on campus, and some of the difficulties with access to students in the Residence Halls. She said that they would be following up on this, as the administrators were shocked to learn about all the difficulties they were facing in the Residence Halls. Biniek said that she had then driven down to Santa Cruz, and there she had interviewed three Student Regent Candidates, all who seemed very qualified. Biniek said that she had attended her last board meeting, though her position went through July, so she would be attending two more Regent Meetings. She said that if anyone was interested in attending the Legislative Action weekend, then they should let her know because her office would pay for them. Biniek said that there would be a call-in day on Wednesday for the Dream Act.
- Neesby asked what Biniek meant about automatically registering to vote. Biniek said that at every Student meeting there would be people in the room handing out voter registration cards.

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

- Doan said that an investigation had been conducted into why the Disabled Students Union (DSU) has not been active. She said they learned that the problem resulted from a lack of communication with students about the existence of this student organization at UCLA. Doan said that Monroe Gordon, the chief administrator, had seemed really concerned, and would be meeting with Doan to talk with her about where the communication error had occurred. She said that it did not seem fair to her that the students should be solely responsible for chasing down the administration. Doan also said that it also seemed important to note that Council would be stepping out of their offices, and it was important to make sure that the offices were prepared for the incoming Council. She said that it would be nice for everyone to at least put together a binder or a folder of the institutional things in their offices.
- Biniek said that the Financial Aid Policy Committee did not exist anymore, which was why those appointees had not been able to get in touch with anyone.
- Tuttle said that the vice chancellor was personally very interested in making a smooth transition between the outgoing and incoming Councils. He asked if there was another group now doing the work of the Financial Aid Policy Committee, only under another name. Biniek said that the committee had been changed to the system-wide level, so the individual universities no longer had their own committees. Tuttle noted that it would be nice if the regional concerns could be incorporated into the system-wide level.

#### **President – Jenny Wood**

- Wood said that the ASUCLA Breakfast/Open House was coming up. She said that she would send out a slide show to Council to show them what would be presented at the Open House. Wood also said that there was a Donor Wall event on Wednesday that all of Council was invited to. She also said that the USAC Banquet would be on Tuesday of 9<sup>th</sup> week. Wood also said that she would be meeting with Vice Chancellor Montero about how they could work better with

students on admissions. She said that she would keep Council posted on what all was being done to work on admissions.

XIII. Old Business

**A. \*Operational Changes, USAC Bylaws Article IV and V**

- Neesby said that the changes attached to the Agenda were the exact changes that had been proposed at the Council meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Neesby moved and Biniek seconded to approve the Operational Changes to the USAC Bylaws Articles IV and V.
- Tuttle asked the relevance of the minutes from the meeting, to which Wood explained that it showed language changes that had been made on April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Neesby moved by Unanimous Consent and Kaminsky seconded to amend Article IV.c.1. to the language approved by Council on April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Kaminsky moved by Unanimous Consent and Neesby seconded to correct the numbering of Article V.A.2.a.v. to Article V.A.3.a.v.
- Wood said that Council could either vote on this at the present moment, or take the document home to find any other changes that needed to be made. Neesby said that he did not think the changes were substantive, but were rather grammatical, if there were any at all.
- Tuttle reminded Council that these were Bylaw changes, which meant that they were operating in the 2/3 threshold.
- Biniek said that if they could not remember grammatical changes that had been made, they could approve what they had before them, and then make any grammatical corrections later. Tuttle said that if they had learned anything, it was that the record was very important. He said that five years from now this could matter a whole lot. Biniek said that she meant they could make these changes and then make the small grammatical changes at a later date. Wood said that there was a process by which notification was needed for approval of changes to the Bylaws, but it seemed okay to approve the Bylaws with one or two grammar errors.
- Council voted to approve the Operational Changes to the USAC Bylaws Articles IV and V with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

**B. \*Amendments to OSAC Guidelines**

- Neesby said that nobody had really met with him to talk about the OSAC guidelines. He said that what he had before Council were the very same changes that Council had talked about. Neesby said that what he was concerned about at the present moment was that there were similar offices that had been around for awhile, and his concern was that Council as a system could remove or replace student groups. He said that under his changes, USAC would have the option of cycling groups out of offices depending on how much funding they received. Neesby said that if an in-office student group was the number one candidate for an office, then there would be no issue, but if another group showed that they were more deserving, then they might be granted the office instead. He said that the guidelines should reflect that all groups were all equal in application, and that there might be better ways to distribute offices equitably than through using a tier system. Neesby also said that Kaminsky had brought up a good concern that he wanted to address. He said that there might be politicking that takes place as a result of slate affiliation wherein groups are allocated offices based on being the constituents of Council. Neesby said that a solution to this would be to make OSAC like the Finance Committee, in that it is appointed by Council, and is thus its own entity. He said that the only problem with this was the Facilities Commissioner, who had an automatic slot on OSAC.
- Biniek said that she liked the last idea, because it would be good to have an impartial committee structure of that kind. Biniek said that the one thing she disagreed with was potentially not granting USAC-Sponsored Groups office space. She said that one strength of USAC was their ability to support student groups, as the groups could better serve students than USAC could by itself. Biniek added that she thought it good to allow all groups the potential to become USAC-Sponsored.
- Wood said that while this discussion was valuable, she thought that this discussion was better had within OSAC. She said that it seemed like they could come up with the best decision for

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allocation, and the best ideas had come up when the meetings were being held every Friday night. Wood suggested that this discussion be held within the committee.

- Neesby said that his main intent had been to just present this idea. He said that in case those discussions were held in the coming week, changing OSAC guidelines were Bylaw changes, so he was passing these out as potential Bylaw changes with the 7-day notice. Neesby lastly said that he would be interested to learn if the sponsorship was the only issue stopping Biniek from being fully on-board with the new plan.

### XIV. New Business (cont'd)

#### **B. \*20<sup>th</sup> Annual UCLA Jazz/Reggae Festival Loan Request**

- Hawkins said that he wanted to request from Council, as the Cultural Affairs Commissioner did every year, the \$100,000 from contingency reserve to front the money for the Jazz/Reggae Festival. He said that this was used to cover any losses that could be incurred from the event, but was also used to pay all the expenses up front. Hawkins said that right now the Contingency Reserve that the money would be taken from was over \$177,000, and he would take \$100,000 from that. He said that after the show, the \$100,000 would be automatically paid back from box office sales. Hawkins said that there was no danger of not making back the \$100,000, as the event usually made more than twice that with box office sales. He added that he had all the documentation if anyone wanted to see it.
- Sargent asked where the extra profit went, to which Hawkins said that it went into the Jazz/Reggae Reserve. Sargent asked what the reserve was at currently, to which Hawkins said that it was about \$36,000. Sargent asked if this was an interest free loan from the association, to which Hawkins said that it was, per Jerry Mann's recommendation.
- Hawkins told Council that most of the loan went to pay for the performing artists, as the bill for the artists was over \$130,000.
- Sargent asked if there was a long-term plan for the profitability of the event. Hawkins said that last year had been the first year that they actually took a hit, as a result of the University's new restrictions on capacity. He said that prior to that had been three years of upward growth in the show where they saw increased artists and profit. Hawkins said that the hope was to eventually build up the Jazz/Reggae reserve enough to front their own money.
- Neesby moved and Kaminsky seconded to loan the Cultural Affairs Commission \$100,000 from Contingency Reserve.
- Kaminsky asked how quickly this would be paid back, to which Hawkins said that it would be paid back about 36 hours after the show.
- Hawkins said that it should also be noted that if Jazz/Reggae did not make the \$100,000, then the money would come from USAC later. He also said that without this loan, Jazz/Reggae could not happen, so they were sort of assuming that USAC was going to approve this.
- Tuttle asked for the numbers again, which Hawkins and Neesby gave him. Neesby additionally explained that the Bylaws required that USAC only maintain a balance of \$1,526 which was 5% of the minimum Contingency Reserve balance
- Neesby called for approval by General Consent. Wood asked if there were any objections to approval by General Consent. There being none, the Cultural Affairs Commission was loaned \$100,000 from the Contingency Reserve.

### XV. Announcements

- Doan said that a fundraiser would be held on Monday for an LBGT group in Bel Air.
- Kaminsky said that Bylaw changes regarding Mardi Gras would be brought up at the next USAC meeting, so this was the 7-day notice. He also said that Campus Events got new T-Shirts and Sweatshirts which were for sale for \$9.
- Pham said that the blood drive was this week, and they had cool things to give away. She also said that on Thursday there would be a multi-culture awareness event with prizes, some valued at around \$2,000 dollars.
- McLaren passed around information to Council about funding.

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- Vardner said that Doan's volunteer thing was really fun and everyone should go. Vardner also said that he had been talking to Chan about groups increasing their sustainability, and they would be working on integrating that into the funding guidelines. Vardner also said that Montero would be accepting requests for funding for requests for student group graduation celebrations. Wood said that her understanding was that money had been specifically set aside for this, and it was now depleted. Vardner said that the understanding was that USAC funded some of these events, but since that would not be happening this year, they would be reevaluating their budget. Tuttle said that it seemed like USAC needed to sideline a fund of around \$100,000 for Hawkins and Vardner. He said that the day could come where funding was needed for late-blooming things like graduation. He said that by budgeting this and having it, they would have the money whether they needed it or not. Tuttle said that this suggestion should be passed on to the incoming Council.
- Hawkins said that Council should check out Hip-Hop Appreciation week with the MC Battle on Wednesday. He said that the theme this year was promoting cultural awareness.

### XVI. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*Villasin passed around the attendance sheet.*

### XVII. Adjournment

- Vardner moved and Biniek seconded to adjourn.
- Sassounian 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 10:39 p.m. by Unanimous Consent.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael Keesler  
USAC Minutes Taker

**NOTE: This set of minutes was not completed in time for the 2005-2006 Council Members to review and approve them. Under such a circumstance, the usual procedure has been to have the outgoing Internal Vice President review the minutes, make any necessary corrections, and then sign and date the document as "Reviewed and Approved." Unfortunately, the outgoing Internal Vice President was not available to review this set.**