

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL

June 6, 2006  
417 Kerckhoff Hall  
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Araabi, Caba, Cendana, Dehar, Doria, Jang, Kaisey, Malik, McLaren, Park, Price, Sargent, Saucedo, Schuster, Tuttle, Villasin, Williams, Zai

ABSENT: Nelson

GUESTS: Terence Chan, Paymon Ebrahimsadeh, Pearl Esau, Aaron Gershbock, Tanzib Hossain, Joe Iniguez, Dave Karlik, Matthew Knee, Steven Ly, Michael Miller, Michael Moskovitz, Ita Nagy, Simon Shamass, Debra Simmons, Jason Sorger

I. A. Call to Order

- Kaisey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*The Attendance Sheet was passed around.*

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Kaisey removed Old Business Item B, Discussion of Admissions Yield Task Force, and Old Business Item C, Discussion of Student Central Database Inclusion of Service/Activities Record, saying that they would be addressed at a later meeting.

- Cendana moved by General Consent and Zai seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.

- Kaisey asked if there were any objections to approval of the Agenda by General Consent. There being none, the Agenda was approved, as amended, by General Consent.

III. Approval of the Minutes

*There were no Minutes this week.*

IV. Special Presentations

**Teach for America, Pearl Esau**

- Pearl Esau from Teach for America passed around brochures and handouts to all of Council. She also thanked Council for giving her time to talk about Teach for America. Esau said that she was a UCLA Alumna, and said that she had also been a Teach for America Corp. Member in 2003. Esau told Council that, by the time the type of students served by TFA reached ninth grade, they were already three grades behind their peers in scholastic ability. She said that, later in life, those same children would be seven times less likely than their peers to graduate from college. Esau said that, at UCLA, only 96 Black students would be admitted for the coming year, and would comprise only 2% of the incoming student body. She said that the reason behind this lay with the students' scholastic history, as those who had not been given the same educational opportunities were unable to come to college. Esau said that students who sign on to Teach for America commit two years to the program to teach students all over the nation. She said that TFA members are drawn from all walks of life. She said some of the TFA alumni had been elected to school boards across the nation, some had received Teacher of the Year Awards on many different levels, many had gone on to shape public policy, and others entered fields such as medicine and journalism. Esau said that TFA placed teachers in 25 different cities. She

said that teachers were not only paid for their work, but they also received an AmeriCorp stipend of \$10,000 per year. Esau said that Teach for America was partnered with all ten of the top ten law schools in the nation, several of which offered scholarships for Teach for America alumni. She said that the deadline to apply for Teach for America would be October, and encouraged everyone to start thinking about applying.

- Williams asked if this program was essentially becoming a teacher for two years, to which Esau said that it was. She said that each Teach for America participant would essentially become the single teacher of an entire classroom. Williams asked how someone with no previous teaching experience would be able to cut down on the achievement gap in the limited time of two years. He also asked if Teach for America teachers were better in two years than a teacher that had been working in an underachieving school for ten years. Esau said yes, that the Teach for America members were statistically proven to be better at improving achievement.
- Esau said that she had taught in East LA, and would be happy to talk about the “real deal” if anyone was interested. She said that, when she graduated from college in 2003, she had a world of opportunities to choose from because of her educational background. She then asked Council to consider the fact that each of them had been given many opportunities, which many other young people were never afforded.

#### **California Public Interest Research Group (CalPIRG), Jessica**

- Jessica from CalPIRG said that she was present to update Council on what CalPIRG had been doing in the last year. She said that CalPIRG worked on public policy in California. Jessica said that they did such things as raised money for Hurricane Katrina, conducted a hunger cleanup, raised money for Darfur and Zimbabwe, helped out with the homeless, and much, much more. Jessica said that one particular campaign that they had been working on was the Solar Campaign which had the goal of having 100 solar homes in California in the next ten years. She said that the plan was to develop a subsidy for residents who bought solar roofs for their homes. Jessica said that another campaign CalPIRG was working on was the affordability of higher education. She said that one thing that they had uncovered was that college graduates could not go into lower paying careers such as teaching because they had accumulated too much debt while earning their college degree. Jessica said that another planned campaign was to work on voter registration in the coming year.
- Park asked Jessica how CalPIRG decided what issues to work on. Jessica said that they worked on the most relevant issues of the time, and gave examples of global warming and the rising cost of textbooks.

#### **Student Alumni Association, Ita Nagy**

- Ita Nagy from the Student Alumni Association (SAA) said that she wanted to go over some of their largest events that were coming up. She explained that they were the student branch of the UCLA Alumni Association. She said there was a common misconception that SAA worked under the Alumni Association, and clarified that SAA actually had a lot of its own events. Nagy said that one of the things that they worked on a lot was promoting student unity, particularly with Bruin Blue and Gold Week. She said that this used to be called “Beat ‘SC week,” but now that UCLA kept losing to ‘SC, they weren’t kidding themselves, so the name had been changed. Nagy said that another major event that SAA held was Dinner with 12 Strangers. She said that 96 such dinners had been held during the last year. She also said that Spring Sing, which was a lot of fun, was another of their big events. Nagy said she was hoping that everyone on USAC would be interested in participating in SAA’s events. Nagy ended her report by saying that she would be in contact with Council to let them know the dates of the SAA events for the coming year.
- Kaisey said that Blue and Gold Week’s Bruin Bear Defense Force had been a big success last year, with USAC winning the Best Spirit Award.

#### **Student Government Operational Fund Budget Workshop, Debra Simmons and Terence Chan**

- Debra Simmons, Student Government Accounting (SGA) Management Director, passed around the calendar regarding the upcoming Student Government Operational Fund (SGOF) application

process and hearings. She went over the calendar, saying that the dates were still somewhat tentative. Simmons said that she would be returning to Council in the next month to go over any questions or concerns Council might have about the process. She then handed out an instruction packet to each office and commission. Simmons said that her department (SGA) had a lot of paperwork to process each day because of the 350-plus student organizations that SGA deals with over the course of the year. She told Council that most of the information they would need to prepare their budget packet was available on the USAC website, and she encouraged Council to obtain the information from the website instead of asking her or her office staff for the information. She also listed the forms and other relevant items that could be downloaded from the USAC website.

- Terence Chan, Budget Review Director, explained the way the USAC budget worked, and then went over the SGOF timeline. Chan explained to Council that a large portion of the funds that were available to the student government offices came from student fees, which were supplemented by interest income. Chan then cited a long list of the categories to which the funds were allocated. Chan went over the USAC expenses, including Administrative Overhead, Referenda, Contingency, SGOF, and SOOF. He said that, of the funds available for distribution to the Student Government Operational Fund and the Student Organizations Operational Fund, SOOF received 80% and SGOF received 20%.
- Doria asked if the funding that went from his office to committees had to abide by the same rules that guided SOOF and SGOF allocations, to which Simmons said that it did, as was outlined in the Bylaws.
- Williams asked Simmons if she would recommend that Council refer to the budgets of previous officers as a guideline for preparing their budget for the coming year. Simmons said that would be a very good thing to do. She said that she would be happy to help them, as well.
- Simmons told Council that summer stipends began on June 1<sup>st</sup>, so everyone should go to the SGA office and fill out a New Hire Form for themselves. She then continued to talk about the budgeting process by telling Council members that the instructions for how to prepare their budgets were included in the documents she had handed out. She then briefly went over the immediate steps that needed to be taken. Simmons also talked about line items, including the fact that certain items were already covered in the overhead budget.
- Doria asked if all of these submissions could be done electronically, to which Chan said that they were not yet set up to do that. Simmons said that it was feasible, but not in the short amount of time remaining in the current year. She said she hoped that SGA would be prepared to accommodate that process by the time SOOF allocations came up.
- Simmons noted, with regard to such things as flyers and ads, that it was necessary to include the phrase, "Paid for by USAC."
- Kaisey asked if Council should account for the potential 3% increase in Daily Bruin advertising rates in their initial requests in the coming year, to which Simmons said that they should.
- Park asked if there was a possibility of pushing the calendar back by a week. Simmons said that Council could decide to do whatever they wanted in that regard, but she pointed out that, until they approved the budget, they would not have a budget to work with. Kaisey said she thought that the way the schedule was already set would work as, as of now, the budget was slated to be approved at Council's first meeting of the summer which was set for July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Simmons asked Council if they thought they felt it was necessary to extend the deadline beyond June 29<sup>th</sup> because they needed more time to complete their budget proposals, keeping in mind that, until the budget was approved, there would be no funding available. Doria said that he would be gone until after June 29<sup>th</sup>. Park said that she would be out of the country as well.
- Simmons said that there really was no budget available for June and July, but said that there was more than \$7,000 in Contingency if they needed funding for some reason. She said that the exception was the EVP Office, which typically set aside money in advance for the summer months.
- Williams said that he'd like to comment on the ASUCLA discount which all USAC officers and commissioners are entitled to receive. He said that there are certain terms in the ASUCLA Discount Policy which they all needed to be aware of, and he urged them to read the terms and restrictions very carefully when they sign the form to obtain the discount so that they are fully aware of the conditions. He said he was mentioning this now because he wanted them to know

that people have gotten in trouble in the past because they violated the terms of the employee discount policy.

- Kaisey asked if everything spent before August 1<sup>st</sup> had to come from Contingency, which Simmons confirmed.
- Chan passed around the SGOF Score Sheet, and explained to Council that it was used to determine the amount that would be allocated to each office that applied. He said that it was broken down into minimum criteria, quality of proposal, quality of the hearing, and application of the Budget Review Committee's priorities. Chan said that the scores were not given arbitrarily, but rather that each individual score was clearly defined and outlined before the overall score was decided upon. Chan then described how they calculated the formula which they used to score each proposal.
- Doria asked how often new items were added to the score sheet, to which Simmons said that the process was outlined in the Bylaws, and would be changed only if the criteria in the Bylaws were changed. Doria asked if Council could add criteria to the score sheet, to which Simmons said that Council could always add something to the Bylaws. Chan said that the six priorities, on the other hand, were set by the BRC, and they could always be reevaluated.
- Malik said that last year the BRC had met and decided to add a priority, so this did happen. Williams added that a Council member could make a recommendation to BRC which could then be evaluated.
- Kaisey, on a different note, thanked McLaren for the work she did on USAC's Installation ceremony and for helping Council with the transition overall. Kaisey then encouraged everyone at the table to become familiar with Robert's Rules of Order and to do their best to adhere to them.

#### V. Appointments

- Kaisey explained to Council the appointments process by saying that she forwarded her nominees to the Appointments Review Committee (ARC), which then interviewed each nominee, voted on them, and then presented their recommendations to Council at the next meeting.
- Cendana said that the applications of the students who were being considered at this meeting had not been included in the Agenda packet, but said that they would be available for Council's review for all future meetings.
- Sargent asked if there was a mandatory administrative eligibility check to ensure that the applicants were, in fact, students. This question was met with some uncertainty, but Tuttle stepped in and said that there would have to be such a check. He said further that he thought it would be alright for Council to proceed as planned, and then later confirm the assumed eligibility of the applicants.

#### **Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) (4)**

- Kaisey said that she had forwarded Michael Moskovitz for appointment to the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC). She briefly explained to Council why he was well-qualified for the position and why she was recommending him for appointment. Kaisey said that he was the editor of a magazine on campus, and also was somewhat of an expert on the issue of the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP).
- Paymon Ebrahimsadeh, a current SHAC member, said that he had asked to be allowed to speak when the appointments of the new SHAC members were being presented and discussed. He said that he had also requested that these appointments be made as quickly as possible, and he expressed his thanks to Council for respecting his request to expedite the SHAC appointments. Ebrahimsadeh said that he had also requested that appointees be of an age and class-standing to be available to serve on SHAC for two years or more. He also said he had requested that the appointees be well-rounded, particularly with regard to having an interest in the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and Student Psychological Services (SPS).
- Cendana spoke on behalf of the ARC, saying that the ARC had recommended Moskovitz for appointment to SHAC with a vote of 2-1-0, saying that he had a good background, but had a limited understanding of the inner-workings of SHAC.

- Price moved and Doria seconded to approve the appointment of Michael Moskowitz to the Student Health Advisory Committee, pending the confirmation of Moskowitz's eligibility as an enrolled student at UCLA.
- Araabi said that he had sat in on the appointee interview, and said that he thought that Moskowitz was very involved on campus and interested in the position, but did not have any experience with student health issues in particular. He said that, particularly in light of Ebrahimsadeh's comments, it seemed crucial that these appointees have a good understanding of student health issues on campus.
- Doria outlined Robert's Rules of Order regarding the discussion to be held.
- Kaisey said, in response to Araabi's comment, that Moskowitz had actually been an EMT for almost two years, so he had a lot of experience with student health issues.
- Ebrahimsadeh said that he had not talked about the financial aspect of SHAC. He said that the Winter Quarter was primarily devoted to SHIP, where SHAC members served as a voice for students on the issues of SHIP.
- Malik said that she had been present at the appointee interview, and said that she wanted to give Moskowitz an opportunity to talk about his student health experiences and also his financial experience.
- Moskowitz said that he had financial experience as the editor-in-chief of a magazine in student media, that he sat in on budget meetings with the Communications Board, worked with the student media budget crisis, and other related things. He said, with regard to health policy, that he had experience as an EMT and, even though he did not have a lot of experience with health policies, he had seen the problems with the policy first-hand, and would be interested in working on changing that.
- Doria said that perhaps there was too much pressure on appointees to have had experience with committees that they were applying to be members of. He said that people should be allowed to explore committees on campus without being punished later in their career.
- Park said that because SHAC had expressed specific needs for certain characteristics, USAC should not ignore those needs by appointing candidates who did not live up to those expectations.
- Araabi said his point was that appointees should have at least had some applicable experience with the committees to which they were seeking appointment.
- Price said, in response to Araabi, that the whole point of having the earlier appointment would be to allow a longer time for the learning curve of how to serve on the committee. She said that Moskowitz had experience with student health issues and with financial issues.
- Zai said that it was unjust of Council to dismiss Moskowitz's experience as an EMT as inapplicable to SHAC. She also agreed with Price regarding the relevance of appointing lower-grade applicants. Zai said she thought that Moskowitz was highly qualified.
- Park agreed with Zai that Moskowitz's experience with student health should not be downplayed, but reiterated that he did not have experience with policymaking.
- Park moved and Cendana seconded to Call the Question.
- Council voted to Call the Question with a vote of 8 in favor, 4 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Tuttle pointed out that this was a 2/3 vote, and that Kaisey could overrule the Call to Question.
- Kaisey overruled the motion to Call the Question.
- Dehar asked what happened if an applicant was not approved and then Council recessed for the Summer. Kaisey said that someone could always be appointed in July.
- Sargent asked if Kaisey knew when the committees which were before Council tonight were having their respective retreats, as he did not see all the essential appointments on the Agenda. He said that council might need to have emergency meetings to get the appointments made in time for the appointees to attend the committee retreats.
- Schuster said that he had reviewed Moskowitz's application, and he thought that his wide range of experience made him highly qualified for the committee, and that he would bring much to the committee.
- Moskowitz said that, although he was not actively involved with SHAC, he had read the SHAC reports, and had read minutes from the meetings of the preceding year. He said that he also had a lot of experience working with people on health related issues.

- Ebrahimsadeh said that SHAC members had no direct experience with clients. He said that their goal was to transition goals into tangible benefits.
- Council voted to approve the appointment of Michael Moskovitz to the Student Health Advisory Committee, with a vote of 6 in favor, 6 opposed, 0 abstentions, with Kaisey voting in favor to break the tie.
- Doria said that a recess might be nice since there were a lot of appointments on the Agenda.
- Doria moved and Schuster seconded to take a 5-minute recess.
- Council voted not to take a recess with a vote of 2 in favor, 8 opposed, and 1 abstention.
  
- Kaisey said that her next nominee for appointment to SHAC was Tanzib Hossain. She briefly explained to Council why he was well-qualified for the position and why she was recommending him for appointment.
- Cendana spoke on behalf of the ARC, saying that the ARC had recommended Hossain for appointment with a vote of 3-0-0.
- Cendana moved and Saucedo seconded to approve the appointment of Tanzib Hossain to the Student Health Advisory Committee.
- Schuster asked what Hossain could do to overcome the phasing out of the SHA program. Hossain replied that the program had run out of funding to sustain it and had no administrative personnel to oversee it. He said that his goal was to strengthen the program in the coming year and try to reenergize it such that future funding could be secured.
- Schuster asked how many more years the program could be sustained under the current conditions, to which Hossain said that it could last for one more year.
- Malik asked Hossain about his experience, to which Hossain said that he had worked at the Ashe Center, was EMT Trained, and was a pre-med student. He also said that he had a lot of leadership experience with the Muslim Students Association (MSA) and other student groups on campus. Hossain said that he was also excited about working with Student Psychological Services and the Office for Students with Disabilities, as he had even utilized OSD's services.
- Cendana Called the Question. There being no objection to the Calling of the Question, Council voted to approve the Appointment of Tanzib Hossain to the Student Health Advisory Committee with a unanimous vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

#### **Finance Committee Chairperson**

- Kaisey said that she had forwarded Michael Miller for appointment to the position of Finance Committee Chairperson. She briefly explained to Council why he was well-qualified for the position and why she was recommending him for appointment. Kaisey said that Miller had been the treasurer of IFC, was a business economics major, and was also very involved on campus.
- Cendana spoke on behalf of the ARC, saying that the ARC had recommended Miller for appointment with a vote of 2-1-0. He said that Miller had a lot of experience with finance in general, though there was some concern about his lack of experience actually serving on a funding body.
- Price moved and Doria seconded to approve the appointment of Michael Miller to the position of Finance Committee Chairperson.
- Park asked Villasin what criteria she saw as important for a Finance Committee Chairperson. Villasin said that Council should look for an individual who had applied for funding and was familiar with the funding process, but who additionally had experience sitting on the Finance Committee in the past. She said that there was a lot that one had to learn in a short amount of time, and she had been challenged by the fact that she came into the position with no background knowledge. She said that she had spent a lot more time learning and adjusting than she had expected to spend.
- Miller introduced himself to Council, and addressed some of their questions and concerns. He said that he did have experience funding individuals, as the treasurer of IFC had to allocate funds to the different fraternities applying for funding.
- Sargent told Council that he had been Finance Committee Chairperson, and said that what he saw as important was having a lot of time to devote to learning about the position and developing a close relationship with Debra Simmons and Jerry Mann. Miller said that he was living in Westwood all summer, and said that his only commitment was working at the library.

He said that the library job was flexible, and that he was prepared to quit if he had to for the Finance Committee position. Sargent asked Miller about his experience with the Finance Committee, to which Miller said that he had applied for contingency and base budgets in the past.

- Araabi said that he had been very impressed by Miller, who seemed very prepared and excited about the job. He said that the one thing that he saw as a drawback was Miller's lack of experience actually serving on the Finance Committee. He said that he thought Miller would be a great addition to the committee, but that he did not have the experience to serve as its Chairperson.
- Villasin agreed with Araabi, saying that she had been very impressed by Miller. She said, however, that she did not feel he was qualified to serve as the committee's chairperson.
- Price moved and Doria seconded to Call the Question on the motion to approve the appointment of Michael Miller to the position of Finance Committee Chairperson.
- Council voted not to Call the Question on the motion to approve the appointment of Michael Miller to the position of Finance Committee Chairperson with a vote of 3 in favor, 7 opposed, and 1 abstention.
- Malik said that there was a huge difference between USAC funding and IFC funding. She said she felt that Miller's appointment to this position would result in him spending a lot of time learning about the position instead of on improving the funding process.
- Doria again said that he thought there was far too much emphasis on requiring the nominees to have already served on the committees to which they were being appointed.
- Zai said that, of all the ARC candidates who were interviewed, she felt that Miller was by far the best candidate. She said that he had a lot of experience serving on funding bodies, and she gave the example that the groups within the Greek system had very different interests, projects and goals. For that reason, she said she felt that Miller definitely had experience comparing dissimilar goals of organizations. Zai added that Miller had a lot of experience outside of USAC and was quick to pick things up.
- Schuster said that the chairperson was the one who set the tone for any group. He said he thought that Miller, as chairperson, would be a great leader of the Finance Committee. Schuster additionally said that if one of the goals was to outreach to additional organizations, then Miller would be great at outreaching to IFC, a group that has traditionally been underserved by the Finance Committee.
- Price said that she thought it had been a problem in the past when groups had not supplied sufficient documentation, and she thought that Miller had a good grasp of that. She said that he also appreciated the fact that USAC should look more critically at Contingency, something that the previous Council had not done so much of.
- Araabi said again that he thought it was very important for the Chairperson of the Finance Committee have experience from serving on the Finance Committee itself.
- Kaisey said that she would not have forwarded Miller if she had not thought him qualified for the position. She said that, among other things, Miller had organized funding workshops in his previous work experience, and this was exactly the type of person that Council was looking for.
- Park asked if there were previous committee members who had applied for this position. Kaisey said that was not the point of the discussion, rather the discussion was to evaluate Miller's qualification for the position.
- Park asked if it was typical that the chairperson be a former committee member, to which Villasin said that it was.
- Zai said she was sure that Kaisey had reviewed all of the applications, and she was sure that Kaisey had forwarded Miller for good reason. She again restated Miller's qualifications, and said that she felt he was the best person for the position.
- Schuster moved and Price seconded to Call the Question on the motion to approve the appointment of Michael Miller to the position of Finance Committee Chairperson.
- Council voted to Call the Question on the motion to approve the appointment of Michael Miller to the position of Finance Committee Chairperson with a vote of 7 in favor, 3 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

- Council voted to approve the appointment of Michael Miller to the position of Finance Committee Chairperson with a vote of 6 in favor, 6 opposed, and 0 abstentions, with Kaisey voting in favor to break the tie.
- Schuster moved and Doria seconded for a 5-minute recess of Council.
- Council voted to take a 5-minute recess at 9:25 pm with a vote of 3 in favor, 2 opposed, and 7 abstentions.

*Council took a 5-minute recess.*

- Kaisey called the meeting back to order at 9:30 pm.
- Kaisey said that she would not be bringing forward any more appointments for the evening, and asked the ARC to re-interview Dave Karlik since there had been no recommendation given regarding his nomination for the ASUCLA Board of Directors.
- Park asked what this did to the appointment timeline, to which Kaisey said that Council was going to have to meet during Finals Week.
- Williams reminded Kaisey that the ASUCLA Board of Directors retreat was on June 19<sup>th</sup> and the undergraduate appointees really needed to be at that retreat.

#### VI. Fund Allocations

*There were no Fund Allocations at this meeting.*

#### VII. Officer and Member Reports

##### **Internal Vice President – Gregory Cendana**

- Cendana said that Agenda Items were going to be due every Thursday at 5:00 pm, and if there were attachments they needed to be given by that date and time as well. He said that there had been difficulties last week due to late submissions. Cendana said that he had emailed out the updated USAC roster, and since there had been no corrections he then passed out the roster again. Cendana said that he had gotten a number of office applications, and would be interviewing individuals for working on the IVP staff.

##### **President – Marwa Kaisey**

- Kaisey said that last week her office had sponsored an event to bring one of the gubernatorial candidates to UCLA. She next said that she and Zai had gone to a meeting of the Wooden Center Board of Governors (WCBOG), and said that it had been cool to see how much funding went through there and how many students they served. Kaisey also told Council that she had met with Graduate Students Association leaders to talk about the committees and governing bodies to which they and USAC made appointments. She next said that the new Kosher/Halal food was available on the Hill, and it was great that those two communities had been brought together and united on this common issue. Kaisey said that she, too, was staffing her office, but was spending much of her time on appointments. She said that the appointment application deadline had also been extended with the exception of the four committees listed on the Agenda at the present meeting.
- Park asked what kind of outreach Kaisey was doing to elicit more appointment applications, to which Kaisey said that there had been a Daily Bruin advertisement, she was emailing group leaders, and was also meeting with group leaders personally.
- McLaren added that a global email about the extension of the application deadline had been sent out from the Center for Student Programming.
- Kaisey said that she would appreciate any help from other offices in advertising the extended deadline for applications. She moved on with her report, saying that she wanted to write letters from USAC to student groups thanking them for serving their campus. Kaisey lastly said that she and Price had gone to a Student Psychological Services (SPS) meeting.
- Tuttle asked if Kaisey would have provided a forum on campus for any gubernatorial candidate, regardless of their party affiliation, to which Kaisey said that she would have.



## VIII. Old Business

**A. Discussion of Summer Retreat and Summer Meeting Schedule**

- Kaisey suggested that Council meet Thursday evening of Finals week at 7:00 pm.
- Cendana, Park, Zai, and Araabi said that they were not available at that time.
- Kaisey asked how many people had Wednesday finals to which six people replied that they did. She asked how many had Thursday finals to which five replied that they did.
- Doria suggested meeting earlier in the day on Thursday, but this time did not work either. Someone suggested Thursday at 6:00 pm, to which Tuttle recommended that they not limit the time available for discussion of appointees by too much.
- Regarding meetings in July and August, Kaisey said that Council would meet every other Wednesday, and she specified the dates as July 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, and August 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Several members of Council complained about Wednesdays, to which Kaisey said that she had reached this decision based on the emails she had received from Council regarding their Summer availability. She said that Wednesday was better for more people than Tuesday was.
- Park said that they had not set summer quorum yet, and they might not be able to achieve quorum with so many people missing the Wednesday meetings. Kaisey said that she thought it would work out.
- Kaisey moved on to the USAC retreat, and asked Cendana to present the information. Cendana said that USAC's Retreat was going to be held the last weekend of August. He then asked that the other members of the retreat committee meet with him an hour before the USAC meeting which would be held during Finals week.
- Araabi said that he would not be able to attend the retreat, and asked that it be pushed back. Kaisey said that, by pushing it back, fewer people would be able to attend for various reasons, and Council really needed to meet as soon as possible.
- Cendana suggested sending two staff members for each member who could not be there.
- Park suggested September 2<sup>nd</sup>, which would allow Malik to attend.
- Tuttle asked if the problem with September 15<sup>th</sup> was Resident Assistant (RA) training, to which Kaisey said that it was, as RA training went from Sept 7<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of school.
- Park suggested September 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>, which were weekdays, saying that the rate for the retreat site would be lower on weekdays. Kaisey said that weekdays were a problem because the administrative representatives probably wouldn't be able to attend.
- McLaren asked if the weekend Kaisey was recommending was Labor Day Weekend, to which Kaisey replied that it was.
- Caba said that some Council members worked on weekdays, too.
- Price suggested the night of Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, through Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, which would allow for the Jewish members of Council to attend Temple.
- Kaisey said that one of the likely problems with Labor Day weekend was that it would be more expensive and harder to find an available site.
- Schuster pointed out that it would be nice if Council members could take vacations that weekend, but Kaisey said that Labor Day weekend really seemed to be the only viable possibility.
- Kaisey said that she would set a backup date based on peoples' availability and asked that the committee start looking immediately for a place to hold the retreat.

## IX. New Business

**A. \*Summer Quorum**

- Doria moved and Price seconded to set the USAC Summer Meeting Quorum at seven (7) Council members.

*Four members indicated that they would miss some or all of the Summer meetings.*

- Park said that her concern was to make sure that the split council maintained proportion during the summer meetings.
- Doria pointed out that, in the face of any wrongdoing, anyone could walk out of the meeting and cause Council to lose quorum.

- Tuttle said he thought that walking out to break quorum was a terrible idea, and said such actions could destabilize student government.
- Cendana said that it would set precedent to ensure that the balance was maintained and would prevent people from having to walk out of the room.
- Williams suggested discussing meeting-by-meeting to see who could be at which meetings.
- Kaisey said that seven was the traditional Summer quorum, but she did see a value in being sensitive to maintaining the split council ratio.
- Tuttle said that, last year, Council maintained the quorum of nine instead of lowering it to seven, as has been customary in order for Council to be able to meet during the Summer. He said that last year he had been concerned USAC's inability to act because they had set quorum that was very difficult to attain during the Summer. Tuttle supported the idea of setting Summer quorum at seven.
- Doria said that, according to Robert's Rules, the normal quorum in this instance would be the majority vote number, which would be seven.
- Doria moved and Dehar seconded to Call the Question on the motion to set the USAC Summer Meeting Quorum at seven (7) Council members.
- Council voted to Call the Question on the motion to set the USAC Summer Meeting Quorum at seven (7) Council members with a vote of 8 in favor, 3 opposed, and 1 abstention.
- Council voted to set the USAC Summer Meeting Quorum at seven (7) Council members with a vote of 6 in favor, 4 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

#### **B. Discussion Pertaining to the Official Rules of the Judicial Board**

- Kaisey said that the Judicial Board members had discussed changing their rules and would be submitting them to USAC for its information. She said that the current Chief Justice, Aaron Gerschbock, told her he had researched the issue of who actually wrote the Judicial Board Rules and had determined that the Judicial Board itself had that responsibility.
- Aaron Gerschbock then introduced himself to Council and told Council that there were a lot of problems with the way things were being handled under the existing J-Board Rules. He said that one of these was the sheer amount of paperwork that was necessary to file a case. Gerschbock said that, after interviewing many different people who knew about the Judicial Board, the Judicial Board had rewritten its rules in a better way. He said they had then summarized the new rules in a document which he distributed to Council. He explained that he was not at the meeting to seek USAC's approval, because the Judicial Board did not need it, but rather because he wanted USAC to pass a resolution in support of, and accepting the rules, that would probably be finalized by the J-Board later in the week. Gerschbock explained he was asking for a resolution because all the rules had been rewritten several years ago without any approval from USAC in a way which resulted in alienating certain members of the administration. He said that those rules had been used and had gone unchallenged since 2003, even 'though they had really never been universally accepted or recognized. Gerschbock said that these new rules, among other things, would prevent the Judicial Board members from kicking its advisor out of the room except if the Judicial Board voted to do so with at least a 2/3 vote. Gerschbock further referenced the document he had passed out to Council, saying that its main goals were to make the process both easier and faster, while maintaining a high degree of fairness. He said that, for USAC, this meant that Election Board cases could now be settled within five days.
- Doria asked who the Judicial Board advisor was, to which Gershbock said that it was Kenn Heller. Doria read from the new guidelines, and asked if they referenced undergraduates versus graduates, to which Gerschbock said that the official rules stipulated that they had to be undergraduates.
- Price asked if there was a way for Council to get a copy of the final rules, to which Gerschbock said that, after the new rules were approved by the J-Board, Council would be given a copy of the complete unabridged set.
- Gerschbock said that the holdup was because they were waiting on unanimous approval of each and every section of the proposed document.
- Schuster asked when the Judicial Board had begun work on this. Gerschbock said that he had been installed as Chief Justice in April of 2006, soon after which he and the rest of the Judicial

Board had decided that the rules needed to be revised. Schuster asked for confirmation that this process had taken only about a month, to which Gerschbock replied that was correct.

- Tuttle said that he did not recall a 2/3 vote required to overrule an advisor's opinion, to which Gerschbock said that this was a new addition to protect the opinion of the advisor.

### **C. Discussion Pertaining to Stipend for Members of the Judicial Board**

- Gershbock said that he was graduating in June, so this issue would not apply to him, but he said he believed the Judicial Board members needed and deserved a stipend. He said that he wanted to present this idea to Council and ask if there was anything that would or could be done before the next Judicial Board took office to provide stipends for each member. Gerschbock said that there were many reasons why the Judicial Board members deserved a stipend, including the sheer amount of time that they invested. He said that, secondly, the Judicial Board was asked and expected to remain unbiased and intrinsically uninvolved, and that was easier to do by appointees who were receiving a stipend. Gerschbock said that another reason was that the new rules required the Judicial Board to meet at least twice per month, which was an even greater drain on their time, adding to his initial point.
- Kaisey asked what the purpose of those semi-weekly meetings would be, to which Gerschbock said that this was still under consideration. For that reason, he said he was hesitant to speak on the matter, but went on to say that it would be time that could be used to review various documents, discuss new and old business or recent activity, and to discuss making changes or amendments to the soon-to-be approved Judicial Board Rules.
- Doria suggested implementing the new rules and then having the Judicial Board assume the responsibilities of the Constitutional Review Committee. Price disagreed with Doria's suggestion, saying that it was important for Council to oversee their Constitution and Bylaws themselves.
- Price asked if the stipends were agreed upon by the Judicial Board. Gerschbock replied that everyone on the Judicial Board would appreciate a stipend, and pointed out that the issue was being pushed by the graduating members because they would not benefit from the institution of a stipend. In response to Doria's remark about the Judicial Board replacing the Constitutional Review Committee, Gerschbock said that it was not Judicial Board's role to unseat any existing committee members or to take over any of the powers or rights of USAC.
- Ly said that his concern with stipending the Judicial Board members was that it would take money away from programming. He also said he thought it was a bad idea to stipend a board that met only sporadically. Gerschbock said that, even though the Judicial Board had not met regularly in the past, that would change once the new rules were in place. He said that the members of the Judicial Board would earn their stipends by holding regular meetings and investing more time in carrying out their responsibilities.
- Doria asked Gerschbock why Judicial Board members had not been stipended in the past. Gerschbock replied that he had applied to serve on the Judicial Board with the understanding that there actually was a stipend, and that it was generous enough to cover his fees. He said he later found out that the J-Board members did not get any stipend at all. He said that McLaren told him that J-Board once received a stipend, but that it had been forgotten about in recent years. McLaren objected to Gerschbock's statement, saying that he had misquoted her. She said that what she had told Gerschbock was that she had looked into the matter and could find no record of the Judicial Board members *ever* receiving a stipend. She said further that the Judicial Board was covered in USAC's Overhead Budget for such things as basic supplies and photocopies, but did not include a stipend for any of the Judicial Board members. She said that she did not know why the Judicial Board was not stipended, but offered the thought that it might have been considered a way to prevent politicizing of the appointments. McLaren said it appeared that Gerschbock had been misinformed by someone about his entitlement to a stipend. Following McLaren's remarks, Gerschbock said he *had* been told that he would receive a stipend, and acknowledged that he did not get that information from McLaren.
- Tuttle said that he would ask around about whether or not there had ever been a stipend for the Judicial Board.
- Price recommended referring this issue to committee. Kaisey said that she would recommend forwarding the new rules to the Constitutional Review Committee so that they could look them

over, and then write a resolution with the incoming Chief Justice reflecting USAC's support of the new rules. Kaisey said, with regard to the stipend issue, that Council would first have to decide whether they wanted to stipend the Judicial Board and, if so, they would then need to determine where those funds would come from. Gerschbock said that he was not expecting immediate action, but said he thought it would be nice if the issue could be resolved by the end of summer.

- Tuttle said that a motion to refer the issue to the Constitutional Review Committee might be appropriate.
- Doria moved and Cendana seconded to forward the Judicial Board documents, once made available, to the Constitutional Review Committee.
- Council voted to forward the Judicial Board documents, once made available, to the Constitutional Review Committee with a vote of 11 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Gerschbock asked when Kaisey thought that the CRC would be prepared to write the resolution with the Judicial Board. Kaisey said that Council would first have to fill the open seats on the Judicial Board, but said she hoped that they could begin work in July. Gerschbock offered the services of the outgoing Judicial Board members if they were needed.

X. Announcements

- Zai said that the North Village meeting was coming up if anyone wanted to accompany her.
- Sargent passed around a written officer report to Council.
- McLaren said that every office and commission could have a password protected account set up for them in the Student Government Computer Lab. She then she handed out the relevant form and asked everyone to complete and return them to her at their convenience so that the Computer Center Operators could get the accounts set up.

XI. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*Villasin passed around the attendance sheet.*

XII. Adjournment

- Cendana moved and Park seconded to adjourn.
- Zai called for approval by Unanimous Consent. Kaisey asked if there were any objections to approval by Unanimous Consent. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m. by Unanimous Consent.

XIII. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael Keesler  
USAC Minutes Taker