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UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday, August 7, 2007
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Rose, Chang, Colosimo, Ducharm, Hotter, Iberti, Jang, Lyon, McLaren, Nelson, Pham, Sajan, Shaw, Sobhani, Tanjuaquio, Tressel, Tuttle, Williams

ABSENT: Mossahebfar, Weintraub

GUESTS: Lucy Benz-Rogers, Zakir Khan

I. A. Call to Order

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

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Tanjuaquio said, regarding Appointments, to remove from the Agenda the Drug-Free Schools, the LGBT Board of Advisors, the Office Space Allocation Committee Chair, and the Student Activities Center Board of Governors. She said they would be recommending appointments to the Judicial Board and the UCLA Committee on Disability.
- Lyon said to remove the Old Business Item from the Agenda on the Reconsideration of the Resolution to Reinstate EAP-Israel.
- Tanjuaquio moved and Lyon seconded to approve the Agenda as amended. There being no objections, Council voted to approve the Agenda, as amended, with a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

(Hotter arrived at the meeting.)

III. Approval of the Minutes

July 31, 2007

- Sajan asked to remove her statement under Officer and Member Reports.
- Dr. Nelson said, with regard to his Officer and Member Report, that the wording needed to be changed to reflect that he met the Chancellor's wife a couple of months ago and had met the new Chancellor recently.
- Lyon said that, under New Business, to correct the wording regarding approval of the Resolution by deleting the words "until next week's meeting."
- Also regarding the New Business Item, Pham said that he, not Jang, was the one who asked if the ban applied just to Israel.
- Regarding the motion to table the Resolution regarding the EAP-Israel Program, Sajan said that she was the one who made the motion, not Jang.
- Shaw said that the wording of the motion to table needed to be changed to say that they were not tabling because they wanted to gather more information on the ban, but because they wanted to make the Resolution more inclusive.
- Sajan moved and Lyon seconded to approve the Minutes of July 31, 2007 as amended.

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- Council voted to approve the motion with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

IV. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments this week.

V. Special Presentations

There were no Special Presentations this week.

VI. Appointments

***UCLA Committee on Disability**

- Shaw gave background on the interview ARC had with McMhorimel Tan Fernandez. Shaw said that Fernandez was highly qualified to serve on this Committee for a number of reasons. She said that Fernandez has a brother who is autistic, and she currently works closely with her brother and with other people with disabilities. She said Fernandez also has served as co-director of a program in her community which works directly with people in the disabled community. She said Fernandez spoke about wanting to outreach to the Drug-Free Schools Committee because of her experience in attending AA meetings with her father when she was a child.
- Before they moved to a vote, Jang said that Shaw referred to Fernandez as a "she," and Jang was thinking that Fernandez was a "he." Shaw said that Jang was probably correct on that.
- Lyon moved and Shaw seconded to approve the Appointment of McMhorimel Tan Fernandez to the UCLA Committee on Disability.
- Council approved the motion with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

***Judicial Board**

- Tanjuaquio said that the ARC had met and agreed, by a 2-0-0 vote, to recommend both Kim Menaster and Michael Kelso for a position on the Judicial Board.
- Tanjuaquio said that Menaster was highly qualified because of her experience as an intern at the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles Public Defender's Office. She said that Menaster had been involved with student government and served as an Assistant Commissioner of the Community Service Commission where she worked on the Constitutional Task Force under last year's commissioner, Farheen Malik. She said that Menaster has no apparent conflicts of interest.
- Tanjuaquio said that Kelso also had very strong credentials for serving on the Judicial Board. She said he had worked part-time for 1-1/2 years for an attorney in his home town. She said he is very involved with UCLA's Mock Trial Team as Co-Captain, and is Director of the UCLA Mock Trial Tournament. She said he also serves on the Executive Board of the Phi Alpha Beta Pre-Law Fraternity.
- Lyon moved and Chang seconded to appoint Kim Menaster and Michael Kelso to the Judicial Board.
- Dr. Tuttle asked if the applicants were at the meeting and was told that they were both out of town. Tuttle said he raised this question because the Judicial Board and Election Board appointments are probably the most important ones that Council makes. He said that Council members should have the opportunity to ask questions of the nominees before they are appointed, especially if the nominees have been involved in politics. He said that having participated in politics would not necessarily disqualify a nominee, but said it's better to raise these questions before someone is appointed rather than afterwards. He asked if anyone on Council was aware of any political involvement by these nominees.
- Rose said that Kelso had handed out flyers during this year's USAC election.

- Tuttle asked if Rose and any other members on Council knew of any political comments Kelso made which might disqualify him. He also asked if Kelso had been involved in strategizing for any slate of candidates.
- Rose and Sajan each responded no.
- Tuttle asked if anyone on the ARC had had a conversation with Menaster and Kelso about "going dirty," and asked if the nominees had been made aware of the gravity of "going dirty."
- Tanjuaquio said they asked lots of questions about conflicts of interest and felt the nominees were very honest and would be fair in interpreting any cases that came before them.
- With regard to Kelso, Bernice Shaw and Parsa Sobhani said they were in the room when the telephone interview was being conducted with him. They said that Kelso was asked if he would be willing to give up his roles in Mock Trial or the Bruin Democrats if a case came before the Judicial Board on either of these organizations. Kelso indicated that he would be able to do so.
- Sajan said she was beginning to think it would be best to table Kelso's appointment until he can attend the meeting and be questioned by Council.
- Shaw agreed with Sajan's recommendation, saying that it's not easy to cover all the bases in a conference call.
- Tuttle said, at the very least, he hoped that the IVP would relay Council's concerns to the nominees.
- Tanjuaquio said she understands how important the Judicial Board appointments are. For that reason, she said she had talked with Aaron Israel, Judicial Board's Chief Justice, to get his input.
- Rose said that ARC conducted a very thorough interview, and he didn't think they would gather any more information by interviewing Kelso in person.
- Nelson said it's always a good idea to bring major appointees to the meeting because their comments will be on the record. He said if there were no important matters pending before Judicial Board, he didn't see any problem in waiting until the nominees can attend the meeting to answer questions. He mentioned that he was aware of a current issue before the Graduate Students Association which might result in a lawsuit against GSA.
- Rose said he was concerned that the Judicial Board has only four members at the present time, and he would rather have more members in place in case an issue is brought before the Judicial Board.
- Sajan said that she understood Rose's point, but she thought Dr. Nelson's comment about having the interviews on record overrides Rose's concern.
- Sobhani said it was the longest interview they held and felt that nothing was left unaddressed.
- Jang said he thought that bringing Kelso to the meeting would not result in any other information.
- Shaw said she recognized that they had a very extensive interview with the nominees, but pointed out that only three members of Council were involved in the interviewing process.
- Rose said that Kelso will not be back on Campus until Fall Quarter. Someone raised the question as to whether they should appoint Menaster at this meeting.
- Sajan, referring to Dr. Tuttle's comments and questions, moved to table all Judicial Board appointments until the nominees can attend the meeting. The motion was seconded by Shaw.
- The motion to table all Judicial Board appointments until the nominees can attend the meeting failed with a vote of 2 in favor, 4 opposed, and 4 abstentions.
- Rose said that, because the motion to table the Judicial Board appointments had failed, the motion to approve the Judicial Board appointments is now back on the table. He recommended that Council vote on each nominee separately.
- Council voted to appoint Michael Kelso to the Judicial Board with a vote of 5 in favor, 1 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

- Rose said that the motion to approve the second Judicial Board nominee, Kim Menaster, is now on the table.
- Sajan said before they voted on Menaster, she wanted to reiterate her opinion that she would feel more comfortable if the nominees were available to answer questions.
- Tuttle asked Tanjuaquio if the interview with Menaster had brought out any signs of partisanship by the nominee.
- Tanjuaquio said that Menaster told them she had been very involved last year with a special project of the Community Services Commission, but would not be involved with it in the coming year.
- Rose said he knew of no partisanship on Menaster's part.
- Chang said that Menaster was very fair in the way she handled her responsibilities last year with the Community Services Commission.
- Tuttle asked Tanjuaquio if she was convinced of Menaster's fairness. Tanjuaquio said she definitely was.
- Rose said that he couldn't think of a better candidate for the Judicial Board than Menaster.
- Tressel said he agreed with Tuttle about the importance of having nominees available for questioning by Council members.
- Sajan said she feels it is very important to have the nominees here, and is more convinced of that because of Dr. Nelson's and Dr. Tuttle's comments. She said she would like to take one more shot at tabling the Judicial Board appointments and referred to Dr. Nelson's comment about a possible lawsuit against GSA. She said that USAC could be sued as well.
- Sobhani pointed out that the purpose of the ARC is to interview nominees and make recommendations to Council. He said that tabling these appointments seems to be in conflict with the role of the members of the ARC. He said further that he didn't think having the nominees at the meeting to answer questions would result in any different answers.
- Sajan said again that she felt it was very important to have the nominees at the meeting.
- Rose said he would ask Aaron Israel if he would be comfortable with having just six of the seven positions filled. He then said he would like to end the discussion and move to a vote on Kim Menaster.
- Council voted to approve the appointment of Kim Menaster to the Judicial Board with a vote of 8 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention.

VII. Fund Allocations

* Contingency Allocations

- Sobhani said that two contingency requests were submitted this week totaling \$1,168.00. He said that he was recommending total allocations of \$754.35, of which \$450.00 was allocated via his discretionary authorization.
- Chang said she had a couple of questions for Sobhani. She asked why Alpha Kappa Alpha's request was handled via discretionary. Sobhani said their event begins on August 8 and their allocation needed to be approved before the event.
- Chang then asked why Sobhani was recommending more funding for Alpha Kappa Alpha than he was recommending for Samahang Pilipino.
- Sobhani said that he was guided by their statement of need and Alpha Kappa Alpha's was much stronger than Samahang's.
- Tanjuaquio moved and Lyon seconded to approve the Finance Committee's Contingency Allocations recommendations.
- Council approved the motion with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Gabe Rose

- Rose said that his office is working on the Activities Fair and that 200 groups had already signed up to participate. He said there was not an endless number of tables, so he recommended that any groups who wanted to be involved get their registration in immediately.

Internal Vice President – Diane Tanjuaquio

- Tanjuaquio said she used her telephone authorization code last night and it was very exciting.

External Vice President – Justin Hotter

- Hotter said he had asked someone at UCSA to send him electronic copies of UCSA's Action Agenda Items for the coming year and was waiting to hear back from them.

Administrative Representatives – Dr. Berky Nelson

- Dr. Nelson said that Eugene Acosta, BOL Manager, had dropped by his office this afternoon to ask that USAC appoint someone to the BOL Advisory Group. Rose said he thought this came under his responsibilities and said he would move forward on this appointment.

Cultural Affairs Commissioner – Bernice Shaw

- Shaw said she and Iberti had been working on Bruin Bash and are very excited because they have already booked their headliner - T.I. - who was last year's #1 rap artist,

IX. Old Business

(The Old Business Item was removed from the Agenda.)

X. New Business

Presentation of USAC Action Agenda Items

- Rose said he didn't have his quite finished but was working on it.
- Shaw presented information on her Action Agenda Item entitled "Campus Safety Alliance." She said she had handed out information on this at the Retreat. She then outlined the role of each USAC officer in accomplishing the goals of this item. She said she would email the complete document to everyone on Council. She ended by saying she felt that campus safety is a particularly relevant and important issue at this time, especially in light of the tasing incident.
- Lyon described the elements of her proposed Action Agenda Item entitled "Engagement in the LA Community." She said that every Council member would participate by directing their office's programming toward themes and topics that relate to the Los Angeles community within such areas as art, social justice, community service, politics, music, movies, theatre, dance, and community health. She said that, as students within the LA area, Council members should be committed to connecting other UCLA undergraduates to the resources of the community in which they live. She said that she would email the details of her proposal to Council.
- Colosimo said that her proposed Action Agenda Item is about "Student Governance." She said she had done a lot of research on this issue and had found that such a process had been initiated about 10 years ago, but was never effectively carried out. She said the goal of this item would be to have undergraduate students appointed to every significant committee on campus including, but not limited to, the Academic Senate. She said her assessment of what happened in the past led her to conclude that USAC needed to commit itself to making all of their appointments early in their term, and to ensure that the Committee appointees attend the meetings and report back to Council

- after each meeting. She talked about Council's responsibility in every aspect of this process and said she would be emailing details to Council as soon as she and her Chief of Staff finished putting them together.
- Sajan said that she really loved this Action Agenda Item. She said that she has been talking with lots of people about this issue and found out that students had fought for representation on a number of important committees.
 - Williams said that having student representatives on committees certainly changes the way the discussions go, and said he was very much in favor of student representation on committees.
 - Rose pointed out that the ASUCLA Board of Directors is a student majority board and commended ASUCLA for that.
 - Colosimo said she had talked with employees in various departments on campus and said, as an example, that Career Services told her they would love to have students appointed to serve on their committee.
 - Colosimo said that she had gotten some numbers on where student fees go. She said that it appears that 14 percent of student fees support on-campus departments. She said that if that information was accurate, she thought students should have 14 percent representation on university committees.
 - Tressel said he thought this was a great idea remarking that, when he served as Community Services Commissioner 20 years ago, the appointments process was much stronger than it appears to be now.
 - Tuttle remarked that Christina Doan, USAC's IVP of two years ago, had set up a system for USAC appointees to report back on every meeting. He said the appointees were also asked to let her know when the committee was not holding regular meetings. He said that Council could quantify this information.
 - Colosimo said she wanted to get information about this Action Agenda Item publicized, in some way, very soon. She mentioned the possibility of a USAC Resolution.
 - Sajan suggested a joint USA/GSA Resolution.
 - Tressel said they might want to wait until students are back in Fall quarter, rather than publishing it in the summer when fewer students are around.
 - Tuttle suggested that they go for broke, and that they get out in front on this. He suggested that USAC also push for having the committee meetings scheduled at convenient times for student participation.
 - Williams supported Tuttle's recommendation and suggested that Council might want to approach the new Chancellor about student participation in university governance.
 - Rose commended everyone for the great amount of time they had spent away from the table in putting together these Action Agenda Items. He said there appeared to be consensus on adopting all four items.
 - Shaw asked if they could appoint people at the next meeting so they would have something tangible to work with.

XI. Announcements

- Rose announced that, last week, UCLA's Office of Media Relations posted on their website the results and recommendations of two independent investigations of the Taser Incident at UCLA. He said that the full report is about 110 pages long.
- Iberti encouraged everyone to sign up for the Activities Fair.
- Tanjuaquio said that she was the only USAC member who tabled at the Orientation Fair yesterday, and said she even took time off from work to do it.
- Lyon gave props to everyone who had been helping out at the Orientation Fair.
- Council was reminded that their Student Government Operational Fund applications were due on Friday to the Budget Review Director, Sean Chibnik. Jang asked Nelson if he would be able to sign the SGOF proposals, and Nelson said that he would.

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XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Rose said that, before they adjourned, he wanted to remind Council that the next meeting would be in two weeks on Tuesday, August 21.
- Hotter moved and Jang seconded to adjourn. There being no objections, Council voted to adjourn the meeting with 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,
USAC Minutes Taker