

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday, November 13, 2007
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chang, Chibnick, Colosimo, Hotter, Iberti, Jang, Lyon, Mann, McLaren, Mossahebfar, Pham, Rose, Sobhani, Tanjuaquio, Tressel, Tuttle, Weintraub

ABSENT: Nelson, Sajan, Shaw, Williams

GUESTS: Kathleen Hsu, Sarah Jo, Daniel Mabasa, Davin Molmen, Neilda Pacquing, Frank Refuerzo, Crystal Ung

I. A. Call to Order

- Rose called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Rose amended the agenda, adding a discussion concerning the WASC capstone essay under Old Business.
- Mossahebfar moved and Lyon seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.
- Rose called for Acclamation. Rose asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Agenda was approved, as amended, by Acclamation.

III. Approval of the Minutes

There were no Minutes this week.

IV. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments this week.

V. Special Presentations

Give2network- Crystal Ung

- Crystal Ung gave a presentation on the Give2network, and how student groups can raise money by using a specially designed toolbar for web browsing and searching. Her biggest need is finding a way to reach and promote to student groups. Some questions were brought up concerning how one raises money, which is done by searching and using the toolbar. She was told to go to the Center for Student Programming, where they could help her promote the program to student groups. Also, tax id numbers are required, but student groups can not get tax id numbers, so they will have to go through Student Government Accounting.

VI. Appointments

OSAC Appointments

1. Frank Refuerzo

- Lyon moved and Mossahebfar seconded to approve the Appointment of Frank Refuerzo to OSAC.
- Rose raised a concern about the number of members on OSAC being a member of the same group. He said by appointing both Refuerzo and Mabasa, there would be two members of Samahang Pilipino on OSAC, along with one alternate. This would leave the possibility of having 3 members of one group holding a majority vote within OSAC. Council members discussed this issue for an extended period of time to determine how to address Rose's concerns. Dr. Tuttle asked if Samahang has a membership list. Pacquing said they do. Dr. Tuttle asked if they had to pay dues. Pacquing said no. Dr. Tuttle then established that the membership list is the criteria for determining membership within Samahang. Pacquing asked whether someone who is on the Samahang membership list, but has never attended the meeting, would be counted as a member. It was suggested that one remedy would be for a member to withdraw his membership officially from Samahang. Dr. Tuttle suggested that the situation should be sent to J-Board for review. Rose advocated that USAC approve both appointments; with the proviso that Pacquing would be responsible for monitoring and overseeing the voting records to ensure so that no three members of any one group compromises a majority of the voting five. Rose asked if everyone was ok with his recommendation, and asked if there was need for further discussion.
- There being no need for further discussion, Council voted to approve the Appointment of Frank Refuerzo as a Member of OSAC with a vote of 9-0-1

2. Daniel Mabasa

- Lyon moved and Mossahebfar seconded to approve the Appointment of Daniel Mabasa to OSAC.
- Council voted to approve the Appointment of Daniel Mabasa as an Alternate Member of OSAC with a vote of 9-0-0.

VII. Fund Allocations

- Sobhani said that there were two Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$2959.75. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$725.00. (*Detailed information on the nine Contingency Requests is included with this Agenda packet*).
- Sobhani moved and Jang seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Rose was concerned with the disparity between the amount requested and the amount recommended and asked Sobhani to explain.
- Sobhani responded that the strength of an application is a huge factor in his decision. He said that in regards to Hermanas Unidas, the fact that it was a retreat is another factor.
- Council voted to approve the Finance Committee Allocation recommendations with a vote of 10-0-0.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Gabe Rose

Rose asked everyone to take good care of the Fellows that they have been assigned. He said it is their first USAC experience, so it should be a memorable one.

Internal Vice President – Dianne Tanjuaquio

Tanjuaquio said that she and Lyon are collaborating on a fund raiser for victims of the San Diego fires. They will be selling wristbands for the next two weeks. She also went to the meeting of the UC Regents at Covell Commons, and she spoke in favor of SB 190. The bill will require that the UC Regents have their sessions open to the public so people can know when compensations and bonuses are approved. Tanjuaquio also asked that they begin this process before the bill passes as a sign of good faith.

External Vice President – Justin Hotter

Hotter said the Students of Color Conference was held last weekend. Many people dropped out at the last minute, but 34 people participated and had a great time. The UC Regents meeting is happening now until Thursday at Covell Commons. He said everyone should go and make comments because it concerns increasing student fees, thus limiting access to higher education. The Regents are voting on the fee increase on Wednesday.

IX. Old Business

A. WASC Re-Accreditation Capstone Essay

- Rose said that Vice Provost Judith Smith emailed him asking if USAC had discussed the essay and if they would endorse the capstone essay. In addition, the student senate also put their stamp of approval on it. Rose wanted to know if anybody had a problem with endorsing it, but not many of the USAC members had time to review the capstone essay. Weintraub had some misgivings about employing a capstone undergraduate education at a large research university, and Chang presented some questions concerning implementation in smaller departments, or departments where the student-faculty ratio was too large. Dr. Tuttle also had some questions about the framework of the new system, and proposed that the appointees from Weintraub's office may have the answers. It was deemed more prudent to vote on the matter next week.

X. New Business

A. USAC Bylaws Change – Academic Success Referendum Fund, Mini-Fund

- Weintraub said that 60% of her office's funds are locked up in the ASRF Mini-Fund but, due to stipulations in the guidelines, not much of it gets into student groups' hands.
- The current guidelines are that no group can apply more than once a quarter and that each group can not be awarded more than \$500. The proposed change is to remove the application restriction, and raise the allocation cap to \$1000.
- Weintraub moved and Jang seconded to approve the USAC Bylaws Change to the Academic Success Referendum Fund, Mini-Fund allocations process.
- A concern that was brought up was the possibility of student groups being allocated too much money from the Mini-Fund, creating a budgeting problem for the school. This was put to rest, because each allocation request must be approved by USAC, thus leaving the final say of all requests with USAC. Also, publicity was brought into the picture as to getting the message out about the change. They are going to look into a publicity campaign for the new change, such as putting ads in the Daily Bruin, but it was also brought up that a change like this is publicity in itself.
- Council voted to approve the USAC Bylaws Change to the Academic Success Referendum Fund, Mini-Fund allocations process with a vote of 10-0-0.

XI. Announcements

- Jang said his office is hosting a debt management seminar this Thursday at 5:00 p.m. Come if you want to learn how to handle debt. It is in one of the smaller rooms in DeNeve.
- Lyon said the First General Representative's sponsored the "Never Forget" event tonight with a screening of *Hotel Rwanda*. An actor from the movie, Hakeem Kaie-Kazim, is there. There will be free pizza and donuts.
- Pham said SWC's next blood drive will begin on Wednesday. It will be in Ackerman 2414, from 10:30 a.m. To 4:30 p.m.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Chang moved and Lyon seconded to adjourn.
- Rose called for Acclamation. Rose asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker