

DRAFT

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday, December 4, 2007
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chang, Chibnick, Colosimo, Hotter, Iberti, Lyon, Mann, McLaren, Mossahebfar, Nelson, Rose, Sajan, Shaw, Sobhani, Tanjuaquio, Tressel, Tuttle, Weintraub, Williams

ABSENT: Jang, Pham

GUESTS: Selby Cole, Christina Davila, Van Duong, Pardis Famadian, Jeremiah Garcia, Sarah Jo, Jenn Lorch, Brittany Mauriss, David Molmen, Neilda Pacquing, Daniel Pham, Galen Roth, Christina Walter

I. A. Call to Order

- Rose called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Sajan amended the agenda, adding the Vietnamese Student Union's presentation on Human Rights in Vietnam to Special Presentations
- Lyon asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Shaw asked to have New Business moved in front of Funding Allocations.
- Mossahebfar added Censure of General Representative 3 to New Business.
- 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

November 20, 2007

- Tanjuaquio asked for a change under Public Comments. Galen Roth is spoken as a he, but Roth is a she.
- Sajan asked for a change on the page after New Business. It should be delineated that Tanjuaquio's motion to amend the amendment to IV.F of the OSAC Guidelines was using Sajan's language.
- Rose called for Acclamation. Rose asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Minutes of November 20, 2007 were approved, as amended, by Acclamation.

IV. Public Comments

- Jenn Lorch from the Student Health Advisory Committee brought to the board's attention that she will be making a presentation to the board early before negotiations

for a new student health plan begin with SHIP. She encouraged the board to take a closer look at the benefits currently in SHIP and also give their own opinion on what they would like to see changed or added to the new health plan. She also mentioned one of the important aspects of the new negotiations will be lower costs of all drugs.

V. Special Presentations

Vietnamese Student Union on Human Rights in Vietnam

- Daniel Pham, President of VSU, and Van Duong made a presentation in support of the Vietnamese Human Rights Act. VSU is trying to get letters signed by students so they can send them to the U.S. Senate. By letting the Senate hear the community's voice, they hope the Human Rights Act that is currently on the Senate floor will be get passed. They also urged the board to pass the bill in a show of support for human rights.

VI. Appointments

There were no Appointments this week.

VII. New Business

A. Vietnamese Student Union Resolution on Human Rights

- Sajan moved and Pham seconded to approve the VSU Resolution on Human Rights.
- Shaw asked what measures have been taken at other campuses. Daniel Pham said they have an intercollegiate network where similar actions have been taken.
- Rose said he had one concern about the resolution, being that USAC has been criticized in the past for passing bills regarding situations they can not control. He feels that they should add a clause to the resolution showing they also support the letter writing campaign.
- Shaw offered a friendly amendment adding that USAC supports the letter writing campaign. There were no objections.
- Hotter called for Acclamation. Rose asked if there were any objections. Iberti objected.
- Council voted to approve the VSU Resolution on Human Rights as amended with a vote of 10-0-0.

B. ASUCLA Fair Trade Resolution

- Shaw moved and Sajan seconded to approve the ASUCLA Fair Trade Resolution.
- The Fair Trade Resolution will make Fair Trade coffee the default solution for all ASUCLA establishments. It is currently an option in most ASUCLA establishments, and the price difference between Fair Trade coffee and regular coffee is only about 3-5 cents. By passing this resolution, the board would be able to help encourage a socially just environment for coffee agriculturalists, and the price difference would be almost negligible to the students.
- Williams said Fair Trade coffee has a history at UCLA and was originally created as an option for students to obtain feedback on it. However, since the market has been changing, the incremental cost of Fair Trade coffee and regular coffee would be 23 cents. 14% of the coffee on campus is fair trade, and there has been some student feedback on it. They should consider an advertising campaign to make Fair Trade coffee more apparent on campus. In addition, the marketing committee can do some research into the current Fair Trade market to try and obtain better prices, but the overall decision of social responsibility leans upon the board.
- Shaw mentioned the Social Justice Alliance could help work with ASUCLA to obtain better prices.
- Lyon said she feels the statement "Whereas, these students appear willing to pay more for better and fairly produced coffee," should be first legitimized by some study before being included in the resolution.

- Lyon moved and Mossahebfar seconded to strike “Whereas, these students appear willing to pay more for better and fairly produced coffee,” from the resolution.
- Rose called for Acclamation. Rose asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the statement “Whereas, these students appear willing to pay more for better and fairly produced coffee,” was stricken from the resolution, by Acclamation.
- Shaw moved and Mossahebfar seconded to strike “majority” from the statement “Whereas, the majority of University of California, Los Angeles, support Fair Trade and approve of its principles,” and replace it with “many students.”
- Rose called for Acclamation. Rose asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the statement “Whereas, the majority of University of California, Los Angeles, support Fair Trade and approve of its principles,” was replaced with “many students,” by Acclamation.
- Lyon said the resolution appears to have a number of clauses that have not been researched thoroughly and should be looked at again after said research is completed.
- Shaw said it would be best to pass the resolution now, so that Fair Trade may be presented to ASUCLA in a timely manner.
- Lyon, along with some other members of the board, expressed the sentiment that they would be more comfortable learning the facts behind the resolution before passing it.
- Shaw moved and Mossahebfar seconded to table the resolution.
- Rose called for Acclamation. Rose asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the ASUCLA Fair Trade Resolution was tabled, by Acclamation.

C. Shared Governance Resolution

- Colosimo said the Shared Governance Resolution would provide a voice through which students can express their discontent with the current “shared governance” policies. While many within the administration believe there is “shared governance” with the students, many within the student governments, including the graduate students, feel that the administrators brush them off to the side, nor listen to their opinions concerning decisions, especially those academic in nature.
- Colosimo moved and Sajan seconded to approve the Shared Governance Resolution.
- Tanjaquico said they want to pass a joint resolution with everyone behind it, including GSA and the Alumni Association.
- Tanjaquico offered a friendly amendment that she be added as a cosponsor. There were no objections.
- Nelson said the board should be cautious about giving equal representation to alumni, because there are certain areas that are unique to the student experience, and giving too much influence to alumni, especially in areas irrelevant to them, might not be the most appropriate action. After all, the people who know the university best are the students.
- Rose said the resolution does not put them on equal footing, just mentions “students and alumni” together.
- Williams said student commitment is paramount for this to work, because in the past there have been committees students sat on, but eventually stopped showing up.
- Lyon moved and Mossahebfar seconded to amend the resolution, adding the clause “Whereas, students and alumni elected to certain committees will commit to fulfilling their obligations as members of those committees.”
- Rose called for Acclamation. Rose asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the statement “Whereas, students and alumni elected to certain committees will commit to fulfilling their obligations as members of those committees,” was added to the resolution, by Acclamation.
- Council voted to approve the Shared Governance Resolution as amended with a vote of 10-0-0.

A. Contingency Allocations for December 4, 2007

- Sobhani said two groups this week did not understand what was required in the application process for retreats, which is why some allocations were capped at \$200.00 instead of the normal \$450.00. Also, the account number for VSU's Leadership Hope Project was canceled, and the money is now back in the contingency account.
- Sobhani said that there were 6 Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$7905.07. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$1716.00.
- Sobhani moved and Shaw seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Council voted to approve the Contingency Allocations for December 4, 2007 with a vote of 10-0-0.

B. Approval of Surplus Analysis

- Sobhani said it would be wise to approve the Surplus Analysis up to and including the line of Total Remaining Surplus Available for Allocation. By doing so, it would leave some funds free for USAC to easily use in projects of interest such as redoing the website, etc.
- Rose said the money left over is a literal surplus, and the bylaws have an autopilot built in to divvy up the money. By approving the entire analysis, all of the surplus would be locked up, instead of being at the disposal of USAC.
- Parsa moved and Lyon seconded to approve the Approval of Surplus Analysis up to and including the Total Remaining Surplus Available for Allocation.
- Council voted to approve the Approval of Surplus Analysis up to and including the Total Remaining Surplus Available for Allocation with a vote of 10-0-0.

C. Winter Programming Allocations

- Chibnik said the main difference this year were the number of USAC commissions that applied. 11 less USAC commissions applied, leading a decreased total overall. Any organizations receiving no allocations had invalid documentation.
- Lyon moved and Sajan seconded to approve the Winter Programming Allocations.
- Rose said he liked the idea of capping allocations, but did not fully understand the process.
- Sobhani said there were several exceptions based upon money already set aside for different events. It is a work in progress that they are trying to smooth out.
- Williams suggested that some annual events should be budgeted at the beginning of each year for sake of consistency and ease.
- Council voted to approve the Winter Programming Allocations with a vote of 10-0-0.

IX. Officer and Member Reports

President – Gabe Rose

Rose said his office has been productive in setting up programming for winter and spring. He also had a discussion with the Chancellor, with a heavy emphasis on the capstone essay and diversity on campus. The Chancellor also mentioned the idea of a large UCLA retreat with some administrators, students, and faculty. This would be a great future project. He was also not opposed to the idea of a bar on campus and is amenable to the idea of the structure of the project.

Internal Vice President – Dianne Tanjuaquio

Tanjuaquio said her office had a networking night with the Hill. It went really well and provided an opportunity for student groups to work with staff on the Hill in terms of programs and activities.

External Vice President – Justin Hotter

Hotter said his office worked on the Election Vision Campaign, which registered over 1,000 students to vote between zero week and this past week of November 28th. Also, seventeen streetlights in the Westwood area were repaired after his office contacted the

Bureau of Street Lighting. His office also has planned out for next quarter the Bruin Lobby Corp, which involves lobbying trips to Sacramento and D.C, and another Election Vision Campaign.

General Representative 1 – Michelle Lyon

Lyon said the Ashe website that everyone has complained about is being remodeled.

They have hired two designers who will work on it, and surveys will be sent out to students concerning the design of the site. Also, the last day to sign up for the alternate spring break trip is next Wednesday and is only a \$30 payment, but is apart of a larger \$150 total payment plus fund raising.

Community Service Commissioner – Stephanie Chang

Chang said she found a community service program in Salinas for spring break, which covers everything except dinner for five days. It involves outreach programs to women's and homeless shelters.

X. Old Business

A. OSAC Guidelines Changes

- Pacquing said the OSAC applications for office space will double as a survey to find out what student groups really need.
- Rose said the meeting they had last Friday brought a lot of issues forward, including need and validity of office space. By having both a survey and an application, OSAC can find the needs of student groups without using two different separate processes.
- Shaw said it would be better to send out a survey first to give groups some leeway between telling OSAC their needs and preempting them to apply for what they think is available.
- There were two prevailing sentiments among the board in regards to the OSAC joint survey/application. The first one, in favor of it, believes that a survey on office space will help gather more information in regards to how office space is or can be used, while an application at the same time will weed fluff out and allow for more thought to be introduced into the answers. The other sentiment is in favor of putting out a survey and application separately so information gathered from the surveys could be applied towards the applications. A survey could be used to find overall needs, not just office space, and it is best to have as much information as possible before creating an application.

B. Resolution to Censure General Representative 3

- Sobhani said the resolution recognizes that these documents concerning the validation of General Representative 3's Social Justice Speaker Series sent to the Financial Committee are forgeries, and General Representative 3 is responsible for signing off on them.
- Rose said they are not going to argue about forgeries until Sajan has a chance to speak.
- Nelson said this was the first time he had heard of this resolution, and he stressed that such activities should be treated with sensitivity. He also said making a resolution this quickly with overtones of criminal accusations is hasty, and some time should be given to gather more facts and engage more people. If something like this happens again down the road, more of the older people at the table should be involved also.
- Some members of the board believe since the General Representative 3 has admitted to the actions that have occurred, and \$40,000 in student fees are involved, the matter should be discussed in an open forum.
- Williams agreed with Nelson in that the board should have contacted the older members, because the resolution deals with not only liable statements, but legal matters as well.

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- Some members of the board feel since General Representative 3 admitted to the validity of the situation and it happened under such short notice, that a censure should immediately be considered.
- Sajan said as soon as she discovered the forgeries, she notified the budget committee. She trusted members of her staff to be honest, and neither noticed the forgeries immediately nor actively participated in their construction. She should have been more careful in signing off on the documents, but asks the board to give her more time and find out more behind these actions.
- Sobhani went through and described the e-mails that were forged. They were noticed to be forgeries because of several reasons, both technical and grammatical. On the e-mails, there were discrepancies in the time stamps, and there was no type of URL, which a normal e-mail usually contains. Also, the Carter Institute mentioned in the e-mails does not exist; instead, President Carter operates through the Carter Center. In addition, the honorariums mentioned were quite low, and the inclusion of statements such as "reduced price" shows an intent to cover up these initial low honorariums. Since the forgeries were discovered, no money was set aside. However, if money were to be set aside, it would be written off on various supply charges, and probably used elsewhere.
- Williams asked if you needed to have a contract and invoice of some type to release funds for programming. Since a contract and invoice is needed, Williams then asked why someone would set money aside they could not possibly get their hands on.
- Sajan said she did not sign off on the Gmail e-mails, and when she was notified of the situation, she went straight to the Budget Review Committee to try and alleviate the problem, including rescinding the application and the request for money. She asked the board to not pass the resolution, because it does not give a whole picture.
- Nelson said he is hearing a lot of assumptions of guilt, which is grossly unfair and self-righteous. To micromanage an entire office would mean one is not effective, and many on the board do not do so. Instead it is best to find the staff member responsible, and take it from there.
- Sajan said she asked her directors to send the URL stamped e-mails to BRC, but instead sent the Gmail versions, bypassing her authority.
- Chang said they did have suspicions, but did not go to Sajan directly, which was a mistake. Chang has also been in the situation where she does not look at everything she signs off on, and still does not look at everything.
- Sajan said some of the honorariums were reasonable, because they were able to get keynote speakers for low prices. However, the resolution is wrong, because it says she actively participated in the creation of forgeries, which is incorrect.
- Rose said the board should wait until they learn more, and it is also expected of Sajan to report on what she finds in her investigation.

XI. Announcements

- Shaw said Elizabeth Kucinich will be at UCLA tomorrow at noon, ready to talk about the war and student activism.
- Tanjuaquio said she just got the parking permit applications, along with four blue permit applications. The applications are for lots 4 and 5, with two permits being allocated to each office and the blue permits being allocated to the top four offices, unless need is specified or trades are made.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Mossahebfar moved and Chang seconded to adjourn.

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- Rose called for Acclamation. Rose asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker