

DRAFT

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday, April 8, 2008
Northwest Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chang, Chibnick, Colosimo, Iberti, Jang, Lyon, Melgar, Mossahebfar, Nelson, Rose, Sandler, Shaw, Sobhani, Tanjuaquio, Tressel, Tuttle, Weintraub, Williams

ABSENT: McLaren, Pham

GUESTS: Nimo Aras, Gilbert Chalon, Tom Dziadkowiec, Pardis Farhadian, Chris Flores, Scott Hanford, Hilary Habib, Kathleen Hsu, Sarah Jo, Taylor Kayatta, Lauren Klein, Natalie Knight, Jennifer Lorch, Tim Mullins, Kelly Osmundson, Alexandra Ramos, Tristan Reed, Marisol Rocha, Evan Shulman, Alli Swislocki, William Weiss, Tim Wen, Nicole Yoon, Amanda York

I. A. Call to Order

- Rose called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Tanjuaquio said Special Presentation A. is by Tim Mullins.
- Rose added TGIF and SFAC under New Business as non-action items.
- 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

March 3, 2008

- Rose said there is a slash between ASUCLA/BOD.
- Rose called for Acclamation. Rose asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Minutes of March 3, 2008 were approved, as amended, by Acclamation.

IV. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments this week.

V. Special Presentations

Tim Sanders from the Campus Sustainability Committee

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- Sanders said they have committed funds to the South Campus Center Project that ASUCLA is currently spearheading. They are also looking into satellite options for recreational facilities, such as getting more equipment in the dorms and getting the central focus off of the Wooden Center. They will also be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the John Wooden Center in May, and they currently have a committee in charge of it.
- Weintraub asked about the complaints concerning cell phone usage in the gym. Sanders said people complain the cell phones are hazardous and those using them use too much foul language. Williams said they are not supposed to allow cell phones in the gym due to the cameras on them.
- Weintraub asked how often the machines get sanitized. Sanders said they are sanitized every night.
- Rose asked how often the committee meets. Sanders says they meet every two or three weeks.
- Iberti asked about their committee meetings. Sanders said they have quorum every time they meet, which is about 8-9 members.
- Lyon asked what the governing board is doing to make connections to the Hill. Sanders said a lot of the work is limited to meetings, but he would like to see more advertising done up on the Hill and they hope to put more equipment in the dorms.

VI. Appointments

There were no Appointments this week.

VII. Fund Allocations

Contingency Allocations for April 8th, 2008

- Sobhani said that there were 19 Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$67,885.93. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$9,350.98. He said that he had made 8 allocations via his discretionary authorization.
- Sandler asked about the nature of the \$600 cap for discretionary allocations and why some groups were allocated above the cap. Sobhani said the cap can be overcome if the funding is inherently needed by the program or if the timely nature of the application is in no fault to the student group.
- Mossahebfar moved and Weintraub seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Council approved the Contingency Allocations for April 8, 2008, with a vote of 11-0-0.

AAC Mini-Fund

- Weintraub said the AAC Mini-Fund needs a council member to sit on the committee, but said she couldn't do it. She said the committee's purpose is to give funding to student groups for academic based programs.

Cultural Programming Fund

- Shaw said this week is the deadline for all of the cultural programming fund applications, and she will have the allocation breakdown for council at the next meeting. The deadlines are 2nd week and 8th week.

EVP Travel Grant

- Melgar said his office had made two allocations since last week. The first was a \$500 allocation to Bruins United for a trip to San Jose. The second was an allocation to the Rainforest Action Network for a conference in Memphis, Tennessee.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Gabe Rose

Rose said his office has been working on the Senate proposal. In addition he said his Fellows have been setting up the North Campus vs South Campus event for next week which will run from Monday to Wednesday. He said his office has also been working with the Nothing But Nets organization which provides mosquito nets to families in malarial countries.

Internal Vice President – Dianne Tanjuaquio

Tanjuaquio said her office is working on the Virginia Tech Memorial on Wednesday, April 16th. The event will also encompass the wider aim of addressing all gun violence in the nation. On April 19th, JWAC will be holding Student Groups 101, which is a workshop helping new student group leaders get familiar with the various aspects of their new positions, such as sponsorship, morale, etc. She said that on May 1 there will be a UCLA panel discussion in the Northwest Auditorium concerning the role of the university in public and political life.

External Vice President – Jesse Melgar

Melgar said he emailed out the application for the inter-district Lobby Day which will be held on the Friday of next week. He said they will have a training session to teach people how to do legislative lobbying, and then they will be sent out to lobby various representatives in LA. He said he just got back from UC Merced, and will have an update next week on the bills they are working on.

Lyon asked what kind of student government UC Merced has. Melgar replied that they have a Senate system.

Alumni Association Representative – Willard Tressel

Tressel said that he had invited USAC's 1986-1987 President, Dean Florez, to make a presentation to Council about life after student government. He said further that Florez is currently a California State Senator.

Academic Affairs Commissioner – Addar Weintraub

Weintraub said there will be a Dinner with Law Students event in De Neve on the Wednesday of 3rd week. On the Wednesday of 4th week, she said her office will be showing the last of the controversial film series. She said this one tackles the issue of teen pregnancy, and said that the movie, Juno, will be shown at 8:00pm.

Jang asked how many law students will be there. Weintraub said there will be fifteen.

IX. New Business

A. Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC)

- Rose said one of the voting members of SFAC resigned, and they need to appoint a replacement to work on the upcoming issues that will be decided by the committee. He said that two applications for the position had been forwarded to the Appointments Review Committee and that, of the two, ARC is recommending Jimmy Ly. Rose said that Council needs to fill this position immediately which is why it was being brought to the table tonight.
- Melgar asked if Ly would just be completing the current term. Rose said yes, but also said he thinks that Ly could reapply to serve on SFAC after the current term has ended.
- Mossahebfar said she would prefer someone with experience.
- Nelson remarked that, to the best of his recollection, this was the first time someone resigned from SFAC in Spring Quarter. He said he thought the most important thing to do now was to get the position filled.

B. The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF)

- Rose said the primary question that needed to be resolved is where to house the TGIF Bylaws. They are currently leaning towards housing them under the USAC Bylaws, which is a great opportunity to have more student control over the fund.
- Shaw asked if TGIF will be effective for only ten years under the USAC Bylaws. Rose said the fee will be assessed for only ten years, but the fund is meant to be sustainable.
- Sandler asked if USAC will be responsible for approving the projects that go through TGIF. Rose said it will be similar to a committee under USAC, such as OSAC, but with more autonomy. The biggest change they are making is where the Bylaws will be housed.
- Weintraub said she feels the proponents of TGIF have not solved the problem of fund sustainability. Rose said he is not completely savvy on how the fund will be sustainable but believes there will be some contracts which will funnel project savings back into the fund.
- Weintraub asked if there had been any more discussions about making the fees more comparable to other campuses. Rose said there seems to be a broad consensus on where the fees are right now, and it is ultimately up to the students to decide.
- Iberti asked if USAC needs to approve the ballot language. Rose said they need to re-approve it due to some minor changes.
- Melgar said he had some concerns about the time allowed to review the proposal and to decide to hold a referendum. Nelson said if Council wants to approve it as a referendum, they need to be 100% behind the proposal. Rose said Council would have enough time to consider any changes to the proposal and to spend plenty of time discussing the matter.
- Sandler asked if the students will be required to vote on the Bylaws as well. Rose said there is no specific need for the students to approve the Bylaws.
- Williams said that only the Regents can increase fees, so if the referendum is approved by the student body it will be delegated to the office of the president.
- Nelson said Council might like to make a statement on why they would support the proposal if it is passed as a referendum.
- Rose said they will have a meeting next Friday and then will review the Bylaws at next Tuesday's Council meeting.

X. Old Business

A. Senate Proposal

- Colosimo said CRC had a meeting concerning the Senate system, and that three voted in favor of it, while one voted in favor of a mix of the proposal and the current structure of government. She said the biggest issues brought to the table were those of time management for the public meetings and the fact that Commissioners will not have a vote.
- Chang said many other campuses within the UC system do not like the Senate system as a whole.
- Melgar said one of his main concerns is concentrating on legislation, and said he feels that can be addressed by creating a Legislator position. He said he thinks the UCLA model is the most effective, and said that many of the other UC campuses do not see the Senate System as a good alternative. Also, Melgar said he felt that USAC would be rushing into a situation too complex to expedite, and said he thought that additional time and work should be spent on the proposal.
- Lyon said she felt the proposal was a little rushed, but said, at the same time, it does address the issues of legislation and programming.
- Sandler asked about some of the alternatives that CRC talked about. Colosimo said that Melgar proposed adding two more General Representatives to Council, rather than proposing the Senate system.
- Colosimo said one of the biggest issues discussed by CRC was the requirement that a General Representative must juggle both legislation and programming. Melgar said that Council has been able to accomplish programming and Bylaw changes, and said

- he thought the idea of focusing more attention on legislation should not result in setting up a completely new system of government.
- Chang said that a presentation should be made to Council of the model of the Senate proposal.
 - Sobhani said they have been basing the Senate Proposal off of multiple models from different campuses.
 - Shaw said it was a good idea to use information from various models for the current proposal, but said that doesn't mean that the new system would work. Shaw said councils of past years have been able to balance legislating and programming, and the biggest issue is not restructuring the government but deciding how to focus one's office's pursuits.
 - Melgar said the Senate system at other campuses messes with funding, because the funding has to be passed by the Senate, whereas the two party system can operate and not disrupt other offices' work.
 - Tressel said he thought that the Senate system would result in increased politicizing , and spoke in favor of the current structure of student government.
 - Sandler said the election process in a Senate system could turn into a popularity contest.
 - Tanjuaquio said legislation in the past has been dependent extraordinary talent and drive of the officers to be able to balance both legislating and programming. She also said that, when officers under the current system give an "Officer's Report", they usually talk about the programs they are working on, but they don't talk about legislation.
 - Mossahebfar said that all of the top universities have a Senate system, and that it is favorably received by students at those campuses.
 - Melgar said he feels the biggest issue at the table is the Council's ability to legislate, but it is an issue that falls mainly on council's own ability rather than the current structure of government.
 - Nelson said the holistic approach of USAC better prepares students down the road due to the various and different tasks council members face.
 - Jang said the benefit Council members receive comes at the expense of being able to serve the students better.
 - Chang said that, students at other campuses which have the Senate system have found it almost impossible to implement successful community service programs. She said that students at such campuses have told CSC that they look to UCLA's Commission as an extremely successful community service office.
 - Sobhani said the current system was created to serve a smaller number of students, whereas the Senate system is more appropriate for a campus with a larger student population.
 - Tressel asked if all questions regarding funding would go to the Senate. Sobhani said that they would, and that it was the most efficient process. He said the current process inefficient due to the constant need to meet quorum.
 - Rose said people would have to be more optimistic about voting in a Senate System, and just because one candidate has a lot of friends does not mean they will instantly become a Senator.
 - Lyon said that one reason students dislike USAC is because they don't like slates. She said she thought that a system that would not have slates would be a good change.
 - Williams asked what the next step would be regarding the Senate Proposal. Rose said he would like to hear as many comments as possible against the Senate system so that those concerns could be addressed before the proposal was submitted to the undergrads to vote on it.

XI. Announcements

- Sandler said his office is having an off campus housing workshop tomorrow from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. He said it will help students on the Hill learn about the various aspects of finding an apartment, signing a lease, etc.

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- Jang said his office is sponsoring a Financial Aid Fair next Tuesday from 11:00am to 2:00pm, on Bruin Plaza, near the Bruin Bear.
- Lyon said her office is having a "Never Forget" event on the Holocaust, and said it will probably be the last one for the year.
- Mossahebfar said the Westwood Beautification Day, which was cosponsored by her office and Chang's office, went very well and she hopes it will continue to be held for years to come.
- Tanjuaquio said she received an email from Renee Fortier's assistant regarding the list of concerns USAC had regarding transportation services. The email said that Transportation Services has provided additional links online to the carpool matching service, but they could not extend the van service hours for Friday and Saturday night. She said it was possible that UCPD might consider extending the CSO service on Thursday evenings.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Weintraub moved and Sandler seconded to adjourn.
- Rose asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker