

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL

Tuesday May 27, 2008  
417 Kerckhoff Hall  
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Birks, Chacon, Champawat, Chibnick, Garcia, Gonzalez, Hosseini, Kohles, Liu, McLaren, Melgar, Nelson, Reodica, Roth, Shulman, Sien, Sobhani, Tressel, Tsai, Tuttle, Williams

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Abraham Aguilar, Lorna Apper, Maricruz Cerena, Tina Cheng, Michelle Crespo, Maria Duenas Blanc, Noah Ebner, Pardis Farhadian, Princess Fortier, Mauricio Franco, Lizzy Keegan, Phoebe Lao, Aaron Magpali, Arely Ortez, Neilda Pacquing, Alejandro Reyes, Jeffrey Roynoso, Mike Sabes, Scott Sia, Robert Sierakenski, Viridiana J. Tapia, Daniella Valle, Eowyn Williamson, JJ Yang

I. A. Call to Order

- Hosseini called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*The Attendance sheet was passed around.*

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Melgar said Susan Li is working so he will make the presentation.
- Hosseini asked the council how they feel about voting on OSAC allocations.
- Chacon said it would be best to learn about the process first. Gonzalez said pushing back the vote will only hurt student groups.
- Gonzalez moved and Kohles seconded to make OSAC Allocations an action item.
- Council did not approve OSAC Allocations as an action item with a vote of 2-7-3.
- Reodica moved and Chacon seconded to approve the Agenda.
- Hosseini called for Acclamation. Hosseini 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

- Alejandro Reyes from the Latin American Student Association said he is concerned about the current state of the office space allocations. His group was never notified of the application process, and because so, LASA is facing expulsion from Kerckhoff Hall. He asked that council be considerate and keep LASA in mind when discussing the allocations.

- Chicanos Latinos for Community Medicine made a comment, stating they were not notified for the OSAC allocations, they too are facing expulsion from Kerckhoff Hall. Their group is vital to the various communities on campus that are underserved and taking their space away would be a disservice to the campus as a whole.
- Michael Brenner from Rally Committee said they had their office taken away last year, and it is a very serious process. Council should do the best they can to investigate why this happened to these groups.

#### V. Special Presentations

##### **Jennifer Lorch on behalf of the Student Health Advisory Committee**

- Tina and Marissa from SHAC gave a presentation on the accomplishments of SHAC and their goals for next year. SHAC has participated in doctor and nurse interviews, updated their bylaws, renewed the insurance with United Health Care, and responded to a lot of complaints and comments. They hope to be a part of the redesigning of the Ashe Center web site and work with on campus health affairs. They currently have three open positions and encourage USAC to appoint one one-year term and two two-year terms. The changes in insurance include adding urgent care, more availability with nurseline, extended PT/OT benefits, extended dental benefits,
- Kohles asked what benefits were rejected outright, and what the cost would be to implement them in the insurance. The SHAC representatives could not give an answer due to confidentiality.

##### **Student Worker Front and American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees**

- Scott and Mari from Student Work Front gave a presentation to council about their resolution to make the UC a responsible employer. They talked about the various ways the university does not treat their employees as fairly as other hospitals and universities.
- Shulman said this is an important resolution, especially when the a person's own college is at stake.
- Roth asked if there was anything the council can refer to in regard to the resolution. There is a website (<http://www.afcme3299.org>) people can refer to.
- Tuttle asked what they intend to do to help the picket line. They will ask people to honor it and boycott products.

#### VI. New Business

##### **OSAC Allocations**

- Pacquing said the applications were due 5<sup>th</sup> week of winter quarter, but due to a large amount of student groups who did not receive the application, they extended the deadline to February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Pacquing said, with the current allocations, there will be 27 groups with office space and an additional 6 groups with locker space.
- Garcia asked about the mass email that was sent out after the big change. Pacquing said the first email was not sent out due to an error that occurred.
- Representatives of Chicanos Latinos for Community Medicine (CCM) said the process by which allocations were conducted, beginning with the notice of applications, was not done in a timely and efficient manner. This led to the removal of office space privileges from several large and important groups on campus, including CCM, and to take office space away due to miscommunication is unfair.
- Pacquing said OSAC did not choose favorites during the application process and proceeded purely on the merits of each application. They also made attempts to reach out to each organization, especially the organizations in Kerckhoff Hall, by emailing, telephoning, and other various methods.

- Nelson said he does not know what happened in the application process, but he does know that OSAC made a sincere attempt to contact all groups.
- Beeta Baghoolizadeh of Iranian Student Group (ISG) said the office space means an incredible amount to both the group and the Iranian student community, as it is both a base for their group and a room steeped in tradition.
- Pacquing said there has never been a process before whereby office space could be allocated, and it is unfair to the student organizations that did apply by the deadline. There are still lockers that have not yet been allocated.
- Williams asked how many groups lose space in the currently proposed allocation. Pacquing said 4-5 groups lose space.
- Williams asked how the problems translates into square footage. Pacquing said about 240 to 280 square feet would be needed to fix the problem.
- Roth asked if any of the groups made an effort to contact OSAC once they discovered the process was going on.
- Ruiz said the president of LASA went to discuss the matter with Rose, who said there is most likely nothing they can do and their best chance is to appeal.
- Baghoolizadeh said she talked to Rose in October, who said ISG will be notified anything were to occur. ISG received nothing in the following months and found out through an informal conversation with Sobhani.
- OSAC said the mass email that was sent out to each student group was done through the Center for Student Programming (CSP), and they assumed the email was sent to each organization along with their signatories.
- Nelson said he can see the possibility of an error due to so many student groups, along with the changing of signatories.
- Chacon asked how many groups applied and how many of them got office space. Pacquing said 28 new groups applied along with the organizations already in Kerckhoff Hall, and they all got office space or locker space if eligible.
- Tsai asked why Alpha Phi Omega did not get office space. Pacquing said they only wanted a mailbox.
- Roth said when certain groups did not send in application, some kind of red flag should have been raised.
- Tsai said he had a concern regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> Bruin Christian Fellowship, and this may cause a watershed movement with other Christian groups on campus.
- Tuttle said there are two US Supreme Court cases dealing with religion, and it is wise to always stay content neutral and to give everyone a fair chance when it comes to student groups of a religious nature.
- Melgar asked, hypothetically, if access to any office would be able to alleviate any of their problems. ISG, LASA, and CCM said they would prefer to keep their original offices, as history plays a big part in their office space.
- Chacon asked why OSAC could not drop a letter into each office or warn each office about the applications.
- OSAC said they split up the organizations among themselves and contacted them through email, telephoning, and knocking on their door.
- Hosseini asked if they reached every organization.
- OSAC said they at least left a message.
- Tuttle asked if the USAC Chair knows that the required vote to change the OSAC bylaws and guidelines is two-thirds, and that if the two-thirds vote does not exist the status quo remains. Hosseini realizes these to be true.
- Gonzalez said the groups that are allowed into Kerckhoff Hall provide a great opportunity for growth. Some organizations, such as Dance Marathon, grew by leaps and bounds within the past five years, and a lot of the growth was maintained without an office. Office space will just help to open up the campus to these organizations.
- Baghoolizadeh said OSAC should be commended for going above and beyond the call of duty, but there are still organizations out there that fell through the cracks, and some sort of remedy should be applied to prevent that from happening, instead of punishing the organizations and the students in them.

- Pacquing said the allocations are still wholly valuable, and the situation should be worked through rather than naming OSAC's work invalid. Also groups will have a chance to reapply for space in a year.
- Shulman asked if student groups are responsible for keeping relevant contact information in CSP. Nelson said they are.
- Tressel said it seems the intent of the table is to include the groups who were excluded, and a committee should be formed prior to next week's meeting to create a recommendation that fits with the intent of the table.
- Sobhani said the idea of an ad hoc committee was talked down all year. Also, not knowing about an application is not the best argument, as many groups are very proactive. In addition, there should be a way to check email records as to which groups received an email from CSP about the applications.
- Kohles said reopening the OSAC allocation process may be seen a preferential treatment.
- OSAC said a group's history does not automatically give them a right to office space.
- Roth said the groups currently in the room are probably not the only ones with the same problem, and whatever happened should be investigated and made transparent.
- Hosseini said OSAC's duty is to give allocations, but council can make amendments. However, those amendments need to be approved by two-thirds of council for them to pass.
- Gonzalez said she does not believe there to be any malicious intention on either side, but it should be considered that an organization is not necessarily hindered if they do not have office space.
- Roth said the entire allocation process is flawed, and the best way to fix it is to erase the current recommendation.
- Garcia said OSAC was not created to deal with the root of the problem, which is a lack of office space for all of the student groups.
- Kohles and Gonzalez said they would not want to be accountable for showing favoritism to any student groups over others.
- Tsai said council has already shown preferential treatment to other organizations by allocating money to CEC, JazzReggae, and Mighty Mic last week.
- Garcia said he never had the intent to give preferential treatment; he simply wanted to promote discussion.
- Melgar said he feels the groups here tonight were not notified, and a committee should be formed to work with OSAC to reevaluate the office space. After that, they should reanalyze the guidelines over summer so they have a solid document.
- Melgar moved and Garcia seconded to create a nonpartisan committee to work with OSAC and reanalyze the allocations for next weeks meeting.
- Tuttle said council talked about the item as being a non-action issue, so council should stick to that decision and not take any definite action on the issue tonight.
- Melgar withdrew his motion.
- Melgar said he wants to leave the meeting knowing something will be done about this, and that it will not turn into another Jboard case.
- Tressel said the best forum for discussion is the council table.
- Hosseini said council will not make a formal committee, and council members will cast a vote next week based upon what they do on their own time.

## VI. Appointments

*There were no Appointments this week.*

## VII. Fund Allocations

### **A. Contingency Allocations for May 27, 2008**

- Sobhani said that there were 5 Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$6338.01. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$1650.00.

- Garcia pointed out a contention that USAC gives out money despite less information, but USAC also evaluates extenuating circumstances.
- Chacon moved and Kohles seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations. - Council approved the Contingency Allocations for May 27, 2008 with a vote of 11-0-1.
- Garcia moved and Melgar seconded to add a discussion of an ad hoc committee in relation to the OSAC allocations to the agenda.
- Garcia said it is important to entertain the possibility of an ad hoc committee, especially since the allocations will be voted on next week. If the allocations are voted down next week, it would be prudent to bring a second allocation to the table.
- Roth said the threshold required for adding an item to the agenda is a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote.
- Williams asked if a new allocation could be proposed if the current allocation is voted down next week. Tuttle said a new allocation could be brought to the table if the first one is voted down.
- Tressel said no action on the subject will be taken until next week, and this particular topic is best left in an open and public forum.
- Council did not add a discussion of an ad hoc committee in relation to the OSAC allocations to the agenda with a vote of 4-5-3.

#### **B. Academic Success Referendum Fund**

*There was no business for the Academic Success Referendum Fund this week.*

#### **C. Academic Affairs Mini-Grant**

- Garcia said his office allocated \$1000 to the RAZA Graduation because they did not receive adequate funding for their graduation.

#### **D. Travel Grants**

*There was no business for Travel Grants this week.*

#### **E. Cultural Affairs Mini-Grant**

*There was no business for the Cultural Affairs Mini-Grant this week.*

### VIII. Officer and Member Reports

#### **President – Homaira Hosseini**

- Hosseini said the staff applications for her office are out, and the deadline is May 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Internal Vice President – Evan Shulman**

- Shulman said he created a Facebook event to help publicize staff applications. He also met with UCLARadio.com to see about having them play in the dining halls.

#### **External Vice President – Jesse Melgar**

- Melgar said he went to the UCSA board meeting in Seattle. They planned for the UCSA congress happening on August 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. Melgar gave a presentation about the studentsVOTE! Coalition. They are a nonpartisan organization aiming to educate students about their political power in relation to voting. They have been working on the UCLA campus as well as other campuses nationwide to increase student voter registration. The resolution that will be brought forth to council later on in the meeting asks that studentsVOTE! will have different kinds of access to the dormitories while working with ORL. The resolution is based off of the system in place at UCSB.

*Hosseini asked if Melgar has already talked with ORL. Melgar said he has, and while they were hesitant due to a lack of knowledge about the existence of other agreements of the sort, he sent them copies of other agreements found at other campuses.*

#### **Academic Affairs Commissioner – Jeremiah Garcia**

- Garcia said the Academic Mini-Grant will not be receiving the additional \$6,000.00 due to the report situation. He hopes next year the money will go back into the pot and that a precedent will not be set by this event.

## IX. Old Business

**A. Retreat Planning**

- Shulman said a date has not been finalized, but the top three dates so far are the weekends of July 11<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup>, and July 25<sup>th</sup>. It will most likely be the weekend of July 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Melgar asked that he has a date finalized by next Friday.
- Shulman said he has not decided upon a venue yet, but after extending his own network capabilities in the search, he will most likely resort to a cold calling search for a venue.

## X. New Business

**A. Resolution in support of the studentsVOTE! Coalition**

- Melgar moved and Birks seconded to approved the Resolution in support of the studentsVOTE! Coalition.
- Shulman moved to friendly amend the resolution, changing “collation” to “coalition.” There were no objections.
- Gonzalez said there are some concerns, such students privacy and safety, that should be discussed with UCSA. Melgar said those concerns were discussed in great detail prior to this resolution.
- Council approved the Resolution in support of the studentsVOTE! Coalition with a vote of 10-0-2.

**B. Resolution in support of the AFSCME Contract Campaign**

- Reodica moved and Chacon seconded to approve the Resolution in support of the AFSCME Contract Campaign.
- Gonzalez asked if the Student Worker Front is the author of the resolution. The Student Worker Front is the author.
- Melgar said each resolution brought before council requires three council members to sponsor it before USAC can vote in support of the resolution.
- Birks moved to friendly amend the Resolution, adding Shulman, Garcia, and Melgar as sponsors to the resolution. There were no objections.
- Council approved the Resolution in support of the AFSCME Contract Campaign with a vote of 10-0-2.

## XI. Announcements

- McLaren said the photography shoot for the website pictures will be between 5:30pm and 6:30pm next Tuesday. She will also send out an email in regard to parking permits.
- Gonzalez said, in regard to resolutions passed by council, the first named author or second named author should place notice of publication to the Daily Bruin as pursuant to bylaw V.A.5.d.
- Garcia said they decided to stop doing that three years ago.
- Tuttle said it is pertinent to bring this up, and council may decide as to whether or not they wish to change that bylaw. Properly, council should have a vote whether or not to publish it in the Daily Bruin, if a motion is made to do so. If there is no motion, council should move on.

## XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*The attendance sheet was passed around.*

XIII. Adjournment

- Chacon moved and Sien seconded to adjourn.
- Hosseini called for Acclamation. Hosseini asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 pm, by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King  
USAC Minutes Taker