

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL

Tuesday June 3, 2008  
417 Kerckhoff Hall  
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Champawat, Melgar, Nelson

GUESTS: Patricia Alfaro, Stephanie Aniquillo, Yasi Ansari, Kourosh Arianjad, Ali Karimi Ashtiani, Beeta Baghoolizadeh, Christina Brown, Yasi Chehroudi, Valerie Cortez, Michelle Crespo, Christina Davila, Miguel Dominguez, George Fistonich, Richard Garcia, Shahriar Habibagahi, Ayda Haghighatgoo, Jorge Heredia, David Hernandez, Jose Iniguez, Celina Lopez, Jazmin Lugo, Jessica Maldonado, Leonel Martinez, Jessica Montano, Saeed Mouddab, Amy Itzel Morfin, Hamel Naghshbardi, Sepehr Nassiripour, Maria Rangel, Nasim Razmara, Jeison Recinos, Jeffrey Renoso, Alejandro Reyes, Alexes Reyes, Atzimba Reyes, Gabriella Rosca, Martha Rudas, Jessica Sanchez, Max Schneider, Bernice Shaw, Avelia Valdivia, Viridiana Tapio, Roxanne Vasquez, Janitzia Villalobos, Pilar Whitaker, JJ Yang, Hussein Yazdi

I. A. Call to Order

- Hosseini called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*The Attendance sheet was passed around.*

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Kohles moved and Reodica seconded to approve the Agenda.  
- Sobhani added JazzReggae Funding underneath New Business.  
- Hosseini called for Acclamation. Hosseini asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Agenda was approved, by Acclamation.

III. Approval of the Minutes

*There were no Minutes this week.*

IV. Public Comments

- Sobhani said Melgar is absent because he was feeling ill.  
- Hosseini said they will be reviewing and possibly approving appointments next week.

V. Special Presentations

*There were no Special Presentations this week.*

## VI. Appointments

*There were no Appointments this week.*

## VII. Fund Allocations

**A. Contingency Allocation Recommendations**

- Sobhani said that there were 3 Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$1906.10. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$1256.10. Sobhani also said the Queer Alliance allocation can not happen because they missed the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for the application. This brings the total requested to \$1182.00 and the total recommended allocation to \$532.00. The other two allocations will be allocated out of summer contingency.
- Gonzalez moved and Reodica seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Council approved the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations with a vote of 11-0-0.

**B. Academic Success Referendum Fund**

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

**C. Academic Affairs Mini-Grant**

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

**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 she will still accept staff applications.

**Internal Vice President – Evan Shulman**

Shulman said he has a rolling application system, and the deadline was extended to this Friday at 5:00pm. He will still accept applications after the deadline, but those submitted on time will be looked upon more favorably.

## IX. Old Business

**A. OSAC Allocations**

- Pacquing said OSAC received a list of everyone who received emails from OSAC. If council does not find the allocations agreeable, OSAC asks that they only consider those groups that applied on time.
- Shulman said he talked to Nelson and CSP, and he got a list of emails that were sent out, but there is no way to tell who received them and if any were bounced back. His understanding of the situation is that there is no way to verify any blame on anybody.
- Mauricio Franco of CCM said groups should not be punished due to a technical error.
- Pacquing said she does not understand how there can be a technical error when there are three signatories per group.
- Beeta Baghoolizadeh of ISG said CSP only sends emails to the organization's email, and she said OSAC divided the group's emails amongst themselves, which many groups did not receive also.

- Gonzalez asked how many emails were sent to each organization. Pacquing said two emails were sent to each group.
- Christina Brown of Dance Marathon said there were other problems in the system also. The first round of applications had to be extended because many groups did not receive those.
- Roth said its irrelevant to question whether or not the groups received warning of the OSAC application. It is only logical that if a group had an office and was aware of the OSAC application process, they would have applied to maintain their office. A glitch can easily happen when dealing with over 800 student groups.
- Gonzalez asked if there was any other proof for verifying if a group received an email. Garcia said he checked his own CSP email account, and they did not receive any such email.
- Tuttle reminded the table that the allocation recommendations require a two-thirds vote to pass. If that is not reached, the issue could be postponed and tabled to a time certain. Also, the president may vote to make it a two-thirds vote, but past precedent is that the president votes only to break a tie.
- Kohles says it is strange that Queer Alliance did not receive an email, but they still submitted an application.
- Garcia said he found out about the application process by going to USAC meetings consistently.
- Williams asked if OSAC would know the groups that were not contacted, if they would have received office space if they applied. Pacquing said she can not say for sure.
- Brown said she would like to have Dance Marathon involved in the process, because they received the office space, and they need it for next year.
- Garcia asked what Dance Marathon needs the office space for. Danny Cowan of Dance Marathon said they hold over 25 meetings with sponsors and clients, and there will be people working in the office on a daily basis.
- Garcia asked that each group mention what they would use their office space for.
- Shulman asked if it is possible to move to not hear the OSAC report. Tuttle said it would require a two-thirds vote to take it off of the agenda.
- Tuttle said the chair would be well advised to first hear a motion before continuing.
- Gonzalez moved and Kohles seconded to approve the OSAC Allocations.
- Roth said there were errors and multiple problems afflicting the entire OSAC allocations process, and it is only fair that USAC go back and fix those problems instead of punishing groups for technicalities that are not their fault.
- Shulman said none of the new evidence that has surface validates the process as legitimate, and it is his opinion to go back and fix what went wrong.
- Hosseini said if someone has a solution that they should put it forth.
- Gonzalez said the groups who followed the procedure will be hurt by not going through with the allocations.
- Patricia Alfaro of MEChA said USAC should look to other areas outside of Kerckhoff Hall for office space.
- Franco said groups would not mind being moved to other areas of Kerckhoff Hall, they only wish to have some space in which to work.
- Pilar Whitaker of African Student Union (ASU) said their offices are institutionalized at UCLA, and their office space is a necessity, not a luxury. To take the office space away would damage the student organizations as a whole.
- Cowan said it is a moot point to question the validity of OSAC if they found some organizations more deserving than others. Whitaker said ASU ranked higher than Dance Marathon on the application scores.
- Shulman moved to call the question and Birks seconded.
- Council did not call the question with a vote of 5-3-3.
- Garcia said he voted no to allow other groups to speak up prior to voting and to talk about how they would utilize the office space.
- Whitaker said ASU works with several projects based in the Student Activities Center (SAC), and their dealings are done through the office space in Kerckhoff Hall. Also,

- they discuss confidential and sensitive information in Kerckhoff Hall which they can not disclose.
- CCM said there are 20 board members, each of which has office hours at least once per week. They also use the space for reaching out, and there are they act as an umbrella group to three other organizations underneath them. Those groups are in CPO, but CCM can not be a part of CPO because it has been a part of ASUCLA since its inception. They also use their office space as an archival space for important documents.
  - Cowan said Dance Marathon has become a prominent, year long student commitment on campus.
  - Baghoolizadeh of ISG said the group requires the space to put on their annual fashion show for the Persian American Cancer Institute, one of the largest in the nation. They also use the space for weekly board meetings and for administrative tasks.
  - Alejandro Reyes of LASA said the Kerckhoff Hall office space serves as a point of reference and meeting for the 16 committees they operate and the several projects they run underneath their group.
  - Alfaro said MEChA has four different standing committees and an academic advancement program. They also work with national organizations, have a graduation ceremony, and work with the greater Los Angeles and Southern California community. Their organization is also constantly under attack due to social justice and higher education issues, so the office space is of utmost importance for them to operate.
  - Tressel said it is important to acknowledge problems, and it may be prudent to look toward the welfare of the community as opposed to the strict letter of the law.
  - Reodica said she believes OSAC should look to outside Kerckhoff Hall for more office space.
  - Tuttle advised that council should look towards an amendment or a vote.
  - Hosseini gave the following recommendations: (1) USAC should review the OSAC guidelines and bylaws to fix any mistakes; (2) Ask that OSAC legally search outside of Kerckhoff Hall for more office space; (3) Perform a mock rescoring of certain groups and determine how they would have placed, and then possibly find space to house those groups in; (4) Hold a town hall meeting discussing the issue with the various student groups on campus. Hosseini continued that the point of OSAC is to serve the students, and since no group would take an office from another based solely on a technical error, its best if we fully review the situation and not make a misinformed decision.
  - Sien said it would be wise to have the OSAC Policy Guidelines in front of each member before continuing.
  - Tsai asked, if these allocations are passed, if the groups left out could work in some office space with the space holder's signatory agreement? Hosseini said she does not believe there is something in place to approve that.
  - Tressel said an amendment could find a home for these groups in the current allocation.
  - Roth said council could make a recommendation that OSAC brings an allocation including these groups.
  - Reodica said it would be best if the process was just reevaluated and amended.
  - Tuttle said this issue does not have to be worked out tonight, as the issue could be discussed and worked out by including other administrators such as the Vice Chancellor.
  - Council did not approve the OSAC Allocations with a vote of 2-6-3.
  - Reodica asked if they would need to vote on any promises or recommendations the council makes. Tuttle said a proposal could be brought forward, but it requires a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote to be added to the agenda.
  - Reodica asked how council could be held accountable for their actions. Tuttle said there are three levels of accountability for the council. They could vote on a proposal, they have the public record in the form of the minutes, and they could also look at how much the press is reflecting the happenings of tonight.

- Shulman moved and Reodica seconded to re-evaluate the OSAC Guidelines, make it a responsibility of OSAC to search for office space outside of Kerckhoff Hall, and to offer a town hall meeting to discuss the situation.
- Tuttle said a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote is required to discuss this motion.
- Council approved discussing Shulman's motion with a vote of 11-0-0.
- Garcia offered an amendment, stating that council suggests to OSAC those groups who already applied can bypass the application process and go straight to an interview if they wish.
- Gonzalez said OSAC is a standing committee and asked where USAC stands to change their bylaws. Tuttle said they are currently in a majority vote situation, but Gonzalez brings up a good point. It may be in violation of the OSAC bylaws because it expedites a process.
- Tuttle said he believes it all comes back to the council, because the council is the body that changes the OSAC guidelines.
- Garcia said he meant his amendment as a suggestion to OSAC, because there have been so many gray areas and mistakes. This amendment would make things more equitable for those groups who have already applied.
- Williams said council should take a week to think of a proposal in language that makes sense instead of trying to perform these actions on the fly.
- Council recessed at 9:08pm.
- Hosseini called council back to order at 9:18pm.
- Gonzalez suggested that council reopens the previous motion that was voted down with the stipulation that they find a place for the three groups that did not get space due to the technical errors; however, it is required that a member of the prevailing side from the previous vote reopens the issue.
- Reodica said their starting point should not be where they said no.
- Tuttle said there is currently a three part motion on the table, but he is not sure if the fourth part has been accepted. Garcia's motion requires a second if it is to be considered.
- Tuttle said the word "suggest" could be tricky, but the situation could be fixed in a week if an overhaul of the OSAC guidelines were to occur.
- Garcia's motion failed since no second was provided.
- Roth said if they are to reevaluate the process, they need a time line, such that applications begin at the start of fall quarter and allocation recommendations are proposed at the end of fall quarter.
- Hosseini said the discussion has been getting muddled, and it is best if Shulman's motion is withdrawn and brought back again next week as a formal proposal.
- Kohles moved to table Shulman's motion and Chacon seconded.
- Tuttle recommended that the motion is tabled to a time certain.
- Council tabled Shulman's motion with a vote of 5-3-3.
- Tressel said OSAC has put a lot of work into this, but it is best to not throw their work away but to fix it.
- Hosseini asked if Gonzalez is able to move to rework the original OSAC proposal.  
Gonzalez said she can not because she was not on the prevailing side of the vote to not approve the OSAC proposal.
- Hosseini said the student groups left thinking their discussion on the topic was final, so it is best to move on with the rest of the agenda.
- Birks asked where council could go from here to find a solution.
- Tressel said, even though they voted down OSAC's proposal, council could still make a committee to work with OSAC to find a solution.
- Kohles said there is a problem of accountability, as this opens the door for any group who missed a deadline to make a case.
- Hosseini asked if there was a proposal in the affirmative. Kohles said the only way she could see this being a fair process would be to open the application process up to every student group again.
- Hosseini said they are moving on unless someone puts a motion on the table.

**B. Retreat Planning**

- Shulman apologized for saying July 11<sup>th</sup> would work, because the UCSA conference is that weekend. He continued, saying he will not get everyone on any weekend, so its best to choose the weekend that works for most people.
- Garcia asked if Shulman can have a concrete date by next weeks meeting. Shulman said he should be able to do that.
- Kohles asked about August 29<sup>th</sup>. Shulman said the best options are July 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Tressel said the best plan would be to have the retreat as soon as possible.
- Shulman asked if it was mandatory for Melgar to be at the UCSA conference. Melgar said he has to be there.
- Shulman asked that everyone reevaluate the previous dates he sent out.

## X. New Business

**A. Establish Summer Quorum**

- Hosseini said they need to lower the quorum for the summer, and usually it is lowered by two.
- Tuttle said seven as quorum would still give them a majority of the council.
- Gonzalez asked if there is past precedent for having a summer quorum of seven. Tuttle said he is trying to figure that out now.

**B. JazzReggae Funding**

- Sobhani said that JazzReggae Festival has one of the largest exposures to the student government, and he has been talking to a lot of administrators about outstanding bills that need to be paid. Sobhani proposed that they move \$47,908.06 into the Cultural Affairs Commission budget so they can pay any outstanding bills over the summer.
- Garcia said he talked to Shaw about the budget situation for JazzReggae, and she said they think they may break even but are not sure. This would provide a safety buffer for JazzReggae, and since the Cultural Affairs Commission budget does not close out during the summer, USAC would not have to worry about paying it out of surplus next year.
- Gonzalez asked if the money that is not used will be reallocated back to the original fund. Sobhani said the money would go into surplus for next year.
- Sobhani moved and Garcia seconded to redistribute the Contingency Fund and Contingency Surplus Fund into the Cultural Affairs Commission budget.
- Council redistributed the Contingency Fund and the Contingency Surplus Fund into the Cultural Affairs Commission budget with a vote of 10-0-1.
- Sobhani said there is not stipulation determining whether or not the Cultural Affairs Reserve Fund is tapped first or if this money just reallocated is used instead. He talked to Williams, and he was in favor of using the reserve money first.
- Tuttle asked if there were any other groups asking for that money. Sobhani said mostly every other account is closed right now.
- Tuttle asked if CSP is aware. Sobhani said he has talked to multiple people, and ASUCLA as a whole is aware. He is not saying Cultural Affairs will need or use this money for sure, and it will rollover into surplus next year if it is not used.

**C. Establish Summer Quorum (cont.)**

- Tuttle said the constitution has a provision stating that quorum is nine council members during the year, but there is a stipulation leaving summer open. *Robert's Rules* allows for quorum to consist of seven council members. There has been debate in the past to for eight members, but be careful with eight.
- Kohles moved and Chacon seconded to reduce quorum in summer to seven council members.

- Council reduced the quorum in summer to seven council members with a vote of 11-0-0.

XI. Announcements

- McLaren said she has parking permit application forms. Blue permits cost \$237 and standard permits cost \$189. Blue permits are only in lot 4.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*The attendance sheet was passed around.*

XIII. Adjournment

- Chacon moved and Reodica 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 10:17 pm, by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King  
USAC Minutes Taker