

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday May 20, 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:

I. A. Call to Order

- Hosseini called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Hosseini changed Campus Activities Committee to Community Activities Committee.
- Shulman moved and Birks seconded to make OSAC Recommendations a discussion item.
- Council approved making OSAC Recommendations a discussion item with a vote of 7-0-5.
- 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

There were no Public Comments this week.

V. Special Presentations

There were no Special Presentations this week.

VI. Appointments

- Shulman said the applications were formalized 30 minutes prior to meeting, and they are available digitally.
- Kohles said she, being apart of ARC, was disappointed and worried about the application process. She said the applications were not given to the members of ARC

in a timely enough manner, which is in violation of the bylaws. She did not have time to accurately review the applications and formulate good questions. She was also concerned at the proposal of doing phone interviews for stipended positions when the bylaws state such positions must have personal interviews. She was worried that personal interviews were pushed for, rather than accepted as the normal procedure. Also, the interviews were held on Monday and Tuesday, meetings in which all USAC members are invited. She is sure a lot of members did not get the invite, and she is worried about the apathy surrounding such reluctance. In addition, many of the applications forwarded were of low quality or were incomplete. Finally, the interviewees were not given enough time to be properly notified of both their interview time and the results of their interview.

- Hosseini said a lot of the problems mentioned were due to logistical matters and the fact that there is a push tenth week for many positions to be filled.
- Shulman said the first time he was given the applications was on that Monday, and nobody complained about the process and the way it occurred so he thought the process that occurred on Tuesday was legitimate also. ARC's position is not to choose who is best but to review each forwarded application.
- Kohles said she is not happy with the way the administration and other parties has pressured USAC for quick appointments.
- Tuttle said that anyone who does not consider the appointments meritorious can vote them down. Also, to any specific violation of bylaws, there is a remedy through J-Board.
- Hosseini said all applications she forwarded were qualified for the positions.
- Gonzalez said she has not had the chance as a council member to review any of the applications, and she does not feel comfortable as a council member making such decisions without proper preparation.
- Sobhani said this is the third week agendas were handed out on the day of the meeting when council is supposed to get them no later than Monday.
- Shulman said the public review copies of the agenda were posted on Friday, and he placed paper copies in everyone's mailboxes.
- Gonzalez said she did not receive anything in her mailbox.
- Melgar said if some members of council are not comfortable with voting today, council as a whole should hold off on voting on important appointments.
- Williams said the ASUCLA BOD appointment needs to be done, given the retreat is very soon.
- Kohles said she is comfortable voting on Ficomm and ASUCLA BOD.
- Tuttle said appointments made during the summer and not durable year round.
- Reodica said she is bothered that members who are upset with the whole process can move forward on some appointments and not others.
- Garcia said the situation during ARC was not completely terrible, as ARC handled the interviews well given extenuating circumstances.
- Council called a recess at 7:52 pm.
- Hosseini called the meeting back to order at 8:06 pm.
- Hosseini said six out of nine candidates were unanimously approved by ARC, which is a good start.
- Shulman said there is an error on the last page of the applications. It mentions two SHAC candidates, but neither of them are considered for the position this year. They are left over from a different form.

Associated Students UCLA – Board of Directors (ASUCLA BOD)

- Shulman said Bernice Shaw was endorsed by ARC with a vote of 2-0-1. She is very knowledgeable about the campus, and she has a lot of working experience with administrators.
- Sobhani said he feels Shaw to be a very qualified candidate, but he was caught a little off-guard in her application, in the sense that it was overtly specific in the goals Shaw

- hopes to accomplish. He just wants to ensure that Shaw will take into consideration the general views of ASUCLA BOD rather than concentrating on just one area.
- Shaw said her previous year on council exposed her to the many different needs of students, which she will push for on ASUCLA BOD. However, she will leave politics at the door and aim to work with the ASUCLA BOD on student issues and needs.
 - Kohles said she was a little surprised at the part of her application stating her experience completing campaign goals and promises.
 - Shaw said she was referencing her past campaign experience to give an example of her will to work towards what goals she may set out to do, not that she already knows what may happen.
 - Williams asked if Shaw would be willing to forgo certain goals and projects if they would seriously harm ASUCLA. Shaw said she would abandon any goals of the sort that would have a negative impact on ASUCLA.
 - Council appointed Bernice Shaw to ASUCLA BOD with a vote of 11-0-1.

Associated Students UCLA – Board of Directors (ASUCLA BOD) Alternate

- Shulman said Cinthia Flores was very well qualified and had a lot of experience in various advocacy roles. She received a unanimous vote on ARC 3-0-0.
- Williams asked if Flores would be willing to forgo certain goals and projects if they would seriously harm ASUCLA. Flores said she would not follow through with any projects if she would hurt ASUCLA.
- Council appointed Cinthia Flores to ASUCLA BOD (alternate) with a vote of 12-0-0.

Finance Committee Chairperson (Ficomm)

- Shulman said Parsa Sobhani was asked to leave the room during deliberations because he was the applicant, but he was still unanimously approved by ARC 3-0-0. Sobhani feels the Ficomm's chair is to deal with securing and streamlining internal finances rather than seeking other outside sources of finance.
- Hosseini asked Sobhani what he will do in the interim time. Sobhani said he will not be at the meeting next Tuesday, but he hopes to find someone who can take his place for the meantime. No one has applied for summer contingency, but there still needs to be an individual around to sign requests and allocations.
- Tuttle asked if no one is found in time, if the material can be electronically transferred. Sobhani said it can, but he does not know how much access he will have to the internet.
- Tressel asked Sobhani if he pledges to find someone to take his place before he leaves. Sobhani said he will not leave without some process already in place.
- Melgar moved and Chacon seconded to appoint Parsa Sobhani as the Ficomm Chairperson.
- Council appointed Parsa Sobhani to Ficomm Chairperson with a vote of 12-0-0.
- Hosseini said she believes the next appointments are able to be heard at this meeting.
- Tuttle said any appointments approved during summer quorum will have to be reapproved when the school year starts.
- Shulman asked if the application and ARC process would have to be redone. Tuttle said that would be a matter between the IVP and President, but the potential appointee will probably appear before the council.
- Kohles said a better pool of applicants may be available if the ARC process is redone in the fall.
- Reodica said the rest of the appointees should not be tabled. People had a problem with the process, but the last two appointees were just appointed.
- Gonzalez said she does not feel she can make an educated vote on the next set of applicants.
- Roth said someone could have talked to Hosseini about getting a copy of the applications. It is up to the council to determine the merits of those who applied, not complain about the quality of the applicant pool. Roth also asked for the bylaw citation that was supposedly infringed upon.

- Kohles said they are I.D.2.b.10, I.D.2.b.4, and I.D.2.b.3. She would like to postpone the application process until Thursday so everyone can have a chance to review the applications.
- Hosseini asked the council who would be comfortable with going ahead today and who would want to wait until later in the week. Six council members wanted to finish the application process tonight, 3 wanted to wait until later in the week, and 3 abstained. Hosseini said that council will go through with the application process.
- Gonzalez said the process is flawed, and council should be more wary in giving out stipended positions.
- Shulman said eight council members would be available to meet on Thursday, which is not enough for quorum. Tuttle said those who said they could come should give their word not to break quorum, and it could weaken the government if people strategically broke quorum.
- Shulman said one of the council members could not commit to quorum. If anybody has questions for the appointees, they are still in the room.
- Roth said the only thing that could be considered an infraction of the bylaws was that council members were not notified of the committee times, which any interested party could easily have figured out.
- Hosseini said they are moving on.

Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC)

- Chacon asked Bawa if she had a good understanding of the duties SHAC is required to carry out. Bawa said she worked as a student health advocate last year, so she is familiar with the duties.
- Chacon moved and Birks seconded to appoint Shahida Bawa to SHAC.
- Council appointed Shahida Bawa to SHAC with a vote of 10-0-2.
- Shulman said Shadi Lalezari was voted by ARC 3-0-0.
- Kohles said this applicant was the most lacking in impartiality, and she only submitted one page for her application, indicating a lack of concern. It was also noted that she is a personal friend of Garcia.
- Lalezari said she focused her application primarily on student health, and even though another council member brought it up in the interview, her involvement with other health related activities was still brought up.
- Shulman said many of the council members knew the other applicants prior to applying for the position.
- Sobhani said Kohles is questioning the process, as there were numerous problems during the process.
- Williams said the President has the power to forward any application for a presidential appointment, despite qualifications. It is up to ARC and the council to decide whether or not to appoint the applicant.
- Tuttle asked if any set criteria was considered while performing the interviews. Shulman said a set of criteria was not really called into question, but it was approved by consensus.
- Gonzalez asked Lalezari what she considered to be the most important student health issues. Lalezari said drug and mental health issues seem to be the largest problems passed over by the UCLA Health community.
- Kohles said since Lalezari left out important qualifications, it shows a lack of dedication to the application process. She also said during the ARC interview, when asked a question about publicity, Lalezari did not have any complete answers but jumped at suggestions given by Garcia.
- Lalezari said her commitment to the position in SHAC has been proven in the past. She has applied before, been rejected, and still attended SHAC meetings to keep in touch with the health community at UCLA. Also, she presented her own ideas of publicity while also taking Garcia's suggestions into account.
- Tuttle said a rare opportunity to bring in fresh ideas to the executive branch is through appointment hearings and following up afterwards.

- Chacon moved and Birks seconded to appoint Shadi Lalezari to SHAC.
- Council appointed Shadi Lalezari to SHAC with a vote of 8-2-2.

Campus Activities Committee (CAC)

- Shulman said Chris Ah San was voted 3-0-0 by ARC because he was a very strong applicant with previous knowledge of CAC.
- Tuttle asked Ah San what the administrative policies were last year. Ah San said they had a lot of liability issues, and a lot of groups could not provide basic health services at some events.
- Chacon asked what CAC does. Ah San said they strive to increase student involvement with the community but also to provide for groups that do not have enough vital resources.
- Melgar moved and Chacon seconded to appoint Chris Ah San to CAC.
- Council appointed Chris Ah San to CAC with a vote of 10-0-2.

Campus Programming Committee (CPC)

- Shulman said Rohan Shampawat was involved with different groups and familiar with CPC, and he is willing to put aside ideologies to be fair and balanced. ARC voted 3-0-0 to endorse him.
- Shampawat said he wants to be involved to program great events and help provide a great experience for incoming freshmen.
- Melgar moved and Chacon seconded to appoint Rohan Shampawat to CPC.
- Council appointed Rohan Shampawat to CPC with a vote of 10-0-2.
- Shulman said ARC voted 0-1-2 to not endorse Cameron Rice because he does not have a firm understanding of campus programming outside of the Greek community, and most of his experience is from high school.
- Kohles said, while she admires his ambition, he should get involved in a staff position prior to applying for CPC.
- Reodica asked why he applied despite a lack of experience. Rice said he applied because he feels he can bring a fresh look to CPC.
- Sobhani asked Rice why he did not get immediately involved with organizations when first coming to UCLA. Rice said he came from a small town, and a large university can be quite intimidating.
- Kohles asked why Hosseini forwarded this application.
- Hosseini said she feels being a freshman should not hold a person back from getting involved. Also, he can bring a fresh perspective to the table and it is good to see more of the Greek community getting involved.
- Kohles asked if he ever applied for funding. Rice has not.
- Birks asked to hear from ARC about why they voted in their manner.
- Kohles did not recommend him because she feels he lacks the experience to understand from where funding comes and he should begin to get involved at a lower level position.
- Garcia abstained because he wanted more information about Rice that did not come out in the initial interview, but her overall seems like an ambitious applicant who wants to get involved.
- Shulman said, while he lacked experience, it is good to see him making an attempt to get involved with USAC.
- Sobhani said there were worse applicants reviewed at ARC, and Rice had some knowledge about funding.
- Chacon moved and Reodica seconded to appoint Cameron Rice to CPC.
- Council appointed Cameron Rice to CPC with a vote of 6-3-3.
- Shulman said Lydia Kim was voted 3-0-0 by ARC, and she is a very well qualified candidate who is knowledgeable of CPC and the mini-fund, as well as ORL.
- Melgar moved and Sien seconded to appoint Lydia Kim to CPC.
- Council appointed Lydia Kim to CPC with a vote of 9-0-2.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Contingency Allocations for June 10, 2008

- Sobhani said that there were 4 Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$7631.89. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$1850.40.
- 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 June 10, 2008 with a vote of 11-0-1.

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

External Vice President – Jesse Melgar

Melgar said he forwarded his staff application to everyone, and he has a full staff but will accept interns.

IX. Old Business

A. Tabled Discussion Re: OSAC Recommendations

- Evan said he is going to withdraw his amendment because it was rushed, while Roth took the responsibility upon herself to outreach to the various groups and organizations to find a middle ground.
- Roth said she met with Pacquing and OSAC, while also discussing with Shulman his amendment. She also took the other groups into consideration, and she believes the best course of action would be to go ahead with the process of reviewing the OSAC guidelines.
- Shulman withdrew his amendment.
- Roth said the general time line would be for council to review and pass the guidelines over summer so applications for office space can be given out by the beginning of next year. She hopes the allocations will be given out by the end of winter or beginning of next fall.
- Gonzalez said she is upset that those student groups who did apply are not rewarded for their efforts.
- Birks said this was a great learning experience to correct past mistakes.

B. Retreat Planning

- Shulman said the date that worked best for everyone was August 15th. SGA also gave council \$3,000.00 to use on the retreat, but it has to be spent by July 31st.
- Kohles said she could not make it.
- Tsai said he could make it.
- Reodica said she has an important event, but she will try to be at the retreat for at least some part.
- Shulman said he would like a date where everyone could make it.

- Tuttle said September dates might be worthwhile checking out.
- Chacon asked about the weekend of July 25th. Hosseini said Shulman and Roth can not make it for that weekend.
- Gonzalez said RAs have training in September.
- Shulman said he is going to try and balance out the dates.
- Roth said Nick DeLouca from Wooden Center offered USAC any of the Wooden Center resources for free.
- Shulman asked that anybody who knows of a close, quality venue to send him their information.

X. New Business

A. Summer Schedule Discussion

- Hosseini said they voted to have a quorum of 7, not 9, this summer. The past precedent was to have conference calls for four meetings, but she will not be back from her fellowship program for eight weeks.
- Tuttle said the conference calls were informal meetings.
- Hosseini said the conference calls will be a method of discussing different items, but not taking any action on them.
- Tressel asked if the next appointments are not time sensitive. Hosseini said they are not.
- Garcia asked about Sobhani's position with summer contingency allocations. Sobhani said he will be leaving within the next couple of days, so he has to find someone and train them.
- Garcia asked how allocations can be approved without voting on items. Sobhani said there is discretionary contingency.
- Tressel asked if a council member could do his job while he is gone. Sobhani said that would be a direct conflict of interest.
- McLaren asked if Sobhani booked any rooms for meetings. Sobhani said he has not, and he was just appointed Ficomm today.
- Hosseini asked council if they would like to meet every week in person after the conference calls are done.
- Tuttle said they should schedule weekly meetings and drop the ones they do not need as they go along.
- Roth asked how stipends and attendance will be counted. Sobhani said he will find a solution for it.
- Kohles asked if they could move the time at which they meet.
- Council had a discussion concerning a which times they could meet. The following times were not feasible due to schedule conflicts: Tuesday 7:00 am, Wednesday 7:00 pm, Wednesday 5:00 pm, Mondays 7:00 pm.
- Chacon moved and Melgar seconded that beginning on June 23rd and ending on August 18th, council will have biweekly phone conferences, the first being June 23rd at 9:00 pm. The first formal, in-person meeting of the summer will be August 18th at 5:00 pm, and that will be the start of the potentially weekly summer meetings until the beginning of the new school year.
- Council approved the motion with a vote of 11-0-1.

XI. Announcements

There were no Announcements this week.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Gonzalez moved and Chacon 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 11:14 pm, by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker