

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday September 2, 2008
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Kohles, Reodica, Shulman, Tuttle

GUESTS:

I. A. Call to Order

- Hosseini called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Hosseini said Dina Mahmood will be giving the special presentation for Students of Color Conference.
- Hosseini removed Communications Board from Appointments.
- Hosseini added Admissions Report Discussion under New Business.
- Hosseini added Contingency Allocations under Fund Allocations.
- Gonzalez moved and Chacon seconded to approve the Agenda, as amended.
- 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

June 3, 2008

- Nelson said he was absent during the meeting, but he is marked as being present.
- McLaren said the allocations discussed under article VII are being allocated out of summer contingency.
- Melgar moved and Garcia seconded to approve the Minutes of June 3, 2008.
- Council approved the Minutes of June 3, 2008 with a vote of 8-0-0.

IV. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments this week.

V. Special Presentations

Students of Color Conference (SOCC), Dina Mahmood

- Dina Mahmood gave a presentation regarding the SOCC. She had come to council tonight to request contributions from any of the individual offices that comprise

USAC. They plan to have an extensive budget of \$30,000.00, but they rely purely on fund raising efforts. Currently, UCLA is the only school bidding to host SOCC, but they are still required to submit a formal bid by September 13th. UCSA has already guaranteed \$2,000.00.

- Sobhani asked what they are requesting. Mahmood said she will have a more definite answer tomorrow when they have a breakdown.
- Garcia said there are some offices that have funds for which groups can apply, but other than that, most offices would have to allocate funds out of their operational budgets which would not be very feasible.
- Melgar said his office is allocating money to SOCC. He said the bid in progress looks very impressive. He would also like to see USAC pass a resolution supporting SOCC.
- Garcia asked that SOCC send their bid to USAC once it is completed.

VI. Appointments

- Hosseini said Garcia and Sobhani will present for Shulman in his absence.

A. Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC)

- Garcia said ARC unanimously approved Zafir Shaiq for SFAC because he has extensive experience with administrators, along with student advocacy, and he has a comprehensive understanding of SFAC. He also expressed goals he would like to accomplish with SFAC, such as expanding the fee waiver program for students and expanding SFAC's availability.
- Melgar said it is a big position, and would like to see Shaiq appear in person and answer questions.
- Melgar moved and Roth seconded to appoint Zafir Shaiq to SFAC under the stipulation that he appears in person to the council during meeting and answers questions.
- Roth asked if this is just a summer appointment. Garcia said it is.
- Garcia said ARC as not determined how to treat the summer appointments when Fall begins, and it is a topic for council to think about.
- Council approved Zafir Shaiq to SFAC under the stipulation that Shaiq appears in person to council in order to answer questions, with a vote of 8-0-0.

B. Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC)

- Garcia said ARC unanimously approved Ian Foran to SHAC. He has extensive knowledge of the healthcare system, and he has experience advocating for students. He would like to also increase SHAC's visibility on campus.
- Chacon asked about his ideas to increase the visibility of SHAC. Foran said one idea would be to place items on cards in the dining halls, something that the dining halls already do. Also, he would like to put small posters around campus detailing items about SHAC and increasing the visibility of the Ashe Center too.
- Roth asked Foran if he had any other ideas in addition to publicity. Foran said he would like to see more funding to the Ashe Center, and he would like to see more work being done with students who have addictions.
- Gonzalez moved and Melgar seconded to appoint Ian Foran to SHAC.
- Council appointed Ian Foran to SHAC with a vote of 8-0-0.

C. Community Activities Committee (CAC)

- Garcia said ARC approved Fabiola Inzunza to CAC as an alternate, because she has CAC funding experience, and she would like to focus more on why groups need money rather than how to allocate funding.
- Hosseini asked if her school year commitments are finalized. Inzunza said they are not, but she does not see a conflict arising.
- Chacon moved and Sien seconded to appoint Fabiola Inzunza to CAC as an alternate.
- Council appointed Fabiola Inzunza to CAC as an alternate with a vote of 8-0-0.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Student Government Operational Fund (SGOF) Allocations

- Brian Tan said he would like council to look at the end of the document to observe the constraints they dealt with while creating allocations. They allocated based on need and considered recruitment to be very important. They allocated funds based on two processes. The first was a rubric scored out of a total of 50 points. The second area they took into account was how much each office requested in each area, which can explain some of the inequities between scores and total allocations. He also said the rubric does favor certain types of offices over others.
- Garcia said Sien's allocation is \$4.00 over the cap. Also, the full page advertisement for Daily Bruin under Student Welfare Commission goes over the cap for advertising. Tan said that is probably a typo on his part. As for the SWC advertising allocation, they gave explicit justification for the advertisement as a form of recruitment.
- Roth said several offices had more than the cap. Tan said, in terms of that facet, the allocation is essential for recruitment.
- Garcia said the guidelines should say that Daily Bruin advertisements are strictly for recruitment.
- Roth asked if any of the caps that do exist are then technically not caps if they can be surpassed. Tan said the caps exist so totals do not add up to a figure that surpasses the total allocation cap, and the advertising category is the only area where they made an exception.
- Melgar said if there are caps, they should be kept, and a clause should be added to the guidelines similar to what Garcia suggested.
- Sobhani said all funding boards have some sort of elastic clause, and the allocations listed here can be justified. In addition, the new formula is a lot fairer than last year's formula.
- Williams asked if SGOF should be allocated like this every year, and if certain offices should be allocated based more on request due to the different natures of each office's operations. Sobhani said he is looking into that for the next SOOF allocations cycle.
- Tsai asked if Tan received his SGOF request. Tan said he found it today as it was not labeled. He said he will not grant the entire request, but will try.
- Chacon asked if we could amend the allocations to allocate the remainder of funds to Tsai's office.
- Chacon asked if any offices needed their funds immediately, or if they could hold off for another week so the SWC can get all of their allocations as well.
- Garcia said his office needs the funding. Garcia asked if this new allocation will affect anybody else's allocation. Tan said this new allocation will affect no one else's.
- Roth asked if it is possible to vote on everything except for the two things that need to be changed.
- Gonzalez said she is more comfortable with having the BRD fix the allocations and bring a new proposal to the table next week.
- Sobhani said it is possible to approve everything except those areas that need to be changed.
- Melgar proposed that Sien moves to remove \$4.00 from her allocation tonight, and then council can approve everyone's allocation except for SWC. That way, every office can have money and SWC can have a correct allocation for approval next week.
- Roth said she would not like to make changes at the table.
- Melgar moved and Chacon seconded to approve the SGOF Allocations, such that CSC does not go over the cap allowed for allocations (\$3360.00), and, with the exception of SWC, to allow BRC to review their application and report back next council meeting.
- Council approved the SGOF Allocations as Melgar moved with a vote of 6-0-2.

B. Contingency Allocations, August 25th, 2008

- Sobhani said that there were 3 Contingency Requests submitted for the week of August 25th, 2008, totaling \$3400.24. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$1200.00. All allocations were made under his discretion.
- Gonzalez moved and Chacon seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations of August 25th, 2008.
- Council approved the Contingency Allocations of August 25th, 2008, with a vote of 8-0-0.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Homaira Hosseini

Hosseini said there is a one year pilot program for composting food in the De Neve dining hall, and it will soon expand to the other dining halls as well. She has also been working with others on a deferred payment plan for students, so students can pay registration fees over the course of the quarter. Students will be able to pay in cash, check, e-check, or credit card as well. In addition, there will be no activation fees for students. She has also been in talks concerning the construction of a peace pole in Meyerhoff on the lawn. The Chancellor would fund it, and it would saye “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in different languages on each of the pole's 8 sides.

Gonzalez asked if other campuses have a peace pole. Hosseini said there are other campuses that have peace poles. Melgar asked if any other UC has a deferred payment plan. Hosseini said almost every other UC has one, except UCLA is the most exceptional due to a lack of activation costs for the student. Roth asked what Bruin Direct is under the deferred payment plan. Hosseini said it is a system of the direct deposit of checks, which helps increase sustainability and efficiency for the administration.

Internal Vice President – Evan Shulman

Roth, in substitution for Shulman, gave the report for the Internal Vice President. Roth said that Shulman proposed a joint USAC Daily Bruin advertisement during Welcome Week, and council should informally agree whether or not they want to do it. Shulman said his chief of staff could take the lead on this project.

Gonzalez asked if the money will be needed by Monday. Roth said it will be. Garcia said no office would have to take money out of their operational budget because it is a joint USAC venture. Garcia asked Sobhani about the various forms of funding that could be used. Sobhani said he would look into it, but council should not set a precedent of allocating funds at the table in this manner. Hosseini asked if everyone is interested, and it appears council has a general interest in the project.

External Vice President – Jesse Melgar

Melgar said his office is moving forward with the ORL Election Invasion Program. There will also be a UCSA board meeting on September 11th through the 13th, where SOCC members will be making a presentation.

IX. Old Business

A. T-shirt and Flyer Updates

- Liu passed out a design for a possible USAC t-shirt. He said it is currently a working concept.
- Chacon said he liked it.
- Tsai said he was looking at the ASUCLA website, and he really likes the logo of Kerckhoff Hall.

X. New Business

A. Action Agenda Breakout

- Hosseini said she would like to discuss this topic when more offices are present. She will email everyone notes from the retreat, and she would also like everybody to consider questions such as how offices are collaborating together and cosponsoring resolutions.

B. Admissions Report Discussion

- Hosseini said there was a report from a CORE member at UCLA, stating the university was going against Proposition 209. The report made an accusation that, after the change to a holistic review process for applicants, this led to a semblance of affirmative action due to a rising number of African American students being accepted. Hosseini said there is no tangible evidence to base the report upon, and a separate research is currently being taken to investigate if any such allegations could even be true. The new admissions policy is being mimicked from UC Berkeley, who has the same process and same research.
- Nelson said it is embarrassing for the institution to even recognize such a report, and the report itself is based on several false premises. For one, it is a matter of contracts, as Ward Connolly is funded by contractors who are upset that a certain percentage of contracts has to go to minorities. Education seems to get mixed in with this issue, and even talking about diversity as a negative at an educational institution is ridiculous. In addition, at a university comprised of many different races, why does anyone focus on the race with the least amount of people if there is a small jump in the number of those students being accepted. It creates a suspicious atmosphere, and one can not help but to wonder about ulterior motives.
- Williams asked if they would not release information to one faculty member, the university is releasing the information to another. Hosseini said they are releasing the information to an independent research program, and not a random faculty member with a hypothesis.
- Hosseini said if anybody had questions, they could get in contact with Tom Lifka as he is open to questions and inquiries about it.
- Chacon said it would be great if Lifka could come in to meeting and talk about the issue.

XI. Announcements

- Garcia said he will be doing his first around of Academic Senate appointments, and they will be voting on each individual person.
- Hosseini said the heads of Powell Library will be having a luncheon with those interested in learning more about the library, and those interested should email her. Also, last Friday in Westwood, there were four shots fired and it took UCPD eight minutes to arrive on the scene. They also did not explain the situation until the following Monday.
- Hosseini said that McLaren has parking permits. Garcia asked if they have been finalized yet. Hosseini said only the permits from last meeting.
- Roth said she and Sien will be having a CRC meeting on Thursday at 1:30 pm. Everyone is invited to bring any constitutional changes they wish to implement.
- Garcia asked if Sobhani is ex-officio this year. Sobhani said he was last year, but he does not know this year.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Gonzalez moved and Tsai 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 9:21 pm, by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker