

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday September 8, 2008
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Shulman

GUESTS:

I. A. Call to Order

- Hosseini called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Garcia moved Academic Senate Appointments after the Approval of the Agenda.
- Hosseini moved Student Government Operational Fund after Academic Senate Appointments.
- Roth added her officer report.
- Hosseini removed Calpirg and Block FM from Special Presentations.
- Chacon moved and Sien 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. Appointments

A. Academic Senate

- Garcia said council will vote on the appointments, not because they have to, but rather for the sake of transparency.
- Garcia said the first appointment is Matthew Van to the Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC).
- Chacon asked Van about his understanding of the position.
- Van said the committee is comprised of all faculty members and only one undergraduate member who can not vote. He has a vested interest in the welfare of the faculty members and would like to be in a position to voice student concerns upon the subject.
- Tuttle asked if votes are recorded. Van said they are.
- Tuttle said it could be useful to perform a mid-year report on how each student voted and to what extent their vote had an impact on the outcome of any issues.
- Reodica asked for each applicant to introduce his or herself.

- Van said he is going into his third year as a biology major at UCLA. He is in the Vietnamese Student Union, and he hopes to raise awareness for USAC.
- Melgar asked if council could vote on all applicants at once. Tuttle said the past precedent has been to vote on each individual, as years ago there was an issue with voting blocks and slates.
- McLaren asked if council needed to vote on the Academic Senate appointments. Garcia said Addar Weintraub started the precedent of bringing the appointments to council.
- Nelson said it would be more respectful to give each individual his or her day in court.
- Tuttle said under III.G.1.c, the Academic Senate committee appointments are subject to USAC approval.
- Melgar moved and Reodica seconded to approve the appointment of Matthew Van to the Faculty Welfare Committee.
- Council approved the appointment of Matthew Van to the Faculty Welfare Committee with a vote of 11-0-0.
- Garcia said the next appointment is Rose Lyn Castro to the Committee on Undergraduate Admission and Relations with Schools.
- Castro said she will be a fourth year IDS major. She has volunteered for several student initiated access projects, and many of her feelings are similar to what Van said about FWC.
- Hosseini asked if she is able to handle the position with her current time commitments. Castro said she can.
- Chacon moved and Birks seconded to approve the appointment of Rose Lyn Castro to the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with the Schools.
- Council approved the appointment of Rose Lyn Castro to the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with the Schools with a vote of 11-0-0.
- Garcia said the next appointment is Nick Wilson to the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools. He is a fifth year, and he is also the EVP for the Public Affairs Society. He is a resident assistant, and he can not wait to delve into complex issues of improving the community.
- Gonzalez moved and Melgar seconded to approve the appointment of Nick Wilson to the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with the Schools with a vote of 11-0-0.
- Garcia said the next appointment is Boris Lifkin to the Undergraduate Council. He is a fourth year Business Economics/Geography major, and he was on AAC last year.
- Garcia asked with what else Lifkin is involved. Lifkin said he is focusing on classes this year, and he is applying to graduate school.
- Chacon moved and Melgar seconded to approve the appointment of Boris Lifkin to the Undergraduate Council.
- Council approved the appointment of Boris Lifkin to the Undergraduate Council with a vote of 11-0-0.
- Garcia said the next appointment of Mike Kelso will be the most separate form his office. Kelso is a third year IDS/History student, and he is the current acting Associate Chief Justice of Jboard. He is also a part of mock trial and the pre-law fraternity.
- Tuttle asked if Kelso feels in any way beholden or grateful to the commissioner who appointed him or does he feel capable of upholding justice in a case if the AAC were to be a party. Kelso said he is not the first to have done this position, as Aaron Israel did it previously. He does not feel beholden to Garcia, and, if a case became before the court where Kelso would feel incapable of judging fairly, he would recuse himself immediately.
- Gonzalez moved and Chacon seconded to approve the appointment of Mike Kelso to the Undergraduate Council.
- Council approved the appointment of Mike Kelso to the Undergraduate Council with a vote of 10-0-1.
- Garcia said the next appointment is Lawrence Marshalian for the Undergraduate Council.. He is in PCC, and he is involved with the Model United Nations.

- Hosseini asked Marshalian how he plans to get acquainted with the Undergraduate Council. Marshalian said he will probably sit in and watch before jumping right in so he has an idea of what to do.
- Reodica moved and Melgar seconded to approve the appointment of Lawrence Marshalian to the Undergraduate Council.
- Council approved the appointment of Lawrence Marshalian to the Undergraduate Council with a vote of 11-0-0.
- Garcia said the next two appointments, Edith Perez as the Campus Retention Committee Liaison and Norah Sarsour as the Student Initiated Access Committee Liaison, will not be brought in for approval as they are liaisons and not apart of the regular Academic Senate appointments. Garcia also asked council if he could forward the other applicants' information to Nelson for processing pending council's approval.
- Garcia moved and Chacon seconded to approve Bata, Soleri, Tejwani, Lehr, Buatista, and Annette so he can begin the process of checking their status, pending council's approval.
- Council approved Garcia's motion with a vote of 8-0-3.
- Tuttle asked that Garcia give a time frame for when the others will be able to come into council for approval. Garcia said Tejwani, Bata, and Buatista will be here on the 23rd, and everyone else will be in council next week. Tuttle said council should be aware they established a new precedent in regard to commissioner's appointments.

IV. Fund Allocations

- Hosseini said they have to add the Contingency Allocations to the Agenda, and it takes a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote to add it on.
- Chacon moved and Sien seconded to add the Contingency Allocations of September 8th, 2008, to the Agenda.
- Tuttle said the President may vote to create the $\frac{3}{4}$ requirement.
- Council added the Contingency Allocations of September 8th, 2008, with a vote of 11-0-0.

A. Student Government Operational Fund (SGOF) Allocations

- Tan said they reevaluated the funds available for allocation, and they came up with a figure of \$236.00 to be allocated for the Student Welfare Commission's supplies line item.
- Tsai said the form was turned in on time, it was just not noticed. There was an error in communication.
- Birks moved and Chacon seconded to approve the SGOF Allocations.
- Council approved the SGOF Allocations with a vote of 11-0-0.

B. Contingency Allocations, September 8th, 2008

- Sobhani said that there were 3 Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$2046.98. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$1100.00. All the allocations were made via Sobhani's discretionary authority.
- Gonzalez moved and Melgar seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations for September 8th, 2008.
- Council approved the Contingency Allocations for September 8th, 2008, with a vote of 10-0-1.
- Tuttle asked for what WILD stands. Sien said it is Working for Immigrants Literacy Development. Tuttle asked that acronyms be spelled out in the future.

V. Approval of the Minutes

There were no Minutes this week.

VI. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments this week.

VII. Special Presentations

There were no Special Presentations this week.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Homaira Hosseini

- Hosseini said she has a conference call with the Student Regent on 9/11/08, and anyone who has an issue to bring up should email Hosseini by the 10th. There will also be the Campus Facilities Coordinating Committee in the Plaza View Conference Room in Wooden Center on 9/11/08 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. Lastly, she was approached by the Japanese consulate who said there is a university in Japan that is interested in visiting UCLA. Anyone interested in helping out should get in contact with Hosseini.

Internal Vice President – Evan Shulman

- Hosseini gave the Internal Vice President's report on Shulman's behalf. Shulman turned in the required documents to Student Government Accounting for the Daily Bruin advertisement.

Gonzalez asked if there was a copy of the advertisement. Hosseini said she can not read the copy emailed to her by Shulman. Nelson said the dates of 9/23 to 9/25 are blank and asked if they are going to fill them in. Hosseini said she does not know. Nelson said its best to be as complete as possible. Gonzalez asked to have more complete information for the first two dates and made a suggestion to list all of the activities for the week on the Hill. Roth said the advertisement should also talk about applying to the various USA offices. Garcia said funds for the advertisement are not being taken from any office's personal budget, but rather the overall notification budget. Liu asked if the advertisement will be in color. Hosseini said it will be in green. Liu said it would be a good idea to have the USAC seal in the background. Hosseini said everyone should email Shulman with their comments.

External Vice President – Jesse Melgar

- Melgar said he has started his first round of lobby visits and met with the Lieutenant Governor. There will also be a UCSA board meeting at UCSD, and anyone interested in lobbying should contact his office.

Facilities Commissioner – Galen Roth

- Roth said CRC is going to be meeting soon regarding changes to the OSAC Bylaws and Guidelines. Most likely CRC will meet on 9/15/08, and it is open to the public. Anyone who has changes for CRC should submit them by 9/11/08. Roth said the second item she wished to discuss was a written response to the CCM letter. The letter acknowledges their concerns and explains the situation with OSAC. Roth said she would like to have USAC sign it as a unified body.

Gonzalez said the sentence stating that there is no current plans to exempt CCM from their office sounds too much like a binding promise. Roth said she included that sentence because the letter received from CCM gave an impression of immediate removal. Reodica said the word "current" in the sentence just expresses an immediate concern and not a lasting obligation. Reodica said she would agree to strike that clause in order to send the letter as a unified body. Tuttle asked if they plan to commit to an application process during fall quarter. Roth said she believes so. Tuttle said council may want to give themselves some flexibility instead of committing to the fall quarter. Reodica said this is a way of having council hold responsibility on itself. Kohles asked that "fall quarter" should be stricken and replaced with "be in effect

immediately” to give council more time. Hosseini asked when Roth plans on getting an OSAC chair. She does not know yet, but people have been applying.

- Birks moved and Chacon seconded to approve the letter as amended.
- Council approved the letter with a vote of 9-0-0.
- McLaren said anyone who still wants a parking permit should write down their name and request on a sheet of paper being passed around. There are already four blue permits taken.
- Melgar asked who the four people were that got the blue permit forms. They were Reodica, Chacon, Garcia, and Hosseini.

IX. Old Business

A. Admissions Report, Tom Lifka, Assistant Vice Chancellor

- Tom Lifka said what has happened recently in regard to the Admissions Report issue is two articles were released to the LA Times, one by a freelance conservative writer and another by Darnel Hunt, the director of the Bunche Center. Overall, the situation has received modest press coverage, but without someone to pick the story back up, it will probably not go anywhere. Tomorrow, there is a town hall meeting organized by ASU, where Nina Montero will be speaking. Unfortunately, UCLA must always be ready for a lawsuit, especially when dealing with admissions. Himself and Montero talked to ASU the other day and expressed that there is very little UCLA can do to remove controversy in admitting students. It is a shame, because such controversy dampens the campus climate, and everyone who is admitted to UCLA deserves to be here.
- Melgar asked if there was anything students could do to assist in anyway possible. Lifka said the Chancellor, along with other individuals such as Montero and himself plan on talking about the issue more, and they are always available to talk to any disconcerted students.
- Nelson said he did not have a chance to read either article, but he heard that the instigating professor is a Hoover Fellow. Lifka said he does not know anything about that, but he heard that certain faculty member is viewed as a leader of conservative issues on campus.
- Nelson said that faculty member is disingenuous about being interested in on campus diversity, as he did not write an informed article, and his accusations of collusion have no grounding. Nelson also said that faculty member believes in diversity to correct historic wrongs, while the Supreme Court said universities could not use historic wrongs as an excuse for diversity in admissions.
- Hosseini asked for clarification about the independent researcher, and why the researcher was given the applications but the faculty member was not. Lifka said the faculty member was not given the applications because he wanted personal access at every level, rather than under the auspices of the committee. In addition, he wanted the entire applications, while in reality he would just be given a redacted version of the application. Either way, even if he got his hands on the application, he would not have been able to read them as an actual reader does.
- Williams asked if the independent researcher would get a redacted form. Lifka said the independent researcher would not.
- Nelson said when that faculty member said African Americans were favorably disposed to other African Americans, that is overt racism as it assumes an inherent bias within all African Americans.
- Lifka says the attacks from the right come in various forms, but they are all about making narrow academic qualifications the only qualifications acceptable for admissions.
- Tuttle said it would be useful to mention the process for application readership. Lifka said there are 160 readers, with two-thirds being staff members and one-third being from the outside. Every applications is reviewed by two different readers at the same time. Each reader goes through twenty hours of training, and they are all normed to the

same criteria of readership. If there are any disparate scoring occurrences, the reader is intercepted to figure out why such scores were being given. Sometimes an application will go on to a third reader for review.

- Hosseini thanked Lifka for speaking to council. Lifka said council should tell students that they are all qualified to be at UCLA.

X. New Business

A. Textbook Scholarships Resolution

- Reodica said the idea started with the rising textbook prices students face on campus. It will be a quarterly scholarship, and students will apply for it within the last two weeks of the previous quarter in order to be eligible for selection. The biggest thing is to make students aware that such scholarships are available. They will be given in terms of need based. The way in which applicants will be chosen will be via a lottery system. The Financial Aid Office, to which they have already agreed, will release applicants' information for the purpose of determining a threshold of need for distributing the scholarships. From that pool of applicants, the lottery system will be determined.
- Kohles asked why there is an application if it is based on a lottery system. Reodica said the application would get required information such as ID number, while the other part of the application detailing a person's story would be optional.
- Reodica said the scholarship would amount to around \$350 for a quarter per student. Also, any book he or she buys with the scholarship money would have to go back into the book loan program as a way to revitalize the program. Another option would be to give the books to ASUCLA's book rental program as opposed to the book loan program. Either way would provide an avenue for lowering book prices.
- To fund the program, Reodica said there are several possible sources of funding. The current request would be for \$20,000.00 to be allocated out of surplus as a one time allocation, and then ask ASUCLA to match half of that. This would provide seed money for the program, along with a platform to raise more money. One program in the works to help continually fund the program would be an auction series, with the first auction being Ballin' for a Cause. Sports memorabilia would be auctioned off and the proceeds would go towards the program. She needs the money as soon as possible, though, because she has to give a presentation to ASUCLA's Financial Committee on a similar funding proposal, and she can not go in there without some sort of financial backing from USAC.
- Tuttle said the program sounds like a great idea, but he would like to know if there are any other demands being placed on surplus.
- Reodica said she talked to Sobhani and Simmons about the figure of \$20,000.00, so it shouldn't affect the current surplus, which is over \$400,000.00.
- Tressel asked if the program will be self funding after one year. Reodica said it is up to her successor to keep it going, but she believes the auction series would keep it self funding.
- Reodica gave a presentation on the various funding scenarios that could occur whether or not ASUCLA gives any funding.
- Tressel said it seems like money would run out quickly if so much is expended on scholarships. It might be a good idea to cut down on the number of initial scholarships that are handed out.
- Tuttle asked Reodica if she talked to the Financial Aid Office if these scholarships would affect a student's financial aid. Reodica said it would not affect their financial aid.
- Tuttle said it would be wise to get a letter from the Financial Aid Office saying they will not take away from students who are receiving money from these scholarships.
- Tuttle asked what the relevant number is that accurately reflects total available surplus. Hosseini said surplus is around \$370,000.00 in terms of what is being worked with.
- Tuttle said it would be wise to look at other likely draw outs.

- Kohles said the best avenue for books after students are done with them should be the ASUCLA book rental program. It gives ASUCLA a vested interest in the program. Also, she asked if there is a method for keeping students accountable for their books.
- Reodica said they are not completely set on a method of accountability, but they talked about putting holds on student accounts if they do not return books.
- Williams said he expects ASUCLA will support the program, but they did lower textbook prices for the upcoming year. Another issue is with the book rental program, as a book needs to have been used four separate times before becoming part of the rental program. This brings in other issues of getting faculty to use book versions for longer periods of time. He also suggested that Reodica considers giving out a lower number of scholarships because he would hate to see fewer and fewer being given out due to funding issues.
- Reodica read the FSC Scholarship Resolution to the council.
- Hosseini said “a” should be removed from in front of “higher education.”
- Tressel said there should be an apostrophe in “Students” located in the first Whereas.
- Chacon moved and Sien seconded to approve the FSC Scholarship Resolution.
- Council approved the FSC Scholarship Resolution with a vote of 7-0-0.

B. Bruin Bash Presentation

- Liu said Bruin Bash was instituted to combat Black Sunday, and it is the biggest event during Welcome Week.
- Chacon said they are cutting costs this year by using one venue, Pauley Pavilion. Last year, CAC had to spend \$50,000.00 of their own money while CEC applied for surplus. There was still a lot of money that was required from both commissions. This year there is an estimated cost of \$110,000.00 total for Bruin Bash, and CAC and CEC would like \$70,000.00 from surplus to help fund it and to allow more funding to stay within CAC and CEC. Bruin Bash could still operate on an excellent level of quality without putting a huge dent into the programming budgets of CAC and CEC.
- Tuttle asked if council allocated \$30,000.00 to Bruin Bash from surplus last year. Liu said they did.
- Tuttle asked why they are increasing the amount requested to council this year. Chacon said they feel it is not a duty solely for CAC and CEC, but for the entire council to participate.
- Tressel asked if they ever asked for a united effort from the administration. Liu said he does not know if anybody went to the administration, although the Chancellor does contribute money.
- Gonzalez asked how much each office would pay this year. Chacon said neither CAC nor CEC would pay anything.
- Tuttle asked how much would be left in surplus. Hosseini said around \$260,000.00 would be left in surplus.
- Reodica asked if they ran this by SGA. Liu said they did, and they did not receive any negative feedback.
- Tuttle asked if Ken Heller is on board. Chacon said he is.
- Champawat said he talked to Simmons about these numbers, and he feels comfortable that it is a good position to take.
- Tuttle asked if they talked to Sobhani. They did, and he is on board.
- Roth moved and Chacon seconded to approve the Bruin Bash 2008 Funding Proposal.
- Council approved the Bruin Bash 2008 Funding Proposal with a vote of 7-0-0.

XI. Announcements

- Hosseini asked if any council members did not have a key to their mailbox. She can hold onto the agendas for anybody who can not get into their mailbox.

- Gonzalez said there will be a presentation to the ORL training staff tomorrow at 2:00 pm in De Neve Auditorium. It is very brief, and she will be sending an email to everyone.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Reodica moved and Gonzalez 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 10:21 pm. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker