

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL

Tuesday September 15, 2008  
417 Kerckhoff Hall  
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Birks, Chacon, Chibnick, Garcia, Gonzalez, Hosseini, Kohles, Liu, McLaren, Nelson,  
Roth, Shulman, Tressel, Tsai, Tuttle

ABSENT: Champawat, Melgar, Reodica, Sien, Sobhani, Williams

GUESTS:

I. A. Call to Order

- Hosseini called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*The Attendance sheet was passed around.*

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Hosseini added Calpirg under Special Presentations.
- Garcia added Discussion under Fund Allocations.
- Gonzalez moved and Chacon seconded to approve the Agenda.
- Council approved the Agenda, as amended, with a vote of 8-0-1.

III. Approval of the Minutes

*There were no Minutes this week.*

IV. Public Comments

*There were no Public Comments this week.*

V. Special Presentations

**Calpirg**

- Sean Carroll, the campus organizer for Calpirg, gave a short introduction to himself and Calpirg. He said one of the projects they are working on currently is the Campus Climate Challenge, where they hope to prove that solutions to global warming are viable and feasible. They helped get TGIF passed last year, and they are currently lobbying to increase mpg standards. There is also the Hunger Homeless Campaign, where the hope to fight the problem of living standards passing up paid wages. There is also the New Voters Project, where they aim to register 5,000 students to vote. The lead campaign for the fall is the high-speed rail between Los Angeles and San Francisco, which will help alleviate congested highways and roads.
- Shulman asked if Campus Climate Challenge is like Power Vote. Carroll said they are coalition partners.

## VI. Appointments

*There were no Appointments this week.*

## VII. Fund Allocations

**Discussion**

- Garcia said an issue arose during SOOF hearings about the recusal of a board member due to involvement with a group that is being interviewed. More specifically, the question arose due to Garcia's and Birks's involvement with Queer Alliance (QA) and their coalition groups. Garcia said he would like to bring this issue before council about where to draw the line with recusal. Garcia said being asked to recuse himself questioned is own character about whether or not he knows where to draw the line. Garcia said he already recused himself from any hearings involving QA.
- Tan said he would like to clear up the grey area of whether one can be accused of being biased or not due to past affiliation and identity.
- Hosseini asked if either Garcia or Birks is a board member for any of the groups they are accused of being biased in favor. Neither of them are a board member, but they are group members. Garcia is a member of QA and Birks is a member of Blaque.
- Hosseini said, in regard to CAC and CPC, current board members are not allowed to vote.
- Tuttle said if one does not feel like he or she can be fair, then recusal is a valid option. However, participation is of great importance, and, if one feels capable of being unbiased, then he or she should disclose their involvement but still participate.
- Nelson said there is also an issue of perception. If it seems collusion is at hand, recusal may be at order. Yet, recusal is still a personal decision.
- Roth asked what the voting process is like on BRC. Tan said they vote on groups under two different tiers. First, they determine if the organization had violated any regulations. Second, they score the organization's application on a rubric out of 50 points. There is some discourse especially if there is a huge discrepancy between rubric scores.
- Garcia said the scores were pretty consistent overall.
- Gonzalez asked if Garcia is being asked to recuse himself from all proceedings involving QA umbrella organizations. Garcia said that is one of the main questions at the table.
- Kohles asked Garcia if he sees himself as having a vested interest in the success of QA and the affiliated groups. Garcia said its best to understand that QA was first a coalition before its own organization. Also, he feels that he can separate himself from his own identity in order to make an unbiased decision.
- Tuttle said, while it does not hurt to raise the issue of recusal, one runs the risk of also losing expertise on a subject. There can be an issue of endless attachment, as certain groups are affiliated with other groups and so on. In the end, people tend to make fairly good judgments, so its best to disclose information and move on.
- Gonzalez asked if there is any transfer of funds between the organizations in question. Garcia said there is no real hand-off of funds between organizations.
- Gonzalez said she believes one's power to vote is vested in his or her self. If someone is appointed to a committee, then they are trusted enough to make decisions on his or her own accord.
- Birks said he already chose to recuse himself from QA and Blaque, and the only question left is whether Garcia should be forced to recuse himself.
- Chacon said he feels comfortable with Garcia making his own decision on the matter.
- McLaren asked if there would be quorum for the SOOF hearings if Garcia and Birk recused themselves. Tan said the organizations would be rescheduled for a different day, but it would not be the same committee interviewing them.
- Nelson said if they are being asked to not participate at all, that is a serious problem. They should be allowed to share their expertise on the subject.

- Tan said the passed precedent had been for neither voting or participating in regard to recusal.
- Tuttle said there are standards by which someone may judge him or her self for recusal, such as whether or not there are rules in place about board members and such. The common sense standard, by which one could explain him or her self to critics, should play a factor. One's identity is not how to judge oneself for recusal.
- Hosseini said they are going to take an informal vote to determine if the right of recusal is inherent in the specific person, or if the right of recusal could be delegated to another entity. A majority of council believed recusal to be an inherent right, not one that can be delegated.
- Garcia said he brought the issue forward for the expertise of the council members and administrators, and he has no doubt in his mind that he knows when to recuse himself and when not to. He also brought attention to the letter drafted by Sobhani and where the heart of the contention lay.
- Tuttle said if there is a possibility of financial gain for oneself, recusal is in order. Also, if there are regulations barring one from participating on a funding body due to previous student group involvement, recusal is in order too. When it comes to a situation such as this, one should ask oneself if they could stand the scrutiny of the bylaws and a Jboard case.
- Tan said, while recusal is a personal decision, one still has to answer to higher bodies for actions taken.

#### VIII. Officer and Member Reports

##### **President – Homaira Hosseini**

- Hosseini said the students from Japan visited UCLA last Saturday, and they were really impressed with the campus. The Shared Governance Conference is September 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in the South Bay Room in Covell. If there are any administrators anyone needs to contact in order to pursue goals, contact Hosseini so she can invite them to the conference.

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

- Garcia said he had a meeting with Judy Smith last week, and they talked on various subjects such as diversity on campus and the campus climate study. They also talked about the recent events concerning the new admissions process, and how they could work towards assuring students every one of them belongs here. Also discussed was a way to take pressure off of students during dead week. His is also going to talk to Janina Montero next week to discuss admissions. Lastly, WASC reaccreditation is coming up, and this year's committee report is similar to last years. They will be stressing the capstone certification again this year.

*Nelson said there was a forum last week for various African American students, faculty, staff, etc, where they discussed comments made by a certain faculty member during the admissions process issue.*

##### **Facilities Commissioner – Galen Roth**

- Roth said she went to the Campus Facilities Coordinating Committee meeting last week, and they touched upon such subjects as Welcome Week and the Student Welcome Ceremony. All of the council members are invited to attend the Student Welcome Ceremony, as the Chancellor is aiming to bring it back as a more traditional event for the new students. Roth continued, saying ROTC will have some kind of performance during the ceremony. In addition, there will be an "Ask Me About UCLA" tent during Welcome Week, and different administrators, along with others, will wear buttons inviting newcomers to ask them questions about the campus. Lastly, De Neve Commons will be renamed Carnesale Commons.

*Tuttle said it would be wise for everyone to think about preparing something to speak about, even if one is not scheduled to speak. It may occur that someone will be asked to speak impromptu.*

IX. Old Business

**T-shirt/Flyer Update**

- Liu said he has had his hands full with Bruin Bash, and it would be better for another office with extra time at the moment to take on the T-shirt/flyer responsibility.
- Hosseini said she will have a staff member work on the flyer.

X. New Business

**A. Constitutional Review Committee**

- Shulman said they went over the changes proposed for OSAC by Roth, and the changes proposed for ARC by Kohles. OSAC changes mostly concern making sure groups with offices are notified about the process. Those present at the meeting were Shulman, Sien, Roth, and Hosseini.
- Gonzalez asked that they vote on it next week, given the changes were just presented to council before meeting.
- Roth said its a guidelines change, not a bylaws change. Also, council was notified last week, and the CRC meeting was open to everyone.
- Roth said III.A.1 was added to articulate better that any organization that has storage space may still apply for office space.
- Roth said IV.C was added to ensure each year council is familiar with the OSAC application.
- Nelson asked if there will be a permanent application, or one that changes from year to year. Roth said she feels a permanent application is the better option.
- Kohles said the wording is a little ambiguous. Hosseini said adding "prior to dispersal of form" would help clear up ambiguity as to the timeliness of the matter.
- Roth said section IV.E was added to combat the issue of notifying groups that have office space.
- Roth said section IV.F.2 was added to say organizations combining on one application will not be construed as one organization unless desired by those organizations.
- Roth said IV.J.2 was removed to allow multiple locker spaces to be allocated to single groups. This is due to an excess of locker space leftover from last years allocation.
- Roth said IV.N was changed to allow groups to meet with OSAC and make a statement even if OSAC does not have any questions.
- Roth said IV.S was changed to lengthen the deadline to a reasonable time.
- Gonzalez said she is afraid posting on doors will not suffice in warning groups. Roth said that is why they must obtain a signed form.
- Gonzalez said IV.J2 should be changed so extra space will only be allocated if available. Hosseini said to add "unless space is available after complete allocation."
- Hosseini said OSAC under III.A.1 needs to have the 'c' capitalized.
- Gonzalez asked about the voting procedure for guidelines changes.
- Tuttle said the changes require a two-thirds vote. However, there may be a clause in the constitution saying no changes can be made during summer quarter on any constitutional document. While these are guidelines, it may be wise to see if these changes affect the bylaws at all.
- Roth said there are not conflicts, but the current bylaws need to be changed. The ARC changes are a bylaws change, so they need to be done in the fall.
- Gonzalez asked if these changes were the jurisdiction of CRC. Roth said the members of OSAC can submit guidelines changes, and Roth is the only member of OSAC at the moment. Gonzalez said she would feel more comfortable if an OSAC was chosen first, and then changes to the guidelines were discussed.

- Shulman said the OSAC chair, when appointed, can make recommendations to the council to change the guidelines.
- Tuttle asked how CRC ended up reviewing the guidelines. Roth said she took care of it after council discussed fixing the documents. Also any guiding documents have to go through CRC first.
- Tuttle said it was tacitly delegated to CRC by council, but there may not be a general standard of this.
- Tuttle said there does not seem to be a conflict with the bylaws, and while council may want a week to look it over, it can be pushed through during the summer.
- Gonzalez said the minimum requirement to pass the changes now is five council members, which is less than half of council. Also, they just received the document so time to digest the material would be in order.
- Shulman said whatever changes are made, the OSAC chair will have a chance to review the guidelines and offer recommendations.
- Chacon moved and Kohles seconded to table the action item until next week.
- Roth asked that council keep the timeliness of the matter in mind.
- Gonzalez amended the motion, so the item is tabled until the meeting of September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Council voted to table the action item until September 30<sup>th</sup> with a vote of 4-1-2.

## XI. Announcements

**A. Digitize USAC**

- Hosseini said Sobhani is testing out a new program to digitize BOD applications, and he needs about eight people to email him for a test run. He will give instructions in a response email.

## XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*The attendance sheet was passed around.*

## XIII. Adjournment

- Shulman 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 9:15 pm, by Acclamation.

## XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King  
USAC Minutes Taker