

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday October 14, 2008
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Reodica, Tressel

GUESTS: Amanda Aquino, Emily Campitiello, Sean Carroll, Richard Chen, Karolyn Heimes, Mariya Kisiha, Josephine Lee, Norah Sarsour, Mallory Wang

I. A. Call to Order

- Hosseini called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Shulman added Dai Truong for CS Mini-Fund under Appointments.
- Tsai 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. Approval of the Minutes

There were no Minutes this week.

IV. Public Comments

- Josephine Lee from PSAPS announced an upcoming event on Tuesday, October 21st, 2008 at 5:00pm. It will be encompassing student affairs and anything dealing with higher education beyond the classroom.
- Tuttle said many UCLA students have stayed at the university to build a career, and it is well worth noting that.

- Carolyn from CALPIRG said they are sponsoring an art contest that will represent a dialogue about Earth's current environmental state. She would like it if any office would be willing to cosponsor the event and contribute to it.
- Hosseini said different commissions have a variety of restrictions, and she can sit down and talk with them outside of the public forum.

- Sean Carroll from CALPIRG said they obtained 65 people at recruitment, and they will be soliciting for pledges all week. They will also be tabling from tomorrow to

Thursday, 10:00am to 3:30pm and need 110 volunteers to commit two hours of their time.

V. Special Presentations

A. WASC Accreditation – Judy Smith, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education

- Smith said the university undergoes an evaluation by the WASC committee every eight years to be accredited. If the university is not accredited, they lose all federal funding. Smith described the process by which the university goes through accreditation, and she said the university is working on expanding the capstone experience to more departments. The school is asking for each department to publish the learning outcomes of their capstone experience, or, if they do not have a capstone program, to publish what one might entail. The goal is, by 2018, for all students to have a capstone requirement.
- Tuttle said he teaches a capstone seminar for the Public Policy major and minor, and he did a module involving the university library. He said it is a component that increases information literacy and should be used more widely.
- Smith said there are some majors that do not have capstones, such as Chemistry, but they have advanced labs that are not required. They hope to improve upon the current situation.

VI. Appointments

A. Stephan Searles, Advisory Board to the Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender Center

- Shulman said ARC recommended Searles with a vote of 3-0-0. He has a general knowledge of the board and their responsibilities, and he has experience with LGBT advocacy.
- Roth asked Searles how he would specifically bring together LGBT groups. Searles said he would like to make the LGBT Center a hub for student involvement, and he hopes to expand the health insurance plan to cover costs for transgender students.
- Tuttle asked if there is a problem for transgender students feeling welcomed at the LGBT Center. Searles said the issue with SHIP, as it costs a great deal for transgender students to undergo a transition.
- Tuttle asked if there are better practices elsewhere. Searles said five other UCs have programs already implemented. Garcia said there is one implemented for graduate students.
- Melgar moved and Chacon seconded to approve Stephan Searles to the Advisory Board to the Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender Center.
- Council approved Stephen Searles to the Advisory Board to the Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender Center with a vote of 11-0-0.

B. Nourah Sarsour, Chancellor's Enrollment Advisory Committee

- Shulman said ARC recommended Sarsour with a vote of 2-0-1. She has an excellent knowledge of the committee as well as experience advocating for students.
- Hosseini asked Sarsour what she will do to get the word out about changes. Sarsour said there is not much of an undergraduate voice on the committee and would like to see it expanded.
- Birks moved and Roth seconded to approve Nourah Sarsour to the Chancellor's Enrollment Advisory Committee.
- Council approved Nourah Sarsour to the Chancellor's Enrollment Advisory Committee with a vote of 10-0-1.

C. Mariya Kisiha, Committee on Instructional Improvement Programs

- Shulman said ARC made no recommendation regarding Mariya Kisiha, as the committee voted 1-1-1. Kisiha has basic knowledge of the committee, prior experience researching, as well as basic advocacy experience through CALPIRG.

- Birks asked Kisiha to expand on her knowledge of the committee. Kisiha said she could find very little information pertaining to the committee, and she is concerned with funding and promoting more effective methods of teaching.
- Kohles asked Kisiha about her goals for next year. Kisiha said she hopes to turn the classroom into a more interactive environment.
- Hosseini said a lot of the information for the committee was not available or well advertised, and she asked Kisiha if one of her goals is to advertise the committee more. Kisiha said it is one of her goals, and she hopes to put more of the information online.
- Tuttle said it would be great if someone pushed to have an extra office hour attached to each teacher.
- Birks moved and Chacon seconded to approve Mariya Kisiha to the Committee on Instructional Improvement Programs.
- Council approved Mariya Kisiha to the Committee on Instructional Improvement Programs with a vote of 6-2-3.

D. Mallory Wang, Election Board Chairperson

- Shulman said Wang was recommended by ARC with a vote of 3-0-0. She worked on Eboard last year and understands all facets of the Election Board, and she hopes to change the Election Code so that it is more user friendly.
- Gonzalez asked Wang if she read all of the E-code. Wang said she tried to, but a lot of it is confusing. She understood most of it through Kleckner last year.
- Melgar asked about Wang's vision for moving forward. Wang said she hopes to get a committee together immediately, so as to revise the E-code. Then, during the second half of winter quarter, she hopes to get the word out about the election with the aim of increasing student turnout.
- Gonzalez asked Wang about the biggest problem with the E-code. Wang said the biggest problem is its readability.
- Gonzalez asked why the E-code should be changed now, even though it was been in place for so long. Wang said its readability was not a serious problem, but it should be clarified if possible.
- Melgar asked Wang if she is involved in any organizations that are involved in partisan politics. Wang said she is not.
- Tuttle asked Wang what organizations of which she is a part. Wang said she is involved with Hedrick Summit's Floor Government on the 9th floor.
- Tuttle asked Wang about her time commitments. Wang said she has an internship with a law firm and a normal course load for a second year, but she foresees no issues with her schedule.
- Tuttle asked about her duties on Eboard last year. Wang said she was publicity chair, and she worked closely with the Daily Bruin to promote the election.
- Tuttle asked about Wang's experiences in high school. Wang said she helped increase student election turnout in high school through pep rallies and giving away free items. Tuttle said she would have to be very careful with giving out any sort of incentive.
- Tuttle asked Wang if she will risk the honor of her name and reputation to swing the election one way or another. Wang said she will not do that.
- Tuttle said this is an important time to tell the council if any close friend or relative is heavily involved in the partisan aspect of the election, or if there is anything she wishes to tell the council. Wang said she has nothing to warn the council.
- Gonzalez asked Wang if she is willing to recognize slates in the new E-code. Wang said she is not ready to do so. While many candidates seem to require slate affiliation to win, she does not want it to be the case.
- Gonzalez asked Wang about any ideas to increase turnout. Wang said the best way to increase turnout is by an early start.
- Chacon moved and Sien seconded to approve Mallory Wang as the Election Board Chairperson.
- Gonzalez said she feels Wang's attributes are better suited as an Eboard member and not as the chair.

- Chacon said he feels Wang would be perfect for the position, as she has previous experience and shows an early passion for the job.
- Hosseini said Wang's application was the strongest out of all the ones forwarded, and that she would make a great chairperson.
- Gonzalez said Wang was not aware of a situation where a member of the election process was aware that groups forwarding questions to the Eboard had forwarded questions., and this is a legitimate concern.
- Tuttle asked if last year's questions were leaked. Gonzalez said it can not be confirmed.
- Nelson said Mike Cohn had never heard of this situation, and neither has Nelson himself heard of the situation until now.
- Tuttle said it should be looked into in an appropriate way.
- Shulman said Wang's best attribute was her knowledge of, not just the publicity aspect of Eboard, but all facets.
- Council approved Mallory Wang as Election Board Chairperson with a vote of 9-1-1.

E. Amanda Aquino, Academic Senate, Faculty Executive Committee

- Aquino is a 4th year Physiologic Sciences major and an Asian Studies minor. She is the Vice Chair of the Pacific Islander Student Association, as well as a member of a retention project in CPO. She hopes to find new ways to improve the major and minor curriculum of all departments, and she wants to implement historical and cultural methods of teaching.
- Gonzalez moved and Birks seconded to approve Amanda Aquino to the Faculty Executive Committee.
- Council approved Amanda Aquino to the Faculty Executive Committee with a vote of 11-0-0.

F. Josephine Lee, Academic Senate, Faculty Executive Committee

- Lee is a fifth year English major and Global Studies minor. She is already involved with the Faculty Executive meetings, and she hopes to bring a voice as an undergraduate representative.
- Hosseini asked Lee if she has any new ideas to bring to the committee. Lee said she hopes to be a good liaison between faculty and students, and if there are issues with any students, she hopes to get USAC more involved with them.
- Shulman moved and Chacon seconded to approve Josephine Lee to the Faculty Executive Committee.
- Council approved Josephine Lee to the Faculty Executive Committee with a vote of 11-0-0.

G. Richard Chen, Academic Senate, Council on Planning and Budget

- Chen is a second year electrical engineer, and he is involved with the Taiwanese Association Union, as well as IEEE. He would like to help tackle problems such as tuition hikes through careful planning and allocating of resources. He hopes to reduce wasting paper, such as cutting down on flyers, and he hopes to help the university gain a larger surplus of resources.
- Chacon moved and Shulman seconded to approve Richard Chen to the Council on Planning and Budget.
- Council approved Richard Chen to the Council on Planning and Budget with a vote of 11-0-0.

H. Finance Committee (FiComm)

- Sobhani said there are two appointments, both of which served last year. If they are approved, FiComm will have quorum.
- The first appointment is Sherin Nosrati. She worked very closely with the board last year and understands both the workings of the board and the current members.

- Tuttle asked Nosrati if she is aware of how much money could potentially be pulled back into contingency that is currently circulating between groups. Nosrati said she is unaware of the allocations made by Sobhani, so she does not know.
- Roth asked Nosrati about any affiliations she has with oncampus groups, and if she is ready or foresees any situation where recusal may be in the cards. Nosrati said she was not in any group last year, and she is currently involved in the Sports and Entertainment Business Network. She also volunteered for Dance Marathon. She is ready to put any biases aside to pay attention to the application and not the name.
- Hosseini asked Nosrati if she recommends any changes to the structure of the committee. Nosrati said she wishes to see everything done in a timely fashion.
- Gonzalez moved and Chacon seconded to approve Sherin Nosrati to the Finance Committee.
- Council approved Sherin Nosrati to the Finance Committee with a vote of 11-0-0.
- The next candidate was Isaac Rose, who was on FiComm last year and knows the process extremely well.
- Birks asked Rose if he has any other time conflicts between various committees. Rose said the committees of which he is a part meet at different times of the day.
- Roth asked Rose if he is Gabe Rose's brother. Rose said he is. Roth asked if this fact would make him biased in any way during the allocation process. Rose said he is completely unbiased and this connection does not affect his judgment.
- Roth moved and Melgar seconded to approve Isaac Rose to the Finance Committee.
- Council approved Isaac Rose to the Finance Committee with a vote of 11-0-0.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Contingency Allocations

- Sobhani said that there were 5 Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$4039.58. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$1779.29.
- Sobhani said the Pakistani Student Association (PSA) did not receive funding because there were two handwritten portions of the application, no documentation was included, and the application was submitted less than five days before their event.
- Hosseini said the PSA event was based on a lunar event, which is only known days before the event. Sobhani said he did not see any type of documentation in their application.
- Chacon moved and Kohles seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocations for October 14th, 2008.
- Council approved the Contingency Fund Allocations for October 14th, 2008, with a vote of 11-0-0.
- Gonzalez asked that the Agenda materials be furnished to council in a more orderly and timely procedure.
- Shulman asked that everyone submit materials to the Agenda Maker's email so all materials are sent out in an orderly fashion.

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 the 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 is meeting with members of the College Library to discuss initiatives for scholarships, escort services, and more books to be held on reserve. There will be a moment of silence in Meyerhoff, as well as Blue & Gold Week tomorrow. Chacon will be having performers at noon. Also, the old STA Travel Center in Ackerman Union is turning into a BOD approved blood drive. The internships for the president's office went well, as 200 students signed up, and the directors are currently setting up a curriculum. Winter quarter, they can be placed in those offices and commissions that want interns.

Internal Vice President – Evan Shulman

Shulman said council members should get their bios to Tony, so they can be uploaded to the website. He also sent out a flyer that emulates the one CSP gives out at the registration fair for student groups.

External Vice President – Jesse Melgar

Melgar said he had a staff retreat in Big Bear. His office is currently working on viral campaigning through Facebook. The Bruin Lobby Corps will be starting up during the first week of the elections. There will be different workshops for organizations on how to lobby. Also, half of his staff is currently working on SOCC.

Tuttle said Melgar should be very aware of which organization he represents when dealing with various other individuals and bodies, as the nature of the different organizations with which he is involved may cause conflicts (i.e whether an organization is partisan or non-partisan). Tuttle gave another word of caution, where everyone on council should be aware their appointees are working with administrators, not for them, and administrators should not be given too much oversight over council's appointees.

Academic Affairs Commissioner – Jeremiah Garcia

Garcia said all Academic Senate appointees must submit a report to him three days after their specific committee meetings. Judith Smith also mentioned during one of the Academic Senate meetings that the GE seminar requirement should be dropped as part of the evolution of the capstone education. Also the Undergraduate Council discussed the involuntary psychiatric withdrawal proposal.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

X. New Business

A. CRC Changes – OSAC Guidelines

- Roth said CRC approved the document 3-0-0. The document pertains to both changes to the OSAC guidelines and changes to the USAC bylaws pertinent to OSAC.
- Garcia asked Tuttle if council should uphold a strict parliamentary procedure. Tuttle said it is the president's choice, but what has been occurring so far has been working.
- Garcia moved and Shulman seconded to approve the USAC Bylaws and OSAC Guidelines as amended.
- Gonzalez asked if this was a motion to approve the USAC Bylaws. The website says the Bylaws have not been updated since 2005, and council could be making changes to a document no longer current. Gonzalez said council should table the guidelines.
- Gonzalez put forward a friendly amendment to table the changes to the USAC Bylaws and OSAC Guidelines until next week.
- Hosseini said Champawat spoke to herself and Roth, and he said council can technically change anything they see fit. As for the Bylaws, his office will have a most recent

- version of the Bylaws constructed soon, with the only big differences being a matter of semantics.
- Gonzalez said there are specific references to the Bylaws within the OSAC guidelines, and without a current and accurate version of the Bylaws, council does not know what they are really changing, or if it's within USAC's jurisdiction.
 - Roth said there was not anything passed within the last couple of years that changed USAC's jurisdiction over the OSAC Bylaws, and council knows enough about the Bylaws and OSAC Guidelines to vote on them tonight.
 - Tuttle said it may be wise to wait a week, but for different reasons. If it is time sensitive, then council should go ahead and vote on the changes. However, if not, the document should be tabled for a week and a typing up of changes that occurred within the last two to three years should happen.
 - Roth said she has the document with her that Champawat's office has been working on. Many of the clauses, such as IV.E.4, differ only in semantics. She feels council can go forward with the proposed changes.
 - Kohles said Champawat was not sure of all of the changes to be made, so there is still a grey area with which to be dealt. Kohles said she is not comfortable voting on these changes tonight.
 - Diane Tanjuaquio said she is uncomfortable that council is discussing changes without having appointed an OSAC Chair or Committee.
 - Hosseini said the old Bylaws state that the Facilities Commissioner is the OSAC Chair until one is appointed.
 - Garcia asked if the most up to date version of the Bylaws state what Hosseini mentioned. Kohles said they do not.
 - Williams said, unless there is a temporal aspect to the issue, it might be better to wait.
 - Garcia did not accept Gonzalez's friendly amendment.
 - Roth said it is urgent to move forward on this issue. They have tried to piece together the USAC Bylaws, but there are missing records and statements. Council promised to allocate offices in a timely manner, and stalling on these changes would only stall the process.
 - Melgar said he is concerned that the guiding documents have not been updated for so long, and he would like to discuss some sort of measure to institute accountability.
 - Shulman said that Champawat recommended to pass a bylaw instituting some responsibility on CRC or another body to update the guiding documents once they have been modified.
 - McLaren said she takes responsibility for some of the guiding documents not being updated, due to some miscommunication with the Chair of CRC a couple years back.
 - Sobhani said any changes to the OSAC Guidelines should be done through a non-partisan committee, and the most timely issue is appointing an OSAC Chair.
 - Melgar asked if an OSAC Chair was not appointed under the assumption that the Facilities Commissioner takes position as the Chair until one is appointed. Hosseini said she did not forward any applications for the position because she wanted to see if the duties and responsibilities of the position would change.
 - Roth said council should take the opportunity to reestablish the Bylaws, so council is not caught in violation of the Bylaws in any decision the body makes.
 - Garcia said the changes should be approved pending the resurfacing of the Bylaws, so council at least has some documents with which to work.
 - Gonzalez said there is no valid starting point for council to make changes.
 - Melgar said he is not comfortable moving forward, as it seems no one is at the same depth on the issue.
 - Tuttle said it would be wise to research the old document for a week and then come back to the table for discussion.
 - Hosseini said it is understood to wait for the newest version of the Bylaws to resurface, but council still needs to move forward on the issue.
 - Gonzalez said the biggest hindrance to the process right now is a lack of an OSAC Chair and Committee.

- Hosseini said the OSAC Chair and Committee can not function without Bylaws.
- Gonzalez called the question and Kohles seconded.
- Tuttle asked if Gonzalez's question was to vote or postpone. Gonzalez said her question is to vote.
- Tuttle advised the President to have a short committee of the whole and even take straw votes if necessary to ascertain a consensus of the body.
- Gonzalez withdrew her motion.
- Gonzalez asked if the idea is to discuss it without official action. Garcia said that is the idea.
- Gonzalez said it is impossible for council to discuss the matter.
- Tuttle mentioned that a recess would allow for an informal discussion, bringing the body's feelings towards the surface.
- Gonzalez said she was told at the CRC meeting that voting members were preferred over the voices of others. Hosseini said she, as well as Sien, made changes at the meeting. There were two meetings of CRC, with Gonzalez referencing the first meeting and Hosseini referencing the second.
- Roth said the comment she made at the CRC meeting was that she wished to hear from the voting members, because guests were dominating the conversation. She did not say that anyone's voice was preferred over others'.
- Tuttle said student groups who want to apply for office space have to have been applying for funding for five years. This mark was before the Supreme Court ruled in favor of funding for religious and political groups. The wording of the stipulation says the five years goes for when they were eligible for funding. This section could be misconstrued from the original intention.
- Gonzalez said it does not make sense to have OSAC allocations every two years.
- Garcia said council should be offering groups more opportunities to come into Kerckhoff Hall.
- Shulman said a year-by-year set of allocations will keep groups constantly in question of the legitimacy of their allocation. Two year periods allow one year for a group to be acclimated and a second year for evaluation.
- Chacon said staggering the rounds of allocations will only create more conflict amongst groups.
- Gonzalez said a two year cycle that is staggered will ensure a constant flow of applications.
- Kohles said the five year requirement is arbitrary and limits growth of groups.
- Roth said no OSAC in the past has successfully carried out an office space allocation that has lasted, so it may be better to move away from the status quo. Also a staggered application process is a logistical nightmare.
- Garcia suggested that CRC meets again to discuss these changes.
- Roth feels another CRC meeting is not necessary, as the changes were approved unanimously and all visitors were given ample time to speak.
- Kohles moved and Gonzalez seconded to table the discussion to next week.
- Garcia accepted the motion as a friendly amendment to his original motion. There were no objections.
- Council tabled the discussion to next week with a vote of 5-1-5.

B. BOD Programming Funds

- Brian Tan said a total of nineteen groups requested funding this quarter. Since there was more requested than funds available, Tan said they had to trim down the allocations using a process similar to SOOF allocations. In order to prevent allocations that disadvantaged larger groups, a hybrid formula was created to allow for a fairer allocation.
- Tuttle asked how much is in the BOD programming pot annually. Tan said there is about \$270,000.00.
- Tuttle asked if any political or religious groups asked for allocations. Tan said he would have to look at the names.

- Tuttle asked why so few groups applied for funding this quarter. Tan said programming this time of the year is not as strong as in the spring, when more groups tend to have larger events.
- Hosseini asked if any programs were happening next week. Tan said the next event is the 15th of October.
- Hosseini said she would like to see how the formula works out.
- Tsai asked how if they made judgment calls for larger groups. Tan said groups applying for more than \$10,000.00 received a fraction of that request, so as to not disadvantage smaller groups.
- Tsai asked if this is only for programming. Tan said it is.
- Sobhani said this is the fairest way they could distribute money.
- Chacon said some organizations may need money over others, and council should reevaluate the rubric used to score groups for this reason.
- Tsai asked if there is any case where groups can be denied funding. Tan said one group was disqualified because they did not get the required signatures.
- Tan said it is important to vote on this item, as waiting on it would nullify a lot of programming. Roth said it is hard for council to vote on an item they received fifteen minutes ago.
- Chacon understands Roth's concerns, and if it was not for the last minute changes, there would be a much different allocation. He feels comfortable passing this allocation tonight.
- Sobhani said the formula is similar to the SOOF formula, and it is extremely complex.
- Roth said she would like to see items like this forwarded in a more timely manner in the future.
- McLaren asked about the source of the BOD funding. Sobhani said it comes from student fees and USA registration fees.
- Tuttle asked how many programs require this funding this week. Tan said there are a couple.
- Tuttle said the complexity of the formula and allocation display could be seen as discriminatory by a federal judge.
- Melgar said not voting on the issue would penalize those groups who were timely, and council should vote on the allocations tonight.
- Melgar moved and Chacon seconded to approve the ASUCLA BOD Programming Fund Allocations.
- Council approved the ASUCLA BOD Programming Fund Allocations with a vote of 9-1-1.
- Tuttle asked what could be done to prevent this issue next quarter. Tan said council could change the nature of the application. Sobhani said council could push up the deadlines for winter quarter. Tuttle said council should look if any legislative action would be needed to remedy the situation.

XI. Announcements

- Tsai said Blue & Gold Week is tomorrow.
- Garcia's Officer Report will be a permanent item on the Agenda from now on.
- Chacon said there will be a Taiko performance at noon tomorrow. Also, CAC and CEC will be putting on a concert Thursday.
- Melgar said everyone should register to vote.
- Hosseini said there will be a moment of silence at noon, and she asks that all performers hold for it.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Sobhani moved and Kohles 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 12:07am, by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker