

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday October 21, 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

ABSENT: Williams

GUESTS: Pam Brimerts, Alejandra Cruz, Melanie Gideon, Boris Lipkin, Misha Tsukerman

I. A. Call to Order

- Hosseini called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Garcia moved Resolution in support of AB540 Students and the Dream Act until next week.
- Melgar added Election Invasion Committee under Special Presentations.
- Reodica moved and Kohles 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

There were no Public Comments this week.

V. Special Presentations

A. UCLA Blood Drive – Susie Lu, Director of Operations

- Melanie Gideon and Pam Brimerts gave a presentation about the UCLA Blood Donor Center. They provide blood for thousands of patients in oncology, surgery, and other various departments. They have been doing mobile blood drives, and they have been supported by various clubs in the past. In addition, they just acquired space in Ackerman Union to set up a permanent blood drive center. They came to council to ask for support from the students and the various organizations on campus. There is a rivalry drive coming up between UCLA and USC, but, instead of focusing on the inter-

campus rivalry, they would like to start an on campus rivalry between blood drives in Kerckhoff Hall and Ackerman Union.

B. ASUCLA, Board of Directors – Cinthia Flores, Jesse Rogel, Undergraduate Board Members

- Jesse Rogel, Cinthia Flores, Bernice Shaw, and Amanda York came to give council updates on ASUCLA, as well as giving council space to ask questions.
- Rogel said two million dollars in seed money was just approved for the construction of the South Campus Student Center, a project they have been working on. They hope to get a lot of student input about the project. Shaw said they are hoping to get make the South Campus Student Center the first gold measure sustainable building on campus.
- York said the remodeling of the Cooperage in Ackerman Union has been underway, and some new venues have moved in, like Bruin Buzz. Carl's Jr. will also be put in, as well as a healthy foods option. STA Travel has closed their spot in Ackerman Union, and the UCLA Blood Donor Center has moved in with a blood drive office. They will also be taking out the Baskin Robbins on North Campus and will put a frozen yogurt venue in its stead.
- Shaw said they implemented the textbook initiative, giving students a \$650,000.00 cut in textbook prices. While it is a risky venture, they see one of their mission goals as giving back to the students. Also, if students find a cheaper price for a textbook elsewhere, ASUCLA will match that price.
- There are four textbook measures ASUCLA will be working towards: First, a book rental system; Second, guaranteeing that ASUCLA will buyback certain books at the end of the quarter; Third, the textbook price match described previously; Fourth, the lowering of textbook prices.
- Rogel said ASUCLA will also be starting an ad hoc committee called the Master Plan Initiative. Its chief function will be ensuring ASUCLA is as competitive today, if not more so, in the next ten years. The committee will also look towards planning and solving long term issues, such as space.
- Chacon asked when the stage will be finished in the Cooperage. Champawat said the video wall is done, but they still have to finish some things with the lighting.
- Tuttle asked how ASUCLA will face the current financial situation in the nation. Rogel said ASUCLA has done well in the past months, but they have begun to see double negative numbers in some areas. ASUCLA is prepared to handle the negative impact on the economy, but there will not be as much capital as there has been in the past.
- Reodica asked for a clarification of the Master Plan Initiative. Rogel said a lot of ASUCLA is concerned with specific projects, and this new committee would look at the big picture of ASUCLA in the long term.
- Reodica asked if there will be student representation on this new committee. Rogel said they have not planned that out yet.
- Tuttle asked to what double negative numbers refer. Champawat said a few product categories are in double negative numbers, but not ASUCLA as a whole.
- Tuttle asked how the numbers look on items such as Bear Wear. Champawat said not as many people are buying those items, especially since our athletic teams are not doing as well.
- Tuttle said ASUCLA Board of Directors should be very cautious about going forward, especially with the nation's current financial situation. If the executive staff begin to run up warnings, they should heed them. It may be prudent to delay some of these projects.
- Rogel said he knows the entire board is liable for their decisions. Some initiatives had to be put on hold due to the financial situation.
- Chacon asked about the Textbook Scholarship plan. Rogel said that is one initiative put on hold. They are waiting to see how ASUCLA's financial situation is in the winter. They have not given a yes or no answer on the Textbook Scholarships.

C. Election Invasion Committee

- The Election Invasion Committee gave an introduction to the council as to who they are. They said their main goal this year is to raise the student voter turnout. They have worked with the EVP's office as well as the CAC's office. They hope to do more work with the President's office as well as the Students' Vote! Coalition. They have a completely unbiased platform, where students can learn about both parties' stances. The last day to register to vote was yesterday, and next week they plan on holding multiple events focused on getting student voters further interested and involved in the election. If anyone is interested in helping them publicize the events, they can get flyer information out to those commissions. Melgar has their contact information.

VI. Appointments

A. Dai Truong – Community Service Mini-Fund Chair

- Shulman said Truong could not make it to council at 7:00 pm. Shulman has not received any word from Truong since, so he assumes Truong is not coming.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Contingency Allocations

- Sobhani said that there were 3 Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$5986.49. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$1850.00.
- Melgar moved and Reodica seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations for October 21st, 2008.
- Council approved the Contingency Allocations for October 21st, 2008, with a vote of 11-0-1.

B. Academic Success Referendum Fund

- Garcia said he now has a Funding Chair. He received one application from Samahang Pilipino for \$266.55, which he allocated.

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 there was a record number of 3400 parents registered for Parents' Weekend. It was also the first time the USAC President spoke at the event. This weekend there will be info sessions for those interested in applying for the internship program. The first general meeting is Wednesday, October 21st at 6:00 pm in MS 5117. Also CALPIRG had forum today about Proposition 1A in the Kerckhoff Grand Salon.

Internal Vice President – Evan Shulman

Shulman said his office had its first full staff meeting. He is also having a meeting with officers from SAA about the leadership conference.

External Vice President – Jesse Melgar

Melgar said they registered a record number of 8,519 students, with over 2,100 of those students registering yesterday. His office will also be doing the Election Invasion

programs next week, and this weekend Melgar will be going up to Oakland to meet with the other UCSA officers.

Academic Affairs Commissioner – Jeremiah Garcia

Garcia said his office is working to book Antwone Fisher, and they believe to have come to an agreeable point in the negotiations. He is also looking for more Academic Senate appointments. He has also been talking to people from CAPS, formerly SPS, about the involuntary psychiatric withdrawal proposition. A lot of faculty and students are opposed to this proposed policy. Also the Council on Planning and Budget have been discussing the university's fiscal situation in regard to graduate students, as it costs money for UCLA to enroll graduate students. The university may look to enroll more out of state students.

Emily Bautista on the Undergraduate Council said they have been reviewing a lot of documents, such as the capstone requirements for some departments, as well as the proposed involuntary withdrawal resolution.

IX. Old Business

A. Academic Affairs Officer Report

- Garcia said he will be consistently forwarding a report all year, and he would like for his officer report to be added to the Agenda until the end of his term.
- Shulman moved and Garcia seconded to add the Academic Affairs Officer Report to the Agenda until the end of Garcia's term.
- Council added the Academic Affairs Officer Report to the Agenda until the end of Garcia's term with a vote of 10-0-2.

B. CRC – OSAC Guidelines & By-laws

- Champawat said the document he forwarded to council best reflects the Bylaws that existed at the end of last year's council's term. He said the process of updating the Bylaws was never dealt with, and he would like to see what council wants to do about it. He would also be open to forwarding the document to CRC for review.
- Roth asked if they only looked at documents from last council. Champawat said they looked two years back.
- Garcia asked if there could be copies that showed the changes, as well as the source and date of those changes. Champawat said most of the evidence is in the minutes. The copy he forwarded has the dates of council's actions.
- Garcia asked if the Bylaws in entirety were updated. Champawat said that is something to be sent through CRC.
- Melgar asked if there is a recommendation as to prevent this from happening in the future. Champawat said it is something to be sent to CRC, but he believes there should be archival versions of past Bylaws, so every time the Bylaws are changed, the previous version is still saved somewhere.
- Hosseini said the new changes to the Bylaws can still be considered. Next week, it will be important to vote in the new Bylaws after CRC has taken a look at them. After that, it is also important to discuss the changes CRC has presented to council.
- Gonzalez asked when CRC will meet next. Shulman said he is making the agenda right now, and since he must post it thirty six hours in advance of the meeting, the earliest it can happen is tomorrow afternoon. Most likely, it will either happen Friday or Monday.
- Gonzalez said there is now an issue of how those new changes CRC has presented will affect their new Bylaws.
- Roth asked if CRC needed to vote again on the OSAC changes. There was a general consensus that they should.
- Hosseini said much of the content is the same, it is just the order in which it is organized.

- Gonzalez said the OSAC Guidelines state under IV.E that the committee and chair need to propose changes to the document. Because of this, council is not encouraged to make any changes. There should also be an OSAC and a chair.
- Garcia asked if it says anywhere that USAC can not submit any changes to the OSAC Guidelines.
- Gonzalez said, under 2.b in the Bylaws, that USAC officers will be ineligible to be apart of OSAC due to conflicts of interest. This means they can not submit changes to the Bylaws or guidelines in regard to OSAC.
- Garcia moved and Reodica seconded to table the OSAC Guidelines & Bylaws.
- Garcia disagreed with Gonzalez's interpretation.
- Champawat said, when updating the Bylaws, OSAC material was prioritized. It would be prudent to bring other Bylaw changes to council.
- Gonzalez made a friendly amendment, stating that USAC can not vote on any Bylaw or Guideline changes until CRC has met. There were no objections.
- Council tabled the OSAC Guidelines & Bylaws with a vote of 12-0-0.

X. New Business

There was no New Business this week.

XI. Announcements

- Reodica said she has started advertising for the Textbook Scholarships. The applications will not be available until week 5, and it will be online and in print.
- Gonzalez said she was not able to access the website given the URL on the flyer.
- Reodica said it is because the application does not come out until week 5.

- Shulman said the Sustainability Fair is tomorrow in Bruin Plaza from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

- Melgar said his office collaborated with Birks's office to phone bank for equal opportunity. They have been doing work across state borders in Colorado, and they will be working on it Tuesday at 5:30 pm.
- Tuttle warned Melgar to not use university or ASUCLA facilities for partisan politics. He said it is a slippery slope to begin using public funds in partisan politics in such a manner, and doing so would give reason for the federal government to intercede. It would be best to find another way to do this sort of advocacy work.
- Nelson agreed with Tuttle, adding that it is possible to act as an individual rather than a representative of an organization, as certain individuals acted back in 1995 during the issue of Proposition 209.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Garcia moved and Reodica 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 8:44 pm, by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

FINAL

Approved: October 28, 2008

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker