

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday October 28, 2008
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: McLaren, Sobhani

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

- Garcia removed Academic Success Referendum Fund.
- Garcia added a Special Presentation on AB 540 Students after Tom Soto's Special Presentation.
- Reodica added an officer report.
- Chacon added an officer report.
- Birks added an officer report.
- Roth added an officer report.
- Shulman said the USAC Action Agenda Items under Old Business should be a discussion item.
- Shulman removed the Minutes of October 7th, 2008 and October 14th, 2008.
- Reodica moved and Birks 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. Special Presentations

A. Tom Soto – Venture Capitalist, Environmentalist, Politico

- Tressel introduced Soto and gave some background information about Soto's involvement at UCLA as an undergraduate, as well as Soto's work after graduation.
- Soto talked about the experiences surrounding his time in USAC, as well as the lessons he learned and how they helped him in his life after college.
- Soto said the current downturn in the stock market has a silver lining, as the environmental legislation allows clean tech industry ample opportunity to improve.
- Shulman asked Soto about his opinion on Propositions 7 and 10. Soto said he is not in support of either one.

- Hosseini asked Soto for some advice on her responsible endowment campaign. Soto said the first step is to get a clear picture of what the money is being spent on, then go from there.
- Tressel said ASUCLA is a non profit that hopes to become sustainable. Soto said what is environmentally viable also tends to be economically viable in the long run. Also, it is important to have a long term strategy, and to stick to it, instead of getting side tracked with more immediate and less important concerns.
- Tressel asked about corn versus sugar in the green fuel market. Soto said corn is terrible in comparison to sugar, and there will probably be a collapse in the ethanol markets derived from corn.
- Kohles asked about the necessity for business to reevaluate their practices in regard to sustainability. Soto said environmentally sound business practices are inevitable.
- Kohles asked if developing countries need less environmental regulation than developed countries. Soto said he feels developing countries do need a little leeway, but it is not a free pass to do whatever they want.

B. Resolution in Support of Undocumented Students

- Faviola and Rodriguez gave an introduction to the Resolution, as well as some of the current hardships facing undocumented students.
- Garcia said it is a myth that undocumented students do not pay taxes.
- Faviola and Rodriguez shared personal stories of undocumented students with the council, to give a picture of life as an undocumented student.
- Roth asked about the changes made between the current resolution and the previous draft. Faviola said only changed the last “whereas.”
- Garcia asked that, whoever may move this resolution would also stipulate it to be printed in the Daily Bruin.
- Tuttle asked what the term “safe place for undocumented students” should effect. Rodriguez said it is meant to ensure a safe spot for undocumented student to meet without being persecuted for their undocumented status.
- Tuttle asked if there is ongoing dialogue with the administration and counseling centers. Faviola said they are currently trying to educate faculty on the situation of undocumented students.
- Hosseini said she is certain Janina Montero is aware of the issue.
- Melgar moved and Garcia seconded to approve the Resolution in Support of Undocumented Students with the stipulation that it is printed in the Daily Bruin, and the authors are added to the resolution.
- Tuttle said Garcia's stipulation to publish the resolution is in line with the Bylaws, as whenever council passes a resolution, they must vote whether or not to publish the resolution in the Daily Bruin.
- Council approved the Resolution in Support of Undocumented Students with a vote of 12-0-0.

IV. Appointments

A. Alberto Patricio – Judicial Board

- Hosseini said the acting Chief Justice of Judicial Board (JBoard) is here as well.
- Shulman said ARC voted to recommend Patricio by 2-0-1. Patricio has experience in dealing as a neutrality, and he has a good knowledge of the structure and function of JBoard. It is a one year term appointment.
- Tuttle asked Patricio that he is aware if he were to ever corrupt his position or perform unethical behavior while in office, it would tarnish his reputation for years to come. Patricio said he is well aware.
- Tuttle asked Patricio if he is deeply involved with anyone in the political process, as now would be the best time to disclose that information.

- Patricio said, despite his work as an undocumented student and his affiliation with some groups because of it, he holds not close ties to any individual or group that would impair his ability to objectively judge and render a decision.
- Melgar moved and Reodica seconded to approve the appointment of Alberto Patricio to Judicial Board.
- Council approved Alberto Patricio to Judicial Board with a vote of 12-0-0.

B. Nikhil Sharma – Judicial Board

- Shulman said Sharma was recommended 2-0-1 by ARC, because Sharma retains excellent knowledge of the board, and he has also undergone ethics training. He heard about the board through Michael Kelso, and is very comfortable in maintaining objective judgment.
- Roth asked Sharma to explain his ethics training. Sharma said he worked for the city of Pleasanton in the Bay Area, which requires all city employees to undergo ethics training. The training taught him how to avoid entangling himself in unethical behavior, while also appreciating the necessity of disclosure.
- Melgar asked Sharma about his relationship with Kelso, and if it will or will not affect his judgment. Sharma said he has known Kelso since high school, and he considers him a friend, but he has also been in positions of opposition against Kelso, and guarantees that this relationship will not affect his judgment.
- Tuttle asked Sharma that he is aware if he were to ever corrupt his position or perform unethical behavior while in office, it would tarnish his reputation for years to come. Sharma said he is well aware.
- Garcia said there was a little concern about Sharma's knowledge of the slate system on campus. Sharma said his knowledge of the slate system should not disqualify himself, but rather it makes him more aware of issues.
- Gonzalez moved and Reodica seconded to approve Nikhil Sharma to Judicial Board.
- Sharma was approved to Judicial Board with a vote of 12-0-0.

C. Elizabeth King – Drug-Free Schools Committee

- Shulman said King was recommended by ARC 2-0-1, as she has extensive knowledge of the committee and has the goals of evaluating current anti-drug programs.
- Gonzalez asked King about her current ideas towards safer drug use and elimination. King said she hopes to target heavy drinking by putting on events during high risk nights.
- Hosseini asked King if there was anything she would like to change on the committee. King said, while the committee is focusing on prevention programs, it is also important to reach out to students who already have substance abuse issues.
- Tuttle asked if the committee deals with addictive behavior. King said it does
- Tuttle said it would be a good idea to look at the obesity issue as that is one area of addictive behavior, along with alcohol and drugs, that is affecting the health of students on campus.
- Shulman moved and Birks seconded to approve Elizabeth King to the Drug-Free Schools Committee.
- Council approved King to the Drug-Free Schools Committee with a vote of 11-0-1.

D. Dai Truong – Community Service Mini-Fund Chair

- Shulman said Dai will be coming in later tonight.
- [After Dai Truong arrived] Shulman said ARC recommended him 2-0-0, as he has excellent knowledge of the Mini-Fund from serving on it last year.
- Reodica asked Truong about the other things he is involved with on campus. Truong said he is involved with Sigma Pi, NSCS, and the Undergraduate Business Association.
- Sien asked if the Mini-Fund will be around this quarter. Truong said, if he can get the committee together by sixth week, they can have hearings seventh week.
- Reodica moved and Birks seconded to approve Dai Truong as the Community Service Mini-Fund Chair.

- Council approved Dai Truong as the Community Service Mini-Fund Chair with a vote of 9-0-2.

E. Ezra Wolkenfeld – Communications Board (Comm Board)

- Shulman said Wolkenfeld was approved to Comm Board with the stipulation that he is present to answer any questions.
- Birks asked if the committee has met yet. Wolkenfeld said that it has met once so far, which he attended.
- Hosseini asked Wolkenfeld what he intends to bring to the committee personally. Wolkenfeld said he will bring his experience with underground media to the board.
- Reodica asked about his extracurricular activities. Wolkenfeld said he is involved with Academic Affairs, as well as the Jewish community on campus. He is also a third year.
- Shulman asked if he knows anyone from other news magazines. Wolkenfeld said all the news magazines share a hallway where people shoot ideas back and forth between each other. He also knows the editor of Daily Bruin and the manager of UCLARadio a little.
- Gonzalez asked about the problems that may be confronting Comm Board, and what he can do to fix them this year. Wolkenfeld said the biggest problem is the current economic crisis, and he hopes to create a more successful business structure to combat it.

F. Yannina Casillas – Academic Senate – Continuing and Community Education

- Garcia said Casillas is involved in the Student Activities Center.
- Casillas said she also works on a program to help students receive their GEDs, and they work hard to keep kids in school.
- Garcia asked about her current goals. She said she would like to see the committee advertised more publicly.
- Birks moved and Chacon seconded to approve Yannina Casillas to the Continuing and Community Education Committee on Academic Senate.
- Council approved Yannina Casillas to the Continuing and Community Education Committee on Academic Senate with a vote of 11-0-1.

V. Approval of the Minutes

- Reodica asked if the minutes will be approved individually or as a whole. Hosseini said they will be approved individually.

A. September 8, 2008

- Gonzalez said, under Appointments and Academic Senate, the name is “Boris Lipkin.”
- Roth said under the Facilities Commissioner's officer report, Melgar was asking Hosseini the question, not Roth.
- Gonzalez said Sobhani's attendance should be fixed, as he is listed as absent, but speaks under Contingency Allocations.
- Garcia said, under attendance in Academic Senate, change “form” to “from.”
- Garcia said Lawrence is a transfer from Pasadena City College.
- Chacon moved and Roth seconded to approve the minutes of September 8, 2008.
- Council approved the minutes of September 8, 2008, with a vote of 12-0-0.

B. September 15, 2008

- Shulman said, under the special presentation from CALPIRG, his official campaign is Power Vote, not Climate Vote.
- Shulman said Janina Montero's name was misspelled.
- Shulman said Sien was not present at CRC, and the program to digitize funding is for BOD Programming, not SOOF.
- Chacon moved and Shulman seconded to approve the minutes of September 15, 2008.
- Council approved the minutes of September 15, 2008 with a vote of 12-0-0.

C. September 22, 2008

- Garcia said Maj is a she, not a he.
- Gonzalez said she was absent that meeting.
- Reodica moved and Chacon seconded to approve the minutes of September 22, 2008.
- Council approved the minutes of September 22, 2008 with a vote of 12-0-0.

D. September 30, 2008

- Shulman said Bear Allen-Blaine is a she, not a he.
- Tuttle said he was not present, but he recommends to put the approval of the minutes over one week, as a certain person voted upon in this meeting may in fact have been approved.
- Hosseini said she read it wrong, but the person is in fact approved. She recommends to put the approval of the minutes over a week and allow for some thoughtful discussion.
- Gonzalez asked how this situation will be addressed. Hosseini said she would send out a letter of apology and offer her the position, as it is still open.
- Roth said the CRC business should be listed under Old Business, as it was tabled from a previous meeting.
- Birks said he believes it was in these minutes that Reodica would have to be reappointed to her respective committee.
- Chacon moved and Garcia seconded to approve the minutes of September 30, 2008.
- Roth said there is a current JBoard case under consideration directly pertaining to this meeting.
- Tuttle said, unless there is a feeling that this matter should be put off, it is an audit trail of what happened, not a changing of what happened.
- Hosseini said these minutes reflect the comments that were made, and the mistake in reference to the appointment is on her own part.
- Chacon moved to table discussion of the minutes of September 30, 2008, until next meeting.
- Chacon withdrew his motion.
- Council approved the minutes of September 30, 2008, with a vote of 12-0-0.

E. October 21, 2008

- Gonzalez said, on page 4 under OSAC, she was asking how "it will affect those changes."
- Birks said in the same section, it should read "until CRC has met."
- Shulman said Reodica's name was spelled wrong under Announcements.
- Chacon moved and Kohles seconded to approve the minutes of October 21, 2008.
- Council approved the minutes of October 21, 2008 with a vote of 11-0-1.

VI. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments this week.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Contingency Allocations

- Sobhani said Project Literacy was a very large application.
- Sien said Project Literacy is one of CSC's biggest programs.
- Sobhani said that there were 2 Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$4736.51. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$830.00.
- Melgar moved and Chacon seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations for October 28, 2008.
- Council approved the Contingency Allocations for October 28, 2008 with a vote of 12-0-0.

B. Travel Grants

- Melgar said there were 2 allocations from the Travel Grants. A total of \$684.80 was requested, and he allocated \$684.80.
- Shulman asked if the amount allocated was per organization, or per person. Melgar said the amount allocated was per person.
- Chacon asked if the guidelines were available. Melgar said the guidelines are online now.

C. Cultural Affairs Mini-Grant

There was no business for the Cultural Affairs Mini-Grant this week.

D. Academic Success Referendum Fund

There was no business for the Academic Success Referendum Fund this week.

E. Academic Affairs Mini-Grant

There was no business for the Academic Affairs Mini-Grant this week.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Homaira Hosseini

Hosseini said she went to True Bruin, and she learned how to incorporate new ideas into the new student welcome speech. She will also be giving the first state of the university address next Tuesday at the tennis courts. It will happen during the screening of the election results, and there will be an open mic session for outreach. There will also be food and exposure for student groups.

Sobhani recommended that Hosseini record the election results and play it somewhere else, as many students may not have time to attend a live screening.

Gonzalez asked if there will be a screening on the Hill. Hosseini said there will be.

Hosseini continued, saying there will be a UC wide conference on liability issues November 5th, and they will discuss best practices approaches. Currently student drivers for volunteer services have to take a test at the DMV and have all of their records released.

Sien said she is currently looking into a fleet of vans, but all of her student drivers now still need to take the test.

Chacon asked about Life Scan. Sien said she will probably get a mobile vendor for that.

Hosseini said the Undergraduate Initiative Council now has a scholarship that students can apply for, but it is not concrete yet. There has also been concern about people in Night Powell who are not students, and Hosseini sent a student to go assess the situation. She also placed a suggestion box in Powell, and she has been keeping in touch with library personnel to further discuss new ideas to implement.

Internal Vice President – Evan Shulman

Shulman said the form in front of council is the new form to bridge the gap between the council table and changes made on governing documents. The changes are put on paper, given to the IVP, and then given to Student Support Services so they have a hard copy. He also forwarded something from SAA for a leadership conference. If any USAC member would like to hold a workshop, he or she just has to write a brief abstract of it.

Chacon asked when it is. Shulman said it is November 13th, 3:00pm to 7:00pm.

His sustainability director received the numbers on energy and water use in a lot of the residence halls, and they are working on ways to cut the numbers down. He also talked to Champawat about possibly using the new video wall in the Cooperage to stage weekly events. Shulman is also looking to revitalize a lot of past coalitions, and if any office wishes to be a part of them, those commissions should send a student representative.

External Vice President – Jesse Melgar

Melgar said his office will be having debates between Democrats and Republicans. Tomorrow will be Rock the Vote, which will be having a large concert component, and Thursday is a screening of Slacker Uprising in the Northwest Auditorium, and November 4th will have a screening party of the election results. Bruin Lobby Corps will be passing out a non partisan voting guide to students, and there have been talks about the Bruin Lobby Corps applications being opened.

Financial Support Commissioner – Elaine Reodica

Reodica said she sent out an email concerning the textbook scholarships, and, even though they have not started publicizing them, they have received a lot of applications. She will also be speaking to the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor about possibly contributing more funds to the scholarship. Her office is currently working on the drawing logistics, but hopefully it will take place in the Kerckhoff Art Gallery. Her director on textbooks has also been working with CALPIRG to open up more textbooks online. Her office also added a political committee, because they feel affordability is also a political process. Her goal is to better educate her commission and others about the current academic bills. She is also working with the Financial Aid Office, especially about the textbook scholarships.

Cultural Affairs Commissioner – George Chacon

Chacon said tomorrow will be Rock the Vote, starting at 7:00pm. He will also be bringing in Super Crew from America's Best Dance Crew during the week of February 23rd, and the art gallery will be doing a public display of art. They hope to bring back two separate murals that were previously at UCLA.

Facilities Commissioner – Galen Roth

Roth said she had a meeting with Bob Naples about Undie Run, and it seems to be in the clear this year. She will have a follow up meeting with him this week.

General Representative 2 – James Birks

Birks said some changes may be made to Undie Run, due to property damage, student safety, and access to the medical center. It also appears more outsiders are coming to Undie Run, and there have been discussions to preventing that from occurring.

IX. Old Business

A. USAC Action Agenda Items – Issues Affecting Students

- Garcia said Shulman will be sending out a poll of the different issues affecting students, and council will vote on the ones they deem the most important. These will be the specific areas that council will focus on for the year.
- Shulman said there were ten cluster ideas from the retreat, and the poll will be a way of prioritizing the ideas that council wants to work on. He will also send out descriptions of each goals and which offices might best fit under which issues.
- Garcia said the he, Chacon, and Liu all have speaker series, and by collaborating together, they could use it to advocate on one of the issues.
- Tuttle said this is a great idea to get council working together, and to broaden the scope of their abilities and objectives.

B. CRC – Student Support Updated Bylaws

- Roth said CRC met today to discuss Champawat's discovery on the actual state of the Bylaws. CRC voted unanimously to agree with his interpretation, and they are brought before council for them to view.
- Champawat proceeded to go over the minutes from the previous years' councils, compiled in a single document, and describe where each council had effected changes to the Bylaws.

- Garcia moved and Melgar seconded to approve the document forwarded by Champawat as the official USAC Bylaws for the section IV.E amended.
- Garcia said Tuttle referenced a situation where minutes could not be located for certain times when the Constitution was amended by action. He asked if there is something to add to the Bylaws to note this issue, such as the current language found in the foot note.
- Tuttle said it was McLaren who came up with the language that Garcia is referencing.
- Garcia made a friendly amendment, that, before posted and accepted as governing documents, a document is forwarded to council sufficiently updated so that all of council agrees upon it. Melgar accepts the amendment.
- Tuttle said council can vote on the information they know, but also add language talking about the current discovery process.
- Champawat outlined the process by which changes made at the council table, through the agency of the IVP, will be accurately conveyed to Student Support Services.
- Gonzalez said the entire Bylaws process should be acknowledged, and not just the separate sections of the Bylaws being updated.
- Garcia said he agrees with Gonzalez in part, but he does not want to publish the parts of the Bylaws concerning OSAC.
- Gonzalez suggested on holding off on voting, including the disclaimer, as Student Support Services will be doing more work on the Bylaws in the future.
- Hosseini said, regardless of time frame, the disclaimer would be a good idea to have on the Bylaws.
- Garcia said it would be best to have a date for each Bylaw issue that council tackled.
- Melgar said it is best to consistently change the Bylaws as time goes on. If any changes need to be made, they can be accomplished next week.
- Melgar called the question.
- Council approved to vote on the Bylaws, including the stipulation mentioned earlier with a vote of 11-0-1.
- Council approved the Bylaws forwarded by Champawat with the stipulation mentioned previously with a vote of 11-1-0.
- Garcia asked who the CRC Chair is. Hosseini said it is Shulman.

C. CRC – OSAC Bylaws

- Shulman said the OSAC Bylaws were tabled last week with the stipulation that CRC reviews the accommodations presented. CRC tabled the the Bylaws at its meeting to give the members more time to review the changes.
- Shulman made a friendly amendment, to table the OSAC Bylaw changes until CRC meets to review it. Garcia accepted the friendly amendment.
- Tuttle asked that the meeting be timely.

X. New Business

There was no New Business this week.

XI. Announcements

- Hosseini said next week's meeting will be moved to Friday, November 7th, at 5:00pm due to elections. The deadline for the Agenda will be moved to Tuesday at 5:00pm.
- Garcia asked to set up a time for the funding subcommittee.
- Hosseini said it is to look at changes to the SOOF rubric. If anyone is interested, they should stay after the meeting is adjourned.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Garcia moved and Shulman 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 10:32 pm, by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker