

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Friday November 14, 2008
417 Kerckhoff Hall
4:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: McLaren, Nelson, Sien, Tuttle, Williams

GUESTS:

I. A. Call to Order

- Hosseini called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Reodica added an officer report.
- 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. Approval of the Minutes

There were no Minutes this week.

IV. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments this week.

V. Special Presentations

There were no Special Presentations this week.

VI. Appointments

- Hosseini said Dai Truong will not be coming into meeting until 5:20 pm.

A. Daniel Gaytan – CS Mini Fund

- Truong said Daniel Gaytan is applying for the first of four positions in the CS mini fund. He is an active member of MeCHA as well as the South Central Youth Justice Coalition. He also works in SAC, and sees a lot of the CPO projects, with which he would like to help out.

- Sobhani asked how Gaytan applied for the position. Gaytan said Truong told him about the position.
- Sobhani asked if the application is online or in paper. Truong said the application is online.
- Reodica moved and Birks seconded to appoint Daniel Gaytan to the CS Mini Fund.
- Council appointed Daniel Gaytan to the CS Mini Fund with a vote of 11-0-0.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Contingency Allocations

- Sobhani said that there were 7 Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$18368.90. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$2750.00.
- Tsai asked if World Vision had their documentation turned in. Sobhani said they turned in their documentation.
- Roth asked about the allocation to the Burmese Student Association. Sobhani said their application was only about three pages long and they did not attach any documentation. One thing the Finance Committee looks for is if the group has auxiliary sources of funding, which the Burmese Student Association did have. Also, their numbers did not add up correctly.
- Melgar moved and Chacon seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations for November 14th, 2008.
- Council approved the Contingency Allocations for November 7th, 2008, with a vote of 11-0-0.

B. Academic Success Referendum Fund

- Garcai said there were 3 allocations this week from the Academic Success Referendum Fund. There was a total of \$3812.31 requested and a total of \$2521.77 allocated. Garcia said he felt comfortable going over the allocation cap for the Election Results Screening Party since it was such a large event.

C. Academic Affairs Mini-Grant

- There was only one allocation from the Academic Affairs Mini-Grant. There was a total of \$1321.25 requested from the Academic Affairs Mini-Grant, and a total of \$1000.00 was allocated.

D. Travel Grants

- There were 12 allocations from the Travel Grants. There was a total request of \$4916.98, as well as a total allocation of \$2110.00.
- Melgar said he removed himself from the hearings of any groups to which he has strong connections.

E. Cultural Affairs Mini-Grant

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

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

A. Internal Vice President – Evan Shulman

Shulman said eh finally has an external sustainability director, and his office set up an unofficial green council. They are hoping to accomplish some projects revolving around sustainability, such as bringing in speakers as well as advocating for various legislation. They also have a meeting with Shirley Wong, director of the University Apartments. They hope to discuss sustainability issues with her. Leadership 101 occurred yesterday, and there was a showing of 70-80 people.

B. External Vice President – Jesse Melgar

Melgar said he is working on the Students of Color Conference. He would like some help registering students, as they hope to bring 200 students from UCLA alone. There are currently 450 students registered across the various UC campuses, and he will send out some emails with more information. Also UCSA will have their meeting at UCLA next Friday at 3:00 pm.

C. Academic Affairs Commissioner – Jeremiah Garcia

Jeremiah said the Committee on Structural Improvements in the faculty center is one of the few committees with discretionary funding, and there has been discussions relating to the budget cuts and the committee itself. Garcia continued with his officer report as attached.

D. Financial Support Commissioner – Elaine Reodica

Reodica said there are two more weeks until the scholarship deadline. She hopes to have 1500 submissions by the deadline. They have been tabling and flyering, and they will be talking to the Greeks on Monday. She talked to Champawat about gift cards, and she will put forth a proposal to the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for more funding. Also the Financial Aid Task Force has not been utilized in the past, and she hopes to bring it back. Also, the UCLA Foundation has been considering endorsing the Textbook Scholarships.

Hosseini asked about the timeline for the scholarships. Reodica said the deadline for applications is November 28th, and they hope to announce the winners Wednesday of the following week. If that does not work out, she will personally email and award the winners first week of the next quarter.

Hosseini asked how many scholarships Reodica plans to hand out. Reodica said she hopes to hand out 30 scholarships, but she has to see if the Chancellor or Vice Chancellor pledge any money to the program.

IX. Old Business

A. USAC Action Agenda Items

- Shulman said he will be holding off on determining the top four action agenda items as not every person has voted on them yet. Next Tuesday, he hopes to have all of the votes in, and they will be engaging in breakout sessions to discuss these various items. Following these breakout sessions, he hopes to carry the discussion into the USAC Townhall.
- Garcia said he made forms to ease the process of note taking and discussion. Also, people can insert pertinent information and contacts, depending on the breakout session. Garcia proceeded to go through a sample form.
- Chacon asked if the sponsor field on the form is for the people heading the action agenda item. Garcia said it is, but it also entails and groups that would be pertinent for the topic.
- Shulman said between now and Tuesday every person should compile a list of resources that their office could provide.
- Garcia said every office should spearhead an item, but it should not be a massive amount of work.
- Hosseini asked which council members did not fill out the poll. Shulman did not fill it out.
- Hosseini said she wanted to see if there were any topics the council was already focused upon.
- Shulman said the main topics appear to be Affordability, Academic Advancement, and Sustainability.
- Hosseini said the main point is to tie the items into each office, but to share the workload so no office is doing extra work.
- Hosseini asked how the rest of council would like to move forward. Melgar said it would be best to reserve rooms and invite each offices' staff members.

- Garcia suggested that council should be ready for discussion by 6:00 pm of next Sunday.
- Hosseini said everyone should turn in their polls, then Shulman can send it out Saturday morning. Then each office has the weekend to discuss with their staff. Next Tuesday, everyone can come together and discuss what they talked about.
- Roth asked if each office will work on one item. Hosseini said the minimum is only one, but an office can work on more if desired.
- Shulman said the resource list each office will be creating should consist of tangible resources and planned programs or platforms that will be occurring in the future. Also, since the quarter is nearing its end, the rest of the quarter could be devoted to working on these items and the townhall could take place next quarter.

X. New Business

A. USAC Townhall

- Garcia said he would like to start planning the Townhall meeting, and have it as a space for faculty, students, and USAC to come together and discuss the budget cuts.
- Shulman said the best time to do it would be next quarter when people have more time.
- Hosseini said that would be a great opportunity to present the four action agenda items council will be working on.
- Tressel said it would be a good idea to poll students, and to also utilize the website.
- Sobhani said past USACs would put a couch out on Bruinwalk, and it would give a great opportunity for students to sit down and talk to council members.
- Roth said they could recruit Daily Bruin to help poll too.
- Reodica said there could be some kind of incentives for students who participate, like a raffle.
- Shulman said a main priority should be a date and location for the townhall.
- Hosseini said she could take care of contacting the administrators.
- Melgar said he can look into marketing.
- Champawat said he could look into getting a venue reserved.
- Sobhani said the couch idea should be implemented, as it does not require USAC to be as proactive as some of the other marketing ideas.
- Liu said he could look into developing a flyer.
- Reodica said she could spearhead writing a charge or statement of purpose for the townhall. Hosseini asked that the charge be emailed to her by Monday.
- Shulman said, as far as venues go, it might be good to have it in a smaller place, as a smaller room gets filled quicker.
- Hosseini said Gonzalez could get in touch with the dormitories.
- Reodica said they could contact different student organizations, and just keep a running list of organizations contacted.

XI. Announcements

- Gilberto Chacon from the EVP's office and USSA asked council if they would like to form a coalition with the EVP's office to engage with student issues on campus. One issue they have been discussing is taking the energy from the recent election and focusing it into different campaigns and projects. They hope to have some sort of action by mid-winter quarter, such as a speaker series. They would like to engage students with the various offices and the issues on which the offices have been working.
- Shulman asked if they thought about timing any action with Obama's inauguration. Gilberto Chacon said they have been thinking about it, but nothing is set in stone.
- Garcia asked if they have been putting flyers into any of the dormitory mailboxes. Gonzalez said flyers could be given to ORL and then to residents.
- Gilberto Chacon said the only thing set in stone at the moment are Daily Bruin advertisements.

- Hosseini invited Gilberto Chacon to next week's council meeting, as there will be breakout sessions discussing various student issues.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Chacon 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 5:45 pm. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker