

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday December 2, 2008
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Birks, Chacon, Champawat, Gonzalez, Hosseini, Kohles, Melgar, Reodica, Roth,
Shulman, Sien, Sobhani, Tressel, Tsai, Tuttle, Williams

ABSENT: Garcia, Liu, McLaren, Nelson

GUESTS:

I. A. Call to Order

- Hosseini called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Tsai added two Special Presentations, one by CALPIRG and another by the University Credit Union.
- Brian Tan added BOD Allocations.
- Reodica added an officer report.
- King added the Minutes of 11/7/08 and 11/14/08.
- Hosseini added the Resolution for the Adoption of Responsible Investment Committee.
- Hosseini added Rio Scharf under Appointments.
- Hosseini added Mae Cauguiran under Appointments.
- Birks 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

November 7, 2008

- Melgar moved and Chacon seconded to approve the minutes of November 7, 2008.
- Hosseini called for Acclamation. Hosseini asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the minutes of November 7, 2008, were approved by Acclamation.

November 14, 2008

- Melgar said he was not absent at that meeting.
- Tsai moved and Melgar seconded to approve the minutes of November 14, 2008.
- Hosseini called for Acclamation. Hosseini asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the minutes of November 7, 2008, were approved, as amended, by Acclamation.

IV. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments this week.

V. Special Presentations

A. BOD Allocations

- Tan said he sent the allocations out in an email. The formula they used this time is similar to the SOOF formula, and it tests so that a group's allocation does not rest on how much they applied for. Also, the pot was enlarged to \$100,000.00, rather than the \$92,000.00 from last time.
- Tsai asked about what happens to the amount that is not used. Tan said it goes back into surplus.
- Chacon asked if everything was OK with the formula. Tan said the formula is stated at the bottom of the document, and they ran a series of tests on the formula.
- Tan said the largest allocation was around \$10,500.00.
- Tuttle said these allocations were not done through pure mathematics. He then asked if there is a possible situation where a group does not get its fair share. Tan said lower scores are through poorer applications. Application scores are determined from five members from a six person committee, and this determines that not one person decides on funding.
- Tuttle said he does not see any young Republicans group. Chacon said they did not apply, and Tuttle asked why they did not. He then said there will be a day when such questions will be asked by a higher, probably federal, authority, and they should look for some answers.
- Roth asked that they send out a more comprehensive spread sheet. Tan said he will send out a better key.
- Kohles asked if they did any outreach to student groups, other than the USAC website. Tan said the CSP student resource fair had a talk about BOD allocations, and there was an email sent out from CSP to student groups.
- Kohles asked if they used the Daily Bruin for outreach. Tan said they did not, but past experience shows that groups are well aware through CSP alone.
- Kohles said she is seeing the same groups on these allocations. Tan said there is a mandatory meeting whereby all groups attending it are told about BOD. There are also reminder emails from CSP, so a Daily Bruin advertisement would be too much.
- Chacon moved and Shulman seconded to approve the BOD Allocations.
- Council approved the BOD Allocations with a vote of 10-0-0.

B. Alison Armstrong, Head of College Library and Director of Undergraduate Initiatives, and Brena Smith, Information Literacy Operations Librarian – Plans of Undergraduate Initiatives

- Smith and Armstrong gave a report on the College Library, and to help keep paths of communication open between council and the library. They will be working on publicity in the winter and a book festival in the spring. There was also a two credit research class piloted fall quarter, and it will be continuing this year. There is also an issue with night escort service from Night Powell. The quickest remedy is to extend service to 2:00 am, but to extend after that would cost extra money. Also the vanpool service ends at 11:00 pm, and if a student wants to be picked up, he or she has to talk to a CSO fifteen minutes in advance.
- Tuttle said he teaches a capstone class, and, as libraries evolve their roles, it would be great for them to be involved in the capstone seminars.
- Reodica asked that the library send someone to be a part of the textbook coalition. Armstrong and Smith said they would be glad to give input.

C. University Credit Union

- The University Credit Union gave a presentation, updating the council on their history, current status, and offers to students.
- Reodica said financial literacy, especially now, is of utmost importance.
- Shulman asked if student groups have accounts. There are student organization accounts.

D. CALPIRG

- Theresa gave council an update for their future projects. They will be working on a textbook drive, and they also want to do a bookswap, on which they will work with Reodica. They will also do a canned food drive to help the homeless in California.
- Hosseini said council will send the information through the various list serves.

VI. Appointments

A. Rio Scharf – The Green Initiative Fund Representative

- Shulman said he was recommended 3-0-0 by ARC. He is very knowledgeable of TGIF, in that he helped write the referendum.
- Melgar asked when the first meeting is. Scharf said it will be this coming Thursday.
- Melgar asked if they will have funding from this past fall quarter. Scharf said they will.
- Melgar asked when applications will start. Scharf said once the grant coordinator is hired, then they can collaborate on getting the applications out there.
- Tuttle said sooner or later Daily Bruin will want to do a piece on TGIF, and if nothing has happened, then TGIF is going to take a hit in the press. Scharf said that is very possible, but they are right on track to getting a grant coordinator. He said there should be investigations if things do not come out in time.
- Roth said she is the interim chair of the TGIF grant making committee, and she can attest to the work that has been done. The committee has to be formed by November 15, and she just has to schedule a meeting. There has also been work accomplished on the job description for the grant coordinator.
- Melgar moved and Reodica seconded to approve Rio Scharf to The Green Initiative Fund.
- Council approved Rio Scharf to The Green Initiative Fund with a vote of 10-0-0.

B. Mae Cauguiran – Community Activities Committee

- Shulman said ARC recommended her 3-0-0 due to her extensive experience with student groups.
- Reodica asked about the groups she is involved in. Cauguiran said she is involved in the Office of Residential Life, ASU, Samahang, CSC, and others.
- Chacon moved and Reodica seconded to approve Mae Cauguiran to the Community Activities Committee.
- Council approved Mae Cauguiran to the Community Activities Committee with a vote of 10-0-0.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Contingency Allocations

- Sobhani said he is considering editing the application next quarter to help guide applicants better.
- Sobhani said that there were 7 Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$6963.21. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$2590.78.
- Chacon moved and Sien seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations for December 2, 2008.
- Hosseini called for Acclamation. Hosseini asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Contingency Allocations for December 2, 2008, were approved by Acclamation.

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

Internal Vice President – Evan Shulman Shulman said he has finished most of his administrative projects for the Office of the IVP.

External Vice President – Jesse Melgar

Melgar said he will be going to Oakland on Friday to meet with the other USSA officers to meet with members of UCOP and discuss policy issues.

Financial Supports Commissioner – Elaine Reodica

Reodica said the deadline for applications was last Friday, and her office received over 1,000 applications. The drawing will be held for the textbook scholarships tomorrow, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm in Kerckhoff 417.

Chacon asked how recipients will be chosen. Reodica said they will be chosen by means of a randomized computer system, created and tested by the commission.

Melgar said a more analog system of selection, such as a rolling drum with numbers, may be a better way to get coverage.

Sobhani said more physical items in the process give people a better sense of control.

Tressel said it is best to get rid of the computer for total transparency.

Roth said technology is a good way to go if a rolling drum is not available.

Tuttle asked how much money will be given out. Reodica said the scholarships will be \$250.00 each for 30 recipients.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

X. New Business

A. Resolution for the Adoption of Responsible Investments Committee

- Hosseini said this resolution is meant to have ASUCLA become more responsible in their investments, whether the issue is in relation to sustainability, ethics, work hours, etc.

- Victor Weisberg said this resolution is important, in that other schools have similar committees, and it acts as a source of risk management for investments.

- Chacon asked Weisberg about their current status. Weisberg said it is the first resolution they have drafted, there are currently fifteen students working on it, and they hope to bring it to GSA soon.

- Shulman said there are a couple typos in the 3rd whereas. It should read "The formation of an Advisory Committee...investment ran these problems...avoided entirely."

- Hosseini said this committee would be a better liaison for groups, such as the one involved with Darfur.

- Chacon moved and Shulman seconded to approve the Resolution for the Adoption of Responsible Investments Committee, with the stipulation that it is not printed in the Daily Bruin.
- Roth asked if the default is that the resolution is not printed. Hosseini said the default is that each resolution passed by council is printed in the Daily Bruin, unless otherwise stipulated.
- Hosseini said the goal is not to recant all previous investments, but to push for more responsible investing.
- Council approved the Resolution for the Adoption of Responsible Investments Committee with a vote of 10-0-0.

B. Townhall Discussion

- Hosseini said they will not need to go into breakout sessions this week.
- Tuttle asked if they have noticed students having trouble with housing lately. Hosseini said there have been issues lately, but she can not talk about it on record yet.
- Kohles said she joined up with Reodica to work on textbooks.
- Roth, as a part of the Sustainability Committee, said they have been working on a collaboration for Kohles's apartment review, and they have been working to get officer reports to be digital. They have been working on digitizing documents, and Roth has been ascertaining the feasibility of recycling cans for offices in Kerckhoff. Shulman also started the Green Council with representatives from different student groups. They also talked about the sustainability accreditation program, where programs will be graded by their "greenness."
- Shulman said he is going to talk at the townhall about cutting costs and saving money, while also being green. They are currently looking into "greening" the offices.
- Shulman asked Williams if there was some way to measure the amount of energy is being used in specific parts of ASUCLA. Williams said they can do that for separate buildings.
- Chacon, as a part of the Academic Advancement Committee, said they will be assessing the academic needs of students on campus, as well as working closer with the Student Engagement Committee. They also hope to get more people to learn more about LA outside of Westwood.
- Birks, as a part of the Student Engagement Committee, said they aim to update the website, put the USAC newsletter up, and work with the publicity and marketing positions within USAC.
- Gonzalez said it would be good to get student groups involved with each other, and it would also be pertinent to have someone hired to work on information access for student groups.
- Hosseini asked if publicity is being cosponsored. Birks said it is.
- Williams said resolutions printed in the Daily Bruin is a good way to advertise USAC to students, and he considers it an excellent marketing strategy.
- Kohles said the Google calendar on the website is another way to bring together events to advertise to students. Also, a good pool of applicants from which to hire a full time marketing associate would be those who do not make it on the advertisement team.
- Birks asked how one goes about establishing a hired part time position. Williams said USAC should talk to the GSA representatives, to see if they could collaborate on such a position.

XI. Announcements

- Hosseini said there will be no meetings during finals week.
- Hosseini said she sent an email out about parking permits, and if anybody needs a standard permit, he or she should contact herself.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Melgar moved and Chacon 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 9:19 pm, by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker