

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday January 13, 2009
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Reodica

GUESTS:

I. A. Call to Order

- Hosseini called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Hosseini removed CPC and SFAC from Appointments.
- Garcia added Undergraduate Council and Committee on International Education under Appointments.
- Roth added an officer report.
- Shulman added the minutes from November 18, 2008.
- Shulman 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 18, 2008

- Sobhani said it is the Finance Committee, not the Financial Committee.
- Roth moved and Melgar seconded to approve the minutes of November 18, 2008.
- Hosseini called for Acclamation. Hosseini asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the minutes of November 18, 2008, were approved, as amended, by Acclamation.

IV. Public Comments

- Sean Carroll from CALPIRG gave a short introduction to the various programs CALPIRG will be working on this quarter, as well as the method by which they are funded.

V. Special Presentations

There were no Special Presentations this week.

VI. Appointments

A. Jason Tengco – Undergraduate Council, Academic Senate

- Garcia said Tengco is a third year Political Science major who is also involved with Samahang. He understands the policy of undergraduate education, and he would like to work on the diversity requirement.
- Kohles asked Tengco about his knowledge of past UCs' diversity requirements. Tengco said he does not really know, but would like to learn.
- Shulman moved and Birks seconded to approve Jason Tengco to the Undergraduate Council of Academic Senate.
- Council approved Jason Tengco to the Undergraduate Council of Academic Senate with a vote of 10-0-0.

B. Raisa Avezova – International Education Committee, Academic Senate

- Garcia said she has already attended one meeting, and she has a strong interest in EAP programs. Right now, the committee is considering removing summer travel study programs, so its important to have a student's voice on the committee.
- Hosseini asked what programs are being considered for removal. Avezova said it is an archaeology program.
- Hosseini asked Avezova what she can bring to the table. Avezova said she can bring a student's voice, who knows how EAP has impacted students on campus.
- Birks moved and Roth seconded to approve Raisa Avezova to the International Education Committee of the Academic Senate.
- Council approved Raisa Avezova to the International Education Committee with a vote of 11-0-0.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Contingency Allocations

- Sobhani said it was a good week, and he appointed a new committee member.
- Sobhani said that there were 11 Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$15681.92. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$2955.88.

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

- Melgar said he has comments why certain people were not funded.

E. Cultural Affairs Mini-Grant

- Chacon said that there were 5 requests submitted this week. A total of \$18401.11 was requested and a total of \$7750.00 was allocated.
- Sobhani said he is worried about this large allocation, and that there will not be enough money for spring programming. Chacon said the CAC has a duty to cultural organizations.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Homaira Hosseini

Hosseini said her office will be cosponsoring and inauguration party with the EVP's office, Bruin Democrats, and the Committee Programs Office. She will be notifying

Political Science professors to see if students will be allowed to attend as a part of class. As for the USAC Town Hall, she has a confirmation of the administrators that will attend. The Chancellor will have a short introduction to speak, and there will be a panel discussion, along with a question and answers session. Food has yet to be confirmed. The Peace Pole ceremony will be on Friday at noon in Meyerhoff. The Chancellor will be there, and the event is open to all students.

Shulman said the webcast division of BruinCast contacted his office about streaming events online.

Internal Vice President – Evan Shulman

Shulman said the only thing he is working on currently is the committee he talked about last week.

External Vice President – Jesse Melgar

Melgar ceded the floor to Brandon Harrison and Cynthia Flores to give a presentation on where the UCs stand with the current state budget. They also described the governor's current aims to fix the budget, and what it means for education.

Shulman asked if the governor will be breaking the California Compact. Melgar said the compact is not legally binding, but was a campaign promise to not raise fees above a certain percentage.

Flores described certain flaws in the UC system, and problems that have been going on internally.

Melgar discussed what will be happening to various types of grants in the UC system.

He continued, saying this might be the first year that UCSA accepts a fee increase, due to the gravity of the budget in California.

Tuttle asked if they will agree to a fee increase with a stipulation that, once the state treasury accrues a certain amount, fees will go back down. Melgar said they have not released a statement just yet.

Tressel asked if there is a chance that the situation may worsen. Melgar said it may.

Harrison said the worst scenario is that the state runs out of money, and the public university system has to shut down. They have been talking about increasing out of state or transfer enrollment, while keeping freshman enrollment down.

Stephanie Perez, director of Bruins Lobby Corps, gave a short introduction to the Bruin Lobby Corps. She said they will be hosting forums, workshops, a student lobby conference, interdistrict lobby days, lobby visits, as well as putting out a newsletter. The student lobby conference will be February 28th to March 2nd.

Facilities Commissioner – Galen Roth

Roth said the TGIF committee is meeting for their first time this week. Also, she got an email from the president of Bruins for Israel, who was upset at the caucus type space from last meeting. She hopes that things are performed in a more transparent manner in the future.

Administrative Representative – Dr. Berky Nelson

Nelson said there will be a lecture next Wednesday at Broad 2160E at 5:00pm to discuss the Gaza confrontation, and it will be interesting to here intellectuals weigh in on each side.

IX. Old Business

A. USAC Town Hall Updates

- Shulman said he feels one of council's main priorities for the rest of the year should be educating the campus about the state budget, and its possible pitfalls.

Tressel asked about council's plan for publicity. Liu said he is currently making a flyer.

Tuttle said the town hall should focus on something that will happen, as opposed to may happen. It is better to present a more material matter to the students rather than abstract.

B. USAC Committee Reports

- Hosseini said all of council is responsible for this town hall, and each member has his or her own responsibilities.
- Garcia asked that council members forward to him any questions students wish to ask, but who will not be present at the town hall.
- Tsai asked if it is open to all students. Hosseini said it is.
- Hosseini asked that council tell all of their staff.
- Hosseini asked that all council members have their responsibilities finished and ready for the town hall.

X. New Business

There was no New Business this week.

XI. Announcements

- Tsai said he has to help someone from city council for a class, and anyone interested can volunteer.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Shulman moved and Sien 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 8:47 pm, by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker