

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday January 20, 2009
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Champawat, Garcia, McLaren, Nelson, Williams

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

- Reodica added her officer report.
- Kohles added her officer report.
- Tsai added his officer report.
- Reodica moved and Chacon 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. Berangere Allen-Blaine – Upcoming OCHC Programs

- Allen-Blaine from OCHC said they will be having a showcase of dance crews called Hill's Best Dance Crew. It will be either the last week of April or the first week of May, and she hopes to add a philanthropy to it. Also, there will be a cultural show displaying art, and it will be the second week of April. If anyone wants to coprogram, they should contact her at OCHC.

B. Angelo Sandoval – Senate Fellows Program

- Melgar said Sandoval will not be coming due to a flight scheduling issue.

VI. Appointments

There were no Appointments this week.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Student Organization Operation Fund (SOOF)

- Tan said only 35 groups applied for money this time, which is less than before. He suspects that the two bolded groups, Historical Ballroom Dancing, and Ballroom Dance and Folk Dance, are shadow groups to get more money.
- Tuttle asked if he talked to CSP about them. Tan said he has not, he wanted to talk to council first, but they have the same membership. Their applications were essentially the same.
- Sobhani said the Historical group is the newer group. CSP is aware of the issue and they are going to check it out.
- Gonzalez said the biggest problem was no clear definition of membership between the two organizations.
- Tan said Ballroom Dance and Folk Dance did not get money because the quality of application was terrible.
- Tsai said something must be wrong with the scoring system, because lower scores still get comparatively similar amounts of money to higher scores.
- Sobhani said if some groups had a quality application but did not follow through, sometimes they got the benefit of the doubt. Also talked to advisors if funding emails were messed up. There were some glitches in the new system.
- Melgar said they should be careful with accusations of phantom groups, as many groups on campus have similar membership. Sobhani said these groups went past umbrella groups, as they had the exact same application and similar documentation.
- Chacon said some groups had a hard time with the online application. Tan said the technology is new and untested, and there will be glitches, but they were flexible for such cases.
- Chacon said the formula Sobhani made should be exponential, so groups who scored higher got closer to what they asked for. Tsai said there is some irregularity.
- Tan said the exponential method has been the precedent of the past.
- Hosseini said there was going to be a committee to discuss revamping the formula and rubric.
- Sobhani said this discussion is a can of worms that he is not comfortable talking about legally and openly.
- Tuttle said changes to SOOF could occur, but they would have to come back to council.
- Roth asked for the formula to be explained to help alleviate some confusion.
- Gonzalez said it was clear that the Folk Dance group was not prepared in their hearing at all. The representative knew very little about the substance of the group and the application.
- Birks said it seems that scores this time around dictate a different amount than before. Sobhani said they do not know how many apply until all applications are in, and they want to give out as much money as possible.
- Tan said SGA will be holding off on allocating money to either group until further investigation deems it prudent.
- Tuttle said the amount of \$634 should come back to council for approval at a later date.
- Hosseini said that amount is not for any timely issue, so council can vote on the rest of SOOF and come back to that line item at a later date.
- Sobhani recommended that council approves SOOF all or nothing, as that \$634 could be given out to other groups.
- Tan said that money would still go back into Contingency if it does not get approved.
- Hosseini said they should approve SOOF with the exception of that \$634.

- Melgar moved and Reodica seconded to approve SOOF allocation recommendations for all groups except Historic Ballroom Dancing and Ballroom Dance and Folk Dance.
- Gonzalez said, not taking into account the current issue at hand, Ballroom Dance and Folk Dance had a terrible application and quality of hearing. Everything should be approved, including those two groups.
- Hosseini said questions of legitimacy will hopefully be put aside with the upcoming investigations.
- Tuttle said the committee can reopen the application of Folk Dance and possible rescore them. Tan said the score was based on the quality of application.
- Council approved SOOF allocation recommendations for all groups except Historic Ballroom Dancing and Ballroom Dance and Folk Dance with a vote of 7-2-2.
- Roth said the question is not plagiarism, but if the legitimacy of the organization.

B. Contingency Allocations

- Sobhani said there were 7 requests total from Contingency. He said a total of \$11,757.62 was requested and a total of \$3,470.35 was recommended for allocation.
- Reodica moved and Chacon seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations of January 20th, 2009.
- Hosseini called for Acclamation. Hosseini asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Contingency Allocations of January 20th, 2009, were approved, by Acclamation.

C. Academic Success Referendum Fund

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

D. Academic Affairs Mini-Grant

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

E. Travel Grants

- Melgar said the guidelines state he can only allocate money to three requests per conference.
- Melgar said there were 10 requests for Travel Grants. A total of \$5,790.95 was requested and a total of \$1,568.00 was allocated.

F. 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 someone from the yearbook will be coming next Tuesday at 6:40pm to take pictures of USAC as a whole. The inauguration event was today, and it was really crowded. February 28th and March 7th will be the UC wide President's Summit, but she can only make one of the dates. Liu's office created a flyer for the town hall. January 27th, from noon to 1:30 in the James West Alumni Center, the student advisory committee will be meeting. She also talked to Bernice Shaw about pushing back the date of the Dialogue, and she was fine with it. They wanted more time to plan it.

Internal Vice President – Evan Shulman

Shulman met with Shirley Wong, director of university apartments, and discussed greening the apartments. He also discussed with others about the best way to utilize the video wall in the Cooperage.

Hosseini said that is a good project for the Student Engagement committee.

GROW is coming up, and on January 29th at 7:00pm, there will be a securing event to talk about SOOF. The University Credit Union is also offering sponsorship for stuff.

Melgar said USSA members get their GROW registration fees paid for.

External Vice President – Jesse Melgar

Melgar said he will send out a link for the application to the Student Lobby Conference. His office will also be presenting at various locations on the budget crisis like they did last week.

Tressel wanted to thank Janina Montero for sitting in on the meeting. Montero congratulated everyone on the Peace Pole ceremony.

Financial Supports Commissioner – Elaine Reodica

Reodica said they are giving out 38 scholarships this quarter, but they can afford it to up the number to 42.

Tsai asked if she has contacted other forms of sponsorship to pay for the scholarships. Reodica said she has been looking for other sources of funding.

Student Welfare Commissioner – Jonathan Tsai

Tsai said the application for the gender-health committee is due this Friday. Also, he heard Chancellor banned the Red Cross from doing blood drives on campus from a representative from the UCLA Blood and Platelet Center, and the UCLA Blood and Platelet Center will be having a UCLA vs. USC blood drive.

Hosseini asked Tsai who informed him of the ban. He said it was someone from the Blood and Platelet Center.

General Representative 1 – Monica Kohles

Kohles said her office is putting on two events. The first is on Tuesday, January 27th, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Anderson. It is a guest speaker who built his own corporations from scratch and sold them. The second program is a Mythbuster program to be held in De Neve from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Also, she met with the library last week, and they just released a pilot study, and she will send out a digital copy once available.

IX. Old Business

A. USAC Town Hall Updates

- Shulman said the Town Hall will be posted on the website this Thursday, and he asked that people invite others to come to it. Set up will be 11:30am to noon in the Kerckhoff Grand Salon.
- Hosseini said the Chancellor, along with some of the Vice Chancellors, will speak at noon. Then there will be presentations by each member of USAC. Hosseini said this is a good opportunity to publicize open committee spots.
- Shulman said the idea behind the sustainability committee will be to save students money while being green.
- Sien said she wanted to talk to Williams about utilizing ASUCLA advertising to spread the word about USAC around campus.
- Hosseini said she will be moderating the event.
- Shulman asked if a press release went to the Daily Bruin. Hosseini said she was told it did.
- Hosseini said there will also be a Question and Answer section of the town hall.

B. Dialogue for Peace Event

- Hosseini said there was no business to discuss on this issue.

X. New Business

There was no New Business this week.

XI. Announcements

- Kohles said the launch date for the apartment rating website is the 31st. Next meeting they hope to review someone to be hired as grant coordinator.
- Chacon said CAC is having one of their first electronica programs in Kerckhoff Salon on Friday at 6:00pm
- Sien said, next Monday, January 26th, there will be a fundraiser at Chili's from 5:00pm to 10:00pm.
- Birks asked if the Gaza discussion is still going on. Hosseini said it is, it is different from the Dialogue.
- Roth said TGIF elected their chairpeople this past week.

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 9:17 pm. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker