

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL

Tuesday February 3, 2009  
417 Kerckhoff Hall  
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Birks, Chacon, Champawat, Garcia, Hosseini, Liu, Kohles, Nelson, Reodica, Roth, Shulman, Sobhani, Tan, Tressel, Tsai, Tuttle, Williams

ABSENT: Gonzalez, Melgar, Sien

GUESTS: Tobit Capati, Judith Perera, Bailey West

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

- Tan added second SOOF updates to Fund Allocations and Special Presentations.
- Reodica added her officer report.
- King added the Minutes of October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- Chacon added his officer report.
- Birks added Letter re: New Stimulus Bill to New Business as an action item.
- Kohles added her officer report.
- Garcia added two entries for GE Governance Committee under Appointments.
- Hosseini added Bruin Initiative under Special Presentations.
- Shulman moved and Reodica 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.
- Hosseini said Brandon Harrison is here in place of Jesse Melgar because he is at the UC Regents meeting. Harrison can not make motions nor vote.

III. Approval of the Minutes

**A. October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

- Tuttle said the high school being built in downtown is RFK.
- Chacon moved and Shulman seconded to approve the Minutes of October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- Hosseini called for Acclamation. Hosseini asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Minutes of October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, were approved, as amended, by Acclamation.

IV. Public Comments

- Tobit Capati said he, along with several other students, is currently working on a documentary that will be played at Theatre Fest. They are looking to put on monologues written by students, detailing experiences of prejudice and racism. He went to Shulman, who told him to come to this space.
- Hosseini asked for his email address, so people may contact him who may be interested.

## V. Special Presentations

### A. Bruin Initiative Internship

- Elizabeth King and King Adjei-Frimpong said the Bruin Initiative Internship had trained students to work in the various commissions as a way to get involved in student government. The interns will be available to work soon, after their one-on-one meetings are finished.
- Hosseini said 9 offices are getting interns, and she is trying to give everyone their first or second choice.
- Tuttle asked if these interns had previous experience. Adjei-Frimpong said many worked in high school ASB. There is one transfer and a lot of first and second years.

### B. Film & Photography Society

- Tan said, premiering in the Ackerman Grand Ballroom at 8:00pm on February 18<sup>th</sup> will be the action film Slick. It is a low budget film that is shot in a high production action movie fashion. They will showcase a trailer next week.

## VI. Appointments

### A. Claire Abu-Hakima – GE Governance Committee

- Abu-Hakima said she found out about the committee through Professor Gurval, and, being a third year, she feels she understands what makes a good course and a good professor. She hopes to improve the quality of courses for students.
- Hosseini asked how she will voice the students' voice. Abu-Hakima said she wants to interact with faculty and see if their issues are similar to students'.
- Shulman moved and Roth seconded to approve Claire Abu-Hakima to the GE Governance Committee.
- Council approved Claire Abu-Hakima to the GE Governance Committee with a vote of 7-0-2.

### B. Grant Burgdorf – GE Governance Committee

- Garcia said Burgdorf may not make it tonight, but he can be provisionally approved at the end of meeting if need be.

## VII. Fund Allocations

### A. Contingency Allocations

- Sobhani said rawXposure had a bad application, given that it was handwritten and the supplies section was not strong.
- Sobhani said that there were 8 Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$7,080.91. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$2,827.44.
- Reodica moved and Kohles seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations for February 10, 2009.
- Hosseini called for Acclamation. Hosseini asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Contingency Allocations of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, were approved, by Acclamation.

### B. Second SOOF Updates

- Tan said he came before council two weeks ago concerning an issue of funding two seemingly similar groups, being International Folk Dance and Historic Ballroom Dance. After meetings and investigating, Tan believes Historic Ballroom Dance should be funded as they had a good application. He talked to representatives from International Folk Dance, and they said they did not need funding. Mike Cohn and CSP were made aware of the situation. Tan recommended to council to allocate Historical Ballroom Dancing \$634.92.
- Tuttle asked if anything in the allocation has changed since before. Tan said nothing has changed.
- Chacon moved and Birk seconded to allocate \$634.93 to Historic Ballroom Dancing from SOOF.
- Council approved the allocation with a vote of 6-0-3.

#### **C. Academic Success Referendum Fund**

- Garcia said he closed some accounts, which allowed for \$2000.00 to come back into the fund.
- Tuttle asked Garcia if he conferred with the groups prior to closing the accounts. Garcia said there is a system where a group has a certain number of days and a certain number of warnings before the account is closed. Tuttle said Garcia should follow up just in case a miscommunication happened.
- Garcia said he had 1 request from the Academic Success Referendum Fund. A total of \$895.00 was requested and a total of \$895.00 was allocated.

#### **D. Academic Affairs Mini-Grant**

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

#### **E. Travel Grants**

*There were no Travel Grants this week.*

#### **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 she will be serving as a Whiteliner February 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> at the UC Regents meeting at UCSF. She will also be giving a public comment about the budget cuts. She was also at the REC meeting, where she proposed the REC proposal and had a discussion on responsible investment. She also had a meeting with Keith Parker on January 26<sup>th</sup> about Bruins in the City. He directed her to speak with other District Council Members. Also, the interns trained at the President's Office are ready to be placed in the various offices and commissions. Her office has also been considering a camp out event to support homelessness at UCLA. USAC will also hold endorsement hearings March 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss endorsing District 5, which is Westwood.

*Tuttle said political endorsements may be tricky, and Hosseini should seek counsel from the rest of council.*

Hosseini said there will be a forum for all of the candidates February 11<sup>th</sup>.

*Nelson said he does not think the university ever endorsed a candidate, but can take positions on proposals.*

#### **Internal Vice President – Evan Shulman**

Shulman said CRC will be meeting Thursday, at 3:30pm. They will look at the updated guidelines of OSAC, OSAC changes previously forwarded by Roth, a typo in the constitution, and changes to make council more sustainable.

*Tuttle said council should proceed carefully with the constitutional change, as the rule of unintended consequences applies here.*

Shulman said the office of the IVP had a grant writing workshop, which was videotaped, and the video will be posted soon.

*Hosseini asked if there will be an ARC meeting this week. Shulman said there probably will not be.*

Shulman said he needs representatives from each office for the USSA's GROW weekend.

#### **External Vice President – Jesse Melgar**

Brandon Harrison, on the behalf of Jesse Melgar, said the student lobby conference delegation has been finalized, and 56 students will be going to Sacramento on February 27<sup>th</sup> to march 2<sup>nd</sup>. The EVP's office has had tabling on Bruinwalk, as well as the postcards to protest the budget cuts.

#### **Academic Affairs Commissioner – Jeremiah Garcia**

Garcia read notes from the funding subcommittee, and brought two concerns. First, the scores sheets are too broad, out of date, and subjective. Second, the formula used to determine allocations are not logical, in that lower scoring groups still get a similar allocation to higher scoring groups.

*Sobhani said he did not come out of the subcommittee with the same frame of mind as Garcia, and he is not necessarily in favor of changing the way scores are run. He agrees that the rubric does not match the priorities of council, but he does not want to take a stance on the nature of scoring or allocations. He understands if council wants to change the rubric.*

*Tsai said he would like to see the hybrid formula still in use.*

*Sobhani said, if council thinks something is wrong, they should change the rubric first.*

*Hosseini asked if everyone on the subcommittee was in favor of changing the rubric.*

*Garcia said everyone was.*

*Hosseini said the rubric should be changed by Week 7.*

*Tuttle asked Sobhani if he has a view that a number of groups are lying on their application. Sobhani said the current rubric allows for a group that fulfills one component to be as good as a group that touches upon all components of the rubric.*

*Tuttle said any ability to gain the system is a business council should not allow.*

Garcia said the Academic Planning Toolbox Committee was formed, and he asked the Assistant Provost if he could join, and if it is possible for council to appoint students to the committee. He is writing a letter to be sent to the Assistant Provost, and he asked that council sign on to the letter. Garcia read the letter to council. He asked for feedback, and hopes to send it out by Thursday.

*Hosseini asked if anybody did not feel comfortable signing on to the letter.*

*Nelson said shared governance should be put into the letter. Hosseini said to list CEAC under the committee section. Nelson said to add that students are helpful in prioritizing what needs to be done. Tuttle said to get EVC, Scott Waugh, in the loop.*

Garcia sent the letter to council as an email, and he wants to ensure no one gets offended.

Garcia said he is restarting the Admission Coalition this Friday at 5:00pm. Also, he and Chacon worked with with groups affected by the budget cuts through the Academic Advancement Subcommittee.

#### **General Representative 2 – James Birks**

Birks asked that council look at the letter from USSA he sent out as an email. The letter is in support of a new bill passed by the House that would increase funding to Pell Grants. He asked that council gives a vote of confidence to the letter.

*Chacon moved and Reodica seconded to approve the letter from USSA.*

Birks said the letter talks about investing in students, rather than just raising loans. He feels its better to raise grant money rather than loans.

*Harrison said students are in a bad place when it comes to loan debt.*

*Tuttle said the act looks at raising debt limits, but they should give students borrowing capacity instead, so they can finish on time.  
Council approved the letter with a vote of 8-0-1.*

**Financial Supports Commissioner – Elaine Reodica**

Reodica said they had the second textbook scholarship drawing for spring quarter, and they drew 42 names. A total of 72 scholarships were given out the entire year. She will be looking at textbook buybacks, to see how much money goes into it. Her office is also working on relaunching the book loan program, as well as an auction in spring to raise money for the textbook scholarship fund. They have been talking to Kaplan about getting donations. The textbook coalition meeting will be tomorrow. She has also been collaborating with the Daily Bruin about doing a column on financial literacy. She has also been thinking of doing parking permit scholarships. Her political director has been working on the projected student budget in order to give a presentation week 7 or 8 on student budgets.

*Nelson said the university is very worried about homeless students, and he asked if anybody has been able to get the numbers on that. Hosseini said its very hard to do so because of the nature of the problem, but she has been telling people to contact her office if they need help.*

**General Representative 1 – Monica Kohles**

Kohles said her office had their first business speaker at Anderson last Tuesday. Her office is also looking into have an entrepreneurial trade fair where student entrepreneurs can attract investors. The apartment rating website is also finished, and council should check out the pilot site. From 7:00pm to 8:00pm, the textbook coalition will be meeting in the communal office space. She will be attending the meeting of Open Access, and she is trying to get in touch with CALPIRG.

*Roth said Kohles mentioned at the town hall that her office got textbook buyback prices raised from 50% to 60%, and she asked Kohles to elaborate on that. Kohles said she forwarded an email to Roth from her director of academic supports.*

IX. Old Business

*There was no Old Business this week.*

X. New Business

*There was no New Business this week.*

XI. Announcements

- Garcia said the showing of Courting Condi will be tomorrow.
- Tsai asked that council members donate blood.
- Reodica said there will be an event by the Government Relations Office on February 11<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in helping out, volunteers are needed.
- Garcia said council needs to provisionally approve Grant Burgdorf so he can attend the Friday meeting of the GE Governance Committee.
- Shulman moved and Reodica seconded to approve Grant Burgdorf to the GE Governance Committee with the stipulation that he appears before council as early as possible.
- Council approved Grant Burgdorf to the GE Governance Committee with a vote of 9-0-0.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*The attendance sheet was passed around.*

XIII. Adjournment

- Reodica moved and Birks 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 8:54 pm, by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King  
USAC Minutes Taker