

FINAL

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday April 21, 2009
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Hosseini, Nelson, Tressel, Williams

GUESTS: Kris Kaupalolo, Judith Perera, Irene Tatevosyan, Bailey West

I. A. Call to Order

- Shulman called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Shulman added the minutes of December 2nd, 2008, January 27th, 2009, and February 27th, 2009.
- Shulman removed USAC Budget Approval.
- Kohles added her officer report.
- Reodica added her officer report.
- Chacon moved up the PLEDGE Referendum.
- Reodica moved and Melgar seconded to approve the Agenda, as amended.
- Council approved the Agenda with a vote of 9-0-0.

III. Approval of the Minutes

December 2nd, 2008

- Reodica moved and Chacon seconded to approve the Minutes of December 2nd 2008.
- Roth said, under Appointments A, she was not working on the grant coordinator job description, just that work was being done on it.
- Council approved the Minutes of December 2nd, 2008, with a vote of 9-0-2.

January 27th, 2009

- Gonzalez said she was absent at this meeting.
- Kohles said she was present at this meeting.
- Champawat said he was absent at this meeting.
- Reodica moved and Birks seconded to approve the Minutes of January 27th, 2009.
- Council approved the Minutes of January 27th, 2009, with a vote of 9-0-2.

February 27th, 2009

- Shulman said the day should be changed to Friday from Tuesday.
- Shulman said the time listed should be 2:15pm.

- Chacon moved and Reodica seconded to approve the Minutes of February 27th, 2009.
- Council approved the Minutes of February 27th, 2009, with a vote of 12-0-0.

IV. Public Comments

- The Armenian Student Association is having an event tomorrow in Ackerman Grand Ballroom at 6:30pm in remembrance of the Armenian Genocide. There will be an art display and a production of a national play. It will start at 7:00pm.

V. Special Presentations

There were no Special Presentations this week.

VI. Appointments

There were no Appointments this week.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Contingency Allocations

- Sobhani said there were 10 recommendations. A total of \$13,462.23 was requested, and he recommended an allocation of \$5,080.42.
- Birks moved and Chacon seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations of April 21, 2009.
- Council approved the Contingency Allocations of April 21, 2009, with a vote of 12-0-0.

B. Academic Success Referendum Fund

- Garcia said \$1,500.00 was requested, and \$1,500.00 was allocated.

C. Academic Affairs Mini-Grant

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

D. Travel Grants

- Melgar said the Travel Grants were officially closed last 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 CRC compiled all of the past minutes together and now has a summary of the past. They will talk about the methodology and how they came to the point where they are now.

Tuttle asked if there were any substantive changes. Shulman said it was mostly updating and reconciling the present and the past.

Tuttle asked when council will get a copy. Shulman said council will get a copy next meeting.

Shulman said the blogs and calendars have been helping with publicity, but he is not sure what direction to take them. Also, he has secured a venue location for GROW, and he asked council members to get people to apply. It is free, but there is an application.

External Vice President – Jesse Melgar

Melgar said his office is skipping lobby day to go to the California Democratic Lobby Convention. His office will be taking 3-4 vans up to Sacramento on May 11th. Also, Matias Ramos will be on CNN to talk about the Dream Act.

Academic Affairs Commissioner – Jeremiah Garcia

Garcia said he presented to the GE review team for Society and Culture GE a three part proposal. First, to change the name to Society, Culture, and Diversity. Second, to expand on diversity in the explanation of the GE. Third, to make the GE target classes with diversity on a contemporary context.

General Representative 1 – Monica Kohles

Kohles said her event starts at 8:00pm in Anderson B210, and there will be a keynote speaker.

Financial Support Commissioner – Elaine Reodica

Reodica said the drawing for the Kaplan course will be May 1st. She also met with FAO and UCOP to discuss the UCLA Survey, and use it as a way to fishbowl between administrators and students. She is also going to DC to lobby with the Governor Relations Office.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

X. New Business

A. PLEDGE Referendum – Patricia Alfaro

- Patricia Alfaro, the organizer for PLEDGE, gave an introduction to the various people who worked on PLEDGE. The goal of PLEDGE is to protect the college experience by increasing student fees \$12.75. This increase would go towards various programs outlined in the PLEDGE Referendum.
- Gonzalez asked how this got started. Alfaro said, as budgets started to get cut, many people realized their services will not be able to be maintained. These groups and committees, on their own authority, got together to write this referendum.
- Reodica asked if they received any feedback from administrators. Alfaro said they worked with Deb Geller on the language of the referendum.
- Sobhani said one concern on campus is money for programming. Given this is the largest referendum on campus, he asked why no money was set aside for the programming budget.
- Melgar said this referendum is low in comparison to other schools.
- Sobhani asked why they did not try and address the concerns of programming funds on campus, or at least talk to him about it.
- Shulman said council will vote to put it on the ballot, not to enact it.
- Sien asked them to clarify how money given to SREC will be advertised. The money has to be held in the department, but the board will decide how the money is allocated. The money will be held in CPO until SREC becomes a funding committee.
- Kohles said it is a difficult time financially for students, and she does not feel comfortable asking students if they want to raise their own fees. She asked if these organizations could find way to reduce costs. The organizations are already operating on a very efficient budget.
- Frank Rodriguez, a member of the PLEDGE group, said the reason fees are being raised is so students can save money in the long term.
- Reodica said she feels students should be able to vote on whether or not they want to raise their own fees.
- Sobhani asked why they are not adding any money to programming. Alfaro said they did not want to go over \$13 for the referendum, and their goal was to protect programs that have been institutionalized on campus.
- Thuy Nguyen said the Chancellor opened up funding pools for programming as well.

- Tuttle said the constitution does not say if a supermajority vote is required to put this on the ballot, but apparently the Election Code takes that step to delineate it.
- Shulman said council just has to review the language and see if it can be published on the ballot.
- Gonzalez asked for the groups to discuss where their budget comes from, as well as who has access to their services and who benefits.
- The student media budget is funded by advertising revenue, and there is no funding from the university. Currently the business model is failing. Any student on campus is able to participate in any offered media. The media serves every student on campus.
- SREC has no funding source for liability insurance. Berkeley has decided to take steps similar to liability insurance for their SREC. It is open to any student organization hosting a program on or off campus.
- SIAC has its own funding body. It is under USAC and allocates money under it. Anyone has access so long as they follow the guidelines. It is best went programs target a particular community they focus on, usually one marginalized or underrepresented in the greater LA community.
- CPO gets money from selling items at the beginning of the year. They have no operating budget. It is open to any student who wants to help historically marginalized communities in LA.
- The marching band requests funding from SFAC and the Athletics Department, but they are the lowest amount allocated in the Athletics Department.
- Gonzalez asked what percentage of the student body they cover.
- SREC covers all 900 organizations and projects.
- Student Media encompasses only about 5% of the students, but all students benefit from their work.
- SIAC's services cater to high schools and other communities outside.
- CRC benefits about 3,000 to 5,000 students each year.
- CPO consists of a 24 different organizations.
- Reodica said the role of USAC right now is not for personal research, but to determine if the referendum should go on the ballot.
- Chacon said he was a product of SIAC, and, given that it is a tough time, he hopes students on campus would realize the issue extends to the greater LA community.
- Alfaro said a quarter of the money raised from the referendum would go to financial aid.
- Melgar said his job is to see that fees do not go up, that's why he got involved to ensure these groups can do their job of advocacy. Students will decide what will happen at the end of the day.
- Melgar moved and Chacon seconded to approve the PLEDGE Referendum.
- Sobhani said he felt like he was completely left out, although programming is running into more trouble with funds. From his point of view, students will see this referendum as only being under \$15, not \$13.
- Roth agreed with Sobhani and mentioned that an amendment should be made to the referendum.
- Garcia asked how that would affect the referendum.
- Rodriguez said they had to reject some other group's from joining the referendum, and the language has also gone to the Chancellor.
- Sobhani believes there is not an issue in going over \$13 for the referendum.
- Reodica called the question, so that the vote is a roll call vote. Melgar seconded.
- Council decided to vote on the matter with a vote of 8-3-1.
- Council passed the PLEDGE referendum with the following vote: Birks, Chacon, Garcia, Kohles, Liu, Melgar, Reodica, Roth, Shulman, Sien, and Tsai voted in the affirmative. Gonzalez voted in the negative.
- Garcia disagreed with not including programming in the referendum, but he thinks students should vote on the matter.
- Tuttle asked the editor of the Daily Bruin if they will be endorsing any candidates during this year's election. The editor, Pesci, said they will not be endorsing any

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candidates this year, and coverage will be as usual despite what stance they take on this referendum.

- Alfaro said they can talk to Simmons about getting programming on as an addendum. It would need to be passed by next meeting to get on the ballot.
- Shulman said any amendments made to the referendum would require it to come back for approval again.
- Tuttle said there might be an issue trying to graft on an addendum, because the Chancellor may have to look at it. If it was a separate item, there may be a problem with notice in accordance to the rules.

XI. Announcements

- Sobhani said ASUCLA has decided to open up the 5th floor of Kerckhoff Hall for office space, and that is the only thing that may change the budget.
- Tsai said Earth Day is tomorrow.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Chacon moved and Reodica seconded to adjourn.
- Shulman called for Acclamation. Shulman asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04pm, by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker