

FINAL

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday May 5, 2009
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Patricia Alfaro, Grace Anncecilio, Ronald Arruejo, Christina Davila, Yolanda DeLaera, Jonathan Hsi, Thai Le, Yazmin Lugo, Argie Mina, Nelson Perez-Olney, Atzimina Reyes, Andrea Salcedo, Neil Sepulveda, Bailey West

I. A. Call to Order

- Hosseini called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Shulman added the Minutes of February 17th, 2009.
- Garcia removed B and C under Fund Allocations.
- Melgar removed Travel Grants under Fund Allocations.
- Chacon removed CAC Grants under Fund Allocations.
- Sobhani moved Budget Approval to Special Presentations.
- Shulman added OSAC Allocations under New Business.
- Chacon 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. There was one abstention.

III. Approval of the Minutes

February 17th, 2008

- Reodica said, under Fund Allocations, to remove the number 5.
- Gonzalzel said Flores was spelled wrong under Section VIII.
- Shulman moved and Reodica seconded to approve the Minutes of October 28, 2008.
- Hosseini called for Acclamation. Hosseini asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Minutes of February 17, 2008, were approved by Acclamation. There was one abstention.

IV. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments this week.

V. Special Presentations

A. USAC Installation

- Patricia Zimmerman said the USAC Installation will be May 31st at 12:30pm until around 2:30pm. She will email out the information.

VI. Appointments

There were no Appointments this week.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Contingency Allocations

- Sobhani said there were 7 recommendations. A total of \$8,297.25 was requested, and he recommended an allocation of \$2,350.00.
- Melgar asked if it was too late to get a computer through capital. Sobhani said its not too late, but there would be no opportunity to use it this year. Birks said he got it for next year's council.
- Shulman moved and Birks seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations of May 5, 2009.
- Hosseini called for Acclamation. Hosseini asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Contingency Allocations of May 5, 2009, were approved by Acclamation.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Homaira Hosseini

Hosseini said she is meeting with the Executive Board of Foundation to finalize a responsible endowment resolution, using templates from other campuses. She also met with a representative of the UCLA Giving Foundation to talk about working with students to give more once they leave.

Internal Vice President – Evan Shulman

GROW weekend is finally coming, and sixty will be the maximum number of people allowed to go. Other than that, they will discuss the old minutes pursuant to the CRC discussions.

External Vice President – Jesse Melgar

Melgar said the Regents held their meeting via teleconference due to the swine flu in San Diego. It is also the last UCSA board meeting this weekend at UC Merced.
Tuttle said there are allies on the Regents board, and Melgar should see if he can arrange a situation where he is in the room during the conference.

Academic Affairs Commissioner – Jeremiah Garcia

Garcia said he has a new score sheet for USABOD, and he will make one for SOOF as well. He sent it to Williams and Simmons, and he sent it out to all of council to review. He added several sections that weren't there before. He based it around the University Pillars, and if the group incorporates those pillars in their programming and function. He also gave areas for scorers to write down their opinions.
Tuttle said he had a chance to discuss this at CSP, and it would be great if, throughout the years, the funding bodies can build upon past score sheets and measure their standards and benchmarks. This can then be incorporated into the next year's set of questions.
Hosseini asked that council would look over the new score sheets and provide feedback.

IX. Old Business

A. USA Budget Approvals – Tan

- Hosseini said she met today with Gonzalez, Champawat, and Simmons to go over some alternative numbers for the budget. She proposed capping the USA Secretary at \$6,000.00, freeing up \$4,000.00, and taking out the award line item. Also, she suggested cutting Eboard's term to 5 months and taking the phones out of the communal office space.
- Nelson asked if there is any downside to cutting Eboard's term. Hosseini said mid-year passing points were discussed. Eboard would only be necessary if there were mid-year elections.
- Gonzalez said the Eboard chair was appointed in the fall, but there was no visible work until winter.
- Nelson asked how they would deal with an emergency election before the middle of the year and if council would convene and give out a stipend. Gonzalez said that is something to be considered.
- Tuttle said council should have as much time as possible to get Eboard into place.
- Nelson said council should think if this would hamper the quality of person available for the position.
- Champawat said there are alternate funding sources in the event of an emergency.
- Hosseini said, with her proposed changes, it would come out to \$5,500.00 to redistribute.
- Hosseini said she will meet with Champawat to discuss how they can work on the phone line situation.
- Hosseini said, in terms of the Student Government stipend, it would be best if a third party assessed the stipends. Champawat offered to have ASUCLA assess their stipends first. He said that it seems council is uncomfortable in assessing their own stipends, and it would be best to have a neutral third party do it. Tuttle said it would be great if there was a unanimous vote from all sides for this.
- Hosseini recommended that an independent committee is formed to study the stipends.
- Hosseini said Eboard can be appointed early, but not paid until winter.
- Melgar agreed that some of Eboard's budget should be reduced.
- Champawat said he hopes to avoid hiring an outside company to assess the stipends.
- Chacon asked how important a USAC publicist would be next year when money could be spent in SGOF and SOOF.
- Reodica said any money that is saved should be given back to the students, rather than to stipends.
- Tuttle said it will be some time before any stipends increase.
- Birks said SOOF would be a good place to put the money, rather than SGOF.
- Shulman suggested using the money for homeless students.
- Chacon said \$5,000.00 in programming is not that much money. Reodica said it is at least something.
- Sobhani said, mid year, council could set money aside to do a marketing plan or some kind of project.
- Hosseini said they have to approve the budget, and she would only want to see the money go to SGOF or SOOF.
- Hosseini asked if everyone was in agreement with having a committee look at the stipends, and paying Eboard in winter and spring, and performing the cuts so they have \$5,500.00 to work with. Gonzalez asked for more discussion on the Eboard stipend. Chacon said he was in favor of the cut.
- Hosseini asked council for suggestions on where to put the extra money.
- Birks said a new copy machine in the communal office space would be a good idea.
- Tressel said council should just put the money in contingency this year and let next year's council deal with it.
- Reodica said they should put it in SGOF or SOOF.
- Sobhani said the money could be put towards replacing the carpet in Kerckhoff.

- Hosseini suggested using the money for textbook scholarships or for homeless students.
- Shulman mentioned creating an emergency fund for students in need.
- Chacon asked Reodica how she is doing on funds for the textbook scholarships. She said a complete count has not been done of funds acquired, but she sees no reason that next year's council would drop it.
- Birks suggested putting some money into it, then the rest into SOOF or SGOF. Gonzalez said its best to just put it all into SOOF or SGOF.
- Sobhani said they should just put it into contingency and vote on the matter, its not a substantial amount of money to begin with.
- Hosseini asked that they table it until the end of the meeting.
- Birks moved and Reodica seconded to approve the USA Budget.
- Kohles moved and Garcia seconded to table the USA Budget until the end of the meeting.
- Hosseini called for Acclamation. Hosseini asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the USA Budget was tabled until the end of the meeting.
- Champawat said, in the new budget, where USA Secretary is taken down, council would have \$4,777.00 to relocate.
- Kohles moved and Reodica seconded to lower the stipend of the USA Secretary from \$10,000.00 to \$6,000.00 and to allocated the remaining \$4,000.00 to Contingency.
- Council approved this with a vote of 10-0-2.

B. CRC – Old Minutes Recognition from Student Support Services Task Force – Stednitz, Champawat, Shulman

- Stednitz passed out a three year summary of bylaw changes that were not recorded or occurred during a meeting when minutes were not recorded or were draft minutes. They would use minutes that they did have to create different versions of the bylaws by year, namely, 2006, 2007, and 2008.
- Melgar asked that they discuss any major changes that occurred.
- Stednitz said they did it chronologically, which makes it harder to assess what is different.
- Tressel said they are just reconciling the record.
- Birks asked if there were sections where they could not find minutes. Stednitz said some problems were due to handouts from council not being on record, and also intention behind passing certain documents.
- Champawat said empirical evidence was used when minutes could not be found, but those incidents are few and were not about controversial subjects.
- Melgars asked if they now have a solid process to update bylaws. Shulman said it is now the IVP's responsibility to fill out a document and get it to Student Support Services.
- Melgar moved and Chacon seconded to recognize this process of updating the bylaws, as done by Nicole Stednitz, Roy Champawat, and Student Support Services, as valid.
- Council recognized this with a vote of 10-0-2.

X. New Business

A. OSAC Allocations

- Argie Mina went over the score sheet OSAC used, and said half of the questions were objective, while the other half were subjective. Forty-five groups applied for space and forty of those applied for office space, and those who did not receive office space got locker space. Twenty-four groups got space. Everyone who applied got some type of space.
- Reodica asked which groups got space for the first time. Mina said they were Dance Marathon, Unicamp, Circle K, Taiwanese Student Association, and Rally Committee.

- Hosseini asked what they plan on doing with the two new offices that opened up. Mina said it is best to convert them to communal office space for next year, then deal with them then.
- Melgar asked how many groups would fit in those spaces.
- Tuttle asked if groups were satisfied with their allocations.
- Mina said all of the groups affiliated with QA requested 136 officially, and they unofficially share room with QA groups.
- Hosseini asked if there could be 4-6 potential groups in those spaces if they were not communal. Mina said that is a plausible estimate.
- Gonzalez said, if the space is ready, it should be allocated by OSAC.
- Mina said they were given very short notice on the availability of that room, and it would be best to utilize it as communal office space.
- Tuttle asked if Bruin Republicans applied. Mina said they did not.
- Garcia said ASUCLABOD approved that space for student use, and Hosseini got GSA to let USA use their third of the space.
- Hosseini said one concern is that the elevator does not go past the fourth floor, so any student with special needs would not be able to use it.
- Tuttle asked for the length of OSAC's term. Hosseini said it is until the end of this academic year.
- Melgar said the EVP's office shares their space, and the office has a huge staff. He inherited that office space arrangement, and he hopes to get a new office, even if its smaller. He shares with three other student groups.
- Mina said Mecha could be moved into room 220 and the EVP's office could be 300c, which is smaller.
- Misha Tsukerman from APC asked that they go over the scoring. Mina said the scoring is done by virtue of the guidelines. Scores are not judgments on how worthy a group is, but there are other groups being scored too.
- Tsukerman asked to see his application. Mina said he can, but he does not have them with him.
- Richard from ASU said his office had roots in the office they are moving out of, and he asked if that was taken into account. ASU also encouraged groups under their umbrella to not apply for space, because that is in accordance with the idea of an umbrella organization. He said the interview he got did not engage the umbrella organization.
- Mina said OSAC followed the guidelines, and he said organizations could apply under one application. He said the process was not subjective, but done on a scoring system. It was not a matter of picking favorites.
- Mina said OSAC can only allocate space if they are registered groups, and space can be allocated if groups form together a coalition.
- Roth said the guidelines state that, if groups apply together as a single group, they would not be scored as such. Mina said they did not score groups applying like that as a single group.
- ASU asked why they were taken out of their office. Mina said they are supposed to allocate based on score, and it would be impossible for a single group to get their old room to themselves. ASU said they were in that office for three decades.
- Roth asked if, for the new space, groups with the lower scores could be given space. Mina said the guidelines require the spaces to be scored as well, so, when the math is over, it may not work out that way.
- Tsukerman said the idea of communal office space does not work out with the amount of student groups on campus.
- Tressel said, in a situation with such limited space, there will be no ideal solution, not until the university builds another student building.
- Tsukerman said he resents that APC was placed with group in which they have no historical affinity.
- Kohles asked Hosseini if there have been any logistical issues for communal office space sign ups. Hosseini said its first come first serve during her office hours.

- Kohles asked if too many groups have been signing up. Hosseini said there have been at times.
- Tressel said, looking at the current allocation, if the fifth floor is opened up to office space, then APC could be put up there.
- Gonzalez said the fifth floor requires capital and remodeling.
- Nelson asked OSAC if they're willing to look at the new space and make some new decisions on it. Mina said they could, but if the space is not available by September, they would not want to make any promises.
- Hosseini asked Champawat when the new office space could be readied.
- Champawat said he anticipates them being ready by the fall. He said it is paramount that council recognizes the lack of disabled access to those offices.
- Patricia Alfaro from Mecha said their group can not work with the current allocation. Mecha is instituted in Kerckhoff due to their long history, but she wants to know why OSAC is not actively finding out about this. She asked that Mecha is allowed to stay in their office.
- Mina said OSAC is an allocation committee, and he wants to know how they can reconcile history with their purpose.
- Kohles said she agrees with the OSAC chair, and, while the allocations may not be the best, it is a fair and transparent system of allocating space. They should also think about the new groups that are coming in and develop their own history.
- Nelson said new groups need opportunity to grow. Issues of space are hard to quantify, and communication should be developed to look at how groups deal with new allocations.
- Mina said each group was given an interview. Nelson said ten minutes is not enough.
- Birks said new organizations should not be given a chance to blossom at the expense of other organizations being able to function.
- Mina said the allocations are only for two years.
- ASU said there were some limits in their own interview. Mina said the interview is meant for more discussion, and he asked if ASU was cut off. ASU said they were asked to add things that were not on their application, and they would have liked for OSAC to articulate their understanding of the information received from ASU.
- Hosseini said there is money in contingency, and people should be proactive in getting these rooms cleaned up.
- Kohles asked if the new offices would change groups' scores. Mina said they would not, but council should heed the lack of disabled person access.
- Hosseini said groups could take a stipulation of no access. Garcia said that goes against ADA.
- Gonzalez asked OSAC when they got word of the fifth floor space. OSAC said they found out now.
- Garcia said council should steer away from deciding between process or product.
- Shulman said this is a huge improvement from last year, and to now incorporate these new allocations would be a disservice to OSAC.
- Mina said switching office space each year may not be feasible. He said the new offices could be allocated next year.
- Kohles moved and Chacon seconded to approve the OSAC Allocations.
- Hosseini asked OSAC to think about the fifth floor space and to give council a thorough presentation next week.
- Kohles moved and Roth seconded to table the OSAC Allocations with the stipulation that OSAC gives council a recommendation on how to allocate the fifth floor office space of Kerckhoff Hall next week.
- Mina suggested that council seriously consider using it as communal office space.
- Thai Le said every time history is considered, group without an office are given a disadvantage. The goal was to bring in more student groups. As for the fifth floor, it should be used as communal office space because of disabled access.
- Tsukerman said the process was not fair to APC. Kohles said the allocations might not be fair.

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- Tsukerman said that he does not want to hear that the fifth floor is turned into communal office space because no one crunched the numbers.
- Kohles called the question and Roth seconded.
- Council decided to vote on the issue with a vote of 10-0-2.
- Council tabled the OSAC Allocations with a vote of 11-0-1.
- Hosseini asked the Champawat get the square footage of the room and send it to OSAC.
- Hosseini asked OSAC to re do the logistics, but not worry about the legality of access to the fifth floor.
- Melgar said they could consider moving the EVP's office to the general representative office, then moving the general representative office to the fifth floor.
- Melgar said, if the EVP's office having its own space infringes on others' space, he would gladly share with others.
- Shulman asked about USAC office space. Mina said OSAC has jurisdiction over USAC office space, but they do not meddle with it.

XI. Announcements

- Hosseini asked that everyone finish their parts on the memos and to email them to her by Monday at 5:00pm
- Chacon said Wednesday will be New Orleans Night at Covell to educate people about hurricane Katrina.
- Chacon said Electronica Lovefest will be at 7:00pm.
- Sobhani said the last day to get contingency allocations is May 18th.
- Tuttle said a transitional period is coming up, and each year there are a few trouble makers. He said people will look to council for leadership, and they should watch out for rabble rousers.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Tsai 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 10:48pm, by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker