

FINAL

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

Tuesday September 22, 2009
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Flores, Bawa, Li, Farmer, Lin, Faelnar, Mullins, Nguyen, Tengco, Banani, Huddy, Tep, Tan, Geller, Nelson

ABSENT: Casillas

GUESTS: Mikal Saltveit, Christopher Santos, Susan Kai, Ron Areo

A. Call to Order

- Flores called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

-Bawa added an officer report for Tan and asked to replace “Tuttle” with “Geller” for Administrative reports.

-Bawa removed a media lab report from Saltveit.

-Tep removed the Academic Affairs Mini-Grant

-Li added a special presentation focusing on University cuts. Christopher Santos, Susan Kai, and Ron Areo will be presenting.

-Li asked to strike the EVP travel grant.

-Faelnar asked to strike the Cultural Affairs Mini-Grant.

-Tengco moved and Faelnar seconded to approve the agenda as approve.

- Flores called for Acclamation. Flores asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation.
There being none, the agenda was approved by Acclamation.

III. Approval of the Minutes

A. 9/8/2009*

-Tressel was present at the meeting but was listed as absent.

-Mullins said that the minutes should read Zipcar.

-Bawa moved and Li seconded to approve the minutes, as amended.

- Flores called for Acclamation. Flores asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation.
There being none, the minutes was approved as amended.

IV. Public Comments

Corey Matthews—Chair of ASU

Matthews came to the meeting to say that ASU stands with all students in regards to furloughs and budget cuts. He and his organization believe that the budget should be more transparent, and he thanked the council for the time.

V. Special Presentations

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VI. Appointments

A. Jamie Yao—Community Service Mini-Fund

-Bawa said that Yao received a unanimous recommendation from ARC. Bawa moved and Banani seconded to approve Yao to CSC.

-Nguyen asked Yao what her previous experience is.

-Yao said that she has been active in the community. She was a tutor at an elementary school where she helped children whose parents are unable to do so in English. She said that her true passion lies in a program called “Read to Succeed” and she takes pride in knowing that this program improves lives every day. She has also been active with Project Literacy. She would like to increase the visibility of the CSC fund, and make certain that all organizations are aware of it.

-Bawa moved and Nguyen seconded to call to question.

-Yao was unanimously approved to CSC, with a total of 10 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

B. Yolanda Stephanie De Loera- Community Service Mini-Fund Committee

-Bawa said that De Loera proved in her interview to have demonstrated a high level of dedication to community service, along with a very compelling argument.

-Bawa moved and Tep seconded to approve De Loera to the CSC.

-Tep asked what she would like to accomplish as a member of CSC.

-De Loera said that she would like to see progress of the group to determine funding. She also wants to ensure that everyone receives an equal opportunity to receive funding.

-Bawa moved and Li seconded to call to question. De Loera was unanimously approved to the CSC with a total of 11 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Contingency Allocations

-Tan said that a total of \$10449.00 was requested from Contingency, and of that, a total of \$2665.00 is recommended for allocation for this week.

-Nguyen said that because funding for food is new, he would like to see consistency in the allocations.

-Bawa moved and Li seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations for this week.

-The Contingency Allocations were approved with a total of 7 in favor, 2 in opposition, and 1 abstention.

B. SOOF Updates

There were no SOOF Updates this week.

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

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 – Cinthia Flores

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Flores said that the Governance Conference is being held tomorrow, September 23rd in the Grand Horizon Room. She asked council members to please attend. She is currently communicating with Bob Naples, and will be attending a breakfast meeting with Chancellor Block on October 1st.

Internal Vice President – Shahida Bawa

Bawa said that she is working with Zimmerman to assure that all minutes are up-to-date on the USAC website. All guidelines will be finalized as posted on-line as well. Her office is co-hosting a CSC Orientation and Training.

External Vice President- Susan Li

-Li attended a meeting to support the faculty walk-out. She said the meeting broke off into committees, including the University Affairs Committee. They also discussed state-wide and system-wide appointments. She has been meeting frequently with faculty members at UCLA calling for a walk-out. She has also been corresponding with Union Representatives in regards to the strike organized for September 24th. She is calling for Senator Duchaine to co-author a bill that mandates Cal-Grants. Li will be in Madison, Wisconsin on Friday discussing how to better organize with other student leaders from around the country.

Finance Committee Chair—Brian L. Tan

Tan introduced Isaac Rose who he was asking the council to formally recognize as the new Finance Committee Vice Chair. Tan said that he sat on the committee under Parsa Sobhani, and received a high recommendation from Sobhani.

-Flores asked if any council members would like to move to recognize Rose.

-Li moved and Mullins seconded to recognize Isaac Rose as the Finance Committee Vice Chair.

-The council voted unanimously to formally recognize Rose as the Fi-Com Vice Chair with a total of 11 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

-Tan mentioned that Rose will also have signatory power, and will be forwarding his contact information to USAC.

IX. Old Business

Contingency Guidelines*

-Bawa asked the council to review the Contingency guidelines that were sent via e-mail. She said that they are adopting the same rhetoric that lies under UC policy in terms of food. She said that the proposed per/capita maximum is far more fiscally conservative. Bawa also included small fine-print that is in the UC policy. She said that the references are standardized within UC guidelines, and alcohol will not be funded.

-Bawa moved and Tengco seconded to approve the Contingency Guidelines.

-Nguyen said that he feels that the per/capita ratio is still too high.

-Tan said that there was only one organizations that applied for good funding.

-Nguyen said that he felt that was still too large of an amount to allocate for food.

-Huddy said that the numbers are too high. He said that if organizations continue to spend amounts such as these on food, then the possible money to save Night Powell from surplus could be depleted.

-Farmer said that Contingency is something that is renewed constantly.

-Tan said that the requirements for this funding are very specific. He said that this fund is the last route to pursue for groups who find themselves short of funding.

-Bawa said that Contingency is not a primary source of funding, and said that there is no difference when it comes to food. She proposed an amendment to the current guidelines, by reducing 5,10,10,15. She said to also bring the maximum capacity for an event down to \$250.

-Nguyen said that this could still be abusive.

-Huddy aid that he could only imagine more student groups applying for contingency. He asked if council could consider putting a cap on spending from the fund in regards to food.

-Tan said that this would create a second fund within the larger fund solely for food.

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-Li said that she feels that everyone was presenting good ideas, but council needs to focus on discussing proposed caps. Li said that she wanted to reiterate the amendment on the table—focusing on the caps as proposed.

Banani moved and Li seconded to call the motion to question. Mullins and Huddy offered objections. Flores mentioned that in order to recognize the objection, 1/3 of the council would need to object. There were 2 objections and the motion to call to question passed. The council took the original motion to a vote.
The council voted to approve the changes to the Contingency food funding guidelines with a total of 9 in favor, 2 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

X. New Business

DREAM ACT RESOLUTION

-Flores, Li, and Tep co-sponsored a resolution and presented it to council:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE D.R.E.A.M. ACT HR 1751/S.729

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges, the California State University and the University of California system were founded, as stated in the California Master Plan of Higher Education, to serve the public of the state; and,

WHEREAS, undocumented students in California, and throughout the nation, have demonstrated exemplary levels of achievement, while facing the harshest financial conditions; and,

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 540 (AB 540), authored by Assemblyman Marco Firebaugh, provided access to higher education for undocumented students by qualifying them for in-state tuition if they graduated from a California High School; and;

WHEREAS, AB 540, supported by numerous organizations, presented an opportunity for California's high school graduates to continue their education in the state's public universities and placed California at the forefront of a nationwide movement to recognize the merit of undocumented students; and,

WHEREAS, these students are indistinguishable from their peers, and contribute to the vibrant campus community because of their perspective and diverse backgrounds; and,

WHEREAS, undocumented students frequently are lower-income, first generation college students; and,

WHEREAS, the undocumented student cause has been through especially difficult circumstances due to the recent threat to Assembly Bill 540 in the case of Martinez vs. UC Regents; and,

WHEREAS, the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (hereon referred to as the DREAM Act) is a bi-partisan piece of legislation that would create a path to legal status for undocumented students who were brought to the U.S. before the age of 16 and complete at least two years of college; and;

WHEREAS, our immigration law currently has no mechanism to consider the circumstances of such students and the DREAM Act would eliminate this flaw; and;

WHEREAS, UCLA has been at the forefront of organizing and advocating for these students through student organization Improving Dreams, Equality, Access, and Success (IDEAS) and the newly formed student group coalition the Alliance of Dreams; and;

WHEREAS, September 23, 2009 has been declared National Back-to-School DREAM Act Day of Action by the National United We Dream Coalition of which UCLA students have been pivotal participants.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) supports the undocumented student movement and stands behind legislation such as Assembly Bill 540, the Federal DREAM Act and similar legislation and programs that would increase access to higher education and promote a pathway to status adjustment for undocumented students.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT USAC endorses and supports the efforts of students on campus to organize and advocate for the immediate passage of the DREAM Act through activities and events such as those taking place during the National Back-to-School DREAM Act Day of Action Day

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) declares the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) campus and its surrounding community, a safe space for undocumented students, who hope to complete their educational goals, maintain their good moral standing and contribute to this society.

-Flores said that Bawa will preside over the discussion. She said that the resolution was e-mailed the previous Thursday. She said passing this statement will make a great statement on behalf of USAC.

-Banani moved and Tep seconded to approve the DREAM ACT resolution.

The council voted unanimously to approve the motion to approve the DREAM ACT resolution, as proposed by Flores, Li, and Tep with a total of 11 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

UC-WIDE WALK OUT RESOLUTION

-Flores, Li, and Tep prepared the following resolution in support of the UC-Wide Walkout:

Resolution in Support of the UC-Wide Walkout

WHEREAS, In an effort to close the budget gap, the University of California Regents in July declared a state of fiscal emergency, granted UC President Mark Yudof emergency powers, and approved his furlough plan and budgetary revision.

WHEREAS, UC President Yudof's budget plan will perpetuate the privatization of the UC system and neglect its' goals of educational access, affordability, and shared governance. Thus, counter to the ideals of transparency and accountability of decision-making for the community it strives to serve, it has increasingly placed the burden on this community of students, workers, graduate student employees (GSE's), staff, and faculty.

WHEREAS, during the University of California Regents meeting on September 16th, 2009, UC President Mark Yudof proposed a mid-year fee increase of \$585 for resident undergraduates, a mid-year fee increase between \$579 and \$654 for resident graduate students, as well as a 2010-2011 school year fee increase of \$1,170 for resident undergraduates and \$1,158 to \$1,308 for resident graduates.¹

WHEREAS, The existing University of California budget plan, as executed at the University of California, Los Angeles campus by UCLA Chancellor Gene Block, will institute mandatory and elected furlough days for all workers, staff, and faculty, pay cut reductions between 4 and 10 percent, major cuts to programs and student services, major cuts to in-state enrollment, layoffs, the elimination of positions, workload increases, increase class sizes, tutoring and writing services reductions, and library closures; in addition to the multiple and catastrophic increases in student fees, continuing to diverge from the principles of the California Master Plan for Public Education.

WHEREAS, UCLA specifically has seen an increase of 20 percent in classroom sizes over the last three years, a decreased workforce in the period of February 2009 to July 2009 by 428 positions, including 36 ladder faculty, 95 lecturers, and 109 teaching assistants, expects a significant decrease in staff recruitment, and will reduce undergraduate enrollment levels in order to guarantee that students graduate on schedule, all of which plays a role in negatively impacting student diversity.²

WHEREAS, UCLA students have directly felt the consequences of these budget cuts through severe cuts of the Art and Chemistry libraries, elimination of student support programs such as Night Powell and Covel Common Tutorials, a projected 165 fewer courses offered in Fall 2009 than in Fall 2008, the elimination of the International Development Studies Program, and less availability for majors in general.³

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the UCLA Undergraduate Student Association is of the opinion that:

*Furlough days are detrimental to the educational experience and overall mission of the University of California, Los Angeles
No furloughs or salary reductions should be imposed on staff that makes less than \$40,000*

Students should not pay for days when instructional days are furloughed The 9.3% fee increase imposed for the 2009-2010 academic year is highly objectionable and proposed mid-year fee increase is contradictory to the UC's dedication to

1 <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/article/21914>

2 <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/article/21554>

3 <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/article/21554>

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*accessibility. Shared governance and the democratic process should be respected on all levels of decision-making
The University should return to the Master Plan.*

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the aforementioned reasons The UCLA Undergraduate Student Association will participate in the UC system-wide Walkout on September 24th, 2009.

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the UCLA Undergraduate Student Association stands in solidarity with the Graduate Student Association, GSE's, staff, faculty, and workers, including but not limited to workers from the University of Professional and Technical Employees, AFSCME Local 3299, UAW Local 2865, and the American Federation of Teachers, and will actively build coalitions with these groups for the purpose of the UC system-wide Walkout on September 24th and the continued defense of the future of public education in California.

-Bawa moved and Li seconded to approve the resolution in support of the UC-Wide Walk Out.

-Li said that this resolution is aimed to address the general Undergraduate support of the walk-outs. She asked council to please support the student body by passing this resolution.

-Mullins moved and Tep seconded to call to question.

-The council unanimously voted to approve the UC-Wide Walk Out resolution, with a total of 11 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

-Bawa then moved and Tep seconded to approve the publishing of both resolutions in the Daily Bruin. Huddy, Mullins, and Nguyen objected.

-The council voted to publish the resolutions with a total of 7 in favor, 2 in opposition, and 2 abstentions.

XI. Announcements

-Wu said that SWC will be at Res Fest this upcoming Friday, and invited council to attend.

-Tengco said that Filipino Welcome Reception will be starting at 3PM tomorrow.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The *attendance sheet was passed around.*

XIII. Adjournment

- Mullins moved and Wu seconded to adjourn.

- Flores called for Acclamation. Flores asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation.
There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Casillas
USAC Minutes Taker
2009-2010