

FINAL

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday October 13, 2009
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Wu

GUESTS: Patty Zimmerman, Jiwei Sun, Matthew Van

I. A. Call to Order

- Flores called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

-Bawa added the approval of the September 22nd minutes.

-Bawa said that the Student Aid Reform Resolution should be listed as an action item under New Business.

-Tep asked to strike the ASRF and Academic Affairs Mini-Grant report.

-Tan asked to add an Officer Report.

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

-Bawa moved and Nguyen seconded to approve the agenda, as amended.

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

III. Approval of the Minutes

A. 10/06/2009*

-Nguyen was present. He said that "good funding" needs to read "food funding"

-Nguyen moved and Tep seconded to approve the minutes for October 6, 2009, as amended.

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

B. 9/22/2009*

-Bawa moved and Farmer seconded to approve the minutes for September 22, 2009, as presented.

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

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments this week

V. Special Presentations

A. Student Aid Reform Resolution

-Li presented the following resolution to council for approval:

Student Aid Reform Resolution

WHEREAS, the need for increased college access and affordability has been magnified by the rising unemployment numbers and the current state of our economy,

WHEREAS, students in the U.S. currently graduate with an average of \$20,000 in student loan debt,

WHEREAS, many students pass up jobs in areas of national need that interest them for fear that their debt payment will be too overwhelming,

WHEREAS, almost 7 million students currently rely on funding from the Pell Grant program to offset the rising cost of college,

WHEREAS, the Student Aid and Fiscal responsibility Act (SAFRA) will end costly bank subsidies under the unstable Federal Family Education Loan Program and originate all new student loans under the more cost efficient under the more cost efficient and lender-friendly Direct Loan program run by the Department of Education and save taxpayers up to \$87 billion in the process,

WHEREAS, SAFRA will invest \$40 billion to increase the maximum annual Pell Grant award to \$5,550 in 2010 and to \$6,900 by 2019 to help even more low income students cover the cost of attending institutions of higher education,

WHEREAS, SAFRA will work to improve degree attainment, strengthen community colleges and training programs to help build a highly-skilled and innovative 21st century workforce, and boost the fiscal health of the country by paying down the deficit,

WHEREAS, the United States Student Association, representing over 4.5 million students at over 400 campuses, has adopted Student Aid Reform as an Action Agenda Item and has dedicated resources towards it,

BE IT RESOLVED, the University of California, Los Angeles Undergraduate Student Association urges Congress to pass the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the University of California, Los Angeles Undergraduate Student Association shall join students from across the country in actively working to encourage the United States Congress to pass Student Aid Reform by joining the United States Student Association's SAFRA Campaign.

- Li said that the resolution is regarding the SAFRA campaign. She said that the goal of SAFRA is to raise \$40 billion to be used to fund Pell grants, essentially making them mandatory. Pell Grants are similar to the CAL grant, except it is offered on a federal level. The bill is also designed to infuse \$10 billion into the community colleges. The resolution is to help gain national support from other Universities for SAFRA.
- Flores thanked Li for the presentation.

VI. Appointments

- Flores said that she will be sending out the fifth round of committee appointments set for approval. She also said that those individuals approved during summer meetings will be re-approved at the upcoming council meeting to meet the bylaws of USAC.
- Nelson asked Flores when the appointment confirmations will be complete.
- Flores said that she hopes to have all appointments completed sometime midway through fall.
- Nelson asked how many appointments are left.
- Flores said that there are about 25 more positions open for confirmation.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Contingency Allocations*

- Tan said that a total of \$3232.10 was requested from Contingency; of that, a total of \$2234.40 is recommended for allocation for this week.
- Banani moved and Mullins seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations as presented by Tan.
- Council voted unanimously to approve the Contingency Allocations for this week, totaling \$2234.40.

B. SOOF Updates

There were no SOOF Updates this week.

C. Academic Success Referendum Fund

-Tep said that a total of \$2,500.00 was requested from ASRF; of that, a total of \$1,000.00 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 – Cinthia Flores

Flores said that she has been in contact with the OCHC IVP, and he has been able to book a room for the meeting on the hill for Wednesday of sixth week. She would like to hold the meeting to increase the visibility of USAC officers for on campus residents. She asked council to e-mail her schedule availability for that time. Flores will be speaking tomorrow at the CPO event, *Louder than Words*. She will meet with Chancellor Block on Monday, and will have an estimate next week for the cost of re-establishing Night Powell.

Internal Vice President – Shahida Bawa

-Bawa said that the past three weeks have been very difficult for her and Banani. They both have been coordinating programs for safe driving, and informed council that LiveScan is available currently through UCPD. She has been working with the recreation department to put together a curriculum of pertinent information concerning minors. She hopes that all council members had an opportunity to read an article regarding liability featured in the Daily Bruin. The direct link to the article is on the Student risk site, the IVP site, as well as the EVP site. She is focusing on integrating CPR training for group directors so that everyone is prepared for cases of emergency.

External Vice President- Susan Li

-Li said that last week was a week of action for SAFRA. The bill has already passed in the House of Representatives, and now organizers are working to call senators to make certain that SAFRA passes in the Senate as well. She is preparing to attend Student of Color conference scheduled for November 13th-15th in San Diego. Scott Waugh will be leading a panel discussion, “Defending the Public University, a Colloquium” this upcoming Thursday. The pane will focus on the status of the University following the Walk Out. After the event, a vigil will be held at night in front of Regent Lozano’s home at 6PM. Li and Flores have been drafting plans for a town hall and will be presenting the proposal to Chancellor Block soon.

Academic Affairs Commissioner—Layhannara Tep

AAC and the Financial Support Commission are co-sponsoring various free Kaplan practice tests, to help students evaluate their own personal need to enroll in Prep courses. The tests will be held in different locations on campus, and Tep asked to spread the word to students and friends interested in attending Grad School.

-Tep presented the following appointments to the Academic Senate for council consent.

1) Jiwei Sun to the Faculty Welfare Committee

2) Matthew Van to the Undergraduate Council

-Tep moved and Farmer seconded to consent the appointments of Matthew Van and Jiwei Sun to their respective positions on the Academic Senate.

-Council voted unanimously to consent the appointments of Jiwei Sun and Matthew Van to the Academic Senate.

General Representative 1—Jason Tengco

-Tengco said that his office held a Fall Retreat in Oceanside, CA. Tengco introduced his Chief of Staff, Publicity Director, and also reviewed the structure of his office. Tengco presented and discussed a set of committees composing his office. The first is the DiverseCity Tours Committee, which is working to program events to promote Los Angeles tours & the Downtown LA Art Walk, a free event. The second committee, the Resources Committee is working with Kathy Sims from the Career Center to hold workshops. The Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (COLASC) is working with Gary Strong to reinstate Night Powell. This committee is also working to improve the current state of Transfer student orientations. The Charitable Causes Committee is currently working to promote the TOMS shoes “Use Your Soul” tour during 6th week. The event is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, and will be featuring both Hellogoodbye and Hanson. They are also working to gain a Red Bull sponsorship. The Campus Awareness Committee is co-programming an Ally Appreciation Day with the Queer Alliance. The same committee is also co-sponsoring a health care debate with Bruin Democrats and Bruin Republicans, and is aiming to hold the meeting week 6 on The Hill. The last committee is the Outreach Committee, which is working to assess the collective needs of students, and hoping to co-program a USAC Outreach Day. Tengco is also working to institutionalize the General Representative Advisory Council, which he hopes will co-program with the General Representatives and USAC.

Financial Committee Chair—Brian L. Tan

-Tan said that there has been a delay in the BOD process because there was not a representative present on ASUCLA’s behalf.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

X. New Business

SAFRA Resolution

-Mullins moved and Tep seconded to approve the SAFRA Resolution. There were no objections, and the council entered formal discussion.

-Nelson asked how much money went toward the Pell Grant over the past year. He asked if there were any reductions.

-Li said that she did not have any exact numbers in front of her, but will forward them to Nelson as soon as possible.

-Flores asked if there were any more questions. None being presented, she opened the floor for a motion by a council member.

-Mullins moved and Li seconded to call to question. There were no objections.

-Council voted unanimously to approve the SAFRA Resolution, as presented, with a total of 12 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

XI. Announcements

-Banani said that SWC and CEC held recruitment fairs today, but the events were rained out. He commended Bawa’s speech at the Muslim Student Association recruitment banquet.

-Lin said that there is a free sneak of “Flying Scissors” tonight.

-Farmer said that the raffle for the Textbook scholarship will be held at 4PM on Friday.

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-Flores said that a petition will begin to be distributed to garner support for the reinstating of Night Powell.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Mullins moved and Li 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 7:51 p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Casillas
USAC Minutes Taker
2009-2010