

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday January 5, 2010
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

I. A. Call to Order

- Flores called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Bawa moved and Mullins seconded to approve the agenda, as presented.

- 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. *12/08/2009

-Mullins moved and Faelnar seconded to approve the minutes for December 8, 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

Coreen Weintraub- CALPIRG

Weintraub attended the meeting to provide updates on campaigns that USAC might share particular interest in. The Recruitment drive is currently taking place and a kick-off meeting for the quarter is scheduled for 7pm on January 19th in the Kerckhoff Grand Salon. The organization hopes to have 75 attendees and invited all USAC members. A New Public Transit Campaign to get more bike lanes in the city of Los Angeles is underway, and Weintraub invited council to offer assistance if individual offices shared interest in the campaign. The "What's Your Plan" Campaign is aimed to bring more interest to the election of the next CA governor. The purpose is to bring awareness and student interest to important topics affecting the election, namely education affordability. Weintraub expressed the intent of CALPIRG to form a solid alliance with the council, and thanked Flores for the time.

Dianne Tanjuaquio

Tanjuaquio, former USAC Internal Vice President, expressed satisfaction with the Call to Action Resolution on the table this meeting. She feels that the resolution would express a high level of intent from the council to begin working with legislation. She hopes that the council passes the resolution to make a strong statement on behalf of the student body.

V. Special Presentations

There were no Special Presentations this week.

VI. Appointments

Flores said that there still are vacancies to be filled, and asked for the council's assistance to make certain that those positions are filled. Nelson asked if any decisions surrounding the Election Board Chair had been reached. Flores said that applicants for E-Board Chair will be forwarded.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Academic Success Referendum Fund

There was no business for the Academic Success Referendum Fund this week.

B. Academic Affairs Mini-Grant

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

C. Travel Grants

There were no Travel Grants this week.

D. Cultural Affairs Mini-Grant

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

E. *Contingency Allocations

-Tan said that one organization requested a total of \$731.36, and a total of \$350.00 is recommended for allocation this week.

- Mullins moved and Faelnar seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations as presented by Tan.

-Nguyen asked the reason for the organization's request being docked \$100.

-Tan said that an error was found in the application.

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

-Flores called for Acclamation. Flores asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation.

There being none, the Contingency Allocations recommending \$350.00 were approved, as amended.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Cinthia Flores

Flores said that Speaker Karen Bass will be on campus for the planned forum event, and the President's office is working to ensure that the meeting will take place on January 23rd. The event was scheduled for January 16th, but has been moved in consideration of the three day holiday weekend. John Perez, Speaker elect, will also be in attendance. Flores, Miguel Lopez from GSA, and an undergraduate representative will speak in light of actions that occurred during the fall quarter. The purpose of the event is to make certain that key legislators are held accountable for actions that have taken place, and to discuss student concerns with said legislators directly. The audience will be able to engage in the event as well, and the discussion will be followed by a press statement. Flores hopes to get a statement highlighting intentions to make certain student fees are not used to absorb debt, and that all representatives share the hope to work together in the best interest of the state. Flores said she looks forward to working with other council members. She met with individuals from the Alumni Association over winter break, and held discussions focusing on how to outreach more effectively to both current students and alumni. She is also working with representatives from ORL to schedule informal dinners with residents.

Internal Vice President – Shahida Bawa

Bawa said that custom hours will be taking place this quarter in the Wooden Center, awaiting confirmation tomorrow. The planned set of hours is on Mondays from 7-9pm, and on Wednesdays from 8-10pm. She said that the Healthy Bruin Directors will be discussing the implications of the winter Senate passage of a health care bill. She also will be programming more on the hill. Some of the larger scale events planned

by her office are BruINTENT, and a Women's Empowerment Conference. She plans to hold more Homelessness awareness events and will be providing more information in the future.

External Vice President- Susan Li

Li held meetings with various UC External Vice Presidents over the break, and will be discussing plans with the council at the next meeting. She is also planning to hold an action event in conjunction with CSU Northridge and Cal State University Los Angeles in the near future. She is heading to Hunter College in New York to hold a training event to help the campus organize events to fight their own personal budget cuts. She will be at UC Riverside on Saturday and Sunday for meetings with other EVPs from around the state as well. Lobby visits will be taking place this Friday.

Academic Affairs Commissioner—Layhannara Tep

Tep has been working to finalize logistics for the class fostered by her office. She has been meeting with the Graduate Students Association Vice President of Academic Affairs, Netta Avineri, to find a way to form a more cohesive connection between undergraduate and graduate students.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

X. New Business

A. Call to Action Resolution

-Mullins moved, and Nguyen seconded to approve the following resolution, as presented below:

Call to Action Resolution

WHEREAS, the State of California's irresponsible spending policies over the last decade have created a budget deficit of \$20.7B and an overall state debt of \$72B, creating the need for reductions in state spending on education,

WHEREAS, student fees have increased an astounding 40% over the last 5 years, a trend unseen in the entire history of the University of California education system,

WHEREAS, the root source of the University of California's funding issues lie with the spending policies of the California State Legislature, specifically the approval of consistent cuts to education funding over the last 10 years,

WHEREAS, the University of California Regents recently raised fees by 32% to preserve the quality of the University of California education, unfortunately increasing the burden upon every University of California student,

WHEREAS, effective January 2010 UC Tuition will be \$9,623 (Average of UC Campuses), compared to \$9,038 (Average of UC Campuses) in January of 2009,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, the University of California, Los Angeles Undergraduate Student Association calls upon the undergraduate student body to direct their energies upon the State Capitol by writing their state legislators regarding state spending on education,

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, the University of California, Los Angeles Undergraduate Student Association urges the State Assembly and State Senate to reign in the state budget and re-establish higher education as a top fiscal priority,

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, the University of California, Los Angeles Undergraduate Student Association urges the State Assembly and State Senate to take a proactive and forward-looking approach to state spending on education in order to prevent another education funding crisis,

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, the University of California, Los Angeles Undergraduate Students Association stands in solidarity with all undergraduates in the State of California regarding their desire to bring about a

constructive solution to the education funding crisis and calls upon them to direct their energies towards the State Legislature in the form of letters and phone calls.

-Tressel stated that the “Undergraduate Student Association” need be referred to as the “Undergraduate Student Association Council”.

-Nguyen moved and Huddy seconded to add the work Council in every instance that the language stands.

-Li stated that she believes that the resolution presents upon very vague solutions, and feels that that calling on individual students to attend lobby visits would make a stronger stance on behalf of the student body. Though she admires the intentions of the sponsors, she felt that errors exist in the language.

-Tep said that in the Bylaws Section J, article III states that *“The General Representatives shall be responsible for informing student advocacy groups of any or all legislation that would specifically pertain to such groups. Further, it shall be the responsibility of the General Representatives to maintain a general awareness of the ideologies and concerns of such student advocacy groups, where this involvement does not inappropriately duplicate the responsibilities of the External Vice President according to the USA Constitution and Bylaws.”*

-Tressel expressed his satisfaction with the rhetoric presented behind the resolution, and said that he didn’t feel the resolution was overstepping any boundaries.

-Nguyen stated that the argument that this resolution is expressing repetitiveness was not an issue when the DREAM ACT resolution was passed by USAC.

-Flores said that though the DREAM ACT resolution was to support an ongoing effort, it was also presented to address council support for an action event directly following a meeting. She said that USAC is not meant to reaffirm the intention of student groups, and that reactive resolutions are problematic if the message that council affirmation is necessary for success is portrayed.

-Huddy said that right now is the time to give the opportunity to become more active in the process that is currently underway.

-Bawa said that it is very important for students to take action, but the resolution is presenting a proactive message in a reactive circumstance. She said that the language does duplicate the message of ongoing efforts that have been conducted by the EVP Office and the Bruin Lobby Corps. She asked if the resolution is meant to serve as propaganda to inform students of the ongoing efforts—citing other methods to provide support to the efforts. She said that while all the claims in the resolution are based on fact, the efforts are already taking place.

-Mullins said that the point of a resolution is to make a formal statement on behalf of the body, with the intention of serving the best interest of the Undergraduate Student Association. He said that the intent is to not undermine the efforts of any organizations, but to convey the message to students that now is the time to take the initiative and join action efforts. He said that the debate on the table should be around whether or not to support the effort to express dissatisfaction with the fee hikes and budget cuts.

-Flores said that the point she is hearing is that the resolution is one of good intention and spirit, but that specific action is not highlighted effectively.

-Nelson said that it would be beneficial for council to come to some form of compromise. He said that the resolution could possibly express more direct intention.

-Huddy said that the final clause of the resolution contains specific actions.

-Nelson said that there is no disagreement surrounding the message that student action is necessary.

-Farmer said that this resolution highlights the same numbers presented in the SAFRA resolution, and finds it very difficult to believe that any other efforts will be carried out with the potential passage of this resolution. He feels that unless a specific effort is being planned by the sponsors of this resolution, then the document is redundant. He has doubt that the sponsors will take the initiative to ensure that a sound effort will follow this resolution.

-Tengco said that his main issue with the resolution is the process behind the drafting of the document. He said Li’s disagreement with the document, and Tep’s citing of constitutionality issues are also very concerning. He said that the failure of sponsors to discuss the document with the EVP presented problems.

--Tengco moved and Tep seconded to call to question. There were three objections which did not reach ¾ majority of those in attendance, and the call to question was approved.

-Huddy was granted a point of inquiry, and mentioned that efforts were pursued by sponsors on December 29th to discuss the resolution with Li.

-Council voted to not pass the Call to Action resolution with a vote of 3 in favor, 6 in opposition, and 3 abstentions.

XI. Announcements

- Huddy said that his office is conducting efforts to begin recording USAC meetings to post on YouTube.
- Zimmerman said that she would like to work with his office to work out logistics behind recording, and to bring clips to the USAC website.
- Geller said to make certain to have waivers for students to sign.
- Williams said that council needs to discuss whether the intention is unanimous before anything is published to the internet.
- Nelson said that a representative from the US Census Bureau requests permission to find students who wish to become active in the census process, and mentioned the possibility of paid positions for students.
- Zimmerman sent council members information about signatories for the CSP program. She asked council to forward names and emails of office signatories to her as soon as possible.
- Flores said that the Salvadorian Student Union is working to sponsor a concert at 3300 Wilshire Boulevard to help aid reconstruction efforts for the country.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Tengco moved and Banani seconded to adjourn the meeting.
- Flores called for Acclamation. Flores asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Casillas
USAC Minutes Taker
2009-2010