

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday January 12, 2009
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Banani

GUESTS: Patty Zimmerman

I. A. Call to Order

- Flores called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

-Tep asked to subtract reports for the Academic Success Referendum Fund and the Academic Affairs Mini-Grant.

-Huddy added an officer report.

-Li added presentations on the governor’s proposed budget and the advocacy grant.

-Tengco moved and Mullins 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. *1/05/2010

-Nguyen asked to add his mention that any amendments from council members during the resolution were welcome.

-Banani moved and Faelnar seconded to approve the minutes for January 5, 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.

IV. Public Comments

A. Theresa—CALPIRG

Discussed the “What’s Your Plan” campaign with the council, adding that the formal launch date will be this Thursday by having a team of students to participate in a public question and answer period at the meeting of two out of three Republican candidates for Governor in Burbank at 7PM.

V. Special Presentations

A. Arlene Ploshnick- Census Takers

Chuck Baginski from the Census Organization spoke on behalf of Ploshnick. Ploshnick focuses on making certain that all members of large group quarters, such as dorms, complete the Census. The Census operation will count every person that resides in Westwood. The Census Bureau is working to hire over a thousand student workers who will be paid up to \$17.00 per hour, with part-time status. The bureau is currently attempting to establish a location on campus to hold civil service tests. Baginski stated that these positions are very important for redistricting efforts, as well as the allocation of funding from the federal government. The Census Bureau will be on campus to recruit student workers. One of the main efforts is to inform students that their place of residence here on or off campus is their official place of residence for census efficiency.

-Flores asked how the bureau is recruiting students

-Baginski said that a national advertising campaign officially kicked off last week, and employees have been on campus to recruit students. Employees are also making efforts to speak in classes but have been running into issues of restriction with administration.

-Nelson said that he spoke with Ploshnick, and is unaware of any restrictions.

-Tengco asked where students can apply, and to better explain the process.

-Baginski said that when students are interested, their contact information is given to supervisors and the interested person is then contacted to schedule a civil service test. U.S. citizens are given preference, and non citizens can only get hired for jobs that require language skills. There is a big need for multi-lingual employees. Veterans have a five point preference, and the bureau also heavily considers availability. The Culver City office can be reached at 323-924-1720, and Baginski can be reached personally at 310-210-9461. The main hiring phase will be taking place in February and March, but hiring is taking place currently.

-Geller said that she has been hearing concerns from undocumented students who fear that statuses could be affected by the Census process, and wondered if the representatives could address those concerns.

-Baginski said that any and all personal information gathered is kept private, and although it is noted no person will be linked in any way to the responses listed.

-Geller asked how students who do not receive mail here at UCLA will receive their forms.

-Baginski said that on-campus students will be coordinated by the Census Group Quarters Commission.

B. Westwood Neighborhood Council—Sandy Throop and Roxanne Stern

-Throop and Stern attended the meeting as representatives from the charter group of members working to form a Westwood Neighborhood Council. In 1999, the new Los Angeles City Charter created neighborhood councils as quasi city entities to advise those in government who are making decisions that affect the lives of city residents. The City was divided into geographic areas and a neighborhood council in each area was empowered to represent the respective communities. The city provides annual funding to the Council for outreach, meetings and community projects. Its members are known as stakeholders and the designation is meant to be inclusive. The Certification Hearing for the Westwood Neighborhood Council is January 19, 2010 at 6PM at the Westwood United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 3rd Floor of Helms Hall, 10497 Wilshire Blvd, corner of Warner Ave.

-Stern said that the formation committee has established at least two seats, one student seat and one educator position that will be publicly elected. The neighborhood is very suited to have a significant amount of voice in conversations concerning the area. There are currently UCLA Professors, two students, and a representative from the Administration that are helping in the effort. The city's staff report was released today in favor of establishing a charter for the council.

-Mullins asked how many seats on the council could potentially be filled by students. Throop stated that there are essentially seven seats to be filled, with one specifically reserved for a student. Mullins asked what sort of impact a student could have on the council.

-Tressel mentioned a homeowner's association call to cancel all public transportation in the area after 6PM which would directly affect the lives of students in Westwood. Throop also mentioned the homeowner's association attempts to remove noisy establishments in Westwood.

-Geller asked if council will be advisory to the city council, and asked to describe the amount of influence the council would have over the city government. Throop said that the council would play an advisory role, but decisions reached by the council would be brought before the city council by certain mandates previously established.

-Nelson said that the Homeowner's Association has had far more impact about what occurs in the area than both the students and administration.

Susan Li and Aresha Martinez—Advocacy Grant

-Li said that the Advocacy Grant is a newly established fund from the External Vice President's office. The grant will be given to assist students and student groups to promote awareness for a social justice issue within the community, nation, or world. The EVP office will provide programming funding for students and students groups up to the amount of \$500.00 with the understanding that the group will program with a group outside of campus. To apply, the student must be an Undergraduate enrolled in 4 quarter units, and can apply independently or as part of a registered student group. Independent funding was allotted to give students who have an issue not pertinent to particular student group the opportunity to get efforts off of the ground. Student must demonstrate that the external entity has a history and commitment to the issue, problem, concern for which they are collaborating on. Applications are available online to print out, and will soon be available for online submission. The Grant committee is looking for applications demonstrating a strong commitment to an effort or cause.

-Huddy asked where the funding for this grant came from and Li said that it is from her office budget.

-Nguyen asked if the council will need to approve these allocations weekly, and Flores stated that reports will only be given, no voting will be necessary.

Susan Li—Governor's Proposed Budget, UCSA Board of Directors update, and Report on March for Higher Education

-The Governor officially proposed the budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year last Friday. Some of the key components of the budget are the 1) \$19.9 Billion dollar budget gap, \$6.6B in 2009-2010 and \$12.3B in 2010-2011; 2) a Federal funding request of \$6.9B, and 3) no new taxes for the state and the elimination of the gasoline sales tax. The budget is projected to restore \$305M in previous cuts from the UC system from the general fund and \$51.3 million for 2.5 percent enrollment growth. The proposal also includes the elimination of the Cal Grant A Competitive Grant. Funding for academic preparation will be eliminated, but protection is extended over students already receiving Cal Grants. Li will be attending the January 19-21 UC Regents Meeting at UC San Francisco. She is also working on plans with other USAC offices for the January 23rd Karen Bass and John Perez speaking event. March will be a month of action, and will be known as "March for Higher Education". Li presented council with a list of events that her office is planning in concordance with the theme in March, and will be presenting a finalized list of dates in the future.

VI. Appointments

-Flores said that ARC will be convening this week to begin reviewing applications, and the Publicity and Marketing Director from her office will be working as well to establish efforts on the hill to develop student interest in appointed positions.

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

Faelnar said that a total of \$5,450.00 was requested from the Programming Fund; of that, a total of - \$3,700.00 was allocated.

E. *Contingency Allocations

-Tan said that a total of \$8374.61 was requested from Contingency this week; of that, a total of \$4707.11 is recommended for allocation for this week. The groups requesting funding were the Community Service Commission, Conciencia Libre, The Internal Vice President's Office, Pi Kappa Phi, the Asia Pacific Coalition, Pacific Islands Students Association, Pilipino Transfer Student Partnership, Mishpacha, Queer Alliance, and the General Representative 3 Office.

-Geller asked to clarify whether or not an error was made on the application for the second allocation. Tan said that the document he submitted had a typing error, and will correct the mistake.

-Nguyen asked how the council was allocating contingency funds in proportion to prior years.

-Tan said that the amount varies year by year, but the amount allocated thus far is near the average.

-Tep moved and Li seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations as presented by Tan.

-Flores called for Acclamation. Flores asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Contingency Allocations recommending \$4707.11 were approved, as amended.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Cinthia Flores

Flores and her office are working toward instituting a program to establish a 24-hour food pantry during the weekend and holidays located on the Hill for homeless students. She is also working on a program meant to encourage students to host homeless students for a week or two. Event flyers and a press release for the Karen Bass event have been distributed, and the President's office will be working with multiple organizations to ensure the event is a success. Her office is also working to collaborate Three TGIF proposals have been heard from the President's office, and Flores praised the work of her staff members to devise plans. She will be holding office hours Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12-5PM in Kerckhoff 317.

Internal Vice President – Shahida Bawa

-Bawa is organizing to set up the BruINTENT program and will be finalizing logistics this week. She is also working on a program, "Enough is Enough", to facilitate conversations around sensitivity training. Construction for the meditation room in the 2nd floor of the Wooden Center will be completed soon. Custom programming at the gym took place last week, and will also be taking place this week. The Student Risk Education Committee is working on the application for funding from the PLEDGE Referendum.

External Vice President- Susan Li

-Li held an organizing training at Hunter College in New York over the past weekend, and discussed how to best work together effectively to combat budget cuts and fee hikes. Representatives from the campus asked Li to provide updates to help them effectively work across the country. She is also currently working to establish the logistics behind the March for Higher Education events.

Academic Affairs Commissioner—Layhannara Tep

-Tep still needs council consent for the final set of student appointees to the academic affairs council. Her office is working to make funding sources more visible to students, and to bring awareness to the fund.

Addison Huddy—General Representative 2

-Huddy discussed precedent established by previous trials across the country, and mentioned that the Ralph Brown Act of 1953 ruled that public meetings can be recorded. He said that he has full intention to begin recording council meetings next week.

-Bawa said that while members of the council are publicly voted officials, visitors to the meeting may need to sign a release waiver.

-Tressel said that there have been cases that established the precedent that members of a public audience are therefore a member of the public body.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

X. New Business

There was no New Business this week.

XI. Announcements

-Huddy said that the Dance Marathon club night is taking place tonight in Marina Del Rey. Tickets are \$15.00 including a bus ride to the event.

-Lin said that a sneak peak of Dear John will be taking place, and Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried will be in attendance to introduce the film.

-Zimmerman said that 23 funding applications were received by TGIF and that updates will be given soon.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Mullins moved and Tengco 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 8:48p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Casillas
USAC Minutes Taker
2009-2010