

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday February 9, 2010
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Nelson, Williams

GUESTS: Erienne Overli, Allison Clark, Sophie Rane, Parisa Mahdad, Ron Arruejo, Joshua Rusow, Zafir Shaiq,
Matt Spring, Rebecca Barrett, Sophie Campos, Nancy Meza

I. A. Call to Order

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

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

-Faelnar asked to strike the Cultural Affairs mini-grant report.

-Mullins moved and Farmer seconded to approve the agenda, as amended. Bawa objected.

Bawa retracted her objection.

-Flores conducted a head vote, and council voted to approve the agenda with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 1 abstention.

III. Approval of the Minutes

A. *2/2/2010

-Banani was present.

-Lin asked to correct the adjournment section.

-Tengco asked to correct the spelling of Mayor Villaraigosa’s surname.

-Mullins moved and Faelnar seconded to approve the minutes for February 2, 2010, 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. Zafir Shaiq–President of Muslim Student Association (MSA)

Shaiq asked council to vote in the affirmative on the Institutional Aid Resolution to support undocumented students. He said that MSA has a number of students who cannot afford tuition and are at risk of dropping out of school. He also mentioned that the community has been working to get funds to support these students and believes having access to Institutional Aid would be of great assistance.

V. Special Presentations

There were no Special Presentations this week.

VI. Appointments

A. Joshua Rusow (LGBT Resource Liaison)

-Bawa said that Rusow received a unanimous positive recommendation from ARC. He exemplified his enthusiasm for the position and the work that he already does. He also exhibited excellent familiarity with the LGBT Center and has already demonstrated a willingness to work closely with the center.

-Banani moved and Tengco seconded to approve the appointment of Joshua Rusow as the LGBT Resource Liaison.

-Tengco asked about new ideas Rusow would like to bring to the committee.

-Rusow responded that he has found that the office does not do co-programming, and he would like to find methods to help co-program with other organizations. He would also like to work on advertising the name of the LGBT center.

-Nguyen said that he has seen Rusow's dedicated work, and feels that he would be an excellent addition to the committee.

-Farmer moved and Li seconded to call to question.

-Rusow was unanimously approved as the LGBT Resource Liaison with a vote of 12 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Academic Success Referendum Fund

-Tep said that a total of \$1,816.14 was requested from ASRF; of that, a total of \$1,400 was allocated. The applicants were Tatiana Oueini and NewCLA.

B. Academic Affairs Mini-Grant

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

C. EVP Travel Grant

There was no business for the EVP Travel Grant 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 a total of \$28,040.67 was requested from Contingency this week; of that, a total of \$5000.00 is recommended for allocation for this week. The groups requesting funding were the Afrikan Student Union, Samahang Pilipino, the Pediatric AIDS Coalition, Pan-Asian Queers, Act III, Hillel Jewish Students Association, Muslim Students Association, Ladies of CDT, Students for Justice in Palestine, Bruins for Israel, Undergraduate Business Society, the Internal Vice President's Office, and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society.

-Geller asked Tan to present an update next week of all Contingency Allocations made to date, and also to provide a budgetary status.

-Tengco moved and Mullins 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 \$5000.00 were approved, as amended.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Cinthia Flores

Flores spoke with Max Espinosa and Jenny Wood from the Speaker of the Assembly' office, and noted that efforts are underway to have John Perez speak on campus. The Immediate Support and Task Force committee will be working with ORL to discuss whether or not the organization will be able to provide housing for a homeless student. Flores said that she would ideally like to set aside a room and have

students apply to occupy the space. She is also working on organizing a UCLA Sustainability Summit with the UC Regents to discuss funding applicable to students.

Internal Vice President – Shahida Bawa

Bawa said that she held a meeting with the Student Risk Education Committee and will be working on ways to implement and mandate baseline requirements next quarter. She will be working with Banani to form a committee to allocate PLEDGE Funds, adding that they are making excellent progress. The IVP office will be co-hosting the Sexual Health and Awareness Day with the General Representative 1 office, with the event schedule for Thursday of next week from 12-3 in Bruin Plaza. She will be hosting a workshop at UC Davis this weekend, focusing on the state budget crisis and how students can get involved in advocacy efforts. She is also working with the Student Affairs office to discuss the “Enough is Enough” Program.

External Vice President- Susan Li

-Li was at UC Merced this weekend for the UCSA Conference. The Congress passed two resolutions, the first in support of Financial Institutional Aid, and the second establish March 4th as a National Student Action Day. Li hopes to get over one hundred students from UCLA to the State Capitol on the day of action. She is working to prepare the campus for the UCSA Congress held this summer, and also mentioned that UCLA will also be hosting Golden Pacific Retreat this weekend.

-Geller asked if any specific plans have been made for the March 4th Day of Action.

-Li said that various groups from around campus have been making plans, and she hopes to establish an undergraduate voice commission. She said that at this moment, groups have voiced plans to march down to Federal Building, hold rallies on Bruin Walk. She is uncertain at the moment as to which events will surely take place.

Academic Affairs Commissioner—Layhannara Tep

-Tep said that the English Honors Society and the Office of Residential Life will host a writing tutorial on the hill Wednesday at 8p.m. Former Covell tutors will also offer one-on-one tutoring to help students with papers. Tep said that plans are to hold workshops again during 8th and 10th weeks. She is also circulating both an online and paper petitions to reinstate Covell tutorials and to re-establish priority enrollment for non-traditional Students.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

X. New Business

A. Institutional Aid Resolution*

-Li moved and Tengco seconded to approve the Institutional Aid Resolution.

-Li yielded the floor to Sophie Campos and Nancy Meza.

-Campos said that the Institutional Aid fund is composed of 32% of fees from every student, but mentioned that many students who put money toward this aid are ineligible to receive funding themselves. She said that a significant proportion of the population would appreciate USAC support in the effort to make all students eligible to apply for Institutional Aid funding.

-Meza said that in by Spring and Fall of 2010, there may not be any undocumented students at UCLA because of the recent fee increases. She said that undocumented students already do not benefit from Financial Aid or the Blue and Gold plan, and money that is being set aside from their tuition is not being allocated in time of need.

-Li read the following resolution aloud:

Institutional Aid for AB540 Students

WHEREAS, sixty-five thousand undocumented students graduate from high school every year who are potentially eligible for AB540 status,

WHEREAS, AB540 undocumented students are not currently eligible for any form of financial aid,

WHEREAS, thirty-three percent of the fees paid to the University of California are categorized as return to aid and awarded as institutional aid based on merit and financial need,

WHEREAS, AB540 undocumented students pay into this financial pool but are ineligible to apply for institutional aid,

WHEREAS, the 32% fee hike passed by the University of California Regents has left many undocumented AB540 students without an affordable or accessible education,

WHEREAS, the Chancellor of the University of California, Los Angeles recently discussed the proposal for equal opportunity to access institutional aid at the Council of Chancellors' meeting in January,

WHEREAS, the Chancellor of the University of California, Los Angeles and the UC Student Regent will propose institutional aid eligibility for undocumented students to the University of California Regents at the next UC Regent meeting on March 23rd to the 24th

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council endorses the right of AB540 undocumented students to have an equal opportunity to qualify for institutional aid,

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council will endorse the proposal being presented at the March UC Regents meeting to secure the right of AB540 undocumented students to be eligible for institutional financial aid.

-Huddy thanked Meza and Campos for their presentation. He said that he understands that the Institutional Aid funds are allocated on both merit and need based returns. He asked how need is determined for AB-540 students.

-Li yielded the floor to Meza.

-Meza stated that undocumented students fill out tax returns, but are not allowed to fill out the FAFSA. She said that the resolution is not calling for any return of funds, but only for the access to apply for the funds. She then yielded the floor to Campos.

-Campos said that the initiative was originally recommended by the Vice-President of Student Affairs two years ago, and has been thoroughly reviewed by legal counsel.

-Bawa mentioned that it is important to remember that this resolution is reiterating equality in access to funds, adding that it is the responsibility of the council to show support for the resolution on behalf of the student body.

-Wu asked if tuition is the only source that funds Institutional Aid.

-Meza said that the fund is solely based on 32% of student funds paid to the University.

-Nguyen feels that there is inconsistency in resolution approval voting amongst the council. He mentioned that on January 5th, Bawa said that the proposed Call to Action Resolution "[was] presenting a proactive message in a reactive circumstance". He said that the only difference between the two resolutions was that he, Mullins, and Huddy were the sponsors. Nevertheless, he said that he feels that the resolution addresses an important and noble cause.

-Li said that this resolution is specifically clear cut in its intentions, and does not briefly mention Institutional Aid as presented in the DREAM Act resolution. She said that her office is working to drive forth this resolution on a state-wide level. She noted that the "Call to Action" Resolution was very vague and was centered on actions already been handled by the EVP office.

-Bawa said that the Call to Action Resolution would have been approved if it were calling for any specific action. The DREAM Act is a state and Federal Issue, and Institutional Aid is a university

based issue. She said that this resolution mentions a presentation in the future by the Chancellor, which she said proactively addresses desire to express support for his presentations on the 23rd and 24th. -Flores said that while Nguyen is welcome to express opinion, she would like to keep conversation around the resolution on the table, adding that the Call to Action resolution did not address a specific body. She said that though this resolution is in part a response, it also offers a distinct way to address a situation, and said that it is tailored particularly to Institutional Aid. She said that all discussion should now be focused on the resolution on the table only.

-Huddy asked how other universities handle Institutional Aid, adding that he completely agrees that students paying should be eligible for funds.

-Li yielded the floor to Meza.

-Meza said that the University of California in the past offered both Institutional Aid and Financial Aid to undocumented students. However, in the past a proposition was approved to halt all funding for undocumented students. She said that Texas grants full financial support for AB-540 students, and added that California had been giving aid longer than it has not. The coalition has been working closely with the Chancellor, and has also seen positive support from the Regents. She also again mentioned that the office that assisted in the original drafting has also expressed full support behind the resolution.

-Mullins said that he cannot in good conscious support the resolution, because it does not provide as answer the long-term situation of legalization. While he supports legalization, he does not see how the resolution addresses the issue.

-Flores said that an argument for those wanting to be legalized in the future will be to demonstrate good moral character, which could be demonstrated by the choice to get an education.

-Banani said that he feels the resolution is excellently written. While he acknowledged that Mullin's comment was noble, he asked to recognize the immediate need in the undocumented community. He cited the need to focus energy on getting students to achieve success at UCLA. He appreciated students publicly sharing their stories, and said that it is about time to move forward and take a strong stance. With that comment, Banani moved and Li seconded to call to question.

-Council voted to approve the Institutional Aid Resolution with a total of 11 in favor, 1 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

B. California Democracy Act*

-Li moved and Tep seconded to approve the California Democracy Act.

-Li read the following resolution aloud:

Undergraduate Student Association Council
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF:
The California Democracy Act
Presented by: Cinthia Flores, Shahida Bawa, and Susan Li

Whereas the two-thirds rule is a budget vote rule that requires that both houses of the legislature pass all legislative action on budget and revenue by a two-thirds vote,

Whereas the two-thirds rule allows a minority of legislators to control state revenue and budget, including funding for higher education, making raising the revenues necessary for funding higher education nearly impossible,

Whereas California ranks forty-eighth in the nation in terms of educational quality and funding due to an anti-education minority saying no to all budgets that provide for higher education,

Whereas only four budgets in the last thirty two years have been passed on time due to impossibly high vote thresholds, costing the state forty million dollars for every day a budget is late, money which could go towards education,

Whereas our fees have been raised thirty two percent, largely due to lack of funding from the state,

Whereas California is the only oil-producing state which does not have an oil severance tax due to impossibly high vote thresholds, revenue proposed to pay for higher education by Assembly Majority Leader Alberto Torrico,

Whereas California is the only state in the nation requiring a two thirds vote on both revenue and budget, Whereas minority rule is crippling the ability of California to fulfill the Master Plan because a minority of anti-education legislators can hold up the budget process,

Whereas the California Democracy Act seeks to re-democratize California through one simple sentence that will appear on the November 2010 ballot: "All legislative action on revenue and budget must be determined by a majority vote."

Let it be resolved that the Undergraduate Student Association Council will endorse the California Democracy Act and the re-democratization of California.

Let it be resolved that the Undergraduate Student Association Council will actively organize to secure the petition signatures and support needed to get the California Democracy Act on the ballot and to pass act.

Let it be resolved that the Undergraduate Student Association Council will back the funding need for printing of educational flyers and petitions.

-Bawa moved and Tengco seconded to propose the following friendly amendment to the first resolved item, adding that the University cannot make endorsements:

"Let it be resolved that the Undergraduate Student Association Council would like to see the California Democracy Act on the ballot to allow citizens to exercise their civic rights when considering the vote regarding the re-democratization of California."

-Tressel said that he appreciates the effort of the sponsors, and acknowledged the importance of the resolution.

-Li yielded the floor to Erienne Overli.

-Overli is working on a state-wide level, and said that an anti-majority legislation has been actively voting against legislation and has been halting very important measures. She acknowledged the importance of simple majority.

-Huddy said that he appreciates the drive for simple majority, but said that the necessity to compromise with fellow legislators is expressed through the 2/3 majority. He feels that a state as diverse as California has a paramount necessity for the 2/3 majority and feels that there are other solutions, noting compromise and working together rather than immediately moving toward a simple majority.

-Tengco said the staggering amount spent for every day that the budget is not approved not approving the budget daily is his reason to support the resolution.

-Flores yielded the floor to Matt Margolis.

-Margolis said that the state does not have the money to raise any revenue. He feels that dropping the 2/3 majority voting rule would lead to more responsible spending. He said that the point would be to give legislators responsible methods to raise revenues, citing cigarette and alcohol taxes. He also said that the repeal would give full legislator a way to responsibly work on a proposal that is in line with the vision and mission of state of California.

-Tep said that the main issue is education funding. She said that the state is unable to raise the revenue it needs because of the rule, and that students are unfortunately funding the gap.

-Faelnar said that the 2/3 rule has been in the way of funding for higher education, as she learned from the Karen Bass event. She said that higher education has been at stake, and the issue is to support funding toward education.

-Mullins said that the repeal of the 2/3 majority could have disastrous effects in the future. He said that in theory a quick fix could be provided, but the state assembly could see long term problems in the future in regards to budget measures. He said that the best way to fix the issues at hand is to work toward compromise. He said that this rule would change the framework of how the game is played, and in principle he does not agree with the resolution.

-Bawa appreciates the dialogue on the table but said that the point of the resolution is to reiterate civic rights, and not to endorse the act. She added that the purpose is also to express support for California voters to have the chance to vote either in the affirmative or negative in the General Election. She said the issue at hand is dealing with education funding and asked to bring the issue back to the table.

-Huddy said that he will vote yes on the measure because he feels that it is important to give the vote to the hands of the voters, in support of true democracy.

-Lin moved and Li seconded to call the original motion to question.
-The council voted to pass the California Democracy Act Resolution with a proposed friendly amendment. The final vote was 9 in favor, 1 in opposition, and 2 abstentions.

C. Bylaw Change: Bruin Bash*

-Faelnar moved and Lin seconded to approve bylaw changes (additions) to Article III, Sections D and F. The proposed changes are highlighted below, and were originally approved as:

Section D:

5. The Campus Events Commissioner shall co-program Bruin Bash with the Cultural Affairs Commissioner. The Bruin Bash concert will be held during week zero of fall quarter.

Section F:

5. The Cultural Affairs Commissioner shall co-program Bruin Bash with the Campus Events Commissioner. The Bruin Bash concert will be held during week zero of fall quarter.

-Lin said that the both offices are currently working on the event.

-Huddy asked who formally works on the event.

-Lin mentioned that there is not an office that is formally assigned to work on the event, and that she and Faelnar would like to make the event a shared program so that the two office budgets could absorb any deficits in funding.

-Farmer moved and Mullins seconded to call the motion to question.

-The council voted unanimously to approve the proposed Bylaw Changes, as presented by Faelnar and Lin, with a total of 12 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

XI. Announcements

-Huddy said that Dance Marathon begins on Saturday at 11AM.

-Faelnar said that Valentine's Night is tomorrow in Kerckhoff Grand Salon from 7-10PM. And on Saturday will be having a fresh urban fashion show with LRG clothing items on display.

-On February 22nd, the Campus Events Commission is hosting a speaking event with Dale Gieringer, the state coordinator of California NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

-Tengco said that his office is hosting two DiverseCity trips this week. The Los Angeles Art walk trip will be held on Thursday, and a trip to the Los Angeles Food Festival will take place on Saturday.

-Wu holding events (CPR Trainings) in De Neve rooms....

-In DT B7, the FSC, Financial Aid, and the CSC will be holding a workshop addressing taxes, financial aid, and awareness workshops next Wednesday.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Mullins moved and Li 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 8:37p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Casillas
USAC Minutes Taker
2009-2010