

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL

Tuesday April 6, 2010  
417 Kerckhoff Hall  
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Faelnar, Nelson

GUESTS: Sarah Ravani, Coreen Weintraub, Sophie Rane.

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

-Farmer added an officer report.

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

-Li asked to strike the report for the EVP Travel Grant.

- Mullins moved and Wu 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. \*3/30/2010

- Lin moved and Farmer seconded to approve the minutes for March 30, 2010, 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

**A. Coreen Weintraub-CALPIRG**

-Weintraub came to council to provide an update of the actions performed by CALPIRG during Spring Break. The organization went on a tour throughout California advocating for a statewide and local ban on Styrofoam products and plastic bags, and received mention in various sources of media for doing so. Weintraub added that students also had the opportunity to meet with legislators, and shared valuable input with lawmakers. This week the organization is promoting the “What’s Your Plan” campaign, and has received over 250 photo petitions thus far. The intention is to make certain that higher education affordability is a key topic of debate for the upcoming gubernatorial election. Weintraub also invited council members to attend a lobby day in Sacramento for CAL GRANTS on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

-Farmer asked if either other of the two products in mention have been banned in other states

-Weintraub said that California would be the first state to formally ban Styrofoam, but various states have banned the use of plastic bags. The cities of Santa Monica, Richmond, and San Francisco have bans on Styrofoam.

-Huddy asked Weintraub how profitable Styrofoam has been.  
 -Weintraub said that oil, petroleum, and plastic companies are currently seeing the most profit from the product. She added that cities and states are spending substantial amounts cleaning up Styrofoam. There has not been any decline for businesses switching over to reusable and biodegradable products.

V. Special Presentations

*There were no Special Presentations this week.*

VI. Appointments

-Flores said that the appointment for the Student Fee Advisory Committee will be reviewed by council next week.

VII. Fund Allocations

**A. Academic Success Referendum Fund**

*There was no business for the Academic Success Referendum Fund.*

**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 \$7772.29 was requested from Contingency this week; of that, a total of \$5836.50 is recommended for allocation. The groups requesting funding were Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, Colleges against Cancer, Pilipino Transfer Student Partnership, Community Service Commission, Amigos De UCLA, Active Minds, Bruin Consulting, the Film and Photography Society, the office of the Internal Vice President, and MECHA de UCLA.

-Tengco asked Tan to provide the balance of the Contingency fund.

-Tan estimates that between \$90,000 and \$100,000 remain. He will update the council with a more accurate number next week.

-Nguyen asked why Colleges against Cancer did not receive the full amount requested.

-Tan said that a required receipt was omitted.

-Geller asked if any other individuals sat in on the allocation discussion for the Film and Photography Society allocation.

-Tan removed himself during the process to avoid a conflict on interest.

-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 \$5836.50.00 were approved, as amended.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

**President – Cinthia Flores**

Flores has been advocating for Institutional Aid and hopes to educate the undergraduate student body about the benefits of the program. Next week, her office is hosting a non-profit social justice job fair in conjunction with the Los Angeles Downtown Labor Office. She will be attending a meeting with Chancellor Block and asked to share any messages for Block via e-mail. She also added that UCLA Raza Day and Admit Day will be held during the next few weekends.

**Internal Vice President – Shahida Bawa**

Bawa passed around flyers for the “Enough is Enough” event to be held this Thursday. UCLA Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and Active Minds will be providing opportunities to dispel symptoms of mental illness on campus, and in the community. The event is also focused on addressing hate crimes that have systematically struck the UC system as well. True Bruin pins will be distributed.

**External Vice President- Susan Li**

Li said that her office is currently working to prepare for the USSA Congress, to be held on July 14-19, 2010. She will be meeting with conference services for housing on the dorms on April 16th, and will be using allocated surplus as the deposit for the housing. She has spoken with USSA Staff and is arranging for field visits before the event to make proper preparations. She will be attending the UCSA Board of Directors meeting this weekend in UC Irvine. In addition to the traditional board meeting, the office will also be conducting a special training about voter registration. Her office will be bringing the UCLA Students Vote! Coalition director. On Monday, April 5, her office held a forum with representatives from the UCLA Office of Community and Government Relations, ORL, the US Census Bureau, Paul Koretz’s office.

**Academic Affairs Commissioner—Layhannara Tep**

Tep said that her office had a retreat last weekend in Mammoth. She is meeting with Betty Glick tomorrow to discuss final details about services offered through Covell Commons.

**Financial Supports Commissioner—D’Juan Farmer**

-Farmer shared some updates of what his office has been working on for the majority of the school year. The objectives of the Financial Supports Commission this year were 1) to tangibly assist students with financial disparity, 2) to provide students with the knowledge to empower themselves financially, 3) to concretely describe the financial circumstances of UCLA students and explore student finance challenges, and 4) to provide students with a tool to manage their funds in the UCLA context. His office has met most of the goals through the textbook scholarship expansion, further development of the textbook loan service, the AB540 Scholarship, the Burden of Baring It All Series, and other collaborations with groups on campus. The commission also described financial circumstances of students through the establishment of the True Cost of UCLA Survey. The EduBudget.com website shared with council at a previous meeting is set for an official launch, and negotiations are underway to establish a direct link between the site and MyUCLA.edu. In addition to some of the projects listed above, his commission is hosting an event which will feature a financial consultant from New York. She has prepared two presentations tailored especially to UCLA students. The first presentation pertains directly to seniors, and the second has been developed more for Underclassmen. Farmer said that the EduBudget.com website has been subject to much expansion and further development, but he feels that the final product will prove to be extremely beneficial for parents, students, and all others interested in planning a secure budget. In particular, EduBudget.com provides budgetary tools and many helpful tips and suggestions. The site also offers expense and income analysis. He anticipates great benefits for UCLA students, especially because the tuition numbers have now been updated to reflect recent changes to the cost of tuition.

-Tressel asked for the name of the presenter visiting from New York City.

-Farmer said that her name is Dominique Reese. He had an opportunity to listen to a presentation by Reese at a scholarship banquet.

## IX. Old Business

*There was no Old Business this week.*

## X. New Business

*There was no New Business this week.*

XI. Announcements

- Bawa asked all present to attend the Enough is Enough events.
- Nguyen said that the Women in Leadership event has been rescheduled to April 15<sup>th</sup>. He also said that a candlelight vigil remembering UCLA student Melissa Townley is scheduled for tomorrow evening at 7PM.
- Wu distributed copies of the most recent issue of Total Wellness Magazine. She said that the particular focus for the issue is healthy eating habits. Staff applications for positions within SWC are available now.
- Mullins said that this Thursday the Facilities Commissioner is hosting John Zalvany who will be speaking on environmental concerns in Kerckhoff Grand Salon, at 6:30PM.
- Zimmerman said that TGIF will be holding the allocation hearings on Thursday, and she will have a presentation prepared for the next meeting. The USAC handbook is being prepared for future councils, and she asked members to submit individual sections for commissions and offices. She asked to have all pages submitted by the council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> week, through e-mail.
- Farmer asked council to attend the Financial Literacy Workshops to be held this week.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*The attendance sheet was passed around.*

XIII. Adjournment

- Mullins moved Nguyen and 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 7:52p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Casillas  
USAC Minutes Taker  
2009-2010