

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday April 13, 2010
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Coreen Weintraub, Michael Phillips, Daniel Nomanim, Jason Youdem,

I. A. Call to Order

- Flores called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

-Flores removed the TGIF allocation presentation.

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

- Nguyen moved and Lin 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. *4/6/2010

-Lin moved and Tengco seconded to approve the minutes for April 6, 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

There were no Public Comments this week.

V. Special Presentations

A. Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act (CHIA)—Michael Phillips, Daniel Nomanim, Jason Youdem

-Phillips, Nomanim, and Youdem attended today’s meeting to discuss the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act (H.R. 1547/S. 781). Phillips said that over 2,200 students live in not-for-profit student housing, also known as non-university housing. He said that these non-profit housing outlets are composed of twenty fraternities, eleven sororities, and a number of various other cooperative living establishments. Youdem discussed the approximate cost of housing for one academic year at UCLA for double occupancy including a full meal plan. He noted a significant disparity between the two prices. He provided reference to a tax law which stipulates that only colleges and universities can use charitable donations to build and maintain student housing. He said that other not-for-profit entities with the same goal to provide safe and

affordable housing for college students are not allowed the same tax privileges. The (CHIA) would provide equitable tax treatment for all not-for-profit student housing entities by allowing them to use charitable contributions to improve the quantity and quality of student housing. Currently, only three of the twenty fraternity houses are fitted with fire sprinklers. CHIA will make college affordable with minimal cost to taxpayers. The act could also encourage new charitable contributions to improve current collegiate housing standards, and eventually result in safer structures for houses. A resolution is being presented to the table to call upon the national legislation to pass the act, and also to take students' ability to afford college into consideration. Youdem thanked the council for the time.

-Flores asked which legislative members are sponsoring the bill.

-Phillips was unable to provide a name.

-Youdem mentioned that over two hundred students have offered their signature to a petition in support of passing the resolution.

-Li asked if any other UC campuses are taking action or passing resolutions in favor of H.R. 1547/S. 781.

-Phillips is unaware of other UC action but mentioned that a representative from UCSD is also attending the conference in Washington, D.C.

-Bawa asked which tax status fraternities and sororities fall under.

-Phillips said that the IFC and the Sororities file under 501C status.

B. BOD Presentation—Christian Alfaro and Abdallah Jadallah

Alfaro and Jadallah attended the meeting to provide project updates on behalf of the USA Board of Directors. During the presentation, they discussed the departments that the Board of Directors oversees: Services and Enterprises, the Graduate Student Association, the Undergraduate Student Association, and the Communications Board.

-Alfaro said that the A-level of Ackerman Grand Union was recently remodeled, but added that there are still projects planned with consideration of the continuing financial barriers for USA. The BOD will also be focusing on the national economic recession, and will be focusing on the needs of students in the upcoming weeks.

-Nguyen asked about the status of a beer and wine facility on campus.

-Alfaro said that the board is attempting to reach an agreement, and added that security logistics are the main focus of the discussions.

-Tressel asked if the administration has offered any support to the alcohol project.

-Jadallah said that a compromise has been made between Wolfgang Puck and ASUCLA for alcohol purchases, but said that he is unaware of the general opinion of the administration at the moment.

C. CALPIRG—Coreen Weintraub

-Weintraub said that she will be presenting a resolution at the next council meeting in favor of increasing the CALPIRG pledge fee amount. She shared some of her experiences with the organization and also discussed the influence that the organization has had on her life and career as a UCLA student. She said this organization has proven very important to many students, and has also been a valuable networking device. The organization is funded by a voluntary pledge system, at \$5 per quarter. Currently, the organization sees a total of \$75,000.00 per year, but she mentioned that the UCLA chapter made over \$150,000.00 annually in 1992. She said that the influx of more projects has resulted in an added financial pressure. The organization would like to raise the pledge amount to \$10 per quarter. If USAC passed a resolution, the document would then need to be presented to the Chancellor for his agreement. She feels that the organization could perform at a much more effective rate with the additional funding, and could also be of great service and benefit to UCLA students. Weintraub would like to see the organization continue its growth, and she feels that

-Huddy asked when the \$5.00 pledge rate was set.

-Weintraub said that the amount was established in 1994.

-Huddy asked why students cannot pledge more than the rate.

-Weintraub is not certain why a limit was set in the past, but she said that the amount is contracted and students cannot pledge more than the maximum amount.

-Geller recommended meeting with Student Accounting. She said that UCLA student accounting would first need to be in agreement with the proposed pledge amount increase. She would like to meet with Weintraub to discuss the process of getting the Chancellor's official agreement and support.

B. Alumni Presentation (David Neuman and Chris Lamson)

Council had the opportunity to hear a presentation by, and engage in a question and answer period with two esteemed past council members.

VI. Appointments

There were no appointments heard by council this week.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Academic Success Referendum Fund (ASRF)

-Tep said that a total of \$500.00 was requested from ASRF; of that, a total of \$500.00 was allocated to fund the MECHA de UCLA 11th Annual Raza Day.

B. Academic Affairs Mini-Grant

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

C. EVP Travel Grant

-Li said that a total of \$9,623.48 was requested from Contingency this week; of that, a total of \$2,658.99 is recommended for allocation. The groups requesting funding were Latinas Guiding Latinas, Vietnamese Student Union, American Indian Student Association, Bruin Democrats, Samahang Pilipino, and Psi Chi.

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 \$30122.68 was requested from Contingency this week; of that, a total of \$9140.00 is recommended for allocation. The groups requesting funding were Afrikan Student Union, Muslim Student Association, Total Wellness Magazine through the Student Welfare Commission, Pilipino Transfer Student Partnership (PTSP), Conciencia Libre, Mentors for Academic Support, the Office of the Internal Vice President, Vietnamese Student Union, UCLA Unicamp, Sigma Gamma Rho, Students for Justice in Palestine, the office of the President, the office of the External Vice President, Vietnamese Language and Culture, and the office of the General Representative 3.

-Nguyen asked why there were not any comments made about the BruINTENT application being received in such close proximity to the date of the event.

-Tan said that the application was turned in two weeks ago in person at a council meeting, and he read the application with this set of allocations.

-Geller said that in the past she has noticed that organizations have been penalized for requesting amounts above the set maximum. She asked why Unicamp was not penalized for requesting above the maximum amount allowed.

-Tan said that the organization provided sufficient justification that one of the main premises of the organization requires retreat events. He feels that these events are one of the core functional values of Unicamp.

-Li asked why honorarium is being paid for a conference to the Office of the General Representative 3.

-Nguyen said that honorarium is being contributed by each organization in attendance.

-Lin 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 \$9140.00 were approved, as amended.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Cinthia Flores

-Flores said that her office hosted a non-profit Social Justice Job Fair today, and that 65 organizations were in attendance. She also said that there were over 450 students in attendance. Flores had the opportunity to meet with Scott Waugh and Janina Montero in regards to the recent Los Angeles Times article projecting misinformation about the Pauley renovation. She will be attending the UCLA Board of Alumni meeting, which is the last scheduled meeting of the year. This past weekend, she met with other presidents of the UC system and conducted the Student Regent interviews. Her office has launched the campaign for the blue and gold service award. She will be sending out petition to emails tonight.

Internal Vice President – Shahida Bawa

-Bawa said that she attended a meeting of the student task force in regards to using the UCLA name this past week. The task force is currently working with legal counsel to push forth the issue. The CRC met today to discuss the senate proposal, and will be continuing conversations. Last Thursday, her office co-hosted a vigil for victims of domestic violence. Her office is working diligently on the BruINTENT event to be held this weekend. She would like to see council members attend. Many sponsor provided raffle prizes will be offered. She hopes that the weather will be accommodating, but she feels that students will get a true sense of what individuals are dealing with if the weather is not as favorable. She truly hopes that students will become motivated by what they experience during the event. She said that BruINTENT also has a general aim at celebrating what students have overcome during harsh financial times.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

X. New Business

A. Resolution in Favor of the College House Infrastructure Act (H.R. 1547/S. 781)

-Mullins moved to approve the resolution in support of the College House Infrastructure Act (CHIA), and read the document aloud to the council. Lin seconded the motion made by Mullins.

A Resolution Supporting the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act (H.R. 1547/S. 781)

WHEREAS, 1500 students currently live in non-University owned not-for-profit student housing at the University of California Los Angeles during their collegiate years; and

WHEREAS, the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act (H.R. 1547/S. 781) eliminates a distinction in existing tax law that would result in allowing tax-exempt charitable and educational organizations to make grants to non-University owned not-for-profit student housing entities that provide collegiate student housing; and

WHEREAS, the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act would make college more affordable at no cost to taxpayers by offering a housing alternative less expensive than University housing; and

WHEREAS, the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act results in safer student housing by encouraging charitable contributions to collegiate housing for installation of life saving equipment such as fire sprinklers, smoke detectors, and alarm systems;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Student Association Council of the University of California Los Angeles supports and calls for the Congressional passage of the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Student Association Council of the University of California Los Angeles asks the California Congressional Delegation to sponsor the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act.

-Sponsored by Tim Mullins, Addison Huddy, and Tak Nguyen.

- Tengco asked how the proposed act would work to ensure lower expenses for all students living in institutions not belonging to UCLA.
- Phillips that currently the system in place does not allow students living in off-campus establishments the opportunity to seek out any form of charitable support to maintain their places of residence. As it currently stands, individual homes are funded solely by resident contribution. The act would allow members of the Greek system to receive funding from national chapters. He said that this could directly affect student affordability.
- Farmer asked how the act would affect cooperative housing.
- Phillips said that currently students in that housing status are unable to ask for funding from charitable foundations, the act would allow residents to seek donations and contributions.
- Geller said that the presentation tonight mentioned that 2200 students live off campus, yet the resolution lists that number as 1500 students.
- Yousem said that at the time that the resolution was published the drafters were unaware of the actual amount.
- Mullins moved and Faelnar seconded to propose the following friendly amendment (in bold):

WHEREAS, 2200 students currently live in non-University owned not-for-profit student housing at the University of California Los Angeles during their collegiate years; and

- Farmer asked if the presenters or sponsors are aware of why the original policy was established.
- Phillips believes that the original law was set out as more of a blanket policy, and it was not aimed at targeting individual organizations.
- Banani moved and Li seconded to call the motion on the table to question.
- The resolution in favor of the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act (H.R. 1547/S. 781) was passed unanimously with a vote of 12 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

XI. Announcements

- Nguyen said that the Women in Leadership event is taking place this Thursday in the Rieber Multi-Purpose room.
- Li said that CEC will be offering a free sneak of Disney's "Oceans" next week in Ackerman Grand Ballroom.
- Wu said that all SWC applications are available now online.
- Zimmerman thanked council for allowing for a postponement of the TGIF hearing reports. She said that a report will be presented next week.
- Huddy said that he been taking effective notes, and he has been working on YouTube summaries. He said that any ideas for videos should be shared with him directly.

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 9:30p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

FINAL

April 13, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Casillas
USAC Minutes Taker
2009-2010