

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday April 20, 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: Lin, Wu

GUESTS: Sarah Ravani, Sean Carroll, Pansa Mahdad, Coreen Weintraub, Jen Kim, Erin Steva, Pathu Sriphanlop (Proxy for Lucy Wu).

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 added special presentations by CALPIRG and TGIF. She also added the adoption of the Resolution in Support of the CALPIRG voluntary fee increase as a new business action item.

-Tan asked to add a special presentation.

-Tep removed the report for the Academic Success Referendum Fund.

-Li added an advocacy grant report.

-Farmer added the approval of Richard Stevenson as a Presidential Appointment to SFAC.

-Mullins moved and Li 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. *4/13/2010

-Tengco moved and Farmer seconded to approve the minutes for April 13, 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

There were no public comments made this week.

V. Special Presentations

A. TGIF Funding Allocations Presentation—Patricia Zimmerman

-Zimmerman provided an analysis of the spring 2010 funding allocations made by The Green Initiative Fund committee. There were a total of twelve eligible applications submitted, and all twelve of the eligible applications received funding. The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) is a grant-making fund for sustainability projects on UCLA's campus. Roughly, \$200,000 per year is available for student-initiated sustainability projects on campus. Projects will be selected for funding by an annually appointed Grant Making

Committee consisting of students, faculty, and staff in which students have the majority vote. TGIF is funded by a \$4 per quarter student fee beginning in fall 2008 and persisting for 10 years (TGIF website). Zimmerman noted that a total of \$252,523.86 was requested, and \$222,820.90 was allocated. She then shared an overview of the projects which received funding from TGIF. The first project is aimed at installing electronic hand dryers in Kerckhoff Hall restrooms; the project was allocated a total of \$15,700.00 to complete the project. The primary purpose of this project is to reduce unnecessary paper waste in the building, and was initiated by the Office of the General Representative 3, Tak Nguyen. The second funding allocation of \$3,250.00 went to an effort to educate the student body on sustainability issues titled "All Signs Point to Green". This project was initiated through the Office of the USAC President, and will be making use of the funds to place sandwich boards on Bruin Walk promoting various messages related to sustainability, recycling, and energy conservation. The third allocation of \$5,150.00 was given to fund a project initiated by E3. This initiative is aimed at developing a subsidy which would allow individuals who purchase refillable mugs on campus to receive thirty refills at \$.99, instead of the actual price of \$1.35. The intention is to offer a stronger sense of benefit to those who make the attempt to purchase and also use the mugs. The fourth project, which received an allocation of \$8,625.00, is the Light up UCLA Program. The aim of the project is to reduce used light energy in Kerckhoff by installing new energy-efficient fluorescent bar lights. An allocation of \$10,100.00 was made to the fifth proposed project, the Greening the 24th Annual Jazz Reggae festival initiative. The overall purpose of the project is to provide a strong sense of sustainability at this year's festival, and also to provide a strong foundation for future festivals. The planners will continue to use UCLA facilities and Athens services for event and post-event waste separation of refuse, and there will be a specific focus on recycling and compostable materials. The committee made an allocation of \$1,550.00 for a Bike to School Breakfast hosted by the Bike Coalition at UCLA. The event will promote the benefits of bicycling and bike safety. Students in attendance will also be provided with free food, chances to enter a raffle, and other educational materials. The seventh allocation of \$1,500.00 was given to the Bruins for Animals education program. The group intends to implement programs to disburse vegan food and information about sustainability. The eighth project, with an allocation of \$283.00, is the Green Workshop. The purpose of the project is to teach students about sustainable concepts on campus through use of a workshop. The program will teach everyday sustainable techniques and will be taught by trained volunteer students. The ninth allocation of \$212.40 was given to the Vietnamese Graduation to help cover the differential cost of recyclable dishware and promotional materials. The tenth allocation of \$450.00 was given to Café Am, also hosted by the Vietnamese Student Union (VSU). The event is VSU's annual spring talent show that incorporates live performances, and art exhibition, and food sampling into a cultural fusion. The organization will also be covering the differential cost of recyclable dishware and other promotional materials. The eleventh allocation of \$840.00 was given to the "Switch to Save" program. Sorority homes will be receiving the funding to purchase energy efficient light bulbs to distribute amongst all of the homes. Finally, an allocation of \$176,000.00 was made to fund the Solar Panel Project, put on by B-Green Teams (a subcommittee of the Bruin Democrats). The goal of B-Green Teams is to install a system of solar panels on the roof of the Ackerman Union which would offset electricity drawn from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) grid. The installation would produce 49.4 KW (DC), 40.9 KW (AC) and would have a total energy output of 69,189 kWh per year. The project will save the building around \$23,591.00 per year in operational costs, which would result in direct savings in the long run for UCLA students. An interactive ticker will also be installed to display the energy production of the Ackerman solar panels. The ticker will be placed on the A-Level of the building so that all students will be able to view the impact of the project.

-Nguyen asked how much money will be saved through the installation of the solar panels.

-Zimmerman said that 69,189 kWh of energy will be saved annually, resulting in an estimated \$23,591.00 in savings for the Ackerman Union annually.

-Huddy asked if the overall savings will be re-allocated to the TGIF fund after the savings surpass the cost of the project.

-Zimmerman said that the committee is still working on details, and the planners of the project are still working to decide where the savings will be allocated. Overall, the goal is to return the savings back to the students in some form or another. Zimmerman opened the floor to Mullins to offer his opinions.

-Mullins said that it was in his opinion that if the project were to break even after 7 ½ years, all funds should be returned to the students. He also felt that the project could be seen as a symbol of UCLA's efforts to move forward and progress toward an overall more sustainable campus.

- Tressel asked how the TGIF committee will continue to advertise and promote the fund.
- Zimmerman said that the committee is brainstorming additional marketing avenues surrounding the fund, and will be working to have access to the fund application on MyUCLA.edu and on the USAC website. The committee is also considering the possibility of installing a visual advertising mechanism within the Ackerman Union. The students and advisors have strong intentions to promote the fund.
- Mullins said that there should be a significant sustainability campaign launched with the added promotion of TGIF. It would show that the campus has an overall commitment to sustainability. He hopes that future committees and councils will engage in additional promotion.
- Nelson asked if maintenance fees are added into the figures for the solar panel project.
- Zimmerman said that the committee and the students are working together to determine those additional costs.
- Bawa asked if off-campus venues can receive funding.
- Zimmerman said that UCLA based projects are open to funding. She concluded by adding that she will be hosting a workshop this Thursday from 3-4:30pm in AU 2412, to learn and discuss new techniques to make events more sustainable.

B. CALPIRG Resolution—Coreen Weintraub and Sean Carroll

- Weintraub attended the meeting tonight joined by Erin Steva and Sean Carroll. She discussed some of the more significant campaign victories of the organization. She mentioned the very successful voter registration drives, work done to pass Proposition 1A to bring a high speed train to California, and successful lobbying efforts to pass SAFRA and the Health Care Bill.
- Steva is the Transportation and Advocacy director for CALPIRG at UCLA. She attended the University of Minnesota. She works on local, state, and national campaigns. Her job is to research problems, devise a plan, and to decide a route to victory. She attributed the success that CALPIRG has seen to the energy put into its grassroots movement.
- Carroll discussed his involvement and work on the SAFRA movement. He said that CALPIRG was the organization that inspired him to put energy behind his concerns and issues with government. His job is to train groups of students to become effective recruiters, planners, and lobbyists.
- Weintraub said that funding is important for the organization to maintain staff such as Steva and Carroll. She said that the goal of the organization fits the University's mission to produce students who understand how to properly apply their knowledge for the betterment of society, as a whole. The \$5 voluntary pledge fee was established in 1994, and the equivalent to that amount today is \$10.00. CALPIRG's income has not kept pace with the costs of the program, as the group works on more program areas now than in 1994. Because of this discrepancy, the organization has relied on grant funding to help supplement costs. However, Weintraub added that grant funding undermines student control and the funds cannot be used for advocacy purposes. She said that CALPIRG could use the additional funding to bring in more advocates and more organizers. This influx of advocates could result in an overall more active organization.
- Tressel said that the argument could be made that fewer students might possibly stop pledging to the organization.
- Weintraub said that the organization is considering that possibility, but has been corresponding with other universities and those chapters have not seen decline in pledges at the \$10.00 amount.
- Huddy asked how often students decide to opt-out of the pledge after making the \$5.00 commitment.
- Carroll estimates that around 40-50 students make the decision to de-pledge every quarter.
- Huddy asked if the \$10.00 goes to a national pool, or to the individual chapter.
- Weintraub said that the funds go to a state pool for allocation for state projects, and to a federal pool for federal based programs.
- Tressel asked about the membership trends the organization has been seeing.
- Weintraub said that the group has elected to cap the pledge rate at 15% of the student body. This is to avoid having to campaign for the majority of the quarter, and to maximize valuable advocacy time.

C. Film Screening—Brian L. Tan

Tan invited all in attendance to attend a showing of the film that he directed, titled "Dilated". The premiere will take place on May 5th, in Ackerman Union Ballroom at 7:30p.m. The event will also feature other

student made films, and will be followed by an after party. He shared a preview of his film with the council.

VI. Appointments

A. Richard Stevenson-Student Financial Advisory Committee (SFAC)

-Bawa said that Stevenson received a unanimous recommendation from ARC. The committee commented that Stevenson will speak out for student advocacy. They were also impressed with his past financial experience, and found him to be a well established student with proper reasons to join the SFAC. With that, Bawa moved and Li seconded to approve the appointment of Richard Stevenson to a respective position on the SFAC. There were no objections, and council entered into discussion.

-Farmer asked Stevenson to describe his qualifications.

-He has worked to engage students and faculty on the ways student funding should properly be applied to programs, and he has also worked with multiple organizations within the UCLA community and the city of Los Angeles. Stevenson feels that his experiences have developed a strong and clear perception that he could bring to the table. He was identified last year by faculty members and was invited to attend a UCLA day of advocacy in Washington D.C.

-Farmer moved and Tep seconded to call to question.

-Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Richard Stevenson to the Student Financial Advisory Committee with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

VII. Fund Allocations

A. Academic Success Referendum Fund (ASRF)

Tep said that \$804.80 was requested from ASRF; of that, a total of \$804.80 was allocated.

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 \$8,496.80 was requested from the EVP Travel Grant; of that, a total of \$1,650.00 was allocated.

D. EVP Advocacy Grant

-Li said that a total of \$5,230.00 for the EVP Advocacy Grant was requested; of that, a total of \$1,000.00 was allocated.

D. Cultural Affairs Mini-Grant

-Faelnar said that a total of \$4,000.00 was requested from the Programming Fund; of that, a total of \$4,000.00 was allocated.

E. *Contingency Allocations

-Tan said that a total of \$7099.42 was requested from Contingency; of that, a total of \$2795.42 is recommended for allocation for this week. The groups applying for funds were M.E.C.h.A., the Philosophy Club, the American Indian Student Association, the Office of the General Representative 3, Student Transfer Opportunity and Mentorship Program, and the Vietnamese Student Union.

-Mullins moved and Farmer 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 \$182795.42 were approved, as amended.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Cinthia Flores

Flores said that her office was very active in the TGIF application process, and she is looking forward to the projects that will be created as a result of the funding appropriations. She will be meeting with Chancellor Block and Janina Montero to discuss the initiatives of the year, as well as the withdrawal of spark fee money, and other collaborative efforts with UCPD. Her office is preparing for an end of the year retreat taking place this weekend. She is now developing and constructing a five-year plan to share with future Presidents of the United Students Association, and is composing a newsletter to be distributed to the council at a later date.

Internal Vice President – Shahida Bawa

Bawa said that the BruINTENT event was very successful, and she received significant administrative support. Her office is working to assure that the IVP office develops a stronger sense of involvement around campus year round. She thanked Geller and Williams for securing funds for the event. She will be discussing future plans for the program with Janina Montero, and will also be considering how to better partner the event with the Office of the President. Her office is now also evaluating the Enough is Enough Program, and working on how to make the program an integral part of the True Bruin initiative. She concluded by mentioning that she was not involved in the selection process for the College of Letters and Science Commencement Speaker, Gustavo Arellano.

External Vice President- Susan Li

Li said that her office is working to on the voter registration drive. Her office has been working on a state resolution to mandate Cal Grants. The resolution passed the Higher Education Committee hearing today, and she has been hearing positive opinions from state legislators.

Academic Affairs Commissioner—Layhannara Tep

-Tep said that the International and Developmental Studies major has been reinstated, and all revisions to the department can be found on the website. Her “Write Here Write Now, part two” program will be taking place next Wednesday. The event will feature a Teaching Assistant panel which will provide students with valuable tips and also some insight into the grading process. She is meeting with Judith Smith to discuss the principles of community within council, and she is hoping that Smith will attend an upcoming council meeting to present on the True Bruin platform.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

X. New Business

A. Resolution in Favor of an Increase to the CALPIRG Voluntary Pledge

-Li moved and read the following resolution aloud:

A Bill in support of updates to CALPIRG's Pledge Fee

WHEREAS, The UCLA chapter of California Student Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) is a registered campus organization in good standing; and,

WHEREAS, CALPIRG works to further the interests of the public state-wide by advocating on such campaigns as Textbook Affordability, the Resolve to Fight Poverty, "Getting to Graduation," CALPIRG's Community College Success program, Global Warming Solutions, More and Better Public Transit, Oceans Protection, Affordable Education, Environmental Preservation and Consumer protection; and,

WHEREAS, CALPIRG collected over 2600 voter registrations from UCLA students leading up to the 2008 elections, and reminded over 5000 UCLA students to vote, thus increasing overall student participation in the political process, and increasing the attention that politicians pay to young people; and,

WHEREAS, the CALPIRG chapter at UCLA was established in 1982 and was funded by students through the waivable fee system for 18 years, until 1990; and,

WHEREAS, in 1990, CALPIRG at UCLA raised \$150,000 annually, the equivalent of \$243,000 2009 dollars, through the waivable fee system; and,

WHEREAS, in 1994, in conjunction with the Chancellor's Office of the University of California at Los Angeles, CALPIRG established an Agreement on CALPIRG's Voluntary Pledge System; and,

WHEREAS, The 1994 agreement established CALPIRG's pledge fee at \$5 per term, and mandated that they obtain pledges from 15% of the student body or else face a referendum deciding the future of the CALPIRG Voluntary Pledge System; and,

WHEREAS, Since this first agreement in 1994, CALPIRG has made a good-faith effort to obey the terms of the agreement and has consistently maintained active membership status of more than 15% UCLA students; and,

WHEREAS, through the CALPIRG Voluntary Pledge System, CALPIRG at UCLA raises \$75,000 annually; and,

WHEREAS, The original pledge fee of \$5 in 1994 has become equivalent to \$10 today in 2010 due to increased costs from inflation and CALPIRG's expanded program; and,

WHEREAS, Maintaining the 15% pledge threshold of the student body and raising the pledge fee for all future pledges to \$10 will significantly increase CALPIRG's revenue and enable them to accomplish more in student advocacy; and,

WHEREAS, Without the proposed changes to CALPIRG's Voluntary Pledge System, CALPIRG's uncertain funding and disappearing grants will jeopardize the effectiveness of their campaigns with increased time spent fundraising and a smaller number of full-time staff and lobbyists; and,

WHEREAS, Without the proposed changes to CALPIRG's Voluntary Pledge System, the student-directed and student-responsive nature inherent to CALPIRG's long history at UCLA would be compromised; and,

WHEREAS, The proposed changes to CALPIRG's Voluntary Pledge System are cost-neutral for all parties involved; and,

WHEREAS, In 2004, the Voluntary Pledge Fee policy was updated, including the new language that changing CALPIRG's Voluntary Pledge System agreement is "subject to the concurrence of the Chancellor or Chancellor's designee, a duly adopted resolution of student government"; and,

WHEREAS, The support of USAC is necessary as a representation of a consultation process with students to create concurrence with the Chancellor in creating a new Voluntary Pledge System Agreement without going to referendum; and,

WHEREAS, The new pledge fee amount will only be applied to newly pledging members, and all current pledging members will remain at membership fee of \$5 per term, unless that individual pledging member wishes to pledge at the new amount,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the USAC supports CALPIRG's proposed changes to the Voluntary Pledge System Agreement with the Chancellor, including raising the pledge fee to \$10 for all new pledging members; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the USAC President and Vice President are authorized to write letters which reflect this position of the USAC to the Chancellor and other campus bodies.

-The USAC sponsors of the Resolution were Flores, Bawa, and Tengco

-Farmer seconded the motion made by Li.

-Banani said that it would be in the interest of the council to offer an amendment clarifying which Vice President sponsored the resolution.

-Bawa moved to add the following amendment (changes in bold):

*BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the USAC President and **Internal** Vice President are authorized to write letters which reflect this position of the USAC to the Chancellor and other campus bodies.*

-Tengco added the following amendments (changes in bold):

*"WHEREAS, through the CALPIRG Voluntary Pledge System, CALPIRG at UCLA raises **approximately** \$75,000 annually; and"*

*"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the USAC supports CALPIRG's proposed changes to the Voluntary Pledge System Agreement and **requests the Chancellor to approve** raising the pledge fee to \$10 for all new pledging members; and, "*

-Nguyen added the following friendly amendment (changes in bold):

*WHEREAS, The original pledge fee of \$5 in 1994 has become equivalent to **approximately** \$10 today in 2010 due to increased costs from inflation and CALPIRG's expanded program; and,*

-Huddy said that he does not agree with every aspect of the resolution, but he feels that the organization has been hit substantially by the effects of inflation.

-Tengco wished to commend the work of CALPIRG, and said that it is important to allow for a raise in the pledge fee to continue the success that the campaign has seen. Tengco moved and Li seconded to call to question.

-The council unanimously voted to approve the Resolution in Favor of Updates to CALPIRG's Pledge fee, with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

-Flores entertained a motion to publish the resolution in the Daily Bruin.

-Bawa moved and Farmer seconded to approve the publishing of the resolution in the Daily Bruin.

-The council unanimously voted to print the resolution in the Daily Bruin, with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

XI. Announcements

-Huddy said that Terry Kramer, UCLA Grad and President of VodaFone, will be speaking tomorrow in the Faculty Center from 1-2PM.

-Tan said that no applications have been received for Capital Contingency. He reminded council to submit applications in a timely manner, and with all required documentation.

-Nguyen said that the UC Haiti Summit is taking place this weekend at UCSF. His office is co-hosting the Earth Day Fair this week. His office has also finished collecting data for on-line course evaluations, and he believes that implementing the project will save a significant amount of funding. He is also working with Hector Lucero to brainstorm possible revisions to the online ballot, with the intention of randomizing the order in which names appear on electronic ballots.

-Faelnar said that the first round of student tickets for Jazz/Reggae festival sold out today within an hour. The next release date will be May 3rd, and will be followed by a third and final release date.

-Zimmerman said that Installation of the 2010-2011 council will be moved to June 6th, taking the date of the Jazz/Reggae Festival into consideration. The new link to the TGIF website is: www.tgif.ucla.edu. She said that any materials for the USAC handbook should be forwarded to her through e-mail.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

-Banani moved and Tep 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 8:51p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Casillas
USAC Minutes Taker
2009-2010