

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday April 27, 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: Huddy

GUESTS: Coreen Weintraub, Hector Lucero, Gurpreet Kaur, Sarah Ravani, Samantha Schaefer, Alene Tchekmedyan, Gimmy Kim, Kelly Osajima.

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

- Tengco asked to add a special presentation by the Daily Bruin.
- Lucero asked to remove the Election Board New Business Action Items and asked to add the Approval of the Ballot Order to the New Business section as action items.
- Tep asked to strike the reports for ASRF and Academic Affairs Mini-Grant.
- Li asked to strike the report for the EVP Travel Grant.
- Faelnar asked to strike the report for the Cultural Affairs Mini-Grant.
- Bawa moved and Farmer 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. *4/20/2010

- Tengco moved and Faelnar seconded to approve the minutes for April 20, 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. Coreen Weintraub—CALPIRG

Weintraub thanked the council for passing the resolution in favor of increasing the CALPIRG pledge fee last week. She said that the organization is moving forward and is now hoping to pass a resolution with the Graduate Students Association next week. Yesterday was the state-wide lobby day at which CALPIRG advocated for Cal Grants, Health Care, and to save the Oceans. Finally, the organization is working to pass Global Warming legislation, which would be the first on the national level.

V. Special Presentations

A. Daily Bruin—Samantha Schaefer and Alene Tchekmedyian

- The two editors attended the meeting this evening to discuss errors made in the evaluation of USAC Council members, Cinthia Flores and Addison Huddy. Tchekmedyian said that a correction will be run in the newspaper tomorrow morning.
- Li asked how the error occurred.
- Schaeffer said the incorrect evaluation was the result of a printing error, claiming that the correct evaluation created electronically was not conveyed in the print version.
- Bawa asked who approved the graphic that went to print.
- Schaeffer said that errors are bound to happen in journalism and stated that the error has been corrected. She did not provide a name.
- Bawa again asked Schaefer who approved the item to go to print, and said that errors should be corrected on the page on which it was printed originally.
- Tchekmedyian said that notification of the correction will be run on the second page. She apologized for the error.
- Tressel asked the editors to describe the error printed in the Daily Bruin.
- Schaeffer said that Huddy and Flores' evaluation marks were incorrect.
- Flores asked how the evaluation process is conducted.
- Schaeffer said that reporters have attempted to conduct weekly interviews with council members and have also kept records of the council meetings. This compilation was used to evaluate the candidates.
- Tressel noted that most, if not all, the offices represented on USAC have accomplished many initiatives not discussed while they were campaigning last year. Tressel asked the Daily Bruin why they didn't evaluate those significant accomplishments.
- Tchekmedyian said that reporters have done their best to report on additional projects created by council members over the past year, but added that the evaluation section in the newspaper today solely reported on the platform promises made by council members when campaigning last year.
- Bawa said that she is not satisfied with the correction being reported on the second page.
- Mullins said that Tengco received a green in the same category that Huddy received a yellow.
- Schaeffer said that Tengco received a green evaluation mark because of a specific clothing drive held.
- Tressel noted that the Daily Bruin used to feature a USAC navigation button on the home page but no longer does so. He also noted that it is very difficult to find articles related to USAC. He asked if the Daily Bruin could add a direct link to USAC related news.
- Tchekmedyian said that the Daily Bruin back-end website program does not allow them to make any changes to the front-end and that's why there is no USAC link anymore.
- Nelson said that the Undie Run was not supposed to take place until the end of this quarter. He recommended that reporters speak with council members to discuss events and scheduling.
- Tengco said that individual platforms are not to be discussed at the table. He asked to focus on questions about the entire graphic.
- Faelnar asked if the lack of clarification between Qualified parties (Students First and SERVE) could be reflected more accurately in the print issue tomorrow.
- Tchekmedyian said that a text correction will be included, but the graphic will not be replaced.
- Farmer said that it is troubling that a graphic which is being considered significantly by readers is not being replaced entirely. He said that the mistakes made should accurately be corrected.
- Tchekmedyian said that the editors feel that the graphic would take the place of other important stories.
- Farmer said that while front page articles are reserved for current events, placing the correction on the second page will only partially correct the negative impact of the first print.
- Tep said that she would like to call the neutrality of the evaluation process into question.
- Schaeffer said that the contacts between council members and reporters have been reflected accurately.
- Flores asked if it is the responsibility of council members or of the reporters to maintain a consistent form of communication.
- Schaeffer said that the reporting is accurate and that the reports made are consistently shared between the staff.
- Li asked if there is a way to include a more holistic view of additional work done by offices.
- Tchekmedyian feels that the evaluation performed was holistic because it was a joint effort.
- Li said that she was alluding to a more comprehensive form of evaluation for the council.
- Flores echoed Li's sentiments regarding a need for a deeper evaluation.

- Farmer asked if a full correction will be made.
- Tchekmedyian said that questions regarding individual platforms can be submitted to the editor. She said that further explanations of work can be sent to the editors as well. Any information not reflected can be provided into the viewpoint section of the newspaper.
- Farmer asked if it is possible to print a smaller print version of the before and after graphics.
- Bawa appreciated the individual report for her office, and asked the newspaper editors to consider the evaluation process deeply. She said that she has also seen inserts incorporated into the paper, and suggested providing a full correction in an insert form. She said that a fragmented correction is not adequate, in her opinion.
- Flores said that she feels that the report seen in the newspaper today might form misconceptions of the work done by her office. She said that she will be meeting directly with Tchekmedyian and Schaeffer about the issue, but said that she is also in favor of a more comprehensive form of evaluation.
- Mullins began to pose a question, however Tchekmedyian stated that she will not entertain the question at this meeting, as per her request at the beginning. Mullins attempted to offer the question. Tengco called a point of order to honor the reporter's unwillingness to entertain the question raised by Mullins.
- Nguyen feels that the reporters attended the meeting to explain the error. He said that any further questions should be brought to them at a later time.
- Tengco thanked the reporters for attending, and said that he understands the fact the errors do occur. He said that questions about evaluations for individual offices should be shared with the Daily Bruin reporters at a later time.

B. Ballot Order Presentation—Hector Lucero

- Lin moved and Farmer seconded to move the approval of the ballot order approval to this point of the agenda.
- Lucero said that the order of the ballot was decided by random selection.
- Lin moved and Farmer seconded to approve the order of the ballot presented.
- The order of the USAC elections ballot was approved unanimously, to be reflected on MyUCLA as seen bellow. The vote consisted of 10 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 0 abstentions. Tengco was not in the room at the time of the vote.
- Bawa asked when Enemuoh Chiamaka Sandra was reincorporated back into the ballot, and asked if this decision is cleared with the election code.
- Lucero gave the candidate a deadline to bring a doctors note to verify her inability to attend the mandatory Orientation meeting.
- Farmer moved and Mullins seconded to approve the names to be listed on the ballot on MyUCLA.
- The council voted to approve the names to be listed on the official ballot. The final vote was 10 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 1 abstention.

VI. Appointments

There were no appointments to be made at this meeting.

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 \$16,535.21 was requested from Contingency; of that, a total of \$8,154.21 is recommended for allocation for this week.

-The groups requesting funding were Crossroads Campus Ministries, Afrikan Student Union, Campus Events Commission, Community Service Commission, Yukai Daiko, Samahang Pilipino, Queer Alliance, MEChA de UCLA, Film & Photography Society, Nikkei Student Society, Indian Cinema Society.

-In addition, Tan said that a total of \$4,136.04 was requested from Capital Contingency; of that, a total of \$2846.58 is recommended for allocation for this week. Those applying for funds were CEC and Upsilon Pi Epsilon.

-Banani moved and Mullins seconded to approve the Contingency and Capital 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 \$1845.00 were approved, as amended.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports**President—Cinthia Flores**

Flores said that the leadership retreat for her office just took place. She is preparing information to pass along to the next President. She will be providing a five-year plan and will be forwarding information to the council next week.

Internal Vice President – Shahida Bawa

Bawa said that she is meeting with Janina Montero to discuss student affairs services to be implemented. She will be sending applications for the BruINTENT scholarship. Next week, an end of the year report for her office will be introduced.

External Vice President- Susan Li

Li said that voter registration drive is currently taking place, with the intention of avoiding competition with student government campaigning. She is planning an action date downtown with a coalition of other universities. The event will consist of two days of action in Sacramento and Los Angeles. She is currently waiting for official registration information for the USSA congress taking place on campus this summer.

Academic Affairs Commissioner—Layhannara Tep

Tep said she has been meeting with student facilitators to put forth a comprehensive evaluation of the work performed by her office. She is working to have Judith Smith attend the meeting next week. Write Here Write Now 2 is taking place tomorrow, April 28th, from 5-7PM in Covel South Bay room. The event will be composed of writing tips with a panel followed by individual sessions.

General Representative 1—Jason Tengco

Tengco shared the final report on behalf of his office for the year. The final Diverse City Tours trip on Saturday April 17th consisted of a tour of cultural enclaves in the city of Los Angeles. The destinations visited were Historic Filipino Town, Little Tokyo, and Olvera Street. During Week 9, his office is bringing students to the Griffith Observatory on Thursday May 27th. His office Resources Committee is hosting a workshop entitled Marketing 101: Sustainable Publicity on Monday, May 3rd. He also shared information about the newly created “UCLA Did You Know” campaign program. The website, www.ucladidyounow.wordpress.com, compiles facts that students should know. This is a centralized way for students to get facts, and a way for students to share what they have learned through personal experiences at UCLA. His office is trying to post a link to this website on MyUCLA. The charitable

causes committee is holding the second "Out of the Closet" clothes drive in the Student Activities Center for homeless Bruins. The AB-540 Scholarship Reception is being co-hosted with IDEAS at UCLA and BRC on Friday, May 15th. The Campus Awareness Committee is working to promote UCLA's history with a Diversity Tour on campus. The tour is an attempt to highlight the diverse history of the different buildings on campus.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

X. New Business

There was no New Business this week.

XI. Announcements

-Lin said that next week the Upright Citizens' Brigade will be visiting the hill.

-Nguyen said that his office brought delegates to the UC Haiti Summit. His office is working to take information gathered to create a presentation for the President of the University of California.

-Wu said that Bruin Health Week is taking place next week. A schedule of the week's events can be found at www.Bruinhealthweek.com.

-Banani said that an event, Promoting Individuality through the Arts, will be bringing youth to campus to hold workshops. His commission is holding a carnival and the event will be taking near Bunche Hall.

-Champawat said that the student government accounting is introducing a more effective system to maintain contact with students.

-Zimmerman asked council to provide supplements to the USAC binder by next week, she feels that the binder will prepare the incoming council for next year. She also provided reminders to fill out the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey, at www.ucues.ucla.edu. Geller said that this survey takes place every year.

-Nelson said that he observed a mistake in the spelling of candidate Cris Santos name. Flores said that she would allow the correction to be made by the election board.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

-Banani yielded the floor to Mullins. Mullins yielded the floor to Banani.

-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 8:26p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Casillas
USAC Minutes Taker
2009-2010