

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday May 4, 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: Tep.

GUESTS: Parisa Mahdad, Sarah Ravani.

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

-Farmer asked to add a special presentation on Textbook Scholarships.

-Wu asked to add an officer report.

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

-Faelnar asked to strike the report for the Cultural Affairs Mini-Grant.

-Mullins 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. *4/27/2010

- Farmer moved and Mullins seconded to approve the minutes for April 27, 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 made this week.

V. Special Presentations

A. Textbook Scholarship Presentation—D’Juan Farmer

-Farmer said that there has been miscommunication regarding the handling of the textbook scholarship. The scholarship was founded during the 2008-2009 academic year by Elaine Reodica, past Financial Supports Commissioner. This council voted to expand the total available amount of scholarship funds to \$50,000. Over the last three quarters, over 3,000 applications have been received. Farmer said that out of those applicants, over 170 scholarships have been made available. Farmer said that the application process is very transparent, and does not exclude anyone. After two weeks, the application is closed. After closing, the applications are submitted to the Financial Aid Office and returned to the FSC with all applicants’

Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Upon return, multiple income level brackets are then developed. Every individual who applies for this scholarship is eligible to receive funding. Brackets are proportionally allocated based on the EFC values determined by the Financial Aid Office. Using a randomized process, the recipients are chosen through a lottery system, and the FSC has a number of unbiased witnesses (namely administrators) to oversee the process. After selection, each recipient is contacted and mandatory orientation is held to provide further details about the textbook scholarship. During the random selection, no names are made available—each recipient can only be identified by student ID number. Farmer said that of sixty-seven students surveyed, approximately 93% of recipients were satisfied and 98.5% of participants would apply for the scholarship again. 97% of scholarship recipients found the textbook scholarship to be beneficial. 100% feel that the scholarship should be continued, which Farmer suggests shows the true success of the program. Farmer also said that the textbook loan library has been expanded tremendously through the implementation of this scholarship. The textbook scholarship is open to any student eligible to receive aid from the university. Farmer concluded by stating that the scholarship has been managed with integrity and precision throughout the 2009-2010 academic year, and that his intention tonight was to dissolve any negative perceptions surrounding the scholarship. He said that the scholarship itself is based on probability, which he feels is the fairest way to handle the allocation of these funds.

-Mullins asked who the students selected for the surveys were.

-Farmer said that the 67 students surveyed were taken from the 170 recipients who received scholarships.

-Huddy asked which percentage of students received the entire scholarship.

-Farmer said that the commission does not determine funding on an individual basis, each student receives a full scholarship, and the total amount used depends on the number of textbooks required for their classes.

-Huddy asked how FSC makes certain that students do not use excess funding.

-Farmer said that quarterly audits are performed and students must return all textbooks. If a student does not make use of their entire scholarship, they still have the opportunity to exhaust the remainder of the scholarship the following quarter.

-Nguyen said that it is his understanding that all applicants must have filled out the FAFSA.

-Farmer said that the application is available to anyone. However, the Financial Aid Office then makes the determination of eligibility based on respective EFC values.

-Williams asked Huddy if he had knowledge of students who are attempting to exploit the scholarship fund.

-Huddy said that he was just trying to clarify questions that he had, and did not have any personal knowledge of such actions taking place.

-Geller asked if undocumented students are the only students ineligible to receive these scholarships.

-Farmer said per University policy, undocumented students are not eligible for funding from this source. He thanked the council and concluded by mentioning that the purpose of his presentation was to alleviate the impact of a number of false reports aimed at his commission.

VI. Appointments

There were no appointments to be approved this 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

-Bawa said that a total of \$8,724.46 was requested from Contingency; of that, a total of \$7,149.51 is recommended for allocation for this week. The groups requesting funding this week were the Philosophy Club, Khmer Outreach Retention Education, queer X girl, the office of the General Representative 1, Campus Events Commission, and Maximizing Potential Abroad (MPA), the Vietnamese Student Union (VSU), Samahang Pilipino, and Delta Sigma Pi.

-Nguyen moved and Lin seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations as presented by Bawa.

- Flores called for Acclamation. Flores asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Contingency Allocations recommending \$7,149.51 were approved, as amended.

-Banani moved and Farmer seconded to add the approval of Capital Contingency Allocations to the agenda as an action item.

-In addition, Bawa said that a total of \$11,121.92 was requested from Contingency; of that, a total of \$11,121.92 is recommended for allocation for this week. The groups requesting funding this week were the Community Service Commission, the Finance Committee/Budget Review, the Campus Events Commission, VSU, the Asian Pacific Coalition, the Financial Supports Commission, the Muslim Students Association, and the Muslim Union.

-Huddy suggested trying to make the Capital Contingency application process more transparent to the campus.

-Zimmerman said that purchased items made through this fund become the property of ASUCLA, and not of the student groups.

-Farmer said that it still is not too late to apply for Capital Contingency funding.

-Mullins moved and Huddy seconded to table the approval of Capital Contingency allocations until next week. There were six objections to the motion.

-Lin asked about the possibility of approving allocations on a line-by-line basis.

-Nelson said that he has concerns with tabling this approval because he feels that the funding allocation might possibly never reach these student groups.

-Williams said that it is important to make computer purchases from the ASUCLA Store.

-Huddy said that he does not see the necessity for any student groups to purchase such expensive computers. He said that the equipment being requested could be replaced with less expensive items, which would make room for additional surplus contingency funds.

-Farmer said that in his own personal opinion, the need does arise to purchase certain items. He said that his justification for purchasing a Mac computer last year was because he had equipment and programs conducive only to that certain brand of computer.

-Bawa said that she is comfortable with Tan's discretion.

-Bawa moved and Farmer seconded to approve the Contingency Allocations as presented by Tan. There were two objections voiced which did not meet the amount needed to halt the vote.

-The Capital Contingency Allocations recommending \$11,121.92 were approved, as presented. The total vote consisted of 8 in favor, 3 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Cinthia Flores

Flores said that the Chancellor has expressed his full support for the Blue and Gold Initiative. She will be attending a rally next Wednesday in Downtown LA in regards to the preservation of CAL GRANTS and student affordability.

Internal Vice President – Shahida Bawa

Bawa said that she met with Vice Chancellor Janina Montero to discuss accessibility to student support services related to dire needs, such as homelessness and hunger. She is continuing work to institutionalize the BruINTENT program. Bawa sat on the student speaker selection committee, and she said that a student speaker has been selected for the College of Letters and Science ceremony. Her office will be publishing its annual report which should be completed by next week.

External Vice President- Susan Li

Li said that she will be in Berkeley this Friday for a UCSA meeting. She will be assisting with interviews to narrow down the selection process for the next Student Regent. She will be bringing a number of other students to help with the process, as well. UCSA will narrow the selection pool to three students, and the Regents will make the final decision.

-Nguyen asked if the Student Regent term consists of one or two years.

-Li said that the first year is spent as a non-voting members, and the second a voting member of the board.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

X. New Business

There was no New Business this week.

XI. Announcements

-Geller said that as funding sources begin to become exhausted, cultural/diversity facilities funding sources are still available through the office of the Chancellor. She asked council members to refer students to those sources.

-Lin said that Upright Citizens Brigade will be in De Neve Auditorium tomorrow. A comedy Show is being held on May 17th with _____ in Ackerman Grand Ballroom.

-Nguyen said that the Dilated Premiere is taking place tomorrow at 8PM.

-Zimmerman said that Installation invitations will be distributed next week. The event will take place on June 5th. She will be passing out officer binders to new council members next Tuesday. Any supplemental information can be forwarded to her electronically.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Mullins moved and Lin 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 p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Casillas
USAC Minutes Taker
2009-2010