

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL

Tuesday January 18, 2011  
417 Kerckhoff Hall  
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cris Santos, Emily Resnick, Suza Khy, Charles Ma, Jamie Yao, Kinnery Shah, JC De Vera, Rustom Birdie, Linda Phi, Bob Williams, Dr. Deb Geller, Dr. Berky Nelson, Katrina Dimacali, Willard Tressel, Patty Zimmerman, Isaac Rose, Matt Spring

ABSENT: Jasmine Hill, Stephanie Lucas, Gatsby Miller

GUESTS: Paulina Pepperskaia, Joel Sharples, Rachael Sanders, Ernesto Zumaya, Shoshee Jau

I. A. Call to Order

- Santos called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*The attendance sheet was passed around.*

II. Approval of the Agenda

-Spring moved to add a presentation by Pathway.

-Santos added an appointment for the United States Association representative from the EVP office.\*

-Phi moved to add an appointment for USSA.

-Zimmerman said that the two items would be consent items.

-Khy said to strike the Academic Affairs mini grant.

-Santos moved to strike the EVP travel grant.

-Shah moved to strike the cultural affairs mini-grant.

-Spring moved to approve the agenda, as amended. De Vera seconded.

-Santos called for Acclamation. Santos asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the agenda was approved, as amended.

III. Approval of the Minutes

-Phi said that there was a typo in Calpirg.

-Birdie said that he was absent at the last meeting. The absentee list needs to be revised.

-Spring said that Haney and Yudof were spelled incorrectly.

-Khy said that in her officer report, it says that the motion was opposed when talking about the proposal but it was actually approved. Provos is spelled Pitts.

-Spring moved to approve the minutes. Phi seconded.

-Santos called for Acclamation. Santos asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation.

There being none, the minutes from 1/11/11 were approved, as amended.

IV. Public Comments

*There were no public comments today.*

V. Special Presentations

**A. Campus Climate Survey Presentation- Montero, Viele, McKinney**

The three presenters talked about a campus climate assessment. They talked about 2009, where the campus chancellor planned for a diversity requirement. The last that they heard was that there was a campus climate assessment 15 years ago.

-Dr. Geller said that the last one she heard of was in 1996 or 1997.

-They said that at that time it was a campus climate assessment. They said that the information of the talks were massive. They talked about how the assessments that they wanted to have in order to ensure that the results were utilized. They talked about the action items for the student affairs. They talked about the events in UC San Diego last year and how students experienced these. These led to the office of the presidents to implement this across the system. They said that they are proud to have this initiative in place. Their interest is the campus and our students. They hope to have a credible series of benchmarks. This isn't one office doing this, rather student affairs.

-Dr. Viele talked about how excited they were to do this assessment. She said that this would help them get a better understanding of the climate and how the climate varies depending on the student's position in the university. She said that this was the best climate survey that has been conducted. This will help them understand what kinds of activities students are engaging in inside and outside of the classroom. She said that she had a lot of talking notes but would refrain from all of them. Dr. Viele said that they were excited for the students willing to participate in the focus group. She said that one of the students in the group is a design major, which helped come up with the design concept and materials. They have been having meetings with student groups. They have been meeting the CPO, AAP, peer counselors, etc. to invite them to help with the survey and encourage them to have students have their voice heard. In terms of the plans of administering the survey, it will launch on February 14. It will be available for 2 ½ months thru the end of April. The official announcement of the survey will come, with 3 follow up announcements and 2 being signed by Hill. There will be a notice on MyUCLA notices, which will provide students with access to the link. She said that they would access the survey through a unique log on. This is something that they wanted to consult with the council. She said that they would do a blitz of publicity, such as posters, Daily Bruin ads, etc. They have identified a department representative and ambassadors in each department. Champawat is one of the ambassadors. They hope to connect with students, promote the survey, and encourage the students to participate.

-They announced that they had an incredible set of incentives. There is a tier guaranteed incentive structure. The first 1000 respondents are credited with \$5 on their Bruincard. At 30% response, 2,500 students will get the gift card credit. At 40%, an additional number of students will be guaranteed that credit. If 50% of students respond, every student that responds will get \$5 of BruinCard credit. Those who respond before the end of February, 2 students will receive lunch for a month. This is \$7 a day for four weeks. There are Dodger tickets, Galaxy tickets, etc. There is a pool of grand prizes, such as 2 iPads, \$100 gift cards to the bookstore, annual parking card, and a set of football tickets to any UCLA home game. An early responder prizewinner is also eligible for the grand prizes. People could also win gift bags from UCLA recreation that have a variety of items in them. Everyone who responds is invited to a symposium, where they will discuss the meaning of the results.

-Students are known for not participating in the survey. The climate is right for making this actionable. They have a team of staff that will work with staff and students to make meaning of the results and use them. They are committed to create a series of fiat luxes, which will allow students to make sense of the data and what it means in terms of practice on campus. They are all committed to utilizing the survey.

-Khy thanked all of them for coming in. She said that the survey is important in looking into what students are going through. She asked what the goal is in terms of the amount of student responses they would like to see.

-Generally for a population survey, the general response rate is 30%. 50% would be slightly out of reach, but nevertheless they believe that this is reachable. They are trying to do a lot of outreach and hope to influence students. They hope to see students who want to fill the surveys out because it impacts them or someone they know. They are trying to engage students through student affairs. They hope that the meaningful personal connection is there for students.

-UC Berkeley routinely surpasses participation on any survey. They are aware that this is a high objective, but it is certainly in reach. They hope to give groups a voice, from veterans, undocumented students, foster youth, etc. They hope to drill into their experience as deeply as they can. Apart from the 50% target, it is important that they have representation from students who feel marginalized and not connected. This is an opportunity to make student's voice heard.

-Khy said that the incentives would work. If they can get the survey relatable, they will be able to get students to participate.

-Resnick said that students would be presently surprised. She said that it is refreshing to see people so passionate about the school and students. She said that they could have computers around campus, such as on Bruinwalk, for people to fill out the surveys and to make it more accessible.

- Spring said that Hill told him that she apologized for not being present at the meeting. He asked how long the survey would take per student.
- They said that the survey would take around half an hour to complete. She said that a student could log off and continue later. This will be information that the student will receive before they do the survey.
- Birdie said that he could change homepages to the survey so students wouldn't miss it. He also said that they could utilize social media. He said that they could message all of their fans.
- They said that they wouldn't create a page for the survey so that they would direct them to the survey rather than a fan page. They said that any student affairs department would have students take the survey. They said that they want to utilize already existing pages. They said that the council could also spread the news about the survey.
- Spring said that the conversation that they're having is important to get student participation. He mentioned the hill and contacting peer counselors. He said the way that it is explained to students is important.
- Shah asked if they would have access to promotional materials to pass out during events.
- They said that they would be able to give them promotional materials. They could also send electronic materials
- Birdie asked how many months the survey will be live.
- They said that it would be from February 14-April 30. There is a period of time that the survey will be available to other institutions. They will only go to the end of April because of the senior survey. They won't get data until August because of processing the files. They will receive a clean survey set when it's ready.
- Dawn (from Calpirg) said that people could compete on Facebook to see how many people can get their friends to complete the survey.
- They said that there is no way that they can verify that a person took the survey. The code that they get is not tied to the data they get. They like the idea. They said that during the election, they had a voter sticker. They said that they would like to get something similar to this for the survey. They asked if they were persuaded to take the survey.
- Ma asked if they considered more forceful methods of taking the survey.
- They said that there is a body on the campus that makes sure that they are not coercive in distributing the survey. They cannot do anything that is tied to their status as a UCLA student. They said that they wouldn't want to create that climate, but this is an excellent idea.
- Yao asked if the information that is gathered as a result from the surveys would be posted online.
- They said that a lot of information is put onto the website. Frequency charts are put up, which gives them a sense of what was in the survey. They do topical reporting and a briefing. They have a data request process, where they can see certain aspects of the data. They never report on data that has a cell size, where there are fewer than 10 cases because that could possibly make a student identifiable. Students can put a data request for data that they already have. They have student groups in CPO that get data to frame their request for funding. Once they have this data, students have access to the data just like the rest of the campus. All of the reports are available electronically through their website. They also said that there would be fiat lux courses where students will have access to the data.
- Khy said that they could use the dining halls to advertise the surveys. They also will be doing table tents. She asked what are some of the topics that will be in the survey.
- They passed out a summary of what would be included in the Diverse Learning Environment survey (DLE). The survey asks about individual level subjects, perceptions, behaviors, activities, what kinds of interactions students are having, experiences with discrimination, what kinds of experiences they're having in the classroom, validation (interpersonal and academic), etc. They found that all students benefit educationally from a diverse environment. This is dependent on the quality of the classroom environment as well as the intentionality and the inclusiveness of co-curricular programs, such as service learning. They hope to learn more about student's feeling of belonging, connection to the campus, the extent to which they're experiencing diversity inside and outside of the classrooms, the work force, etc. They hope to explore psychological experiences, etc. and see how they reflect on the student.
- Dawn said that they could use headlines to capture what the survey encompasses.
- Santos said that the survey includes some of the initiatives they have for the year.
- They said that the council should let them what tools they need to make that happen. They said that if they need materials to make this happen, they would like to assist them.

-Spring said that one of the appointees has to leave early for a meeting. He moved to table the presentation to appoint Ernesto Zumaya. Ma seconded.

### **B. Calpirg Presentation- Champawat, Peperskaia, and Sharples**

Champawat said that by agreement, a 15% "fee payment" needs to be contracted. The most recent data is that it fell below the threshold this fall quarter. This brings variance in the contract. He said that they need to have pledge drives, etc. to allow them to bring up their numbers of pledges. He said that from an ASUCLA perspective, they want to bring them back up to this state.

-Peperskaia said that Calpirg is a statewide organization that ranges to combats cuts to higher education. She said that statewide, it is across the UC system. 30,000 students pledge \$10 on their term bill to hire professionals to lobby full time on their behalf in Washington and Sacramento.

-Sharples said that they believe that Calpirg's goals align with the university mission, such as carrying out civil engagement. He said that he learned about public speaking, chair meetings, put together Powerpoint presentations, etc. He said that everyone has issues that they care about, and Calpirg showed him that they don't have to sit back and wait for someone else to take action. He talked about learning and teaching. He said that Calpirg allows students to learn and gain a broad range of disciplines followed by the opportunity for in-depth student of a chosen discipline. He talked about transit. Calpirg is the main group working on grounds. He talked about prop 23, where they pledged to get students to vote no. He said that thanks to the campaign, they got 7,200 pledges to vote no from UCLA students. He talked about the New Voters Project, which registered more than 700,000 nationwide. He said that they have a global warming solutions campaign. There is also Calpirg and AmeriCorp's Energy Service Corps as well as a Higher Education campaign. They will be combating campus cuts to champion for higher education in California.

-Peperskaia said that she is working for open source textbooks and changing the textbook industry. Students normally pay \$900-\$1000 a year (for three quarters) on textbooks. She said that they have a 15% contract pledged, averaged over quarters. Usually, they are under the average. Threshold assumptions include that there is a 35% drop spring to fall vs. 25%. They said that they weren't sure why people dropped. They said that a 10% threshold would allow them to have a robust program. She said that the state agrees that this would allow them to run a robust program and allow them to do what they do best.

-Dr. Geller asked if they were both UCLA students.

-They said they are.

-Dr. Geller asked what Calpirg has done specifically for the campus from their perspective.

-Sharples said that it is not necessarily about giving back to UCLA students but rather giving back to large issues. He said that coming here from the UK, he is fulfilling his potential.

-Dr. Geller asked if they do any programs on campus.

-Sharples said that one of their campaigns is to educate people.

-Peperskaia talked about working for lower costing textbooks. She said that they are not taking student's money and working outside of campus but rather promoting working with students and telling them they can make a difference. This is how they give back to the campus. She said that she learned about how politics affect students. She talked about the feeling of apathy and that Calpirg is unique in that it works with students where they can make an impact.

-Santos asked how the issues are chosen every year.

-Peperskaia said that they voted on global warming as their lead campaign. It was between higher education and global warming. They have a formula for what is most applicable to relevant issues, workable, and recruitable. They choose a campaign in which they can make the most tangible change.

-Rose asked why they have a 15% threshold.

-Peperskaia said that this was a part of their contract and hasn't changed since then. They voted that 10% would keep them in line with the other UC's. They raised the membership to \$10.

-Spring asked how many active interns they have and what they do besides give \$10 a quarter.

-Peperskaia said that they have 20. The internship is rigorous. They look for students that can manage.

-Spring asked if there were people de-pledging.

-Peperskaia said the change in amount hasn't changed the number of people that pledge.

-Dr. Geller said that university campuses impliment guidelines. They can be more severe, but not more generous. UCLA campus has always required an increase in the amount for pledge needed a referendum. They needed a 20% turnout and a majority vote. The officer of the president policy allows the chancellor to grant an exception on requiring a referendum. Last spring, when Calpirg decided to increase the amount without referendum, they took it to both governments. One of the pieces of concern was that they would

not keep their numbers up. Last year and GSA government endorsed the request. They asked the chancellor to increase the mandatory pledge without referendum. They did it as a piece of support and their commitment that they would maintain a 15% increase. The request that it was lowered to 10% would only work if USAC and GSA asked the chancellor to do it. Dr. Geller said that they are asking for a written resolution to the chancellor to reduce their threshold before the end of their terms. Calpirg would also go to GSA. It would be up to the chancellor whether to grant the request or not. They have the ability to grant or deny the request. It is 15% as selected by administration following referendum that recognized these pledges. There was never any reason before to revisit it because they had always maintained it. The numbers last year were ranging from 15-22% a quarter. This was the first time when their numbers dropped significantly. They never struggled to achieve the 15% average before. Dr. Geller said that there is no way to link a cause and effect between the drop in numbers.

-Champawat said that on the Calpirg side, there is a rationale for what the appropriate threshold is. He said that UCLA might have a different idea for what the threshold is. He said that if they were unable to resolve this, the outcome would be disenfranchising the mechanism. Anyone that pledged would time out. He said that what is in play here is their existence.

-Dr. Geller said that they would be RCO eligible for funding. They would not have access to the pledge system for fees going directly to them.

-Resnick said that the student body usually just knows Calpirg as adamant members of the student body. She said that an image revamp could be in order. She said that they could offer incentives. Resnick said that if more students knew what they stood for, their numbers could go up.

-Sharples said that this is a good argument to readjust the threshold to 10% because at 15% they would be struggling to get people to come. If it was 10%, they wouldn't have to be as aggressive and they could focus more on the issues.

-Champawat said that the engagement in the community could drive pledging. He said that they should make sure that their group is being more open-minded. A presence in the community could influence students to pledge.

-Santos said that from his experience in the EVP office, they worked a lot with Calpirg in terms of voter registration and Cal Grants. He said that their capacities are different. For example, UCSA cannot support propositions, whereas Calpirg can. He said that he would encourage more communication. He said that last quarter; the campaign was centered on Prop. 23. Now, the staff could work on their campaigns and it is for the benefit of the students to be on the same page. He said that it contributes to the apathy that they sometimes see. Santos said that they do a lot of great work and they hope to work with them.

#### **Rachel Sanders- Residential Services Coordinator with Pathway**

Pathway is a residential pathway that is fairly new. Sanders talked about employment, internship, and volunteer opportunities. The program started with parents with children with intellectual challenges. Often, students with disabilities aren't taught skills to gain employment. She said that parents came together for something better. Pathway was formed from that idea. She talked about an intellectual diagnosis. Pathway was formed to address four components: education instruction, residential life, recreation, and learning concretely. Sanders talked about independent living skills. They have internship experience, how they go about looking for employment, etc. She talked about transition skills that would allow students to learn how to live on their own. A large number of their students can live independently, work, have their own housing, and have access to the community. She said that some positions that they are looking to hire are the residential assistant position. They would get room and board rather than monetary means. She said that a lot of what they're expected to do is set up programming, where students learn about campus life and what to do at UCLA. Sanders said that the RA could talk about things that matter in terms of life skills. They would be responsible for peer counseling, settling roommate differences, etc. She talked about documentation, which is mostly electronic. The work schedule is extremely flexible. This would be one day a week and one weekend a month. This position is conducive to a busy student. Graduated students could also take on this position. The location is a block and a half from De Neve off Gayley in between Landfair and Kelton. They are hiring for a residential programming assistant. This would be less than 20 hours a week and is \$14/hour. This position is important because they help student's access things according to their interest. She said that they might work with groups, individual students, etc. There are internship opportunities as well. They have job coaching, which is twice a week. They are given class credit. This is an important position as well. They just received a \$2 million grant where students integrate their class work. The students go out and audit classes. The educational intern coach keeps students on track. This is

class credit as well. Overall, volunteer opportunities are fun. They are looking for people that can bring their ideas to the table. They would help students in the classroom; break down language to simpler terms, going on a Disneyland field trip with them, etc. The housing research volunteer is a new position. They would get apartment information for students to look into. They would call and do house hunting. They would help make phone calls, with hours being 2-5 hours per week. They are interested in reaching out to campus and get connected with the students more. The students are 18-25 years of age. The students love the games and UCLA. The students would love to learn more about the world in the broader sense. They hope to staff the program as it grows. Sanders said that they could contact her. The open house is soon. This would be an opportunity to learn about the apartment and meet the students. Sanders thanked the council for their time and encouraged the council to look into Pathway.

-Dr. Geller said that it sounds like a great program. She asked if there was a partnership with the office of residential life.

-Sanders said yes and they are looking into recruitment. They are looking into what types of training and programming they could do.

-Dr. Geller wished her best of luck and said that it sounds like a good program.

-Yao asked when they would want the applications.

-Sanders said that they give priority to applications given today. They review applications starting on the 31<sup>st</sup>. They hope to get the entire process completed before freshmen sign up for housing (March 18). She said there is no cut off point and they are recruiting for next year.

-Yao said that they have a part of the president's office that works with the office of disabilities and that she could provide her with contact information.

-Sanders said that this is open to everyone and that there is a lot to be learned, regardless of a person's major.

-Dr. Geller asked if undocumented students are eligible to apply for the RA position.

-Sanders said that they are not sure, but they can contact the HR.

-Santos said that if any students are interested in following up if they should contact her.

-Sanders said that they could send their resume to HR or contact her for questions.

## VI. Appointments

### **Ernesto Zumaya- EVP Representative to USSA**

-Zumaya is one of the co-directors for national first and is a chair for golden Pacific, representing California and other states for the committee.

-Zumaya is a fourth year English major.

-Spring moved to approve Zumaya as the EVP Representative to USSA. De Vera seconded.

## 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**

-Khy moved to approve contingency allocations. De Vera seconded. A total of \$4,966.95 was requested from contingency of that, a total of \$3,630.36 is recommended for allocation for this week. Currently there is \$105,717.68 remaining in the fund.

-De Vera asked if they were able to fix the line item.

-Rose said that he was, but the total remained the same.

- Phi asked why the USAC Gen Rep 1 office didn't receive funding for supplies.
- Rose said that they grouped plates and cups with food rather than supplies to be consistent with what they've done throughout the year.
- Spring said that only one of the items he applied for got scores.
- Rose said that this was an oversight. For the take it to the hill event, they received all threes. For the dinner, they received 3, 3, 2, 3.
- Spring asked about clarification on his application.
- Birdie asked which of the events is December 28<sup>th</sup> on line item number 8.
- Rose said that this was a typo.
- Shah asked why they would put cups and plates under food.
- Rose said that they used to not be able to fund for food. He said that they didn't want people to go to contingency just for a way to get dinner.
- Spring asked if people were asking for tablecloths and people brought food, if they would request under food or supplies.
- Rose said that this would go under food.
- Spring asked if they had tablecloths with no food being served, if this would go under food.
- Rose said that this should be expanded on in the statement of need.
- Dr. Geller said that this is fairly consistent with other funding. She said that usually utensils, plates, etc. are under food. She said that it is not outrageous that contingency is treating it this way. Dr. Geller said that they could bring this up for next year. If they would like to change this next year, they could bring this up with the finance committee that would come next year.
- Santos asked if they could clarify that that plates, etc. are under food on the guidelines.
- Birdie said that there is a funding study group that deals with issues like that.
- De Vera called to question this week's contingency allocations. Spring seconded. With a vote of 9-0-0, the contingency allocations for this week have been passed.

#### VIII. Officer and Member Reports

##### **External Vice President--Chris Santos**

Santos said they had their retreat this past weekend. The first retreat they went through informational trainings and to inspire everyone to get involved and understand why they do what they do. He said that the EVP sponsors the conferences in Sacramento and in Washington, DC. He said that one of the applications is on the EVP website. Santos encouraged everyone to let their listserves and staffs know about these conferences. Santos said that the deadlines are set for the first and second weeks of February, with the state conference being earlier than the national conference. Santos said that they were working with the state affairs component on the DREAM Act postcard. They are working to get entities on board with this petition. Santos said that they would appreciate it if they would get people to send postcards. Their goal is to get 10,000 postcards. They have their educational material for the information for outreaching for their budget campaign. They will be having lobby visits with the speaker of the assembly this Friday. Santos said that thanks to the Bruin Lobby Core, they have been able to maintain a good relationship with the speaker of the assembly. They would be talking about the budget. The regent meeting was today. Santos will be going Thursday along with some students coming from his office. Two UCLA students will be able to talk to the regents face to face. They will hear back from them hopefully this week.

##### **Academic Affairs Commissioner--Suza Khy**

Khy said that last quarter, they talked about what to do with surplus. She said that they talked about having a USAC representative. She will put an application on the website to be on the scholarship committee. She said that some of the things they would review are the conduct code and the wording. The proposal for the revision is to go through the office of student affairs. Khy said that another item that will be under review is the different funding proposal, which includes how the UC system allocates funds.

#### IX. Old Business

*There was no Old Business this week.*

## X. New Business

## XI. Announcements

-Spring said that the USAC Goes to You tour is on Thursday at 6:30. They will be visiting Circle K International. He talked about the roll off, which will be next Wednesday. This will be low-key, with tables and food. This will be a mass visibility of USAC. They are requesting three people from their staff to be visible. This will be from 11-1. Spring said that they have a document screening in De Neve plaza.

-Rose said that SOOF hearings are this week.

-Phi said that they had their mental health week meeting today. They are planning for week 9 and got logistics worked out. There will be another yoga class and yoga under the stars. The QPR will be held, where students can be certified in mental health issues. This is under CAPS.

-Dr. Geller said this is QPR and is the suicide gate keeper.

-Phi said that they could learn about suicide, depression, and students could learn how to direct students to the right places

-De Vera said they solidified campus awareness week for week 5. This would include the IVP office, the hill, Gamma, Phi's office, and his office. He said that Monday would be the kickoff, which would be a campus resource fair. There will be things held by the UCPD as well as other workshops throughout the week.

## XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*The attendance sheet was passed around.*

## XIII. Adjournment

- Birdie moved and Resnick seconded to adjourn the meeting.

- Santos called for Acclamation. Santos asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m. by Acclamation.

## XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Dimacali  
USAC Minutes Taker  
2010-2011