

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL

Tuesday, August 16, 2011
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Emily Resnick, Kristina Sidrak, Joelle Gamble, Daniel Soto, Jamie Yao, David Bocarsly, Dan Chikanov, Dr. Deb Geller, Dr. Berky Nelson, Laureen Lazarovici, Andrea Hester, Kinnery Shaw, Patty Zimmerman, Bob Williams, Ronald Arruego, Raquel Saxe, Matt Abulara, Jason Smith, Tamir Shoklapper, Michael Starr, Roy Champawat, Katrina Dimacali

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Chris Flores, John Joanino, Flavia Barrogan, Chris Bunker, Anela Arunarsirakil, William Ruiz, Sophia Paik

I. Call to Order

- Sidrak called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

A. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Arruejo moved to strike contingency
- Saxe moved to strike capital contingency
- Shah moved to strike cultural affairs grant
- Gambelle moved to strike the travel grant

Motion to approve the agenda by Shah, second by Starr.

Resnick called for Acclamation. There being none, the agenda was approved, as amended.

III. Approval of the Minutes

*August 2, 2011

Motion to approve minutes by Gamble, second by Shah.

Resnick called for Acclamation. There being none, the agenda was approved, as amended.

IV. Public Comments

Chris Bunker- London Avenue

London Avenue from Westwood. The owners sent him to observe what USAC does and to learn about the various committees. He said that they could help with catering or non-campus event. He said he would leave business cards for the restaurant. He said that he wanted to learn about their process.

-Smith said that he loved the drinks there.

V. Special Presentations

A. "The California Dream Act and Statewide Advocacy"- Gamble, John Janino

Gamble said that it is important to talk about the DREAM act and it was recommended that they do a presentation. Gamble talked about the DREAM act composition. She asked if they had heard

about the DREAM act.

-Dr. Geller said it would provide financial support for undocumented students to attend the university.

-Gamble said that it would provide for financial assistance. It is a matter of equal justice, not just financial aid. It would allow them access for aid from the state and university. She said that it has to do with residency in California and doesn't only encompass undocumented students. She said that they have been fighting for this since 2001. She said that people this is the closest they've been to passing the DREAM act. She said that it's important since they have seen half of the DREAM act pass, since it was split into two parts. She said that they still have the other half to pass. She said that it is a controversial piece of legislature.

-Janino said that the provisions are separated by AB130 and AB131. It was signed July 25th, which allows AB540 access to privately funded financial aid. IT does not ensure access to Cal Grants or UC grants.

-Gamble talked about AB131. She said that this is the meat of the DREAM act. She said that a lot of schools couldn't offer that many private funds. She said that AB130 is less than half of the DREAM act in her opinion. She said that this part of the DREAM act really allows students to get funding from the university. She said that it doesn't allow access to legal residency, but this is the part of the DREAM act that really matters.

-Sidrak asked if access goes to pools of funds after everyone else received funds.

-Gamble said it does.

-Janino said that on Friday, they would have a call-in day to Senator Darnell Steinberg (916) 651-4006 and Senator Christine Kehoe. She asked the council to take down these numbers and they will send out a script.

-Gamble said that these are in the values of the university. She said that they stand for diversity and affordability. She said that it is for the benefit of California to have these graduates contributing to society. She said that this is a social justice issue. She said that it affects more than one community on campus. She said that the diversity adds to everyone's educational experience. She said they shouldn't be participating in an elite institution. She said that education is a right. She said that this gives a chance to interact with people from all backgrounds. She said that education is a way for people to better their situations and their communities. She said that they are saying that they cannot be who they want to be, and who are they to say that by denying them these funds.

-Janino talked about some of the arguments against the DREAM act. He said that people think it will negatively affect the financial aid of other people. He said that they upped the Blue and Gold plan and any student that qualifies will get their financial aid. He said it would not take away from non-AB540 students. Gamble said that people pay into the system and don't get anything back. Janino said that it doesn't only affect a small group of students. He said that AB540 students shouldn't be stigmatized. He said that people think that it provides an incentive for more unlawful immigration into California. He said that there are provisions to the DREAM act. He said that people think they don't pay taxes, therefore, they do not pay into public education. Gamble said that people that are working pay taxes and some people pay to the IRS. She said that they are contributing. Janino said that some people think that illegal immigrants do not deserve an "American" education. He said that education is a right.

-Gamble talked about economics and justice. She said that the state has a responsibility to make sure that you should attend if you qualify. She said that people from all backgrounds deserve the right to an affordable education. She said that if people want to be exposed to as many people as possible, they should make sure that every background should have the chance to attend the university. She said that if you graduate from a California high school, you should be able to graduate to a California university.

-Starr asked if they could email out. He asked when they should call.

-Gamble said that they could call whenever. She said that UCLA will be calling around 11 so that they know that this is an organized effort.

-Ruiz asked if they are passing the acts one by one.

- Gamble said that it has been split and are being looked at individually.
- Arruejo asked if AB130 is in effect
- Gamble said it would start January of next year
- Saxe asked what are some of the other issues they're talking about at the UCSA congress.
- Gamble said they're going to talk about revenue, financial aid, etc. She said other campuses might talk about their own campus's projects, admission process, etc. She said that they would find out when they get there.
- Janino said that they make sure that everyone learns about the issues and how they want to address these. He said that this year, they will decide on the most pressing issue. One of the campaigns has to be an affordability campaign.
- Gamble said that by institutionalizing affordability, they could work on more than one issue.
- Resnick apologized for being late.

VI. Appointments

- A. *Uyen Duong for Community Service Mini Fund Committee Member
- Smith moved to approve Duong for community service mini fund committee member. Starr seconded.
- Sidrak said that she has a passion for serving the community and off campus projects. She said that she's worked on community service organizations and learned about the importance of this fund. She said that she would be a great access to the fund. Her recommendation was approved 3-0-0.
- Duong introduced herself as a 4th year MIMG student. She is project director for APHC.
- Resnick asked why she applied for this position.
- Duong said that she was able to see how funding really affects students. She said that it's great that students want to go out, but resources are sometimes a problem. She said she wants to be a part of this because it works with off-campus events.
- Saxe asked if she applied for this grant and what she would prioritize for applications
- Duong said that she has applied. She said that transportation and supplies are important. She said that transportation is important and sometimes students don't have access to sites. She said that it could allow students to volunteer or prevent them from doing anything. She said that it allows for direct service.
- Dr. Geller said since she was involved with a group that applied for funding, how she would ensure fairness.
- Duong said that in CPOSA, she was able to learn that there are other socioeconomic variations. She said that seeing these different groups made her realize that there were a lot of groups that need help.
- Yao asked what are some things she would be looking at in terms of how much she allocates.
- Duong said that she would like at previous evaluations. She said that she wanted to ensure that they follow through with their goals. She said that she would look for co-programming to decrease overspending.
- Gamble said that ARC, she mentioned talking to projects. She asked how she would do that.
- Duong said that there are pockets from organizations. She said that there are a lot of projects that are put together. She said that she could go to meetings. She said that she could address independent groups via Orgsync since people are signed up through there. She said that she could use the enormous activities fair, since all the projects are there. She said they could have a table for funding opportunities.
- Saxe called to question. Chikanov seconded. There were no objections. With an anonymous vote, Duong was approved for CS committee member.
- Duong asked if there was any follow up.
- Zimmerman and Dr. Geller said they would speak to her.

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

- Sidrak moved to approve contingency. Chikanov seconded.
- Arruejo said that he sent out recommendations Saturday. He asked if they had questions. He said groups 5-10 applied as 6 different groups on one application but they are doing it together so they are given credit for collaborating.
- Resnick said she likes the new format.
- Dr. Geller asked if he could indicate how much is left in the fund.
- Arruejo said he would make sure it is on the next reports.
- Zimmerman asked if they are in regular contingency.
- Arruejo said yes. He said this is until May 31.
- Starr called to question. Saxe seconded. There were no objections. There was no capital contingency this week. With a unanimous vote, contingency was approved.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President - Emily Resnick

Resnick said hello to everyone and welcomed everyone back. Resnick said that between 3rd and 4th week, there would be a USAC orientation. She said that it would be along the lines of a USAC coalition. More details would be to come. She said thank you to emails about appointments. She said that they only have a few more appointments to do. She said that a bunch have come in the last few days. Resnick said that USAC would have a booth at Bruin Fest during zero week. This will be 9/23. She said they could have a velcro wall or inflatable obstacle course. She said that they could only vote for one. She asked who would want a velcro wall.

- Saxe asked how many people could participate at a time.
- Resnick said probably only one. She said that face painting could be a cool addition.
- She asked who would like an inflatable obstacle course. She said they would have a velcro wall.
- Resnick said that if they didn't request parking, they should request some now. She said that they only have yellow forms. She said that they could tell her or email her after the meeting. She said that they are putting together a pamphlet at the enormous activities fair. She said that this would be used the whole year. She said that the deadline for this is August 22. She said that they were forwarded an application to be an advocate at the next regents meeting. She said she met with the volunteer center. She said that Volunteer day is September 20. She said she has a meeting with the vice chancellor to reapprove the Farmer's Market. She said that they could get programs approved at the events office.

Internal Vice President - Kristina Sidrak

Sidrak said that the USAC retreat is coming up. She said admin dinner is C&O's. She said that if there are special dietary restrictions that they should email her. She said that if there are

snack suggestions, they should be emailed as well. She said that ARC is being continued. She has a calendar with the funding deadlines. This will be put onto the USAC website. Sidrak said they are planning funding workshops. She said that she's been working with Ken Heller. She said that she talked with the director of campus resource center. She said that they discussed the museum of tolerance. She said that they are working with certain campuses to partner a workshop or a traveling model that addresses campus climate that encourages active dialogue. She said that they extended a private invite to the museum of tolerance. He will probably come in to do a special presentation.

External Vice President-- Joelle Gamble

Gamble said she had a meeting regarding financial aid reform. She said that she would have a concrete update in a few weeks. She said they have 55 delegates for the congress. The calling day is on Friday.

Academic Affairs Commissioner--Raquel Saxe

Saxe said the past couple of weeks she had a meeting with Mike Franks working on the syllabus on CCLE and on course websites prior to enrollment. She said that 98% of classes have had them before the quarter begins. She said they are working with Anderson to have a place where the syllabus will go. She said that they are building their alumni networks and applications would be coming out soon. She said that she is working with financial supports on the textbook loan library. She said that they are trying to get the books in SAC for easy access. She said that she is working on orientations and talking with people. She said that if anyone has anything specific to present to international students to let her know. She would be meeting with Judy Smith and focusing on Covell and tutoring and the syllabus initiative. She said that she is the dean of the college of letters and science. She said that they are working on academic well being days.

-Smith asked about the syllabus initiative. Smith asked if they are going to be held to that strict syllabus. Smith asked how students would know this is the exact work they would be getting into.

-Saxe said that it's up to the professor. She said that the idea of a syllabus preview would have a larger course description and hopefully how grading is and what reading is required. She said that most likely, there would be a disclosure that the syllabus would change. She said that she's hoping that most would stay the same.

-Dr. Nelson asked how soon professors would have the information available.

-Saxe said ideally, it would be available when they sign up for classes. She said that social sciences have been doing this effort due to outreach.

-Dr. Nelson asked when she plans to have this completed.

-Saxe said that they hope to have the tech side done by next year. She said the independent part of the project is set to be finished winter quarter. She said that they would start for outreach in the fall. She said that she hopes that by the end of the year, it would completely be done.

Patty Zimmerman- Student Supports Services

Zimmerman said that they changed the SGOF process last year to make the process less cumbersome. She said that the application was divided evenly. She said that she printed a cheat sheet for everyone that explains SGOF. She said that she would like to have a one-on-one with everyone to go over SGA basics. She said that Deb Simmons could go over more details. She said that they hopefully get this sorted within the next few weeks.

There was no Old Business this week.

X. New Business

There was no New Business this week

XI. Announcements

-Ruiz said that the FSC has been working on the Bruin Bill initiative. He said that if there were points to be brought up during his meeting to let him know. He said that they've been doing a lot of research on what other schools are doing. He said that coming up would be a textbook scholarship. They will be requesting funding. They will have finalized updates at the next meeting

-Smith said that he would be holding his directors retreat this upcoming weekend. He said they would discuss his platform, Bruin Talk. He said he has a meeting with ORL. He said that hopefully they have a steady meeting. He said that they are a big proponent for this initiative.

-Arruejo said that they want to change the way the application looks. He said he hopes to get the application out soon. He said the application out now works as well. He said he wants to meet with more people to see how they can be integrated with the various financial officers. He said that they could assist with financial applications. He said that they might have a competition to see who can go to the most USAC events. Arruejo said that they would like to do a presentation at the retreat.

XII. Signing of the attendance sheet.

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Smith moved and seconded to Chikanov adjourn the meeting.

- Resnick called for Acclamation. Resnick asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,
Katrina Dimacali
USAC Minutes Taker
2011-2012