

Finalized

Approved November 13, 2013

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

AGENDA

Kerckhoff Hall 417

November 5, 2013

7:00 PM

PRESENT: John Joanino, Avi Oved, Maryssa Hall, Omar Arce, Sam Haws, Darren Ramalho, Lauren Rogers, Armen Hadjimanoukian, Savannah Badalich, Jessica Kim, Jessica Trumble, Lizzy Naameh, Sunny Singh, Cynthia Jasso, Patty Zimmerman, Lauren Lazarovici, Dr. Debra Geller, Danielle Dimacali

ABSENT: Dr. Berky Nelson,

I. Call to Order

-Joanino calls 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

-Oved calls to question. Ramalho seconds.

12-0-0 the agenda is approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes from October 22, 2013

-Badalich calls to question. Arce seconds.

11-0-1

IV. Public Comments

V. Special Presentations

**A. Overturning Citizens United**

Michael and Alyssa introduce themselves as CALPIRG president and the Story of Citizens United. They presented a video on youtube called The Story of Citizens United v. FEC. They read the first amendment of the United States. The role of money in politics started in 1907 during the Tillman Act under President Roosevelt that called for campaign finance reform and

called upon congress to ban corporate contributions to political issues. It limited wealth in political elections. In 1974 Buckley v. Valeo the supreme court ruled that money is a form of speech and limiting the amount a money can donate to a campaign is a violation of the first amendment. In Citizens United v FEC upheld the decision of Buckley v Valeo but with regards to individuals as well as associations of individuals. A business has just as much say in any election than any individual.

-How bad is it? Over 6 billion spent in 2012 election. There was over 2.3 billion spent in the presidential race. The top 32 PAC donors matched 3.7 million small donors. Senators on average spent four hours a day fundraising. The Supreme Court is currently hearing arguments of taking the ban off personal contributions.

-What if our presidential candidates were NASCAR drivers and wore their sponsors on their suits?

-So what can we do? We can pass a constitutional amendments and a USAC Resolution stating:

“Corporations are not people and are not entitled to the same rights and privileges under the United States Constitution. Money is not property not speech. All citizens regardless of wealth should have the opportunity to have their political views heard. Urge legislators to pass a Constitutional amendment. Support Measure C. Addendum containing UCLA student groups who are with us on the issue.”

-The city of Los Angeles is also entertaining this measure, and they are currently asking student groups for their support as well. Other schools have passed similar resolutions, and they are trying to make it a national UC thing.

-Sallie Mae’s total expenditures on political campaigns are 56.6k annually and endorsed Marsha Blackburn and Garrett Scott, who votes against lowering interest rates on student loans and no on additional educating funding, no on 84 million for grants for black and Hispanic colleges, and for green public schools. Sallie Mae is within the top ten private lending companies used by students. They currently offer students rates as high as 11%.

-CALPIRG wants to reiterate the text of the first amendment and asks for USAC support in endorsing and passing a resolution, and they are open to edits and suggestions.

-Naameh asks for their contact information.

[-alyssa.n.nunez@gmail.com](mailto:alyssa.n.nunez@gmail.com)

-Naameh asks if those candidates are congressional candidates

-Nunez states they are congressional candidates

-Jasso states she feels like she saw this resolution before last year. She was wondering if this was presented to council last year.

-Nunez stated that she wasn’t in CALPIRG last year. However, it was voted on by council last year and it didn’t pass.

-Naameh states that it relates to the IGNITE campaign, and a lot of money gets diverted to prison expansion and incarceration and prison guards are a strong lobby force. She states that this resolution is an awesome thing.

-Joanino asks what the relationship of California Common Cause campaign

-They state they want to ally with them and it would be beneficial to work with them.

-Joanino states with resolutions they usually have some sort of an action. He wants to know if there could be any way UCLA students could be engaged with CALPIRG such as canvassing or events.

-They state last weekend they were at UCSB for a conference, and they want to have a corporate wedding to show how ridiculous the marrying of corporations are. CALPIRG is a nationwide organization and they have lobbyists in DC and Sacramento, and students can get involved in lobbying. They are not doing the ballot initiative this year, but creating

momentum to get behind it now would be good. All the UC's that are having a Reclaim Democracy Campaign on November 26 at every UC at the exact same time.

## VI. Appointments

### **Wooden Center Board of Governors - Alex Mercier**

-Mercier introduces himself to the council as a third year polisci major, afroam minor. He is part of CAC on the Word of Wednesday, Black Male Institute, and African's Men's Collective.

-Trumble asks why he wants to be on WCBOG

-Mercier states that health and fitness is imperative to college students. We always hear about "freshman 15" because he can advocate for himself and his wellbeing. It's important that all students engage and invest in their health to extend their life.

-Hadjimanoukian asks what is one of the weaknesses of the recreation department.

-Mercier states that its an issue of efficiency. It gets crowded and you could wait for a machine for up to half an hour. The recent gymflow app that comes out is making it better and once more people get into using it, it can create a better use of the services.

-Haws asked what would be some of his primary goals

-Mercier states that making WCBOG more known and give it the opportunity to help more students. He's not sure how feasible this would be, but for under privileged communities health and fitness aren't advocated and he wants to reach out to them to make sure they understand the importance of exercise and nutrition for our communities. Communities of color have the lowest life expectancies, and that is not only genetic factors but also the diet and external environment.

-Rogers asks if he has an experience being an advocate

-Mercier states that he went to Days of Defiance ii and it was disappointing. They are working on creating an action and public protest that will take place on November 21. He is going to the inner city to help students on their college applications. It's important to reach out to these groups to know they care about the community, all communities.

-Mercier thanks everyone for their time.

*Mercier steps out.*

-Trumble says he's on her staff. He has a lot of passion for what he's talking about and he could be put in an environment and will excel. He works the hardest and is creative with problem-solving.

-Hadjimanoukian states that its cool how he could offer a new point of view, and he wants to bring changes from a cultural standpoint that will be beneficial.

-Rogers asks for an example of a professional setting with administration.

-Trumble states that during Bruin Bash he was the most responsible, he never lost his temper, easily able to talk to advisors, talk to UCPD, and was so together and reserved to communicate effectively and not be emotionally charged.

-Haws state he met Mercier first year, and he is so approachable to students and can't wait to see him thrive in the position. He comes from a diverse background of involvements and communities.

-Jasso states the fact that he is working with Professor Howard, an amazing professor, speaks volumes of how amazing he is.

-Kim states he is very fit. Before the transition between the chairs and dance, they were tied together with plastic handcuffs and he literally rips them and dismantles the entire floor in like 20 minutes. It's a testament that he was up until 6AM and physically working hard. Kim states he is great.

-Trumble calls to question. Badalich seconds.  
12-0-0 Mercier is approved.

## VII. Officer and Member Reports

### A. President

-Joanino states that last Thursday they worked with the Fossil Free UC Coalition where they presented a letter to the chancellor about Fossil Free divestment. His office will be working on the diversity symposium for week 8 of winter quarter, and they hope to take a new direction of community based organizations and have collective agenda items. A campus wide email went out yesterday for SOCC. In 7000 in solidarity, they got contacted from the Ashe center who wants to feature the campaign on the screens. For week 10 they are working in the art gallery for submissions. They are thinking of changing the name to 7000 rising.

### B. Internal Vice President

-Oved states he is meeting with Zimmerman to get the logistics down for streaming USAC meetings. It'll be googlehangouts and free, and the only type of funding would be a webcam and a microphone. A huge thank you to everyone who came to the fellowship meeting. SOUL is partnering with SGL to coordinate different workshop themes. He encourages everyone to submit workshop ideas. You will get SOE points for attendance and it's a great means to get the work that you do out there. He is working with Singh on USAC tours where there will be a mixer in the beginning and a joining council all together at once. This was a cool opportunity to get these governing bodies together. He is meeting with Ken Heller on Thursday to talk about developing mobile panic button to get it done on campus with IT technicians.

-Joanino asks if any of the office's commissions know who is going to be at the SOUL event next Thursday. November 14 in Ackerman grand ballroom.

### C. External Vice President

-Hall states GROW is this weekend. It stands for The Grass Roots Organizing Weekend and registration ends this Wednesday. The next weekend is going to be SOCC, and it's very exciting so look out for that. There is a lovely campus wide email that went out regarding registration. They received close to 100 workshop applications. There will be an EVP week of action on week 8 in conjunction with national, state, and local and on Friday there will be lobby visits. Fossil Free UC is going well. In the future they are looking to work with AAC for teach me how to lobby workshops for the diversity requirement.

### D. Academic Affairs Commissioner

-Ramalho states that Counselor Connect is happening on Wednesday of Week 8 in Kerkhoff Grand Salon to help students, especially seniors. They are doing the first of their transfer workshop series on the hill in Gardenia, talking about the new myucla and a lot of information that might be overwhelming to transfer students. On November 13 from 12:30-1:30 they will have appetizers with administrators. The online education survey his office has been working on has been created. They also have the Academic Outreach Advocates to talk to about any concerns about the academic atmosphere. Lastly, he has a meeting with Yolanda

Morgen and he asked about veteran's concerns about admission. She is very frustrated with the admission process and doesn't make enough consideration for veterans. She projects there will be over 100,000 applicants and it would be hard to do a rolling applicant. When you apply, perhaps write it on a special circumstances. There's a difference from people who plan out and those who hope everything will happen last week. She is a wonderful administrator. They are also currently working with Afrikan Student Union on making their program become a department for African-American Studies.

#### E. Cultural Affairs Commission

-Trumble states that they have Word on Wednesday. Tomorrow is the first Bruin in the Kitchen making Jamaican food in LATC 4-6. On Week 7 they are bringing Shihan, the founder of the poetry lounge in LA. She recommends everyone to go to the poetry lounge and it's a great place to find community. She encourages everyone to check out the art gallery, and write now it's booked by Students of Justice in Palestine. They are finished booking until Spring, but it's open for student groups to fill out. They are currently in the process of hiring their staff for Jazz Reggae and will be interviewing all this week. They will soon be accepting applications for marketing as well. November 19 there will be a panel with the ethnomusicologist professors on the hill to talk about Miley Cyrus and hiphop. She is co-chairing the UCLA diversity symposium, and they are going to do very cool things and encourages everyone's office to get involved.

#### F. Administrative Representative Champawat, Geller, Lazarovici, Nelson, Zimmerman

-Geller asks about approving the minutes from the 11/22/13.

-Ramalho moves to table them again. Oved seconds.

11-0-1 the minutes will be tabled.

Lazarovici has a couple observations of tonight. She has always loved campaign finance reform, but it's not the most scintillating topic for most people. What we learned tonight from the presentation is that gimmicks are very important if you're advocating for issues for that. She is excited to see the idea of the Corporate Wedding. She was really interested in what both Jessica's have to say about Mercier. The specific things they called out were great characteristics, and encourages everyone to be that person that does not freak out under pressure. She's a little worried that there are over 100 workshop applications, especially cause she applied for one.

### VIII. Fund Allocations

#### A. Contingency Programming

-Ramalho moves to approve. Hall seconds.

-Jasso states \$3,844 was allocated and \$48,304.64 left.

-Singh asks what happened about last week for the discretionary.

-Jasso states next week there will be a page justification and a note for the clerical era.

-Trumble calls to question. Hadjimanoukian seconds.

10-0-2 contingency programming is approved.

## B. EVP Travel and Advocacy Grant

-Hall states they allocated \$305 and have \$11,000 left.

## B. ASRF

-Ramalho states they are allocating \$1,000 to the Students of Color of Conference. He encourages everyone to apply to them

## C. Cultural Affairs Mini-Fund

-Trumble states they allocated \$750 to SOCC and \$200 to VSU for their high school conference. \$12,440 left in contingency.

## IX. Old Business

## X. New Business

## XI. Announcements

-Oved states they are gearing up for the off campus live in affair. It is one of their biggest programming events. They got \$3,000 of corporate sponsorships.

-Singh gives a shout out to those wearing the ? t-shirts on T-Shirt Tuesday. The final submissions are due November 12.

-Geller states she won't be here next week, she will be up at Berkeley.

-Naameh states that GR3 submitted a workshop for SOCC "Would you like fries with that?" and how food affects communities of color which is interesting on how Mercier was talking about that. Naameh states they will be working with SWC during the Stress-less fair. Finally, they are having a wall of activism on SOCC that will be mobile to delineate the history of activism on UCLA's campus as well as other UC campuses so people can write in events that happen. CAC is attributing by having artists paint the bottom with symbols of student power.

-Hall re emphasizes that GROW is this weekend. Student Collective Against Labor Exploitation is having an orientation from 1-5.

-Jasso states that the funding advocates/helpers start next week and will be in Zimmerman's office and help student organizations fill out requisitions. The all USAC funding workshop is happening in Kerkhoff 152 on November 19. Her official officer report will be a special presentation on November 26.

-Arce states that Saturday is Day of Service which is a smaller and older version of volunteer day and will be going to about 15 nonprofits such as reading to kids, environment, and many other things. The week after they Issues Awareness Week. The first day would be regarding hunger, the second will be about education, on Thursday it will be regarding homelessness, and on Friday it will be pet advocacy day.

-Badalich stated that they have cold clinics with tissue paper, thermometers, and other stuff. They have a workshop they submitted regarding Title IX rights for SOCC. November 12 from 11am-2pm they are having a gender health fair which will have 7000 in solidarity, planned parenthood, and other organizations. Body Image will be having yoga in the racquetball court. November 21 is the stressless fair with GR3.

-Arce states they just opened the applications for alternative breaks to numerous cities across the USA. He encourages everyone to apply.

-Ramalho states that he went to the debate with SJP and BFI with Bruin Republicans and Bruin Democrats. There are so many great events in student orgs and encourages everyone to find time to do that.

-Kim states that tomorrow Wentworth Miller, multiracial gay star of Prison Break will be an hour Q&A from staff and on audience. Eventbrite registration is sold out, but there will be a stand by line. CEC states that the top 15 submissions for the student film contest on Thursday night at 7:30

-Joanino congratulates Jasso and Ramalho for getting accepted into TFA.

## XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*The attendance sheet was passed around.*

## XIII. Adjournment

Arce calls to question. Badalich seconds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

## XIV. Good and Welfare