

Finalized

Approved January 6, 2015

MINUTES
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

Kerckhoff Hall 417

December 9, 2014

7:00 PM

PRESENT: Avinoam Baral, Conrad Contreras, Manjot Singh, Sofia Moreno Haq, Negeen Sadeghi-Movahed, Fabienne Roth, Allyson Bach, Greg Kalfayan, Cynthia Wong, Irmay Garcia, Carlos Quintanilla, Heather Rosen, Savannah Badalich, Cindy Wang

ABSENT:

GUESTS:

I. Call to Order

-Baral calls the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. A. Approval of the Agenda

-Approval of the minutes from November 18th to December 2nd

-Struck every report

13-0-0 the agenda is approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes

-Roth moved to approve the minutes from November 18 and December 2nd.

13-0-0 the minutes are approved.

III. Public Comments

Turkish students

-We are here to represent a small part comprised of Turkey students as students against the immediate resolution. I appreciate that our school allows us to practice freedom of speech and know how difficult it is from Armenian friends and admire bravery and dedication. It's a privilege to defend one's belief and identity. I would like to exercise that same freedom of speech. After hearing about the Turkey and Armenian conflict in Istanbul. I have the upmost sympathy of a history full of hardships and I hope I can ease their pain. Being part of the UCLA community we are all the leaders of the future and shape a future and put aside stereotypes and establish peace and resolution. We have the chance to be role models and tell them, "hey this is how you deal with conflict with respect and sympathy." I know we are the most intelligent, kindest, most giving people in the world. I believe a divestment will not be successful in doing that and coming together and starting a healthy dialogue will accomplish this feat.

-Friends I would like to tell you that divestment from Turkey will not solve any problems. The UC system is a business and by nature it's invested in for tuition, resources, and faculty. Currently the UC is worth 91 billion in assets. The Armenian student association claims that the purpose of the divestment is to accomplish The UC will not burn bonds since it will lead to a \$65 million. The UC will only sell bonds. At the end, even if a divestment occurs it will not pressure or influence the

economy of turkey. The Turkish companies and Turkish people who no way deserve to suffer. Armenian students they find it traumatizing in Republic of Turkey and divestment is not a good argument and will not help them make their point. A divestment will be alienating to Turkish students.

-The Armenian students association has taken their proposal and feels marginalized and their existence is delegitimized. What is it that makes Armenian feels marginalizes when theres a significant application how do they feel delegitimized demonstrations against turkey and can freely speak in public. They say that the resolution aims to remind college students in turkey's humans rights violations in investments. Is our country not held in fair standards? If we are talking about violation of human rights. Why are we not divesting from Venezuela or Russia If they aren't targeting any Turkish students it makes us feel demonized Why is a resolution that displays Turkey as a whole as evil it makes us feel misunderstood and marginalized and puts us to shame. It would inevitable polarize two groups and campuses and marginalize groups.

-Therefore I urge my students to realize is by far the complexity of us. UC regents will not choose and if USAC votes yes it will instill pain and resentment. There are much better ways to deal with this conflict to start a conversation with Armenian and Turkish students and are ready to develop a conversation and its such a harsh measure. I'd like to urge USAC to refocus image instead of focusing on such political and far off topics and represent the whole student body as opposed to one group and encourage peaceful actions instead of something that will lead to hatred.

-Mark Vassar us against UCLA's divestment from Turkey because it stands contrary to reason and principles. The Turkish needs to make amends and it only prevents the sins of ottoman empire and not the Turkish nation. Allow me to present the turks to you and how ive come to know them. They've held free elections, women are allowed to participate despite geographic location and the Turkish people gave them full equality and permitted them to participate in politics. Its only in turkey and it's the first to bring religious freedom and permitting civil marriages and act as a refuge for religious persecution. They acted as a haven for jews during holocaust. Most importantly divesting will drive a wedge between Turkish and armenians. Diversity speaks to more than ethnicity or religion. To transcend old conflicts and work above and here its impossible for Armenians and turks to be friends. It will alienate the turks that are here and this investment will condemn the one liberal and forward thinking nation and join olive tree initiative and pursuit of barriers.

-We are all students and as students of ucla we feel under represented

Gülnaz Kiper:

Hello friends. We are here to represent a small part of UCLA's student body comprised

of Turkish students and students who feel a connection to the Turkish culture and

values. We hope to present our perspective regarding divestment from the Turkish

Republic, the recent proposal put forth by ASA. I would like to start by saying how much

I appreciate that our school allows students to practice freedom of speech and that we are able to do that here today. I wish to point out that I know how difficult and sensitive these topics are for my Armenian friends, and that I admire their bravery and dedication in speaking up about them. It is a privilege to be able to defend one's beliefs and identity, and I'm glad that my peers whom I value have the opportunity to do so. I would like to exercise that same freedom of speech and give you my perspective today.

Friends, after hearing about and discussing the Armenian – Turkish conflict all of my life in Istanbul, I have come to a deep realization and made an important decision. First of all, I have the utmost sympathy for my Armenian friends and peers due to a history full of hardships and I wish every day that I could somehow ease their pain. On the other hand, I believe that being part of the UCLA community together presents our Armenian friends and us with a golden opportunity. We are all the leaders of the future, and we have a chance to come together to shape an incredibly just and bright one. We have the chance to step outside of our comfort zones, put aside our stereotypes, and establish peace and resolution. We have the chance to be role models to our politicians, our parents, our grandparents and tell them, "Hey, this is how you're supposed to deal with conflict. Hand in hand, with respect, with sympathy." God knows both sides suffered from hatred and stigmatization, and heavy feelings of responsibility towards one's ancestors, but I know each of us are among the most intelligent, most giving, kindest, and brightest young women and men around the world. I know that we can make a change, once and for all, and ease each other's pain. I believe a divestment will not be successful in accomplishing that, but will only make Turkish students feel left out of the equation. I believe coming together and starting a healthy dialogue will accomplish the

difficult feat of resolving this conflict.

Ayşe Elif Keşaf:

Friends, I would like to tell you that divestment from Turkey is not going to solve any problems or ease anyone's pain. The UC system is a business, and by nature it invests in countries and corporations that it hopes it can financially benefit from. Successful outcomes of these investments pay for tuition, student resources, and faculty at UC institutions. Currently, the UC is worth 91 billion dollars in financial assets. 65 million dollars, so about 0.7% of those assets, are invested in the Republic of Turkey. The Armenian Student Association says the purpose of the divestment resolution is to economically pressure the Republic of Turkey for justice, but a divestment will not accomplish that because the UC will not burn the bonds it once bought from Turkey since that would lead to a 65 million dollar loss; the UC will only sell the bonds to another business. So in the end, even if a divestment should occur, it will not influence or pressure the economy of Turkey. Moreover, if Turkish products are boycotted in ASUCLA stores, that will also not affect the Turkish government but will only hurt Turkish companies and thus Turkish people who in no way deserve to suffer from this issue. Armenian students also say that they find it traumatizing that their tuition dollars are invested in the Republic of Turkey, but the only reason these investments are made in the first place is so that students can benefit from these investments. Armenian students wish to make a statement, but a divestment is not a good argument and will not help them to make their point. A divestment will only antagonize Turkey and Turkish students, and on very harsh and unfair grounds.

Emre Girgin:

The Armenian Student Association has stated in their proposal that as Armenian students at UCLA, they feel marginalized and that their existence on campus is delegitimized. We just fail to see how this exactly comes about: What is it that makes our Armenian peers feel marginalized when there are a total of 20 Turkish undergraduate students but a significantly large Armenian undergraduate population at UCLA? How is it that they feel delegitimized when they are able to freely make demonstrations against Turkey throughout the year and can freely speak and publish in the Daily Bruin about this issue? They say that the resolution aims to remind college students that they are complicit in Turkey's human rights violations through the UC's investment of their tuition dollars in the Republic of Turkey. I ask you, is our country not held to an unfair standard? If we are talking about violation of human rights, then why is the UC not divesting from Russia? Why is the UC not divesting from Venezuela? Why is only Turkey targeted? Even though the resolution states it is not targeting any Turkish groups or students, it is a very anti-Turk notion, and it makes us feel demonized. If our Armenian peers' concern is humanitarian, then why is a resolution suggested that portrays Turkey and thus Turks as a whole as evil? No matter what is said, this resolution hurts us, it makes us feel misunderstood and marginalized, and it puts us to shame. If our student government votes on this issue, it will inevitably polarize two groups on campus and marginalize an already very small group and thus fail to represent us.

Gökberk Ünal:

Therefore, I urge my student government not to vote on an issue whose complexity is far beyond the comprehension of us, a number of students here at UCLA. UC regents will not choose to divest from a growing and beneficial economy and if USAC votes yes for the proposal, the only thing this will do is instill pain and resentment in us. We believe there are much, much better ways to deal with this conflict and start a healthy conversation among Armenian and Turkish students. We know 2015 will be a tough year, and we are ready to develop a conversation with our Armenian friends and mourn their losses together with them, but know that if such a harsh and unjustified measure against the Turkish identity is taken, chances for a healthy and productive conversation may be abolished. I would like to urge USAC to refocus their efforts on issues that directly affect the student body instead of voting on such sensitive and intricate political topics that have financial ends. I urge USAC to put its time, efforts, and money to represent the whole student body as opposed to one group, and to concentrate on enhancing the student life and encouraging peaceful interactions among our groups instead of voting on something that will lead to hatred, polarization, and demonization.

Thank you.-Mika is the president of Armenian Student Association and theres a lot of talk this is a student issue and one of the biggest student issues. In the early 20th century the ottoman empire did commit genocide. I've lived 15 years with my life about how it first happened he had to change his name from Armenian to Turkish. I want to stress theres important issues and it's a huge issue. We are paying to this government that literally denies what they've done to us and our ancestors and that's why we have the resolution.

V. Special Presentations

A. Bruins for Israel

-We want to take it back to the other geopolitical issue that separates communities. Only 10 minutes compared to 2 hour parade of pro-divestment. We ask that you put all those away and look at us in the eyes. My name is Omar and I'm external and internal president of Bruins for Israel. And I'm Tammy Rubin ex-president of Hillel.

-This is not an issue for USAC we gathered 2,000 undergraduate signatures to show that a critical mass of students agree USAC should put students first. We did not want to partake in a public theater or irrelevant public comment full of hate speech. We had a meeting of 150 students. Your arguments in passing the resolution was "look at the wording of the document" "If no amendments to the resolution can be made then what's the reason not to pass it" "This is about holding companies to a higher standard, not a people" "This resolution is not explicitly a part of the large BDS movement"

-Regardless of everything you said the perception is reality for the BDS movement. After the vote you let this happen and take the incredible sanctuary that is Royce quad "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." Palestine sits next to the Mediterranean and wants to eliminate the entirety of the Jewish state. The chancellor publicly said the board of regents does not support divestment in companies that

-The congressmembers such as Bloom

-This matter was not approached in a busy way to foster campus climate in a neutral way, there was no sense of genuine deliberation as people's votes and arguments were presented on open groupmes, substantial arguments were not looked at in a scope of neutrality grounded in finding a solution but instead as an obstacle from victory. A genuine opportunity to initiate something positive and collaborative was completely ignored. Thank you for Rosen and Bach for something to be positive, unfortunately I was ignored.

-Our positive steps forward after the meeting there was an "Israelis and Palestinians unite" event run by an Israeli and Palestinian friend pair only six people showed. We are moving forward to make positive and tangible change such as Other Voice, Perez Center for Peace, and Friends for the Middle East. I chose to single out Israel, the only Jewish state in the world, because _____.

-You have now endorsed the global BDS movement and now stand as someone who believes that it's the right to not exist. Don't hide behind the language. Put politics aside you're not doing your job, you don't represent us.

B. Armenian Students Association

-Baral states they approached him to special presentation and warned they want to go a little over but if there's any objections.

-Bach asks if it takes from questioning period.

-Baral says no

-Micow and Morris Boycott Turkey Presentation

-The first part is divestment and found out that \$65 million invested as part of the UC Retirement Plan and UC General Endowment Pool. The second part is boycott of products made in the Republic of Turkey, sold by ASUCLA.

-Morrison says they have to include some sort of historical perspective to understand the dynamics. The Ottoman Empire was rapidly and volatile with regards to borders. The time we are talking about is the 1900's. Throughout the existence of the Ottoman Empire, Armenians as a minority and most of them were death-writen landless and peasants migrant workers. After that the young Turks gained power in World War I but a leftist part of that party took control and had ultranational Turkish state that didn't include Armenians. Some fought on the side of Russia. We mark April 24, 1915 as start of Armenian genocide were taken out and marched in the streets and were publically executed. These minorities including Armenians were taken out of the homes and marched to the empire in open air concentration camps and often killed just because they were Armenian.

-Morris states while a lot has been said about time period from 1915-1917 we identify the genocide of 1917-1923 because during this time of turbulent regime change came a part a prominent leader as Mustafa Kemal and continued ethnic cleansing and marched out minorities. The Republic of Turkey was built on racist and discriminatory practices. The genocides didn't stop with the creation of Republic of Turkey, there's been cultural genocide of Armenian churches and jailed all the journalists because they expressed anti-Turkism and the penal code of the Republic of Turkey makes it illegal to say the Armenian genocide took place compared to it's illegal to say the Holocaust didn't happen in Germany. It is incredibly important to actually mention that the very reason we are here today and our families left the indigenous lands was because of horrific atrocity. We were forcibly removed and we cannot stress enough how incredibly traumatic it is. I find it to be incredibly hurtful and offending that my single model works 3 jobs to pay tuition to profiting and helping a regime that continues to deny its role in loss of human life and cultural erasure and immense loss of culture. My tuition dollars goes towards denial of great-grandfather who had to bury his siblings in the Syrian desert. That is why I implore you all and see the region and see the bones of little children and will talk about evidence.

-This is to stress that ASA we have remained action oriented ever since our inception. In our demands for justice we've been goal oriented. These are very few examples, in 2005 the ASA at UCLA which was passed unanimously to boycott Turkish products. In 2012 ASA introduced another resolution that passed unanimously to condemn the denial of Armenian genocide. It's important that usac as a whole has taken a stance to condemn the systemic Republic of Turkey. We also were instrumental in passing a bill called AB 1915 that mandated that public education system educates its generations about all genocides. ASA has been really active in activism since our inception in 1945 to educate all these young people here. In 2014 resolution of boycott and divestment that's being brought January 6 in winter quarter. The boycott is an act of voluntarily abstaining from using, buying, or dealing with a person, organization, or country as an expression of protest. The divestment part of the resolution is from the UC Retirement Plan and General Endowment. Boycott Turkey. This is some sort of justice for actions and harbor no ill feelings to any Turkish people. This specifically targets a regime and sees this as a possible avenue for reconciliation so we can really understand our differences and acknowledge each others histories.

-Roth has a question about the boycott but thinks it directly impacts Turkish people as opposed to the government. Would you have to include boycott in the resolution and from ASUCLA how in terms would it impact them because ASUCLA is a company.

- Morris did research as much as it could and in regards to 2005 USAC didn't pass that but due to some negligence it wasn't reinforced or implicated. Speaking to the ethical arguments or the boycott part, in the sense we are asking you to do, all businesses who choose to work in Turkey are contributing to this. I fully understand that some factory workers are some minorities the fact remains that the owners of these companies are still wealthy and heavily invested.
- Bach states that to her understanding is the government of Turkey. I'm curious to know if you are including government officials because I know there is a minority of government officials who have spoken on behalf of the rights. How do you plan to distinguish boycotting from Turkish government versus Turkey government officials.
- We're finalizing the language for January 6.
- Bach asks if you have 3 council members support the resolution for January 6.
- Mikow sounds he has a plan and is working with council members.
- Baral states he has an email from the board and it would be break before the school starts.
- Roth states would you feel comfortable pushing it back a week to consult both sides to make holistic decision.
- Mikow says if it makes you more comfortable and get facts sheets.
- Badalich states that if you want to give a presentation you can but please be respectful.
- Sadeghi-Movahed asks what is the status of Armenians within turkey today and what human rights entities and organizations have you contacted
- Morris sound the amnesty international as long as the humans rights watch.
- Singh asks for details of financial investments
- Morris said they wont experience any loss and it would be bonds.
- Rosen asks if theres a penalty fee
- Morris said they understand taking these bonds out do take time because of maturation dates but will look into it.

C. Board of Directors

- Denea Joseph is one of the undergraduate representative for ASUCLA and just wants to take this opportunity what the association has been working on.
- Precious Elam is going to give quick updates, one of the things we have began working on is campus partnerships Troy Aikman and Jackie Robinson collection. We are working having food trucks come from finals week for three days from 11PM-2AM. The t-shirt design competition and was highly successful with 280 people submit designs and we picked a winner. Hers was my city, my home, and my UCLA. She won and its going to be sold in the uCLA store and 15% will go towards unicamp to make sure underprivileged kids can go to camp and last year they were able to give \$7,000.
- Joseph states that we should have 2nd or 3rd place and receive a giftcard.
- Precious Elam says that career fairs in Ackerman Grand Ballrooms as well as in Student Union between week 10-finals week as 24 hour study lounges such as Ackerman spaces and students are given proper spaces.
- Denea Joseph states they ae trying to work on gender inclusive restrooms but if youre differently abled its inaccessible.
- The renovation of LuValle commons for healthy initiative and expansion of Kerckhoff and self-serve blend and add full time barista to improve efficiency. We've also included

the music ostin café as well as sweet spot. We now have frozen yogurt where the candy store used to be.

-Joseph states the lack of visibility of ASUCLA and ensure its visible to all students and do org raps and do the hill organizations to make presnetations and reached over 5,000 students because the next day people recognized her.

-Joseph states they are working on youtube channel and making sure people are aware of numbers so by having a channel less than 3 minuts to make it a lot more condensed.

-Kalfayan asks where the food trucks would be

-Elam states near flag pole

-Hourdequin says walkway by sunken gardens

-Baral states that importance of the student union and unbelievable student majority board and services and enterprises. The reason this room is free is because ASUCLA underwrites the profits for facilities. Try to maximize the expenses through the store and we benefit from the store.

-Roth really hopes we come to agreement for coffee rewards program.

-Bach states is studying business law and they are running a fantastic nonprofit.

-Elam states we have a lot more planned for winter and spring quarter.

VII. Officer and Member Reports

A. Administrative Representative

-Lazarovici quoted Mother Theresa “If we have no peace it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other”

-Zimmerman stated that 24 hour study begins in Ackerman and Kerkhoff and theres a van service starting at 1AM on Wednesday and Thursday and starts Monday.

-Wong asks when the cso van pick up area is

-Zimmerman said Bruin Plaza at 1

-Hourdequin asks what part of Kerckhoff is open

-Zimmerman states the meeting rooms and all the kerkhoff and jamba lounge

-Wong asks when does the van share end

-Zimmerman says 6 or 6:30.

VIII. Funding Allocations

A. Contingency Programming

-Wang stated total required is \$14,254.06, requested \$1,396.56 and total recommended was \$990.00 The remaining balance is \$46,456.03

12-0-1

B. BOD Allocations

-Pascual stated 35 programs were funded for winter with a total of \$103,153.36. and have \$140,000 left in spring round

-Baral asks about the application process

-Pascual states in the application they multiply the amount of requesting times percentage of score and then divide it by the total amount and eventually it all comes out beautiful. It takes into account of what they ask for and percentage of committee score.

-Baral thanks member of USAC who sat through the meetings.

-Singh moves to approve BOD Allocations. Sadeghi-Movahed seconds.

10-0-3 the BOD applications are approved.
B. EVP Travel and Advocacy Grant

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

A. Finals Week Meeting

-Baral entertains a motion that there will be no meeting on December 16, 2014.

-Badalich moves to not have a USAC meeting December 16, 2014. Sadeghi-Movahed seconds.

13-0-0 there is no meeting on December 16, 2014

XI. Announcements

-Badalich states that tomorrow will be survivor speak out 6-8pm in caps large conference room and have a lot of survivors in the first 16 weeks of the school year. Love yourself yoga will be in dynasty room in Wooden from 6-7pm and get yoga and get pressed juices. You should've gotten an email by Janina Montero about the round table regarding sexual assault and harassment from 11-1 will be students and staff members because it will be California state assembly members asking UCLA what its doing and what needs to be done. Badalich states it will be in James West Alumni center this upcoming Monday.

-Rosen states that lab coat loan library from 10am-3pm for anyone who wants to donate. I've been working with Zimmerman and Champawat for parking and transportation scholarship for commuter students.

-Garcia addresses the article written about CAC and prior to protesting we need to have a hegemonic narrative. Through the quarter CAC has talked about microaggressions, the school to prison pipeline, and police brutality it is not just CAC's responsibility. It's USAC powers to catalyze change to provide resources needed and cultivate a campus gained in activism and CAC has been doing endless work and its really unrealistic for people to do it the first week and did work on educating students first prior to building a movement. Following the criticism instead of fallatiously critiquing work with us. We are having an underprotected and over policed workshop this Thursday from 5-7pm. Garcia says a lot of movements have been happening now and its not too late to start. She encourages everyone to check facebook page.

-Kalfayan states that on Thursday CEC will be screening Inherent Vice. A new film in bruin theatre and starts at 7:30, first come first serve. CEC will be giving out bright yellow umbrellas.

-Contreras stated that USSA the senate committee on health and labor that will cut 2 billion from pellgrant. UCLA's the largest recipient of the pell grant and will damage it. I will forward this petition because as students we care and cut funding because don't think students care about it. We have a social media campaign

-Hourdequin reiterates foodtruck for finals is happening Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday with an instagram contest for #foodtrucksforfinals

-Sadeghi-Movahed states they created a survey that has an inter-UC transit system and fill it out and let us know if you want a transit system and what price you may pay.

-Bach asks if this is the same survey the senator from Cal is doing

-Sadeghi-Movahed says yes

-Baral states he will have a special presentation when we get back from winter break and regarding surplus about \$100,000. He will bring a surplus discussion and special presentation regarding the idea of sustainable long term funding. If you have a proposal try to get it from week 3 meeting, be cognizant that surplus is low. I'm not going to e here in week 1 but Hourdequin will be here.

-Wang asks if they can move surplus discussion to week 2

-Baral states yes

XII. Signing of the attendance sheet

XIII. Adjournment

-Badalich moves to adjourn the meeting. Roth seconds.

8:38 the meeting is adjourned.

XIV. Good and Welfare