

FINALIZED

September 27, 2016

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

Kerckhoff Hall 417

September 20, 2016

7:00 PM

PRESENT: Danny Siegel, Sabrina Zeigler, Rafael Sands, Ashly Mohankumar, Jordan Dang, Inan Chowdhury, Zack Dameron, Sandra Rhee, Christina Lee, Kevin Yu, Zoe Borden, Divya Sharma, Ruchit Majmudar, Patricia Zimmerman, Roy Champawat, Debra Geller, Rob Kadota, Michael Star

ABSENT: Amy Shao, Ariel Rafalian

I. Call to Order

-Siegel calls the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

A. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*The attendance sheet is passed around*

II. Approval of the Agenda

-Mohankumar moves to strike ARSF.

-Mohankumar moves to table Sujith Cherukumilli.

-Lee moves to strike Arts restoring community fund and student wellness programming fund.

-Sands moves to strike Bruin Defenders.

-Dameron moves to approve the agenda. Mohankumar seconds.

10-0-0 vote the agenda has been approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes from September 13<sup>th</sup>.

-Dameron moves to approve the minutes. Mohankumar seconds.

10-0-0 vote the minutes have been approved

IV. Public Comments

-Patel is a part of Calperg and has been reaching out to many people.

-Patel said they had 202 interest cards were filled out today at the enormous activities fair.

-Patel says we can get 15,000 Bruins by next week!

-Sunjana is president of Pan South Asian Organization and inviting us all to their first even tomorrow 4-6pm

-A member of the graduate association will be here at the meetings every week.

V. Special Presentations

A. Presentation on USAC President's Committee on International Relations (Guo)

-Guo says our international community is comprised of 3,700 undergrads from over 100 countries.

-President of ISA is very excited for this year because she feels as though UCLA helps international students very well.

-15% of UCLA is made up of international students.

- Guo says that many international students are not able to benefit here.
- Guo says we have 3 focuses that are outreach, co-programming, and advocacy.
- Guo says we have programs such as International Student Leaders Forum which will be September 30 4-6pm at Kerkhoff Grand salon.
- Guo says we also have the Peers Helper Program, which is a team of students around the world answering freshmen's questions.
- Guo says they are looking forward to working with USAC to have a more diverse audience and please use us as a resource.
- Rhee asks do you work closely with the Dashew center?
- Guo says yes, they are helping Dashew as much as possible.
- Sharma asks if you have contacted the BRC on how we can work together?
- Guo says we will update you about the results and feedback from the survey to see what BRC says.
- Kadota asks how you are different from Dashew?
- Guo says we are a student organization so we have more of a connection and Dashew holds large events for international students, while we hold intimate events to help.
- Guo says we focus on the undergraduate the most.
- Mohankumar asks to go into detail about the 3 focuses.
- Guo says they are trying to raise issues for this community and to tries to plan events that can bring students together such as the programs we showed you today.

## VI. Appointments

### A. Undergraduate Council Committee \*

Not a stipend position. Involved in the Academic Senate. Helps with decisions on majors, minors, course changes, and course additions to majors.

#### i. Brad Fingard

- Zeigler says 2 out of 4 ARC members have been gone, so there are no recommendations.
- Chowdhury says that Fingard has experience in 4 different USAC offices and has a diverse background and knows how to resolve certain issues.
- Fingard says that he is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year poli-sci major; he is involved in some student affairs departments, which give him a chance to truly engage with students.
- Dameron asks what specific agenda items would you like to handle during this position?
- Fingard says that some classes are difficult to find so he wants to help with that and also wants to work with admissions about programs and careers because we sometimes do not have a specific major or minor for certain classes offered here so maybe it would be smart to open up more majors and minors.
- Sands says that the state is trying to lessen majors, can this council help prevent that?
- Fingard says that he is trying to help make course departments more clear.
- Fingard says that since he is so involved on campus it can help him succeed in this position and focus on helping students get declared within 3 years.

- Chowdhury moves to approve Brad Fingard to the Undergraduate Council Committee. Borden seconds.
  - Zeigler says that he has worked closely with him and knows he understands this position well and will help as much as possible.
  - Sharma says looking at Fingard's resume is amazing since he has worked with so many different USAC offices so he can understand other's issues well.
  - Rhee says that we should be using this time to be involved in council meeting, rather than doing work on their laptops or anything else.
  - Siegel says it is very disrespectful.
- 11-0-0 vote Brad Fingard has been approved.

ii. Ally Miller

- Chowdhury says that Miller has experience from being on this committee last year and wants to expand ARC halls.
  - Miller was a part of the undergraduate council last year and we had an experienced member who helped and built her experience today.
  - Siegel asks given your role as a member of the undergraduate council how can you balance that with other extracurricular activities?
  - Miller says Friday's from 2-4pm I am always free and is always able to attend meetings like last year and hopes to work with Ashly and Miranda to keep everyone around.
  - Sands asks how do you think students can have a say in academic class planning?
  - Miller says that we value student opinion and value questions.
  - Miller says in the past they were trying to get students out as soon as possible and we spoke out against that because it was not right.
  - Miller says we also have a vote on the board to report on the minutes.
  - Mohakumar asks do you believe the sub-committees within UCC work well?
  - Miller says the sub-committees are not always as active as others and that is a problem.
  - Miller says that she enjoyed sitting on UCC last year and wants to accurately represent this.
  - Sharma moves to approve Ally Miller to the Undergraduate Council Committee. Majmudar seconds.
  - Zeigler says that what Miller mentioned in her opening about an experienced member being in her committee is great because she has had the proper training.
- 11-0-0 vote Ally Miller has been approved.

iii. Leah Bayers

- Lee says that we would like to hear more specifics to your answers and would like to learn more about the committees and roles. Lee says Bayers has a background in admissions, which is beneficial.
- Bayers is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year poli-sci major and is involved in the Bruin Ambassador.
- Bayers says her goal is to understand how changes happen and how it goes through different committees.
- Sharma says that transfers are using assist.org to help them transfer, but many colleges are outdated. Do you have any ideas on how to help with this?

- Bayers says assist.org is a great place to start, but sometimes it is better to look at the syllabus and do it on-hand yourself, but it can definitely be worked on.
  - Sands says there is a poster that a statistic of students who cannot get certain classes, how can we incorporate data to show all of this through you?
  - Bayers says by taking these numbers to higher ends can provide a wake-up call and pushing through that can help.
  - Majmudar says last year we got rid of prerequisite units, what are your thoughts on this?
  - Bayers said her high school offered only 2 AP units, it was stressful as a freshman and wants to help others who have this issue.
  - Bayers says that she has been fortunate to get the classes she has needed, but that does not mean that she is not open to changes. She will not have a bias and will be open-minded. Bayer says cross-listed classes can help students graduate on time also.
  - Majmudar moves to approve Leah Bayer to the Undergraduate Council Committee. Dameron seconds.
  - Sharma says he was impressed by her knowledge on this topic and knows what it is like to not get classes for her major, but also get classes for her minor.
  - Majmudar says Bayer answered very well and she is perfect for this position.
  - Zeigler says Bayer is her chief of staff and Bayer always pushes Zeigler to do more, so she is fully supportive.
  - Sands says that Bayer wants to speak for students on this campus who are not heard is a great realization that she has noticed.
  - Siegel says that Bayer has a great perspective here and feels as though she can help many students who were not able to take AP's.
- 11-0-0 vote Leah Bayer has been approved.

#### iv. Vignesh Balasundaram

- Chowdhury says that Balasundaram is involved in a huge number of committees and has taken his experience on a multitude of places. Balasundaram wants to take ideas from other committees to make new policies to enhance students and help students with their academic careers.
- Balasundaram says he is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year biology student who was born in India and grew up in Tennessee and chose UCLA.
- Balasundaram says that by working in different organizations has made him realize that not every student is the same and many do not get a chance to speak out in forums like this.
- Sharma asks what ideas do you have to improve matriculation for transfer students?
- Balasundaram says he has not worked with transfer departments and says the programs are outdated so he will use multiple variables to help benefit the students.
- Sharma clarifies that matriculation meaning will my units transfer over to UCLA?
- Balasundaram says there are classes that do count and there is a cross-transfer list that needs to be updated.

- Sharma says we need a way to tell students that a certain course counts and a certain course does not.
  - Balasundaram says there is a list.
  - Chowdhury says what are some new things you plan to bring to the table?
  - Balasundaram says that there is a flexibility missing due to class interference, which limits students as a whole.
  - Balasundaram says thank you and thinks that he can bring the academic side to light with his experience.
  - Majmudar moves to approve Vignesh Balasundaram to the Undergraduate Council Committee. Chowdhury seconds.
  - Borden would highly recommend him for this position.
  - Zeigler says that appointments should have the passion to do more than they are required to do, Balasundaram had a 3 hour lunch with Zeigler and spoke about so many ideas and issues for campus which is great to see.
  - Sharma says to leave personal opinions out the door and bouncing back and forth with my questions was very impressive.
  - Majmudar says that professionally looking at Balasundaram's resume is great and has always wanted to help others.
  - Sands says that the point of students here is not to find answers it is to educate students and to make sure that the process is so streamline to make sure that admins know what we are struggling with.
  - Sands says these people need to serve as an advocate and not a problem solver.
- 11-0-0 vote Vignesh Balasundaram has been approved.

#### B. Faculty Executive Committee \*

Not a stipend position.

##### i. Taylor Lee

- Lee says that she has a passion for education and this position will help people gain more access to education.
- Lee wants to be a vocal member and stand up for students.
- Lee says she will work hard to create a cohesive voice for members on this campus.
- Lee says she is excited to dedicate her time to FEC.
- Rhee says you mentioned the importance of equal access to education at UCLA, what are these problems?
- Lee says that many faculty members are not looking carefully at these numbers and many students do not have access to these classes.
- Zeigler says that there are a high number of elderly white men on this committee and how will you make sure your voice is heard on this committee?
- Lee says she cannot nearly hold opinions for every student, but has a variety of friends and diverse pockets of connections on this campus to question these older men's perspectives of our campus.
- Lee says she is 1 of 2 undergrad students in FEC so she will be well prepared to articulate the student perspective and cannot wait to broaden her knowledge of this campus.

-Majmudar moves to approve Taylor Lee to the Faculty Executive Committee. Borden seconds.

-Majmudar says that Lee has always gone above and beyond on any task she is given and believes we will have a special benefit with her.

-Zeigler says that she has seen her work with the Model UN and has a stellar attitude and work ethic.

11-0-0 vote Taylor Lee has been approved.

### C. Committee on Undergraduate Admissions \*

Not a stipend position. It deals with the undergraduate admission policies and guidelines during admission process.

#### i. Jack Guo

-Zeigler says ARC did not do an interview because Skype was not working.

-Guo is a senior and is educated in 3 different committees and has personal experience with college committees and how to assist students.

-Guo is looking forward to bringing in his diverseness to this committee.

-Chowdhury asks what is your understanding of the responsibilities of this position?

-Guo says that representing community members such as outreach, to ensure diversity and access also.

-Guo says having been at UCLA for 4 years he has realized there are different paths for each students and wants to whole-heartedly be the best you can find right now to help the students.

-Sands moves to approve Jack Guo for the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions. Majmudar seconds.

-Borden says Guo's public speaking skills are great and has worked with Guo closely so she realizes he can work closely with diverse students here on campus.

-Siegel says Guo is very dedicated to the area of international students.

11-0-0 vote Jack Guo has been approved.

#### ii. Libby Burke

-Lee says ARC thinks Burke is experienced but would love to hear more.

-Lee is majoring in poli-sci and realizes there is a huge approach holistically and is a director of the funding and co-director of housing security.

-Burke says she chose UCLA out of a whim and does not want students to do the same; she wants them to be exposed to the greatness of the campus.

-Chowdhury asks what are your undersnadings of this position?

-Burke says they look beyond number of test scores, which is great.

-Sharma asks what makes you passionate about this committee?

-Burke says she wants other people to get the same experience she has had here for other students. Burke wants other people to apply knowing!

-Chowdhury asks how can you use your involvements to benefit this campus?

-Burke says her organizations are diverse and will reach out to people for their opinions and to meet others to see different views this campus has.

-Burke says she is passionate about this committee and did not realize she would end up here and wants people to be eager to go here too.

- Zeigler moves to approve Libby Burke to the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions. Sands seconds.
  - Siegel says Burke wants to give back to this campus and help future students who plan to apply here.
  - Borden says that she was impressed with her presentation and reaching out to out of state students is great and thinks it is important for future bruins to know why they are applying here.
- 11-0-0 vote Libby Burke has been approved.

#### D. Campus Retention Committee \*

Not a stipend position. Oversees the funding and evaluations of SRC, it is very important for students who do not have a voice on campus.

##### i. Karen Rocha

- Zeigler says ARC has no recommendation.
- Rocha says that she is 4th year sociology major, and has always focused on low-income and minority communities.
- Rocha has always worked with sexual assault victims.
- Majmudar asks how you can help in this position?
- Rocha says she wants to focus on sexual assault and work closely with CPO.
- Rocha says many students do not know where to seek help.
- Mohankumar asks what more do you think UCLA can do to increase retention rates?
- Rocha says that many students do not know where to go or where to even start looking, UCLA has an AAP office, which helps students get allocated to certain programs to help them not feel lost when coming here on campus.
- Chowdhury asks can you repeat some of the functions and values of this committee?
- Rocha says as a low-income and minority student there is not one year when she has thought that she should dropout. Resources on campus have helped her remain a student here and wants to help show these resources more.
- Chowdhury asks what is the biggest struggle for CRC?
- Rocha says that the resources are needed to students to help ensure them to stay.
- Dameron asks how will you ensure student fees are spent to address the needs of the CRC?
- Rocha wants to give students a platform to educate themselves and get in touch with AAP to advocate to their directors.
- Rocha says this is a personal issue because she has seen so many students struggle and it carries on to many different students.
- Dameron moves to approve Karen Rocha to the Campus Retention Committee. Borden seconds.
- Chowdhury says it was extremely valuable that she brought up sexual assault and mental health because these issues are not really talked about in terms of retention.
- Chowdhury says many students drop out due to their mental health and having someone who has been through this personally can help.

-Dameron likes her focus on visibility of resources and talking about things that are not currently an issue right now is great.

-Mohankumar says Rocha serves 3 positions for AAC and can offer so much to this campus. Eric Wells personally asked Rocha to return again.

-Lee says Rocha demonstrated a strong work ethic and will improve knowledge on what this committee has to offer.

-Zeigler says Rocha was speaking so passionately today which shows she really cares about this position and issues.

11-0-0 vote Karen Rocha has been approved.

## VII. Officer and Member Reports

### A. President – Siegel

-Siegel says that he was there last week for the regents of UCLA and spoke about housing security with the regents and UCLA has the highest median rent when living off-campus.

-Siegel says that last week with the senior dean Pat Turner, he sat with a staff of undergraduate education and spoke about how it is important to address issues of housing and food security. Siegel says we need to look into food scarcity and homelessness.

-Siegel says he joined BruinsVote! And is excited to see where this goes.

-Siegel says this weekend he spoke with UCLA Alumni leaders and says alumni leaders have an interest in diversity networks on campus and how they can connect more student body. Siegel says discussing career advancement for students was great and wants to engage more internship for students.

-Siegel says it was an honor to welcome the incoming class and apologizes for the confusion surrounding this event.

-Siegel says last night he had a great experience to attend the foundation center at Luskin regarding student support and are creating a new initiative to help with student support.

-Siegel says thank you for CEC and CAC for Bruin Bash and enormous activities fair, we got many students interested in USAC.

-Siegel joined SFAC for lunch and it is a critical committee on campus for undergrads and wants to collaborate with USAC and advise the chancellor on how student fees should be spent.

### B. External Vice President -- Sands

-Sands says that a 2% height is occurring and is opposed to this because they are accepting to no longer fund our education.

-Sands says we need to fight the state and please let him know if you have thoughts on this.

-Sands says last week regents meeting said that the UC's will work directly with USAC to help enhance voter registration.

-Sands had lunch with Mike Gibson and was amazed at the students caring so much for elections this year.

-Sands says we can register people anywhere and at anytime and we still are open for register and voting online.

-Sands says Saturday at 2pm we are having a second kick-off event.

### C. Academic Affairs Commissioner – Mohankumar

- Mohankumar says we should be advertising a lot more of our internships so eager freshmen will be more interested.
- Mohankumar says Lindy Comstock from GSA will be meeting with her next week and if you are interested to draft a resolution please let her know so she can tell Comstock.
- Mohankumar says Jan Rife wants to have a focus group for transfer students to help them adjust and how technology plays a role in their class curriculum.

### D. Administrative Representatives

- Geller says it is nice to have all students back on campus.
- Geller's office is remodeled for 2 weeks.
- Kadota says the ResLife will be having meetings on Tuesdays from 11am-12pm so please let him know if you want to go or send in some information.
- Kadota says there is a great opportunity for the Westwood neighborhood council and is predominantly white older males too.
- Zimmerman says she has parking permits with her today so feel free to pick them up.
- Zimmerman reminds council that any large items that need to be moved from the office, please contact her directly so she can take care of that.
- Champawat says that making a thermometer to show how much we have progressed in our goal for voter registration is actually happening.

### E. Student Wellness Commissioner – Lee

- Lee says that she is working with what is available to students regarding health and is happening Tuesday at 4pm.
- Lee says we are offering free dental cleaning and check ups.

### F. Facilities Commissioner -- Rhee

- Rhee says she attended the UC Regents meeting and noticed the renewed funding for UCSA and UCSA president spoke to regent representatives to make sure we get funding.
- Rhee says Dayna Carrera worked for UCLA dining and had issues with minimum wage and says we should keep our eyes for minimum wage issues and student rights.
- Rhee says that an undocumented student could not attend here due to not having legal rights and would like to see this change.
- Rhee says she is working on getting a 24 hr Wooden and SGR funds are not received yet so Wooden is as of now regular hours, but once it is received we can reevaluate this. It will most likely not be 24 hours, more late night until 3am.

## VIII. Fund Allocations

### A. Contingency Programming \* -- Yu

- 12 student organizations applied, 2 of them were USAC offices
- Required for \$6,795.80.
- Total requested was \$5,039.52.
- Total recommended is \$1,130.
- Dameron moves to approve the contingency allocation of \$1,130. Zeigler seconds.
- 11-0-0 vote the contingency allocation has been approved.

- USAC president's office required for \$705.81.
- Total requested \$693.81.
- Total recommended \$330.
- Chowdhury moves to approve \$330 for the contingency allocation. Mohankumar seconds.  
11-0-0 vote the contingency allocation has been approved.
- Transfer student representative requested \$153.18
- Total recommended \$110.
- Zeigler moves to approve \$110 for the transfer student rep contingency allocation. Majmudar seconds.  
11-0-0 vote the contingency allocation has been approved.

#### IX. Old Business

#### X. New Business

#### XI. Announcements

- Zeigler says she forgot to put herself in the officer reports, so tonight apply for internships!
- Siegel says USAC publicity chair has living document you can add and email on the USAC website.

#### XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

*The attendance sheet has been passed around.*

#### XIII. Adjournment

- Majmudar moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:03pm.
- Mohankumar seconds.  
11-0-0 vote the meeting has been adjourned.

#### XIV. Good and Welfare