

FINALIZED

November 15, 2016

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

Kerckhoff Hall 417

November 10, 2016

7:00 PM

PRESENT: Danny Siegel, Sabrina Zeigler, Rafael Sands, Ashly Mohankumar, Ruchit Majmudar, Inan Chowdhury, Zack Dameron, Amy Shao, Ariel Rafalian, Christina Lee, Kevin Yu, Patricia Zimmerman, Rob Kadota, Michael Starr, Zoe Borden, Divya Sharma, Zander (Sandra's proxy)

ABSENT: Roy Champawat, Debra Geller, Sandra Rhee, Jordan Dang

I. Call to Order

-Siegel calls the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

A. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet is passed around

II. Approval of the Agenda

-Lee moves to strike student wellness fund.

-Mohankumar moves to strike ASRF.

-Shao moves to strike ARC.

-Dameron moves to approve the agenda as amended. Majmudar seconds.

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

III. Approval of the Minutes from November 1, 2016.

-Zeigler moves to approve the minutes. Rafalian seconds.

7-0-2 vote the minutes have been approved.

IV. Public Comments

V. Special Presentations

A. Special Presentation on Needs of Parenting Students – Ruchit Majmudar and Zehra Abbas

-Majmudar says last year during campaigning he met Zehra and Amanda.

-Majmudar spoke to them about the wellness referendum and realized that people in our position can make a difference for other people on this campus.

-Zehra informed council that has a 2 year old daughter and was pregnant during her freshmen year.

-Zehra says she was dropped down to an alumni position in her sorority due to her pregnancy.

-Zehra moved into reslife on the hill.

-Zehra spoke to her RA about her situation and the RA told her to hide her pregnancy.

-Zehra hid her pregnancy from 5-7 months pregnant in order to not lose housing.

-Zehra had her daughter during finals week of winter quarter and took that winter off.

-Zehra says that she was terrified to lose her position as a student here at UCLA and a week after delivery she was back at school.

- Zehra says childcare costs for early care education on campus was ridiculously overpriced.
- Zehra says she had 8am classes back to back, commuting from Bakersfield, and balancing her job as well as being a mother.
- Zehra says this year in January she realized she cannot do this anymore and wanted to take a stand.
- Zehra's boyfriend watches their daughter Monday through Friday and on weekends she sees her daughter back home.
- Zehra says giving priority enrollment to parenting students would be a great way to change this dilemma.
- Zehra says the childcare here at UCLA has a 3 yearlong waitlist, which is unfair.
- Sharma says regarding your task list, we have been working with the Chancellor towards priority enrollment, and using the lab school for parenting students and to also have a group of students be trained on how to care for children while parents are busy in class.
- Sharma says there are 1,000-dollar scholarships offered for parenting students in the BRC.
- Sharma says if you have any questions please let him know.
- Siegel says thank you for being so brave and speaking on this issue, in the referenda that was passed last year, part of the funds were supposed to go towards parenting students and we are working on that as of right now.
- Zehra says she is willing to help.
- Chowdhury says thank you for bringing awareness to this issue.
- Majmudar asks how many parenting students are here at UCLA?
- Zehra says about 1,000 students are parenting students that are documented; many students are not documented down as a parenting student though.
- Sharma says we also are talking about investing in housing for non-traditional students and we are working hard for that.
- Rafalian says thank you for sharing this story and it is inspiring, if there is any way I can help please let me know.
- Majmudar says he will connect those who are interested to work on this and what next steps do we need to take for priority enrollment?
- Mohankumar says going towards the dean of education to have this actually work.
- Mohankumar says there will be further communication on this for sure.
- Sharma says we need to put pressure on administration for priority enrollment will be appreciated.
- Zehra says many students are currently working on pushing for spaces for parenting.
- Kadota says Title 9 offers information regarding pregnancy and parenting during school.
- Zeigler moves to add 5 minutes of question from council. Majmudar seconds.
- 11-0-0 vote the timing of discussion has been extended for 5 minutes.
- Sands says thank you for speaking on this and we need specifics on what it is like to be a parenting student, many campuses do not work on this and this is our obligation.

VI. Appointments

A. Faculty Welfare Committee

Responsible for anything regarding economic welfare of those on campus.

a. Brian Kohaya

-Brian Koyaha has been approved by consent.

VII. Officer and Member Reports

A. President – Siegel

-Siegel says he wants to recognize the election this week that was very shocking and wants to say thank you so much for the members of this council coming together and hosting events regarding this election.

-Siegel says the ongoing conversations that are occurring are amazing and to continue to help with these peaceful protests by students.

-Siegel says last Friday he met with the leadership in academic center which was great because we all spoke about what is important for different faculty and students.

-Siegel says the election parties were great and thank you.

-Siegel says last Thursday he spoke about gun violence and how we can proactive on this issue.

-Siegel says he met with leadership at UCLA Radio today and wants to have a fireside chat every week to speak about what is going on with us as council.

-Siegel says this afternoon there was a Veterans Day ceremony and it was great.

B. Internal Vice President -- Zeigler

-Zeigler says the results of the election are not ideal for anyone at this table and would like to discuss with council about this.

-Zeigler says IVP is doing Pong with Police next Tuesday, we changed it to Cornhole with Cops, but police may not be available which might prevent event from actually occurring.

-Zeigler says we might change it to the Thursday of week 10 or the Sunday before finals week.

-Zeigler says the t-shirt design contest went great and thank you to those who voted.

-Zeigler says happy Veterans Day and her sister is in the air force, which is amazing.

C. External Vice President -- Sands

-Sands says he knows that the national elections took the attention for good reason and we will continue to work together to help move forward.

-Sands says the polling here was great regarding turnouts which was amazing.

-Sands says thank you for helping us get there.

-Sands says those votes really did matter, local level we passed 1.2 billion dollars to help the homeless population.

-Sands says measure N passed to enhance transportation, decriminalized marijuana, etc.

-Sands says next weekend is the annual student of color conference of UC's being held at UCI, applications have closed already, if you or someone close to you wants to attend I can try and help.

D. Academic Affairs Commissioner – Mohankumar

-Mohankumar says Monday student focus group will be happening taking place in 1215 Murphy 12:30-2:30pm.

-Mohankumar says they are planning to make it an intimate setting.

-Mohankumar says 12-2pm in Kerkhoff grand salon this Tuesday will be reviewing resumes.

-Mohankumar says academic appointment townhall will be happening at 6pm in Bunche 3164.

E. Student Wellness Commissioner – Lee

-Lee says UCC posted information about sexual assault survivors.

-Lee says BCC is hosting an event next week so please look into that.

-Lee says next week is the SWC quarterly oral health fair, with free dentist utensils and check-ups on the hill.

-Lee says SWC will be joining the great American smoke out which is about smoking and reducing it.

-Lee says silent disco is in Powell library that will be carrying on as usual.

-Lee says February 2, 9, and 16th will be training and you must attend all.

F. Facilities Commissioner – Zander (Rhee proxy)

-Zander says the solar umbrellas will be set up next week.

-Zander says we recovered over 30 pounds of wasted food within 2 weeks!

-Zander says we are working on UCLA library food for finals Thursday of 10th week from 6-10pm outside YRL and Powell.

-Zander says we are meeting with Clinton Bench regarding UCLA transportation and received over 200 testimonies of how many people use the night van services and are trying to get an app approved regarding transportation.

-Zander says we hope that each of our committees will take on a policy initiative that we can address immediately and feel safe/protected by faculty.

G. General Representative 1 – Borden

-Borden says we have been working with financial aid department and the scholarship resource center to offer and connect their access to a broader range of scholarships.

-Borden says hopefully this will open up more scholarships for non-trad students, races, transfers, etc.

-Borden says we are working on pod spaces to increase more face time with counselors in an effort/response to the deaths of the students here.

-Borden attending the healing space today with Mother Org. and hearing the stories were powerful and she has learned that we must be active listeners, not just bystanders, regarding this election.

H. General Representative 2 – Majmudar

-Majmudar says the election night watch party went well and is thankful for those helped.

-Majmudar says they are working on enhancing entrepreneurship.

I. Administrative Representatives

-Kadota says there is training to help you respond to major disasters.

-Kadota says UCSD is hosting Alice training which is for shooting training and awareness.

- Kadota says during undie run we are working on having videos play to frame the event in a healthier perspective and we need student groups to join and help this crazy concept.
- Starr says he is happy that people are bringing up positives about this election.
- Starr says last week he was in Nevada campaigning for Hillary and it was great to see a Hispanic woman rise in power.
- Starr says there was not enough mobilization to get millennial to vote,
- Starr says Pamela Harris is representing California, which is great!
- Starr says Michael Tubs was elected the mayor of Stockton and is the youngest and first African American person to be elected for that position.
- Starr says California is moving progressively and that is amazing.
- Starr says next Thursday he has a meeting with Julie and would love to meet with any of you regarding solutions or networking.
- Zimmerman says a few days ago she met with leadership in BRC and they are trying to coordinate programming for de-stress week and they are trying to collect resources and info regarding de-stressing and spoke to Chris about what USAC is doing that week and to collaborate one huge event for de-stressing before finals events.
- Zimmerman says forward your events to her so she can send them to Chris.
- Zimmerman says to please bring down your signs from hanging outside the buildings.

VIII. Fund Allocations

A. Contingency Programming * -- Yu

- 23 organizations applied and 1 council office, and the finance committee.
- USAC Office for transfer student representative office total required was \$250.19.
- Total requested was \$250.19.
- Total recommended is \$165.
- Total required is \$60,520.19.
- Total requested was \$12,719.32.
- Total recommended is \$555.05.
- Mohankumar moves to approve the TSR allocation for \$555.05 from contingency.
- Rafalian seconds.
- 10-0-0 vote the TSR allocation has been approved.
- Mohankumar moves to approve the contingency allocation for \$5,555. Majmudar seconds.
- 11-0-0 vote the contingency allocation has been approved.

B. EVP Bruin Defenders # -- Sands

- Application from E3 for a Powership conference at UC Berkeley November 11-13th for \$500.
- This allocation has been approved by consent.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

A. A Discussion on USAC Reform -- Sharma

- Sharma says it is so difficult to talk in this room right now because we need some representation in this room and I do not feel like my council is protecting me.

- Sharma says he does not care anymore and is blessed to be on this campus but he is a gay brown man and we need to show the world we are a campus for everyone.
- Sharma says USAC needs to reform a senate system.
- Sharma says this is an opening forum for people think we need for representation on campus.
- Zeigler says this is the idea to create more representation for those who are not.
- Zeigler says she thought of the idea to not have 3 gen reps and making them more specific to communities such as international students.
- Shao says if we need to speak about representation on this table look around, there is not.
- Shao says people were messaging her telling her to not speak on certain issues and she has worked hard to have a voice.
- Shao grew up in Philadelphia and has been a victim of racism and never again wants anyone to tell her to hold back and privately message people if I call people out.
- Shao says it is not ok to close the door and not speak publicly about how you feel.
- Shao says Sands it is great to you got so many people to vote.
- Shao says she does not care who showed up to the viewing party because what happened after was not okay.
- Shao says it is time to realize that there are people who do not feel safe.
- Shao says she herself does not feel safe.
- Shao says if we want to say to be good listeners for people this week, it is not okay we need to do more.
- Shao says we have been trying to get our voices heard.
- Shao says we need to let people know why we are upset.
- Shao says her parents were undocumented and has a huge part of her family that is undocumented.
- Shao says no one spoke about how impactful the election was.
- Shao says she was expecting more from council to speak on this.
- Shao says she does not want to look like the angry woman of color yelling at USAC.
- Siegel says we need to focus more on USAC reform.
- Chowdhury says thank you for sharing your perspective, people are greatly affected by this choice.
- Chowdhury says even if you look Muslim you are criminalized.
- Chowdhury says the pipeline will most likely be built regardless of the Native Americans.
- Chowdhury says he is going home to Florida this week and lives right near a KKK town.
- Chowdhury says it has become less cool to be discriminated by race, but still has a feeling that his own white friends back home see him differently.
- Chowdhury says his family has nightmares of being attacked for being Muslim; we are lucky to live in such a blue state.
- Chowdhury says Berkeley has set for a senate system where each senate would have their offices represent a certain community.
- Chowdhury says this is not enough though because society works dynamically and we need to cater to everything.
- Chowdhury says if did not run for this position we would not have a Muslim perspective on this table at all, so we need to open up and actively listen.

- Chowdhury says we need to see how we as students can be a voice.
- Chowdhury says we need to make students feel safe.
- Chowdhury says we need to reach out constantly and know what it feels to be an ally.
- Starr says this is a great point and you have done a great job for transfers, but when do we stop?
- Starr says it does not sound like representation is the issue, its more of the goal and functionality because he keeps hearing USAC does not represent me, but what are the privileges that you 14 students have that others do not.
- Starr says you need to look at what USAC is lacking.
- Starr says it took a long time to get one extra seat, if you want to go down that route it will be cool but it is an interesting concept to look at what you have that other students do not have.
- Starr says you need to make students feel as though you can relate.
- Sands says his professor was born in 1944 and been teaching here for 55 years and he is even unsure how this election occurred.
- Sands says the exit polls were based on the economy which is why Trump got elected.
- Sands says racial resentment had no part on this election it was more based on economy, but white group identity was a factor for how you voted.
- Sands says it has never been until today that he felt ashamed to be a white man when 2/3rds of white men voted for Trump.
- Sands says he feels ashamed to have believe that it is better than it is.
- Borden says thank you to everyone who shared his or her experience, she feels so inadequate as a council member for these past few days.
- Borden says we are unsure of what this means for our students and it is hard to represent so many communities and welcomes the discussion of reforming this system.
- Borden says we need to reform to represent students on campus.
- Borden says she will try though, she will listen and make sure student voices are amplified.
- Borden says she feels sad as a woman in this country.
- Borden says being a woman in politics is making her more defensive than ever.
- Borden says she thinks that council needs to make time out to be introspective and not just make this a week of protesting, this is just the beginning and we need to try our best.
- Sharma says he agrees that we do not represent, we only serve.
- Sharma says just being an openly queer male; he is not actively representing the community.
- Sharma says he is not actively going out saying “hi I am a part of this community and serving as a transfer rep” we need more representation.
- Sharma says we are having this conversation for a reason, and there needs to be a way to represent everyone.
- Sharma says this council defines what is happening all around the world.
- Sharma says we need to open up more offices to make sure and ensure that someone has representation and access that we all have.
- Sharma says USAC did not represent him last year and there is a reason why people do and say things.
- Sharma says he is constantly trying to be heard, he was 1 of 3 people of color in a meeting last week and he needed to go to represent some color.

- Sharma says we need action!
- Sharma says we do not need to hear about the communities being suppressed right now, we all know who they are.
- Sharma says Berkeley's senate system is a great idea and will look into it.
- Sharma says also asking students what type of representation they want to see.
- Dameron says looking at everything, Rafi and I were shocked during election and realized how much of a bubble we are in here.
- Dameron says USAC came to be 52 years ago after the Civil Rights movement.
- Dameron says it took racism and hatred to create this table to speak on these issues.
- Dameron says we need to get out there and protest; he is going to Oakland tonight to riot.
- Dameron says he needs to experience this and learn and engage and I hope we are all serious about restructuring.
- Dameron says this is the time to do this.
- Dameron says he has agreed that he does not represent students here because he has privilege and we need to create a reform.
- Mohankumar says everyone here does have a different background and experiences and we need to actively participate.
- Mohankumar says taking steps is something we can do during this moment.
- Mohankumar says emotions coming out are well deserved and right.
- Mohankumar says please do not ever hold back your emotions on this table.
- Mohankumar says it hurts that a woman was not elected.
- Mohankumar says all of her high school friends are Trump supporters and when she goes home it is different and changing and it is scary.
- Mohankumar says I agree to enhance representation.
- Sharma says UCSD has a commissioner for USAC and if you have friends to connect me please let me know, it would be great to start off on that.
- Sharma says we looked at commissioners and they have helped a lot and we need to keep those intact.
- Sharma says moving offices up would help and restructuring would be good.
- Sharma says we need to look at different things that each commission does.
- Sharma says reconstructing is what we need to move towards and continue the legacy of the commissions.
- Mohankumar says I am not sure how you can break that down, but discussion is open.
- Mohankumar says some positions need to stay as is due to the heaviness of their positions.
- Majmudar says he is really glad that we are having this discussion and there are a lot of perks to this system, Bruin Bash would not have been able to do this well if it wasn't an all sentenced event for example.
- Majmudar says we should not lose what we have special, but we can work around that.
- Sands says he is glad that this is being brought up, but it is a very long and difficult and controversial topic to start up.
- Sands says it can cause a lot of arguments, but we do not want conversations about this to take away from us helping out externally.
- Chowdhury says we cannot ever hope to represent the entire student body.

- Chowdhury says the fact we have connections to administrators is what makes us different from students, we have a voice.
- Chowdhury says we need to hand the microphone over to the students who are not being heard.
- Chowdhury says being a good leader means to be humble and give out a voice.
- Chowdhury says now it is his time to give that power to those who do not have it.
- Chowdhury says our offices are not just we; we have multiple students so it is not up to one of us to represent everyone.
- Chowdhury says international students confided in him to be a voice for them although he is not international.
- Chowdhury says he would like to challenge everyone here to look at perspectives that are different from us.
- Chowdhury says we cannot let our privilege blind us to issues on this campus.
- Chowdhury says in our office meeting before this spoke about what special projects meeting can do to help this and advocate and raise awareness of what issues face now.
- Chowdhury says look past your own biases and privileges.
- Chowdhury says we cannot erase all of this at once, how can we poise these positions with more direction and institution to follow without losing the power we have?
- Rafalian says increasing advocacy is great, but we are lacking in funding so we need to think about that as a factor.
- Rafalian says it is a big problem if we cannot allocate funds to these senators.
- Sharma says he wrote everything down, regarding stipends, many senates do not have stipends anyways and we need to look at our own stipends.
- Sharma says we need to look at the money we receive to use it for other purposes.
- Sharma says if you have any resources for him to look into please let him know and please join in and help.
- Sharma says we need to see if students agree on doing this and changing this.
- Sharma says next week we will discuss it further.
- Siegel says holding everyone accountable is best by voting to make an AdHoc Committee, so you can bring that as an action item next agenda.
- Siegel says thank you for sharing the thoughts and feelings you all have about this.
- Siegel says it is great you are reflecting locally and as a nation.
- Siegel says everyone up here is a good person and cares, please make sure that everyone here is someone you can work with and improve conditions together.

XI. Announcements

- Chowdhury says there is a UC Socal meet up going on right now so maybe we can have one here to see what is effective and not effective.
- Chowdhury says student of color conference is next week.
- Chowdhury says this week our office hosted sick awareness week, and posted many mindful awareness events.
- Chowdhury says we have a photo campaign 9th or 10th week regarding self-care and how to take care of yourself in times of stress, we are having a self-care Sunday.
- Chowdhury says it would great to teach Zumba so we are incorporating dancing.
- Chowdhury says there is outreach for Sigma Chi and in close contact with the president and likes the ideas we are incorporating; this is for different communities to interact.

- Chowdhury says the VC of Greek relations loved the ideas we gave out and we all have a similar agenda.
- Chowdhury says if any of you are in Greek life and want to be involved, we are sending a poll to see who is interested in joining this movement.
- Chowdhury says this quarter we are looking to hold focus groups for Greek life to see where everyone is at in terms of their knowledge and what Greek life means to them.
- Chowdhury says we are working with the office of Equity, Diversity and Exclusion and around 8th week there will be a speaker series and a series of training and classes on different issues.
- Siegel says there are 6 different Greek councils just to inform you.
- Sharma says there will be more information about our event on Monday.
- Sharma says we need to start telling ASUCLA and UCLA as a whole to use more compostable items.
- Sharma says do these little steps to make a difference.
- Sharma says scholarships are going great and Ashly, Jan Rife, and me are putting together a video tonight and will reach out to offices to see who wants to be a part of it.
- Siegel says in the future please have an official officer report to speak more openly on what you want.
- Zander thanks Sharma about bringing up the plastic dilemma.
- Zander says Lu Valle is the only place on campus with compostable items!
- Sharma says we need student power to help with this issue.
- Zimmerman says reach out to Roy to coordinate for bins to arrive.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet has been passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Mohankumar moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm.
- Dameron seconds.
- 10-0-0 vote the meeting has been adjourned.

XIV. Good and Welfare

- * Indicates Action Item
- # Indicates Consent Item
- @ Indicates Executive Session Item