



AGENDA
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
March 31, 2020
7:00PM
Zoom

I. Call to Order

Watson

- Kim calls the meeting to order at 7:00pm

A. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

II. Approval of minutes*

- 3/10/2020 minutes
- Lalo motions to approve the minutes from 3/10/2020, Brandon seconds
- By motion of 10-0-1 the motion passes, 3/10/2020 minutes are approved

III. Approval of the Agenda*

- Table SIOC/CRC Budget Reports
- Strike Travel Grant Mini Fund
- Strike ASRF
- Strike SFS
- Strike Gen Rep 1 Officer Report
- Strike ISR Officer Report
- Strike FAC Officer Report
- Strike TGIF
- Strike Capital Contingency
- Strike Contingency Programming
- Brandon motions to add action item allowing USAC to meet via Zoom through the rest of Spring quarter 2020 due to COVID-19, Jonathan seconds
 - By motion of 10-0-1 the motion passes, action item added to the agenda
- Kim motions to make Elections Update an action item, Lily seconds
 - By motion of 10-0-1 the motion passes, Election Board Updates made into action item
- Lalo motions to approve agenda as amended, Brandon seconds
- By motion of 10-0-1 the motion passes, agenda is approved as amended

IV. Public Comment

Watson

Audio No Video:

- 0 comments

Audio and Video:

- My name is Skyler. I have a couple people here supporting me. I started a petition to revert Latin honors requirements this year to last year's. They raised them this year by .5 and honestly I did a lot of digging on how the requirements work and they don't actually account for the top 20% of the graduating class, it's the calculated top 20%. Compared to a lot of other schools in our system which mostly do 16%, their GPA requirements are lower than ours which is confusing. I don't see why it was raised so much this year, and given the circumstances of COVID-19 and the academic impact it's had in our community and myself, I think they should be reverted to last year's standards.

- I agree with Skyler. Last summer I noticed the requirements went up. I never knew that was a thing, but especially now given everything with the coronavirus and considering that a lot of students were influenced to switch to P/NP which would obviously influence your GPA because P/NP doesn't really get calculated into the GPA. Whereas if the coronavirus didn't happen people could have taken a letter grade for that class and raised their GPA by getting an A or an A+ of some sort. The requirements are really high especially given last year's requirements.
- I'm agreeing with the other two people who have already spoken. I've been doing some research too, they are really high. Online classes, none of us are really prepared to take the whole quarter online, professors are not really used to doing that. I think that's really gonna impact our grades along with everything else that's going on in people's personal lives. I think that we're not talking about lowering them significantly but just reverting them to last year's would be reasonable.
- Public comment adjourned at 7:26 pm

Discussion Item: Racial Slurs on Zoom Classes

Bonifacio

Naomi: Robert, Kim and I have been in contact with administration and academic senate notifying them of what's going on. They responded to us in a very timely manner.

Alexandra Davis: Hey everyone, my name is Alexandra Davis and I'm the chairperson for the Afrikan Student Union. I was made aware of these instances via social media. As soon as I saw it, I heard specifically through my Afrikan Student Union staff, specifically instances of black students having issues on the Zoom call and having words like the N word and other racist epithets said to them while they were on the call trying to learn like everyone else. There have been numerous accounts from numerous students and I put out a message in response to students on Twitter just saying that if there are any instances that you would like to talk about or report, let me know so that I can use my position to amplify your voices and make sure this issue is handled. A big issue I have with it is that we are all very uncertain of what is going on in these times especially with the coronavirus and the uncertainty of the time that we will be in our homes and not being able to live everyday life, but for someone to go in and negatively impact someone's educational experience is a problem for me, especially targeting marginalized students. It's an issue of security for me that students, for one, people that aren't students getting on these calls, but then there are even instances where I've heard that a professor had their lectures interrupted on Zoom by hackers allegedly and then made another call for the class and the comments made towards the student and toward the professor continued with what they thought were only students. It's not only an issue of security with hackers but also an issue of discrimination and lack of students' safety in general. I have a list of the classes that were affected so it's Chemistry 20L, Astrology 3, and Chicano 143.

Naomi: This is occurring nationwide. We don't think the responsibility should be just pushed toward the company itself, I think UCLA especially administration and the academic senate has a responsibility towards students to make sure that the programs and the apps that we use are well secured and that students can feel safe. Students have gone through a variety of things transitioning, people are still going through things transitioning and I think school is supposed to be some kind of sanctuary and that was deeply affected and I wanna say ruined for some people today. It's deeply traumatizing even hearing the words being said. The video is very hard to watch, it's hard as a black woman to watch that happen. I will reject any notion that we can't do anything, there is something that can be done even if these people are hackers.

Alexandra Davis: I completely agree. I reject any notion that says that the administration can't do something to ensure the safety of its students. This is the education we are provided and these are the times that we are in and we need to make sure that we are protecting our students.

Blandizzi: This is not okay. I hear Naomi and Alex and others calling for us to take immediate action. I wanted to offer the six things that we've done so far as a campus and if there's additional things we can be doing we can welcome those additional suggestions. I learned of this from the faculty member from the Chicano 143 class. I engaged with that faculty member today. He also connected us with the student that brought this to his attention. We have outreached to that student today. We are engaged with the faculty member in Chicano Studies and with the student. Alex, you brought to my attention two other sources

and I will find out who those faculty members are from the two other classes and I will outreach to them. I alerted the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Discrimination Prevention Office about what was occurring. We have included our IT assistance. Alex, you provided me with names of possible people, the names to date are not UCLA students or at least not enrolled. Additional guidance is being offered to faculty soon. Our Vice Chancellor for Communication is also monitoring this.

Alex: I just wanted to reiterate some of what's been said. I contacted a lot of the students that I saw were talking about the incidents that happened to them online and got accounts of what happened so I could also reach out to them with the link that Zoya sent out. I've also talked to the person who recorded the video Dean Blandizzi, so they should be emailing you sometime soon.

Naomi: I also wanted to turn towards the students themselves, especially the ones that had experienced a lot of this, and since we now know the classes that it occurred in, I mean I feel like a broader communication toward the student body is necessary but some may feel that it might not be since it didn't affect too many people. I still think that something in written form should be communicated to students especially when we have students not really wanting to record since it's against university policy. Even addressing the situation, I'm a firm believer in apologies and making sure that students know that they are being taken care of and that administration is doing their best to protect them in these instances.

Capital Contingency* Komzyuk

Contingency Programming* Komzyuk

SFS Allocations# —Wisner

SWC Programming Fund Allocations# Sridhar

Total Requested: \$2,499.15

Total Recommended: \$2,000.00

3 non-USAC entities

- No opposition, SWC Programming Fund Allocation approved by consent

Bruin Advocacy Grant Allocations# Guerra

ASRF Allocations# —————Riley

AAC Travel Mini-Grant Allocations# —Riley

ARCF Allocations# Iheanacho

TGIF —Shaw

V. Special Presentations

Election Updates* Sidhu

Navi: Brandon brought up a good point which is that council voted to grant me discretionary power only until April 10th. I started to look through the Election Code to see how I could create something out of it that would provide us enough flexibility

during this pandemic but I realized it's almost impossible. After that I consulted with Jamal Gibbs and he concurred with me that it's gonna be extremely difficult to do this and he did not say that what we're doing right now giving me discretionary power is the best option, but that's the option we have right now. I am being pretty clear with the candidates as to what's allowed and what's not allowed. Other than that, in terms of the actual elections themselves, we're still not gonna be changing the time which is gonna be May 4th-8th. We are still looking at how we will be doing our events, we don't think Zoom will be effective for something like meet the candidates. We're trying to figure out alternative methods. We're still planning on doing debates over Zoom. The next step is campaign orientation this Thursday from 6-8pm over Zoom. So that's just a broad overview. So next was a discussion on funds being directed towards the elections board. I had a meeting with Roy, Jessica, and Vuong earlier today about what's leftover. I know this council has other uses for the unallocated funds, however, I did want to strongly emphasize that portions of it be set aside and granted to the election board to fund giveaways. We're looking at potentially a decrease in voter turnout and our voter turnout is already not super high. Figuring out ways to incentivize voting is one of the primary ways we want to increase voter turnout this cycle. The board discussed this in a lot of detail. We really do think that creating incentives is going to be the best way to try to increase voter turnout. We are also really trying to see what we can do on social media. But we really think we need to take a multi pronged approach which will require a lot of funding that the election board doesn't have to provide giveaways at the scale that we're looking at. That's not to say that we want all the money that's leftover, we don't even want half, we just want a fraction of it to be able to fund giveaways. I don't know what the process is going to look like as far as moving funds around, that's probably a good question for Roy and Jessica, but some of the numbers that were kind of mentioned from our meeting were, there's probably gonna be about \$4,000 unallocated from the USA membership fee. There's \$94,000 in Contingency that's supposed to be allocated for the Spring quarter, and there was also supposed to be additional money that USAC voted to increase surplus by an additional \$58,000. So we're hoping to try to tap into the surplus funding that was going to go to Contingency and we'd like that to be directed partially to the elections board.

- No action taken on extending discretionary powers, tabled to next week

VI. Appointments

David Minasyan for Finance Committee Chair*

Watson

- Lalo motions to appoint David Minasyan for Finance Committee Chair, Lily seconds
- By motion of 11-0-0 the motion passes, David Minasyan appointed as Finance Committee Chair

VII. Officer Reports

A. President

Watson

B. Internal Vice President

Bonifacio

- Contemplating how the office will move forward with everything going on
- Campus Safety Alliance meetings still happening via Zoom

C. External Vice President

~~Guerra~~

-

D. General Representative 1

~~Velazquez~~

E. General Representative 2

Smedley

- Trying to figure out how to move forward since a lot of our initiatives had to do with on campus things

F. General Representative 3

Broukhim

- Working on getting a letter written in support of student workers to UCLA administration and ASUCLA
- Working on figuring out ways to help students that are still in Westwood

G. Academic Affairs Commissioner

Riley

- Office is trying to transition and figure out how to support students
- Books for Bruins scholarship open right now, expanded the amount given to 150\$ at most, largest applicant pool
- Office put out an online resources platform to help students transition
- Academic Senate still working and actively meeting
- Academic Senate has a vote coming up on priority enrollment

H. Campus Events Commission

Steinmetz

- In the process to see how we can have events and entertainment moved virtually
- Trying to provide some sort of community for students in the midst of all this
- Hiring new staff at the start of this quarter, limited hiring

I. Community Service Commissioner

Wisner

- Putting SFS on hold for the month of April, going to re-evaluate in May
- Project Bruin has been cancelled at this time, planning to make up for it in the fall
- Transportation fleet is closed, handling transportation on a case by case basis
- Teamed up with CAC
- Robert S. Michael award, received 37 applications, triple amount of apps we got last year

J. Cultural Affairs Commissioner

Iheanacho

~~K. Facilities Commissioner~~

~~Shaw~~

L. Financial Supports Commissioner

Srivastava

M. Student Wellness Commissioner

Sridhar

- SWC: Hiring for new staff - [applications](#) out now, due April 8th. Overall, adapting well to online formats - general meetings for committees will continue via Zoom. Have spoken to SGA and most of Directors.
- Programming Fund: Still open, new guidelines to encourage student organizations to apply to pursue online content creation and programming.
- Active Minds: General meetings every other week (3, 5, 7) with different mental health professional guest speakers.
- BruinNecessities: Compiling a [COVID-19 Resource Document](#) aimed at students; please have your offices check it out and contact me if there's anything to add (it's in its beginning stages). Planning to distribute menstrual and dental hygiene products to students in Westwood.
- Body Image Task Force: Calendar challenge activities on body acceptance on social media and giveaways.
- Bruin Consent Coalition: April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month; transferring programming online if possible. "Digital" Internship applications opening this Friday.
- CPR & First Aid: Developing webinar-based First Aid instructions - contact me if you know any student groups interested in a free class.
- Bruin Run/Walk: The 21st Annual Bruin Run/Walk has been cancelled. Fundraising for the Chase Child Life program at Mattel Children's Hospital will still occur through social media and a developing virtual 5k.
- Sexperts: YouTube Channel will continue with birth control coffee chat series and safe sex practices during social distancing. Virtual workshops are being offered to RAs for any Hill residents still interested.
- Total Wellness: MoveWELL zine will be published Monday of next week, focused on exercise and fitness.

N. Transfer Representative

Oraha

- Transfer lobby day has been cancelled

O. International Student Representative

—————Tariq

P. OCHC Representative

Gupta

- OCHC not continuing with student government on the Hill this quarter
-

Q. Administrative Representatives

Alexander, Champawat, Geller,

O'Connor

- Jessica: I just wanted to talk about the virtual Bruin day. So last quarter i asked for any current year photos for your offices, so if you can still send those that would be helpful. The other thing i wanted to mention our ASUCLA outreach manager has been getting a lot of requests from incoming students asking about student government. We are trying to create digital content about USAC that is a little bit more descriptive about the things that you all do. If you have any ideas you can send them by email.
- Josh: Hi all, just wanted to share a few updates with you. Tara, when you were talking about advertising CEC programs, Res life has also shifted to being completely online. We are advertising all of our online and social academic engagements on our website at reslife.ucla.edu. That is an open invite, if anyone has any open programs that they would like to be advertised on that page, they are more than welcome to send me an email and I'd be happy to get those up. Secondly, the Hill is still open. We are small but mighty now. We have dining open. Just clarifying those pieces.
- Roy: We are here to support your finding ways to continue the effectiveness of your offices and certainly to support the upcoming elections and the turnout.

VIII. Old Business

- None

IX. New Business

Discussion Item: USAC Budget/Funding

Bonifacio

Roy: I hope you are all able to see the budget allocations that Vuong sent out, it highlights unallocated balances. Once allocations are made, it's hard for SGA to make sure these expenditures have been made. Until we get to the end of the year it's hard to say what the expenditures are. So it's useful to look at it through the lense of unallocated money. There are still sources of money. Vuong and Jessica can better help us understand the different balances and what they derive from. It's important to know the source of the money because the source of the money will let us know what the money is for. What we're looking for is interpreting the broadest use based on the purpose of a fund to potentially be redirected towards what normally might not be the reason for expenditure but that reasonably fits during a time of crisis.

Naomi: I know some folks have talked about making a student worker relief fund. Is it possible within what you've been outlining for us to do something like that?

Roy: If we're trying to give money to students it has to be broadly available to any undergraduate student.

Dr.Geller: My thought is that whatever is done is that it needs to be consistent with the original purpose of the funds. It needs to be done in a way that all undergrads are eligible to apply based on some sort of criteria that is viewpoint neutral.. If it's anything that would have an impact on financial aid you need to work with financial aid so you don't unintentionally jeopardize something. You're going to need some criteria for assessing the applications and determining who gets it and who doesn't. You also need to be careful on how it's being issued.

Kim: So just to clarify, is it just the surplus or any of the remaining money can be moved to those entities?

Roy: I wouldn't say it's any of the money, no. The source of the money is important. Community Service Mini Fund monies would have to be utilized in some way that still speaks to the underlying notion of community service or however that referenda was worded. The thing about surplus that gives you maximum flexibility is that you have greater flexibility.

Kim: If we were going to create some sort of award or grant would you suggest talking to financial aid?

Roy: I think that financial aid needs to be coordinated with or know of the awards so they can ensure it doesn't offset part of their grant.

Dr.Geller: Any funding changes you make, you need to create guidelines and you need to bring those to council for a consent vote which has to happen before you implement any programs.

Kim: So we'll revisit this discussion next week.

Discussion Item: Commencements

Bonifacio

Lalo: With the initial communication about the cancellation of commencement and the recanting of that, Vice Chancellor Gordon brought up that they were putting together a team between different folks within student affairs and Vice Provost Turner's office. They said it's a larger committee that's dealing with things larger than commencements, it's also dealing with things that would be happening during spring quarter and commencements is like a subcommittee within that larger group. The conversation that we've been having with them has been emphasizing including student ran graduations within this committee. They haven't necessarily committed to including them from Vice Provost Turner's last email it looks like they're leaning towards it.

Isabel: Do you know if they're considering reaching out to these student groups to make sure they have a seat at the table?

Lalo: They haven't said that, but they said they're considering it. A lot of it is non-committal things right now and I think that's because they're trying to figure out how the committee will be structured anyways.

Kim: I think it's very important to have students be a part of that committee.

Dr. Geller: I think I can speak for administration when I say we understand the importance and significance that the student initiated graduation celebrations have for the communities. They're important in a number of ways, not the least is the limit on tickets at the official degree conferral ceremonies and their lack of personalization the way students aren't individually given the opportunity to be recognized. Your events allow families to come out to support the graduates and have that opportunity for students to be more engaged individually. I'm not part of the decision making but I'd be surprised if there wasn't a way that the student initiated celebrations would also be able to occur.

Kim: Hopefully we get more information on commencement in the following weeks.

Discussion Item: SIOC/CRC Budget Reports

————— Velazquez

Discussion Item: Efficient Officer Reports

Smedley

Orion: This has become a little bit less pronounced now that we're on Zoom. There's two things we can improve with office reports. One of the issues with the officer reports is that we say a lot of different things, and if we are unable to take notes it's hard to catch dates and time. The other thing is the time they take up. There's 15 of us plus admin so that adds up to a good amount of time. Today I measured the amount of time for one random officer report and it took 3 minutes and 15 seconds, but the idea is that you multiply that by 15,16, 17 people and it takes a good amount of time. There's a couple things we could do about that. One approach would be, a lot of these reports are prewritten, and a lot of us will just read the officer report at the meeting, at that rate it would be easier on everyone if we could send in the written officer report and those could be distributed to the audience at the meeting and posted on the website. We could also limit the time of the officer reports, or have that time be used for asking questions in response to what was written.

Naomi: I have a few thoughts on the things you brought up. I know you timed one officer's report, I wanna challenge you in saying that these reports are lengthy and not necessary. It seems like you're implying that the words we're saying are not useful to the student body. Again, officer reports are meant to inform the general body. We have members of the public here who are representing like the Daily Bruin who are supposed to be getting what we're saying during these meetings. And I agree with you, we can very much use the meeting minute notes as an option to send in our officer reports. If I was the one who took three minutes today I think it's completely valid because it's useful to the student body. I would also say that meetings are recorded for people who cannot make it, and I would not feel comfortable handing out my officer report to the people that are in the audience.

Kim: I do think for a good amount of our meetings we have tried to keep our officers to 2 minutes and I think the council have done a good job at doing that. In terms of the written stuff, I think that's a good idea.

Dr:Geller: I wanna point out if the reports are not given verbally at the meetings it will not be reflected in the minutes.

Kim: I think it's important that they are read into the minutes.

Brandon: I think there is somewhere in the bylaws where we have to verbally record the officer reports into the minutes.

Petition to Change UCLA's Latin Honors*

Oraha

Isabel: I've invited Skyler back, she's the one who wrote this letter.

Skyler: So part of why I wrote this, there was a lot of talk about requirements for spring quarter and graduation. They changed the gpa requirements this year to be higher than they've ever been before. I think it's unrealistic to raise these standards given the impact COVID-19 has on the academic community. You have to maintain an A, A- overall academic GPA, you can't really have much wiggle room in your classes. I think it's only fair for graduating seniors. I think this requirement is accessible and realistic. Asking for council to support the petition.

Isabel: I originally put it on here as an action item vote to formally support or endorse this petition. It's up to Skyler if you just want us to give you resources or if you'd rather us vote in support of this petition.

Skyler: I think a vote would be better. I'm fine with whatever you guys decide, I would love the resources as well. I'm gonna continue to fight for this.

Kim: I think we as council members could individually sign on to the petition but what I'm hearing is that council as a whole isn't comfortable with endorsing it quite yet.

Discussion Item: Extending Drop Deadlines

Broukhim

Brandon: We got the response from the Academic Senate last week. Out of everything we advocated for, there seems to be some hope on the drop deadline issue. I think it's one of the most important ones besides the grading systems. I'd like to think what Naomi thinks about this as well. I do think in terms of providing students with some sort of ability to make choices about their academic future that's the easiest thing they can do to make sure that students remain enrolled in the university.

Isabel: I think I agree that it would be helpful for students to drop a class without a transcript notation. Maybe until week 5 or 6 or after midterms.

Kim: So what I know is that some of the other UC's have extended the drop deadline until the end of week 10 and they're also not charging for it.

Naomi: It might be beneficial to get a list of departments who have done a P/NP that way we can publicize it to the student body. The P/NP deadline is week 6 so we have a little bit of wiggle room to play with that.

Brandon: One thing to note is that USC approved our system of what we came up with last week.

Kim: How do council members feel about moving forward with this? Do we want to help out Naomi and Lily with the letter and resend it?

Isabel: I think it'd be a good idea to redraft and resend the letter and advocate for extending the drop deadlines and dropping the fees. I'm willing to help.

Shahamah: I'm also on board and willing to help with that.

Extending Virtual Meetings through Spring 2020*

Broukhim

- Isabel motions to move all USA Council meetings for the remainder of Spring quarter 2020, Lalo seconds
- By motion of 11-0-0 the motion passes, moving meetings virtually for the rest of spring quarter

X. Adjournment*

Watson

- Kim adjourns meeting at 10:24pm

Good and Welfare

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