



AGENDA  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL  
May 19, 2020  
7 PM  
Zoom

## **I. Call to Order**

Riley

- Naomi calls meeting to order at 7:03 pm

### **A. Signing of the Attendance Sheet**

- None

## **II. Approval of Agenda\***

Luong

- Add discussion item on BEST Program
- Strike ARCF
- Strike SFS
- Table GCGP Charter amendment
- Strike BAG
- Strike SWC Programming Fund
- Strike Capital Contingency
- Strike OCHC officer report
- Strike ASRF
- Strike Travel Grant Mini Fund
  
- Promise motions to approve agenda as amended, Jonathan seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, agenda is approved as amended

## **III. Approval of the minutes\***

Luong

- 5/12/2020 outgoing council minutes
- Jonathan motions to approve 5/12/2020 outgoing council minutes, Zuleika seconds
- By motion of 3-0-7 the motion passes, the outgoing council minutes are approved
  
- 5/12/2020 new council minutes
- Sachi motions to approve 5/12/2020 new council minutes, Breeze seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, 5/12/2020 new council minutes are approved

## **IV. Public Comment**

Riley

- Hey everyone my name is Hailey and I'm currently running our COVID-19 campaign for CALPIRG and also serving as a member at large with a focus on campus relations. So I just wanted to give you a couple updates we have. We just had our quarterly drive pledge last week and we ended up surpassing our goal of getting 400 pledges and instead got 412. It was our first time ever testing out a new remote pledge model using the list of interested folks that we accrued throughout the year on campus. That went to show how adaptable we are and how we are strong as an organization in general. Yesterday we decided on the four campaigns for the fall. First we are going to be running a hunger and homelessness campaign, that's gonna include basic needs access and local funding. Our second campaign is going to be our 100% campaign where we work to get UCLA to commit to going 100% renewable energy. We're also gonna be continuing on our textbook campaign which I believe that we have another CALPIRG rep elaborating on that a bit. Lastly, we're going to be focusing on our lead campaign which is our New Voters Project. We have roughly 2 weeks before the quarter starts to register as many students as possible to ensure that our voices are heard in the elections.

- Hi everyone. My name is Joseph. I'm a first year political science and Russian studies double major. I'm the CALPIRG campus relations intern on the Affordable Textbooks campaign. As you know, CALPIRG is a statewide student organization at eight UCs that aims to protect the environment, basic needs, and get out the youth vote. I wanted to tell you about our Affordable Textbooks campaign for those of you who are recently elected. So the cost of textbooks has been exponentially rising in the U.S. at four times the rate of inflation. Students have to spend almost \$1,500 each year on books and supplies at UCLA, many of whom are already struggling to pay tuition. Five large textbook companies dominate the market and monopolize to increase prices and take advantage of students. Students are forced to buy whatever book is assigned, so publishers can get away with bad practices and outrageous prices for books. Furthermore, the rise in access codes prevents students from sharing books or using library reserves, instead they may have to choose between buying groceries or a textbook. Students shouldn't have to sacrifice their wellbeing in order to buy class materials. The solution is clear. We live in an era of free information. Knowledge should be accessible to all students no matter socioeconomic status. Textbooks should be affordable. Our campaign is working to get the UC regents to implement a UC wide grant program for open textbooks. Professors would receive incentives to make the switch to open resources which are made available to be used freely by students. Open textbooks have the potential to save tens of thousands of dollars per class. California community colleges have already launched programs for open resources. So it's our turn to introduce open textbooks statewide at all UCs. CALPIRG is the only national student voice on this issue, and we have an amazing track record working on higher education issues. We're going to continue our activism work over the summer and would love to work with you to show the UC regents that students need access to open resources. Thank you.
- Public comment concluded at 7:13pm

Capital Contingency\* \_\_\_\_\_ Minasyan

Contingency Programming\* Minasyan

Total requested: \$740

Total recommended: \$750

- Promise motions to allocate \$750 to non-USAC entity, Justin seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, contingency allocation is approved

SFS Allocations# —Wisner

SWC Programming Fund Allocations# \_\_\_\_\_ Read

Bruin Advocacy Grant Allocations# \_\_\_\_\_ Arasasingham

ASRF Allocations# \_\_\_\_\_ Velazquez

AAC Travel Mini-Grant Allocations# \_\_\_\_\_ Velazquez

ARCF Allocations# \_\_\_\_\_ Ogunleye

TGIF Cooper

- Allocated \$700 for a sustainability workshop
- Allocated \$23,563 for a workshop in collaboration with Bruin home solutions and Bruin Bee keeping

## **V. Special Presentations**

## USACconnect - Funding Filter, USAC Financials Data Visualization, and Grassroots Volunteering Org Search

Nalwa

Avijit: So I was the director of USACconnect over the past year. The first project I'd like to present to you is the funding application search. So essentially what we realized was that there's a lot of funding applications available for students, but there's a clear disconnect in understanding the new applicants of what the differences between the funding apps is and the guidelines to apply. So what we did was organize all the funding applications and tried to extract the key details needed for a new applicant what conditions exist within that and what the purpose of it is. The next project we really wanted to focus on was funding transparency. As you guys noted, the general student body feels a [indiscernible] towards where the funds are going. So USACconnect took on this project to simplify the funding movements and provide transparency to the student body. We do this through a series of data visualizations which are essentially interactive maps. This is done with all sorts of data grabbed from the USAC website. We're planning on integrating this with the USAC website. The last project was in collaboration with a committee called Grow. The purpose is basically creating a search engine for advocacy opportunities. So students can figure out if they want to volunteer for grassroots organizations. They can find organizations that are relevant to their interests and the kind of work they want to do. As you can see we have a sort of filtration system where you can select the team. We have a large listing of organizations as of now. In addition to this, we also plan to add additional features. Thank you for your time.

## **VI. Appointments**

- none

## **VII. Officer Reports**

### **A. President**

Riley

- Im sitting on future planning task force committee, talking about what next year will look like, no decision yet but discussed having a concrete decisions by June 8
- Sat in a meeting about how to recognize seniors, wanted to outreach about different ways seniors can be recognized during this time
- Meeting this week with housing committee
- Committee on student lives/student services, discussing aspects of student life that are meant to reopen come fall

### **B. Internal Vice President**

Luong

- Met with future planning task force
- Had a meeting this morning about what protocols to take when things reopen
- Releasing staff apps soon
- Campus Safety Alliance met last week, next CSA meeting is week 9, published meeting notes from CSA
- Met with appointments review committee to establish baseline for the summer

### **C. External Vice President**

Arasasingham

- Mainly dealing with Board of regents meeting
- Worked with partners and UCSA to draft a letter to the board of regents about pulling budget cuts, as of 5pm today they pulled those budget cuts, all student services will continue to be funded at prior 2019-2020 funding levels until July
- Speaking before the finance and capital strategy committee which will focus on maining student support services funding throughout COVID-19
- Federal letter in opposition to occupation professional training changes
- Released EVP office apps, due this Saturday

### **D. General Representative 1**

Lee

- Looking at possibility of conducting efficient officer reports
- Investigating leads into contact tracing that would protect privacy of those using it

- Investigating possibility of having library textbooks available to students through mail

E. General Representative 2

Rodriguez

- Doing director apps this week
- Starting to outreach for platforms
- Doing work on student research platform
- Trying to get in contact with professors to act as advisors in that platform

F. General Representative 3

Wade

- Completed transition process
- Released director applications
- Plan on starting community outreach

G. Academic Affairs Commissioner

Velazquez

- Released applications for office
- Learning inner workings of the office this week

H. Campus Events Commission

Naland

- Today we had Shubaum from The Circle on a zoom speakers event, went well
- One more big speaker week 9
- Yoga series tomorrow, working with Bumble to donate funds to charities
- Couple more concerts this quarter

I. Community Service Commissioner

Wisner

- Hired all of our directors
- Interviewing staff this week
- Working with Josh and a few others on a partnership with LAUSD

J. Cultural Affairs Commissioner

Ogunleye

- Interviewing directors this week, should be hired by Thursday
- Opened general staff applications a couple days ago
- Doing transitional meetings for the rest of the week
- Virtual jazz/reggae fest in the works
- Concert series is working with student performers to make virtual shows

K. Facilities Commissioner

Cooper

- Disability Student Union in collaboration with FAC is hosting a screening of Crip Camp tomorrow at 5pm PST.
- Doing transition meetings
- Office applications are opened until this Sunday
- Staff should be hired by next week
- MetaMap: creating humanitarian open street server
- Working with the Hammer Museum to create an art activism online tour

L. Financial Supports Commissioner

Garcia

- In the process of hiring new staff
- Have notified recipients of COVID-19 relief fund, also notifying those that weren't selected
- Possibly opening up the COVID-19 relief fund again

M. Student Wellness Commissioner

Read

- SWC: All leadership is hired and we've begun the transition process. Both SWC relief funds are now closed, we are still disbursing awards.
- EARTH: Hosting an Upcycled Art Night this Friday with UCLA's Metal and Glass club
- Sexperts: New YouTube video on [anatomy and erogenous zones!](#) as part of their ongoing sex-ed series
- SEARCH: Presented their Event Evaluation Program at Undergraduate Research Week

N. Transfer Representative

Bravo

- Started reaching out to departments we want to work with
- Apps for the office are due this Friday
- Training for positions will be during the summer
- Interviews start next week

O. International Student Representative

Madini

P. OCHC Representative

~~Gupta~~

Q. Administrative Representatives

Alexander, Champawat, Geller, O'Connor

Jessica: Hiring paperwork email has been sent out, deadline for that is May 29th. I wanted to gage your interest in possibly getting a G Suite account. Start to plan a summer meeting schedule. Reminder to join the Slack workspace if you can.

Dr.Geller: I wanted to reinforce what Jessica said about setting your summer schedule, I would urge you to consider setting an earlier time to respect the time differences. I also wanted to go over issues of conflict of interest, abstentions, and appointments.

Josh: You should have all read the bylaws and constitutions at this point, if not, definitely do so.

**VIII. Old Business**

- None

**IX. New Business**

Amendments to the GCGP Charter\*

Wisner

- Tabled

Discussion Item: BEST Program

Justin: I basically just wanted to make folks aware of essentially something that's been going on with one specific program that means a lot to me. It's the Bruin Excellence and Student Transformation grant program. It's basically a program, I'll read from here, it's a unique program under equity, diversity, and inclusion. They basically support the development, growth, and success of student activists and their organizations. With BEST's support, students have been effective at winning demands that improve campus climate, low cost housing, culturally competent mental health resources, SLAP projects, help gather student support, they've also worked with creating funding for the graduate/undergraduate mentorship program. They provide grants for students to do the advocacy that they do on campus and they provide mentorship. So what's happened recently is the Vice Chancellor of diversity, equity, and inclusion decided to cut funding for the program under the rationale that it would be a clean slate for the next because he's stepping down. While that's in his jurisdiction, we wanted to organize against that.

Zuelika: I'm down to write a resolution and help out.

Justin: Yeah I think that's the main support I'm asking for.

Breeze: I would second what Zuleika said.

## CARES Act Discussion

Luong/Garcia

Emily: I just wanted to talk really quickly about the discussion about the CARES Act we had during the Campus Safety Alliance meeting. Some of the questions that I asked were about why students that received tech grants or housing refunds weren't eligible for the funding. We also asked why students who filled out the lost wages form in March haven't heard back from it. We also talked about why the university chose to give 50% of CARES money to students and maybe not more. I just wanted to also secure that he committed to matching \$100,000 for the USAC fund.

Noe: As Emily mentioned with the tech grant, the reason that people, if anyone is asking you why they didn't receive money, the tech grant was categorized as Covid related impact money. So same thing if you cancelled your housing, you would not be eligible for that impact funding because it would be like getting paid twice, but you can still appeal to get further funding if you are eligible for it. As far as the 50% funding, that is the federal policy to give 50% of that money back to students without question. They're still using other portions of that money, so it's not as if they're only giving 50% of that money, they're still giving more money beyond the 50%, it just comes in different forms. So it comes in the impact based funding, it comes in pretty much any funding that they're trying to give and they're also coming up with different ways to distribute funds to students. In addition, we did ask for questions from council and Zuleika forwarded me those questions. One question was what happens when students opt to donate their money rather than receive that money. That money goes towards the impact based grants pool, and that pool prioritizes those with family incomes of low income categories and those award amounts range from \$200-\$1,850 and they cover things such as healthcare costs, childcare costs, rent, etc. For those who filled out the lost wages form in March and haven't heard back, UCLA can't distribute money based on lost wages, but if they use that lost wages form, they can use it as an intake form to appeal for additional funding from UCLA. Those are pretty much the main points. Another question was how will administration spend money from the CARES Act effectively? Again, that's another thing we recommend is continuing student input.

Naomi: What did he mean by they're not receiving funding if they cancel their housing? I know students are still receiving funding, even though they moved off campus.

Noe: If you did cancel your housing, your financial aid wasn't lowered. What often happens is when you cancel your housing you do have to show proof. What they did was refund students their housing costs and their financial aid wasn't lowered. They did receive money, it was the financial aid refund. And they categorize that as impact money, and since they received that refund, they couldn't receive two impact grants. But the students can still apply for funding.

Emily: To my understanding, they can appeal and then they can gain access to the need based funding.

Zuleika: What is admin doing to help those students who don't receive financial aid such as undocumented students or some international students?

Emily: So there are three phases that they're doing. The first phase is the \$200 universal grant. The second phase is impact grant. The third group is for students that are not eligible for the CARES Act. In my notes it says that the campus is "coming up with methodology to through millions of fund to non-eligible students and the anticipated date for distribution is coming soon."

Noe: There's an FAQ page for the CARES Act as well. Undocumented students are still eligible for the \$200 universal grant. Both for undocumented students and international students.

Breeze: Is there a way we can outreach to students to like explain or debrief the CARES Act? I'm just wondering if we can write something to kind of know what is available to them.

Emily: yeah, we're probably going to work on that with the campus safety alliance team.

**X. Adjournment\***

Riley

- Naomi adjourns meeting at 9:13pm

**Good and Welfare**

\* Indicates Action Item

# Indicates Consent Item

@Indicates Executive Session Item