



AGENDA  
 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL  
 November 10, 2020 7 PM  
 Zoom: <https://ucla.zoom.us/j/97123303841>

**I. Call to Order**

Riley

- Naomi calls the meeting to order at 7:04pm

**A. Signing of the Attendance Sheet**

- Signed via Google Docs

**II. Approval of Agenda\***

Luong

- Strike ARCF
- Strike SFS
- Strike ASRF
- Strike TGMF
- Strike Capital Contingency
- Strike A Resolution Calling for Privacy-Protecting Digital Contact Tracing\*
- Add discussion item for BruinLife
  
- Emily motions to approve agenda as amended, Breeze seconds
- By motion of 11-0-0 the motion passes, agenda approved as amended

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

Luong

10/27/2020

- Breeze motions to approve 10/27/2020 minutes, Alice seconds
- By motion of 8-0-3 the motion passes, 10/27/2020 minutes are approved

**IV. Public Comment**

Riley

Mariah: Hi everyone. I just wanted to drop in and remind each office to send in your respective highlight posts by this Friday so that the Elections Board can move forward with its USAC awareness campaign. Our team has already sent over our master engagement plan and some follow up emails with the submission folders to your directors a couple weeks ago. We've extended the deadline because we've only received seven out of the fifteen graphics that we need from each of your offices. We just wanted to remind the council how important it is for our engagement plans success so that we can coordinate this plan to increase student awareness for each of your offices. I also wanted to thank each of the offices that have already submitted them, we really appreciate your ongoing cooperation with the Elections Board and working so that we can give the student body a better understanding about each of your office's responsibilities and resources, even under these unique circumstances. We'd really appreciate it if you could send in your social media highlights by this Friday at the latest. If we don't it would really make it difficult for our plans to increase USAC engagement this upcoming election cycle. So if you or your staff have any questions at all please don't hesitate to reach out to the Elections Board. As a side note, the Elections Board is looking to create a virtual event as part of our USAC election campaign focused on outreach in the near future. We're very eager to begin collaborating with USAC overall for this upcoming election cycle. Additionally we hope to keep an open line of communication with each of your offices. Most importantly we want to be able to work together to achieve the best outcome possible for both of us. We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your graphics this week. Thank you.

Sharon: Thank you so much for allowing me to speak right now. My name is Sharon and I'm a recent graduate from UCLA. If you aren't aware about my situation, pretty much it was the Facebook post regarding BruinLife and how they handled the Senior of the Year award, and I'm more than happy to link that Facebook post here afterwards, after I give my comment. What happened was last week, the past Monday, I attended the Communications Board with my two SOLE advisors, Melissa Villas Abraham and Ashely Pham, in order to discuss with Communications Board what actions would be taken in regard to student media and also BruinLife and their handling of the situation. Long story short, they sided with BruinLife and said that, again, asking students to come back to campus during a pandemic for a photoshoot was allowed because it was an editorial decision.

Basically the entire meeting was very hostile and the reason being was that they already made their decision to side with BruinLife prior to me even getting to that meeting and getting to discuss that with them. They also have an executive committee within the Communications Board that decided that BruinLife's actions were okay prior to letting the rest of Communications Board know what really went down. So when I showed up to that meeting, the rest of Communications Board who was not a part of the executive committee, they weren't really aware of what was really going on or what my situation was and why I was bringing up this grievance to Communications Board and why I was contacting so many administrative entities to try to resolve this. The bottom line is that it's not the award that matters at this point, I've already reiterated that in all of my posts and my communications with different entities. What matters is the fact that BruinLife is not offering grace or compassion in regard to the Covid-19 pandemic, and it's really concerning not to abide by public health guidelines during this time. Pretty much how it went down is I was attacked by some of their student editors, I was called hostile and dishonest and that I was not offering them any alternatives, and their assumption this whole time was that I wanted to be in the yearbook even though I reiterated to various administration and in my Facebook post that it wasn't about the award and it wasn't about the yearbook, it was about the Pandemic. It was about how as a UCLA community, we owe that reassurance of safety during this time, and that's what I really care about. They were basically mad that I went public about it because they were basically saying that I was causing a lot of slander against them and I think they took that really personally offensive. Their manager was also very defensive and honestly he was quite rude throughout the entire interaction. Then I had various administrative folks on Comms Board be quite rude to me as well. For instance, student media director Ms. Doria Dean made a comment stating that, and I don't have the direct quote right now because I don't have the minutes but my SOLE advisors did take meeting minutes on this, she stated that people don't abide to campus closure anyway and that folks aren't policing students about being on campus. Another faculty from ASUCLA his name is Tim Growling, he said that people of our age bracket aren't as affected by Covid-19. These two comments are some of the most appalling things that I've ever heard and it's really terrifying. Although I'm a recent graduate, all of you are still students there and you still actively work at UCLA, this is something to be concerned about. At the very least we want our administrative entities to be in agreement about how we want to uphold standards during a pandemic. The reason why I'm bringing this to USAC is because I think it's important, especially since USAC does play a part in appointing student leaders to Comms Board committee, I think that it's key that we do bring this up to them or that a public statement comes out regarding this. I think we need to hold them responsible, especially as students, we want administrative entities to represent us as well. So I think that's pretty much what I wanted to talk about and I'm open to any questions for clarification. The last comment that I wanted to make was that throughout the entire Communications Board meeting, it was just really just those two admin that really spoke to me, Ms. Doria Dean and Mr. Tim Growling and then the editorial folks and then Mr. Jose Hernandez who was the manager. Everyone else on Comm Board such as other admin or students didn't speak during this time, but I also understand because they didn't understand what was going on since they weren't briefed on it. That's all I have to say, thank you.

Ngoc: I'm here to just make a public comment on the same issue that Sharon brought up and I'm here speaking as a friend about what happened. My name is Ngoc and I'm here to ask council as representatives of the UCLA student body to take necessary and proactive action to making sure, demanding accountability as well as apologies from BruinLife and Comm Board for what happened, and how they've made my friend feel extremely unsafe these past couple months. I've been with Sharon all along and it's extremely upsetting to see that not only did BruinLife ask her to risk the life of her and her family to come back to UCLA to take photos, but also put her in an extremely unsafe and hostile environment. The fact that BruinLife disregarded the pandemic, disregarded the stay at home orders, ignored what she was going through, her family was immunocompromised and she's a low income student so she basically has to purchase her own plane ticket to fly back to LA to take pictures. I don't know how y'all think about that. I think BruinLife's attitude towards what happened cannot be excused and justified, it's just straight out uncaring and ignorant for me. Not to mention she then got put into a meeting with twenty other people and she was there by herself, the meeting including the school administration asking her questions, asking her if she was doing something wrong and none of them offered her an apology. She had to justify the reason why she chose to stay home and adhere to the stay at home orders like everyone else should've been doing. I think it's extremely uncaring to put any student in that situation. If this is what UCLA is about, what comm board is about, what USAC is about, then maybe we should evaluate what kind of culture we are creating in this institution and what kind of message we are sending to the rest of the community, especially in this pandemic. Are we saying that USAC, BruinLife, Comm Board, and UCLA is incapable of taking care of their own students during the pandemic and I'm sure none of y'all want to pass that message. I just wanted to make that comment and I sincerely hope that USAC will actually take steps to address the concern. I hope that Comm Board, BruinLife if y'all are here and school administration especially, whoever was in that meeting, to make apologies to Sharon and take proper steps to make sure that nothing like this will happen again. Thanks so much.

Amy: Hi everyone! I am not home right now and my phone is almost out of battery so I won't be able to stick around, but I'd like to leave my comment here. My name is Amy Ho and I'm a 4th year student at UCLA as well as the Internal Assistant Director for the Asian Pacific Coalition. I am 1000% behind Sharon and think that how BruinLife and the Communications Board handled the situation. They completely disregarded COVID-19 safety precautions and the financial ability of a student to just drop everything and travel from NorCal to LA. In a year when we are all trying our best to navigate an unprecedented pandemic, they showed no concern nor leniency for Sharon, who rightfully earned the award. UCLA and the Coms Board needs to do better if we expect our student body to adhere to public safety standards and the values that we claim to uphold as a school.

Jason: Just wanted to also give public comment on the same topic Sharon brought up. My name is Jason, my pronouns are he/him/his, I'm a 4th year student at UCLA and I'm also president of the Vietnamese Student Union and I'm also a friend of Sharon's and someone who's also benefited from her mentorship and guidance. I think for me the fact that BruinLife was unable to be accommodating, especially in the time of the pandemic speaks to a kind of big concern of like when the rest of the campus is closing why are they kind of going around the rules and also making students risk their own lives, especially when we have a real public health crisis. I frankly think that it's really uncaring and I'm here with Sharon and with all of my fellow students to ask that we have some accountability, because I feel like there hasn't been enough action taken in response to not only how they handled it in the beginning but even now as they engage in behaviors that invalidate the real concerns that my friend Sharon has. I think that especially as a board that has positions appointed by council we really need to talk about what their role is in terms of our campus culture and what they're trying to bring. Overall, I really stand by Sharon in asking for accountability and real compassion especially in this time of pandemic especially for communities of color and low income marginalized communities.

Nic: Hi everyone, my name is Nic, I was the Campaign Coordinator for Calpirg's New Voters Project this quarter, I also serve as a member at large for our chapter and as the board chair for our statewide organization. I know that some of us have mixed feelings about the elections so I wanted to share something that I think we can all agree is good news. Youth voter turnout is up. Youth voter turnout increased by 5%-10% for the last election so young people are making their voices heard. We were a big part of making that happen nationally along with other pirg's we helped over 30,000 students register to vote and made close to 400,000 get-out-the-vote contacts to help students turn out and vote. Our coalition helped students register and made over 2,000 get out the vote contacts. Thank you all for your help with this, but especially Arden, Aiden, and the EVPs office. Thank you.

Dylan: My name is Dylan and I'm the vice chair from the CALPIRG UCLA chapter. As Nic mentioned we've been really buy with MVP and we're also really happy with the work we did and turning out so many students to vote. I wanted to go over a couple of our chapter highlights from the quarter. First off, we currently have 115 people involved because we ran a very successful recruitment drive. We got 120 people to show up to our kickoff meeting, so that was really cool. Two weeks ago we wrapped up our pledge drive where we gathered over 460 new pledging members here at UCLA. Then last week we finished up our get out the vote work. However we know that the work towards a better future really isn't over and we're now launching our campaigns with a stronger chapter than ever. Our three campaigns that we're going to be launching are 100% renewable energy sector wide here at UCLA, addressing hunger and homelessness as well as providing Covid relief, and our affordable textbook campaign to create a grant funded program across the UC system. We're really looking forward to working with all of you and please let us know if there's any way we can help out with your efforts on campus as well. Thanks so much.

Angela: I just wanted to go back to the topic of Sharon. My name is Angela. I'm a fourth year and I'm also the director of the Asian Pacific Student Coalition and the Vice Chair of the Campus Retention Committee. I think Sharon's adherence to the Covid-19 measures is even more indicative of her leadership and her values and as her successor that is also the director of the Asian Pacific Student Coalition, we stand 100% behind her. The Asian Pacific Coalition has and will continue to uphold Covid-19 guidelines because as student leaders on campus we want to set the right example of how we should conduct ourselves especially during the time of Covid. For the Comm Board and administration to encourage disregarding Covid-19 guidelines it delegitimizes any statements and efforts UCLA has made about Covid. I hope we can hold them accountable. Thank you.

Kristi: My name is Kristi Mai, and as the External Vice President of the Vietnamese Student Union, I stand by Sharon. I ask that USAC take action against BruinLife, especially when we are in a pandemic and low-income students should not be expected to attend a photoshoot just to receive an award. Sharon deserves better, and BruinLife has been highly insensitive.

- Public comment concluded at 7:31pm

## **V. Funding**

### **Capital Contingency\***

#### **Contingency Programming\***

Total requested: \$3,412.55

Total recommended: \$1,926.55

Non-USAC entities

9 applications

- Emily motions to approve \$1,926.55 to non-USAC entities, Jonathan seconds
- By motion of 12-0-0 the motion passes, contingency programming allocations approved

### **SFS Allocations#**

#### **SWC Programming Fund Allocations#**

Total Requested: \$350

Total Allocated: \$300

- No opposition, SWC programming fund passes by consent

### **Bruin Advocacy Grant Allocations#**

#### **ASRF Allocations#**

#### **AAC Travel Mini-Grant Allocations#**

#### **ARCF Allocations#**

#### **TGIF**

### **BruinLife**

Naomi: I think that the issues that were brought up by Sharon and the other folks that got to speak tonight are really important. Sharon had messaged me like a month-and-a-half ago maybe even earlier about the situation. I confused it with This is Bruin Life, I realize that those are two like very separate things. I wanted to note that it was really concerning to hear that there were student groups that were basically telling other students to come back even though the campus is closed. We know that Westwood numbers are increasing. Sharon had asked me to write a letter but I felt that it would be more appropriate coming from all of USAC especially because we have had some concerns with Comm Board given their diversity issues and I think that this kind of plays into that if you ask me. So I kind of wanted to see what council members thought about writing a letter or about other ways to take action to make sure that we're holding folks accountable. We made several appointments there and I think that it may be also right to bring them into council because they are, I would say, accountable to us as people who appointed them. So I just wanted to hear people's thoughts.

Christina: Just to clarify, BruinLife is like a student media group that's underneath Comm Board, and then the reason that admin was involved in it is because the admin in Comm Board, once it escalated up there sided with BruinLife, is that correct?

Naomi: From my understanding that is correct.

Sharon: What she said is accurate. I don't know if the student leaders in Comm Board had a say in their final decision because I was informed at that meeting that the executive board made that decision the week prior. Whoever else, like the admin and other students who were not in that executive group at that meeting I attended, they weren't really briefed on the situation so I'm really not sure there.

Breeze: Any support that we can get I think is essential. I know when Comm Board did come in we had those issues with them. Especially for BIPOC and low income students, taking a trip and just leaving everything, first of all it's not safe to go on any trip right now. Second of all, thinking about money situations and dropping any responsibilities you might have at home, it's something that many students can't do at this time. I don't know if there's also another way we can hold the admin accountable the ones that she reached out to, and maybe try to bring them in to talk to. It sounds like they did a lot of gaslighting in my opinion and they shouldn't have done that to her, especially having a room full of people who don't even want to hear her side.

Naomi: I wanted to hear from admin and people who have worked with Comm Board before on your thoughts or how that process usually happens where administrators get involved.

Minasyan

Minasyan

Wisner

Read

Arasasingham

Velazquez

Velazquez

Ogunleye

Cooper

Riley

Patti: I can give a little bit of insight. So similar to ASUCLA and our UCLA enterprises there are various boards that oversee those divisions. So Comm Board is essentially the board that oversees all the different publications from Daily Bruin to BruinLife, all the various other publications, the magazines throughout as well. So they go over the budgeting, the Editors in Chief, and then they have a board to discuss various issues regarding usually fiscal matters. There's student representation, staff representation, including administrators that help support the operations of the board. I haven't personally been to a Comm Board meeting but that's essentially the makeup of it, similar to y'all having your separate boards and entities. That's the Comm Board for the student media portion of the ASUCLA branch.

Zuleika: I completely agree with Breeze and Christina. I think this is a larger issue where, what's the point of having student representatives if the executive board is not going to communicate with them and have them be aware of the situation before they have meetings like this. I think that we should not only have the Comm Board come in but I think we should have BruinLife come in if that's possible so that they can also explain themselves. In terms of the SOLE advisors just to get some clarification as well. I completely agree I think that this was also gaslighting. It's not okay to put students in these dangerous situations especially when campus is closed because there is a pandemic. I think if we can get more information, but also what are ways we can hold admin accountable because they're not communicating with the representatives we appointed.

Bakur: I think a quick note basically since we may be writing a letter and possibly bringing in those admins we will need as much information as we can so that there's no room for them to claim other things. Having the SOLE advisors who were in the meeting would be an add on so that it's not just one person against however many people, it can be three people and this is what they're saying so that they cannot really claim that we are exaggerating or anything.

Emily: I just want to reiterate that I think it's really imperative that we stand behind Sharon on this. Sharon is a mentor to many of my mentors and she's an amazing student leader and I don't think that the situation is fair and equitable at all. I think it's ridiculous that people would even ask people to come back for a photo for aesthetic purposes during these times. You all just saw the push notification we got from LA, they're literally pushing notifications to our phones telling us that Covid cases are rising. As a student group we are held to a code of conduct. We're not supposed to be having in person gatherings, we're not supposed to be going on campus and I don't understand at all the justification for having this occur. I think that this has gone on way too long and that is unacceptable and something needs to happen. I would be interested in how we can hold admin accountable because after listening to Sharon it sounds like they were the one who perpetuated this and made this decision.

Naomi: I don't know who knows where we could get Comm Board meeting minutes but that would also be helpful too for the purposes of the letter. I mentioned to a few folks that it could be possible for us to bring it to the Compliance Task Force through the Response and Recovery team because this is an issue that we have been talking about a lot. It's really pertinent right now considering the issue in LA, even though this happened a while back it's still really important. I think that is something I can send to the chair of the task force which is Mick Deluca. Sharon, what do you think about that?

Sharon: I'm comfortable with that.

Naomi: Does anyone want to take lead on the letter?

Breeze: I'm happy to assist in any capacity that y'all need.

## **VI. Special Presentations**

### **USAC Seat at the Table Initiative**

Riley

MacKayla: Hello, I'm a campus ambassador for Gift of Life here at UCLA. So Gift of Life is basically a bone marrow and stem cell registry. So we're currently working to expand and diversify the registry because for different minorities it's very difficult for people to find a match for bone marrow and stem cell transplant. We're currently just trying to get the word out about that. So if USAC can do anything to help spread the word that would be great. Thank you.

## **VI. Appointments**

### **Alyssa Moreno to Campus Sustainability Committee\***

Cooper

## **VII. Officer Reports**

#### A. President

Riley

- Just wanted to highlight these past 2 weeks have been really COVID filled, admin was really worried about the Halloween spike, concerned about Thanksgiving as well
- We've been working on making sure our voices are represented on larger task forces as well, we've game planned around everything from testing to election response, we've shared a lot of details on the UCLA President's page
- I had the opportunity to present the social pod proposal to the Response and Recovery team, LA County is potentially looking at social pods
- We got to launch our first USAC Congressional Advisory Board Meeting. There were about 15 organizations. We went over committees that were still going to be forming and my team is still doing a lot of outreach to make sure our board is diverse
- We had an enrollment planning meeting just going over different numbers
- We're doing a lot of check ins with our teams to make sure all our platforms are supported

#### B. Internal Vice President

Luong

- I have appointed Internal Assistant Vice President to the Commuter Committee
- Met with representative from the Dean of Students office
- Put Workers First committee is working with the UCLA Labor Center to hold the Workers and Learners Summit on November 18th at 5pm
- Drive Down Rent directors are promoting the housing resource guide
- Revamp Advocacy committee is supporting Eboard with election engagement
- ASUCLA face covering design contest has closed, you can vote on ASUCLA's instagram page
- Collaborating with TSR office next thursday, event about how to ace your next interview
- Holding an event with admin on Tuesday the 24th

#### C. External Vice President

Arasasingham

- We were active with the USAC post election task force
- Advocacy teams are gearing up for advocacy priorities
- I'll be traveling to Sacramento to testify before the Assembly Higher Education Committee about key student priorities during the time of Covid-19
- Our office in partnership with TSR office will be hosting an anti blackness training for USAC on Thursday evening

#### D. General Representative 1 Written

Lee

#### E. General Representative 2 Written

Rodriguez

- Student Workers Initiative: Student Worker Town Hall last Monday turned out 25+ people to hear from Student Legal Services, UCLA Labor Center Earners and Learners Project, IVP's Put Student Workers First project, and GR2's Student Worker Initiative, with a lot of success and positive thoughts after the event
- Union Solidarity: Supported UC-AFT and AFSCME 3299 the past several weeks by passing A Resolution for Solidarity with Lecturers, Contract Faculty, and Teaching Faculty and A Resolution Against Layoffs
- Both are being used to generate press and to demonstrate student support in bargaining sessions
- Supported UC-AFT at their caravan last week to hold the Regents' and UCOP accountable for layoffs and bad faith bargaining during COVID
- Culturally Accessible Mental Health: Demystifying Mental Health Orientation this Wednesday at 6:30pm PST, resource sharing event with UCLA All Brains, UCLA Active Minds, Mother Organizations, CAPS, and RISE Center
- Buy your Values UCLA: Partnering with Facilities Commission to put on Ethical Threads: A Webinar on Supporting Worker Justice with Our Dollars, a lecture on worker cooperatives and union-run factories in the garment industry, and apparel procurement at UCLA
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#### F. General Representative 3 Written

Wade

- We've met with Swipe out Hunger to discuss possible reforms
- Met with AAC to discuss the possibility of increasing accessibility in online classes
- Met with Monroe Gordon as well as Dean Blandizzi related to Covid and athletics
- Met with CPO to discuss resources provided to the UCLA community

#### G. Academic Affairs Commissioner

Velazquez

- We've been sending out Books for Bruins
- Last week we had our AAC [indiscernible] with multiple orgs
- Next Tuesday we have an event with the Career Center about career planning for students.
- Sexual assault workshop coming up on November 19th at 4:30pm
- Released our virtual wellness guide
- Looking into releasing our Academic Senate guide pretty soon

H. Campus Events Commission Written

Naland

I. Community Service Commissioner Written

Wisner

J. Cultural Affairs Commissioner Written

Ogunleye

K. Facilities Commissioner Written

Cooper

L. Financial Supports Commissioner Written

Garcia

M. Student Wellness Commissioner Written

Read

N. Transfer Representative Written

Bravo

O. International Student Representative Written

Madini

Q. Administrative Representatives

Alexander, Champawat, Geller, O'Connor,

Perez

Josh: Just want to say happy Veterans Day and thank you to all the vets at UCLA for all your service.

Patti: Weekly programming continuing, we have a game night tomorrow night.

**VIII. Old Business**

~~A Resolution Calling for Privacy Protecting Digital Contact Tracing\*~~

Lee

**IX. New Business**

- None

**X. Adjournment\***

Riley

- Naomi adjourns the meeting at 8:10pm

**Good and Welfare**

\* Indicates Action Item

# Indicates Consent Item

@Indicates Executive Session Item