



AGENDA  
 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL  
 November 17, 2020 7 PM  
 Zoom: <https://ucla.zoom.us/j/97123303841>

**I. Call to Order**

Riley

- Naomi calls the meeting to order at 7:06pm

**A. Signing of the Attendance Sheet**

- Signed via Google Docs

**II. Approval of Agenda\***

Luong

- Strike TGMF
- Strike ASRF
- Strike SWC Programming Fund
- Strike BAG
- Strike Capital Contingency
- Strike SFS Allocations
  
- Sachi motions to approve agenda as amended, Jonathan seconds
- By motion of 10-0-0 the motion passes, agenda approved as amended

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

Luong

11/10/2020

- Emil motions to approve 11/10/2020 minutes, Jonathan seconds
- By motion of 7-0-3 the motion passes, 11/10/2020 minutes are approved

**IV. Public Comment**

Riley

Kelsey: My name is Kelsey Dempsey and I wanted to express concern for the recent selection of the CAE director and specifically how student voices, particularly disabled student voices, were disregarded in this decision. For too long disabled voices have been disregarded and especially when they're matters like CAE that directly affect them. Putting their perspective first is really crucial, especially if CAE wants to make amends to their past. In the past CAE has fostered a culture of distrust and negative feelings leading to a lot of students losing faith in the current CAE leadership and also not asking for accommodations. As somebody who has requested these in the past, I've noticed how unapproachable and rude CAE is to their students, and they're really out of touch with their students. If CAE wants to foster meaningful relationships with their students and accommodate, it really needs to listen to the student input and not just use student labor and time to interview the CAE director only to check off a box and not listen to them. CAE can't foster community building as it intends to if it can't even listen to students that it serves and organizations like FAC have tirelessly worked to create inclusion and community for disabled students and if CAE really wants to do this they have to listen to student voices. Thank you so much for your time today.

Palmer: Alfred couldn't make this comment so he wanted me to pop in and let you guys know that we are looking for one more graphic submission from all of you. I think we're going to do the USAC highlight on our instagram on week 8. If you don't mind sending over that last graphic we'd love to include it because right now we are just missing one. Thank you guys.

Quinn: Hello, my name is Quinn and I'm currently a USAC appointee to the Committee on Disability. Beginning winter quarter 2020 the CAE began a search for a new director. Due to the pandemic, the interview process was halted, but I believe they had already gone through the selection process and they identified three finalists. At the beginning of the summer I was informed that the hiring process had restarted and myself and other disabled student leaders were to be included in the hiring process. About a month ago after this prolonged seven month hiring process, we were asked to be part of the interview process and provide our perspective on the hiring committee. We of course jumped at the opportunity to provide our perspective and took time out of our full time student schedules to craft questions, attend interviews, take thorough notes, and schedule and attend meetings with the hiring committee to provide our recommendation. At the meetings, me and other student leaders expressed our opinions on the interviews but expressed our extreme concern over one of the candidates that had a history of negative experiences with disabled

students and according to their interview did not express any plans to significantly change the status quo. After these meetings, the Office of Student Affairs requested a follow up mainly concerning other matters and collaborations between us and them. Then next week at the Committee on Disability meeting, a CAE representative announced that the person that we did not recommend was hired. Students are extremely disheartened that this individual was hired and our voices were not heard and completely disregarded. We as DSU took many hours out of our packed schedule in a desire to advocate for our community only to be completely disregarded and to be met with little to no transparency. We need as disabled students for student affairs to be advocating for us and disabled voices are rarely heard on this campus so we are now turning to you all to push for systemic change. This whole experience has completely discouraged me as a disabled student leader at UCLA trying to advocate for my community and DSU is asking for your support in holding student affairs accountable for the harm they have done to our community and let me be clear that my concern is less with the current director of the CAE as we are optimistic we can build a positive relationship with them, it is instead with the broader system of student affairs and their leadership within a university system that was not built for disabled students and further fails to admit any shortcomings on their part. Thank you all and have a good night.

Nic: Hi everyone, I was here last week to talk about our work to get out the vote. I am the Board Chair for CALPIRG students and I was running our New Voters Project but I am now running our Hunger and Homelessness Campaign. This is hunger and homelessness awareness week. The students PIRG's actually founded hunger and homelessness awareness week in order to raise awareness about the problems of hunger and homelessness within our communities. This week, over 700 schools throughout the country will host events to raise money, educate the public, and advocate for solutions for the problem. Here at UCLA we'll be raising over \$500 for the LA food bank and generating phone calls into Senator Feinstein's office for a new COVID relief bill with aid for students, and hosting a lobby day with over fifty members of Congress to advocate for that COVID relief bill.

Kyle: Hello, my name is Kyle and I'm a student with a disability that would like to talk about institutionalized contempt at UCLA. I would like to talk about my experience with the Dean of Students and the ADA 504 office. I submitted a complaint to the Associate Dean of Students who assured me that my complaint would be adjudicated through UCLA policy 20.2. They sent the complaint to the ADA 504 offices which is again overseen by the Dean of Students. The ADA 504 officer, because of incompetence and lack of supervision, sent the complaint to the staff [indiscernible] office. I am a student, not a staff member. The staff office does not consider the Americans with Disabilities Act or section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act in its investigations. This means a lesser standard being applied to my complaint which is direct discrimination. Removing my complaint from the Dean of Students office in this case would assure that the university would prevail against me, finding no evidence of discrimination. In another matter, the ADA 504 officer, who is not a lawyer, said that my interpretation of the ADA was biased and incorrect because I had a disability, therefore invalidating my experience. The ADA 504 officer went on to quote the wrong section of the ADA that does not apply to public schools like UCLA but one that applies to private schools. The Dean of Students and those working within the office are morally bankrupt. They gaslight and intimidate students that continue to speak out. Protection of the university and the reputation of the Dean of Students is the primary function of the office and the experience of minority students is discarded. Thank you very much.

Ada: Hello everyone, my name is Ada and I just wanted to echo and reinforce what has just been about the hiring process of the new CAE director. I was also involved in the hiring process of the new CAE director and I felt that the voices of students with disabilities and allies were greatly dismissed. When trying to involve student voices it's important to not just give the illusion that students have a voice but truly take student voices into account. I would also like to bring up that many ideas have been brought up to CAE, oftentimes these ideas are only briefly acknowledged giving students false hope that there will be change or that their ideas are being heard. However, in reality there is no concrete action being taken. Such actions demonstrate that student ideas and concerns are not valid. Furthermore, I'd like to point out that CAE Instagram comments are off, thus suppressing students from being able to watch complaints, even through Instagram. Not having the comment function in general decreases any discourse surrounding disability. We need systemic change and would like to hold UCLA accountable for these actions. Thank you.

Natalee: I am also here to talk about the recent appointment for the CAE director. I am one of the founding members of DSU, I am also on UCOD as well. I was also asked to participate in that process of hiring, which I was optimistic, going into the process I was thrilled that students were being involved in hiring that's going to affect our needs immensely. This was such a missed opportunity because we could've really changed the culture. CAE feels like a very inhospitable space for students. In my experience it has not felt like they are my allies, I know every student I talked to has had some kind of bad experience with the office. So this was such a missed opportunity and it really felt like a performance by the administration. We are not happy about

this, but moving forward I think something that can be really productive is having more official student involved oversight within CAE, having more accountability to our involvement and our voice. Thank you for your support. I appreciate it.

Prab: Hi everyone, it's great to see you again. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Prab, I'm a fourth year history major. I'm also the CALPIRG chapter chair. As you all know, CALPIRG is a statewide student org across the UCs that works to protect the environment, support basic needs, and get out the youth vote. I just wanted to give you guys an update about what we've been up to this past week. Now that our work for the election is over like Nic was saying, we've actually launched our other campaign work. Here at UCLA we're working to make textbooks more affordable, address hunger and homelessness, and also commit UCLA to 100% clean energy sector wide. Just this past weekend we had our virtual fall statewide conference. We had more than 200 student leaders from all our chapters sign up for that conference so we could debrief our New Voters Project so we know how to do an even better job next election. We also got training from experienced staff on more organizing skills and also figured out how to drive our campaigns forward so we can work together to have the most impact possible and just address those issues that matter the most to students. Overall, I just wanted to pop up and say hey. I'm excited to be back here and to see you all again, please do not hesitate to reach out with your efforts on campus, I would love to help.

Katie: Hello my name is Katie and I'm a first year at UCLA. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I know that you're hearing from many disabled student leaders about the current situation with the CAE and I hope to share a bit about my personal CAE experience in order to shed light on the matter in hopes for better CAE management and ultimately dramatic change in the treatment of disabled students at UCLA within student affairs especially. As an incoming student, I was excited at the prospect of college; a place with new freedoms, new ideas, and new people. Unfortunately, the months spent fighting with the CAE quickly destroyed any initial feelings of glee. Due to the extent of my disabilities, I immediately contacted the CAE when I was accepted to UCLA. I then spent the entire summer obtaining a plethora of medical documentation from multiple doctors and completing forms detailing my personal, physical, and emotional health. One would think all of this work would pay off right? Wrong. The CAE denied me numerous accommodations stating that the school 1. Did not offer that type of accommodation, 2. I was simply expressing preference, not a true need, and 3. That my request was simply unreasonable. The back and forth lasted for months with me expressing deep concern for my physical and emotional wellbeing and the CAE responding with legal jargon and confusing rationale. Furthermore, CAE staff continuously behaved in rude and psychologically confusing ways. Beginning sentences with "we hear you and we are listening" and then in the next breath denying my lived experiences. Suffice to say, I have not felt welcomed by UCLA admin or the CAE. While I have had the opportunity to file an official appeal with the CAE I have yet to do so because to be perfectly honest, I'm exhausted. This quarter has been manageable because most of my professors have accommodated me outside of the CAE through my own self advocacy or have already established policies that meet my needs due to the online learning format. I am terrified for future quarters, especially when we return to campus. I am asking USAC for help, not just for me but for the disabled students at UCLA as a whole. We are tired of our needs not being met and we are tired of being ignored time and time again by UCLA admin and by the CAE. We need change so that when students like me enter UCLA, we feel welcomed.

- Public comment concluded at 7:26 pm

## V. Funding

### Capital Contingency\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Minasyan

### Contingency Programming\*

Minasyan

Total Requested: \$2,250.06

Total Recommended: \$1,794.78

- 7 non-USAC entities and 1 USAC entity
- Sachi motions to approve \$1,794.78, Jonathan seconds
- By motion 10-0-0 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

Total Allocated: \$323.95

- No opposition, ARCF allocation passes by consent

## TGIF

Cooper

- 2 applications
- Total of \$436.00 allocated

## **VI. Special Presentations**

### USAC Seat at the Table Initiative

Riley

BBSA - The Black Business Student Association

What is BBSA?

- The Black Business Student Association is the premier black professional organization and business network at UCLA. Committed to empowering students through professional development, mentorship, entrepreneurship, and career networking opportunities.

What We Offer:

- Company Partnerships:
  - Facebook
  - JP Morgan
  - Accenture
  - AT&T
  - & More!
- Mentorship:
  - Anderson School of Business BBSA
  - UBAA
  - BBSA Alumni
- Workshops:
  - Company info sessions
  - Resume
  - LinkedIn
  - Vision Board
  - Interviewing
  - Networking

Who We Serve?

- Our membership is composed of a diverse group of talented students pursuing careers and interests in business, politics, social causes and the community. BBSA celebrates diversity and welcomes students of all cultural backgrounds, whole operating with clear goals that suit the needs and the concerns of Black students at UCLA.

Some Fall Events

- Recruiting Tips and Tricks with Google - October 29th 6:30pm
- BBSA x AstraZeneca x BPHO - November 13th
- Let's Talk Real Estate w/ Pacific Western - November 19th 6:30pm
- BBSa End of Quarter GBM (Trivia!) - Dec. 2nd 6:30pm

How Can USAC Help?

- Help us maximize our reach to students on the campus by helping us promote events and resources
- Give us some ideas on how to better engage and interact with students in this virtual environment
- Potentially partner on an event together in winter or spring on professional development (ex: host linkedin workshop with Partnership UCLA or Career Center)

## About USAC Presentation

Turnball

### USAC Info Meeting

#### Overview:

- In our fall efforts to build USAC awareness before the elections, USA Elections Board is proposing a brief USAC information meeting where the general student body is welcome to learn about various USAC offices.

#### Why?

- Promote transparency
- Recruit staffers for your offices
- Build awareness moving in to candidate recruitment season
- Build a culture of informed and active students
- Show off your achievements
- Serve as a more engaging information Source than a social media campaign
- Students deserve to learn what their USAC fees go towards

#### When?

- Open for discussion but definitely in Fall quarter
- Scheduled during or right before a weekly meeting to ensure Council attendance
- Week 8 or 9?

#### What We Need From You

- Slides describing your office
  - Roles and responsibilities
  - Accomplishments
  - Pitch to recruit staffers
  - Anything else you want to include
- Show up for the presentation
- You or a representative gives the presentation
- Advertisements for the info meeting on socials or newsletters

#### Final Notes

- Your offices and the student body could greatly benefit from a USAC info meeting
- Regardless of attendance, it would push towards a more transparent Student Government (we can also record the info for reposting clips on socials or websites)
- Hopefully this can be a start towards more collaborative efforts between USAC and the USA Elections Board

## **VI. Appointments**

### Alyssa Moreno to Campus Sustainability Committee#

Cooper

- No opposition, Alyssa Morena appointed to Campus Sustainability Committee

## **VII. Officer Reports**

### A. President

Riley

- UCLA is partnering with an app that is going to be doing contact tracing, launched yesterday, think it's important for our offices to voice our support or concern with the app
- Covid cases rising in UCLA community
- Met with Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and EDI to report on policing
- No UCPD coalition will be publishing a letter
- Meeting tomorrow with Vice Chancellor Gordon about CAE director

**B. Internal Vice President**

Luong

- Tomorrow at 5pm my office is collaborating with the UCLA Labor Center Workers and Learners Project for the Workers and Learners 2020 Summit
- Drive Down Rent Committee is preparing UCLA SPARK Campaign for the December launch
- Revamp Advocacy Partnerships and Outreach Committees held a workshop in collaboration with the Bruin Film Society to talk about navigating USAC funding for their organization
- On Thursday the 19th our office is collaborating with the Transfer Student Representative's office on an event called How to Ace your Next Interview
- On Tuesday the 24th they will be having a Q&A event with administrators
- In talks with Rent College Pads about what our off campus housing fair will look like in a virtual setting

**C. External Vice President**

Arasasingham

- Last Thursday I testified before the Assembly Higher Education Committee on key UCLA and systemwide student priorities
- Regents meeting starting tomorrow
- On Thursday the regents will be approving the basic needs report which will expand the definition of UC basic needs, the UC budget is also being approved
- Our office will be shutting down Thanksgiving week

**D. General Representative 1 Written**

Lee

**E. General Representative 2 Written**

Rodriguez

- Calling on folks to continue supporting the bargaining of UC-AFT. UCOP negotiators are starting to buckle because over 200 people packed the Zoom room this table session last Thursday.
- Supporting the Workers and Learners summit run by the Labor Center next Wednesday at 5pm

**F. General Representative 3 Written**

Wade

- Directors have been able to meet with leaders from across the country, efforts to create collaborative resource guides and networks
- Met with executives within athletics department
- Been in discussing about retention within different teams in athletics

**G. Academic Affairs Commissioner**

Velazquez

- Had Careers Center workshop today
- Having sexual assault workshop on Thursday
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**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 a reminder that the CPO Thanksgiving box sign up is open.

**VIII. Old Business**

- None

**IX. New Business**

- None

**X. Adjournment\***

- Naomi adjourns at 8:30pm

**Good and Welfare**

Riley

\* Indicates Action Item

# Indicates Consent Item

@Indicates Executive Session Item