

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCILSeptember 20, 2006
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.PRESENT: Araabi, Caba, Cendana, Dehar, Doria, Jang, Kaisey, Malik, McLaren, Miller, Nelson, Price,
Sargent, Saucedo, Schuster, Tuttle, Williams, Zai

ABSENT: Park

GUESTS: Julia Erlandson

I. A. Call to Order

- Kaisey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Kaisey said that she would be removing the Presidential Appointments from the Agenda.
- McLaren said that she was still concerned about the timeline regarding appointing the CS Mini Fund Chairperson. She pointed out that the incoming Chairperson needs a certain amount of lead time to advertise the availability of funds and to prepare for the first round of hearings. Kaisey said she realized that the appointment wasn't being made as early as desirable, but said she thought it would be worth it in the long run to find and appoint the person who was best qualified to do the job. Cendana said that, even if Council did want to fill this position tonight, they would not be able to because no candidates had been interviewed.
- Saucedo, Doria, and Dehar asked to be added to the Officer and Member Reports.
- Zai moved and Jang seconded to approve the Agenda as amended.
- Council voted to approve the Agenda, as amended, with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

III. Approval of the Minutes

Malik Arrived

- Tuttle suggested that the oral officer reports should be written down in addition to attaching the written reports to the minutes, as the Officers did not have an opportunity to review the reports in the Minutes. Michael Keesler, the USAC Minutes Taker, said that the written attachments were also passed out to Council during the meeting itself, so the Officers did, in fact, have the opportunity to see the reports.
- McLaren said that, for at least the last several years, USAC officers had been encouraged to submit a written report in the interest of improving accuracy and completeness of the records. Tuttle said he understood that it was good to have both a written and an oral report, but said he thought it important that Council have attachments to review at the time they were approving them.

June 6, 2006

- Nelson said that he was not present at the June 6th meeting.
- Zai said that, on page 2, CALPIRG should actually be spelled CalPIRG.

- Kaisey said that on page 2, in the second comment from the bottom of the page, she had said, "...Blue and Gold *Week's Bruin Bear Defense Force* had been a big success last year, with *USAC* winning the Best Spirit Award."
- Kaisey said that on page 9, in her third comment from the end Old Business, the word "more" was written twice.
- Cendana moved and Araabi seconded to approve the Minutes of June 6, 2006 as amended.
- Council voted to approve the Minutes of June 6, 2006, as amended, with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

June 12, 2006

- Zai pointed out that the date on the Minutes was incorrect. She also said that on page 2, toward the middle of the page, she had said that she, "...liked the emphasis on *stopping* the fee increase..."
- Doria moved and Cendana seconded to approve the Minutes of June 12, 2006 as amended, by Unanimous Consent.
- Kaisey asked if there were any objections to approval by Unanimous Consent. There being none, the Minutes of June 12, 2006 were approved, as amended, by Unanimous Consent.

IV. Special Presentations

There were no Special Presentations this week.

V. Appointments

Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools

- Schuster said that his first appointee for the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools (CUARS) was Alex Budak.
- Schuster moved and Zai seconded to approve the appointment of Alex Budak to the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools.
- Schuster said that Budak had described in his application for a position on CUARS what occurred when he first applied for admission to UCLA and was rejected. Budak then submitted an appeal which was reviewed from a holistic perspective, resulting in a decision to admit him. Schuster continued by saying that Budak's application stated that, without a holistic review of his application, he would not have gotten into UCLA. Schuster said that Budak's experience brought a unique perspective to CUARS.
- Saucedo said he thought that Council had already voted on Budak's appointment. Schuster said that Saucedo was correct, but said that Council had voted against appointing Budak when he was first nominated.
- Araabi said it was important that all of the individuals appointed to CUARS were aware of the diversity crisis taking place at UCLA, and understood the subtleties of holistic review and why that was unsuccessful in bringing in students from underrepresented communities. Araabi said he understood that a new admissions process was being put into place, but it was important that it be looked at with a leaning toward ending the diversity crisis.
- Tuttle asked, for clarification, if Council had voted on Budak's nomination before. Kaisey replied that Council had voted on his nomination at a prior meeting, but he was not approved by Council. Tuttle then said that, in order to bring a matter back, it was necessary for someone who voted on the opposing side to bring that individual forward again.
- Kaisey said that, even if there was no provision in the Bylaws to allow a nominee to be brought forward again by the representative who originally nominated them, there certainly was precedent set by last year's Council for this situation. Tuttle said that he did not recall the situation that Kaisey referenced, but did allow that the decision was ultimately left up to the chair. He added that his view on precedent was that there was no reason to repeat the mistakes of the past. Kaisey said she understood, but said that Tuttle's point applied to past circumstances in which the chair had ruled meetings to be separate, thus allowing an individual to be brought back for consideration.

- Dehar said that he might be the reason this appointment was coming back to Council for reconsideration, as he had decided to no longer abstain on the vote.
- Dehar moved and Price seconded to Call the Question on the motion.
- Council voted to Call the Question with a vote of 9 in favor, 2 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Council voted to approve the appointment of Alex Budak to the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools with a vote of 6 in favor, 5 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Tuttle made a Point of Order and asked if it was the chair's position that motions to reverse decisions would be in order. Kaisey said that was correct for appointments only, and when brought up at a subsequent meeting, not at the same meeting.
- Sargent made a Point of Order that an appointee needed a majority vote, not a majority vote of the voting members present. Kaisey replied that Council had not gone by that rule in years. Tuttle said that Sargent was recalling how Council used to vote, but in the last four years it had been a majority vote of the present members. He asked if the Chair's position was that all appointments required a majority vote of the present members, to which Kaisey said that it was. Tuttle asked about Kaisey's position on abstentions, to which Kaisey replied that abstentions were not counted toward the total majority or against it, as otherwise they would carry weight against the motion, thus making them like opposition.
- Sargent said that if someone's vote had changed, perhaps they should speak first and call the question, rather than engaging in a circular discussion.
- Schuster said that his second appointee for CUARS was Melvin Jimenez, who served on the committee during the last year. Schuster also said that Jimenez brings a different vantage point to this committee than does Budak.
- Schuster moved and Price seconded to approve the appointment of Melvin Jimenez to the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools.
- Price said that she had sat on CUARS with Jimenez last year, and said that she could vouch for his abilities.
- Kaisey asked if Schuster had gotten any ideas about how Jimenez wanted to use his experience, to which Schuster said that he had not spoken with Jimenez personally.
- Saucedo said that he knew that Jimenez was on the committee last year, but wanted to know what he had done on the committee regarding diversity. Price answered that information was confidential, by a signed agreement, but said that Jimenez was certainly an advocate of diversity and was aware of the diversity crisis.
- Council voted to approve the appointment of Melvin Jimenez to the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools with a vote of 6 in favor, 5 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Continuing and Community Education

- Schuster said that he was forwarding Linda Chu for appointment to the Committee on Continuing and Community Education. He said that she was very interested in community education, and said that she gave 110% to every responsibility she assumes.
- Schuster moved and Saucedo seconded to approve the appointment of Linda Chu to the Committee on Continuing and Community Education.
- Price asked what the Committee on Continuing and Community Education did, to which Schuster said that this was the new name for the Committee on UCLA Extension.
- Council voted to approve the appointment of Linda Chu to the Committee on Continuing and Community Education with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Education Abroad

- Schuster said that he was appointing Hadar Zemah to the Committee on Education Abroad not only because of her qualifications for the position, but also because she would be studying abroad again next year, as she has for the past two years..
- Schuster moved and Araabi seconded to approve the appointment of Hadar Zemah to the Committee on Education Abroad.
- Council voted to approve the appointment of Hadar Zemah to the Committee on Education Abroad with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Diversity and Equal Opportunity

- Schuster said that he was forwarding Avani Oswal for appointment to the Committee on Diversity and Equal Opportunity (CODEO) because she was very experienced, both in student government and the Academic Affairs Commission. He said that this was something that she was very interested in as well, and she represented South Campus.
- Schuster moved and Jang seconded to approve the appointment of Avani Oswal to the Committee on Diversity and Equal Opportunity.
- Araabi said it seemed to him that Oswal didn't have much of an idea about what the committee did, and said that there had been very little mention in her application about any of the responsibilities of CODEO. He said, additionally, that her experience did not seem to relate to this committee's role. Schuster replied that Oswal's application might not have represented her knowledge of the committee because she was talking about what she had been working on, rather than spending time educating USAC about a committee that they already knew about. He said that, in the Academic Affairs Commission office, she had worked on the issue of how women were discouraged from pursuing work in the field of academia. Schuster said that she not only understood these issues, but had elected to work on them. Araabi said that was all well and good, but said he thought that, as long as Oswal just referenced diversity as a vague idea, then she really didn't understand the committee or what it did.
- Council voted to approve the appointment of Avani Oswal to the Committee on Diversity and Equal Opportunity with a vote of 6 in favor, 5 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Schuster said his second appointee for the Committee on Diversity and Equal Opportunity was Sandybeth Carrillo. He explained that the reason her application for this committee was so short was because she had been traveling in Europe at the time and was able to get only a half-hour of computer access. He said that most of Council was probably familiar with Carrillo because of her role on the Election Board last year.
- Schuster moved and Price seconded to approve the appointment of Sandybeth Carrillo to the Committee on Diversity and Equal Opportunity.
- Saucedo said that he understood why the application was so brief, but said it seemed like Carrillo had not really grasped the diversity issue. He said that her application didn't really include anything about what she had done in the past or what she was planning to do to improve diversity issues.
- Araabi said that, where the first person appointed to CODEO didn't seem to understand the committee's role, it seemed like this applicant completely misunderstood the issues. He said that this applicant seemed to feel that UCLA was diverse right now because it was half White and half Asian, which showed that she really had no idea what the diversity issue was at all.
- Price said, to clarify, that an Asian/White split was more diverse. Saucedo said that might be true, but that had nothing to do with the diversity crisis whatsoever. Price asked him to reference the application itself, which he did. Price said she thought that Araabi was misreading it, because Carrillo had said she was experiencing more diversity at UCLA than had existed in the homogenized community she had come from.
- Schuster said he thought that Araabi might also not fully understand the role of this committee, as CODEO deals with more issues than just admissions.
- Council voted not to approve the appointment of Sandybeth Carrillo to the Committee on Diversity and Equal Opportunity with a vote of 4 in favor, 7 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Kaisey encouraged Schuster to bring Carrillo back with a full application at a later date.
- Nelson said that one of the things that had come out at USAC's retreat was that many students had come to UCLA in search of diversity. He said that people coming from many high schools were finding a much more diverse community here than at their high schools and that their perceptions about diversity were very different after being at UCLA for several years.

Academic Freedom Committee

- Schuster said that Adriana Ahumada had been very active with USAC and had also sat on the Academic Senate in the last year.

- Schuster moved and Zai seconded to approve the appointment of Adriana Ahumada to the Academic Freedom Committee.
- Dehar asked what the Academic Freedom Committee dealt with. Schuster said that its purpose was to ensure the right of professors to teach and research what they wanted to.
- Nelson asked what the point was of having a student on this committee, to which Schuster replied that all decision-making bodies on campus appreciated student input and viewpoints.
- Doria said that this committee was a major concern to the conservative students who often did not get a voice on this campus. He asked if any of the applicants represented this conservative viewpoint. Schuster said that he always tried to get diverse viewpoints on committees that had more than one student serving on them.
- Council voted to approve the appointment of Adriana Ahumada to the Academic Freedom Committee with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Schuster said that the next appointee to the Academic Freedom Committee was Brittani Yriarte. He said that she had worked with him in the Academic Affairs Commission and this was an issue that was very important to her as a conservative student at UCLA.
- Schuster moved and Price seconded to approve the appointment of Brittani Yriarte to the Academic Freedom Committee.
- Tuttle said that, out of curiosity, he had just looked up the information on this committee on the internet. He said it appeared to him that this committee was concerned with any internal or external positions that affected the academic freedom of both faculty and students.
- Doria clarified his earlier point by saying that, just as it was important to have a voice for the minority on admissions, it was also important for the conservatives, the minority on campus, to have a voice on the issue of academic freedom.
- Araabi said that, based on Yriarte's application, it seemed like she wanted professors not to say certain things. Doria said that asking professors to be held accountable with backup documentation was not unreasonable, as this was an academic institution and only fact-based information should be presented. Nelson took issue with Doris's comment, and some discussion ensued between them.
- Zai moved and Araabi seconded to Call the Question on the motion.
- Council voted to Call the Question on the motion with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Council voted to approve the appointment of Brittani Yriarte to the Academic Freedom Committee with a vote of 8 in favor, 3 opposed, and 0 abstentions.
- Nelson said that he would like to respond to Doria's statement about the accountability of professors. He said that information can be presented which is fact-based, but then there is also information presented that is an interpretation. Nelson said that, depending on whether the interpreter was conservative or liberal, the interpretation might be different, but it was important not to fear repercussions of those interpretations, because that was what the academic environment was all about.
- Doria said, to clarify his statement, it was his view that, if a professor was making an interpretation, then they should be able to back up their information. Nelson said that, even in a science class, information might not be completely factual.

VI. Fund Allocations

Approval of Contingency Fund Allocations

- Schuster moved and Doria seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations.
- Miller explained that the three organizations that were not funded provided absolutely no documentation. He said that documentation of certain items was not necessary, but was required for certain other items. Miller said his committee had decided that the policy regarding documentation was going to be adhered to this year. He said that there would be a workshop about this matter since it marked a change in policy, not a change in the rules.

- Kaisey said that this policy had actually been implemented mid-year last year, so Miller was going above and beyond his responsibilities by holding a workshop.
- Schuster asked what did not require documentation, to which Miller said black and white copies, transportation using UCLA van services, advertisements in the Daily Bruin, and a few other things.
- Araabi asked why Project Literacy had not been funded, to which Miller said that the application had been unsigned, the application had been turned in too late for USAC to vote on it, and the application had been copied from years past without even changing the names of the applicants.
- Council voted to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

The Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations are attached to the minutes.

VII. Officer and Member Reports

Campus Events Commissioner – Ravi Dehar

- Dehar said that he had the fliers for Bruin Bash which he had designed and said if anyone didn't like them, he didn't want to hear about it. He said that Xzibit had been booked for Bruin Bash, and their honorarium was a little higher than it had been the year before. Dehar said that he would be meeting with Jerry Mann to try to figure out how to cut down such expenses for next year's Bruin Bash.
- Nelson asked what time all the events would end, to which Dehar said that they had left that kind of vague because they don't have all the events scheduled yet. Dehar said that the dance would actually start after the concert, but would begin no later than 10:00 p.m. He also said that everything would be shut down by 2:00 a.m.
- Kaisey said that Dehar could put the fliers outside her office if he wanted.
- Price said that Rieber's Welcome Week event would be at 6:00 pm.

General Representative 1 – Carlos Saucedo

- Saucedo said that the USAC Open House would be from 12-3p.m. He also said that ASUCLA would be providing food for Council, with the tour starting at the Student Activities Center, and hopefully moving through Council's open offices in the afternoon. Saucedo said that he was also working on an LGBT Resource Fair during National Coming Out Week.

Academic Affairs Commissioner – Nat Schuster

- Schuster said that he had about 20 people at the AAC Retreat. He said that the highlight had been splitting up the staff to go to UCI to build bridges and make connections. Schuster said that they would be trying to set up USIE programs of their own. Schuster said that the Enormous Activities Fair was coming up, and that various academic counselors from around campus would be there. He said that they would have a tent to provide shade for the counselors so they would want to come back in coming years. Schuster said that he might need to request funding from surplus as Dehar had. He said that they wanted to show An Inconvenient Truth, the film on global warming, but it would be very expensive to screen it now. He said it might be affordable if they waited a couple more months. Schuster said that, instead of showing An Inconvenient Truth, they would be showing a movie about living with a physical disability.
- Tuttle asked if Kaisey would allow him to speak about the academic freedom issue, to which she replied that he could. Tuttle said his recommendation was that, if the question of ideology in the classroom came up, Schuster should contact the president of the Academic Senate on the correct procedure for what should be done about it. He said that, if the student leadership did not feel that was appropriate, then it could be reevaluated. He closed by saying that, for the time being, it was good to follow established procedures.

Administrative Representative – Berky Nelson

- Nelson said that he had spoken with an administrator at Oregon State, who had expressed interest in having a UCLA presence at the Northwestern Leadership Conference. On another matter, Nelson said that he had gotten some information about the fact that there was not enough funding being provided for student mental health. He said that this had been triggered by a

recent suicide at UC Davis. He said he raised this point so that USAC could play a role in ensuring that there was adequate funding for student mental health services. Nelson also encouraged Council, as individuals, to keep an eye on their peers and to make sure that they were all right, or to encourage them to get help if they were not. On another matter, Nelson said that he had been working on the revised guidelines regarding access to funds from student fees but they were still in draft form. He said that there would be a meeting next Monday, September 25th to try to work out all the details. In the meantime, Nelson said that anyone who was applying for funding should refer to the existing guidelines.

- Zai asked if the meeting on Monday was open to Council Members and to other students, to which Nelson replied that it was.
- Schuster asked Nelson if the Student Fee Advisory Committee could work on the reallocation of funding to student mental health. Nelson recommended that Council contact the new head of Student Psychological Services to find out what additional funding, if any, was needed. He said that lack of funding should not be the reason that student mental health takes a hit.
- Cendana explained that the way SFAC allocated funding was by assessing various services and, if the assessment of a particular unit did not indicate a need, they might not recommend funding for it. Nelson commented that SFAC tended to change the way that they did things every year.
- Schuster said that the leading foundation on college mental health and suicide prevention was the JED Foundation if anyone on Council was interested in getting in touch with them for more details.

Internal Vice President – Gregory Cendana

- Cendana said that there were still three people who had not paid him for their share of the USAC Retreat expenses. He also said that no one had turned in their receipts to him.

President – Marwa Kaisey

President Marwa Kaisey's Officer Report is attached to the Minutes.

Questions and Comments followed Kaisey's Report.

- Doria asked what the last event was, to which Kaisey said that it was recruitment for ASUCLA.
- Dehar asked if the commissioners had to RSVP for the event, to which Kaisey said that they did not.
- Price said that she had a staff member who had applied for parking but had not gotten it, to which Kaisey said that she would work on it.
- Caba said that she needed parking as well, but had not applied earlier. Kaisey said that she would see what she could do.
- McLaren asked Price to clarify her comment, to which Price said that one of her staff members had been given an application for parking, but it turned out that she doesn't need parking, so it's available for someone else who needs it.

VIII. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

IX. New Business

Discussion on Action Agenda and Focus Submissions

- Cendana said that the deadline to submit Action Agenda and Focus Items had been extended to Monday at 5:00p.m. He then asked Council if they wanted to talk about the ones that had been submitted, or if they'd prefer to wait until they had all been submitted.
- Price said she thought that the deadline should be extended with the understanding that the proposals needed to be turned in ASAP.
- Cendana asked Kaisey how soon hers could be submitted, to which Kaisey replied that she was waiting for some information from Park. Cendana extended the deadline by another 24 hours.

X. Announcements

- Cendana asked if they could begin to design the USAC T-Shirts for this year, to which Zai said that was fine except that she did not want navy blue again. Kaisey asked if they had already begun the design, to which Cendana said that they definitely had ideas, but nothing was final yet.

XI. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XII. Adjournment

- Zai moved and Araabi seconded to adjourn.
- Council voted to adjourn at 9:01 pm with a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

XIII. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Keesler
USAC Minutes Taker