

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
COUNCILTuesday January 15, 2008
417 Kerckhoff Hall
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chang, Colosimo, Hotter, Iberti, Jang, Lyon, McLaren, Mossahebfar, Nelson, Pham,
Rose, Shaw, Sobhani, Tanjuaquio, Tuttle, Weintraub, Williams

ABSENT: Chibnick, Mann, Tressel

GUESTS: Karen Hsu, Sarah Jo, Jennifer Lorch, Matt Sandler, Monica Shin, Debra Simmons

I. A. Call to Order

- Rose called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

B. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The Attendance sheet was passed around.

II. Approval of the Agenda

- Sobhani asked to add USAC Website to Special Presentations.
- Hsu asked to add On Campus Housing Committee to Special Presentations.
- Rose called for Acclamation. Rose asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Agenda was approved, as amended, by Acclamation.

III. Approval of the Minutes

There were no Minutes this week.

IV. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments this week.

V. Special Presentations

USAC Website – Emerson Taymor

- Taymor gave a presentation outlining the major problems and possible solutions for the USAC website. He said the website was outdated and is lacking in three important areas: poor design, low usability, and little accessibility for the disabled. He gave a basic quote for designing a new site, being \$1500-\$2000, depending upon time put in, the number of pages that have to be constructed, and the addition of an optional content management system. The content management system would allow for various users to update the website individually with ease, giving more people access to the content. As to the size the website would take up, the new design would be larger in space, but an insubstantial rise from what is currently being used on the servers.

- Some concerns were raised as to what the cost would be to maintain the website. Taymor said the website would be set up in a way that would be easy and efficient to maintain.
- Tuttle asked why more web designers have not been interviewed, or why a bidding process was not put into place. The board responded saying the designer is in house, and charges a substantial amount lower than market value. Plus, there is a time frame in which they are trying to get the redesign accomplished.
- The board was concerned with how long it would take for Taymor to finish the site. Taymore responded that it depends on how quickly the board approves the new design, but he is aiming at a time frame of 2 months at the maximum.

OCHC – Karen Hsu

- Hsu came to give some updates on what is going on the Hill. The Semi-formal is on January 25th at 9:30 pm at the Tom Bradley Center, and the theme is 80's. The entry fee is \$3 for residents and \$5 for residents' guests. They are also concurrently running a canned food drive, and if you bring
- Weintraub asked if there is a way her office can get in touch to cosponsor events with OCHC. Hsu told her to send a representative to OCHC meetings, which are on Tuesdays from 8:30pm to 10:30pm in the Sycamore room of De Neve

VI. Appointments

There were no Appointments this week.

VII. Fund Allocations

- Sobhani said APC asked for a ridiculous amount of money for a retreat. With the amount asked for, one could fly somewhere, eat well, and stay at a very nice hotel. However, APC is not the first organization to pad a retreat application. Unless there is an inherent need for larger amounts of money for a retreat, discretion is used to discern how much an organization really needs.
- Sobhani said that there were 3 Contingency Requests submitted this week, totaling \$7807.52. He said he was recommending total allocations of \$1290.00.
- Lyon moved and Weintraub seconded to approve the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations. - Rose called for Acclamation. Rose asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the Contingency Fund Allocation Recommendations were approved by Acclamation.

VIII. Officer and Member Reports

President – Gabe Rose

Rose said his office has been working hard and continue to succeed in performing exceptionally well.

Internal Vice President – Dianne Tanjuaquio

Tanjuaquio said the Focus the Nation event will be happening on January 31st, and there will be workshops and possibly a band. She is also cosponsoring an event with the General Representative 1 office on a fund raiser for victims of the Malibu and San Diego wildfires. They will be selling orange bracelets to raise money.

External Vice President – Justin Hotter

Hotter said the Lobby Conference will be March 3-5 in Sacramento to tell the state legislature about student concerns, such as shrinking job opportunities outside of college and rising student fees. The External Vice President's office pays for it, so everyone should go. Hotter also took this time to tender his letter of resignation to the board. His letter is as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen of Council, Daily Bruin Staff, and Public Attendants of this meeting, it is with great regret that I must unfortunately stand before you tonight and announce my resignation from USAC. The past six-and-a-half months have been an enormous, incredible learning experience, as well as one of the best parts of my UCLA career. However, I must leave, the reasons being two-fold. Last quarter opened my eyes to the fact that a rigorous academic regimen and the immense effort of running the demanding External Vice President's office were not as compatible as I had once thought. Although I had done well in both my office and my coursework last quarter, I had not done as well as I would have liked in either. As an upper division student in a very demanding major, I recognize that academics must come first, and after spending a lot of time reflecting over break, knowing that my academics will only become more difficult as I move closer to graduation, I realized that I will never be able to give as much time, effort, and concentration to my USAC office as it deserves. UCLA Undergraduates should have an External Vice President that can devote as much time and effort as necessary to the immensely important work of representing UCLA undergraduates statewide and advocating on behalf of them in our nation's government. Sadly, that can no longer be me.

Secondly, I have recently become aware of a new financial situation. It is not serious, but does require more income flow than this job can provide. As much as I do not like it, I must get another job, and due to the gargantuan time commitments from my schooling and my need to work, I must quit my first one. Although it pains me very much to say it, I must resign my position as External Vice President, due to persistent and important academic and financial reasons.

I am sincerely sorry to my staff, my friends, and all of the people who helped make me External Vice President. Advocating on behalf of students and representing UCLA state-and-nation-wide is an enormous and important responsibility, and I am honored that you all chose me. It was an incredible journey, but for reasons already given, UCLA undergraduates need somebody that can devote all of their focus and attention to the External Vice President's office, and I am deeply apologetic that that person can no longer be me. I hope that you all see this resignation as a necessary step for me, for personal reasons already explained, and not as a blight on a long and impressive professional record. In the past six-and-a-half months, the External Vice President's Office has:

- Registered over 1,000 UCLA students to vote here in Westwood, building student political power so that politicians may be held accountable for critical student issues, such as the soaring costs of student fees, rising textbook prices, the steep cost of "student housing," and shrinking post-graduation job opportunities.
- We brought the message of the importance of voting to the over 35,000 students here at UCLA with a special project of mine. Working with the UCLA Registrar, last Thursday I had a bulletin put up in the top bulletin slot on the URSA website reminding and encouraging students to vote and linking them to a website where they can download voter registration forms to fill in and mail out. Unfortunately, content on URSA must be neutral, so the bulletin is highly restricted in language, but I am proud and grateful to have worked with the registrar to empower our over 35,000 students with an easily accessible, high-traffic notice and means of downloading and completing voter registration forms, making sure that all UCLA students have the chance to be heard in the upcoming election.
- We founded the UCLA Lobby Corps, ensuring that there will always be a regular group of students whose sole job it is to travel to State politicians' local and Sacramento offices to make sure that the voices of students are heard and the issues and concerns of students are addressed.

- We drafted and made a part of the USAC bylaws guidelines to make the External Vice President's Office Travel Grant Program Fund a fair, open, transparent, and accountable pool of money, ending a history of corruption and favoritism in the External Vice President's Office that, in years previous, benefited a very small number of student groups at the expense of several hundreds of others. I am proud to have been the External Vice President that authored and introduced such important, necessary, and long-overdue reform.
- We had the Bureau of Street Lighting fix 17 broken and burnt-out street lights in the Westwood area after communicating and following up with the Bureau over the enormous problem of a lack of proper street lighting in the Westwood apartment area. We are proud to have worked with the Bureau of Street Lighting to make such an immensely important contribution to Campus Safety and the safety of the thousands of students who live in the Westwood area.

To my staff, I appreciate all of your willingness and the energy you brought to the office. I am sorry my macro managerial style didn't work for some of you. To those of you who took initiative and dedicated yourselves, we have the pleasure of a long list of wonderful victories to be proud of. You did really well this past 6 and a half months, and I am sure you will continue to succeed in the remaining time we have.

Christina, you have been a loyal friend, a trusted confidant, and someone whom I can always go to for sound advice. Words cannot adequately describe how much I appreciate our friendship, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for being there through the ups and the downs. You're the greatest.

Dr. Nelson, your confidence and advice have been of insurmountable meaning and importance to me. There's no describing how much your counsel and friendship have helped me, and I sincerely thank you.

Dr. Tuttle, I have greatly enjoyed our chats throughout these past six months, and your example has been truly inspirational to me. You are wise beyond even your modest years, and your sound advice, Socratic wisdom, immeasurable experience, and teachings have helped me greatly during my time in office. I truly can't thank you enough.

Indeed, as many of you who read the Daily Bruin already know, it has been a bright and productive six months, and it pains me to no end to have to resign my post, but I am a student first, councilman second. Due to the incredible importance of the External Vice President's Office, I have spoken with Gabe Rose and will remain External Vice President until a new one can be chosen so that UCLA undergraduate students can have continuous, uninterrupted representation. And with that, I have nothing left to say except, thank you, and, good night."

Administrative Representatives – Dr Berky Nelson

Nelson said the 5th annual ATHGO International conference is being hosted by UCLA. It will go from February 21st to March 1st, and will engage students in a variety of workshops and activities focusing around the state of the environment, political will on the environment, technological solutions, and environmental friendly entrepreneurship. 3 registration slots are open to UCLA students, and the council should look into filling them, given that, not only ATHGO is an important conference, but UCLA is the host.

It was asked if Al Gore will be there in person. No one at the table knows for sure, but most likely any reference to Al Gore concerns his work and not himself personally.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business this week.

X. New Business

There was no New Business this week.

XI. Announcements

- Lyon said recruitment for the alternative Spring Break programs in Northern California and Los Angeles will start next week. If anybody or their staff are interested, they should be directed towards Lyon or Chang. There will also be workshops and publicity up on the Hill.
- Tanjuaquio said the UC Regents will be here this week, starting today and leaving on Thursday. They are at Covell Commons and usually start at about 8:30am.
- Chang said tomorrow night is the Battle of the Bands with Pi Kappa Phi. Lady Danville along with some other acts will be performing. It will be in the Ackerman Grand Ballroom from 7:00pm to 10:00pm.
- Sobhani said he can start looking into setting up a town hall meeting with USAC and the UCLA community. It will be a great way for students to get more acquainted with USAC and possibly get student input for the new website. Dr. Tuttle said it is a good idea in principle but will take a lot of work, especially in promoting student attendance, for it to become a success.

XII. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet was passed around.

XIII. Adjournment

- Lyon moved and Sobhani seconded to adjourn.
- Rose called for Acclamation. Rose asked if there were any objections to approval by Acclamation. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m. by Acclamation.

XIV. Good and Welfare

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas King
USAC Minutes Taker