Official

USC Undergraduate Student Government

Meeting Minutes

TCC 350

Tuesday September 15, 2015

Executive Officers

Rini Sampath, President
Jordan Fowler, Vice President
Tiffany Chang, Treasurer

Executive Cabinet

Donielle Bunyard, Advocacy Executive Assistant
Samantha Cheng, Discretionary Funding Director
Jennifer Vu, Discretionary Funding Director
Stephen Chu, Discretionary Funding Director
Moira Turner, Diversity Affairs Director
Christian Edwards, Professional Academic Fund Director
Sam Greos, Professional Academic Fund AD
Austin Dunn, University Affairs Co-Director
Amy Perez, Secretary
Holly Bard, Parliamentarian

Program Board

Hannah Nguyen, Academic Culture Assembly Director
Luis Vidalon-Suzuki, Academic Culture Assembly AD
Lorna Xu, APAS Director
Alice Mao, APAS AD
Sally Yu, APAS AD
Ahlia Bethea, ESA Director
Kaitlin Kinsella, ESA AD
Elliot Wezerek, ESA AD
Devin Trabant, Graphics Co-Director
Caitlin Tran, Marketing Co-Director
Luke Southwell-Chan, Marketing Social Media AD
Joseph Chen, Media Photography Director
Daniel Zhu, Media Photography AD
Kyle Herman, Media Videography Director
Krystal Chavez, Latina/o Student Assembly Director
Kiara Sanchez, Latina/o Student Assembly Director
Elizabeth Guzman, Latina/o Student Assembly AD
Amanda Verdadero, Performing Arts Director
Sara Kern, Performing Arts AD
Maggi Yang, Webmaster

Senators
Bulk Lao, Commuter
Jacob Ellenhorn, Commuter
Cassandra Aguayo, Commuter
Giuseppe H. Robalino, Residential
Chris Fong, Greek
Sanjay Mahboobani, Greek
Darian Nourian, Greek
Aaron Rifkind, Residential
Alec White, Residential
Sabrina Enriquez, Residential
Dan Li, Residential
Eric Dubbury, Residential

Advisors
Karina Medrano

Guests
Daniel Gavida
I. Call to Order  
   a. Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM.

II. Reading and Approval of Minutes  
   a. Secretary Perez read the Minutes.  
      i. Vice President Jordan Fowler motions to approve the Minutes.  
      ii. The Minutes are approved as read.

III. Approval of the Agenda  
   a. Senator Nourian motions to amend the Agenda.  
      i. Remove APASA from Presentations.  
   b. Senator Lao seconds.  
   c. Senator Rifkind moves to approve the amended Agenda.  
      i. Senator Nourian seconds.  
   d. Amended Agenda is approved.

IV. Reports of Officers and Directors  
   a. Rini Sampath, USG Student Body President  
      i. Expanding Role of Judicial Council  
      ii. Meeting with Provost Quick and Sexual Assault Advocates  
      iii. Voice Program/Meeting with Dr. Kumar  
      iv. Biweekly meetings with Dr. Carry  
      v. RCC and Student Athletes in Governance  
      vi. National Voter Registration Day  
      vii. Mental Health Video and Meeting with Dr. Rosenstein  
   viii. Senator Enriquez moves to extend the time by 5 minutes.  
       1. Senator White seconds.  
   ix. Voting  
      1. Extended time is granted.  
   x. College Affordability  
      1. 140 shares and 350 likes and 991 responses to college affordability survey  
      2. Student data and input  
      3. Receptive and transparent administration needed to make changes  
      4. Action plan on college affordability  
   xi. Student Voice at USC  
      1. Administrative contacts to foster relationship between USG and administration  
      2. Board of Trustees to strengthen student voice  
   xii. Senator Enriquez moves to extend the time by 5 minutes.  
      1. Senator Li seconds.  
   xiii. Voting  
      1. Extended time is approved.  
   xiv. Student Voice at USC  
      1. Student representative on Board of Trustees  
      2. Need for voting power  
   xv. Questions from the Senate:
1. Senator Li: How are you going to move forward with your trustee initiative?
2. President Sampath: The process was started last year but never took off because we have been turned down in the past for a seat in these types of situations. I don't see why we should be turned down for these kinds of requests. That is why we need to do everything we can. If it comes to getting out a resolution, we will need everyone’s support but we are going to try all other channels first.
3. Senator Robalino: What is your most compelling argument to the administration for the urgency of college affordability?
4. President Sampath: It still takes me aback that I have to come up with a compelling argument when I can't just show them an email from someone who says they are starving to pay tuition. As someone who has been involved in a lot of analytical things like debate, I am going to have to come up with more arguments but it disheartens me when it is something as simple as students are starving to go to school here.
5. Senator Rifkind: Is the student really going to have a voice in the Board of Trustees?
6. President Sampath: That's a valid point but the fact that we have zero on a board of 55 shows that we at least need one. Having that voice at all is going to change their perception. Selecting the right person is a beast of its own but if they had the privilege of serving on the board they should have the best interest of the students and be able to have a backbone.
7. Senator Robalino: What you shared about certain people not having the money for food was very compelling. Out of the 991 respondents to the survey, what percentage are in that position where they are starving and cannot pay for college?
8. President Sampath: Giuseppe I am not calling you out or anything but you are a fiscal conservative, I know this about you. If you genuinely believe in fiscal conservatism, this university is not operating off of that. The university is inefficient in that they are raising basically what I call taxes on us every year and we don't know where it is going. We are at a point where we need it to stop and need some more answers on the issue. So I think asking that question “Out of the 1000 students that have responded so far, how many are starving?” is putting it into such a quantitative level that it pushes the actual problem under the rug. Once we get into those details, we forget the root of the problem which is an administration that is not using its money as effectively as possible.
9. President Sampath: Does that satisfy your question?
10. Senator Robalino: I am very satisfied with that answer.

b. Tiffany Chang, USG Treasurer
   i. Funding Board
1. Meetings start next week
2. Applications have been received and are being processed
3. Individual meetings with Directors
4. Campus activities

ii. Budget Tracker
   1. Keeping track of IR and POs
   2. Event feedback

iii. New Projects
   1. Vendor issues: Going through purchase orders to abide by university regulations
   2. Increasing funding board exposure to get more applications and advocate their causes

Rachel Thundat, USG Senior Director of Communication

i. Goals for the Year
   1. Transparency
   2. Social media
   3. Updating Daily Trojan

ii. Current Projects
   1. Technology: Updating and revamping the website
   2. PR/Marketing/Graphics: Video campaign of current projects and college affordability, member and committee spotlights, student org spotlights, bi weekly newsletter
   3. External Affairs: Reforming the delegate position
   4. E&R: Revamping the elections code
   5. Photography: Videos for student org spotlight

iii. Social Media Stats
   1. 4,000 likes on Facebook page
   2. 5,000 people engaging with posts

V. Presentations
   a. PB Marketing: Co-Directors Chelsea Zhang & Caitlin Tran and AD Luke Southwell-Chan
      i. Attending Events
      ii. Joining Committees
      iii. Events
         1. PB in the Park to increase transparency
         2. Marketing consultant council has been chosen.
      iv. New Website Launch
      v. Ongoing Newsletters to Communicate with Students
      vi. Social Media Initiatives
         1. Snapchat
      vii. Business Relations
         1. Manages relationships with external companies and contacts
         2. Assistance with sponsorship packets
b. ESA: Director Ahlia Bethea and AD Kaitlin Kinsella
   i.  Member Organizations
   ii. Current Campaigns
       1. Native plants on campus
       2. Community gardens: Working with Parkside Gardens and other gardens in the LA community
       3. Drought education to residents
       4. Drought Summit for student leaders in Pomona
   iii. Event Certification Program
       1. In Your Backyard
       2. ESA Speaker Series
   iv. Upcoming Events
       1. Coastal Clean-up
       2. Zero Waste Tailgate
       3. Healthy Living
       4. Women in Environmentalism
   v. Questions from the Senate:
       1. Senator Rifkind: Do other organizations know that they can get their events ESA certified, and if not how are you promoting that?
       2. Ahlia Bethea ESA Director: We have a Director of Sustainability and her job is to inform people about ESA certification process. She is actively engaging with people who don’t know about the process.
       3. Senator White: Can you talk more about your event in october?
       4. Ahlia Bethea ESA Director: I am planning the Summit to bring student leaders together to educate everyone on the drought and how to initiate programs on their campuses that will actually get things done. This will be a very collaborative effort with people sharing their knowledge.

c. LSA: Director Krystal Chavez, AD Kiara Sanchez, and AD Elizabeth Guzman
   i.  Creating Visibility
   ii. Latino/a Heritage Month Events
   iii. New Member Organization
   iv.  Mi Cultura Night at Ground Zero
   v.  Mental Health Stigma
   vi.  Kick-off for Latino/a Heritage Month

d. Professional Academic Fund: Director Christian Edwards and AD Sam Greos
   i.  Goal
       1. To fuel academic and professional needs
   ii. Funding
1. Global Student Forum  
2. Life of a Consultant  
3. BIOMED  
4. Bulge Bracket Panel

iii. Budget Info
1. 3,986.85 planned disbursement  
2. 16,013.15 remaining

iv. Philosophy
1. Fueling passionate dreams one funding application at a time.

v. Questions from the Senate:
1. Senator Enriquez: Do you have a plan to stop funds from drying up?  
2. Sam Greos PSA AD: We work on a first come first serve basis so this is a challenge for us in that we need to be fair to all groups.

VI. Unfinished Business and General Orders
a. None.

VII. New Business
a. None.

VIII. Announcements
a. Senator Constituency Updates
i. Senator White: I have been working on the food affordability survey for USC campus food. We have about 550 responses so far so if you could help push this it would be really helpful.

ii. Senator Mahboobani: We are also working on a survey and it will be released very soon. I will post it in the USC group so if you could all help spread this it would be very helpful.

iii. Senator Nourian: I am meeting with Pat Haden so if anyone has questions or concerns please come talk to me.

b. Announcements from the Floor
i. Luis Vidalon-Suzuki ACA AD: We have our Student Professor Mixer this week for research opportunities. Our first mental health awareness event is next month. We are going to promote this by having masks with 6 words describing what mental health means to you.

IX. Adjournment
a. Vice President Jordan Fowler motions to adjourn the meeting.
   i. Senator Rifkind seconds.
   ii. Senator Enriquez seconds.
   iii. No objections.

b. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.