Official
USC Undergraduate Student Government
Meeting Minutes
TCC 350
Tuesday October 13, 2015

Executive Officers
Jordan Fowler, Vice President
David Moreno, Chief of Staff
Rachel Thundat, Senior Director of Communications
Tiffany Chang, Treasurer

Executive Cabinet
Brianna Thorpe, Community Affairs Director
Riyana Chakraborty, Community Affairs AD
Zheng Xiao, Community Affairs AD
Sam Cheng, Discretionary Funding Director
Jennifer Vu, Discretionary Funding Director
Brandon Law, Discretionary Funding AD
Christian Carrion, Diversity Affairs AD
Logan Dallas, Elections and Recruitment Co-Director
Stephen Chu, Philanthropy Funding Director
Alisha Garg, Philanthropy Funding AD
Christian Edwards, Professional Academic Funding Director
Sam Greos, Professional Academic Funding AD
Amy Perez, Secretary
Holly Bard, Parliamentarian
Program Board

Luis Vidalon Suzuki, ACA AD
Mykaila Williams, BSA Director
Judah Joseph, Concerts Director
Zoe Willis, Concerts AD
Caitlin Harriford, Concerts AD
Krystal Chavez, LSA Director
Luke Southwell-Chan, Marketing Social Media AD
Joseph Chen, Media Photography Director
Daniel Zhu, Media Photography AD
Amanda Verdadero, Performing Arts Director
Sara Kern, Performing Arts AD
Natalie Raphael, Performing Arts AD
Albert Chang, Queer & Ally Student Assembly AD
Joshua Chang, Trojan Pride Director
Katya Sutil, Trojan Pride AD
Shyann Murphy, WSA Director
Lena Melillo, WSA AD

Senators

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

Advisors
Luis Canton
Karina Medrano

Guests
Daniel Gavidia
I. **Call to Order**  
a. Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM.

II. **Reading and Approval of the Minutes**  
a. Secretary Perez read the Minutes.  
   i. Senator Mahboobani motions to approve the Minutes.  
   ii. Senator Lao seconds.  
   iii. The Minutes are approved as read.

III. **Approval of the Agenda**  
a. Senator Rifkind moves to add confirmation of Izzy Albert and Logan Dallas to Unfinished Business and to add Exceptional Funding to New Business.  
   i. Senator Lao seconds.  

b. Voting  
   i. The amended Agenda is approved.

IV. **Open Forum**  
a. Comment from constituent Brandon Zelner as read by Luis Canton:  
   i. “Dear USG Representatives, It has recently come to my attention that there are two organizations on campus who hosted a meeting called “Decolonizing Healing ft. Mujeres de Maiz.” In their advertisement for the event, they petulantly state that the “medical industrial complex is violent toward people” and is “a remnant of colonialism that we need to deconstruct.” While I am happy that USC encourages those of various opinions to have a voice on campus, it is highly concerning that these two organizations receive funding from our own student government. USC is a research university. This means that we employ the scientific method to achieve truth and encourage higher learning. Likewise, our current medical system employs a complex system of double blind testing, several phases of testing under scientific methodology, and government oversight through the FDA. Their claim that “alternative methods of healing are just as valid, if not more valid, than pharmaceuticals” is misinformed at least and fraudulent at worst. Moreover, their propaganda is dangerous to those who are truly uneducated on the perils of alternative medicine and the benefits of modern medicine. Whereas our current system reaches accuracy and understanding through the scientific method, the system they advocate for is based on anecdotal evidence, to be kind, and witch doctors, to be accurate. Respectfully, it is both illogical and embarrassing that our student government funds organizations that stand in opposition to our own basic premise as a research university. As a representative body of USC, I ask that USG shows more discretion in the future for events and organizations that it supports. The decisions you make affect our image as a university and should uphold that the values we hold as a research institution. As a final note, I might suggest that funds be redirected toward events in which students can learn where and how to receive both affordable and accessible health services. As I am sure USG is aware, there are many such organizations on campus that would love your funding. These sorts of events would truly make USC have a
happier and healthier community. I highly encourage the leaders of the Women’s Student Assembly and the so-called “Academic” Culture Assembly to be in attendance. It is clear that they would learn a lot from such an event. Thank you for your time.”

V. Reports of Officers and Directors
   a. Jordan Fowler, USG Vice President
      i. Internal
         1. Execs
         2. All branches
         3. GAs
      ii. External
         1. Provost Quick- “Michael”
         2. Dr. Carry
         3. Gender neutral bathrooms: Reuben Juarez (Capital Construction)
         4. Dr. Bickers → Ginger Clark
         5. Stacy Mello, Apple technology equity initiative
      iii. Events
         1. WSA, ESA, ACA
         2. Meeting with QUASA
      iv. External Projects
         1. Technology equity
         2. Mental Health Survey
         3. Course Material Advisory Committee
         4. Voices of USC
         5. Call to action/multicultural resource center
   v. Internal Projects
      1. E-cab promotion
      2. Stipend update
      3. Rollover funds
      4. Joint meetings
      5. Bylaws (Justice)
      6. USG Calendar
      7. Delegate retreat next month
   vi. Questions from the Senate:
      1. Senator Lao: I have some friends at Google. Is it possible I can get the plan for the Apple thing? Maybe we can get Chromebook to put in a competitive offer.
      2. Jordan Fowler: Yeah I’ll share you on it because that’s one thing Michael really emphasized in the meeting is, ‘why only Apple?’ We want to allow students to pick their device because Macs might not be appropriate depending on what you’re doing.

b. Rachel Thundat, Senior Director of Communications
   i. New Elections and Recruitment Directors
   ii. New Assistant Directors
iii. External Relations
   1. Voices of USC: Mental Health Climate
iv. Justice Application Due Friday
v. Member Spotlights This Week
vi. Presidents Facebook Page
vii. USG Delegate E-board Retreat Next Monday
   1. Training
   2. Ecab e-board positions
viii. Mental Health
ix. Other Projects
   1. College affordability infographics
   2. Branch PR
   3. Graphics Aide open application
   4. Social media upkeep
x. Questions from the Senate:
   1. Senator Mahboobani: Are we going to release a Senate infographics like we did last year?
   2. Rachel Thundat: So we did release an infographic of what we did last year and we will do that again this year. We will keep looking at your Googledoc but if you have anything relevant that has been prominent this week then let us know.

VI. Presentations
a. BSA: Director Mykaila Williams
      1. The USC BSA develops and strengthens leaders, provides infrastructure that fosters camaraderie amongst members, and aims to service the greater community.
   ii. Mission this year
      1. The USC Black Student Assembly develops and strengthens leaders, services our community, and provides infrastructure that fosters camaraderie amongst students of and about the Black culture, including but not limited to those of African, Caribbean, European African, Afro-Hispanic and African-American backgrounds.

iii. BSA Vision
iv. Leadership
   1. Mykaila Williams, Executive Directors
   2. Cashae Ellis, Assistant Director
   3. General Assembly Meetings: Mondays 6pm in TCC 227
   4. Manage an executive board of 10 other individuals
   5. Manage about 20 member organizations including pre-professional, academic, Greek, and extracurricular organizations
v. Signature events
   1. Black welcome week
   2. Labor Day BBQ with WSA
3. Product of My Dreams
4. Black Family Dinner
5. BSA Fall Invite

vi. Key Campus Partners
1. Dr. Corliss Bennett-McBride and Rosalind Conerly: USC Center for Black Cultural and Student Affairs
2. Dr. Michele Turner and Tensie Taylor: USC Black Alumni Association
3. Chief John Thomas and Officer Ken Whittaker: USC Department of Public Safety
4. Dr. Ainsley Carry and Dr. Lynette Merriman: USC Student Affairs

vii. Goals for the year
1. Unify Black students on campus across individual backgrounds, interests, etc.
2. “We are together, not the same.”
3. Advocate for Black students’ needs across campus.
4. Enhance the Black student’s social experiences.
5. Diversify partnerships/collaborations with other assemblies and organizations on and off campus (CC: Black Bruins).
6. Foster relationships with Black graduate students/ and their student organizations.

viii. Current Projects
1. Redesign BSA E-Board Meetings
2. Black family weekend
3. Product of my dreams workshops
4. BSA fall invite
5. PB/USG Collaborations
6. Black History month
7. Afrika Boku Talent Showcase

b. Community Affairs: Director Brianna Thorpe, AD Zheng Xiao and AD Riyana Chakraborty
   i. Past events
      1. Upward Bound LACC
      2. National Voter Registration Day
      3. AIDS Walk LA
   
   ii. Projects
      1. SCommunity network
      2. Community engagement forums
      3. Greater LA
      4. Project 32
   
   iii. SCommunity network
      1. Organizing all student volunteer organizations and community
      2. Creating a database/visual representation
      3. Advocating for volunteer center
iv. Community Engagement Forum
   1. One this semester, two next semester
   2. Tower Hall
   3. Themes
      a. The community
      b. The UV
      c. The Gates
v. Greater LA events
   1. Mercado Paloma
   2. 3 Worlds Café Roy Choi
   3. Go Metro Transit
vi. USCxCommunity Block Party

VII. Unfinished Business and General Orders
   a. Vice President Jordan Fowler moves to confirm Izzy Albert and Logan Dallas as the new Directors of Elections and Recruitment
   b. Voting
      i. Izzy Albert and Logan Dallas are confirmed as the new Co-Directors of Elections and Recruitment.

VIII. New Business
   a. Exceptional Funding Allocation: Treasurer Tiffany Chang
      i. Total: $207,168.00
      ii. Student Programming Fee: $64/Student/Semester
      iii. Total Enrollment: 18,237
      iv. Accounted Enrollment: 15,000
      v. Accounts Applied for Exceptional Funding
   vi. E-cab Allocation
      1. Philanthropy: $7,500
      2. Leadership: $8,500
      3. Discretionary: $10,000
      4. Professional/Academic: $13,000
      5. Elections and Recruitment: $1,000
      6. Volunteer center: $8,000
      7. PALM: $5,000
   vii. Program Board Allocation
      1. ACA: $5,000
      2. APASA: $8,000
      3. BSA: $8,500
      4. ESA: $6,500
      5. ISA: $6,000
      6. PSA: $5,000
      7. QUASA: $9,000
   viii. Program Board Committee Allocation
1. Performing Arts: $6,000
2. Concerts: $82,168
3. Speakers: $12,000
4. Special Events: $8,000

ix. Questions from the senate

1. Senator Robalino: What procedure do you follow in terms of determining how much to fulfill each request?
2. Tiffany Chang: It’s the same procedure for allocating money in the spring. So they fill out an application and what’s different is they give us their most updated spending up until this point. So they tell us what their attendees are for events and what they have planned for the rest of the semester. For funding board we look at how many applicants have come in. So for example with Discretionary Fund, the $10,000 allocation was something marked for last spring for startup funds. So when we looked at that, they didn’t have a need for more funding. That’s why we didn’t allocate anything additional even though they had applied. They present why they need it and we look at that to determine whether to allocate funds.
3. Senator Lao: Is this the exact amount for exceptional funding or could this be higher, the $207,168?
4. Tiffany Chang: This is the exact amount.
5. Senator Lao: So this is the exact amount that’s being rolled over?
6. Tiffany Chang: This is not rollover, this is exceptional funding. So basically what we do is account for our year budget off of 15,000 students, but we have more students coming in every semester and we don’t get that final count in until the fourth or fifth week. So we have 18,000 students come in and we take the extra students, times that by $64 per semester and that’s the exceptional funding we have available to allocate.

IX. Announcements:

a. Senator Constituency Updates
   i. Senator Enriquez: ACA is having their event right now about unmasking schizophrenia with Elyn Sacks in THH 101. She did a great Tedtalk and she’s from Gould so you all should go.
   ii. Senator Mahboobani: I emailed Monique Allard so hopefully she gets back to me in the next couple days but I will keep you updated.
iii. Senator Dubbury: Performing Arts Committee has their Center Theatre Group this Thursday in TCC 302. They have been putting on really great events so go check it out.

X. Discussion
a. Open Forum concern from constituent
   i. Shyann Murphy WSA Director: That was my event; I would like to clarify a few things. What is the name of the person who wrote that?
   ii. VP Jordan Fowler: It says “Sincerely Brandon Zelner”
   iii. Shyann Murphy WSA Director: The person who wrote that wasn’t at the event so he doesn’t know what went on. I also want to clarify the event wasn’t criticizing medicine as a whole but saying we could consider alternative methods of healing. The woman from Mujeres de Maiz at multiple times said she wasn’t criticizing medicine as a whole and that people looking for traditional medical treatment have every right to do so but she was offering other solutions. For example, using elderberry for coughs. No one was ever saying not to go to the doctor, in fact in our event description have a part where we said we weren’t criticizing people for going to the medical industrial complex. Rather we were looking at the politics behind the medical industrial complex and deconstructing why healthcare is inaccessible to a lot of people. So I would encourage people to come to our events and do their homework by reading the event descriptions if they are going to criticize our events.
   iv. Senator Mahboobani: Can you give you an overview of the event?
   v. Shyann Murphy WSA Director: We brought in a woman from Mujeres de Maiz, an LA community organization. They do a lot of things but the event was on alternative methods of healing which is something people practice all the time. Part of our thing was talking about the medical system as a whole and the second part was talking about different teas and things that could be helpful for healing. It wasn’t anything maniacal.
   vi. Senator Ellenhorn: I believe going to events when you want to criticize them is important, but I think the issue is the way the event was marketed. The event description, based on what was in the letter and what I read, seemed very different from the event itself. Maybe in the future when writing event descriptions, avoiding loaded language that could be controversial like this would be a good idea so that we don’t get letters like this in the future. Because it makes people think USG is something it obviously is not and that’s something we want to avoid in the future. So just as a note to anyone planning events, when writing
descriptions in the future, this is something we really want to look out for and make sure it doesn’t get perceived in a certain way by the student body. I think that is very important.

vii. Shyann Murphy WSA Director: I want to respond to that by saying I agree, it is important to have accurate event descriptions, but I feel like our event description was very accurate. You cannot get every single thing that is going to happen in an event on the description. It’s important that people come to these events. How many event descriptions have you written in your life? Do you know the translation to events doesn’t always go as the description describes? I think it’s important for students to talk about this issue and come to our events and also do your research. Be sure to look into what you’re saying before attacking us for loaded language because this has been happening a lot lately where all of the people who have been attacking our events haven’t come to any of them.

viii. Senator Ellenhorn: If you are going to talk about going to events and not judging them then I would ask you and your constituency do the same because you have repeatedly attacked events that the College Republicans have hosted with just reading the event descriptions. I would also like to say that description was full of loaded language and that’s why people got upset. I do believe it is super important for people to be open to other forms of medicine but when you are throwing an event and have a Facebook page and talk about the medical industrial complex hating people, I think it’s a problem and people will pick up on that and will get angry. I’m not attacking you or your organization but that’s something that has happened, case in point, this letter that we received this evening.

ix. Krystal Chavez LSA Director: I personally didn’t go to the event but I read the description and didn’t feel it was attacking anyone. People misconstrue writing when they hold a particular opinion on a certain issue. I think it was very disrespectful you brought your argument of the College Republicans being attacked by WSA. The whole point is that this person didn’t say anything about being in College Republicans and that isn’t the argument you were having right now. Bringing up how WSA has attacked your organization is really far away from what we are supposed to be talking about and the same could be said about your organization.

x. Shyann Murphy WSA Director: Can you say partisan politics? Also can you tell me a College Republicans event that WSA criticized?
xi. Senator Ellenhorn: Your Co-Director openly criticized our event in an article.

b. Out of order
   i. People must be called upon before speaking

c. Discussion continued
   i. Shyann Murphy WSA Director: The letter to the editor my AD wrote was criticizing the talent that you were bringing and anyone can see what that person was advocating for by looking at his Twitter, his previous talks, and the fact that his own university banned his coming back to the university. So I feel like that letter was very in line.

ii. Senator Robalino: I want to respond to everything that just transpired. The person who sent this letter, to the best of my knowledge, is not in the College Republicans. They let me know when they contacted me that their parents were doctors and he has had some background in science. Given the description, he was concerned as to what was portrayed. This has nothing to do with the College Republicans themselves, I do not think that should have been brought up, with all due respect to my fellow senator. That being said, I grew up with holistic healthcare and went to a homeopath. My mom works for Kaiser. At the same time, she integrates alternative methods of healthcare with traditional methods. I think Senator Ellenhorn made an important point, which is the tone diverging from the apparent result of the event. With all due respect to the board member of LSA who stated that there was no apparent excitable language, I will respond to that by reading the description which says, “Current methods include feeding into corporations that don’t care about our wellbeing as persons.” They go on to talk about costs, finishing with, “This is why the medical industrial complex is violent toward people.” So this is the event description but apparently this isn’t what happened. With all due respect to the leader of LSA, how asserting “violent” and “asserting corporations don’t care about our well being as persons” isn’t loaded language, is beyond me. That is all I have to say.

iii. Shyann Murphy WSA Director: I just want to address the point of loaded language and freedom of speech. The way my organization chooses to write our event descriptions is the way we choose. The constant attacks on WSA’s language are hard to not interpret as sexist because women are always expected to be docile and communicate things in a very docile and sweet manner. The way we choose to brand our organization and communicate, if my constituents have issues they’re welcome to come talk to me. And they do, I spend a lot of time
with my constituents and again, the way we choose to address issues is the way our e-board and we choose. We are constantly communicating with our constituents.

iv. Christian Carrion Diversity Affairs AD: I didn’t read the event description until just now and honestly I feel like it’s sad that we are even having this discussion because I think learning is supposed to make people uncomfortable. People use that same exact line when talking about the prison industrial complex but no one says it is hurtful language because that issue itself has raised awareness to the point where people accept it. Since this is a new issue that people have been uncomfortable with, it’s going to happen no matter what. This is all about the historical context that goes into it. In college we are supposed to be learning from each other. The fact that we are learning about using herbal remedies is pretty interesting. Medicine has been out for hundreds of thousands of years and we are just upset that somebody is bringing up the ways people used to treat themselves before modern science; I honestly don’t see an issue. I would personally go to the event even if I don’t agree with it because it’s interesting. That’s what college is about. I don’t see why we should criticize talking about the way medicine used to function.

v. Brianna Thorpe Community Affairs Director: I think in general what came up to me when hearing this, was one of the lines when talking about the medical industrial complex. My mom also works for Kaiser and has made a lot of the same comments that they don’t really care about their patients. I think it’s not to say the individuals don’t care about people, I think it’s the institution. It’s important to note that institutions don’t care about people; they’re not alive. It’s only because we fuel resources and money into them that they exist. By definition of what an institution is, they really can’t care about people. It’s a machine; it’s cold. But the individuals within the institution may have a stake or care for what they are doing, like my mom who was a nurse. I think the fact that this is profitable to be giving people drugs, the non-human things, are what people criticize.

vi. Senator Enriquez: I actually went to the event and it was actually very little about the medical industrial complex and the majority was workshop based. They passed around a book about different remedies and gave us tea. She even said if you have a serious illness we don’t recommend these things and you should seek the treatment but if you have cough, there are healthier ways to go about it than buying Nyquil. I think this is really important to say that if we’re talking about these
things then you should go to the event. And again with the tone-policing, we shouldn’t tell people what tone they should have because it’s a right each person has. WSA conducts itself in a way where everyone collaborates and Shyann isn’t the only one making these descriptions. So before we attack tones we need to recognize everything done there is intentional and meant to serve the constituency that’s involved.

vii. Judah Joseph Concerts Director: I think it’s a good idea that people who bring up these discussions need to be physically here. The whole point of this is that students who are in the regular student body and have concerns can voice them here and get our feedback. To be completely honest this is a waste of our time because we have been battling a point as proxies for someone who actually had an issue and took the time to write something. I think that in the future if we want to have this in the agenda we can’t have these as submissions because the person who wrote this isn’t hearing any of the discussion.

viii. Jordan Fowler Vice President: The thing I want to say to that is it’s unfair to expect everyone can be here on a Tuesday at 7pm. I’m happy to talk to you all about this in the office but the notes are here and it sounds like people did voice some of their own concerns so I think this was productive.

ix. Caitlyn Harriford Concerts AD: There’s no reason unless it is hateful to censor her descriptions. Healthcare is a choice and people choose how they want to treat themselves. No one is forcing them to go to WSA’s event and that person wasn’t there.

x. Luis Vidalon-Suzuki ACA AD: I just want to remind the Senate and all of USG that myself, Shyann, and Hannah are all elected so if your constituents have a problem with our programming, please notify us. Remember that we each represent our constituencies. In our events, 3 people in this room went and that’s fine, but I want to emphasize the point that we weren’t forcing people to not use western medicine. We brought in another perspective because ACA and WSA like diverse programming. The woman from Mujeres de Maiz said if you like this way to heal yourself you can use it or you can go to the hospital or do whatever you want. This was to bring a new perspective to healing. This wasn’t a zero sum where we were telling people what to do. We were bringing a new perspective to healing. If your constituent does have a problem then please direct him/her to us and we will gladly communicate with them. Because remember we are all elected and we
are responsible for our programming and should address those concerns.

xi. Senator Robalino: Thank you all for your comments and concerns. I just want to make clear a point about the letter sent to me today, whose views we had a discussion about. His views about eastern medicine and holistic healthcare are different than mine, it was clear in our discussion that I was more accepting toward it. This isn’t about me saying this is a zero sum game or the people who put together this event are a zero sum game. As a matter of fact it is clear that the event was going to be about the synthesis of these two. This isn’t about tone-policing either because there is no resolution, there’s nothing being brought up that directly prohibits the use of certain language. This is a direct examination of only this and shouldn’t be interpreted as anything more than just USG programming fees, the budget, and that being used in terms of what we saw our treasurer Tiffany Chang talking about today, turnout. The important thing is generating turnout. I know for a fact this constituent who brought this to me doesn’t feel like he would be welcomed at an event like this. So if you’re talking about generating demand, you have the supply and students have the demand, language such as calling the medical industrial complex violent and saying they don’t care about people even though that may have not been what you were really talking about, that turned demand away. And when we are talking about efficient use of USG funds and getting the biggest bang for our buck, it comes down to our marketing and how we energize the student body. That is all my concerns are. The constituent’s concerns that came through me clearly are his. My main concern is the efficient use of student funds and generating the most demand for your programming and how you can attract people versus alienate people. That is the only thing it should be taken to be and not framed in any other way.

XI. Adjournment
   a. Senator Rifkind motions to adjourn the meeting.
      i. Senator Dubbury seconds.
      ii. No objections.
   b. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.