Official

USC Undergraduate Student Government

Meeting Minutes

TCC 350

Tuesday September 29, 2015

Executive Officers

Jordan Fowler, Vice President
Edwin Saucedo, Program Board Finance Director
Rachel Thundat, Senior Director of Communications
Tiffany Chang, Treasurer

Executive Cabinet

Sarah Dhanaphatana, Academic Affairs AD
Samantha Cheng, Discretionary Funding Director
Jennifer Vu, Discretionary Funding Director
Brandon Law, Discretionary Funding AD
Moira Turner, Diversity Affairs Director
Ariana Seymore, Diversity Affairs AD
David Moreno, Elections & Recruitment AD
Katherine Wilcox, External Relations Director
Ian Scott, External Relations AD
Matthew Stern, Leadership Funding AD
Stephen Chu, Philanthropy Funding Director
Alisha Garg, Philanthropy Funding AD
Maariyah Patel, University Affairs Co-Director
Austin Dunn, University Affairs Co-Director
Colin Parker, University Affairs AD
Amy Perez, Secretary
Holly Bard, Parliamentarian

**Program Board**
Mykaila Williams, BSA Director
Gisella Tan, ISA Director
Jana Pok, ISA AD
Chelsea Zhang, Marketing Co-Director
Natalie Raphael, Performing Arts AD
Jenny Di, PSA Director
Shawn Ren, PSA AD
Kathryn Kelly, Speakers Director
Michael Iluma, Speakers AD
Maggi Yang, Webmaster
Shyann Murphy, WSA Director

**Senators**
Cassandra Aguayo, Commuter
Jacob Ellenhorn, Commuter
Chris Fong, Greek
Darian Nourian, Greek
Sanjay Mahboobani, Greek
Sabrina Enriquez, Residential
Dan Li, Residential
Aaron Rifkind, 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. Vice President Jordan Fowler motions to approve the Minutes.  
      ii. Senator White seconds.  
   b. The Minutes are approved as read.

III. Approval of the Agenda  
   a. Vice President Jordan Fowler motions to amend the Agenda to remove Rini Sampath from Reports of Officers and Directors.  
      i. Senator Rifkind seconds.  
   b. Voting  
      i. The amended Agenda is approved.

IV. Reports of Officers and Directors  
   a. Jordan Fowler, USG Student Body Vice President  
      i. Meetings: Internal and External  
      ii. External Projects  
         1. Technology equity on campus  
         2. Mental health efforts  
         3. Course Material Advisory committee  
      iii. Internal projects  
         1. Stipends  
         2. Organization restructure  
         3. Internal relations  
      iv. Overall goals  
         1. Be open and communicate  
         2. Check in on individuals  
         3. Provide input on other projects  
      v. Questions from the floor  
         1. Senator Li: Free printing is a really good idea and everyone needs it. Instead of giving students 100 free prints, have you looked into giving discounts instead? Financially it would be the same but it could prevent people from abusing system.  
         2. Vice President Jordan Fowler: We have not looked into that but that is a great suggestion.  
         3. Senator Enriquez: In terms of organizational restructure, do you have any ideas or preferences?  
         4. Vice President Jordan Fowler: I don’t have any vision for this yet but I am interested in organizational design because of my major. As of now the structure of our organization is not helping us. We are contributing to the problem by not setting up a structure that helps us. As far as specifics, maybe some position titles aren’t working or maybe we need to add some new titles. We are still trying to figure these things out. It won’t be my final say but I want to get the project started.
   b. Rachel Thundat, Senior Director of Communications
i. Subdivisions
ii. Objective:
   1. To facilitate effective communication between USG and the student body.
iii. Events
   1. Voices of USC: In the Ballroom tomorrow from 5-6:30pm.
   2. Opportunity for students to share ideas about diversity on campus.
iv. Elections Timeline
v. Current Projects
   1. New website update
   2. USG Weekly newsletter
   3. Funding features
   4. Ideas suggestion box
   5. Fall council of presidents
   6. Senate PR
vi. Questions
   1. Senator Dubbury: What are some major points in the drafts for restructuring elections?
   2. Rachel Thundat Senior Director of Communications: There is a lot of tying up the language. We are also talking about the issue of supporting a candidate as an internal member. If you have more questions we can talk more in depth about this.
   3. Senator Enriquez: Who reads and manages the suggestions box?
   4. Rachel Thundat Senior Director of Communications: External Relations has access to a Google form where the surveys come through and they send out the suggestions to whomever they are for.
c. Tiffany, USG Treasurer
   i. Funding Board Applications
   ii. Weekly Board Meetings
   iii. Senior Run Conversation
   iv. Treasurer
      1. Thursday Night Tailgate
      2. One on one with Directors
      3. Keep track of applications
      4. Applicant complaints
      5. Offices of Campus Activities orientation presentations
      6. Exceptional funding application

V. Presentations
   a. University Affairs: Co-Directors Maariyah Patel & Austin Dunn and AD Colin Parker
      i. Continuing Projects
         1. Water bottle filling stations
         2. Bikes
         3. Uber
4. Farmer’s Market
5. Legal Counsel
ii. New Projects
   1. Hospitality
      a. Nutrition guides for campus eateries
      b. Renovate Tro-Gro
      c. University Village
   2. Housing
   3. Transportation
iii. Senator Enriquez moves to extend the time by 2 minutes.
   1. Senator Mahboobani seconds.
iv. Voting
   1. Extended time is granted.
v. Delegate ideas
vi. Questions from the Senate
   1. Senator Rifkind: Where are you looking to put the nutritional information?
   2. Co-Director Maariyah Patel: One of the things we are doing now is working with hospitality to get it online and making it as accessible to students as possible.

b. Philanthropy Fund: Director Stephen Chu and AD Alisha Garg
   i. Meet the Team
   ii. Bylaws and Standards
      1. Events that provide direct, hands-on community service and outreach
      2. Annual limit of $5,000
      3. Fund transportation, event materials, and registration fees
      4. Fall budget $41,000
   iii. Philosophy
      1. To help foster the ultimate undergraduate student experience by supporting sustainable social impact projects within local and global communities.
   iv. Funded so far
      1. Alpha Phi Omega: Kids Exploring Science
      2. A Community Place
   v. In the Process of Funding
      1. Trojan Knights: Annual Pumpkin Carving
      2. Kicks for Kids
   vi. Questions from the Senate
1. Senator Dubbury: Are you familiar with the Thornton Outreach Program?

2. Stephen Chu Director of Philanthropy Funding: I have heard of it.

3. Senator Dubbury: You might want to talk to them because there may be opportunities for you to do some partnering there without having to increase funds. They provide their own funding for music events.

4. Stephen Chu Director of Philanthropy Funding: Do you know the organization, SLAM? They just applied to our funding board and they teach music to kids so I could reach out to them and let them know about Thornton. This way they may be able to get more funding.

5. Senator Li: If students want to start a philanthropy organization on campus, do they apply through Philanthropy Funding?

6. Alisha Garg Philanthropy Funding AD: Every board is specific so they would go to another organization on campus to start up and then come to us for funding if they threw an event.

7. Stephen Chu Director of Philanthropy Funding: They also have to make sure they go through the process of getting recognized by USC because we only fund USC recognized organizations. Once they go through that process and they become a recognized organization, they can feel free to apply.

c. Discretionary Fund: Directors Samantha Cheng & Jennifer Vu and AD Brandon Law
   i. Mission
      1. To fund events that promote diversity and a learning experience for all students on campus.
   
   ii. Budget
      1. 2015-2016: $102,000
      2. Fall allocation: $51,000
      3. Fall expense: $23,266.91
      4. Fall remaining: $27,733.09
   
   iii. About
      1. Programming recognized student organizations
      2. Cultural, educational, and entertaining events
      3. $4,100 limit
      4. Discretionary and start up funding
   
   iv. Organizations Funded
      1. KXSC Student Radio
2. The Trojan Men
3. Theatre Student Association
4. Xpressions Dance Company
5. The Healing Process
6. Sigma Eta Pi
7. Chabad @ USC

v. Code the Change
1. New organization that codes websites for neighboring businesses
2. Funded t-shirts and stickers
3. Established January 2015

vi. Questions from the Senate
1. Vice President Jordan Fowler: How much is Bovard?
2. Samantha Cheng Discretionary Funding Director: It depends on the level you want to rent.
3. Jennifer Vu Discretionary Funding AD: It is $3,500 for the bottom floor.
4. Senator Dubbury: Has there been any discussion with the administration about getting reduced rates?
5. Samantha Cheng Discretionary Funding Director: That has been discussed in previous years. I know committees have worked with this issue in the past and the conversation has been started but I was not involved at that point.
6. Yield the floor to Edwin Saucedo, Program Board Finance Director
   a. Director Edwin Saucedo: I think Bovard and the Ballroom and all of those venues already have discounted rates for students. Our committees have looked into this and you’re paying more for the technicians that are working the venue rather than the actual venue.
   b. Yield the floor back to Senate.
7. Samantha Cheng Discretionary Funding Director: To add to that, when you look at the breakdown a lot of that money goes to lighting crew, sound crew, and ushers.

d. Political Student Assembly: Director Jenny Di and AD Shawn Ren
   i. Purpose
      1. To promote and encourage political awareness and activism among the USC student community through programming and political education.
ii. 14 Member organizations across the political spectrum

iii. Past Events
   1. Energy Talk
   2. I Am Shiza

iv. Goals
   1. Weekly meeting about exploring one’s political identity
   2. Consistent signature events
   3. Working with Program Board and USG
   4. Build network and community to discuss politics

v. Events this year
   1. PSA Political Identity
   2. Republican Debate Visit and Volunteer
   3. California Policy Roundtable
   4. Voter Registration Day

vi. Upcoming Events
   1. 10/5 - PSA Political Identity: Theory of Governance
   2. 10/7 – California Policy Roundtable: Immigration
   3. 10/7 – An Evening with Antonio Villagairosa
   4. 10/12 – PSA Political Identity: Federal Prison
   5. 10/13 – Democratic Debate Watch
   6. 10/15 – COP 15
   7. 10/19 – PSA Political Identity: The Rise of the Anti-Establishment Candidate
   8. 10/21 – California Policy Roundtable
   9. 10/21 – Political Professions

vii. Questions from the Senate
   1. Senator Robalino: I truly enjoyed my time at the first meeting. You guys were awesome. The way you have it set up is truly a balanced conversation. You really know how to engage people in a conversation and create a safe space. How do you plan on bringing more people in? What’s new in the promotional agenda to get these events better known among students and get more people coming out?
   2. Jenny Di PSA Director: We are trying to market all of our events. We want as big a turnout as possible. What we are really aiming for is a consistent group. If the same people from the first meeting show up to the rest that would be successful for us.
   3. Shawn Ren PSA AD: It’s about creating a community and a safe space where people can talk.
4. Jenny Di PSA Director: Obviously for our bigger events that are larger scale and have big speakers, we want as many people as possible.
5. Senator Robalino: I’m really excited to see what you guys come up with.
6. Senator White: I have also really enjoyed going to the meetings. They are really fun and enlightening; I’ve enjoyed all of them. Are you planning to continue political identity meetings into next semester or will you alternate?
7. Jenny Di PSA Director: Monday night meetings will definitely be centered on political identity and this will be our common theme throughout the semester. We want to make it a safe space so people don’t need to necessarily know everything but it’s a place for them to ask questions and become informed.

e. International Student Assembly: Director Gisella Tan and AD Jana Pok
   i. Mission
      1. To express and promote international students’ concerns and interests, while providing diverse cultural and educational experiences and showcasing social treasures of the international community on campus.
   ii. Goals
      1. Provide resources to international students
      2. Educate USC about diversity and international cultures
   iii. Focus on advocacy work
      1. Expansion of Office of International Services
      2. More training for staff
      3. Online PDF to provide concise source of info for international students
      4. Mentorship program
      5. Improving international student orientation
      6. Lack of alternative housing for international students during break
      7. Transportation for graduation
   iv. Events
      1. ISA Welcome Back Carnival
      2. Preparing for Career Fair
      3. Around the World in 31 Days
      4. International Trivia Night
   v. Senator Rifkind motions to extend the time by two minutes.
      1. Senator White seconds.
vi. Voting
   1. Extended time is approved.

vii. Events (continued)
   1. International Olympics
   2. Photo campaign

viii. USG Senate help
   1. Support advocacy work
   2. Input during assembly meetings
   3. Attending events

ix. Questions from the Senate
   1. Senator Li: Where are you in the process of adding staff to the OIS office and how can I help you?
   2. Gisella Tan ISA Director: Right now we are collaborating with a number of other organizations on the issue. The first step is getting them an ample space, so we are trying to tackle this issue before getting more staff. We have done quite a lot but we are still working with administration.
   3. Senator Li: If they are moving, how do we make sure there’s enough space if they get even more staff and need to move again?
   4. Gisella Tan ISA Director: Right now we are trying to focus on moving them out of the TRF trailer and into a bigger space. Currently we are talking about getting them into the PSD office building.

f. Speakers Committee: Director Kathryn Kelly
   i. Mission
      1. To provide students with thought provoking, inspirational, and culturally enlightening events by bringing various speakers to campus throughout the year.

   ii. Goals
      1. 4-5 events per semester
      2. 3-4 Bovard Events per year
      3. Trending Topics classroom series
      4. Collaboration with Program Board
      5. Working with USC departments

   iii. Events
      1. Police brutality
      2. California Drought
      3. Elections
      4. Income Inequality
iv. Tentative Events
   1. Vince Gilligan
   2. Phillip Zimbardo
   3. Motivate and Empower
   4. EdMonth
   5. Earth Month
   6. Jeremy Lin
   7. Black History Month
   8. TED speaker

v. Questions from the Senate
   1. Senator Ellenhorn: Since you can’t talk specifically about who you’re going to have this semester, how are you going to promote intellectual diversity and what steps are you taking to ensure the events are balanced?
   2. Director Gisella Tan: We are trying to reach out to committees and constituencies on campus who know their group of students the best. By collaborating with them we try to fund enlightening and balanced events.
   3. Senator Ellenhorn: With EdMonth I have gotten the sense that-and I think a lot of students would agree with me- many of the speakers have been biased and I’m wondering if you’re looking to bring more speakers to EdMonth to create a more balanced atmosphere.
   4. Director Gisella Tan: I cant make any statements as to who we are going to bring in at this time but we are reaching out to different people and constituencies to get ideas. We are open to any suggestions.
   5. Senator Dubbury: In terms of getting some bigger speakers, have you ever worked with PSA? That could definitely add to the experience to help moderate the process of bringing in big speakers.
   6. Director Gisella Tan: We work with PSA a lot and reach out to campus departments. We have also gotten suggestions from professors for events when we do our planning. It also depends on our budget for the year but that’s an avenue were open to exploring more.
   7. Senator Robalino: Is there any metric you have in place to ensure there’s a balance when those conversations are being had?
8. Director Gisella Tan: There’s not a particular process, it’s more of an organic reach out. If we do bring a speaker we think a particular group may be interested in, we ask them for their opinion and see if we want to move forward. For smaller scale events, our delegates reach out to people to get different views and we judge based on that.

9. Senator Enriquez: Great presentation. Do you ever bring back previous speakers from events that were well attended in the past?

10. Director Gisella Tan: We try not to bring back speakers that have been here within past 4 years so people don’t see someone twice. We try and branch out for different events if we are paying for them. If they do it for free we’ll bring them back but usually if were paying we don’t bring them back within 4 years.

VI. Unfinished Business and General Orders
   a. None.

VII. New Business
   a. None.

VIII. Announcements:

IX. Senator Constituency Updates
   a. VP Jordan Fowler: If you ever have suggestions for Kat, her and Michael are always in the office willing to take suggestions.
   b. Senator Rifkind: We are having a Senate bonding Saturday at 8 pm so I will email you and let you know exactly what we’re doing.
   c. Senator White: Sign up for the October 8 tailgate please. We’ve also been working on the food affordability survey and we are at ¾ of our goal so please help us out.

X. Adjournment
   a. Senator Rifkind motions to adjourn the meeting.
      i. No objections.
   b. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.