Official

USC Undergraduate Student Government

Meeting Minutes

TCC 350

Tuesday January 19, 2016

Executive Officers

Rini Sampath, President
Jordan Fowler, Vice President
David Moreno, Chief of Staff
Rachel Thundat, Senior Director of Communications
Diana Amparo Jimenez, PB Executive Director

Executive Cabinet

Austin Dunn, Director University Affairs
Logan Dallas, Director E&R
Melanie Franceschini, AD E&R
Keith Keer, AD E&R
Morgan Monahan, AD Social Media
Danya Rafiki, E&R AD
Riyana Chakraborty, Community Affairs AD
Sarah Dhanaphanata, Academic Affairs AD
Austin Churchill, Wellness Affairs AD
Alana Victor, Senior Advisor
Brandon Law, Discretionary Funding AD
Jennifer Vu, Discretionary Funding Director
Samantha Cheng, Discretionary Funding Director
Sam Greos, PAF AD
Matt Linton, Leadership Funding Director
Carson Hatfield, Leadership Funding AD
Alisha Garg, Philanthropy Funding AD
Brianna Thorpe, Community Affairs Director
Tricia Xu, Parliamentarian
Amy Perez, Secretary

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

Program Board
Katya Sutil, Trojan Pride AD
Josh Chang, Trojan Pride Director
Kiara Sanchez, LSA AD
Shelly Ma, ISA Director
Gisella Tan, ISA Director
Lorna Xu, APASA Director
Luis Vidalon Suzuki, ACA AD
Krystal Chavez, LSA AD
Caitlin Harriford, Concerts AD
Jenny Di, PSA Director
Ariana Seymore, Diversity Affairs AD
Christian Carrion, Diversity Affairs AD
Chelsea Zhang, Marketing Director
Ishan Abraham, SSA AD
Mark Paraschuk, SSA Director
Kyle Herman, Videography Director
Carrie Zhang, Performing Arts AD
Amanda Verdadero, Performing Arts Director
Daniel Zhu, Photography AD
Vanessa Diaz, WSA Director
Albert Chang, QUASA AD
Alyssa Coffey, QUASA Director

Advisors
Karina Medrano
Luis Canton
Christine Somerset
Serina Bravo

Guests
Kate Oh
Jose Henriquez
I. Call to Order
   a. Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

II. Reading and Approval of the Minutes
   a. None.

III. Approval of the Agenda
   a. Senator Rifkind moves to strike Treasurer presentation and add SSA presentation of new Director and AD
      i. Senator White seconds.
   b. Senator Lao motions to approve the amended Agenda
      i. Senator White seconds.
      ii. The amended agenda is approved.

IV. Open Forum
   a. None.

V. Reports of Officers and Directors
   a. Rachel Thundat, Senior Director of Communications
      i. Management of Communications Branches
      ii. Current Projects
         1. Delegate applications
         2. Helping E&R plan for elections
         3. Social media management
         4. Event and accomplishment promotions
         5. Communication between communications groups
      iii. Social Media Stats
         1. Diversity video, 1.1k views
         2. White House Instagram photo, 192 likes

VI. Presentations
   a. State of the Student Body: President Sampath
      i. Questions
         1. Senator Robalino: It has been quite a ride for us both. There have been times where I have disagreed with you and there have been times when you’ve shown a lot of courage. It has been really enjoyable. My question to you is- when you were talking, the theme of your speech was about the legacy we are leaving for future Trojans. In the times of difficulty we have had between senate and your administration, there have been times where senate was deride publicly and national attention was brought to the university on issues such as the university being called white wash or there being claims of racism on campus. Of course it has greatly hurt our reputation. Do you believe under your leadership you have been able to maintain the reputation of our university, unscathed and respected the way it was before?
         2. President Sampath: I think this is exactly what I described in my speech that we can’t be obsessed with this idea of a perfect USC. If we are not willing to look at and point out what is wrong we are not striving to the best that we can do. I think that
we have done a tremendous job this year in being able to advocate on these issues. It’s not easy to say we don’t have enough mental health resources on campus or say that sexual assault survivors aren’t supported on this campus but that is the reality. If we turn a blind eye to that we are doing an injustice as student leaders. I think we have elevated the status of our university ten fold. We hosted a Pac 12 leadership summit, which was the highest attended student leader summit. We have been talked about in the national news in a positive way too in that we are doing work to address these problems rather than many other universities who are staying silent. I think the student activism that we’ve seen on our campus should be celebrated and should be looked at as students on our campus thinking critically. That’s exactly what every single person on this campus wants a student at an institution of higher education to do. So I think we are moving toward a better USC everyday.


b. Trojan Pride
   i. Bubble Bowl- tentative dates
   ii. Springfest Action Zone- 4/2
   iii. Athletic events

c. QuASA
   i. Fall 2015 Events
      1. Fall Retreat
      2. Coming Out Month
      3. 6th Annual Drag Show
      4. Laverne Cox at USC
   ii. Spring 2016 events
      1. Consent Carnival
      2. Generation Queer
      3. LGBT Family Dinner
      4. Spirituality and Sexuality Retreat
      5. Second Chance Prom
      6. Collaborations
   iii. Advocacy
      1. Gender Neutral Bathrooms
      2. Campus Climate Coalition

d. University Affairs
   i. Hospitality Progress
      1. Dining Halls
      2. Special Seeds Menu
      3. Hospitality Survey
   ii. Hospitality Plans
      1. Vegetarian survey
      2. Tgro delivery window/renovation
      3. Nutrition guide
4. Food affordability

iii. Transportation Progress
    1. Bike pumps and survey
    2. Uber continuation
    3. Shuttle to LAX
    4. Intersection of Jefferson and Hoover

iv. Transportation Plans
    1. Bikes: Resolution, bike share
    2. Future of Campus Cruiser
    3. Other schools- Uber

v. Housing Progress
    1. Special interest floors
    2. Printing in dorms

vi. Housing Plans
    1. Motion sensored lights
    2. Laundry in doors

vii. Facilities Progress
    1. Water bottle refilling
    2. Michael Prenger
    3. Facilities guide
    4. Campus storage
    5. Stand up desks

e. Residential Senators
    i. Senator Rifkind
       1. Campus smoking survey
    ii. Senator Robalino
       1. Improving course evaluation feedback
    iii. Senator Li
        1. Food affordability plan
    iv. Senator White
        1. Food affordability
        2. College affordability
    v. Senator Dubbury
        1. ROTC and Veterans Resource Center events and plans
        2. Course evaluations and feedback
        3. Bike issues
    vi. Senator Enriquez
        1. Implementing passed resolution from last semester
        2. Food bank
        3. Undocumented resource center

VII. Unfinished Business and General Orders
    a. Presentation of new Special Events, Performing Arts, and Webmaster Leadership
       i. Webmaster Lucas McGartland, Co-Directors Special Events Rona Sheen and Jade Shi and AD Katie Atalla, and Performing Arts AD Carrie Zhang
ii. Senator White motions to vote on new Directors and ADs
   1. Senator Enriquez seconds.

iii. Voting
   1. New Directors and ADs are approved

b. Budget re-allocation: SSA
   i. Senator Fong motions to vote on the SSA budget reallocation
      1. Senator Enriquez seconds
   ii. Voting
      1. Budget relocation is passed

c. Presentation of Parliamentarian Tricia Xu
   i. Senator Rifkind motions to vote on the new Parliamentarian
      1. Senator Enriquez seconds.
   ii. Voting
      1. The new Parliamentarian is approved.

d. New SSA Director and AD
   i. Director Mark Parashuk and AD Ishan Abraham

VIII. New Business
   a. None.

IX. Announcements

X. Discussion
   a. Senator Robalino: There have been rumors that USG has run out of money. This got my attention and concerned me. I spoke with Tiffany this morning and I am happy to say that this is not at all the case. Our funds are okay and we’re not running a deficit and we are all good.

b. Senator Enriquez: The Latino empowerment conference is this Saturday.

c. Senator Robalino: I have a follow up for Rini. When discussing the legacy that we are leaving for USC, you touched on the various points such as sexual assault and giving money to underfunded resources. My question was more on the controversies we’ve had when senate was called out for not doing its job or for USC being called white washed on the Daily Trojan. Of course you have a very powerful voice, a huge influence through the Huffington Post, your writings, and national media. When I was talking about the effect these things have on our reputation- the fact that the things you say go on record and can get picked up anywhere, even if they are on the Daily Trojan. I want to pose the honest intellectual question of is if that risk is worth it? Every leader takes gambles. In my view, that was a gamble you took to put our university under a lot of scrutiny. Do you believe that has paid off and that we have risen from this?

d. President Sampath: Yes. Everything you’re saying merits a personal conversation so we can talk after if you want. Everything we did this year and all the hours spent were completely worth it. I hope you got a sense of that based on my speech. I saw governance in action. There were moments when
we disagreed. You wrote something in the paper and I wrote something in the paper. Stuff happens. That’s how governance works; it is a process. At the end of the day we need to be honest with ourselves. I think we did a phenomenal job. I’ve used a platform to speak up for the students on this university that I think have been left on the fringes. Many of them now have been able to have a voice because of the work of our student government. I think that’s something I have continually tried to convey. I know you’re referring to specific things such as my comments about how if we don’t have enough scholarships or continue to raise tuition then only 1% of our student body will be able to attend our university. The reality is people of color won’t be able to come to USC if we continue to do what we are doing. I’m keeping it real when I’m saying this will happen. Maybe there’s moments where I have to sugar coat it and there are other moments when I have to keep it real. This was a moment I had to keep it real when I was advocating for tuition fees and I will continue to do that. The other thing you brought up was when I said senate wasn’t doing its job- I didn’t think you were doing your job at that time and I’m sure there were moments when you didn’t think I was doing mine because you were expecting a president who goes up there and talks about a farmers market the entire time. And I think that’s the difference. I mean that genuinely. I’m talking about past leadership in what we’ve seen when people haven’t been willing to take on these other issues. So I think that we have our differences in what we perceive as good leadership. If you were president I am sure you would lead in a different way. I feel strongly about the way we were able to lead in this past year and although we have our differences, I know some of the things we were able to talk through, like the fact that we got through this resolution and that it was passed was tremendous. But yes there were moments when I was disappointed where I didn’t understand why we were pushing our vote another two weeks. I expressed that in a way that, now when looking back, I am sure I could have done it in a different way. But that is a process. I said that in my speech as well that every single day you’re trying to improve and be a better person and if we recognize that on all ends we will be better people. Going back to your initial question, I think every risk we took this year was worth it. Every decision we made has made our university better.

e. Senator Enríquez: In the memorandum Provost Quick sent out, we’ll be having monthly forums that being tomorrow in Doheney. There will be a panel and discussion period. Please come out, we are working toward a better USC.

f. Senator Robalino: It does resonate with me, what you said. This is a learning experience. We are all learning about the kind of leaders we are. Certainly you, you are thrust right in the middle of it. You have to deal with things- I don’t
even know what you have to put up with as our executive leader. Even though we have differences, I see you’re a fighter. You know how to energize people and how to bring about fiery activism on our campus. That is a skill very few people have and I respect that. It is a learning experience. We are both learning. I think that was a good note that you ended on because that’s really what this is. With the diversity resolution as its being implemented, I got up and spoke about something that was reasonable, rational, and responsive. When we met together with the authors, that was something we were able to hammer out at the end. Despite the backlash from both sides, cooler heads prevailed. As I said, senate is the rock of reason where we negotiate and bring something tangible that administration can work with. Now we have a task force of people that you alluded to in your speech who will be devoted to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Even though at first we didn’t want a task force, if you remember, I proposed this and unfortunately it was not voted through. The administration ended up by some form of coincidence thinking of a task force. In a way that mission was met. We have had our differences but it has been a great ride.

g. President Sampath: Everyone plays their part. You have played your part in the processes we have had and you’ve been a voice for students who believe in what you believe. Everyone in this room has been able to speak up for what they believe in and I hope that this is something USC can continue to do. We need to have a next generation of leaders to take on this conversation.

XI. **Adjournment**

a. Senator Fong motions to adjourn the meeting.
   i. Senator Dubbury seconds.
   ii. No objections.

b. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.