



**Official Undergraduate Student Government
Senate Meeting Minutes**

7:00 pm, TCC 350
September 26th, 2017

Executive Officers

David Zhu
Medeeha Khan
Sarah Kim
Ivana Giang
Luke Southwell-Chan
Donielle Bunyard

Advocacy Branch

Marina Hrovat
Samantha Sohl
Brandon Yeshua

Communications Branch

Emily Quirke
Effy Feng
Isabel Quieroz
Rachel Atherly
Fernando Lean

Communications Branch

Kyler Correia
Melanie Franceschini

Program Board

Medeeha Khan
Cary Reynolds
Angela Qu

Paul Chyz
Keisuke
Olivia Pearson
Manali Begur
Karen Garcia
Catherine Bodega
Cindy Cox
Brandon Hu
Alec Vandenberg
Neal Sivadas

Guests

Taylor Edghill

Advisors

Jacob Rose

- I. Call to order
 - A. Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM
- II. Reading and approval of minutes
 - A. Senator Matheson moves to approve the minutes
 - B. Senator Andrews seconds
- III. Approval of the agenda
 - A. Senator Lee moves to amend the agenda to remove the Dining Hall Takeout Container Program from New Business
 - B. Senator Ackerman seconds
 - C. Voting
 1. Approval of amendment passes unanimously (11-0-0)
 - D. Senator Antounian moves to approve the agenda
 - E. Senator Hall seconds
 - F. Voting
 1. Approval of agenda passes unanimously (11-0-0)
- IV. Open Forum
 - A. Panhellenic Representative 1: “We are here to talk about Ainsley Carey’s proposed change to precluding first-year students from joining student organizations. Under this proposal, potential members would need to attain a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Implications of this are that this initiative would likely cater to spring semester recruitment in order to align with national standards for recruitment.”
 - B. Panhellenic Representative 2: “The negative changes of this would be immense. We as a community feel that denying students the opportunity to join the Panhellenic community would give them. The potential financial hurdle will also be higher. The strain, dues for current members would increase dues. The community would become one of extreme financial exclusivity. Three, there will be immense financial loss. The delay in recruitment to the spring would create a huge financial hit to the Greek community. Without a new member class in the fall, the community would lose \$1.5-2.7M annually. This would also result in smaller new member classes. Multiple sororities have reported that they will lose their chapter within two years if this is implemented. We feel that this would be counterproductive to the aims of the Panhellenic community in providing mentorship and education to new members. Members would lose out on this. We feel that many of our efforts would be significantly undermined should this change. The Panhellenic community offers guidance and resources, Panhellenic chapters require leadership positions and provide a home away from home.”
 - C. Panhellenic Representative 3: “Panhellenic chapters require education as to risks of alcohol consumption. They ensure safety and accountability. We fear that new students would be put at a higher risk for alcohol consumption. This creates a safe environment. Panhellenic chapters respond to sexual misconduct. Individual peer support for women is something we feel Panhellenic chapters support. This initiative would also decrease diversity and inclusion, because the increase in

dues would create a more exclusive community. Many of our members take on jobs during the summers and school year in order to pay their dues -- this change would be isolating to them. In conclusion, we hope this statement has made clear the damaging implications this proposal would have not only on the Panhellenic community but the student body at large. We can only serve the students if our concerns are duly taken into consideration.”

- D. Panhellenic Representative 4: “We’d now like to take the opportunity to read the letter we have published as the Panhellenic Council expressing our opposition to the proposed change in eligibility requirements. As the largest women’s organization at USC, the Panhellenic Council aims to empower women to discover their fullest potential through academic achievement, campus involvement, community service, and interfraternal collaboration. We pride ourselves on our commitment to self-reflection and growth to ensure our Council represents the best needs of our community members. As such, the Panhellenic Council is committed to moving forward with our progress on advancing our community in the areas of new member intake, new member education on topics like mental health, continued education and engagement on these topics for active members, and most importantly, encouraging the growth and wellness of each member of our community. We do not believe that a change in eligibility will help us achieve this progress. We have expressed this sentiment to Dr. Carrey and are concerned that our voices have not resonated and that we have not been involved in the initial stages of discussion. We understand the importance of ensuring that the first semester experience is a positive one. We propose to work closely with the administration to better understand the issues behind the proposal so that we can work in conjunction to discover alternative solutions to the problems identified. We firmly believe that effective, lasting change can only be achieved if students are actively involved in the conversation and decision-making process. We also request in sending this to the administration that they provide us the dates that they will be available to discuss our next steps on this action plan. We are ready and willing to work with the administration and our counterparts to discuss how to address these. And it was signed by all the Presidents of the Panhellenic Council.”

V. Reports of officers and directors

A. Daniel Zhu, Senior Director of Communication

1. Daniel: “I’m here to present on behalf of USG Communications as an update for what we’ve been doing. Information outreach, promotion. We’ve been handling major reactionary moments, consolidated all USG events on Facebook page through one communication channel, our Instagram and Snapchat are active and posting. The Marketing team has also been in touch with E&R. We have also hired a new Assistant Director. From the Tech Team, we have made things more efficient so things can be updated quicker. Our Business Relations have been working on sponsorships with a wide variety of companies, if you have any ideas

please let us know. In terms of Elections and Recruitment, the recruitment process was integrated with our tech team. For Advocacy, we hired 18 delegates, some Communications, Legislative about 12 Senate Aides, Programming (20+ interns for APASA, ISA,), and Funding. On our media side for photography, we did a photo campaign and just finished one for Academic Culture Assembly (mental health awareness). We did a USG Spotlight. For the Videography side, we're turning the focus into special projects for USG to produce higher quality that will turn into greater presence. We had a USG Teaser, Austin and Morgan question and answers, and Thirty Second Thursdays just to increase transparency. Lastly, I've been working on integrations with programming branch, producing a USG communications handbook, working with Daily Trojan, Annenberg Media for coverage of USG happenings, and looking for more efficient ways to communicate with the student body."

B. Donielle Bunyard, Treasurer

1. Donielle: "For people who don't know, I oversee the whole organization for how we spend. For the Funding Branch specifically, this is a picture of us at our retreat. Our philosophy is 'fueling passionate dreams one application at a time.' Here are some that have been funded as of today. The purchasing hasn't happened but the paperwork has been put in and the funds allocated. Professional and Academic Fund has a large percentage. You can also follow up with the. In the case of Concerts,. Some groups have not spent any of their budget yet, they just haven't put in their paperwork yet. These are the other USG accounts we oversee. Only 0.5% of the Exec/Leg has been used. In the Exec/Leg account, we put the Campus Activities Conquest allocation. That comes out of the Student Activities Fee. I am working on increasing responsible use of the student programming fee, the new director we hired for the Discretionary Fund as well as a new AD. We are also doing outreach to student organizations that represent marginalized groups. If you apply with a recognized student org. If you need more clarity, you can come to the presentations next week."
2. Melanie: "We're focusing on getting more."
3. Senator Matheson: "I know it's difficult to tell if our burn rate is similar to last year, but where are we at that?"
4. Treasurer Bunyard: "If you want that data, I'm happy to pass that on over."

VI. Presentations

A. Travel Ban Awareness, Senator Fregia

1. Senator Fregia: "My name is Preston Fregia and I'm having a presentation on the recent travel ban. I'd just like to preface this, this is by no means political. This is just so students know about the resources available to them and where they can go. The White House issues a proclamation that

includes Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen. These new restrictions are going to take place October 18, 2017. For each country, it's a little different. For North Korea, entry from immigrants and nonimmigrants suspended. For Chad, Yemen, and Libya: Entry as immigrants...For Iran, entry as immigrants and as nonimmigrants suspended, except under valid student and exchange visitor visas. For Venezuela...Today, I had a meeting with Tony Tambascia, who's the Executive Director of OIS. For most of the countries listed admitted students can still get student visas to come to USC and should be allowed entry to US for this purpose. Even though this travel ban allows students to come, there are delays in getting visas approved. You should expect that if you're reapplying for a visa that it will take a long time. One of my friends who's a DACA recipient who was traveling abroad didn't know what was going to happen so he left his travel abroad early. We found out later that it was 6 months later, but he didn't want to be caught in limbo. I would seriously consider about travel abroad because you might be affected in ways that you might not know. We will make sure that if there's any issues. Please be cognizant if you have to deal with this. If you are returning back home, make sure that you can legally come back home into the country. Here are some resources you can reach out to: Tony Tambascia, Niels W. Frenzen, and the Legal Advice Project. If you want a consultation, you can reach out to this number. If you have an emergency, you can reach out to this number. This year, the Austin/Morgan administration created the 'DACA Emergency Fund Proposal' which passed unanimously in Senate."

- VII. Unfinished business and general orders
 - A. None
- VIII. New Business
 - A. LSA Name Change
 - 1. Karen, Katherine, Cindy: "We're here to talk to you about LSA's proposed name change. We want to start by proposing the question 'What even is Latinx culture? Last year, LSA underwent a logo change as a symbolic motion to work towards inclusivity. 'Latinx' What is Latinx? It is a terms that is a gender neutral term that replaces Latina, Latino, or even Latin@. IT seeks to move past the gender binary created within the Spanish language. The term emerged online in 2004 within queer communities. It started gaining popularity in 2014 on social media and has appeared in scholarly research work since then. Language is constantly evolving. The term 'Latinx' acknowledges the intersectional identities of queer folks of Latin descent. Many indigenous languages in Latin America are genderless. For example, within the Zapotec people, the concept of he/she did not exist until Spanish colonization. We're becoming more accepting of these terms. We're trying to move to more inclusivity."

B. Hiring of the Funding Director

1. Donielle: “As mentioned, we are hiring a new Director of Discretionary Fund 2. Maddie Douglas had to step down in order to prioritize her mental health and overall wellness. We decided to hire internally because the director role requires a knowledge of the funding procedures. We talked to Luis, Emily Lee of Elections and Recruitment. We decided on Kourtney Chima. She is the AD of Phil Fund and was a former delegate last year. She had a really good vision and had ideas about how to get people more involved. We’re interviewing assistant director candidates this week, are going to on-board Kourtney this week, and will support discretionary funds 1+2 and philanthropy fund in the transition.”

C. Hiring of Graphics AD

1. Daniel: “Why do we have a vacancy? One of the Graphics Assistant directors resigned from her post. We needed to fill the spot to meet the need for graphic requests. An application form was put out in coordination with Elections and Recruitment for the open vacancy. 9 candidates applied, 8 were interviewed. Our decision was Isabel Querioz. She is Class of 2019, BA in Art, Emphasis on Design. She worked for Google, Inc. and is a part of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.”

IX. Announcements

- A. Senator Andrews: “I just want to thank everyone for coming out. This week, we launched CALM. CALM is a meditation app that teaches stress coping techniques. We have a partnership with the folks at CALM and it’s going well. Everyone in the school including faculty and students gets it for free. If anyone has seen any technical problems, please let me know. Any feedback would be very much appreciated.”

X. Discussion

- A. Senator Lee: “I just wanted to clarify why we amended the agenda before this meeting. The team working on Dining Hall takeout wanted to take another week. It’s coming back.”
- B. President Dunn: “I just wanted to clarify some things I’ve heard today. I want to clarify that the minutes are not put on President Nikias’ desk. Although that won’t happen, we understand that that was your intention. Tomorrow, we’re meeting with Dr. Carey and Provost Quick and will raise these concerns on your behalf.”

XI. Adjournment

- A. Senator Antounian moves to adjourn the meeting
- B. Senator Smith seconds
- C. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM