I. Call to order
   A. Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM
II. Reading and approval of minutes
   A. Senator Sherman moves to approve the minutes
   B. Senator Savage seconds
   C. Minutes approved as read
III. Approval of the agenda
   A. Senator Murphy moves to amend the agenda to add the Custodial Staff Resolution under New Business
   B. Senator Crane seconds
   C. Voting
      1. Amendment to agenda passes unanimously (12-0-0)
   D. Senator Chong moves to approve the agenda
   E. Senator Bwerevu seconds
   F. Voting
      1. Approval of agenda passes unanimously (12-0-0)
IV. Open Forum
   A. Mai -- I’m the outgoing Director of External Affairs. As stated in the letter, budgets are reflections of values. We have over $2M to allocate. Yet our budget has not always reflected our values in the past. Restore funding to the Volunteer Center, connecting Friends and Neighbors Days, developing leaders at USC. I can speak to the kind of value it does. These funds will dry up by the end of this year. I along with students at the Volunteer Center desire to see this changed. Secondly, I am speaking in support of the Custodial Staff of USC. We as students have the power and the tools to improve their lives. The custodial staff are integral to this family and yet they are neglected. As the governing institution of the student body, I implore you to consider this.
   B. Claire -- I am one of the student coordinators of Friends and Neighbors Day. We were not able to offer anywhere near the funding we normally are. Last year, we fell far behind the standards of our competitors. Gentrification of their homes, absolutely essential that we . We’ve had a large number of organizations. The
most we can do is offer them a spot in our biweekly newsletter. If we hire two more people, the Volunteer Center can attain its goals. The Volunteer Center is grossly underfunded and understaffed. The only thing we are lacking is funding. With a higher budget, we'll be able to coordinate more alternative break trips, offer scholarships. You determine the image of your university. We outlined three separate budgets. With $50,000, we can only offer the bare minimum. I highly encourage you to offer the Volunteer Center with the budget we need to support our students and community.

C. Stephanie -- I am in support of resolution to reform the budget. Many describe the responsibilities of custodial staff as unskilled as a means of them having low wages. I have seen the effects of it firsthand. When speaking to other custodians, I saw similar parallels and my heart was with them. It is time that the USG administration recognizes the unjust treatment of our custodial staff.

V. Reports of officers and directors
   A. None

VI. Presentations
   A. None

VII. Unfinished business and general orders
   A. Presentation of 2018-2019 USG Members
      1. Senator Kohantab moves to approve
      2. Senator Halperin seconds
      3. Debate
         a) Debbie -- The application process opened March 6th. From there we did a name-blind process. A total of 90 applicants were interviewed. Applicants in each branch were asked a standard set of questions. Advocacy, Communications, Funding, Legislative, Programming Committees, Programming Assemblies, and Senior Advisors.
      4. Voting
         a) Item approved unanimously (12-0-0)

VIII. New Business
   A. 2018-2019 USG Budget, Debbie Lee and Hunter Quartieri
      1. Debbie -- Basically, five members sit on the Budget allocation committee. You’ll see all the names here. We went through a series of presentations and went through a list of the organizations that historically get funding from USG.
      2. Hunter -- Our budget is based on the student programming fee. We have no more carry-over. Contingency was also something that was over with. Student stipends are our student workers. Staff salaries are RGA's and office assistants that help maintain the office. These all cannot be changed in any way. Staff salaries are a lowball estimate, but that is subject to change.
3. We decided to give the Volunteer Center $50,000, which was a 70% increase. They definitely deserve to operate and maintain itself. $50K was the minimum number they wanted. What we actually gave was the $80K but we don't want to fund the GA's and staff there. To give a general sense, ever since USG has started to give funding to the Volunteer Center, Campus Activities has decreased their funding. That's why we had the massive dip. This year, we know that they 100% deserve to operate and we want to help the Volunteer Center with respect to giving $50K of our budget.

4. Debbie -- Basically, we felt that if we were to push the pedal over the 70%, it would de-motivate Campus Activities and Student Affairs to fund it. However, this should be a joint effort with USG and Campus Activities.

5. Hunter -- We decided to allocate the LEAD program $12K. RCC always asks for us to help with equipment, we have a very slight increase to their budget allocation. We saw that Senate only used $700 last year so we decided to cut Senate’s reserve to only $1000.

6. Senator Kohantab -- What was it used for in the past?

7. President Lee -- We would send people to conferences and seminars. This year, we saw an increase in the number of applicants once funding ran out of money.

8. Senator Chong -- Do you know what the Volunteer Center would be using it for?

9. President Lee -- It’s up to them.

10. President Lee -- Under administration, you see a slight increase because this is where the Green Engagement Fund comes from. This fund is a joint effort with GSG/USG and we want to continue making an effort. Also administration covers a lot of logistical things we need to purchase during the year. Development, we decreased by $12,000.

11. Hunter -- We didn’t see as much of a need for Exec/Leg. We decided to fund a NYTimes pilot program to disperse newspapers on campus and want to see if we can get a full-year digital subscription for students. The NYTimes was unwilling to do a digital program. Just having the $8K paper program would be a better test for gauging interest.

12. President Lee -- What we valued as a budget committee was civic engagement. Getting students to have that easy access would be more useful/helpful in the end. We arrived at a consensus for Communications. Elections and Recruitment is for promotional materials and food trucks. Marketing, $15K was allocated towards that.

13. Hunter -- Prof/Ac Fund: Bylaw amendment allows it to fund off-campus events.

14. President Lee -- We allocate money for every single programming assembly and committee. The general trend is that most increased while some did decrease slightly. We took into consideration their past
performance. Conquest occurred the same week as the Las Vegas shooting, so wanted to make sure that PSX would have security. We felt it would be necessary to ensure the security of students. Trojan Pride, a very slight decrease. Performing Arts Committee, small decrease. Speakers Committee was given a slight increase due to their co-sponsoring and the amazing success they had this year. ACA, slightly larger decrease due to how they spent their money this year. We felt that this money would be adequate. APAS, small increase. BSA, slightly larger increase to support GearFest and we know that it’s an event that really brings the black community together. ESA, slight increase with all of the incredible events they put on. QUASA, also a slight increase. ISA, lots of great events we do want to support their efforts. PSA, same amount as last year. SAGE, slight increase. SSA, a slight increase.

15. Senator Chong -- I understand you want to look at increasing Concerts, can we get that list with the numbers?
16. Hunter -- I can speak to higher-ups and see if I can show you the numbers.
17. Senator Lee -- This year, they implemented 8-feet gates and put a tarp over it. Those little things that actually matter do accumulate. We felt that it would be necessary.
18. Senator Chong -- Is there a reason that this cannot be given?
19. Luis -- You can and we should be able to. Just reach out to Fabi.
20. Senator Tan -- Is there a reason that funds could not be reallocated from artists to safety and have the same amount of money allocated to them?
21. President Lee -- We are looking into having a venue change. McCarthy Quad can only support a certain number of students. What we find is that higher-quality safety measures are more expensive. We want to make sure that we have that funding to make sure that we are allocating that to safety.
22. Senator Bwerevu -- Do you have a specific venue in mind? And do you know the costs?
23. Hunter -- Basically, they are looking at the Galen Center and the Coliseum. The Galen Center would be $100,000 and the Coliseum would be $150,000. Originally, Concerts had requested a $170,000 increase.
24. Debbie -- But we felt that increase needed to be distributed to other parts. The Budget Committee took out a lot to make sure that it was given.
25. Senator Gupta -- Are the funds typically exhausted each year or is there carry-over?
26. Hunter -- At the end of the year, it’s over. If they have extra money, we take that and we reallocate it to other organizations and programming boards to see how we can best use our money to invest in the student experience.
27. Debbie -- We distributed our increases and decreases by taking a look at how much was used this year.
28. Senator Geschwind -- Can we know their current expenses?
29. Hunter -- Programming Board is still putting on events. Special Events has Alohomora later this month. Even if I was to say, there is no guarantee that'd be it.
30. President Lee -- For the accounts that did, the majority of their funds were allocated.
31. Senator Lane -- Based on the readjustment to Exec/Leg and the NYTimes, really the budget is about $20K less than it was last year.
32. President Lee -- We felt that it would be okay to cut certain areas of Exec/Leg. We made cuts to certain things that would be going towards internal accounts.
33. VP Ackerman -- You can ask all these questions during the week. But please keep asking questions if they are pressing but these are all ones you could be asking during the week.
34. Senator Kohantab -- I was wondering why the campus-wide RCC is funded.
35. President Lee -- RCC doesn’t receive any other funding other than this but the Volunteer Center should be from Student Affairs. We gave them the same amount because they do support thousands of students through these opportunities. The logic behind Volunteer Center is not so much that they’re not a part of USG but that they should also be funded by other parts of campus.
36. Senator Bweveru -- Have you spoken to Campus Activities to see whether they'd be willing to fund RCC?
37. President Lee -- Those numbers aren’t completely sent yet. There is no incentive for other groups to fund Volunteer Center because there is a precedent for USG to fund it. Last year, we were trying to make a statement and say that USG should not be funding it fully. This year, we wanted to bump it up to a compromise but also to make sure other conversations are happening.
38. Mai -- I’m still confused by the $50K. I talked to people there and they said that their budget is decreasing because of wages. I’m just afraid that it’s not enough. That just came from a conversation I had today.
39. Senator Lee -- The Volunteer Center came to us with three different amount types. I asked them to give me an amount to ensure they would stay the same, an ideal budget, and an ideal one to sustain long-term growth. It was divided into three main sections. We as a Budget Committee and administration felt that student wages should not be supported by student money but by university money. We felt that something like student wages and worker wages and GA wages shouldn’t be coming out of what every student pays to come to this school.
40. Hunter -- Even in their three desired amounts, they said they are planning to get student wages covered by Student affairs. That’s where we draw the line where we fund Friends and Neighbors Day and Alternative Spring Breaks.

41. Guest -- According to our line items, we do agree some of that is going to student wages in the form of Alternative Spring Break leaders. The remaining $20K that we hope to acquire would actually go further to supporting Friends and Neighbors Day. We were only able to do one international trip and six domestic trips. If we got our ideal budget, we would have a $3,5000 for Friends and Neighbors Day and $15K increase for ASB. In the past, as last year has shown, they did not support us. It’s not very likely that they will give us that support this year either.

42. President Lee -- Typically, most of these groups ask for large amounts of funding. We felt it would only be right to have steady increases rather than have a home run hit and then have no money to support x, y, and z programs.

43. Senator Chong -- The student worker who organized everything said that she outworked herself and was not paid enough compared to the work she put in to organize all this. I know that you could not fund the winter break program. Will the $50K we’re allocating be enough to fund winter break?

44. Claire -- The $50K would only allow us to do the bare minimum so I can’t guarantee how much we’d be able to fund. In years past, we were able to compensate trip leaders but this year could only subsidize.

45. Senator Murphy -- Can you just give me another breakdown of what is usually funded through RCC?

46. Luis -- They manage their budget.

47. Senator Murphy -- Does it go to any student wages at all?

48. Luis -- No.

49. Hunter -- That also goes to new equipment, ice cream for teams, and transportation for national tournaments.

50. VP Ackerman -- I’m pretty sure there are two student workers.

51. Senator Murphy -- Can I ask what the stipends are?

52. VP Ackerman -- We don’t have that information.

53. Senator Chong -- How much did they cover?

54. President -- All of it.

55. Senator Chong -- They bought equipment last year, is it necessary to buy more equipment again?

56. President Lee -- It doesn’t necessarily go to equipment. It goes to low-income students who want to be able to participate and travel. Under RCC, there are many teams. If you have any more questions, we are available from now until next week. Yesterday, Hunter slept in the office.

57. Senator Geschwind -- Where does funding in Development usually go?
58. Rick -- The Development usually goes to retreats, which we did reduce significantly.
59. Senator Geschwind -- Is the reason there was an 18% decrease because they did not exhaust their funds?
60. President Lee -- Yes, but the reason it’s still there is because we are balancing. We believe that people will perform better if they are incentivized to but that is why you see the decrease. We did a very thorough and precise look at what was spent this year.
61. Hunter -- If you look up here, as Contingency Fund, and carry-over. Funding money cannot be used to internally develop. In years past, we would use the Contingency Reserve as exceptional funding and once this was exhausted, we had to think of new ways to do it. Last year, decided to have more orgwide outings. But we realized that it would not work which is why we decreased it.
62. Senator Geschwind -- I also share the concern about the NYTimes. Do you have any insight on how you can still fund the pilot program given the decrease?
63. Rick -- There was money allocated for it under the proposed budget.
64. President Lee -- Under Exec/Leg are a lot of the things that support the org internally. In general, the Exec/Leg account is geared more so towards internal operations. We did ensure that line-by-line breakdown we ensured we would allocate what was necessary.
65. Senator Geschwind -- Have you thought about other things that would work?
66. Senator Murphy -- For a semester. We can make a very compelling ask to the administration instead of 100 per day.
67. President Lee -- This is a new investment of our values.
68. Senator Murphy -- Also in the long run expand to other news sources.
69. Senator Lane -- So this is already confirmed for next semester?
70. Senator Murphy -- Nothing is signed yet but yes.
71. President Lee -- We do go through a reallocation process in the spring.
72. Senator Lane -- Even with reallocation in the spring, there’s not much ability to reallocate?
73. Hunter -- If this was to fall through, we could reallocate that elsewhere?
74. Senator Lane -- If we’re decreasing this budget by so much, there’s a lot of conversation about how we can up funds for the Volunteer Center. The sort of 8K could make a difference elsewhere.
75. Senator Tan -- We can continue these conversations later, right?
76. VP Ackerman -- Discussion is mostly just clarifying questions.
77. Senator Geschwind -- I know it would be a lot more applicable to look at the budgeting, so would you be able to assure us that the funding these committees were exhausted or nearly exhausted? Were there more that
only used a fraction of their funding? Would you be able to ensure us that most if not all exhaust or nearly exhaust their funds?

78. President Lee -- We decided on these numbers precisely by weighing how much of the budgets they used and looking at feasibility of various new initiatives and projects that many of them want to do. There are certain securities and liabilities that come into play. Most of the committee members are willing to talk about how they came to these conclusions. With this amount, they were able to not only support many students and organizations, but to make sure that these funds are as accessible as possible. It was a mixture and balance of not only seeing how they performed this year, but trying to see what their plans are and how they want to grow.

79. Sarah -- There is, for example, the Festival of Books that happens this week, which is why there was so much last week. When you look on the budgeting side right now, most are about to finish so they don’t necessary represent yet how much they used this year.

80. President Lee -- I also want to make a clarification that others overspent their funds due to processing and everything and in an ideal world, we’d give them all that they want.

81. Senator Bwerevu -- Has anyone not used their full budget? Can those be reallocated?

82. Hunter -- Leadership Fund has $8K left in the fund due to three contracts falling through. It’s unfair for other orgs for me to fund others now rather than allocating to those who overspent. I can say that Pre/Ac and Disc have exhausted their fund.

83. Senator Bwerevu -- You mentioned that Phil Fund ran out of money. Do you all have steps in mind to make sure that doesn’t happen next year?

84. President Lee -- Everyone wants full funding. What is great is that they served this past year so they understand what they can fund. They can fund travel expenses. We trust that the funding directors of each board will bear this in mind. Funding has 5-week paperwork period. With the weird timing, we know that it’s better to use all the funds. Why not spend it as much as we can by supporting as many as we can as efficiently as we can?

85. Hunter -- We fund based on a first-come-first-serve basis. I wasn’t Phil Fund Director but I can speak to that I have given paperwork to Luis and Luis kicks it back to me and says we can’t fund it because of various reasons. That’s just the nature of funding and the way that it works.

86. President Lee -- As always, the entire committee is available throughout the week. We would love to chat with y’all and break it down further. We appreciate y’all. Thank you so much.

B. Presentation of 2018-2019 USG Programming Assembly Officials, Debbie Lee and Keisuke Fujiwara
1. Keisuke -- Assemblies are not appointed by Exec but elected from their members. The first reason is that the work of assembly is more dynamic. The second reason is that each assembly represents their own culture and that value is only understood by that committee. They understand the most about their own student needs so that’s why they have the elections process.

2. Debbie -- APASA, BSA, ESA, International Student Assembly, Latinx Student Assembly, Political Student Assembly, Queer and Ally Student Assembly, Service Student Assembly, Student Assembly for Gender Empowerment

3. Senator Geschwind -- What’s the selection process? Is it the same for all assemblies?

4. Sarah -- Every single assembly is different. Some groups run as a slate, sometimes there are three positions available if people are studying abroad. There will be multiple people running. Even for voting, it can be 50+ votes or 2/3rds.

C. Custodial Staff Resolution -- Alec Vandenberg, Mai Mizuno, Michaela Murphy

1. Michaela -- I wish it went without saying, but we. Our administration has made a concerted effort to support, but I think it goes without saying that we have an . When our administration has failed to treat its staff fairly, it is our responsibility to stand in solidarity. I think it’s time we mean what we say.

2. Mai -- I want to give a couple testimonials.
   a) “We would like to urge students to use their voice and pressure their subcontractor Aramark to change wages. Our children are denied tuition remission, we get less wages. Aramark has put on extra workloads without just compensation. Everything that Aramark. Many of us do not have that luxury. We would like your help. That is our ask, that USG pressure the administration to help us.”
   b) “I am asking for your student support because this is about more than myself, it is also about my friends who work here. Many have high stress and blood pressures. What we would like to ask if that the university and this subcontractor be more in solidarity. We have seen many of our coworkers become disabled.”
   c) Those are just two testimonials. A lot of my gratitude goes towards Stephanie. We have two main asks: to reduce the out-of-pocket monthly cost for healthcare and to have a comparable wage increase to others downtown at the USC building.
   d) Stephanie -- The custodians dedicate their vocation to provide a clean, welcoming environment for student culture to enrich the human mind and spirit. Speaking to one of them, the recognition is just to recognize them as human beings on campus. One
example is that they weren’t recognized. Creating an environment of mutual care represents a unified goal among custodians, administration, and students without loss of rights to tuition remission, intimidation, harassment. Little has changed, as stated by the custodial staff. We’ve been denied the benefits. Other employees have benefits that we do not. USC changed subcontractors to Aramark in 2001, a company which has repeatedly failed to address the injustices that workers face, despite protests surrounding similar demands in 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018.

e) USC students, staff, faculty, and other allies have demonstrated support through 116 signatures in solidarity with the USC custodial staff fight for a fair contract. More than 100 USC custodians, students, and professors marched along Trousdale Parkway and into USC Village on Monday March 26 to protest for better wages and benefits.

f) Students continued to voice their solidarity by attending a bargaining meeting with the USC custodial staff, their labor union Service Employee International Union, and with their subcontractor Aramark.

g) The USC administration has not intervened to ensure that Aramark remains accountable and transparent through the contracting period and treats custodians as full members of the Trojan Family.

h) Alec -- When you take a look, it has to do with Vice Presidents of finance to hold their contractor responsible. We are also lucky to have our guest here.

i) Mai -- All we’re asking is your solidarity with custodians. I also talked to GSG and they’re putting it to vote on Monday. This has never happened before in the history of USC.

j) Senator Geschwind -- Is Aramark being sued for being paid less than minimum wage?

k) Guest -- Right now, they make $0.50 more than minimum wage. 25% of custodians make less than that, though.

l) Senator Geschwind -- Do you know how the decrease would be subsidized?

m) Guest -- We work with 45,000 service workers in California. It would be through the university. It is less than $0.01 per worker -- that’s what we are asking for.

n) Mai -- We don’t think it should be at the expense of custodial workers.

o) Senator Bwerevu -- Are they all under Aramark?

p) Mai -- It really only happened in the last few decades.
q) Senator Lane -- Would full tuition be included in this?

r) Mai -- No, this is specific to what's going to happen on April 20th.

s) Alec -- It would be delivered to President Nikias.

t) Mai -- Thank you so much for your time.

IX. Announcements
   A. None

X. Discussion
   A. Maverick -- So there's two parts, the lowering out-of-pocket costs and the wage issue. What is it precisely going to do?
   B. Mai -- In general, we don't want to ask for a specific number but we just want to ask that it is a similar number to what custodial staff downtown make.
   C. Guest -- If we don't do something now, the number of people will rise from 25 to 40%. The janitors at downtown makes $16.60. The people here are making $12.50.

XI. Adjournment
   A. Senator Sherman moves to adjourn the meeting
   B. Senator Tan seconds
   C. VP Ackerman adjourns the meeting at 8:49 PM