Official Undergraduate Student Government
Senate Meeting Minutes
7:00 pm, TCC 350
October 16th, 2018

I. Call to order
   A. Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM

II. Reading and approval of minutes
    A. Senator Tan moves to approve the minutes
    B. Senator Savage seconds
    C. Minutes approved as read

III. Approval of the agenda
     A. Senator Gupta moves to approve the agenda
     B. Senator Sherman seconds
     C. Voting
        1. Approval of agenda passes unanimously (12-0-0)

IV. Open Forum
    A. None

V. Reports of officers and directors
    A. Fernando Leon-Ramos, Senior Director of Communications
       1. Personal Updates
          a) My parents were in town for family weekend. I took them to an art
             exhibit of my favorite artist.
       2. Team Updates
          a) Graphics
             ○ New typeface submitted to USC communications
             ○ Successful Photoshop workshop
                (a) Adobe after effects tomorrow
                (b) Complete team with newly hired Associate dir of graphics
          b) Marketing
             ○ #WHYUSG Instagram campaign
             ○ Instagram takeovers
             ○ Continued events of the week and weekly newsletter
          c) Media
             ○ Full media staff of 19 members
- Chain reaction disposable camera campaign -- 4,235 people
- September monthly update -- 1,870 people reached
- Event coverage

d) Business Relations
- Speaker and gifts for Council of Presidents
- Goldenvoice ticket giveaways
- Free stuff and sponsorships for committees and assemblies

e) E&R
- Finalizing elections code changes
- Intern and commissioner
- Application for intent to run

f) Tech
- Hired tech intern
- Website updates
- Tech updates -- Slack + updating office hours for TA’s

B. Hunter Quartieri, Treasurer
   1. Funding
      a) Continuing to fuel passionate dreams
      b) Funded 75 apps
   2. Looking Forward
      a) Programming Fee Control Board -- 1 Senator must sit on
         ○ Please reach out to me if you’re looking to sit on it, my door is always open.

VI. Presentations
   A. Diviya Gupta, Senator
      1. Spotlight on Senate Aide: Lauren Yen
         a) She’s majoring in biological sciences and minoring in healthcare studies and social entrepreneurship.
         b) She’s a Fellow for the Levan Institute, researches drug development. Lives in a house divided. Loves archery. Hot tubbed in Iceland.

      2. Platform Initiative Updates
         a) Flu Shot Clinic
            ○ Developed a partnership with USC Student Health to help promote free flu shot clinic on Wednesday, October 24th from 9am to 3pm at Tommy Trojan.
            ○ Shoutout to Allegra for making the graphic.

         b) IFC/PHC Safety
            ○ Working with Shany, Jilly, and aides to develop $10K joint partnership with 5 campus departments, IFC, and PHC to train 200 Greek leaders
            ○ Looking towards alcohol poisoning and drug use education
c) Collaboration with USC Student Health
   ○ Wellness Lounge -- now open at TCC 222
     (a) Right next to USG, looking to promote it
   ○ Subsidizing flu shots
     (a) 2017-18: $33
     (b) 2018-19: $20

d) Personal Updates
   ○ Have been interviewing for med schools all over
   ○ Matt and I got accepted to USC Med School yesterday!

B. Shayan Kohanteb, Senator
   1. Personal Updates
      a) Turned 21 on Sunday
      b) Going on NY trip with Chabad USC this weekend
      c) California Day of Action with Trojans for Israel this Wednesday
         ○ Phone Banking for two different Congressmen -- bipartisan
         ○ Dodger baseball
   2. Project Updates
      a) Greek Life Resolution
         ○ Asking the administration to be more transparent with
           Greek orgs in their investigations
      b) Religious Tests Day Exemption Resolution
         ○ Create concrete regulations for teachers to follow for
           Religious Exemptions on Test Days
         ○ Looking for Senators to help!
      c) #FRYFT
         ○ Working with Senators Halperin and Geschwind to
           improve hours and distance
      d) New Assembly in the Works
         ○ Info coming soon
   3. Senate Aide -- Matthew Kronowitz
      a) Sophomore from Houston, TX studying Health and human
         Sciences
      b) Minor in Business Finance
      c) Residential Student Government, Trojan Investing Society, likes
         cooking and chess
      d) Just turned 20

VII. Unfinished business and general orders
   A. Concerts Committee Director Restructuring
      1. Senator Kohanteb moves to approve item (A)
2. Senator Lane seconds
3. Debate
   a) None
4. Voting
   a) Item (A) passes unanimously (12-0-0)

VIII. New Business
   A. Presentation of Graphics Associate Director, Fernando Leon-Ramos
      1. Michelle Je -- junior in the Iovine and Young Academy
      2. Portfolio -- super talented in both digital design, 3D design, web design, and illustration
      3. Process
         a) Boosted hiring video, Facebook event, and graphic posts
         b) Received 7 applications
         c) Conducted 4 interviews
   B. Black Student Assembly Director Restructuring
      1. Congrats again to Matt and Diviya, so happy for both of you! Quincy, the current co-ED, is officially going to be leaving USG because he has to focus on academics and personal aspects of his life. So instead of Quincy, we’re going to have Mae. Mae is the current AD, she’s super passionate. I’m truly confident that she will do a great job as a new co-ED.
      2. Senator Murphy -- Will this affect her position as a Senate Aide?
      3. Mae -- I just had a conversation with Matt. It all happened quickly, so I’m not sure. I will increasing from 4 to 8 office hours. That would mean 10 office hours including Senate Aide. I just haven’t made a final decision on the impact. I will keep y’all updated on that. We just came out of Black Family Dinner. I just haven’t been able to speak with them to see how it will shake out. Right now, I fully intend to stay on with both.
      4. Senator Tan -- Is someone going to be taking over AD?
      5. Mae -- No, we did sit down with Fabi. We found that it’s not as necessary for us to elect or having someone be appointed as AD. It was at the Executive Board’s discretion. Luckily, Quincy has agreed to do some on the side. For the time being, we will not be bringing on an AD. We will definitely revisit that in the spring and will let you guys know. We just haven’t gotten to that conclusion yet.
      6. Senator Crane -- Just so everyone knows, office hours do stack like that. If she decides to step down, we can look at some of the runner-up candidates.

IX. Announcements
   A. Senator Lane -- If Senators could stay after, I have something I want to talk about.
X. Discussion
   A. Addressing Concerns
      1. Senator Gupta -- Matt and I didn’t run for Senate on a platform of partisan or identity politics. Instead, on the campaign trail, we spoke to the needs that we identified as leaders in the pre-health community on campus. Not one of our platform points pledges a political agenda. Instead, we specifically avoided such an approach, as we feel that safety is relevant to all students. As Director of Education for Red Cross, I saw firsthand the absolute deficit in training provided to student leaders in the Greek and ResEd communities. As Director of the Emergency Medical Services, Matt has treated students suffering from all ranges of medical complaints and worked to improve USC’s inadequate safety resources. These are the experiences that lend us an authority on campus wellness. Both of us have had friends experience sexual assault and date rape drugs. Our outrage at the school’s resources and response to these serious topics gave rise to a meaningful and actionable platform that we are pursuing aggressively, and with real world results.
      2. Senator Crane -- When the conversation relates to a duty towards constituents, I would remind everyone that all senators have an equal mandate. No one serves a designated constituency. Diviya and I instead seek to promote health and safety across the entirety of campus. Health and politics aren’t unrelated, but the politics of ambition and ego have distracted from our ability to improve campus. The ongoing conversations in Senate have not been productive at all times, but instead deliberately inflammatory. For this reason, following similar practices as the American Medical Association and other medical governing bodies, Diviya and I choose to abstain from further conversations that we view as exceedingly partisan. If actionable legislation is brought to the floor, we will carefully consider the specific mandate that we hold as elected officials, and what stance would hold true with our internal principles. We are always eager to learn and host productive dialogues, but feel that the current atmosphere of senate has hindered our ability to improve campus. Aside from that, I want to speak as Speaker Pro Temp about the attitude towards Senate, not only towards the Senators but also to the gallery and everyone in attendance because this is something that affects all of us. This is USG and this affects the entire student body. In short, I am somewhat disappointed with the events of last week and in general the Ben Shapiro event. The rhetoric towards fellow Senators for having different views was not in the spirit of a productive dialogue. Everyone’s representation looks different, and that’s the beauty of this organization. I guarantee you that no one here was indifferent to having Ben Shapiro on campus. But I want to appreciate the variety of reasons that someone wouldn’t be at the protest. Let me summarize a few: some didn’t come
because after seeing Berkeley or other campuses, they didn’t feel safe or their parents asked them to stay home. Some heard rhetoric surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and felt uncomfortable. Others didn’t agree with the idea that a mainstream conservative voice should be pushed off campus. Others still decided to attend the event -- whether in protest or with an open mind. And I’m disappointed. Because, I personally disagree with Ben Shapiro on nearly every one of his views. But, I hope you know that these divisions and this rhetoric have played directly into his hand. Rather than seize the opportunity to learn from other views on campus, to empathize with a broad range of support, we find ourselves more fractured than ever. To the rest of Senate, and to the gallery, I offer this clarification. Senators can run on any platform they choose. They can represent almost any political beliefs, and may practice those beliefs in any way that does not violate University Policy. To condemn another Senator’s method of representation as illegitimate, false, or inadequate under the guise of “accountability” is to create a hostile environment and to stifle productive conversation and meaningful change. I appreciate all of the comments last week, and hope that we can direct this energy towards student advocacy and actionable legislation. Silence is a privilege, but selfdestructive conversation isn’t the same as community education. I assure you that our Senate is receptive to causes of diversity, and I hope that we can find a way to work together and make a difference on campus. Thank you.

XI. Adjournment
   A. Senator Bwerevu moves to adjourn the meeting
   B. Senator Geschwind seconds
   C. VP Ackerman adjourns the meeting at 7:35 PM