Official Undergraduate Student Government
Senate Meeting Minutes
7:00 pm, TCC 350
October 9th, 2018

Executive Officers
Keisuke Fujiwara
Milton Dimas

Advocacy Branch
Adenike Makinde
Angela Chuang
Andie Wright
Christopher McMorran
Catherine Atkinson

Communications Branch
Dylan Field
Megan D’Souza
Briana Miles
Sonali Netke
Isabel Queiroz
Allegra Gutierrez
Emily Louie
Grace Martinez

Funding Branch
Jonathan Carrera
Sirisha Balusu
Benjamin Rosenthal
Jourdan Charles

Program Board
Mae Gates
Nia Renee Warren
Casey Huang
Maggie Goodfellow
   Angela Gu
   Claire Mauss
   Olivia Pearson

**Guests**
   Audrey Lam
   Matt Kronowitz
   Tate Delgado
   Emily Johnson
   Haley Garland
   Stella Miller
   Lauren Yen

**Advisors**
   Juliana Hrovat
I. Call to order
   A. Meeting called to order at 6:58 PM

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

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

IV. Open Forum
   A. None

V. Reports of officers and directors
   A. Blake Ackerman, Vice President
      1. Current Meetings and Projects
         a) Division of Student Affairs
            ○ Talking about student issues and voices -- most recently the Ben Shapiro event
            ○ Plugging office hours
         b) Office of the Provost
            ○ Platform discussions
         c) Office of Campus Wellness and Crisis Intervention
            ○ OMBUDS interview, OT 299
         d) Counseling Services
            ○ NDSD, Suicide Prevention Event(s)
         e) Provost/Academic Senate Sexual Harassment T.F.
            ○ Meeting #2 yesterday -- I’m sitting on the gender harassment subcommittee
         f) DPS
            ○ Facilitate meetings with CA’s + student groups
         g) IFC, PHC
            ○ Sustainability, Voter registration on the row
         h) Wellness Vending Machines Ordered
            ○ We’re looking forward to their delivery and installment.
      2. #VEEPLOYFE
         a) Midterm season, paper, another on Monday
         b) Trojan Family Weekend
         c) Dodgers baseball
      3. Truckin’
         a) Engemann Strategic Plan
         b) CWC! OMBUDS interviews
         c) Shapiro postvention
d) National Depression Screening Day -- 10/11

B. Shany Ebadi & Milton Dimas, Co-Chief Diversity Officers

1. Life Updates -- Milton
   a) Family will be here for Family Weekend
   b) I intern for AARP -- we did phone banking on behalf of the disadvantaged Latino community, talked about the essentials of Prop 10, midterm elections are coming up.

2. Life Updates -- Shany
   a) My cousin married into this amazing Mexican family and it was beautiful to experience the intersectionality of it, getting to see my family again, and celebrating my cousin’s marriage.

3. CDO Updates
   a) Shapiro -- dealing with it before, during, after. Most importantly is how we move forward with it as a student organization and as a student body. We will save most of it for the discussion. It doesn’t take much to realize that his presence will make a great impact on this community. Just realize that you should offer support, love, your shoulder, or ears for people.
   b) “Know your rights” handbook -- create a “know your rights” pamphlet, using UCI’s as a foundation.
   c) Hiring is done and we’re glad to have that done, introduce new faces into our family, particularly Senate aides and delegates, initiating diversity training for them.
   d) Working with our university counterparts for this.
   e) Diversity and Inclusion Week this January
   f) Diversity Fund
   g) New USG rep Norman Topping Fund -- amazing opportunity to vouch for student voices

VI. Presentations

A. Max Geschwind, Senator

1. About Me
   a) Currently a senior double majoring in political science and cinema & media studies.
   b) Editorial Intern at The Hollywood reporter, Associate at the Unruh Institute of Politics, Host on Trojan Vision.
   c) Movies and politics are my loves.

2. Personal Updates
   a) Trojan Family Weekend -- for the first time, my parents will be coming.
   b) Politicon -- amazing bipartisan intersection of entertainment and politics. It’s the 4th annual one.
   c) Halloween screening at Cinespia -- looking forward to going to it.

3. Senate Aide Spotlight: Haley Garland
a) Sophomore political science major, with minor in psychology and law
b) From Shingle Springs, CA
c) Executive Board member of the Equestrian Team
d) Part of Gamma Phi Beta
e) ACT Grammar tutor

4. Project Updates
   a) Putting 24/7 emergency contact numbers on the back of our student ID cards
      ○ Law passed last year mandating that ID cards include local campus police, national suicide prevention hotline, Crisis Text Line, and local suicide prevention hotline
      ○ In addition, we are asking for RSVP, counseling services, and DPS HSC number.
   b) Expanding Lyft ride program
      ○ Purpose is to allow students to explore culture of Los Angeles and points of interests during weekends
      ○ Still in early stages of brainstorming
   c) Looking into possibility of refurbishing USC Transportation app
   d) Providing free digital and/or paper subscription of THR to SCA students, possibly open to all USC students

B. Jillian Halperin, Senator
   1. Personal Updates
      a) Junior studying Communication and Race, Ethnicity, and Politics
      b) I’m trying to do yoga, sleep, and eat food other than Domino’s
      c) Hebrew School dropout -- doing Sinai Scholars
      d) Volunteering at Wags and Walks bc I keep crying when I see dogs on campus
   2. Senate Aide: Emily Johnson
      a) Currently business administration major but looking into double major in French or minor in IR
      b) Originally from Moorpark, has five older siblings, has golden retriever
   3. Projects
      a) Emergency #’s on ID cards
      b) Calm partnership and exploring other options
      c) CPR/First aid certification, sexual assault response, alcohol poisoning and drug overdose response on the Row
      d) Expanding sexual assault resources
      e) STD/STI resolution follow-through
      f) Getting first generation students a physical space on campus

C. Elections and Recruitment
   1. Recruitment
Across the board, we had a really successful period!

Engaged with over 950 students at involvement fair and open house info sessions

2. Elections
   a) Published the 2018 Elections Code on the USG website for public comments
   b) Sent all 2018 candidates a Google Form asking about suggestions for the new code
   c) Please email us or request a time to meet with us, to further discuss.
   d) Changes
      ○ Dates, digital accessibility, USG neutrality and accountability, candidate code of conduct (will be added)
   e) Presenting next week
   f) USG Bylaw: Any amendment after second meeting generally does not apply to the upcoming election.

VII. Unfinished business and general orders
   A. None

VIII. New Business
   A. Concerts Committee Director Restructuring
      1. As of now, Shira and Logan are co-directing. Today, we are proposing to switch Logan and Leila.
      2. Logan is in a band and this year, they’ve been in Europe and now in Australia. The original plan was for him to work from distance but it’s difficult because there’s a lot of work here. It’s more fair for Leila to be paid for her time because she’s been taking over a lot of his work. Logan has not been paid because he’s not been in the office, so we want Leila to be able to be paid.

IX. Announcements
   A. VP Ackerman -- National Depression Screening Day on the 11th.

X. Discussion
   A. VP Ackerman -- Per Robert’s Rules, there’s unlimited discussion. But in the Bylaws, they are limited to 15 minutes maximum. Just wanted to make that clear.
   B. Officer Accountability
      1. Senator Lane -- I received a letter from a student expressing concerns about the ways that elected representatives have been working on advocacy and such. I’m purely relaying a message. This venue, I think, is appropriate because he/she made it clear that this applies to everyone.
         a) “I wrote to my Senator, Meagan Lane, after seeing our Student Body President, Vice President, and other members of their executive cabinet continually laughing just a few feet away from us students who were peacefully protesting Ben Shapiro. Laughing, just a few feet away as marginalized students and allies were
getting heckled by other students. Your presence was not supportive. It was insulting. It was insulting to see you huddled amongst yourselves, hearing you laugh amongst each other...while students who had mustered up the energy to make themselves vulnerable at that protest, to advocate for their own existence, for their own identities, were standing just a stone’s throw away. We heard you, we saw you. And it was shameful to see. It was disgraceful. You aren’t just students, you are student leaders. That comes with some responsibility. Some responsibility to stand up for others, some responsibility to speak out and look out for those who are marginalized on this campus. We’re tired of you saying that you’re ‘listening.’ It’s time to act. I have a message for you, from my community: Don’t show up in our space and laugh while students voice how unsafe they feel. Don’t show up in our space and give off passive and bored looks while we are openly hurting. Don’t show up in our space and disrespect our voice, our struggle like that. And above all, don’t show up in our space and pretend like you care. I don’t care what you say, I only care what you do. And you have done NOTHING to advocate for us. It has been 8 months since you were elected, but for some reason we still have the need to say it: do your job.”

2. Manda -- I will give you all the respect you deserve by honestly articulating my thoughts and feelings in light of last week. I am disgusted and saddened at the lack of activism within our organization. At the perceived apathy emulated by elected officials who vowed to promote diversity and inclusion on their platform points yet were silent when a man notorious for his outright discriminatory speech and offensive disposition was literally brought here to our campus, partly with money from the very students that live the brutal reality of truths he denies as true. The purpose of government is to serve the public. Please ask yourself exactly how you served the public when you were standing on the outskirts of our protests side by side with administrators. As you stood behind the rows of aggravators holding dogs they had brought, while laughing at us as we spoke about our experiences on this campus. How did you serve the public when you were laughing as you were called upon to step forward and show us all where you stood, in terms of our issues and struggles as students from marginalized communities? Tell me right now how you served the public when you as the leaders of this organization both Vice-President and President spoke about how you would not tolerate offensive dialogue and speech on this campus, yet stood literally idly by as this event took place? Tell me senators, as elected officials, why you were silent as hundreds of students wore their hearts on their sleeves and tried to voice their concerns and yet you were nowhere
to be seen? Tell me why I have to overcompensate as one of a few minority elected officials in this organization because I feel as though the best intentions of marginalized groups on this campus are not being respected or acknowledged by those in positions of influence. Tell me why I have to spend my Thursday evening explaining to others why we are still fighting the same fight our ancestors fought centuries ago. Answer to the students who elected you as they are here in this room. I urge you to not stay silent. Silence is no longer permissible. You were not elected to motion your arms and present updates yet remain silent when your presence and voice were in most need. You were not elected to attend these meetings and prefer to choose neutrality when advocacy was needed. I am not here to attack anybody in this room. But I am here to call you OUT. I am here to hold every single leader in this room accountable. To encourage you to actually exercise your influence and show this campus exactly why you value diversity and inclusion. I am here doing my JOB and being held accountable by the students who elected me. And I am not afraid to do what needs to be done and call people OUT when they are being complacent. I meant what I said when I ran for office: I am here for the students and the students only. Not for the administrators. I was elected for the students and it is to them that I answer to. And when I notice hundreds of them all yelling to me, crying at me and chanting together I WILL ANSWER. I ask every single person in this room to keep your words to yourself. Do not come to me after meetings and ask me how I am doing if you are going to be silent when your voice is in most need. Do not tell me you appreciate me when you cannot demonstrate that appreciation when I am being directly offended by a speaker some of you may support and others never showed up to protest. Do not speak to me about “Trust and Integrity” when you fail, time and time again to use a backbone and stand up to administration and their hurtful ignorance in student issues. Do not give me your words, because words mean NOTHING without action. You were not elected to speak, you were elected to advocate. And advocacy means NOTHING without action. I therefore, remind each and every one of you leaders in this organization to remind yourselves why you ran and what you promised these students. I ask you to remove the privilege you have by choosing to “refrain from politics” or “look the other way” when students are literally suffering by that exact privilege you so frequently exercise. To be silent in a time of crisis is to be privileged. To be silent in a time of crisis is to allow the crisis to continue. To be silent in a time of crisis puts you in support of the oppressor. Most students cannot be silent because their lives are on the line and their survival and success depend on it. To use fear as an excuse for silence is no longer permissible. You were not elected to be comfortable. I repeat, NONE of us in this room were elected to be COMFORTABLE. You were not elected to avoid scary
conversations. You were elected to advocate for the students who have put their trust in you. Scary conversations NEED to happen. Scary discussions NEED to take place because that is the only way change happens. I was, at times scared for my life in that rally, not only because of my personal experience with dogs but my experience with police officers. Some of which were outright laughing and mocking us in the crowd. But I did not let this fear hold me back because this is not a matter I have the privilege of being held back from. THIS. IS. MY. WORLD. Every single day is a protest. Every morning I am greeted by aggravators who disguise themselves. Every single day of my life I have to interact and work with people who look down on me because of my race. I fear for my life every day I see a police car behind me. That is the fear that has been my entire life, that I have come to live with and accept. So, tell me, what is your fear? I will not get personal, because I do not have to. I trust that we all have the moral decency to care and believe a victim when they testify and announce their suffering. I am a BLACK man living in this country. And as a black man have innumerable instances of institutionalized racism to recount. My life has been affected by this form of racism and will continue to be EXACTLY because of people like Ben Shapiro who deny its existence. That is why this is personal to me. That is why your response to such an issue is not simply indicative of your ideologies or politics but of your character and fundamental beliefs as a human being. That is why we CANNOT dispel our politics because it IS NOT about our politics, it is about our dignity and value as human beings. I do not ask for your pity. I ask for your actions. I refuse to sit here and try to teach you how to empathize because that is a BASIC human quality you ALL as public servants should have. Twenty years is plenty of time for any person to learn how to care for others and it is nobody’s job to teach them how. We need you to understand and check your privilege. The very same privilege that allows you to stay silent. The same privilege that allows you to laugh on the sidelines. The same privilege that allows you to say, “hey, don’t take things so personally.” This is the same privilege that oppresses us marginalized groups. As we say in Swahili, “Muta Nisikaya Leyo” you will listen to me today. And you will listen as we repeat this message as our ancestors did during the 60s, as they did during the Harlem Renaissance, as they did in the underground railroad, as they did while they sustained and developed the American economy for 400 years and as we unfortunately repeat to you today. Listen. As you mentioned you would during your campaigns. But do not stop there. ACT. Do something. Say something. If your words are not followed by action do yourself a favor and keep them to yourself. I am not here for your words, I am not here for false hugs and promises, I am in student government for student governance which necessitates ACTIONS. Not words. True leaders emerge
in the time of greatest need and that was last week. Your silence and inaction were well-noted and will not be forgotten. Actions speak louder than words, show us your actions. I come to encourage you to do the jobs you are being paid for. To show us why you are fit to lead our school. Be the change you want to see in the world. I’m sorry but unless you all believe that silence will help change and improve our world, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I say these words because I believe in the power we, as a student government wield. I believe in the potential we have as an organization. I believe in the thousands of students who chose us as their leaders to make a change on this campus. So, DO IT. Make that change. Actions, I repeat ACTIONS, will always speak louder than your words. Thank you.

3. Lynn -- I am a senior studying environmental studies. I helped organize the Ben Shapiro rally. Blake and Debbie, when you two were first campaigning, you were invited to a debate. You were asked how you planned to uphold diversity and inclusion. All this makes me wonder is that you had no intention to speak on our behalf. Did you ask how YAF had the money to book Bovard and security but needed USG money? They just needed the USG logo to endorse them. Our money was being mocked from the beginning. When we’re divided, it’s your job to understand why. Even in this meeting, I see senators dozing off. We were called anti-Semites. I saw the faces of counter protesters surrounding us. They were laughing at us, taking pictures, mocking us. If anyone felt unsafe by us, they didn’t show us. They exposed USC students to some of the most vile harassment. This was said by a commenter online: “when I confront these looney tunes, I want to ship them off to the Middle East. They’ll be ISIS’s problem to deal with.” That was frankly one of the minor comments. This guy came up to me, by the way, shoved a microphone in my face. This man was twice my size. For us, the build-up in the rally was just an exercise in how much harassment we could tolerate? Do y’all think we do this work for fun? My dad is a professor here. My parents resent my queerness, resent my activism. But I do this because I care about the black and brown voices on campus, but I know my life would be so much better if I didn’t. Blake, you walked out on me before. I was working at Campus Cruiser. I finally decided that we needed to advocate for better wages. I went to the USG office and looked for Austin Dunn. Blake Ackerman came running out to me. I thought this meant that Blake understood and would try to help me. But Blake left early and I never heard from him after that. Blake was nowhere to be found in the follow-up meeting. When we were in a meeting, I had to steer the entire meeting. Nobody else spoke, as I looked out over a crowd who had nothing to say to me, who didn’t seem to care. It seems like you just used me to get elected. I quit my job that same
day. We are out here fighting for our humanity, our dignity. Where is your humanity? That’s all I have to say.

4. Senator Chong -- Blake and Debbie, you two are doing great. I just want to say that. I know that we’re not perfect. I think that, with the speech that was just said, you have to remember that they’re students, too. I know that they were there at the rally. The work that they do for USC and the students. A lot of the work they do, you don’t see because you don’t see how hard they work. I commend you for speaking but you shouldn’t be personally attacking them. They’re doing this not for personal reasons. Even though that speech wasn’t directly to me, that really hurt because, they’re students. We have a lot on our plates. I know I’m taking the side that’s of the minority but I feel like this should be addressed. It might not be something that you like and that’s totally fine. The speeches you gave, these people work so hard and honestly you don’t see it. I was there with Manda and I was personally disappointed in our team because the first thing I said to Manda was where are the other Senators? We’re supposed to be here in solidarity but I didn’t see them. I felt like the sense of community that we define as leaders was not present at that rally. I think this is a chance for us to grow, and I know that’s a shitty thing to say, when students feel uncomfortable. The first thing I did was hug Ivana, because I heard that my friend who was working at Bovard had active shooter training, and I know that others felt the same way. I think that, let’s be there for each other. Let’s not fight each other. We’re in this together. We’re not supposed to say, you weren’t there. We should be in solidarity. Every single one of you should be in this room linking arms in solidarity.

5. Senator Bwerevu -- This was not a personal attack. I was not coming for anyone personally. As a student who went to that rally, I wanted to call out not just the President and Vice President but also the Senators. I want us to collectively as an organization to really preach and to act what we preach. That was my intention, just to clarify. I’m not afraid to call people out, we have to be able to reflect on an incident like last week and move together. We are elected leaders, we put ourselves in these positions and deal with it.

6. Senator Halperin -- I have the utmost respect for those of you who just spoke. I have not really spoken much on it. I do not align with Ben Shapiro whatsoever. I went to the protest and I personally do not align with the rhetoric and I just left. That being said, I truly believe that my job as a Senator is to work on policy, write resolutions, and advocate. My personal standpoint when it comes to protesting is that it’s not necessarily something that should be called into question in a public forum. I think that means not looking at all of the nuances of what that looks like. I did show up with the intention of protesting. It just didn’t feel right for me so
I just decided I would leave, and that was just my personal decision but like I said I have respect for everybody who was there.

7. Lynn -- I would also like to reiterate, I bring up these anecdotes because that was my experience. You might have a certain experience with him but I also had a certain experience with him. That experience was super demoralizing and frustrating. I want to speak to what Jillian said about the rhetoric at the rally. I think it's one thing to take issue with the rhetoric, and I'm not going to pretend everything that's said at the rally, everyone's going to be on board with. But it's another thing to put words into people's mouths and I have heard some very disturbing rumors that some people are trying to put words into my co-worker's mouth, in Cameron's mouth. Someone said that Cameron said that he "wants to dance on the graves of Israeli soldiers". I know Cameron would never say something like that and I have spent a lot of time with him, and he never said that. Period. He just didn't. Whoever it is that's putting words in their mouths, this is disingenuous. Palestinians are one of the most dehumanized groups of people on this planet. I just find it really really fascinating, I guess, that this single issue was enough to dissuade people from this rally when the prevailing theme of human rights, dignity for all people, and justice. And the only time Palestine was even mentioned at our rally was towards the end. I'm just going to say that this feels like an excuse. This feels like an excuse because of all the things that were said at the rally. People faced real violence at that rally. When we were walking by that standby line, people were shouting slurs at us, the n-word, the f-word, people shouted all these vile, vile things at us, laughing at us, shoving cameras in our faces like they just thought this was a spectacle. When we were walking through the Village, I watched this guy push these two girls almost to the ground, like I had to help them up, I had to ask them if they were okay. He pushed one other person and almost started a fight. We faced very real violence, very real harassment. And for you to not stand with us, just because of Palestine, like what? I'm sorry -- what?

8. CJ -- I just want to respond to that one thing about it being an excuse. I'm also a Jewish student, I heard people say that it would be worth it to kill citizens. I heard Jewish students come out of it crying. I hear everyone talking about the fear of being a minority but after that day, it was hard to be a Jewish student. I am not here for hatred and bigotry, but not only was it not a safe space but it was hostile. It was valid for Jillian and any other student to leave that space.

9. Senator Kohanteb -- What you heard and saw, that's disgusting. I'm really sorry that you had to experience and see that. We know that bigotry and hate exists, but sometimes you'd like to believe that it's a Trojan family. I'd like to address what's been said. I also showed up to view the rally. I don't want to make this a thing where this is Jewish students versus other
students. I’m a visibly Jewish student and that’s okay. But I’ll tell you about something. I have a peer buddy who’s Israeli. He walked by the rally, he doesn’t speak much English. He asked why they were saying this about his people. I am not saying this to make people feel bad or anything, but there are nuances to things. There’s always gray. To say that people have to stand up, we have to understand that there are other things. I have 9 statements from the rally, but to say that it’s a shame for people not to go because it’s not an excuse, it’s completely unjust for my peer buddy. I was uncomfortable. I believe strongly that there are views on campus, you can agree with someone, you don’t have to agree with everything.

10. Jose -- I’m Director of Student Safety here. Thank you to all the students who spoke. Thank you to everyone who organized the protest, I was extremely humbled. To the extent that I was there, I did not hear anything that I thought was inappropriate. First of all, I have worked with Debbie and Blake for a few months now and I think there’s something to be said for how, as President and Vice President, they stand in solidarity. I have seen action on this. To me, it’s very discouraging that this side is not seeing this. They are also the President and Vice President of the students that went to Ben Shapiro. I don’t know if they were laughing or mocking the event, I did think it was appropriate that they were on the side. Even though they did not attend, that doesn’t mean they were not down for the cause. Your words were very touching, thank you so much. We need to be careful, though. I did not hear things come out of the megaphone that were hurting. I did not hear “dancing on the tombs of Israeli soldiers”, but I did hear something similar. To a person who is Israeli, that is not an excuse. I think we, especially in this time, when so much damage was done by this event, we were obliged to fund it. They did do a complete application. We need to be a little more careful. There has been so much damage done by this event, we need to take a second and realize that everyone here is in it together. I think we also have to keep in mind that we are also students. We don’t know what the hell we’re doing, we’ll do things the wrong way, but we shouldn’t assume they’re racist or a bigot. I hope everyone has a great night.

11. Senator Lane -- I think everything that’s been said tonight is very valid. I just want to shed a light on the irony that I’m personally seeing here. I opened this discussion by reading a letter from someone who did not even feel comfortable enough to make these comments themselves. I’m sure a lot of people saw the Daily Trojan last week, my face was on it. Even if you didn’t want to attend the protest for any reason, I don’t want Ben Shapiro’s presence to be the only thing we’re looking at here. There was a time in last week’s Senate meeting where Maxwell Brandon sat in front of me, made eye contact with me, and told me he doesn’t care if he offends
me, so many things he said that were way out of line. I’m going to defend myself, period. But having to be in the position where I now look like the angry black woman because I’m one of few people that has something to say in response to his commentary is very very disheartening, especially when there’s people who messaged me after saying thanks for what you said, but you had the opportunity to be there with me, and that had nothing to do with whether you’re pro-Shapiro or not, and no one had anything to say, so now me and Mia are now sandwiching him in a picture where he looks calm. I want to make it clear that, in pointing out silence, we are using this platform to call out things that are wrong. It gets old hearing my voice in Senate meetings, Michaela’s voice. It’s just that way. I want to hear everyone participating in the discussion when you can. This conversation extends way past the protests and way past Ben Shapiro. I don’t want to put you on the spot, but while we’re here, Debbie and Blake, I want to hear what you have to say. I know a lot of people were saying, wouldn’t this be better as a one-on-one discussion but I want everyone to feel comfortable being challenged to the people and by the people.

12. Senator Crane -- A lot’s been said. I can obviously vouch for that being Blake’s character. Senators were elected with autonomy. No one is a bad Senator for not going. I know it’s great to see Senators not engaging, they were elected by a constituency for a certain platform. Accountability comes in a lot of difficult forms. Remember that everyone here has a different mission. Whatever reason you’re here is just as valid. I also want to mention that the next item on the agenda is Ben Shapiro, we can talk about that after.

13. Mae -- All I want to say is that every single Senate meeting should look like this. This is what Senate meetings look like. Thank you everyone for standing up, for speaking your truth. This is what the true purpose is, holding everyone in USG accountable. It is our job as a part of USG, whatever part you’re on, there is so much work we do that is not going to be seen. It is our job to communicate that work. All I see is powerful statements. We are pissed because of miscommunication. As BSA leaders, there’s people in our own assembly who are upset because they don’t see the results. Debbie and Blake, any Senators who feel attacked, you know who you are, your character, what you’ve been doing, your motives, before we say everyone feels attacked, we also have to remember it’s our job to communicate things. I felt uncomfortable this entire month, last week, and now. That’s the essence of our job. You were not elected to be comfortable. But here again, we have to be comfortable being called out. I would urge those who are disappointed, please talk to people. I’ve had numerous conversations with Debbie and Blake. I’ve told Senators what I want to happen. I urge you all to talk to them, hold them accountable. I’ve had to hold them accountable, as well. When it comes to the protest, it’s
also important to remember the power of silence. It’s valid arguments about why people don’t want to protest, but you can show your stance in other ways than a protest. Even if you don’t believe in some of the rhetoric, anyone can come and talk to all of these people about where you stand. The protest wasn’t the only way to show what side you are on and what side you support. Manda has shown us another way. If you have a problem with the protest, it’s your job to reach out across the aisle. Please communicate what you need. People’s feelings are hurt because you don’t see what these members go through, this is true. But you have to communicate with us in the same way that we communicate with people outside these walls. If that means you’re not comfortable doing what I’m doing, there’s no excuse for people not doing their part. A lot of times we like to believe that silence protects us, but there’s a disconnect. I’m sorry but it’s off the table. I think, luckily, we’re having this conversation now. These kinds of meetings, this kid of hostility doesn’t have to be an option.

14. Jacob -- I am the Executive Director of TAPP. I was there for the entirety of the protest. I just want to bring it back to student safety. I was there for pretty much the entire thing, other than when I left to speak with the people who felt unsafe. I am also Jewish but my support of the Palestinian people stems from my Jewish heritage. Ben Shapiro dehumanizes the Palestinian people, advocating for the transfer of them out of their homeland. My experience with this protest was for trying to stand up for marginalized people. I would hope that those who did hear this anti-Semitic language would go up and talk to us about that. That’s obviously not what I or Cameron stands for. We can take steps to make sure that does not happen. The equation of Jewish people to the state of Israel is anti-Semitic. I just think that it’s important for us to keep that mind from Thursday and its aftermath.

15. Senator Tan -- As someone who has been silent, I have constantly played catch-up and I will not hesitate to say that I’m ignorant. I only came to this country four years ago. The past few Senate meetings have been very educational. I’ve been doing my part to educate a lot of the international students. I’ve been trying to take that knowledge and bring that back to my students. I sometimes feel scared to contribute, but just know that I’ve taken steps to meet with my constituents. I also wanted to especially make Meagan and Manda know that, but it hurt me, because I have been trying. When you say that I was not at the protest because I don’t care, or that I am silent because I’m not doing my job, it hurts because I feel like I am doing my job.

16. Cameron -- I was one of the organizers. I wanted to comment about Senate protocol. I don’t know if there’s protocol about someone hitting someone else.
17. Parliamentarian Donahue -- The book we use to guide our meetings does not mention physical hurt. Let’s just remember that what we’re talking about, and that translates into not physically harming someone. Let’s just be respectful for everyone’s ideas. I’m sorry that happened but there’s no official protocol.

18. Juju Hrovat -- There’s just explicit rules that say no threatening and no physical hurt.

19. Parliamentarian Donahue -- I just think it’s expected of people in an organized debate to not do that.

20. VP Ackerman -- Are we supposed to excuse the person who did that?

21. Cameron -- I just wanted to start by thanking everyone who came. It’s come to our attention that people felt threatened. But hundreds of students came out and were linking arms. I am speaking to individuals, so please listen. If you are accustomed to privilege, equality feels like oppression. The people who were near the podium did not hear these statements. If someone heard these statements, I don’t think of that as a reflection of the rally. If you want to talk to individuals, then do that. I think, near the podium-wise, some people are not telling the truth. I know there’s been a bit of a personal catalyst for Shayan. Our organization has been given funds. Our group, which stands for the marginalized and not the oppressors, was given funds. I heard people struggling about not going to the protests. I am part of a long line of black activists that have been called angry black people. If people are standing up for something, some may think that things are being taken from them. If standing against things that are racist and transphobic, people who want Kavanaugh cryogenically frozen, as we are dealing with victims, if that is biased, then I stand on the side of the bias. But my bias is towards justice and a lot of voices were not included. What I hope individuals like Blake and Shayan realize is that you don’t have the mandate...whatever low and pathetic way that you’re going to try and answer for the way you act and continue to act. You were elected by less than 10% of the student population. You don’t have the power just because less than 10% voted. People were exposed as false allies. What I know is that I invited you, Blake, to join the protest but you chose to stay where you were. The attacks against Israeli soldiers, I want to be empathetic, but justice will prevail.

22. Senator Crane moves to strike item (B) from the discussion

23. Senator Tan seconds

24. Voting
   a) Motion approved unanimously (12-0-0)

25. Senator Crane moves to fix the time to adjourn the time at 9PM

26. Senator Halperin seconds

27. Voting
   a) Motion passes (11-1-0)
Senator Savage in opposition

28. Senator Kohanteb -- I was in the back watching, as I said. But I’d love to hear audio from it. Daily Trojan did not have it. But I have been looking into it. I don’t want to accuse someone of something without having genuine evidence. You just called me “pathetic” and “low” for what I was saying. I have pictures of what I saw. Those are not fabricated. A lot of people at the meeting yesterday talked about how Ben Shapiro made their groups feel vulnerable and insecure, but just because I represent 10% of people and I stand up for them, doesn’t make me wrong. It doesn’t make me pathetic and low, I’m just representing my community. In terms of what happened with the Diversity Fund, please don’t misquote me. I did not request that they don’t get funding but that political groups don’t. I thought it was great dialogue and my opinions were shifted. It was not on any political group at all but in no way shape or form did I ever attack your organization. But I’m going to represent the people who voted for me. But does that mean we can’t speak up? I’m just speaking up for my bloc and the group I represent. I’m sorry you feel like that’s not worth as much but I feel secure in my stature, just as I hope everyone who attended this meeting. I’m really appreciate of who all has come here, no matter if you’re on this side of the table or the gallery. We all represent our communities but it’s incredible to hear diversity of thought.

29. Senator Gupta -- I just wanted to thank Jose, Mae, Cameron, Manda, and Meagan in being so eloquent in voicing their concerns. I tend to be on the quieter side and that’s because I try to absorb things. I came onto Senate because I was interested in working on safety and health on this campus. I think we’re making some really exciting progress which I’m excited to share with you next week. Thank you for sharing your thoughts on accountability, and I will work with you on those goals. I just think that every Senator on this table does things that aren’t always seen. Changes are happening, these aren’t always seen.

30. President Lee -- I’m a firm believer in apologizing. I’m deeply sorry. I think conflict resolution is more conducive in one-on-one settings, and I’m always open to hearing feedback. We spend about 25 hours in the office doing USG work. Blake and I chose to not participate actively within the protest but to stay there from 4:30 to the end of it. While we have our own political opinions, we understand that our duty calls us to represent all students which is why we chose to be there but not to participate in the protest. I leave my phone number everywhere, please contact me. I just wanted to clarify why we chose to be silent. I loved your comment, Mae, that protesting is not the only way to speak up. Public forum and debates are not the only way to do so and I’d be happy to inform you about that. We firmly believe that USG is a place of empowerment. Again, I just
wanted to publicly open our doors up and say that we’re here to publicly listen to your feedback.

31. Mae -- I want to say thank you, Debbie. Another question I had directed towards Blake, Debbie, everyone on Senate -- just because I was personally affected, I will not put down this motive. The main reason I have been so emotional and steadfast in making sure my opinions are heard. I don’t think Ben Shapiro has a place on this campus but what we can agree on is that discrimination and injustice exists in this organization and on this campus. But we do have power over protecting our own and protecting our students, but we do have the power to say no to discrimination. That’s why I was disappointed because I think it’s one thing to give him a platform but it’s another to not do anything about. How are we going to change this organization to make sure this does not happen in the future? I don’t want to lose sight. I will be making a Title IX claim to make sure that this is heard. There were people of color, of all ideologies, we gave money to this event. We knew weeks in advance exactly what was going on. People have also convinced themselves that Maxwell Brandon sat here and said I could just text him for my ticket back. It’s disappointing, it’s rude, it makes me and so many others feel like we don’t have a place on this campus. I’m tired of trying to make people realize that this is discrimination, of talking about this. This is something extremely tangible that every Senator and everyone in USG can work on. Students should not be held out of events in the future. We need to figure out how this happened and what can be done. To be honest, this is an organizational issue. Not everyone can be held accountable. This is not one person’s fault. I’m not putting this to sleep. I need to see a change, we can’t continue to be in an organization that does not protect the people who serve in it.

32. Adenike -- What I do want to say, though, is that we have a systematic problem. An hour before the event, my ticket was cancelled. I didn’t post anything on any social media. I think when it comes to Ben Shapiro, it’s unfair to bar students from coming to events without setting criteria for that. USG can work towards a systematic error. Ben Shapiro even talked about this. YAF didn’t feel like everyone who wanted to could. We just need to establish more paperwork of what we need to fix. Black Family Dinner is this Friday. If I was to see someone that is not a part of that community, I would welcome them.

33. Kira -- We’ve been watching this whole thing unfold. We bring performers to this campus that sometimes aren’t allowed to come. We know the complexity of this and why things are often complicated. There’s been a lot of finger-pointing. I’m obviously not from a marginalized community on this campus. I think the larger issue is that we are not demanding transparency. These decisions are made in a vacuum. I think it’s time that,
we need to come out of this in front and demand that clarity and transparency. I don’t have it, no one else seems to have it. I think it’s frustrating for me as an ally if I don’t know where the problem lies. It was difficult to be an ally when this organization doesn’t provide transparency and clarity. That leads to apathy. It’s very difficult for us to be allies.

Clarity and transparency from the admin above us. An actionable thing we can do is demand that the administration makes decisions about this, what are the policies and procedures. I think that’s something we really need to keep in mind moving forward.

34. Hamza -- I am not representing any group but myself. One thing I’ve heard is that people aren’t speaking up. I get that you have to speak up, but I’m an international student, as well. For some people on this campus, silence is their best option. I’d be willing to have that discussion one-on-one. It’s not just international students, but if silence is our best option, we’re looking up to people to speak for us. I was terrified but what I was lacking was someone who was speaking for me. I would appreciate having a voice for people who have a voice but are afraid to use it.

35. Lynn -- I just wanted to go back to the ticket cancellation. YAF claimed that those were people who were going to disrupt the rally. But I had four tickets and they were not cancelled.

36. Senator Lane -- I just wanted to go back to respond. I want to make it clear that I’m not trying to claim people are not doing their jobs. Props to you, Debbie, because I think it’s important to have these discussions in a public forum. I don’t want anyone to think I’m speaking to one person in particular. I just want, as you were saying Hamza, that when you don’t feel comfortable speaking, you find comfort in having people who can speak on your behalf. There’s a certain point where advocacy has to be a part of that. I don’t mean that you have to always say something. I just worry that if I hadn’t said something to Maxwell, for me, as someone who takes it very seriously. I just want everyone to take stock of when they have the opportunity to say something, even if it’s something as simple as bringing up questions. I genuinely, I hate to see you cry because I understand where you’re coming from. But it’s hard to be saying something but not hearing others say something. There’s plenty of opportunity for people to say things in different ways.

37. Chief Diversity Officer Dimas-- I’ve stayed in quiet. Part of it is because I haven’t eaten in 14 hours so I was starving. I’ve heard that, whether you’re in USG or not, you hold each and every one of us accountable. I’ve also heard that there’s no more room to not want to be educated. That means, on both sides, you’ve got to have those conversations. Civil conversation has to be the number one thing. If you don’t have respect for the people you’re disagreeing with, you’re going to get nowhere. I’m 21 years old, I’m Latino, I’m first-generation and it’s worked for me. If you are not reaching
out to be educated then you are part of the problem. I will also put myself in that position, because I also fuck up. We are all college students here to learn. Not everything is black and white, sometimes gray. If you have a problem with someone who believes in something that you don’t agree with, then have that conversation. Don’t just make it anecdote or data, you have to have both. I’m sorry if that makes you feel like you’re invalidated. Every one of you is being held accountable. If you feel like you’re not educated on an issue, now is your time to learn and listen and to take action. Whatever action that is, now you have a better understanding of what is at hand.

38. VP Ackerman -- As speaker of Senate, this is a tough role. I want everyone to have their own ability to speak. That’s why I don’t interject and respond. I apologize to all of you who addressed me but I feel like that wasn’t my place in this forum. Next, in terms of my own role, I was here to support all students. I in no way meant to denigrate the protest. I know my intent might have been but my actions were not innocuous. I believe that protesting is a personal choice, but I would love to have more one-on-one conversations. I want to talk to about a lot of stuff but it’s stuff that we have to discuss one-on-one. Moving forward, Senate discussions will be limited to 15 minutes. The Senators have 6 hours per week in the office, Debbie and I have 25 hours per week. Our emails and phones are accessible. We want to hear you.

XI. Adjournment
   A. Senator Halperin moves to adjourn the meeting
   B. Senator Geschwind seconds
   C. VP Ackerman adjourns the meeting at 9:06 PM