Official Undergraduate Student Government
Senate Meeting Minutes
7:00 pm, TCC 350
November 6th, 2018

Executive Officers
Sydney Park
Rick Keaton
Fern Leon-Ramos
Shany Ebadi

Advocacy Branch
Andie Wright
Catherine Atkinson

Communications Branch
Tadiwanashe Nhete
Megan D’Souza
Greg Brandt
Truman Fritz
Isabel Queiroz
Sarah Kim
Allegra Gutierrez
Emily Louie

Funding Branch
Mike Shao

Program Board
Nia Warren
Mae Gates
Ariel Rezazadeh
Amanda Cooper
Olivia Pearson
Varsha Sivaram
Casey Hwang
Douglas Luo

**Guests**
Max Goldstein
Daniel Levine
Adam Mokhtari Zadeh
Matthew Luevano

**Senate Aides**
Emily Johnson
Haley Garland
Adenike Makinde
Tate Delgado
Stella Miller
Lauren Yen

**Advisors**
Lola Antognini
Sarah Kim
Ivana Giang

**Staff**
Kevin Giang
I. Call to order  
   A. Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM

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

III. Approval of the agenda  
   A. Senator Murphy moves to amend the agenda to strike item (B) from New Business  
   B. Senator Gupta seconds  
   C. Voting  
      1. Approval of amendment passes unanimously (12-0-0)  
   D. Senator moves to approve the agenda  
   E. Senator seconds  
   F. Voting  
      1. Approval of agenda passes unanimously (12-0-0)

IV. Open Forum  
   A. Senator Murphy moves for the indefinite censure of VP Ackerman  
      1. Senator Murphy -- For the sake of transparency, the Senate received an email over the weekend with some information that we feel compelled to investigate further. It has to do with one of the executive officers, our Vice President Blake Ackerman. I move for the indefinite censure of VP Ackerman so the Senate has ample time and opportunity to thoroughly investigate this and come to a decision in such a way that is healthy, to really ensure the wellbeing emotionally of everyone involved, so that he doesn’t have to be in a space where these discussions necessarily are happening. So with that, I move for your censure.  
   B. Senator Savage seconds  
   C. Debate  
      1. VP Ackerman -- I want to apologize for the insensitive comments I made on Facebook last year. I especially regret that those comments imply that I condone hazing in Greek life, which I absolutely do not. I know that hazing has a negative impact on both individuals and the community as a whole. Both in terms of mental health and campus climate, it should not be tolerated on our campus. I am sorry. When I look back on those Facebook comments, they seem foreign to me and I am embarrassed by them. They do not reflect the person I am today or the person I want to be in the future. I will use this experience as a learning opportunity to improve moving forward. I hope to play an active role in redesigning the new member education processes in Greek life, in ending a culture that tolerates insensitivity and hazing. Please know that my commitment to fostering a USC culture that prioritizes mental health and a positive campus climate is unwavering. I have participated as a co-founder in the
design and implementation of a course that encourages well-being for all first-year students and I have worked closely with counseling services to provide spaces for our most vulnerable students so we can better support them. I plan to continue my work as Vice President with the same intention that I had when I took office -- to support all students, to improve our community, and to make USC a place where we truly thrive in all that we do. I know, as Trojans, we must be committed to supporting one another. Accordingly, I would greatly appreciate your support and confidence during this time of reflection and remorse.

D. Voting
1. Motion to censure passes (11-1-0)

V. Reports of officers and directors
A. Keisuke Fujiwara, Senior Director of Programming
1. SDOP Update
   a) Assembly incorporation -- innovation and entrepreneurship assembly
      ○ Just had the group come into branch meeting and they did their branch meeting
      ○ Had a vote of confidence -- voting closes in 1 minute
2. ACA
   a) Mental Health Awareness Month
3. APASA
   a) Night Market
   b) Cultural Art Expo -- great event, 10 assemblies and committees coming together
4. BSA
5. ESA
6. ISA
   a) Highlight -- had Ken Jeong come into campus
7. LSA
8. PSA
   a) Had a lot of events catered towards midterms
9. QuASA
   a) Collecting names of people who support queer and allied community
10. SSA
11. SAGE
12. Concerts
   a) Had Battle of the Bands
13. PAC
14. Speakers -- helped out on Ken Jeong event
15. SEC -- Spooky Movie Night
16. Trojan Pride -- supporting all the home games
B. Matthew Crane, Speaker Pro Tempore

1. Project Updates
   a) First Aid/CPR Certification for RA’s
   b) EMT in Engemann/Row
   c) Campus Climate on Healthy Relationships
      ○ Looking at piloting course next semester that would be mandatory
   d) Affirmative Consent Program -- trying to launch for first-year students next year
   e) PFC/IFC

2. Personal Updates
   a) Got into medical school

VI. Presentations

A. Gabe Savage, Senator

1. Senate Aide -- Andrew Fowler
   a) He’s a biophysics major and future doctor
   b) From Leonardtown, Maryland
   c) I specifically asked for embarrassing photos that I could show all of Senate -- only got one

2. Personal Updates
   a) Last midterm today
      ○ Entering a state of denial
   b) Went home this weekend -- newly Hawaii (family moved over the summer from PA)
      ○ Sister had first production, she played the male lead → decided to make the trip to see it

3. Project Updates
   a) Working on mandatory apartment meal plan
      ○ Working with Erika Chesley (Auxiliary Services) and Erik Russell (AD of Residential Dining)
      ○ Hope is that CalFresh recipients would be exempt from mandatory meal plan. There is an unfortunate intersection of students who receive aid for being food insecure, who are, by default of that -- if they still live in student housing -- they still have to opt into a mandatory meal plan, even if they don’t use it. If you opt into a mandatory meal plan, you’re unable to go to the Trojan food pantry, which seems backwards for a number of reasons.
   b) Narcan
      ○ Working with DPS
   c) Professor Pay Floors
      ○ Working with Senator Sherman

4. Questions
a) Guest -- Is there any way you will come to students who qualify for CalFresh, because I know it can be a difficult process for people to apply?

b) Senator Savage -- I’ve been talking to John Gadar, who’s the CalFresh organizer on campus, about the difference between qualifying and actually doing it. To qualify, you need to work 20 hours of work, which is a lot and you would think you meet the threshold if you do that without necessarily having to opt into it -- they seem steadfast in their belief in their belief that you need to be receiving benefits in order to not opt in to the meal plan because the idea is that you’re getting food from another source and that’s what makes it unnecessary for you to have a meal plan but it’s certainly something I could work towards in that regard.

c) Guest -- I just think that forcing people to opt-in to the meal plan who do qualify for CalFresh could be difficult for a lot of people who are low-income or near poverty line. I qualify for CalFresh but haven’t gone through the steps to receive it. To put an additional burden on those students to pay for a meal plan is difficult.

d) Senator Savage -- We did the calculations and found that if you get as many as three breakfasts over the course of the whole semester, you lose money on the meal plan. You’d be better off buying each meal individually. In my opinion, the system is broken.

e) Debbie -- If you are interested in collaborating on the Food Pantry, hit me up. I’m the one who’s leading it from the USG end. If you’re on the apartment meal plan and you run out of swipes, then you are eligible for all services at the Food Pantry. Additionally, we are adopting a system for people from Auxiliary Services to know and respect someone’s confidentiality when they swipe their card for the Food Pantry. So we’re working on streamlining that process.

f) Senator Savage -- Awesome, I’ll make sure to stay in contact.

B. Jacquelyne Tan, Senator

1. Personal Updates
   a) Drowning in homework and projects
      ○ Built my wind turbine to harvest car energy
   b) Have interviews for internships
   c) Will be at home for Christmas

2. Senate Aide -- Divya Gupta
   a) Met through Viterbi President’s Council
   b) Works for CET

3. Platform/Project Updates
   a) Learning experience evaluations
      ○ To make sure that this information is public to students to go to a platform that is more equitable
b) Evaluating academic programs at USC
   - BA in Cybersecurity -- shouldn’t be a BA
   - Working with Paul Rosenbloom

   c) Campus Sleep Wellness Assessment
      - Evaluating how good our university has good sleeping practices on campus
      - Especially for commuters

d) Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee

e) ISA, APASA -- meeting with both of those E-Boards
   - Implement shuttles for international students
   - Meeting with Dr. Carry

f) Viterbi
   - Working with Dean Louise Yates

   g) Pre-Enrollment Training

VII. Unfinished business and general orders
   A. None

VIII. New Business
   A. Presentation of Programming Fee Committee Student-At-Large
      1. President Lee -- I’d like to give a shoutout to our Treasurer who is not here but who made this presentation. It is a committee led by the Treasurer and every year this Board will convene and needs one student-at-large, to review this process and making sure that this budget is fair to all. My recommendation for the student is Donielle Bunyard, who served as USG Treasurer last year. She is in her fifth year and serves on the Peer Leadership team. She has a comprehensive understanding of the programming fee and has the most insight and experience.

IX. Announcements
   A. None

X. Discussion
   A. None

XI. Adjournment
   A. Senator Kohanteb moves to adjourn the meeting
   B. Senator Geschwind seconds
   C. Speaker Pro Tempore Crane adjourns the meeting at 7:39 PM