



**Official Undergraduate Student Government  
Senate Meeting Minutes**

7:00 pm, TCC 350

January 22nd, 2019

- I. Call to order
  - A. Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM
- II. Reading and approval of minutes
  - A. Senator Savage moves to approve the minutes
  - B. Senator Gupta seconds
  - C. Minutes approved as read
- III. Approval of the agenda
  - A. Senator Murphy moves to add Shared Governance Symposium to New Business
  - B. Senator Sherman seconds
  - C. Voting
    1. Amendment passes (9-0-0)
  - D. Senator Murphy moves to strike Bylaw Amendment from New Business
  - E. Senator Savage seconds
  - F. Voting
    1. Approval of agenda passes unanimously (12-0-0)
- IV. Open Forum
  - A. Max Brandon -- I can tell the excitement about my being here again.
  - B. Josh -- I'm a senior, this is my first time in USG. I was part of YAF for a bit, mostly to support with the Ben Shapiro event. I'll be the first to disagree with Ben Shapiro's stances. But I went to his event with an open mind. We had a great time. No one got hurt. We got to know more about people who I disagree with. I understand that USG's purpose is to serve the student body. But that has a limit. The moment you cross from a legislative duty into one of moral authority, that's a form of corruption. I'm here to endorse conversation and to learn about the world. Even if we enslave ourselves from viewpoints we don't like, you're doing a disservice by keeping people from hearing him.
  - C. Yuli -- Just in case it comes up, I wanted to go into what I think this amendment would do. I was proud to be a Trojan because people were having conversation. In the hall, there was no heckling, just light applause. A law like this would be invasive to individual spirit. The problem I see is that only one person can vote to strike it. A majority vote is susceptible to misinformation. SPLC has called a

Somali refugee a member of a hate group. If you're going to use the SDLC as a barometer, you fall into this risk. Do not vote to take away your rights because you will not get them back.

- D. Adam -- I think it's important to talk about because I think it will be harmful. It ultimately gives the power to USG to determine who can come talk on campus. My concern is with who is determining who is hateful and who is not. I do not believe the Southern Poverty Law Center is a good arbiter. But given USG's ability to determine who is or is not hateful will have a negative impact on the student body. The proposal is obviously a reaction to Ben Shapiro coming to campus. USG will use subsections to prevent speakers like Ben Shapiro from coming again. The bill wouldn't have made the student body safer at all, though.
  - E. Guest -- There are four main consequences. When everyone is on the same team and has the same confirmation biases, it can negatively affect academic research. Group intelligence suffers when not all opinions are heard. Lack of psychological safety also negatively affected places like China. The loss of political diversity renders students graduating with an inaccurate understanding of conservatives.
- V. Reports of officers and directors
- A. Blake Ackerman, Vice President
    - 1. D+B Updates
      - a) Current Meetings and Projects
        - o Division of Student Affairs
          - (a) VPSA Transition -- students will be involved in that
            - (i) There will be an interim.
          - (b) Budget Assessments -- working with Dr. Carrey to look at USG and GSG budgets. Excited to see how those will be freed up.
        - o Office of Campus Wellness and Crisis Intervention
          - (a) OT 299 -- stress-free, no homework, would highly recommend taking it.
          - (b) Ombuds hired, coming to a USC near you.
        - o Student Health
          - (a) Wellness vending machines, CC installation
          - (b) Feminine Care Products -- trying to wrap up this semester, working with different administrative services
        - o IFCxPHC
          - (a) Recruitment, DPS@MND, Intros to ESHC
        - o USC Civic Engagement
          - (a) LATimes Festival of Books
            - (i) Looking for folks to volunteer here.
          - (b) Org-Wide presentation
        - o DPS
          - (a) LiveSafe

(b) DPS has kept us in the loop as to how increased phone robberies have happened.

(c) Concerts

2. Veep Updates

- a) Went to the Grand Canyon
- b) Visited my sister in NY

3. Next

- a) USG Office Transitions
- b) USGxGSG Conversations
- c) MBSG Student Climate Survey
- d) Heath and Wellness Week Collab with Counseling Services

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

1. Personal Updates

a) Milton

- Medically disqualified from military service
- Best friend from HS will be visiting this weekend
- Pretty happy to be back

b) Shany

- Activism-filled weekend
- Had some time to myself

2. Welcome Back!

a) Provost's D&I Council

b) DEI Week -- wrapped up successful week, lots of great programming

c) Provost's Retreat

d) Org-Wide -- thinking about splitting time with a speaker and having an opportunity to take a breather

e) Spoken Justice -- GSG reached out and they want us to promote this event happening on Thursday, sign-ups begin at 6:15PM, free food. Great opportunity to talk about experiences.

f) USC OwnIT -- helping out my friend Dimple

g) Transition & Graduation -- working on documents. If there are people in audience who would be interested in the position, please let me know.

VI. Presentations

A. Gabe Savage, Senator

1. Personal Updates

a) Spent some time in HI and PA

- Burnt potatoes, played board games with my grandpa, I have a new cousin

2. Project Updates

a) Elective Apartment Meal Plan

- Think we're making some headway. I have a meeting with Erika Chesley.
- b) Narcan
  - Opioid overdose reversal drug, can save the person's life -- trying to get DPS to carry this.
- c) Bystander Intervention Training
  - Just signed on to that. Hoping to be on that team.
- d) Andrew Fowler
  - Working on the Lavender Lounge. Trying to maybe expand into a different physical space.

B. Will Sherman, Senator

1. Personal Updates

- a) Applying to jobs on USA Jobs
- b) My girlfriend was in LA this weekend
- c) Found an amazing history memes FB page

2. Project Updates

- a) Professor Pay Floors
  - I'm going to keep her name confidential. If you're a Dornsife professor who's not tenured, there is just a minimum pay. There's no established standard for that. Unfortunately, she just went into surgery over break which moved that whole thing back.
- b) Waiving the cost of unofficial transcripts
- c) Recycling bins in lecture halls
- d) Recycling bins in high-volume receipt locations
- e) Pre-enrollment services
  - Selecting modules and getting them developed
- f) Providing free hugs to the masses

VII. Unfinished business and general orders

A. None

VIII. New Business

A. Shared Governance Symposium, Michaela Murphy & Truman Fritz

- 1. Truman -- I'm the Associate Director of Digital. Today, Michaela and I are here to talk about the Shared Governance Symposium. We are here to ask for \$500 from the Senate allocations budget.
  - a) It has three main goals. We are working with UCLA, Pitzer, and Occidental:
    - Coalescing -- working with student leaders to build different coalitions within Southern California. These are ways for us to bring unique interests and concerns into a space we can all collaborate in.
    - Problem-solving -- planning to continue creating a space where we can collectively problem-solve with one another

- Relationship-building -- not only professional-relationship building but also personal relationship-building.
- b) Who all is coming?
  - We initially had a few delegates from each college. We had a total of 10. This time, we are expecting 25-35 delegates. We have people from UCLA, LMU, CSU-LA, Lewis and Clark, Pepperdine, UCI, Chapman, Occidental, Pitzer. We are hoping to then move this onwards statewide and nationally.
- c) Orders of the Day
  - Budgeting and Financial Structures
  - Bottom-Up Management and Accountability
  - Diversity and Inclusion in Recruitment and Culture
  - Administrative Relationship Building
  - Strategic Planning and Next Steps -- making sure what we've talked about that day turns into actionable change
- d) Reason Why We're Here
  - You all have \$1000 in your budget -- we are asking for \$500 of that for catering. The rest of that we are seeking from Exec/Leg and plan to use that money on travel reimbursements via Lyft codes.
  - We are here today because this is a time-sensitive issue. We have the room reserved but need to start looking at catering options. Another reason is that Occidental provided breakfast and lunch, reimbursement codes, with a small budget. They still managed to give us all this money for a first conference that might not even go anywhere. We noticed this buy-in from other colleges and want to reproduce this here at USC.
- e) Questions
  - President Lee -- After your total calculations, how much would it be per person?
  - Truman -- \$20 per person which is very conservative estimate. The rest of the \$800 would be put toward a Lyft code of \$35 per person, allowing them to get transportation to here.
  - President Lee -- So you're estimating \$55 per person?
  - Truman -- We are estimating \$20 per person for catering.

## IX. Announcements

- A. Senator Kohanteb -- I'm going to a business club called TAMID's information session. You can come with me.
- B. Mae -- BSA will be having our first HS leadership conference. Our application for you to join our staff is now open. We are trying to build communication between

people in South Central and people here. We are trying to do our part in bridging that gap. If this is something you're interested in, please feel free to reach out and let me know. I can get a graphic for next week's Senate meeting.

X. Discussion

A. None

XI. Adjournment

A. Senator Sherman moves to adjourn the meeting

B. Senator Kohanteb seconds

C. VP Ackerman adjourns the meeting at 7:46 PM