Official Undergraduate Student Government  
Senate Meeting Minutes  
7:00 pm, TCC 350  
February 26th, 2019

I. Call to order  
   A. Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM

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

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

IV. Open Forum  
   A. Mae -- I'm currently the co-Executive Director of BSA. We will be advocating for the current Reallocation Budget to not be approved by Senate. Realistically, we cannot support it. It is important to note that black students only make up 6% of the USC population. In order to adhere to diversity, it is imperative that we understand how timely this is.
   B. Guest -- We are very, very spring-heavy. We have about two of our signature events in the spring. We also have the HS leadership event. It’s huge for us and it’s going to take a lot of extra money. In order to get all of this done, in a way that is quality so that it can continue to happen next year, it is important to us and other cultural assemblies. We also have our speakers events. Last year, we had Issa Rae. That’s open to all students on campus. Therefore, we are really relying on this extra money. We budgeted out for this and we did not expect to get such little money, especially since we have so many events.
   C. Guest -- I’m actually a second-year master’s student. I was the Speaker Pro Temp at my undergraduate institution, the University of Cincinnati. We had an Africana Studies department, which USC does not have...USC already does not have a lot of resources for black students. To me, it is absolutely absurd. That’s all I have to say.

V. Reports of officers and directors
A. Blake Ackerman, Vice President
   1. D+B Updates
      a) Current Meetings and Projects
         ○ Dr. Carey is leaving us.
         ○ Division of Student Affairs
            (a) Working on the VPSA Transition -- there will be an
                interim, for the rest of the spring and possibly
                through next fall. I'll talk a little bit about Student
                Affairs later.
            (b) Menstrual Products -- working to get free
                menstrual products into the bathrooms. There's
                questions about procurement and who's going to be
                paying for it.
         ○ Office of Campus Wellness and Crisis Intervention
            (a) Virtual wellness assistant -- Ask Ari
                (i) There will be a response, with links to
                    resources and factoids about how to
                    alleviate that. That goes into healthy
                    relationships, sleep, etc. It uses AI.
            (b) Rolling out THRIVE on a more grand scale
                (i) OT 299 is a course in its second semester of
                    piloting. We're trying to make it a
                    graduation requirement, figuring out
                    logistical questions that are starting.
         ○ Student Health
            (a) There is a Inter-Health Council Town Hall
                tomorrow
                (i) One of the new obgyn’s will be there
                (ii) I want to shout out IHC for letting us
                    promote it
            (b) Conversations with IFCxPHC
         ○ USC Civic Engagement
            (a) Debbie and I had the pleasure of attending the
                Alliance for Civic Engagement
            (b) One of them is USC Hybrid High
         ○ Office of the Provost
            (a) FMS -- costs have gone way up, trying to get to the
                bottom of that. Shout out to Hunter for putting that
                together.
            (b) Student Affairs -- what does that look like within
                other schools?
            (c) Shared Governance Town Hall -- March 19th
2. VEEP Updates
   a) Went to Invite with my girlfriend

3. What’s Next
   a) Office of Professionalism and Ethics
   b) USG Officer Transitions
   c) Bylaw Amendments
   d) Spring Break

B. Shany Ebadi & Milton Dimas, Co-Chief Diversity Officers
   1. We just wanted to talk about the problems of the Spring Reallocation Budget. I think it’s also important that everyone be here and that they speak out.
   2. Milton
      a) Personal Life
         ○ Trying to get a job
         ○ Chris Lake x Fisher
         ○ Academics -- taking 18 units
         ○ Love life -- going well
         ○ Family -- going really well. I got an 8 year old brother who has a couple learning differences. It makes it tough for him but he’s making that improvement.
   3. Shany
      a) Personal Updates
         ○ Pisces season
         ○ Looking forward for 4 midterms next week
         ○ Spring Break
         ○ My culture’s new year is March 19th-20th

4. Updates
   a) Transition -- working on documents
   b) Bystander Intervention Training -- hat’s off to Diviya
   c) Engemann Discussions -- continuing to make sure out demands are being heard
   d) Provost’s Diversity Retreat -- went fine
   e) University Nomenclature Taskforce -- largely a movement by Michaela, Preston, and Manda
   f) CDO & USC’s Oldest Philanthropy (Troy Camp)
      ○ Created by Otis Healy
      ○ They reached out to me to see if we can find a speaker/mentor for the Troy Camp children. It’s a mentorship program spearheaded by USC students.
      ○ USC-USG-and Bumble -- future partnerships
      ○ CSUN-USC Conversation with AS President
VI. Presentations

A. Shayan Kohanteb, Senator
   1. Senate Aide Minute
      a) Just wanted to take a minute to appreciate this man. He’s done a lot of incredible work. I even went on his LinkedIn and gave him a like for Leadership. He’s worked really hard and I appreciate having him. Thank you, Matt.
   2. Personal Updates
      a) Slowly moving out of USG -- taking 40 kids to DC next month
      b) Game of Thrones coming back
      c) Guitar final coming up
   3. Senate Projects
      a) Just confirmed with Dean Soni to create a task force removing test days on certain Holy Days -- Penn doesn’t have that
      b) FRYFT -- just met with Ben Rosenthal. He’s going to be taking over this project.
         ○ We want to extend Lyft hours to make it more accessible for students.
      c) Working on Bylaw amendments.

B. Meagan Lane, Senator
   1. Personal Updates
      a) I am doing well.
   2. Student Game Lounge
      a) Trying to fundraise, happening in Cafe 84
   3. Black Student Task Force
   4. Black Vision Conference
      a) Coming to USC in April, in collaboration with students from UCLA, UCI, etc. Will be open to students and faculty.

VII. Unfinished business and general orders

A. Spring Reallocation Budget
   1. Senator Kohanteb moves to approve Item (A)
   2. Senator Sherman seconds
   3. Debate
      a) President Lee -- I will do my best to answer questions. I also just want to start off by addressing the elephant in the room. It’s
awesome to see a lot of people in this room. I’m sorry if any of y’all felt offended or hurt by what was presented last week. I wish we could have had more people. There was a rumor that the Budget Committee was operating from a bias. I wish you Senators had come and met during the week. Please keep in mind that, if you don’t pass the budget, we risk losing out on $96K from Student Affairs. Keisuke and I are going to do our best to explain some of the context and history.

b) Parliamentarian Donahue -- Each of the Senators will have 10 minutes, 2x, to talk. Now is the time to project why or not you’re voting each way. If you yield, that counts as one of your times.

c) Michaela -- If we try to make amendments, is that line by line or is that a sweeping amendment? Or do we have to break that?

d) Debbie -- Line by line. The over-enrollment allocation amount totaled to $93K.

e) Debbie -- So, I guess we can address, since it seems most pertinent to the BSA funding, how we came to that.

f) Keisuke -- I want to talk about how we make all of the Budget decisions. We had every account holder come in with a presentation and information about how much they are asking for, with quotes of how much they are asking for. We had to make that decision with limited money. With limited money, we could not give money that every group asked for. It was not just BSA, there was a compromise to every assembly. We were not able to give every group the amount they asked for. Mae and Mia touched on how BSA is spring-heavy. They made it clear at the end of last year. We were always aware of this. Many of the other cultural assemblies are like this, given festivities that happen. We were aware that BSA would need more money in the spring semester. We took a look at every single account holder’s spending in the fall semester. Compared to other groups, BSA did spend less money. If we give them a little more money, we can count on them spending that money as well.

f) Debbie -- In the spring when we first started the process, we had each group provide a line-by-line estimate. We looked at the budget and gave most of the cultural assemblies an increase. That was already an increase from what was allocated last year. Another heavy factor was how groups demonstrated how they were able to meet their fall threshold. There are many other factors that were put into place. Really, the goal of the Budget committee is to just spend the money. Our accounts work in a way such that if the money is not spent, it goes back to the administration. Our goal was to budget it for groups that could demonstrate their good
stewardship of what the spring would look like. Every group was compromised. One group asked for $25K and we gave them $0. It was not a cultural assembly, just to put that out there.

h) Keisuke -- I just want to clarify. We don’t have enough to fund every group. A compromise is inevitable. I am from a cultural assembly background and am an international student. It is tough because there’s never enough for you. USC cannot provide enough resources for you. As SDOC this year, knowing how rough it is for every cultural assembly, I knew this was something I wanted to do -- and we did it. I really wanted to personally help as much as we could. There are many factors. I understand that “a lot of factors” is not enough information. We are not making decisions based on anyone’s identity. We purely look at the performance of each group. We don’t have the ability to fund everyone. It’s been a really tough process. It’s tough for everyone. We have no bias against any background -- especially me, coming from cultural assembly background.

i) Debbie -- Just to echo a bit more of what Keisuke said, there were many groups that did not receive any increases. LSA did not ask for an increase and did not receive one. Additionally, we took into consideration that groups like Speakers co-sponsor events, we felt that it was an appropriate allocation to do so. To Senators, I wish we could have spent the week having productive conversations. We’re ready to stay here as long as we need to. It’s imperative that we get a budget approved tonight.

j) Mia -- I just want to start by me saying this is not me raining on Keisuke and Debbie’s parade. We just need more money for programming. You guys mentioned that one of the reasons you did not give us as much money because we did not spend as much. One of our directors forgot to close one of the PO’s and she spent $3,000. We spent all of our money last year, too. We need to reevaluate for the sake of our programming.

k) Mae -- Am I allowed to hand out this projected budget?

l) Parliamentarian Donahue -- No.

m) Mae -- Part of the reason we did not get the funding we asked for was because we did not provide line items. We don’t have invoices yet for things such as the GearFest talent. This will be roughly $25K. We don’t have a signed contract to show you so we don’t have an invoice. We don’t have one to show you, but as you see, that’s a huge expense coming out of our budget. We are co-sponsoring so we don’t have an invoice for that. Also, with Black History Month events, those are still ongoing. We haven’t or just made some of those payments. Just so you have a number
4796. We didn’t have all of those invoices outlined. We are co-sponsoring BlackGrad. They did not provide us with an invoice. Mahogany Ball will be $8-9K. We did provide an invoice from the event last year. It is the last day of classes so we don’t have an invoice. Most of our expenses are IR’s or invoices we have not or continue to get. We did update our own internal budget tracker. We are -$963. In the event we don’t get more, we won’t have a Mahogany Ball and that is the only one we can’t secure funding for. There are many things that were not taken into consideration. It’s not fair and extremely inequitable for BSA to have to sacrifice signature events for small things that can be change. It’s BSA demanding equitable funding. But now you have the opportunity to change this.

n) Meagan -- I just want to say that, regardless of the context and ideas, there is a larger context of campus climate, country climate, and historical climate that displays this budget as a clear outline of priorities for me. Even if Speakers is all well and good, we are looking at it as an intermediary that supports the other committees. I just want us to be very intentional about understanding why compromise is being used as justification for this when I’m already aware that the BSA asked for $15K. They are in the negative by almost $9K. The fact that everybody has to compromise does not explain by BSA is being asked to compromise so much. My intention is not to take away credit or work from everyone else but to take a critical look at what is being said when we say we are funding everything BSA has to do with this money, which is not possible. There is nowhere else BSA is going to get these resources.

o) Senator Murphy -- Last week, Debbie, you and Hunter mentioned that this is the allocation of new spring money from spring admits and transfers. We also on record were promised a presentation this week of those new numbers. I just want to understand what the fuller picture is. They might get another $9K from Exec/Leg. I want to trust the discretion but this screams an inequitable allocation between account holders.

p) President Lee -- None of you have reached out with the exception of Senator Chong and Senator Gupta. Also, I was asked earlier this morning about a presentation and perhaps you all haven’t taken into consideration that Hunter too is a student. I can’t currently just whip it out right now. That being said, I made it explicitly clear that the onus was on you to come talk to us. If anything, we offered an extension but you did not take advantage of that opportunity. There was no promise of a public presentation.
Hunter mentioned that he could bring it up in his next Senate presentation. There’s this perception that the budget is a war between Senate and the Budget Committee. The budget is just so that everyone can benefit. There is no divide. Even if we don’t see eye to eye, it’s a perfect platform for us to start seeing the other side, to be at a place where we can start to move forward together. Keisuke also reached out to all of the other account holders. Not many of them took the opportunity. Not many of you either reached out or, at least from my perspective, wanted to understand.

q) Mae -- I know you are talking about how you feel like there could be more transparency. We were told that you thought it was thorough, you liked it, that it could be an example -- all that to be said that, I feel it was an opportunity for Exec to come to us and ask for evidence. That, as well, is something that could have easily been handled between us. We had our presentation. We answered all the questions you had and we only got $25K. It really has to be a two-way street. I did not get that from you or anyone else. There is lack of transparency on both sides.

r) Keisuke -- I was taking notes on my phone. There have been a couple speakers so far. Mae mentioned all the talent procedure and how that could take a while, about quotes and collaboration, and that BSA did not have that information. I understand what the issues are. That’s a value I try to bring to this team, that I know why the programming groups don’t have the quotes. That wasn’t the only factor for me. It’s not only the only reasoning we use. This is the reallocation change we are proposing right now. The other line people should at least take a look at is the middle column. That column is also what we took a look at when we made the allocation decision. I really tried to give the programming assemblies a larger number. If you look at this column and you compare it, it is so much larger. This is not everything. These numbers are not the only numbers we should be looking at. Thirdly, the reallocation number, I cannot say anything against that. Hunter is not here, I cannot speak for him. I apologize for that. Speaking on the reaching out to each other, both sides could have done better. I could have taken an extra step to have more conversation but I just want to say that we did try. I and Debbie personally tried to reach out to the groups. It was tough for us to present this, but I just want you all to remember, that every group compromised. I really want to advocate for everyone. It was tough for everyone to give more money than what we had in our hand. Every single group’s presentation was thorough and
well-prepared. Every group had a good presentation. Every group had to make some compromise.

s) Guest 1 -- You guys create a budget, who’s the checks and balances on that decision? Are there no faculty looking over this?

t) Debbie -- Just to explain how USG’s budget works as a whole, with the guidance and assistance of staff members in addition to graduate advisors, USG’s budget is composed of $64 of everyone’s tuition each semester. The reason why we ended up here again in the spring is that USC has this weird system of spring admits. We get more numbers of students who constitute this. When we initially presented our budget in April, that was already discussed and passed by the Senate. This Senate was imparting that money to their respective account holders. The check and balance is to ultimately present it to Senate and have conversations like these.

u) Senator Chong -- So we have three options? Third option is to amend some of the money that has been allocated to other assemblies. If you choose to not pass this budget, the Budget Allocation Committee will have to go through the whole process again. It took three and a half weeks the first time. We would go through it from scratch, the Budget Reallocation Committee would then go to New Business next week, then Old Business. I don’t think the account holders or Budget Allocation Committee could present another set of numbers by Tuesday. You all can table it to next week to vote on.

v) Parliamentarian Donahue -- Just a quick point of order, we only have the room until 9PM. Last time, we moved down to the office. Just keep that in mind when debating.

w) Senator Bwerevu -- Really happy to see my black brothers and sisters in the room. I was not able to attend the last meeting. Just from looking at this allocation chart, it obviously looks inequitable. I don’t know how you thought we would be comfortable supporting and voting for such inequality. I will not be supporting it. It does not make sense from an objective standpoint. The onus was on the Budget Reallocation Budget to reach out to BSA since they felt the numbers were not fleshed out. This is not just about BSA, this is about USC at large. There are a lot of events we put on that would not be happening without BSA. I think everyone should understand the weight of their vote. This points to a lot of the other conversations we are having around the country about black students in higher education. Black students are not taken care of in a proper way. There are many implications.

x) Milton -- I’m listening to what everyone’s saying right now. Let’s say we understand the implications of it being passed now. What
are the implications if it does not get approved? Does it affect other assemblies, RSO’s?
y) Keisuke -- If we approve it, it would be approved and we move forward. If we don’t approve it, that means all the account holders listed here will not get the money in their account. Without the money, no group can spend the money or put on the events they wish to. That’s just one implication. I’m not using that information to pressure anyone. There’s no need to rush. I just wanted to make clear the consequence.
z) Sophia -- I’m going to emphasize that I was co-director of BSA. I think the current directors handled it very gracefully. I highly suggest that it does get figured out. You’re not asking the majority to compromise. That’s very irresponsible because you’re supposed to be protecting students’ wellbeing and their experience here. You have to question why you put yourself in these situations. Whatever experience you think they should have, you’re showing that.

aa) Guest -- Is there a way for us to get the relative amount of compromise? Relatively, how much did everyone else compromise? Is it inequitable?
bb) Keisuke -- The amount every group requested is their information. I would need a verbal confirmation about their information.
cc) Rohan -- I just wanted to speak generally about the implications of delaying the funds. We have had to cancel funding for a number of student organizations. It runs the risk of us losing the entire reallocation. It is important to have representative benefit. Delaying this further does have implications.

dd) Mae -- We are talking about the delays, BSA is also feeling those implications. We would not be having this conversation if the allocation was made equitably to begin with. I hope that we can all be a part of that conversation. We also are cultural assembly directors. Why does that have to come at the expense of BSA having to make the biggest compromise? I think right now, we have the opportunity to make a change. What are we going to do within these next few minutes?

e) President Lee -- I want to clarify that in no way was Keisuke using the word “compromise” that he was saying compromise your experience. We had to find ways to compromise those numbers. I just want to bring up some of the increases, besides this budget. I just want to give you more context. I just want to inform some of that. This fiscal year, back in April, BSA received a $7K increase, the largest increase of any cultural assembly. QuASA received $5,600. ISA received $5,500. PSA did not receive an increase at
all. I think it is important to look at the holistic picture. The purpose of this column was to show the increases this time around.

ff) Senator Crane -- Who’s the director of the Discretionary fund? How many applications are pending and how much would be lost?

gg) Mahin -- We have at least 25 applications we would not be able to see at all. We were allocated $10K. We also have not been able to accept many of the applications.

hh) Trenton -- We have $25K of outstanding applications and requested $15K. We crossed off any of the ones that we knew would expire. So far, we’ve rejected about 12 applications for students to present their research. A couple of them had to cancel their flights. We have 3 students from Harvard going to present research that had to cancel.

ii) Senator Crane -- Can you speak to what the Discret Fund funds?

jj) Mahin -- We serve as the umbrella fund. We recently funded Korean Culture Night.

kk) Senator Crane -- Can you list a few examples?

ll) Mahin -- We funded KASA, a dance showcase. We funded Latino business student associations, their promotional items. We’ve also founded comedy groups, so a wide range of organizations on campus.

mm) Keisuke -- One thing that stands out is Speakers Committee, which got $25K.

nn) Sonali -- Just for the sake of transparency, it is hard to explain our budget. We have a really big event coming up on March 19th. Our second big event is March 28th, again that total cost is $28K, of which Speakers is providing $5K. We have another in April with ESA. As Speakers, we try to work with all of the cultural assemblies. Over the past year, we’ve done a really great job of doing that. The second March event is with ACA and SSA. And finally, our one in April will be to advance the mission of ESA.

oo) Senator Crane moves to amend the line item by taking $4K from Disc Fund and move to BSA

○ Debate

(a) Senator Kohanteb -- I’m going to vote no on that because I don’t think we should do that so hastily. Next week, it should happen. I know that might impact some of the funding boards. I hope that all of the money will get used. I just don’t feel like this is the forum where we should try to move the money around. I just don’t think it’s fair to make a
rushed decision for where the money should be moved.

(b) Mahin -- Like Matt mentioned, I do support the amendment but I do want to emphasize, we always have a 4-week deadline for students requesting funding. It really wouldn't give us the opportunity to fund any more events on behalf of Disc Fund.

(c) Senator Kohanteb -- It’s unfair to say that we didn’t. I don’t think it’s fair without knowing how the other money is being reallocated. How am I supposed to vote yes or no if I don’t have the information?

(d) Rohan -- I would like to say, given that we have had to turn away a lot of applications. We have received so many applications over the course of this semester. We put that often to other RSO’s that don’t have the backing of a cultural assembly.

(e) Senator Kohanteb moves to limit debate to 20 minutes

(f) Senator Savage seconds

(g) Voting
   (i) Passes unanimously (12-0-0)

(h) Senator Crane -- I really think waiting is unacceptable. At the point where we’re denying students money, I don’t agree. When I see a clear message like this, this is a better use of our money. That’s funds that went towards the BSA. We had to talk to Enrique today. That’s money that has not been allocated yet. That would be a change of $5K towards BSA.

(i) President Lee -- The funding for the Shared Governance Symposium came out of Exec/Leg. In terms of the reallocation money, we didn’t consider that cost but we are willing to do so. Additionally, I would highly advise against setting precedent of breaking Robert’s Rules. They don’t exist for you to bend them. I would highly caution against it. It exists to set order, just as any constitution does so. We have abided by that system to ensure fair order within Senate. I don’t think those rules are there for you to bend them if you wish to. There are some exceptions, such as the DACA allocation last semester.
(j) Senator Crane -- Can I clarify what the total would be?
(k) VP Ackerman -- $5K.
(l) Senator Chong -- Total of $6,500?
(m) VP Ackerman -- It would be inclusive of what you already have.
(n) Senator Crane -- There is a reason this is a committee that is presented. Everybody is very defensive of their own community. I don’t think we need to sit around and wait for someone to say “I think you should take my money”.
(o) Brianna -- There’s a lot of people that have been raising their hands with things to say. I know you also don’t have the numbers that have been going between committees. Are these numbers subject to change?
(p) Jaya -- With the amendment of taking $4K out of Disc, it takes money out of going to conference when there’s already funding for cultural assemblies. Why wouldn’t we work within the infrastructure we already have besides tapping into another source?
(q) Vic -- I just wanted to say, there’s been a lot about not wanting to extend the budget. There hasn’t been a lot of transparency and clear communication. Even if there isn’t explicit bias, other organizations got higher amounts. There is a glaring disparity in the level of compromise of BSA. That is asking a lot of faith in this.
(r) Mae -- I really wish I could hand this out to you all. Based off our internal budget tracker, this is just breaking even to fully fund everything. We’ve projected we need $8,963. I have to tell y’all what the need is and hope you meet it. I know it sucks that not everyone is making the compromise. This would still mean we would be cutting certain things we wanted to do. I understand that time is important, but let’s remember that we went in looking for $15,000. There is a reason we asked for the $15,000. We appreciate more money. If this is passed, that doesn’t blanket solve all of our problems.
Guest 2 -- Clearly, this process has failed. Generally, whenever you bring a bill to Senate, no one should be surprised when they get their budget allocation. I would say that this process doesn’t have to be a failure. I’m not sure about this, but the decision to make this is on Senate. If you want to make this happen, you will need to go into some sort of executive session.

Brianna -- If there’s any time to suspend Robert’s Rules, it has to happen tonight.

Meagan -- I worry about taking that 40% from Discretionary when it seems like Speakers has the overlap. If that money is given to BSA, that seems like a smoother transition. I would like to hear from the other Senators so we can make this as equitable as possible.

Matt -- To start off, it seems like you went into the meeting and it was demonstrated need. My question is who is the least marginalized community on campus who received the most money? Who should we be looking at to take money from?

Shany -- Have you considered taking money from each? Instead of bearing the burden on one, there are proportionate amounts from each assembly.

Senator Savage -- If we pass this, do we ever get to see what was supposed to be presented tonight?

Debbie -- I don’t think there’s a way we can get it to you right now at this moment. But definitely, however this conservation goes, I’m willing and always available.

Savage -- Do we have any jurisdiction? Does this line item refer to what we haven’t seen as well?

Debbie -- no.

Keisuke -- Mae, you said as director it’s your responsibility to advocate for your marginalized community’s needs. I think it’s so important that everyone is here. If we’re taking money from others, it’s important that they are all here too. Making a decision without hearing the other side of the spectrum is a bit rushed. Two people brought up why it’s not easier to just give it to BSA versus speakers and have them cosponsor? What Speakers
Committee does is focus on getting the talent. This could lead to a lot of legal consequence. We had a group that got into a contract dispute and had to pay the agent $10K without being able to invite the speaker. I just wanted to point out, it is very complicated and it’s a lot to ask for to have each cultural assembly to work on their own talent in addition to what they have. I just wanted to give Sonali a chance to explain.

(cc) Parliamentarian Donahue -- I just wanted to ask.

(dd) Senate Savage moves to move the meeting downstairs

(ee) Senator Lane seconds

(ff) Voting
   (i) Motion passes unanimously (12-o-0)

(gg) Trenton -- We’ve already canceled a lot. Because of the logistics, it’s most reasonable to give up anywhere from $2500 to $4000 of our budget.

(hh) Gabe --

(ii) Trenton -- Hunter told me we would have more money in our accounts by the end of February. I keep getting emails every day about status updates.

(jj) Mahin -- To give you an understanding, we get allocated at the start of the year and it runs out in January.

(kk) Voting (motion to move $4,000 from Discret to BSA)
   (i) Motion fails (0-o-12)

(ll) Senator Kohanteb moves to move $4K from ProAc Fund to BSA

(mm) Senator Crane seconds

(nn) Trenton -- Mae talked about needing a little over $8K. I think it’s also fair to move from other areas. It’s most fair to look at other items. I think $2500 would be a good amount but I’m open to up to $4K.

(oo) Voting
   (i) Motion passes (12-o-0)

(pp) Senator Murphy moves to take $2K from

(qq) Guest -- Can you please clarify our reallocation?

(rr) Senator Gupta -- One thing we could propose is taking $1K from each Speakers and ProAc.
ss) Quincy -- I don’t necessarily think that taking money from Discret is the best move because there are so many orgs that are not represented within USG. Their place to go for money is Discret. That limits their ability to support students. Working with what ProAc has given and what has already been given, I don’t want to disenfranchise other students.

tt) Sonali -- I just want to clarify, that was an error on our part. I just wanted to explain what exactly Speakers does. How we operate is, as a committee, we feel that it is our duty to work with assemblies. That’s so important to us. The way we operate is, we look at months that are important to certain communities. We look at the type of people we can bring to support these marginalized voices. In our committee meetings, we ask our committee members to look for these assemblies. Either we come up with a speaker, but I am the one who works with agents, negotiates fees, etc. In order for me to send offer letters, I have to be able to secure enough money for those events and say that we are able to contribute this specific amount and then go look for co-sponsors. We understand that Speakers may not be their main priority. I’ll just use Queer Eye as an example. The fees we negotiated increased, but that’s our job, to deal with that. We would hate to have to go to these cultural assemblies and ask them to contribute to these events. If there was a $10K increase, we would absorb that cost. We don’t want to go to these other assemblies and beg for money.

uu) Guest -- Part of the reason we have this large budget is we want to make sure that it is as impactful as possible. It is with a high-profile African-American celebrity. This event could very much not happen initially, we were able to send the offer letter. We could possibly have moved on but we felt it was a priority for us. We wanted to bring someone who would appeal to a broad swath of students. The appeal of speakers is that they can speak to all demographics on campus. We try to do that and that’s why this budget is as large as it is. We hope that the community we hope to represent is still able to have their voices heard.

vv) Senator Gupta -- Would you feel comfortable giving that $2K?

ww) Sonali -- I think it is. I would just feel more comfortable going back to our budget and looking exactly at the line items. I don’t know if I would be comfortable without looking at my budget to see if it would even be feasible. 3 events per semester are what are required of us. These are already in motion. At this point, reducing our budget even by $2K, I would have to see the impact it would have on our events. Again, for transparency, Bovard dates are something we have to reserve months in advance.
xx) Trenton -- I would just like to remind, the Shared Governance Symposium was $500 less than we thought. There’s the $1000 Senate budget.

yy) Senator Lane -- Per Sonali’s comment’s, thank you. Is there anyone who can speak to taking the $2K from ESA?

zz) President Lee -- I don’t see anyone in ESA. We cannot dispose how much they asked for.

aaa) Parliamentarian Donahue -- I just think it’s really disrespectful, you could have had these conversations a week ago. In terms of time, we need to focus this on, we have so much of BSA, let’s focus it there and make this a productive conversation.

bbb) Senator Sherman -- ESA does have a pretty substantial sum with Earth Month. That’s multiple events each month. The entire month is set up. The proposed $30K is less than all of the others besides SSA. I would like to reiterate Emily’s point, I have some uncomfortable sentiments with Speakers being the only ones who are here. Of course every assembly is going to say they really need this money. I’m not going to disclose how much they asked for, but it was a lot more than that. I think ESA is not the best place to look and I have skepticism about doing so.

ccc) Dylan -- I just really quickly wanted to speak to the members of USG. I believe it’s unfair to Speakers Committee. Just because they showed up to this meeting, they’re going to lose $2K. Thank you all for being here. I just think that’s all I would like for you to consider.

ddd) Senator Kohanteb moves to vote ($2K pull from Speakers to BSA)

eee) Senator Crane seconds

fff) Voting

○ Fails to pass (3-9-0)

ggg) Mia -- Speakers is not a cultural assembly. Other people aren’t here to advocate for themselves. If they chose not to be here, why should BSA be punished?

hhh) Mae -- Is it at all possible to move money from

iii) Senator Kohanteb -- No.

jjj) Mae -- I will continue to advocate for the $8763. I think it’s important that you all understand that there is still a need there. I will be asking Senators to put a portion of their budget to BSA over the next week.

kkk) Senator Kohanteb -- Can you reflect the changes on the document?

lll) Rohan -- For the sake of preserving time, and understanding how thing have gone, we have had to cancel the majority of
applications. We just pulled up our budget. We are offering $2K from the Discret Fund.

mmm) Senator Kohanteb -- Do you also have the reallocation number?

nnn) President Lee -- I've reiterated to you multiple times that I cannot provide this to you. This should have happened during the week. Everyone does not want to spend three hours at a Senate meeting. If this conversation had happened, the directors could have talked about it and it would have happened smoothly. Conversations like these in this exacerbated way I don’t know are the most effective or efficient way of doing this. As you consider the money, these are conversations that everyone wants to have. No one wants to disadvantage anyone else. If you have an issue, let’s talk about it moving forward.

ooo) Senator Kohanteb moves to move $2K from Discret Fund to BSA

ppp) Senator Gupta seconds

qqq) Debate

○ Senator Crane -- Will this affect anyone receiving that money?

○ Mahin -- We just looked at our budget and based on the timeline that would be possible, we can allocate up to $7K. We could fund more in April but $7K is what we can spend. But yes technically it does take away from what students can apply for.

○ Rohan -- Even with $10K, there are going to be students who cannot access this funding. Given when we closed the application, and the feasible applications now, we will still be able to open it for a short period of time later.

○ Senator Crane -- So, in your perception, some people will still have to go without funding?

○ Rohan -- Yes.

○ Senator Crane -- I agree with Debbie, I don’t think this is the best environment. I’m not comfortable with this.

○ Senator Murphy -- Am I not remembering from an hour ago when you made the same amendment to pull from ProAc? But this is true of literally every account holder and line item right now. But with BSA only receiving $4K in addition to the original allocation, there are still events that can go underfunded. I understand what you’re saying, but if both c-directors of the Discret Fund

○ Senator Crane -- We just had people from the audience tell us that they’re not comfortable
Senator Murphy -- But also, they offered it.

Mahin -- I think the difference is that ProAc cannot give the money. Discret does have the opportunity to do so.

Senator Murphy -- Are you still comfortable with that offer?

Mahin -- We are comfortable but I do want to make the point that there are others who are not able to. IF there were ISA members, maybe we wouldn't have felt the need to do that.

Rohan -- Yes, we are comfortable. We don’t think this is precedent should be set. In the future, as a community, we should consider approaching this with more transparency. We have a timeline that allows us to do this earlier. We are comfortable doing it, but that doesn’t mean this precedent should be set.

Jaya -- As the comment who made a comment about not wanting to set this precedent, I was thinking from the point of view that they wouldn’t offer up the money. But they did and that’s why I appreciate it as a black student. Again, we should be using the infrastructure here, and taking proportionally, but since they are comfortable, then we should.

Senator Murphy moves to vote on this now

Senator Kohanteb seconds

Voting (to vote on the amendment right now)
(a) Passes by simple majority vote (5-4-0)

Senator Lane -- I really want to stress the points that have been brought up about the implications. We can handle our business right now. If we do not pass this, we lose all of the sweat and tears that have gone into this night. I don’t want to disenfranchise other students. We have heard from people who were willing to compromise and others who were not. This is still only half of what was requested originally. This is as fair as we will get. I’m voting on this and that’s all we’ll get.

Mae -- I’ll echo that. This is a compromise we are comfortable making. This is just the end result. I agree with what was said. This is a compromise that we are comfortable making. We have everyone in this space.

Keisuke -- I agree with her point. One thing from my specific role I wanted to clarify, the break even is somewhat flexible to all the groups. Even though BSA did great research and provided us with a great number, other
groups did not get the full amount. Some of them did reach out to me and we discussed that many of them couldn’t break even. Some of those groups had to make setbacks and reduce events so that they could break even. Flexibility is still there.

○ Quincy -- I just want to reiterate, reinforce, repeat the cultural, historical implications of BSA on this campus. As people have said tonight, BSA is one of the only spaces on campus that black students have. I behoove you to respect that function of BSA. It serves a much larger purpose. A lot of people don’t have options, they have BSA. I need to make sure that’s in people’s heads.

○ Senator Lane -- Everyone who volunteered their money is cool with it, everybody apologized to everyone in this room. I urge my fellow Senators to vote yes to this, given we’ve done this in the most fair way. BSA still isn’t getting everything that we need but we can let this go.

○ Voting (on budget overall)
  (a) Budget passes unanimously (9-0-0)

VIII. New Business
  A. Terranea Resort Resolution
     1. Alec -- You might have seen the Daily Trojan article about the Terranea resort. It has a record of abusing and intimidating women at the resort. We are asking that USC remove itself from Terranea. We did have one of the survivors recount her experience.
     2. Senator Murphy -- We also had union representatives.
     3. Alec
       a) In light of this toxic culture...
  B. USG 2019-2020 Executive Cabinet Hiring
     1. We’re really excited to give our first Senate presentation. Just to give background on our timeline, we closed applications on February 20th, interviewed, and made decisions by Sunday.
     2. For Treasurer, we picked Rohan Parepally. He’s from Naperville, IL with Business Administration with a minor in Applied Analytics. We picked him because he has funding experience in USG, other experience with Trojan Knights (treasurer last year), and other internships. He showed a vision in his interview about accessibility, monthly one-on-ones, etc.
     3. For Senior Director of Communications, we’ve picked Truman Fritz. He has Comm experience in USG, in RHA. In his interview, he promoted a lot of initiatives.
     4. For Senior Director of Programming, we picked Montana Houston. She was confirmed earlier today. She is an avid Parks and Rec fan and has some goals to be in Japan. She has extensive experience in programming,
as Executive Director of ACA. She’s also done a bunch of other things in her time here at USG. The main thing in her vision was cross-branch interactions, SMART goals, etc.

5. For Chief of Staff, we picked Dylan Field. He is a second-year studying PR. He has advocacy experience (AD of E&R) and experience with managing people. We believe in his vision for the Advo Branch and USG over the whole, with an open door policy, increased cross-branch collaboration, accountability, etc.

6. The CDO position closes in a little while.

IX. Announcements
   A. None

X. Discussion
   A. Trenton -- I was going to add that the rest of USG applications will open tomorrow, hopefully.
   B. Mahin -- I urge all the Senators to being transitioning the incoming Senators. Inform them about the process itself.

XI. Adjournment
   A. Senator Sherman moves to adjourn the meeting
   B. Senator Lane seconds
   C. VP Ackerman adjourns the meeting at 10:14 PM