Official Undergraduate Student Government
Senate Meeting Minutes
7:00 pm, TCC 350
April 9th, 2019

I. Call to order
   A. Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM

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

III. Approval of the agenda
     A. Senator Rosenthal moves to approve the agenda
     B. Senator Garcia seconds
     C. Voting
        1. Approval of agenda passes unanimously (10-0-0)

IV. Open Forum
   A. None

V. Reports of officers and directors
   A. None

VI. Presentations
   A. None

VII. Unfinished business and general orders
     A. 2019-2020 Chief Diversity Officer
        1. Senator Johnson moves to approve Item (A)
        2. Senator Chuang seconds
        3. Voting
           a) Item (A) approved unanimously (10-0-0)
     B. 2019-2020 Advocacy Assistant Director Hires
        1. Senator Rosenthal moves to approve Item (B)
        2. Senator Johnson seconds
        3. Voting
           a) Item (B) approved unanimously (10-0-0)

VIII. New Business
     A. 2019-2020 Budget Proposal
1. Rohan -- This year, we saw 29 presentations spanning all of the accounts. We are projecting to have an increase. We are at about $2.43 million.
2. Trenton -- 2018-2019 is the original allocation in the spring. The Spring 2019 allocation is how it was changed in the spring with reallocation.
3. Rohan -- The reason that spring 2019 allocation is higher than the 2019-2020 number accounts for the spring admits who would pay a programming fee as well. These line items that carry over have not been funded in several years once we made the shift in account types. Our goal is to spend all the money as efficiently as possible.
4. Trenton -- The change and the percent change reflects 2018-2019 to 2019-2020 so the spring is just there for reference.
5. Trenton -- So, student stipends are restricted funds: money that can’t be exchanged. These include funding AD’s, office staff, GA’s, PLT’s, etc. These are student stipends and staff salaries that are restricted. $268,000 for student stipends and $55,000 for staff salaries. So, in the end, the funds available for allocation are about $2.1 million.
6. Mahin -- Just to give you context on the Volunteer Center and LEAD programs and why they are funded by us is because they fall under Campus Activities but is not funded by Student Affairs, which Campus Activities is funded by. So we take it upon ourselves to fund it, as you can see in past years, based on their presentation, their historical spending, and the demands we see of students of the different programs that each of these programs or centers hold.
7. Trenton -- Each account holder gives us a presentation, we review the history of their spending, the programs they offer, the history of their performance. Volunteer Center, $16,000; LEAD programs, $6,000; on the account names, if there's a comment, it usually means it's contingent on something. So for LEAD programs, half the funding their Adventure LEAD program only.
8. Rohan -- When considering it, we felt like this program would have a larger impact on the student body. In terms of cost per head and how much money they're allocating towards the student experience, we thought it would be a more efficient allocation than some of their other programs.
9. Montana -- I am part of their LEAD certificate program, typically for sophomores, juniors, seniors. You can engage in a classroom throughout the semester, usually ends in a capstone community service project. Their applicants were around 30. They also have Adventure LEAD, which is taking students kayaking, hiking, backpacking, and within that, there are groups with team leaders. They also do workshops throughout the year, a variety of different programs. Adventure LEAD is their most highly competitive, also their most expensive. But again, that’s also the bigger reach that they have.
10. Trenton -- So, USC used to fund this program, structural changes within Student Affairs decreased a lot of their budgets. USG and GSG have been supplementing this program so it wasn’t slashed when it moved out of Student Affairs. So we ended up contributing quite a lot of money so that students can continue to participate in club sports. Basically, the change is only reflected because we met with GSG and they agreed to fund more proportionally. This number is more reflective, they’ll keep getting the same amount of money they did last year - $139,000 between USG and GSG. GSG was putting in $12K last year.

11. Rohan -- The next item is Senate allocations, we didn’t change that to let you all have the ability to allocate to student projects.

12. Mahin -- For executive spending, you can see that most of our spending is relatively the same and not decreased. That’s mostly because these accounts act as a backup if they’re needed for different organizations in spring reallocation. These go towards our retreat, office upkeep, maintenance, etc. Legal Services is an account we always keep constant because, on Monday nights, USG has legal services for students. We added another line item, this was presented to us by Matt Crane, who created this program, the Bystander Intervention Training. He requested $5,000 so students could work on this training and make it as productive as it could be. The money goes directly to creating the program, helping the program develop. The Communications Branch, you can see some changes in how the SDOC has been reduced but the Marketing account has been increased. That was based on the presentation we received, that the SDOC thought that would be a better proportion for us to spend.

13. Trenton -- We’re going through a logo change. We’ll get all the new materials, everything has to be revamped. We’re going back to how the money was allocated to Marketing to for the logo change.

14. Rohan -- What we’re doing with the Prof/Ac fund is that we see that generally the Academic Funding we run out of funds in the second semester. Pro/Ac is receiving a 13% increase in funding, thanks to Trenton. It ran out coming into the second semester so we’re trying to provide more funding for student initiatives. The Discretionary fund, which is a catch-all for RSO’s to be able to put on events, we kept the allocation the same as the spring reallocation amount. The total amount they received last year, which was a 7% increase. The Discretionary startup fund was allocated in a different line item stayed the same; Leadership fund stayed the same, we do have a note about the Phil fund increase because we did go in and reduce the amount for the Volunteer Center. By providing an increase to the Phil fund, we plan on subsidizing the cost for students to go on these ASB trips.

15. Montana -- Programming has had an increase, because that’s what students have the most experience with USG, such as Springfest which
many students attend and other events during the year. Based on attendance at these events, that’s what helped us decide allocation. Concerts Committee has a lot of money, $500,000 -- but this is again to offset the cost of three shows they put on this year, Conquest, Springfest, and Welcome Back. They’re going to bring in three additional huge concerts. The more money they have, the more talent they can bring, the better security they can hire. Two years ago, Springfest was shut down, last year was very successful. This year, they are deciding on changing the venue, wages are going up. They need more money to supplement that. There are thousands of students attending. Trojan Pride Committee, we have allocated $24,000. They have a huge tradition they’re trying to bring back this next year called SongFest. Performing Arts Committee does not have leadership this next year, we’re in the middle of hiring for that. This is kind of a trial period to determine how their events will go. Speakers Committee, as you know, had KAJ, Ken Jeong, etc. The more money that we can find, the more speakers we can buy. Special Events Committee, there was a huge event called Ascend, which is a huge expenditure that did not necessarily have the best attendance for the cost. The cost was $100 to $200 per student. There were about 200 students. This year, ACA did a great job maximizing our funds, reaching a diversity of events. We have two types of organizations, assemblies, and committees. Assemblies have usually received increases in their funds because they have member organizations that they support, groups on campus they have to fund, so they get more money. Cultural assemblies are also one of the only spaces on campus that can provide for the identity or ethnic group they represent. There have been overall increases. If you incorporate a new assembly, you have a trial period. SSA is still getting their bearings and we wanted to increase the amount of money they’re being provided. They need more money to sustain themselves because of wage and location increases.

16. Rohan -- We are losing money on campus. FMS is getting expensive, and that is why we want to give more money to programming to increase their ability to fund these events.

17. Trenton -- We’re really trying to work with the Provost to figure out ways for USG to get lower costs. We are not only asking to increase the budget but also decrease the costs.

18. Senator Rosenthal -- Can you explain, since it’s so big, why ESA is so big relative?

19. Montana -- ESA has done a great job of making sure sustainability and environmental causes are being advocated for on campus. They also had a lot of events, having high attendance, making sure their initiatives are being recognized. They had a huge going green campaign for napkins in
residential dining halls, so making sure they’re going to have a lot of sustainability projects.

20. Trenton-- ESA is really good at money management. When we talked to the new leadership of USC, one of her goals was to make USC one of the most sustainable and one of the leaders. There’s this momentum to move towards sustainability.

21. Senator Donahue-- Something we were also supportive of is the many big projects they have coming up. They are moving toward programming and activism. We are one of the least sustainable, so we felt an attachment to help them continue on this mission. The things they want to do, like speakers and a conference, will be more money.

22. Mahin-- The reason why we allocated the funds the way we did was to give more back to the students - funding, programming, and diversity accounts all had an increase. this is the most direct way to give funding back to the students.

23. Trenton-- It’s our goal to give money back to as many students as possible.

24. Questions
   a) Performing Arts Committee
      ○ Senator Johnson-- What is the timeline for hiring Performing Arts Committee leadership?
         (a) Montana-- Applications have not been re-released. As of now, we are mainly working with outgoing directors and see if they have anyone within their committee that is interested. We want to market it in a way that doesn’t make it seem like PAC needs extra help. Applications should open within this next week.
   b) Allocation
      ○ Senator Shiff-- Concerts Committee is requesting for an increase in spending; do they have plans for larger venues and more security?
         (a) Montana-- The location cannot be disclosed.
         (b) Trenton-- The venue for next spring is confirmed and will likely be changed. This will concern mainly security costs, less so venue costs.
         (c) Mahin-- the increase will not be on the venue cost, but through increasing FMS costs, increasing worker wages, and security. We want to make sure students are secure and safe.
         (d) Trenton-- A lot of that budget is pretty restricted, such as in security. For instance, each CSC worker is paid between $22-30 per hour depending on
their level, and with the minimum wage increasing by $1 this summer, that cost goes up. This also applies to fencing services and its workers.

- Sentaor Johnson-- What does FMS stand for?
  - (a) Montana, Mahin-- Facilities Management Services
  - (b) Mahin-- They deal with the bins.
  - (c) Rohan-- The ones with the trashcans.
  - (d) Trenton-- Sprinklers, landscaping, and all of that.

25. Trenton-- Funding is fall-heavy because it runs on a first-come-first-serve basis, while others may be spring-heavy because that is when they have more of their events/fun activities.

26. Mahin-- The numbers we have are wholistic for the year.

27. Rohan-- During spring reallocation, we will look back at the used funds based on the wholistic allocation and recognize that certain assemblies use more/less in the spring.

28. Trenton-- We can walk you through any line item. Feel free to reach out any time.

B. Logo Exploratory Committee

1. Truman-- Proposed the formation of the USG Logo Exploratory Committee, which is a process specifically outlined in our bylaws. Essentially this will be something done in the summer and the logo will be presented when we get back

   a) 3 reasons for change
   - We want a huge rebranding of USG- a better visual identity, a better student perception, a better public perception of the organization- to represent the student body more accurately.
   - We want to match the typeface we recently changed to, which we were technically supposed to form a Logo Exploratory Committee for but did not. Recent shift from Serif to Sans Serif.
   - A political party in Germany, the Third Pact, that supports the Nazis has a very similar logo/visual identity. This was brought up by our former Chief Diversity Officer.

   b) Process
   - Next week: vote on whether to form the committee
   - 18-19 academic year: theme ideas
   - After finals, before the first week of June: graphics team will create new ideas
   - First week of June: marketing orders
   - First Senate Meeting in the Fall: vote on the logo, which will already be on the merchandise

   c) Committee Members
2. Questions

a) Voting

- Senator Khoshniyati-- Since we are finalizing on August 27th, will we have all the swag before fall retreat?
  - Truman- We will have to order everything in June. The real decision happens before June, but the technical vote happens in the fall.

b) Intersemester Committee

- Senator Donahue-- Are we allowed to order items before we vote on them?
  - Mahin-- We could use an intersemester committee if necessary.
  - Truman-- It is a bit tricky because we need to solidify the logo because it will be on everything.
  - Trenton-- Isn’t the intersemester committee allowed to vote? They can vote in June, instead of August.
  - Parliamentarian Moten-- According to the Bylaws, August will be the official adoption of the logo.

- Senator Rosenthal-- Would we have to go out of the way to form the intersemester committee or is that something that always happens?
  - Guest-- I can read the bylaw. The Senate shall not be in power to consider matters of business, legislation, or judiciary formal statement and position or viewpoint without the station of a formally convened meeting. The senate may not operate outside of the fall and spring semesters without first delegating matters to intersemester committee, composed only of senators whose membership and scope of authority must be strictly
be defined at creation. This committee is not a standing committee and if created, shall be considered terminated at the first formally convened committee after break.

(b) Senator Johnson-- Does the committee have to meet in person?
   
   (i)  Guest-- It’s up to your interpretation of the bylaws.

C.  USG 19-20 Chief of Staff Hiring
   
   1.  Mahin-- We have chosen Nillani Anandakugan as our Chief of Staff.
   
   2.  Field-- I thought that next time I would be able to fit it into my schedule, however because of my extracurricularrs I could not make that work, I decided to make the mature decision to let the exec team know.
   
   3.  Mahin-- After finding all that out, we started a process of finding a new Chief of Staff and we felt that Nillani was the best person. She is a junior and going to be a senior. Her experience and participation in the elections committee make her qualified. Her focus on collaboration from the Chief of Staff operations at the beginning also help.

IX.  Announcements
   
   A.  Senator Garcia-- Next week, Thursday, April 18, there’s a First Gen Solidarity Rally. Come out and support. Let’s make their efforts to get here be seen. It will be at 5 PM in front of Tommy Trojan.
   
   B.  Mahin-- The first town hall for the student body will also be on Thursday, April 18. It would be great if yall could attend. I will change the time to let students attend both. The topics for discussion will be mental health and well being, creating engagement, as well as what it means to be a trojan. It will be in TCC 227. As of now, it is set at 5-6:30 PM but I will try to move it to 6 PM.
   
   C.  Trenton-- Next Tuesday, we have an all-org. The whole org comes together, old and new. We have a great presentation from the Office of Wellness and Crisis Intervention. They have been developing really great AI-based technology as a resource. It will be rolled out to the student body next year. It will be in TCC 450 at 6 PM. There will be snacks.

X.  Discussion
   
   A.  Harris-- I am the President of Undergraduate Trojans and am requesting help and support. We work with reeducation, prison-based education and post-prison education. Before transferring to USC, I helped co-found the Restore and Justice Center at a local community college. We are turning up the volume on our initiatives. We’ve created a scholarship. We assist people with applications. Columbia and Stanford have justice centers. We hope to develop and use transformational narratives to enhance higher education opportunities for currently and formerly incarcerated individuals. We can do this in 4 ways: 1) providing educational services inside-out, 2) assist in prison matriculation through help with application, tutoring, scholarship, 3) confront social stigma
against formerly incarcerated people, such as using humanities-based lectures and panel discussions, 4) conduct research to examine reeducation initiatives.

XI. Adjournment
   A. Senator Johnson moves to adjourn the meeting
   B. Senator Rosenthal seconds
   C. VP Tahsin adjourns the meeting at 7:51 PM