

Minutes of the June 3, 2024 Meeting of the ASUCLA Communications Board

Board members present: Rosalie Chiang, Katie Choo, Arpit Gaind, Steve Greim, Georgia Kernell, Isaiah Little, Lawrence Ma, Kristen Weiss, Diana Swartz, Dustin Tran, Eitan Arom, Jesse Coronado, Sylvia Robledo, Doria Deen

Board members

Board members leaving early: Isaiah Little (briefly, but came back), Rosalie Chiang, Katie Choo, Georgia Kernell, Eitan Arom

Guests present: Patrick Healy (DBAN), Sanjana Chadive (Daily Bruin 24-25 Managing Editor), Jen Petersen (DBAN), Rainer Lee (OutWrite Editor in Chief), Jeslyn Wang (UCLA Radio 24-25 General Manager), Maham Kazmi (Al-Talib 24-25 Editor in Chief), Abigail Goldman (Student Media Adviser), Lex Wang (Daily Bruin 24-25 Editor in Chief), Isabelle Friedman (Daily Bruin Editor in Chief), Nicole Crawford (Nommo Editor in Chief), Cali Perez (FEM Editor in Chief candidate), Sreedeeekshita Gorugantu-Venlata (BruinLife Editor in Chief candidate)

Agenda

I. Call to order (Weiss)

Weiss called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m.

II. Approval of the agenda (Weiss)

Coronado moved to approve the agenda. Robledo seconded the motion. The motion passed by a member vote of 13-0 with no abstentions.

A later request arose from Robledo to add an action item to put the governing documents reviewing ad hoc committee on hold.

Robledo moved to approve the amended agenda. Swartz seconded the motion. The motion passed by a member vote of 10-2 with 1 abstention.

III. Approval of the July 27, 2023 minutes (Weiss)

Greim moved to approve the minutes. Robledo seconded the motion. The motion passed by a member vote of 12-0 with one abstention.

IV. Approval of the May 6, 2024 minutes (Weiss)

There were several corrections that needed to be made, so approval of these minutes were tabled.

V. Approval of the May 28, 2024 ad hoc minutes (Weiss)

There was one correction noted by Ma to change “Barikhan” to “Weiss” under Agenda I: Call to Order.

Ma moved to approve the minutes with the correction. Coronado seconded the motion. The motion pass by a member vote of 12-0 with one abstention.

VI. Executive Committee Report (Weiss)

Weiss said there was no report.

VII. Operations Committee Report (Little)

Little said the committee met on Thursday, May 29, and the editors of Ha’Am, Pacific Ties, FEM, and Al-Talib did not attend, but he’d received email updates from them.

Little presented all the updates, and he said Arom attended the meeting to inform the editors of the committee that the board approved a committee to review the governing documents. He said there were some concerns from some of the editors regarding the committee’s purpose, and that it seemed redundant to what the Operations Committee was already supposed to do. Some of the editors spoke about their concerns during public comment.

VIII. Finance Committee Report (Coronado)

Coronado said the committee met on Thursday, May 30 and discussed the April financial statements as well as the approval of the 2024-25 ASUCLA Communications Board Budget and Five-Year Forecast.

IX. Media Director Report (Deen)

AUSMM Conference Recap

Deen said that she attended the annual AUSMM conference, and one of the main topics was protest coverage. Deen said the AUSMM leadership had asked that she lead a presentation on UCLA Student Media’s protest coverage. She was also asked to serve as Data Coordinator, and reported that Daily Bruin sold more print advertising than any of the other college newspapers. Another highlight was that Daily Bruin’s sales and marketing team received praise from the leading ad agency in college media, FlyteDesk, for their model for student media sponsored student influencers.

Publications

Ma requested a report of which publications decided to publish print editions during spring quarter. Deen said that Al-Talib, FEM, Ha’Am, La Gente, and Pacific Ties had published a print magazine.

X. Good and welfare (Deen)

Deen thanked Weiss for leading the board as chairperson. Deen said she ordered an engraved gavel for Weiss. The board joined in to thank Weiss for her hard work and commitment during the year. Deen also thanked the entire board for their commitment towards the advancement of Student Media.

XI. Public Comment (Weiss)

There was initially no public comment, but some members came in late.

Robledo moved to reopen public comment. Little seconded the motion. The motion passed by a member vote of 13-0 with no abstentions.

Lee said he was the editor who wanted to reintroduce the constitution change to have all non-student seats go through the Operations Committee for recommendation to the full board for appointment. He and Crawford said the student voices were important, and thought it was important for the board to consider their input. They said it was important for them to ensure the board that they report to share the same values as their respective newsmagazines and communities. Lee also said the responsibility of reviewing the governing documents should remain with the Operations Committee.

New Business/Discussion Items

XII. April 2024 Financial Statements (Deen)

Deen said that total income was \$197,941 and budgeted income was \$173,479 leaving us \$24,462 (14%) above budget. Daily Bruin, Web, and Outdoor all exceeded budget by 75%, 111%, and 71% respectively.

Total expense was \$156,872 and budgeted expense was \$145,412 leaving us <\$11,460> (<8%>) over budget.

Net revenue was a \$41,069 and budgeted net revenue was \$28,067 leaving us \$13,002 (46%) better than budget.

Cash reserves stood at \$265,000 leaving us <\$82,000> below policy. Deen said she'd received the reimbursement from Student Government Accounting for the Communications Board's Summer and Fall 2023 student fees in May.

XIII. 2024-25 ASUCLA Communications Board Budget and Five-Year Forecast (Deen)

Deen said the budget was approved by both ASUCLA Services and Enterprises (S&E) Finance Committee and Board of Directors.

New Business/Action Items

XIV. Constitution change (Little)

Motion: To change Article III: Membership: Section C: Appointment of Members, # 6.

Current language:

The Faculty member shall be appointed by the Academic Senate, for one year, and may be re-appointed.

Proposed language:

The Faculty member shall be nominated by the Academic Senate to the Operations Committee, then nominated by the Operations Committee and appointed by a majority vote of the Board, with quorum, for one year, and may be re-appointed. Candidates will provide a brief summary of their experience and goals to Operations Committee members before their nomination is to be voted upon.

Coronado moved to approve Constitution change to Article III, Section C, Number 6. Robledo seconded the motion. The motion did not carry with a member vote of 6-3 with three abstentions.

XV. Constitution change (Deen)

Motion: To change Article III: Membership: Section C: Appointment of Members, # 7.

Current language:

The Administration member shall be appointed by the Chancellor, for one year, and may be re-appointed.

Proposed language:

The Administration member shall be nominated by the Chancellor to the Operations Committee, then nominated by the Operations Committee and appointed by a majority vote of the Board, with quorum, for one year, and may be re-appointed. Candidates will provide a brief summary of their experience and goals to Operations Committee members before their nomination is to be voted upon.

Current language:

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members.

Proposed language:

A quorum shall consist of four (4) Members of the Board, provided that at least three (3) Student Members and at least one (1) Non-student Member are included within this number.

Greim moved to table the approval of Constitution change to Article III, Section C, Number 7. Robledo seconded the motion. The motion did not carry with a member vote of 9-2 with 1 abstention.

XVI. Constitution addition (Deen)

Motion: To change Article III: Membership: Section C: Appointment of Members, # 8.

Current language:

The Alumni member shall be appointed by the Executive Director of the UCLA Alumni Association, for one year, and may be re-appointed.

Proposed language:

The Alumni member shall be nominated by the Executive Director of the UCLA Alumni Association to the Operations Committee, then nominated by the Operations Committee and appointed by a majority vote of the Board, with quorum, for one year, and may be re-appointed. Candidates will provide a brief summary of their experience and goals to Operations Committee members before their nomination is to be voted upon.

Greim moved to table the approval of Constitution change to Article III, Section C, Number 8. Robledo seconded the motion. The motion did not carry with a member vote of 9-2 with 1 abstention.

XVII. Place Governing Documents Ad Hoc Committee on Hold (Robledo)

Robledo said she wanted to propose the committee be placed on hold until the Operations Committee was able to weigh in on the formation of the committee. Given the concern Little said the editors expressed during the Operations Committee report along with Lee, and Crawford's comments during public comment, she thought it was best to have a conversation with the Operations Committee before proceeding with the committee. Robledo moved to put the new ad hoc committee on hold. Coronado seconded the motion. The motion did not carry by a member vote of 4-4 with three abstentions.

XVIII. 2024-25 Nommo Editor in Chief selection (Weiss)

A. Nicole Crawford, candidate

Greim moved to enter executive session at 7:30 p.m. Coronado seconded the motion. The motion passed by consent.

Greim moved to exit executive session at 9:19 p.m. Little seconded the motion The motion passed by consent.

Coronado moved to appoint Nicole Crawford as the 2024-2025 Nommo Editor in Chief. Swartz seconded the motion. The motion passed by a member vote of 10-0 with 2 abstentions.

XIX. 2024-25 FEM Editor in Chief selection (Weiss)
A. Cali Perez, candidate

Greim moved to appoint Cali Perez as the 2024-2025 FEM Editor in Chief. Little seconded the motion. The motion passed by a member vote of 11-0 with 1 abstention.

XX. 2024-25 BruinLife Editor in Chief selection (Weiss)
A. Sreedekshita Gorugantu-Venlata, candidate
B. Gavin Meichelbock, candidate (candidate withdrew his application)

Tran moved to appoint Sreedekshita Gorugantu-Venlata as the 2024-25 BruinLife Yearbook Editor in Chief. Coronado seconded the motion. The motion passed by a member vote of 12-0 with no abstentions.

XXI. 2024-2025 Interim Communications Board Chair selection (Weiss)
Coronado moved to appoint Kristen Weiss as the 2024-2025 Interim Communications Board Chairperson. Ma seconded the motion. The motion passed by a member vote of 9-0 with no abstentions.

XXII. 2024-2025 Interim Vice Chair selection (Weiss)
Robledo moved to appoint Isaiah Little as the 2024-2025 Interim Communications Board Vice Chairperson. Ma seconded the motion. The motion passed by a member vote of 9-0 with no abstentions.

XXIII. 2024-2025 Interim Executive Committee (Weiss)
Coronado moved to appoint Kristen Weiss, Dustin Tran, Steve Greim, and Sylvia Robledo as the 2024-2025 Interim Executive Committee. Swartz seconded the motion. The motion passed by a member vote of 9-0 with no abstentions.

XXIV. Adjourn (Weiss)

Coronado moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. Robledo seconded the motion. The motion passed by consent.