

Minutes of the December 7, 2015 Meeting of the UCLA Communications Board

Board members present: Elaheh Alizadehbirjandi, Addrita Das, Steve Greim, Terrelle Jerricks, Andre Jones, Justin Kumar, Josh Levine, Ashley Mohankumar, Alene Tchekmedyian, Cody Trojan, Arvli Ward

Board members arriving late: Malavika Raju

Board members leaving early: Cody Trojan

Board members absent: Jesse Coronado, Henry "C.J." Jackson, Keren Mahgerefteh

Guest present: Jose Hernandez (BruinLife Manager), Samuel Hoff (Daily Bruin Editor in chief), Jeong Park (Daily Bruin Managing Editor), Zachary Seidl (UCLARadio General Manager), Jeremy Wildman (Student Media Advertising Manager)

I. Call to order (Kumar)

Kumar called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

II. Approval of the agenda (Kumar)

Ward asked to table item XI. Confirmation of Communications Board editor in chief appointments. He also asked if the board could change the order and discuss item X. Student Fee discussion before item IX. Communications Board management transition. Jones moved to approve the amended agenda. Jerricks seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

III. Approval of June and November minutes (Kumar)

Levine moved to approve the November minutes. Das seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent. Trojan moved to approve the June minutes. Tchekmedyian seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

IV. Executive Committee report (Kumar)

Kumar said the committee met on November 12 and discussed personnel changes and proposed new ideas for the Executive Committee's roles after Ward's resignation. Ward said that the Communications Board's Executive Committee met with the ASUCLA Board of Director's Executive Committee. Ward said Jones, Levine, Das, and he attended the meeting. He said there were six agenda items; (2) review of current financial statements, but that was not done, (3) review of Student Media's plan going forward, (4) future management staffing, (5) discuss future revenue-generating ideas, and (6) set the next meeting. Ward under item five they had discussions about Student Media giving up space for rental to the Transfer and the Veteran's Center and collecting the rental income. Trojan asked if there were any firm numbers discussed at the meeting. Ward said the university

wanted 2,100 square feet, but it appeared that the maximum space available was 1,750. While it appeared that Student Affairs would move head with the plan to rent, specific numbers regarding rental income were not discussed. Levine asked if there was a start date and Ward said none had been set. Jones said they also discussed the option of hiring a replacement for Ward from within the current staff and they accepted it and understood that to be the best option. Trojan asked if the next meeting was set. Ward said a new date was not set. Jerricks asked if there were discussions of space charge increases despite the cost savings by giving up space. Ward said there was a brief exchange about space and administrative costs in general. Levine said from what he understood from Services and Enterprises was that they were giving us a good deal because they were subsidizing Student Media to a larger extent.

V. Operations Committee report (Das)

Das said the committee met on November 23 and they discussed the idea of a student fee. Each editor agreed with the idea of pursuing a fee, and if obtained, how they would spend it. Both Hoff and Seidl expressed support. Jerricks said he felt the fee planning should start with the editors' reaching out their communities and by building relationships with campus partners. Ward agreed, and he said the planning should begin right away because time was short. Levine said S&E said our chances of gaining a fee were not good. Greim said we should be careful of that counsel because S&E wanted Communications Board to join their fee efforts in the future. Tchekmedyian agreed that the board should seek a fee this year. Kumar asked for an ad hoc committee to start the planning for obtaining a fee. Trojan moved to appoint Ashly Mohankumar to ad the ad hoc committee. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed by a hand vote of 10-0 with no abstentions. Mohankumar accepted.

VI. Finance Committee report (Trojan)

Trojan said the committee did not meet. Trojan said he was working on changing the narrative of our discussions involving ASUCLA costs. He's been looking at space charges from 1995 to present, and the space charges had increased by 227 percent while our revenues have decreased by 23 percent. He said now 16 percent of our budget goes to S&E, but in 1995 it was 9.7 percent.

VII. Media Director's Report (Ward)

October financial statements

Ward said that the statements were distributed but the Finance Committee had not had a chance to review them. He said the budget called for the Daily Bruin to decline by about 18 percent this fall, but that Daily Bruin revenues were well ahead of budget. He said that revenue may exceed last year's through this time.

Ward gave the floor to Jeremy Wildman to discuss sales details.

New Business

VIII. Operations Committee voting member change (Das)

Das said the operations committee wanted to recommend that the Communications Board vote to change bylaws for the number of voting members to include all of the seven newsmagazine editors instead of one newsmagazine representative voting member. Trojan moved to change the bylaws. Mohankumar seconded the motion. The motion passed by a hand vote of 11-0 with no abstentions.

IX. Student Fee Discussion (Das)

This was discussed during the Operations Committee report.

X. Communications Board management transition (Kumar)

Jones moved to enter executive session at 7:05 p.m. Mohankumar seconded the motion. The motion passed by a hand vote of 10-0 with no abstentions.

Levine moved to exit executive session at 8:12 p.m. Das seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

XI. Confirmation of Communications Board editor in chief appointments (Ward)

This item was tabled until the January meeting.

XII. Adjourn (Kumar)

Greim moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Levine seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Submitted by Doria Deen