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SGA Senate Minutes for 21 March 2018

Taken by USC Communications Director Elizabeth Nguyen Son

12:10 – Attendance; Quorum met 16/17, Senate begins

12:18 – ASM Presentation by Talia Lliteras

- ASM will be coming back in 2 weeks for next semester's budget.
- Talia is Managing Editor
- Peacock Plume: online, print, and digital platforms.
- At the beginning of the semester they did a retreat.
- Four pillars: representative, unifying, engaging, accurate.
- Added podcasting this semester.
- Many classes feed into the Peacock Plume website.
- Executive board members are Talia, Alex Bilodeau, and Joan Steiger. They are paid, non-voting members.
- Freelance Editor is a new position and allows students who don't take the classes to submit articles.
- Fashion Journalism class only happens in the spring
- Scripts for Travel only happens in spring
- Hannah Westley on Pedagogical Approach:
  - As a course instructor, she is there to guide the students and explain that journalism is a profession with integral system of rules. Journalistic writing is very different from academic writing. How to structure a hard news story, how to go about interviews, what makes a good editor, ethics, etc. The course instructors help in developing writing abilities or video production skills.
  - Intervention is very rare. There is no interference from there; they are just there to guide.
- Introduced four committees: finance, events, technology, transitions; allowing board members more time to discuss content during their meetings.
- ASM Communications & Marketing: important for recruitment, freelancers, students involved in ASM not just for writing, to promote articles and get their work read, etc.
- Kevin Fore asks Senators their thoughts on freedom of speech within ASM.
- Electra Reihel believes journalistic nature requires unbiased writing and therefore there aren't real infringements of freedom of speech.
- Leona Caanen believes there is strong freedom of speech as she recently wrote a controversial article on the Chinese government.
- Ciat and Riki agree as they share their previous firsthand experience with the Peacock Plume.
- Dhouha Djerbi asked about opinionated pieces. Prof. Westley responded explaining that the Peacock Plume has an opinion tab and that many journalism platforms do it too. ASM tries to strike a balance between the two. Talia adds that the New York Times also focuses on opinion pieces now and it's a trend in journalism right now.
- Dhouha asks where we can access podcasts and whether they are/will be scripted. A student in Prof. Westley's class was determined to make a podcast and therefore included one into an article.
The website is in the process of being updated to include a podcast section. There is no podcasting class. Podcasting in ASM is still being refined. Prof. Westley adds that whether students decide to script or improvise will be up to students.

- Ciat asks about the distribution of the merchandise. He adds that he understands the point of it but would just like to know where they get put out. Talia responds saying that it is mostly for the student population, they are also scattered around places in Paris when the magazine is distributed. The mugs were board morale gifts and are also used for contests.

12:43 – ACC Presentation and Budget Requests

- Hibou – 140 EUR
  - Seth Jackson
  - AUP Planet started in the mid 70's and wrote on a variety of issues that happened at AUP.
  - In 2014, they switched to an entirely online platform and were absorbed into ASM.
  - In order to protect Hibou magazine as a stand-alone student media.
  - The budget will go to buying magazine racks.
  - Dhouha: How will printing be financed?
    - SGA will fund it as it will be printed on regular paper using school printers.
  - Riki: Is there space in the library?
  - Jasmine: Can the library fund half of it?
  - Joelle: We have not spoken to the library.
  - Seth will go back to the editorial board and will come back.
  - Dhouha: Motion to table the budget request for Hibou
  - Motion passes, budget tabled

- Painting & Degustation – 390 EUR
  - Halid Chrisinas
  - This is the second collaboration between the Wine Society and the Artistic Freedom club.
  - Last semester the event went great and this second event is happening based on popular request.
  - Marc has agreed to let us host a bigger event.
  - Maria: Who is choosing the wine? 10 EUR is expensive if these aren't good wines.
    - Evelyn will be choosing the wine. They will be nice wines.
  - Ciat: How many people were there last time and how many are you expecting this time around?
    - The last event had 15 spots, and this time there will be 30 spots.
  - Riki: What was the budget last time?
    - A little over half of this one.
  - Dhouha: Motion to allocate 390 EUR
  - Motion passes, budget approved

12:59 – New Business
- World's Fair on Friday, April 20th: we intend on at least breaking even, if we don't, then the budget request will show what was spent, what was made, and what the actual budget request is. 5 senators are hosting booths.
- *Coco* screening:
  - Riki: Why couldn't we screen it?
  - The library must purchase the film for us to have the right to screen it on campus. The library pays more to be able to show the movie in a classroom and other places on campus. Faculty member is not legally.
  - Maria: Veronica went into the library to do it. Jorge said it could be done in a reasonable amount of time. But as it turns out, its much longer than expected because it is a more recent film. *Coco* is still in some theatres, which makes it even harder.
- #POPOUT Zine Recap:
  - She had printouts of some of her pages on the walls.
  - She had a QR code on the projected for 24 hours and read the article since the magazine hasn't gone to print yet.
  - Pop themed: popcorn, blowpops, bubble gum, soapy bubbles, live music, live painting.
- Extended Senate session:
  - Monday, April 16th 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM. It will either be in PL-3 or PV-1. We'll shoot for PL-3.
  - One of us will take minutes and share it with the senators that can't be there.
  - Creating a collective agenda. Bring up talking points, problems that you've seen, and so forth, to the USC and GSC Vice-Presidents. Katie, Jasmine, and Marc will put it together to create structured evening.
- Student Union
  - Electra: Could you summarize what happened yesterday and today?
  - Yesterday: Marc, Kevin, and Celeste listened to students' feelings pertaining to Eleanor's disqualification. It was productive. Students voiced out concerns on freedom of speech policy, how the decision was made, how Eleanor's name was not taken out of the ballot, and timing.
  - It was argued that it not censorship because she was not disqualified for saying something negative about AUP. However, the language used was inappropriate for a Senior speech, which was also written in the constitution.
  - Riki: Will there be a revote?
    - There was no conclusion that was reached in that meeting aside from looking into it. By the end of the day, Kevin and Marc will meet to see what the next step is. Anything is potentially on the table; nothing is certain or disregarded. We are not making a decision for just one speech, we are making a decision on a bigger constitutional question.
  - Today was the first Student Union meeting:
    - Ciat: We ran over our concerns. It was more about how the disqualification was handled rather than the actual disqualification.
    - Dhouha: We can take pride in being AUP students and still acknowledge that there are issues in the system. It is our responsibility push change.
    - The amount of resignations we have seen this year is indicative of a problem within the SGA.
    - The Student Union does not want to belittle the Student Government but be a supporting body.
Leona: Do you feel like you have already resolved some stuff in those two meetings? (Mentions ASM freedom of speech)

- Ciat: I think all of this happened really quickly. I think there was some hastiness in that. The ASM thing was an error and we retracted a few things including that clause at the meeting earlier. I think dialogue is a big step towards resolving things.

What was the exact retraction and who from ASM put in a complaint?

- It was more of a need for independence. We did not ask for or see the guidelines and no one put in a complaint, which is why we retracted that clause entirely.

Riki: The Student Union seems promising. The SGA Executives seem like they feel attacked because they normally hold the power in the SGA, but I think that the leaders of the Student Union are passionate. I don't think the Executives want to hear all our concerns because you are so busy already.

Maria: Many of the resignations were because of scheduling conflicts or no longer wanting to put in the time and effort into coming to Senate and fulfilling responsibilities as Senators.

Quinn: As someone who has worked so closely with the Constitution all year, I found the situation a little ridiculous. Many of the demands had already been discussed and addressed. I understand what the Student Union is trying to do but all of it is stuff that can already be done with the system that is in place.

Jasmine makes a closing statement. This was a really good lesson to learn. The SGA has remained quiet because we want to figure things out before we jump in.

13:30 – Senate Adjourned
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Verified

Jasmine Paul, USC Vice President  
Nebi Dzhabrailova, SGA Treasurer  
Elizabeth Nguyen Son, USC Communications Director

Katelyn McGarr, GSC Vice President  
Kevin Fore, Dean of Student Development