

UASRA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2018 7:00 PM

Attendees:

- President (Helena McDermott)
- Vice President (Negar Omid)
- Treasurer (Tracy Martison)
- Secretary (Jeff Hedrick)
- Events Coordinator (Noelle Velios)
- Community Center Coord. (Jessica Grinberg)
- Sawtelle A Unit Rep (Mindy Patterson)
- Sawtelle B Unit Rep (Faeze Nateghi)
- Sawtelle C Unit Rep (Talya Cohen)
- Sawtelle D Unit Rep (Kirk Kanesaka)
- Sawtelle E Unit Rep (Phil Chung)
- Mentone/ Clarington Unit Rep (Aleksandar Kondic)
- Sepulveda A Unit Rep (Umut Tok)
- Sepulveda B Unit Rep (Magdalena Cline)
- Sepulveda C Unit Rep (Natalija Markina)
- Sepulveda D Unit Rep (Jian Liu)
- Keystone Unit Rep (Eve Emmanouilidou)
- Venice/Barry Unit Rep (KT Bender)
- Rose Unit Rep (Esther Claudio)
- Community Garden Supervisor (Jocelyn Bellairs)
- Green Coordinator (Jda Gayle)
- Community Ctr Maintenance Coord. (Deevi Soumyasri)
- Sepulveda Maintenance Coord. (Liz Stephenson)
- Residential Life Advisor (Addae Jahdai-Brown)
- UAS Apartment Coordinators (Brandon, Mohammed)
- Other Attendees = 3 residents, 2 GSA representatives
- Absent: Website Editor (April Duggan)

Summary of Key Meeting Topics:

- **Update on Rent Increase & Union Contract Negotiations**
- **Census**
- **Unit Representative Plans for Events**
- **Produce Distribution**
- **Resident-Led Event Grants**

Minutes:

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Management Report – not attending this month due to budget meeting
3. AC Report (Brandon) – no updates
 - a. Remind residents that ACs are residents, not housing staff
4. Items for management
 - a. Sanitizer stations – Helena to email & cc Phil
 - b. Recycling at buildings – Helena to email & cc Jda
 - c. Washer cleaning – Helena to follow up w UAS Management
5. Rent Increase / Contract Negotiations (KT)
 - a. KT update

- i. Union is supportive of affordable housing efforts as a priority in student worker union contract bargaining (contract is up for negotiation)
 - ii. All UC medical residents get housing subsidies...except UCLA residents
 - 1. Medical residents are not part of a union
 - iii. Bargaining demands are being articulated now; contract negotiation timeline is fluid (likely to start in March)
 - iv. Consider hosting or participating in events with the union before and during the negotiations
- b. Helena update from budget meeting
 - i. Key messages:
 - 1. UAS housing is not subsidized
 - 2. Stipends have stayed flat while rents have increased – key point to raise to university
 - 3. Presentation is available on Facebook page in Files section
 - 4. Housing is set up as separate financial entity from the university
 - 5. Helena & Negar meeting with UCLA Vice Chancellor on Jan 30
- c. GSA reps intro
 - i. Voiced support for UASRA including housing affordability
 - ii. Happy to raise UASRA concerns/issues at GSA legislative meetings
- d. Tracy – university presentation slides seem to show increased rents are not needed to meet benchmarks (e.g. debt-coverage ratio) but are solely justified based on market “comps”
- e. Potential model of success - UCSB proposed 3-5% increase within the last few years – residents were successful in freezing the fees for a year
 - i. Helena – need mobilization of residents, comparison with other UC campuses, need to connect with other groups at UCLA (coalition building)
- f. GSA rep – could get data on housing costs at other UCs within a few days, will work on providing data on childcare as well (data may be more difficult to get)
 - i. Helena to send questions to GSA reps which they can distribute to other UCs
- g. Recent model of success was Post-docs contract negotiations (UAW union)
 - i. KT proposed forming committees – focused on housing costs, childcare?
- h. GSA rep – regents meeting is coming up in March
 - i. Perhaps best way to effect change is publicly shaming university, perhaps in connection with this meeting
 - ii. Addae to look into some effective channels to route concerns
 - iii. Open period for public comment currently for January 24 Regents meeting that’s being held in SF (deadline for comments is ~midnight (end of day) on Monday)
 - 1. Encourage people to submit comments, share stories through this forum
- i. Resident comment – Peter Angelis at UCLA has been a good contact
 - i. Helena – he has already approved the rent increases
- j. If someone has banking/finance experience, would be helpful to have them review the university presentation on rents; consider soliciting for assistance on Facebook page

6. Update on census – Helena/Negar
 - a. It's a popup now on the UASRA homepage
 - b. Encourage attendees to help get message out – comment on Facebook group, mention to residents you meet
 - c. Would be ideal to get responses by Jan 25 (sufficiently ahead of Jan 30 meeting with Vice Chancellor)
7. Unit Reps plans for units
 - a. Negar: unit reps need to let Negar know about 2nd event required per unit rep bylaws (and any other events held in addition to this for visibility)
 - b. Helena: encouraging unit reps to try to hold some adult-oriented events, to be inclusive of those without children
 - c. Sawtelle A – Russell okayed putting up bookshelf in the laundry room (lending library); monthly happy hour (to be held this Friday)
 - d. Sawtelle B – Considering movie night
 - e. Sawtelle C – breakfast last month; considering Zumba night for next event, probably end of Feb
 - f. Sawtelle D – movie night / hot dogs this month
 - g. Sawtelle E – planning pizza night and hoping to do joint event with Sawtelle D; also considering water toy event for children sometime in the spring
 - h. Keystone – nothing planned right now
 - i. Sepulveda A – movie night; would like to consider sports event (teeball, soccer, etc)
 - j. Sepulveda B – holding Sat morning yoga in Feb and providing childcare
 - k. Sepulveda C – Potlucks held previously monthly; considering yoga class but soliciting feedback from residents in unit
 - l. Sepulveda D – balloon guy event held; considering event around Easter time if no larger community event
 - i. Noelle is planning petting zoo event for mid-April
 - m. Rose – produce distribution
 - n. Mentone/Clarrington – considering gardening event; produce events have been quite successful
 - o. Venice/Barry – farmers market events held; future ones will be sponsored by Res Life & UASRA together
8. Corporate Sponsorship – Helena
 - a. Presented as something we can potentially take advantage of by Addae
 - b. Helena will send info to rest of UASRA
9. Green Coordinator Update
 - a. Can consider doing produce distribution outside (can no longer do in resource room as it was carpeted and produce was leaking on floor)
 - b. New bins have been purchased
 - c. Basketball court area would work well
 - d. Produce distro will be held this Sunday (Sepulveda side) at 4pm
 - e. Mentone & Rose splitting produce and both distributing as well
 - f. Helena – unit reps should let everyone know about the UASRA website
 - g. Will start talking to people waiting for produce and asking them to volunteer

- i. Natalija volunteering to help on Jan 21 to sign up / establish base of volunteers
- ii. Magdalena will attend on the 28th

10. Resident-Led Event Grants – Tracy

- a. Residents can apply for funds to run workshop, hold event for community
- b. Criteria is being established now
 - i. There will be a window for applications
- c. KT – also consider partnerships with Res Life as they have funds available as well for community events