

Coordinating Committee Report

By Hajime, Alex, Justin, Steve, Jackie, and Delphina

Group Summary:

As a group, we have worked together to assist the other groups with their projects as well as keep everyone communicating within their groups and with other groups. We have tried to stay ahead of the game by anticipating the needs of the various groups and the roles we could play in helping them to carry out their projects.

First, we decided to create a list of everyone's contact information to distribute to the class so that everyone could stay connected. While the class made presentations about their leadership skills, the coordinating committee took notes and Steve later compiled that information with contact information. This has been a very useful sheet that has been pulled out at many of our meetings. We have sent out numerous emails to keep the lines of inter-group and intra-group communication open. The emails kept the class updated and informed of the progress of the various projects. This was initiated with Steve's creation of the list serve at boycottassi@yahoogroups.com.

We knew that we wanted weekly updates from the groups, but we were not completely sure how that could be effectively carried out. So, in class we had the groups give brief updates on their progress as well as address their own deadlines on the calendar. Justin and Delphina created and encouraged people to fill out the deadline calendar to keep the groups accountable and on track for the progress of their deadlines and projects.

Funding was an important issue that we were worried about. Linda was great and brought us all sorts of information about the different types of funding that are available. But we soon found out that the class alone was not eligible for finding, so we decided to team up with CAPSA for funding. Later on in the quarter, we also found that CAPSA would be able to fund all of our needs with their reserves. This took a lot of pressure off of our group. It also helped that Ali was able to provide office supplies for the class.

Taking on the responsibility of the endorsements was a challenge, but it helped to strengthen our group by organizing us even more. Jackie, Delphina, Hajime, and Alex volunteered to work mainly on the endorsements because it was something that they had never done before and were interested in trying something new. Steve, Alex, and Justin volunteered to keep tabs on the picket, children's book, and forum committee, respectively. Putting together the endorsement tips outline was really our first group project that we worked on together. Assembling the pieces of the endorsement packet was also an interesting group project and we soon found out that the most affordable way to distribute information would be to place the information in the Asian American Studies Reading Room and make it available for people to copy.

Our group has led 3 class sessions which tested our organizational and time management skills. They were also fun opportunities for the people in the class to get into new groups

and have a chance to bond with other members of the class. While we planned the classes, we felt that group work outside of the committees would help to increase communication and decrease bureaucracy in the class.

It was fun making the Valentine's Day treats and planning out the charades/pictionary clues. Things that are so simple got really positive responses from the other committees. The last class will be another fun activity that will most likely be a potluck in class.

Steve had suggested that an email flier would be a good way to get the word out about the forum and the picket. Jackie created a flier that contained information on both events and this flier was distributed to the members of the boycott Assi and CAPSA_UCLA list serves.

Towards the end of the quarter, Steve suggested that we should attend the meetings of the other committees so that we could have an idea of what the groups are doing and anticipate their needs. For example, we could contact KIWA members for them or help them get supplies. Several of us attended CAPSA meetings regarding funding and the forum agenda. A few of us participated with CAPSA's "dorm storming" to advertise the forum and attended the work parties for the forum, picket, and children's book.

Individual Responses:

Delphina Yuen

1. I learned that the support of UCLA students for immigrant workers' campaigns is important for several reasons:
 - The support of UCLA students for immigrant workers help to give the workers more hope as they know greater support is behind them.
 - Allows UCLA students to get involved with the community and to fight for their beliefs.
 - Shows those opposing the campaign a sense of validity, as UCLA students are seen as higher educated individuals.

2. I developed several new leadership skills:
 - Seeking endorsements - I learned the process and the work behind seeking endorsements.
 - Organizing class sessions - Having to lead the class with the other coordinators was a difficult task, because we had to make sure we were covering our basis but at the same time create a relationship of equality with our classmates.

3. Hajime - I asked Hajime to help me with endorsements as well. We collectively produced a sheet on how to give better endorsement presentations. I believe this has helped him to develop his persuasive speaking skills as many tips were written down. Alex - I asked Alex to help me with organizing endorsements. We developed a spread sheet together and he has helped to update the list as well.

Jackie - Jackie and I wanted to create a warm and fuzzy feeling for the class in order to collectively mobilize others and energize them. So a lot of the time, we tried to come up with different projects (Valentine's Day Treats) in order to energize the group.

Steve - He took a lot of initiative in facilitating during our committee meetings. I gave additional suggestions to his ideas of facilitating the class.

4. Organizations and classes I attempted to gain endorsements from:

Asian American Studies 20

Vietnamese Student Union (VSU)

Taiwanese Student Association (TSA)

Asian American Christian Fellowship

Groups I gained endorsements from:

- 7 individuals from Asian American Studies 20

- VSU (still pending)

- TSA (still pending)

Steve Moon

1. Through my work on the project of my committee, I learned that the support of UCLA students for immigrant workers' campaigns for justice is important because there is a diverse body of students with a wide range of talents and access to a diverse amount of resources that can all help serve the immigrant workers in their fight for justice.

2. In my committee, I worked on developing a new leadership skill by challenging myself to communicate with my fellow coordinators in an effort to be creative and critical of the work that needed to be done.

3. In my committee, I helped each of my classmates develop their new leadership skills by being as encouraging and as supportive as I could and trying to be helpful in different situations.

4. I also helped the work of the class as a whole by making a presentation to the following campus groups and classes about the Assi campaign. I gained the endorsement of the following groups:

AAS 197

AASGSA

My counseling appts. at work

Endorsement:

AASGSA

Hajime Birnbaum

As a member of the coordinating committee, I have had the opportunity to hone in certain leadership skills and identify new ones that I would like to work on. I have also learned many valuable lessons on how students play an integral part in the immigrant worker

struggle. I came into the class with an apathetic standpoint. How do I make a difference in a struggle that seems so far removed from me? But I have learned that students can contribute to the struggle through outlets like our Asian Am. 116 class. In many cases, immigrant workers do not have the luxury of having a political voice. Not only are there literal language barriers but workers are kept in fear that if they are exposed as “trouble-makers,” they will be fired or for undocumented peoples, reported to the INS and ultimately deported. Students are able to provide the workers with this voice. As students we do not risk being fired or deported for speaking our minds on what is right and just. As students we also give creditability to a struggle because we live in a society that values academia. As students, our opinions are respected and taken into consideration.

A skill that I was able to work on was my persuasive speaking skills. I feel that this skill is one of the most important to have because a majority of people are not motivated to make, what seems like, someone else’s struggle their own. Through persuasive speaking we can show people how others hardships are related back to them. I had the chance to do this while I collected endorsements. In order to get an endorsement, you must first demonstrate why this cause is important and how it relates to the endorser. Through persuasive language they are better able to receive this information and internalize it as their own. Once this can take place, people and groups will be motivated to take action on their own.

I assisted my coordinating partners in their leadership development by being cooperative and imputing constructive suggestions. In this way not only do I feel that I helped my partners formulate the most effective plan of action but I also helped my self in raising my leadership skills. This mutualistic cooperation was also visible when the coordinating committee led several classes. We effectively led classes and strived to keep the time we had in class as productive as possible. This meant delegating to other committees about deadlines, work responsibilities, and trying to keep bureaucracies to a minimum.

This class was a great learning experience for me. Because of its untraditional approach, it gives students the opportunity to be both learner and educator.

Alex Hwang

1. Through my work on the project of my committee, I learned that the support of UCLA students for immigrant workers' campaigns for justice is important because we can convey their message to a larger crowd of people than they would be able to since we have the resources, education, and language skills to do so.
2. In my committee, I worked on developing a new leadership skill by helping others with work and lending a hand whenever somebody needed help. Also coordinating other groups with their activities was something I had not previously done.
3. In my committee, I helped each of my classmates develop their new leadership skills by letting them attempt whatever they needed to improve on but at the same time

assisting in any way I could. I would lend my experience from what I know how to do to assist those in my committee.

4. I also helped the work of the class as a whole by making a presentation to the following campus groups and classes about the Assi campaign (AAS M138, Psych M117, and APALC with Jackie Pon). I gained the endorsement of the following groups- none.

Jackie Pon

1. Through my work in the coordinating committee, I learned that the support of UCLA students for immigrant workers' campaigns for justice is important because students have an extensive amount of resources that can be used for the promotion and support of the campaign. UCLA students have the time, networking power within the community, and the benefit of being a part of an elite institution.

2. In the coordinating committee, I worked on developing organizing and collectively mobilizing others by first putting myself out there by being in the coordinating committee. The old Jackie would have chosen a group such as the children's book committee because I would feel safe in a group that did not require too much outside communication. To test myself, I decided to be a member of the coordinating committee to communicate my group's ideas to the other groups and to also assist the other groups to communicate with each other. I also found that I enjoyed creating lesson plans because I had to be organized and structured as well as flexible in regards to timing.

3. Within my committee, I helped each of my classmates develop their new leadership skills by being supportive of their ideas and suggestions and tried to find ways to help them make their ideas a reality.

4. I also helped the work of the class as a whole by making a presentation and/or contacted:

AAS M129A (Public Health in the Asian Am. Community) with Ryo

CHIC 197B with Justin

Asian Pacific American Legal Center with Alex

Asian American Tutorial Project (AATP)

KW Lee

I gained the endorsement of AATP, who is new to the campaign. In the class presentations, as well as with AATP, I received contact information from about 20 students (out of about 60 students) who wanted to learn more about the campaign and our class activities. I just received an email from Stewart Kwoh of APALC that updated me on the current lawsuit against Assi Market and that APALC could not endorse the campaign at this time because they are co-counsel in the case. KW Lee did not respond to my email that gave an update of the campaign and a description our class activities.

Justin Hung

Through my work on the project of my committee, I learned that the support of UCLA students for immigrant workers' campaigns for justice is important because it reflects the

work of our ancestors. Like our parents or ancestors, they were once immigrants too. Since we, the Asian American-born children or today, reap the benefits of our ancestors, I think we owe them this much as to helping out those who are struggling to find their place within the overall American system.

In my committee, I worked on developing a new leadership skill of taking more initiative. In the past, I usually waited until someone initiates a task and I usually follow up as a 'safety net.' But now, I've pushed myself to initiate ideas or actions rather than waiting for someone else to make them.

In my committee, I helped each of my classmates develop their new leadership skills by delegating tasks to other group members. Other fellow coordinators had taken responsibility in facilitating particular sections of class meetings. I believe some growth was developed through those experiences.

I also helped the work of the class as a whole by making a presentation to the following campus groups and classes about the Assi campaign. I gained the endorsement of the following groups; Association of Hmong Students, South East Asian Campus Learning Education and Retention, Asian American Drug Abuse Program, and an attempt with Vietnamese Student Union although it didn't work out quite well.