

# **ASSOCIATED STUDENTS BELL MEMORIAL UNION COMMITTEE**

*This meeting was facilitated both in-person and via an online Zoom format, consistent with the Governor's Executive Order N29-20, suspending certain open meeting law restrictions.*

**Tuesday, October 5, 2021**

**2 p.m.**

**BMU 205**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kiley Kirkpatrick, Art Cox, Anthony Ruiz, Victorina Jeffers, Annabel Grimm, Sofia Askari, Ange Bledsoe, Mujtaba Azam

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jamie Clyde, Karen Bang (recording), Curtis Sicheneder, Shar Krater, Eliza Miller, Hugh Hammond, Susan Jennings, Katrina Robertson, Thang Ho

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Kirkpatrick, called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting was started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition statement.
- III. **AGENDA** – Kirkpatrick added Information Item: Wellness Center, to the agenda. **Motion to add Information Item: Wellness Center, to the agenda (Ruiz/Grimm) 5-0-0 MSC. Motion to approve the 10/5/21 revised regular meeting agenda, as presented (Ruiz/Grimm) 5-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the regular meetings of 5-3-21 and 5-10-21. **Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of 5/3/21 and 5/10/21 as presented (Ruiz/Grimm) 5-0-0 MSC.**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None
- VI. **BUSINESS**
  - A. Action Item: Approval of Resolution for Establishing Time and Location for Associated Students Bell Memorial Union Committee Meetings for the academic year 2021-22. **Motion to approve Resolution for Establishing Time and Location for Associated Students Bell Memorial Union Committee Meetings for the academic year 2021-22, as presented (Ruiz/Grimm) 5-0-0 MSC.**
  - B. **Information Item – WREC Oasis** – Sicheneder explained that they hope to create an outdoor Zen wellness area in front of the WREC. He said \$300,000 was placed in the budget last year for plaza improvements. They also applied for HEERF funds and received \$200,000. He said when they originally budgeted for plaza improvements, it wasn't initially for the WREC Oasis but it still improves the area. Clyde said the funds will still be used for plaza improvements, but they now see this as an opportunity for a different type of plaza improvement. She noted this item doesn't need to come back for approval; however, they wanted to update the committee. Ruiz questioned if the HEERF funds were from rounds II or III and if the request was accepted. Clyde said it backtracked from the third round to the second round and was approved. She said they asked for \$1 million for the original project, which was originally rejected. Clyde said they were advised that if HEERF funds were put towards this project, the AS would need to put in some money as well; we were then approved for \$200,000 in HEERF funds.
  - C. **Discussion Item – Bike Cart Name Change** – Sicheneder said the Bike Cart falls under Adventure Outings. He explained that bikes are received from UPD, are then repaired and sold at auction twice a year. Bike cart funds are received from bike repairs. Sicheneder advised the committee that they are changing the name of Bike Cart to the Bike Hub. In addition, they are trying to move the program into the

Follett Bookstore, near the computer area, about 500 sq. feet. He said this would also allow them to stock and sell a few more items and serve our students better. Follett is working on the MOU currently, and they hope the move will be made later this fall. Kirkpatrick said this will be helpful to students, especially during the winter.

- D. Discussion Item: Department name change of AS Marketing & PR to AS Marketing & Design – Clyde explained that the centralization of Marketing has brought about this name change. She said when AS Marketing was originally designed, it was more graphic related. When Anna Paladini was hired, she was also tasked with marketing the whole organization. She now has two full-time career staff in her department.
- E. Discussion Item: Renaming BMU conference rooms – Kirkpatrick said last year's Bell Memorial Union Committee (BMUC) came up with the idea to rename some of the BMU conference rooms for cultural significance with the Mechoopda and tribal relations on our campus. She said she decided it would be best to create a committee to come up with some new names for the conference rooms and a better way to celebrate California Indian Day. Kirkpatrick said she is in the beginning stages of putting together the committee. Sicheneder said Krater provided him with the names of the BMU conference rooms and noted that some names are benign, some are not. Krater offered her support, noting that when we talk about potentially renaming Sutter, that's a big piece involved with the University. She said this is an area we can easily control and appreciates their efforts.
- F. Discussion Item: 6/30/21 Combined Student Union and WREC/AO Summary Income and Expense Statement –Sicheneder explained that the committee will be seeing these reports on a monthly basis regarding where the Union stands in terms of its budget. He said this 6/30/21 report encompasses the entirety of last fiscal year 2020-21. He said 81.88% of the approved budget was expensed and they generated 113% of projected income. Income areas were a little higher than expected. Sicheneder said they had a conservative enrollment expectation and that was exceeded. Due to COVID, expenses were at or below what was projected. He noted that Small Equipment was over due to items that had to be purchased, such as laptops. Clyde said this was a very challenging budget year to work with and noted their strategy all last year was that they didn't know whether they'd be open or not. She said they started budgeting at 50%, hoping to be open in spring; however, that didn't happen. Clyde explained that FY 2020-21 was not a normal year and that's why there was such fluctuation. She noted they were conservative. Clyde said for this 2021-22 FY, they budgeted with a strategy that we'll be back 100%.
- G. Discussion Item: Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) and Certificates of Deposit for quarter ending 6/30/21 – Clyde said this report is provided quarterly and the money can't be placed in stocks so it's low risk, with low rewards. She reviewed the Student Union LAIF, noting the annualized return on investment was at 0.33%. There are no Union funds in Certificates of Deposit.
- H. Discussion Item: 6/30/21 Student Union Fund Capital Expenditure Report – Sicheneder said this report is also provided quarterly, noting that everything purchased over \$5,000 goes through capital expenditures. He explained that this report is for FY 2020-21 and that not all capital expenditures that are approved are purchased. He reviewed the various purchases that were made throughout the year and also reviewed purchased not made (Azam joined the meeting at 2:36 p.m.).
- I. Information Item: Wellness Center – Sicheneder said the previous BMUC members approved the idea of converting the BMU basement area in to a Wellness Center as they found there's an overwhelming need by students for this for rest, relaxation, financial wellness, etc. He said they've been working with campus on this project, although it was put on hold for a bit due to COVID. Sicheneder said they are now close to starting construction and they met with FMS yesterday. Due to increased costs such as for wood and labor costs, FMS advised them that the cost for this project would be increasing. He said they should get final numbers today and advised that the cost will be going up significantly. Sicheneder said this will be brought back to the committee for discussion/approval. Clyde said this is something the students wanted but it was very surprising to them how much more expensive the project has become. She said students want a proactive vs a reactive place to come to and take care of themselves and noted this space would be for students only. Ruiz said a couple of years ago they were looking at it to be in the WREC but it was too expensive and questioned how expensive this project will be. Clyde said the dollar amount for the BMU Wellness Center has gone up by about 50%, about \$400,000 more than originally anticipated. Clyde said we could wait a year or two to see if prices go down, but students are struggling right now and if we move forward we could get this done in the spring semester. Grimm said the AS is in a very healthy

financial position and suggested moving forward with the project. She said she anticipates that costs are going to continue to rise. Sicheneder said for the WREC project, they had a guesstimate of twice this amount. He noted that preliminary drawings for this project are already completed and we're already into this project by \$60,000. Kirkpatrick agreed that the AS is in a financial position and we can take this on, and said that students need this now. Sicheneder said this item will be brought back to the committee with a more specific number. Ruiz asked if this Wellness Center is being modeled after any others in the CSU and Sicheneder said they used CSU, North Ridge as their inspiration. Cox asked if the project would be finished in the spring if they start now and Clyde said they've taken care of what takes the most time, FMS is ready to move forward, and it would be done sometime during the spring semester. She said the project was originally to cost \$1.35 million, plus the furniture at another \$250,000 and noted they will be coming back with a request for up to \$1.7 million. Further discussion was held. Clyde said there are multiplate class action lawsuits on campus due to the COVID shut down and this would be great way to show students they can use a new resource for their fee dollars.

- VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Clyde said she met with VP Sherman and Stacie Corona regarding our reserves. She said we have approximately \$37 million in reserves and noted that we follow different rules than other companies. Clyde said we're 100% reliant on head count and we saw nearly a \$2 million dip this last year. She advised that the head count will continue dropping and expenses are increasing for minimum wage, Workers' Comp and property insurance. She said we're bringing in less money and expect to bring in less money for many years to come. In addition, expenses will continue to rise. She noted that running two buildings is really expensive and we also still have debt service on both of our buildings. She said we're in a good financial position and we keep an eye on the dollar amount. Clyde said a project like the Wellness Center is a good project to move forward with. She explained that Dining and Activity Fee reserves are separate from the Student Union reserves and the Student Union reserves encompass the BMU and WREC. • Clyde shared that the Financial Services Director position is almost finalized and she is hopeful that they'll be able to announce the candidate this week. She said she is sad to see Susan Jennings leave but is excited for the new person coming in.
- VIII. INTERIM ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Sicheneder encouraged the committee to check out the new leadership area on the second floor of the BMU. He said they combined Sustainability, CAVE, FLO, Marketing and OPS into an open area to create a sense of synergy among programs. This also facilitated emptying of the basement to make the Wellness Center possible. • Sicheneder said they have noticed in some of their programs that people are in a weird place right now in some unattractive ways. He noted a student on an AO trip would not follow any safety rules or protocols. They have also had a lot of trouble at the WREC with students inability to wear masks, which has caused suspension from the WREC, including some being referred to Student Conduct. He said from his point of view, getting over COVID and having some wellness centers to relax in can't happen soon enough.
- IX. CHAIR'S REPORT** – Kirkpatrick thanked everyone for attending this first meeting and said she is excited to see campus moving towards a more normal year. She said there are still two student positions open for BMUC and requested contacting her if committee members know of any students who would be interested in serving on BMUC. She stressed the importance of attending the BMUC meetings to assure quorum.
- X. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Grimm announced that she's moving to a new position on November 1 at Chico Area Parks District and thanked everyone for allowing her to be part of the committee. Clyde said she and Grimm go way back here on campus, noted that Grimm has been a huge friend to the AS, and thanked her. Kirkpatrick said she's sad to see her go, but excited for her new adventures. • Sicheneder said when he worked stateside he was a member of this committee, and often had questions. He reminded the new members to reach out to him or others to assist with any questions they might have. Kirkpatrick said training can also be held for the new members if needed.
- XI. PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic – None
- XII. ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair, Kirkpatrick, adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.