Monday, May 3, 2021  2:30 p.m.  Via Zoom

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO
BELL MEMORIAL UNION COMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kaylee Biederermann, Ange Bledsoe, John Thomas Barron, III, Art Cox, Victorina Jeffers, Kiley Kirkpatrick, Ronin Beck, Annabel Grimm

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chase Arrington, Kaitlyn Xiong, Triston Haverty (all excused)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jamie Clyde, Karen Bang (recording), Curtis Sichenede, Shar Krater, Susan Jennings, Katrina Robertson, Hugh Hammond, Eliza Miller, Kelsey Torres

I. CALL TO ORDER – The Chair, Biederermann, called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

II. MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION – The meeting was started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition statement.

III. AGENDA – Approval of the 5/3/21 regular meeting agenda. Information Item E. – Variable Speed Drive, was added to the agenda. Motion to approve the 5/3/21 revised agenda, as presented (Kirkpatrick/Barron) 6-0-0 MSC.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of the regular meeting of 4/19/21. Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of 4/19/21, as presented (Kirkpatrick/Barron) 6-0-0 MSC.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Biederermann said she’s excited to see committee members in person at next week’s BMUC meeting.

VI. BUSINESS

A. Information Item: Revisions to Associated Students Corporate Codes – Sustainability Program Fund Allocation Committee Code – Sichenede explained that any allocation over $5,000 must be individually approved by majority vote of the Bell Memorial Union Committee (BMUC). He noted that this wording has caused confusion in the past and it is being requested to simplify the sentence by revising it to say, “Any allocation of $5,000 or more must be individually approved by majority vote of the BMUC.” Biederermann agreed that the current language is very confusing and that the new wording would clarify the information and make it an easier process for everyone.

B. Discussion Item: 3/31/21 Combined Student Union and WREC/AO Summary Income and Expense Statement – Sichenede said the benchmark for March is 75.08% and noted the Student Union has expensed 42.51% of the approved annual budget and generated 75.08% of projected income.

C. Discussion Item: 3/31/21 Student Union Fund Capital Expenditure Report – Sicheneder reviewed each item with the committee, noting this report is provided quarterly. He said the Wellness Center project in the BMU basement level will begin in the fall and should be open by spring of 2022. Clyde said regarding the Wellness piece, they’re assuming that we’ll be open and all good for fall; however, it comes down to last minute guidance on social distancing. She said they are planning on 6’, 3’ and 0’. She said various offices and programs located downstairs are being moved upstairs. Clyde advised that Communication Media is taking on KCSC, supported by the AS, and will have a faculty advisor. The lounge itself won’t be able to be accessed during the fall and the Zen Den on the third floor may be taken offline so they can allow groups to use that room since BMU 008 will no longer be available. Kirkpatrick questioned with all students having to be vaccinated, how many people would be allowed in the BMU and WREC at one time. Clyde said some of the guidance is competing, noting that OSHA, CDC, Higher Ed Code and the Governor are all different and that’s why they’re planning for various social distancing guidelines. She explained that the tier system will be gone by June 15, which would also remove capacity in buildings due to COVID. Grimm agreed that planning for various scenarios is a good idea, noting that OSHA is the guiding Government group and probably won’t move as quickly as the Governor’s declaration. Jeffers questioned the status of the BMU 220 remodel and Sicheneder said furniture will be in on June 23, with approximately one week for install.
D. Information Item: Room charges for blood drives — Torres reviewed the relationship with Vitalant who does the blood drives on campus via Greek Life and Staff Council. She also provided history of Butte County Elections being held in the BMU, noting that from 2002 to present we have not charged the Butte County Vote Center for space in the BMU for elections. She said per our AS Room Reservation Policy, there is never a charge through Greek Life sponsored blood drives. Staff Council is a state-funded group and in 2014 we began charging a $1,000 room charge for the Auditorium and $100 for a second floor room, every other blood drive. Torres provided data regarding the blood drives, noting her research is part of a larger clean-up that has started regarding customer types and having everyone where they need to be. She suggested partnering with Vitalant to host a maximum of one blood drive event per month, not to exceed two days at the BMU for no charge. This would be similar to the partnership with Butte County for the Vote Center. Sicheneder said this doesn’t take away anyone’s ability to partner with Vitalant, and also gives the AS the opportunity to partner with them. Discussion was held and Jeffers said she can work with Staff Council as well to make sure there’s no overlap. Bledsoe said she’s a Staff Council representative and supports having Vitalant on campus, noting the importance of supporting the community.

E. Information Item: Variable Speed Drive — Sicheneder said the BMU has variable speed drives (VSD) for some of the pumps in the BMU; however, the pool pumps at the WREC do not. He said they approached SFAC two years ago for purchase of a VSD for the WREC pool pumps but because this project wouldn’t provide enough education for students, it was not funded. Sicheneder said $38,000 was approved to purchase VSDs; however, that did not include installation and FMS installation costs. The dollar value now with labor and installation, as well as seismic retrofit is $98,000. Sicheneder explained that the current pumps run 24/7, 365 days a year and a lot of money is being spent on utilities for running the pumps. He said having a VSD would allow the pumps to ramp up and down slowly and life expectancy is approximately 25 years. Sicheneder requested BMUC to consider the additional funds in order to make this purchase. Grimm asked about the seismic review work and Sicheneder said he would find out why it is required.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT — Clyde provided updates regarding contracts as she said this effects space that BMUC oversees. She explained that for 2020-21, Dining contracted a net zero contract with Housing who is paying for minimal dining staff to be on campus, and any dollar savings go back to Housing 100% right now. Due to there only being about 50% of in person classes in the fall, another net zero type contract will be signed for 2021-22. She said Housing will pay for the total cost of all dining and any money made, minus retail sales, will go back to Housing. Regarding the Bookstore, Clyde said Follett requested an outsource model and the AS will lose approximately $400,000 based on lack of commission. She said sales have been horrendous, down 60%. She said Follett has asked us to take away our minimum guarantee, which was how we made most of our money from the year prior minimum guarantee. Clyde said we renegotiated, wanted full minimum for last year, reduced our commission by 2%, and are removing the minimum guarantee, which is approximately a $500,000 loss. The contract would be extended for four years. As this is the only way Follett will stay, Clyde said she would be recommending to the Board to sign the four year extension, take the reduction, and look at our choices moving forward for next year.

VIII. WREC DIRECTORS REPORT — Sicheneder said the last day of finals will be the last day of operation at WREC 2.0. The following week, the third party equipment supplier will move the equipment back into the WREC. The intent is to open the WREC building on June 7. Sicheneder said equipment is being put back in pre-pandemic locations. If social distancing is required, they will mark off or put plexiglass in between.

IX. VP APPOINTEE’S REPORT — Barron said ASBC was cancelled this morning. Biedermann said she has been in the Wildcat Store regarding graduation items and they have been very busy.

X. CHAIR’S REPORT — Biedermann said the last BMUC meeting would be held on Monday, May 10.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS — Jeffers said another movie night is being done this week with Greek Life, and if students are interested in attending, they should contact her. She thanked everyone for a great year.

XII. PUBLIC OPINION — Limited to three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic — None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT — The Chair, Biedermann, adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.