

## **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

*This meeting was facilitated both in person and via an online Zoom format.*

**Friday, January 31, 2025**

**12:00 p.m.**

**BMU 205**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** – Chris Sullivan, Dev Kachiwala, Madison Kelley, Aishwarya Gowda, Gia Monticello, Adin White, Humberto Partida, Shari Anderson, Kaylee McAllister-Knutson

**MEMBERS ABSENT** – Aaron Schwartz

**OTHERS PRESENT** – Eliza Miller, Jon Simmons, Emily Berry (Recording), Hugh Hammond, Kendra Wright, Carlos Lopez, Julia Baez, Sharleen Krater, Bryce Ingersoll, Max Audley-Hinds, Ava Biscoe, Charlotte Love, Mark Stemen, Nate Farrington, Anna Paladini, Brooke McCall, Cirilo Cortez, Jasmine Saephan, Katey Von Mosch, Hector Perez, Serena Garcia Placencia, Brooklyn Briggs, Kate Kerr, Megan Kurtz, Ethan Kahn, Charlie Arroway

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Sullivan, called the meeting to order at 12:01
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Approval of the 1/31/25 regular meeting agenda as presented.  
**Motion to approve the 1/31/25 agenda, as presented. (White/Kachiwala) 6-0-0 MSC**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approval of the 11/20/24 regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion to approve the 11/20/24 regular meeting minutes, as presented (Gowda/Kelley) 6-0-0 MSC**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Sullivan welcomed everyone to GAC. He also stated introductions were in order, so everyone around the table introduced themselves.
- VI. **PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to items on the agenda, three minutes per speaker, nine minutes for entire topic – None.
- VII. **STUDENT ACADEMIC SENATE (SAS) REPORT** – Action Items forwarded to the Government Affairs Committee from the Senate stand approved unless overturned by a 2/3 + 1 Committee action.
  - A. Student Academic Senate Committee
    1. SAS Actions: Approval of 1/30/25 Student Academic Senate agenda
    2. Approval of 11/12/24 Student Academic Senate Minutes  
**Motion to amend the agenda by striking A-2 as minutes were not approved, White/Gowda 6-0-0 MSC**
- VIII. **BUSINESS**
  - A. Action Item: Approval of the Revised Resolution for Establishing Time and Location for Associated Students Government Affairs Committee Meetings for Academic Year 2024-25. **Action Requested: Motion to approve the Revised Resolution for Establishing Time and Location for Associated Students Government Affairs Committee Meetings for Academic Year 2024-25, as presented (attached, page 8). (Kelley/Partida) 6-0-0 MSC**
  - B. Information Item: Revisions to Duties of the Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs as presented (attached, page 9-10)

White presented that part of the duties were to conduct a yearly audit of the AS and the university admin and institute for sustainable development. They changed that. The STARS report is going on right now and is almost completely done. They're doing the final work on it, an assessment of exactly what the audit the sustainability commissioner and the council would have done. The CARP report is also presently going on; it outlines the university's commitment to obtaining carbon neutrality. He stated the change is straightforward and streamlines things.

C. Discussion Item: CAVE Presentation (attached, page 11-17)

Von Mosch and her team came to the table. Introductions include: Brooklyn Briggs, Kate Kerr, Hector Perez and Serena Garcia Placencia. Richard Oliver was out sick. Von Mosch said she's responsible for budget, one-time events, nurturing the community, and having everything they need to keep being successful. CAVE is a volunteer organization guaranteed to supporting the local community. They were founded in 1966 by AS President. They are the oldest and largest student-led program of the AS. They offer semester-long and one-time service opportunities to students, host annual large days of service, provide internship opportunities, and more. They believe life is for learning. The statistics for the 23-24 year had 7,350 hours of service, interns provided 4,352 hours of service, one-time events had 765 hours for a total of 12,467 hours. This equates to \$417,519 in value. Cats in the Community registration goes live on March 3<sup>rd</sup>! White asked if they're open to partnering with other nonprofits, to which Von Mosch said yes. White asked whose email he should give, and Von Mosch said hers.

D. Discussion Item: 2025 Advisory Measure and General Election

Wright gave a big thanks to CAVE. AS General Election is in the Spring. Typically, an Advisory Measure would accompany the ballot. A student or group would attend GAC to share the initiative. This allows them to state their intention and ensure it's not duplicative. The advisory measure is then submitted to the EVP via email, then he works with Wright, Simmons, Clyde, and Sullivan. A 10 day timer then begins. Within that time, the AS initiative panel comprised of someone from the sponsoring group, Government Affairs Team, and a campus member, and ensures it's in compliance. This also gets sent to the AS lawyer. Upon the affirmative from the lawyer and panel, it goes to Board. They vote, and upon approval, signature gathering for the petition begins. The number of signatures needed is 20% of the students who voted in the prior general election. In 2024, that was 2,557, so 20% is 512 verified, enrolled students to sign a petition. Once the green light is given, the verbiage is added to the ballot. Then students vote, and if it's 50% +1 the measure will pass. The AS General Election is held this semester April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8am, then closes at 7:59am the next day. Gowda asked how many signatures were needed for an elected student seat. Wright stated elected student representatives were independent of the measures. It's majority rules for the Elected Representatives seat. Gowda asked if two people were running for the same position and didn't get signatures if the ballot would be empty. Wright stated the signatures have nothing to do with the student campaigns, it's to get the words on the ballot for voting. Kachiwala asked if the policy is voted for is there a yes or no? Wright confirmed there is an affirmative or a negative. McAllister-Knutson stated this is separate the same way Revenue Sharing is. White says it'll make more sense after the presentation.

E. Discussion Item: GEOG 440 Advisory Measure Proposals

Mark Stemen introduced himself. He said when he was a student he was concerned about environmental issues. As a student he helped create the environmental affairs council. One initiative they did was for the AS to encourage the university to divest from fossil fuels and they became the first school in the nation to do so. Stemen insisted that what happens in this room matters. Max Hinds then introduced themselves. Hinds said they came to Chico State because of sustainability and the connection with nature. Stemen went on to say they wanted to make sure that they were not going to do anything that wasn't already being done. Monticello asked if they'd already spoken with the President to get it to be part of their Strategic Plan. Stemen confirmed they are in conversation with the President's office. White said they're out, they're there, and the cabinet is difficult to reach right now with all the budget issues and so on. McAllister-Knutson said the community agreements are part of the Playbook Strategic Plan. Sullivan said President Perez is planning on going to GAC later as well to speak on these things on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Monticello also invited them to come to her committee meeting. White said it would be on the agenda then too for the President and they could then speak during public comment. Wright said just to make sure everyone stays in the bipartisan public lane that

they're not supposed to use the platform to tell people how to vote, though they have their own individual vote. Partida asked if they could introduce an advisory measure, to which Wright stated as soon as it makes it onto the ballot, yes. Stemen said they share the measure with the office to clarify wording as well. Sullivan stated Stemen, Schwartz, and White all have had a meeting already.

#### **IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS—**

Kelley wanted to thank everyone for being present. She and Sullivan just got back from CSSA San Francisco. Legislative Affairs advanced two bills, one to improve the accuracy of cost of attendance and the other to aid in housing access for students experiencing homelessness. Her blog is on the AS website as well. She is also talking to the campus outreach coordinator. This would be an event over on Trinity while they have the time. The first Leg Affairs meeting is on February 11<sup>th</sup> 11-12 in BMU 209.

Monticello said she's working on getting the committee up and running. She is also working on a new inquiry. She also encouraged everyone to remember Spirit Fridays.

Partida said the first council meeting is at 2PM in the same room, 205.

White said the first unofficial meeting of the Sustainability Affairs Council was yesterday. On Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:15 they'll have their official first meeting. Plenty of people will be present to learn about SFAC and the Sustainability Affairs Summit. SFAC is opening up a grant of up to \$5000 for student projects related to sustainability. They're hoping for a lot of applications. There's a workshop on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, another on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 12pm and another on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. The Deadline to submit proposals is February 28<sup>th</sup>. The Sustainability Summit Event has also been discussed. He wanted to reconnect some channels of communication weakened by Covid.

Gowda had their official meeting on Tuesday. The next will be every Tuesday from 2 to 3. They have a heritage table displayed. Sullivan, Partida, and Gowda are working on a proposal for the pantry and adding it as a contract program allocating funds annually.

Kachiwala hosted Student Academic Senate. Reaching out for an event for women in STEM. He'll also be sitting on the Board Designated Funds Committee. There's no senator for undeclared students despite there being 600 or so undeclared. He said the college of grad studies are looking for officers. He'll also be attending CHESS with Sullivan.

#### **X. STAFF REPORTS –**

Anderson said spring time is when activities ramp up for graduating seniors. Kachiwala left the meeting at 12:56. She said students are present to ask what students want to do and their activities are student-led. They will also be tabling at gradfest.

Simmons gave everyone a welcome back. He knows things are overwhelming right now and asks that everyone give each other grace and love. He also thanked CAVE. He started as a CAVE intern as well. Black History month will be decorated coming up in collaboration with the Black Student Union. Kachiwala returned at 12:58. He said the president's message was nice as well, and told everyone to focus on their studies and that things would work out. CDL finished the collaboration paperwork with Butte College. The Youth Programs Audit is complete, and they did well. Budget is coming, they'll start hitting committees soon.

McAllister-Knutson thanked everyone for being here and for working. Clubtacluar happened last week, recruitment is going on for clubs. They're at record numbers for coming out of the pandemic even going from fall to spring. All information can be found on Cat's Connect. She was also finishing up Camp Lead Cat. The Wildcat Takeover is this Monday of the Hatchet House from 6-8pm.

#### **XI. DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT—**

Wright thanked everyone for listening to the advisory introductions. For questions, they can also ask Brooke McCall as the Elections Supervisor. She wants to keep people educated in the moment. She is looking forward to Government Affairs spring training next Friday. On February 10<sup>th</sup> President Perez and the cabinet will be meeting up. AS will be hosting cabinet in the WREC. AS General Elections are around the corner, called RFO – Run for Office. The launch of elections is also February 10<sup>th</sup>. They would just go to the Government Affairs page and then it's the elections page.

#### **XII. CHAIR REPORT –**

Sullivan and Kelley attended CSSA. Monticello departed at 1:07. One thing at CSSA focused on what programs are supporting students impacted from low income, at risk of housing crises, and what proposals are happening currently. Board highlighted Sonoma State. A listening session happened last week to go over corporate bylaws and the code of ethics. Monticello returned at 1:10. February 7<sup>th</sup> is training and he asked all reps to RSVP via email. March 4<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5pm is a student town hall. It's the Office of the President and Government Affairs. This will take place in BMU 203, and it's a space to voice comments, concerns, and more. It's similar to Together for Tomorrow last semester, but it's more solidified. He met with Jeff Trailer for academic senate. He also met with President Perez yesterday to discuss things impacting students from the current presidential administration as well

as what to do moving forward. He mentioned concerns about ICE and to make sure to make students that there are free immigration services and they can stop by the DREAM center to pick up red cards. Board Designate Funds committees first meeting will be within the next week or two. This is an opportunity for up to \$168,000 for special projects.

### **XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

White wanted to let everyone know he's had students share concerns about the cancellation of an ICE training event. Cortez said keep your ears open for more information about that.

Gowda said Chico State Pride also expressed their concern about gender identity. They'll be coming to the SJEC meeting next Tuesday.

Sullivan said it's Spirit Day today so there are discounts. Estom Jamani food for \$8. McAllister-Knutson had the page brought up that shows the discounts present, and this is done in collaboration with the AS.

### **XIV. PUBLIC OPINION—**

Carlos Lopez is here to learn more about what happens outside of where he's at, Estom Jamani.

Megan Kurtz said there's a fellowship available in the President's office. It's working on community relations with universities with Climate Core. There's a \$3000 living stipend per month. Tribal Relations also has two of those fellowships, filled. Next, State of the University is on February 17<sup>th</sup>, this'll have budget updates, as well as the state of the university itself. Next, Student Town Hall AS is partnering with them. Julia Baez is planning that, and is looking for talking points to put on a slide to break the ice. If there are any ideas they can be emailed to her. White asked for her email to which Baez responded [jgbaez@csuchico.edu](mailto:jgbaez@csuchico.edu). The student town hall is on March 4<sup>th</sup> in BMU 203. The name of the Fellowship is the Neighbor to Neighbor fellowship through Climate Core.

Nate Ferrington is the Program Director for Adventure Outings. He is also on multiple committees. He wanted to say hello and extend an offering to answer questions about Adventure Outings and more.

Brooke McCall said happy spirit day. She will be at the WREC at 5:00 and will be kickboxing. She also wanted to introduce herself as the 2025 Election Supervisor, and run for office begins February 10<sup>th</sup>. She also said happy belated birthday to Nate and early birthday to Aishu.

Sullivan also mentioned Aishu's birthday is tomorrow.

### **XV. ADJOURNMENT –** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:26pm.