

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Friday, October 20, 2023

3 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Autumn Alaniz-Wiggins, Mia Arisman, Katie Chai, Christian Sullivan, Itzel Saucedo Dominguez, Imani Martin, Sri Ramani Thungapati Kaylee McAllister-Knutson, Dr. Joseph Morales

MEMBERS ABSENT – Jay Friedman

OTHERS PRESENT – Kendra Wright, Lexi Extein (recorder), Kyle Alsberry, Eliza Miller, Chris Navarrete, Shar Krater, Brooke McCall, Dr. Chela Mendoza Patterson, Mocha

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Wagner, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Approval of the 10/20/23 regular meeting agenda. **Motion to approve the 10/20/2023 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Wiggins/Martin) 6-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the 10/6/23 regular meeting. **Motion to approve the minutes of the 10/6/23 regular meeting, as presented (Arisman/Suacedo-Dominguez) 6-0-0 MSC.**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None
- VI. **PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to items on the agenda, three minutes per speaker, five 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.

Student Academic Senate (SAS) Committee –

- a. SAS Actions: SAS Actions of 10/13/23
 - i. Approved the 10/13/23 agenda
 - ii. Approved Resolution for Establishing Time and Location for Associated Students Student Academic Senate Meetings for the academic year 2023-24, (under separate cover).
Arisman said they had their first meeting. Their next meeting is on the 27th.

VIII. BUSINESS

- A. Information Item: Election Procedures- Wright stated that Miller has been working to update them. She has identified when next year's election day would be: 4/4/24. She explained how Election Day works. The 24-hour election process would begin at 8 a.m. on 4/4/24. It would conclude at 7:59 am 4/5/23. Nothing has changed under the II.A. The "Candidacy Filing" showcases the timeline for those looking to run for a position. February 12th would be when Run for Office opens. It would go until March 4th. Orientation is on March 7th and the election will be on April 4th. Between March 7th and April 4th would be for students to campaign. Alaniz-Wiggins asked if the GPA was lowered and Miller said yes, that and the mandatory units were both changed by GAC in the past.
- B. Discussion Item: 6/30/23 Activity Fee Fund Budget vs. Actual- Wright stated that she will share budget updates with the elected representatives on a quarterly basis. They are looking at the budget that was through June 30th. Wright explained the budget and how it operates including year-to-date, estimated results budget, variance, and percent to the original approved budget. Wright explained each line including revenues, other expenses, operational expenses, Government Affairs, Campus Programs and Community Programs. She

noted the pension unfunded actuarial liability and explained that the journal entry fluctuates every year and we owe the listed amount to CalPERS that was not originally displayed on these budgets. Wright noted that the Child Development Lab applied for a grant and did not receive it. Wright said that they were “flat” until the auditors asked that the CalPERS expense was displayed on this budget and the Activity Fee was budgeted under original estimates.

- C. Discussion Item: Israel-Hamas Conflict GAC Response- Alaniz-Wiggins stated that she has drafted a response regarding the conflict. She has had over 10 people review this, with the draft presented being the final accumulation of collaboration in order to put out a culturally sensitive, yet firm statement. Alaniz-Wiggins explained that the first paragraph is one of solidarity. The second was requested by many people she had reviewed the statement, and she believes it we beneficial to state information that is relevant and accurate. She read directly from the document “We stand against any racism, discrimination, and otherwise disrespectful acts of islamophobia, anti-Semitism. We stand against glorification of violence on our campus and seek communal peace and safety.” The third paragraph has been updated with the “meat” of the document and she has worked to come up with a response that does not target any group of people. This discusses the condemning of the hostages being taken along with the consequence decision of the bombing taking place in Gaza and the prevention of humanitarian aid being able to access to Gaza Strip, which has just begun. Alaniz-Wiggins claimed it most crucially recognizes that this conflict has been going for quite some time. She originally had a paragraph she has since excluded to ensure our GAC members felt both safe and comfortable releasing a statement. Alaniz-Wiggins said the last paragraph explains what the point of the document is, for which she read directly “Government Affairs exists to promote our core values of Diversity, Service, Sustainability, and Wellness, including the act of advocacy, and encourage students to reach out to our office for information on getting involved and supporting one another.” She asks students to treat each other with dignity and respect. She stated that there are many roadblocks but professional staff is here to help. Alaniz-Wiggins also stated she included the campus resources and educational resources attached to the document. She opened the floor for discussion and wanted to make clear that there are a million articles out there regarding how various student government responds to conflict. She has taken steps to avoid common pitfalls. She does not want to pressure anyone to sign off on this; she cares deeply and noted that during times of crisis, the student government acted as the voice of reason and advocacy. Martin asked if other CSUs have put out statements. Alaniz-Wiggins said yes, Long Beach and Dominguez Hills and potentially Sacramento State. She said she believes this is the most detailed of statement she has seen and she has kept it to facts. Alaniz-Wiggins said Harvard’s statement was very pointed and she did not want to make the same mistake. Sullivan said he likes the details and he has recently attended the Free Speech Workshop Dr. Morales hosted. He had a concern with some of the resources. He stated that we are missing the International Student Scholar Services as a resource. Wagner said she is hesitant to say that their role is to promote any political side, as their main goal is just to support the students traveling here. Alaniz-Wiggins said that’s why she didn’t put the CCLC as well, and she did not want to send students to a place where they did not have the structures in place to support students looking for these resources. The Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion is included here for that reason because they have structures in place to. McAllister-Knutson said SLL has already sent out a statement, but they have a process to help support students. Wright explained that viewpoint neutrality means that student representatives are here to represent the entire student body. She stated that Harvard made a one-sided comment and as a result people were threatened and placed names on the anti-hire list and such. She said they should represent through a bipartisan lens and they are showcasing solidarity for people. Wright also said that statements that showcase numbers can be outdated and become invalidated, she believes these numbers will sadly increase over time and she is curious if stating numbers is necessary and if it helps. She is worried about them discounting the message because there are numbers that will be outdated. Arisman stated that the numbers help her wrap her head around about the facts. Martin said without the numbers it can lose value. Sullivan stated that the numbers aid him in the visuals to encourage students. McAllister-Knutson stated that you can add the date explicitly. Alaniz-Wiggins stated she is the one who wrote it. She requested amending the agenda to change this item from a Discussion Item to an Action Item. **Motion to amend the agenda to change this item from a Discussion Item to an Action Item (Saucedo Dominguez/Martin) 7-0-0 MSC. Motion to approve the Israel-Hamas Conflict GAC Response (Wiggins/Arisman) 7-0-0 MSC.**

- IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS** – Alaniz-Wiggins is going to GI 2025 until Tuesday. She will not be at the Board of Directors meeting. She has been spending two weeks to make a response. Arisman said that their Dean is attending the next SAS meeting regarding finals. Thungapati introduced herself. Saucedo Dominguez said her and Martin had Hot Drinks and Hot Topics and she has all her people ready for her committee. Martin said the event went well. Wright stated that they tabled and gathered survey responses. They acquired 27 responses. Sullivan said their first meeting is Monday at 11 a.m. in BMU 209. The LGBTQ+ display is in the atrium until the Day of the Dead display replaces it. Chai said she met with other Legislative Affairs officers at CSSA. She is following bills that they are supporting or opposing. Chai then exited the meeting at 3:53 pm.

X. STAFF REPORTS – McAllister-Knutson thanked all for participating in Wildcat Preview Day. Greek Week is happening this week and the talent show is at 4 pm downstairs in the BMU auditorium. Wright stated that we are lucky enough to have Dr.Chela Medoza Patterson. She introduced herself and said she would take over the Interim- Executive Director position soon. She just wanted to say hello and said that Wright's advising has been wonderful. She stated that working with students is one of the best gigs you can have. Wright stated she was a little scared of how they would continue with the news of Clyde moving to a temporary role, and is relieved that Patterson was who was coming back to help us. Dr. Morales introduced himself as well and said it was a privilege to work with Patterson. He said is available any time for anybody.

XI. CHAIR REPORT – Wagner said nothing to report.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

XIII.PUBLIC OPINION – Navarette is filming social media content.

XII. ADJOURNMENT – The Chair, Wagner, adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.