

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Friday, October 3, 2025

2:30 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Zion Fozo, Kureha Takayama, Gia Monticello, Tia Saunders, Matt Beale, Beatrix Teaney, Sarah Lanum

MEMBERS ABSENT – Mahraya Davis, Kaylee-McAllister Knutson, Dr. Cirilo Cortez

OTHERS PRESENT – Kendra Wright, Emily Berry (Recording), Luke Bagwell, Jasmine Saephan, Aaron Schwartz, Kendall Ross, Dr. Joseph Morales, Hugh Hammond, Charles Barsdale

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Teaney, called the meeting to order at 2:33pm
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Approval of the 10/3/25 regular meeting agenda as presented. **Motion to approve the 10/3/25 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Fozo/Lanum) 6-0-0 MSC**
Takayama said SAS was held, and Wright went on to explain that the packet is made before the meeting is held, which is why it's not listed on the agenda below.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approval of the 9/19/25 meeting minutes as presented. **Motion to approve the 9/19/25 regular meeting minutes, as presented (Takayama/Saunders) 6-0-0 MSC.**
Fozo mentioned that the minutes stated the Chabad Jewish center and if we could amend, and Teaney stated that what was said shall not be amended but context can be given later in this meeting.
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Teaney provided context for the statement the Commissioner of Legislative Affairs made in the Government Affairs Committee meeting on 9/19/2025. She stated that Matthew Carrington passed away at the Chi Tau fraternity house which was later purchased by the Chabad Jewish Student Group. The Chabad House has since been refurbished.
- VI. **PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to items on the agenda, three minutes per speaker, nine minutes for entire topic –
Aaron Schwartz introduced himself from the gallery. He wanted to address Business Item A for the consent agenda, as there is a student currently listed to be appointed to the Social Justice and Equity Committee, Talia Gelfand. Schwartz went on to say that he has had interactions with that student that do not uphold the current AS Code of Ethics. He wants to caution the members of the committee before formally appointing Gelfand. He then thanked the table for their time and hard work.
- 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: No meetings held.**
Takayama stated that SAS happened yesterday. She stated details will be shared at the upcoming GAC meeting.

VIII. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY REPORT – Action Items forwarded to the Government Affairs Committee from the Senate stand approved unless overturned by a 2/3 + 1 Committee action.

- B. Social Justice and Equity Committee
1. SJEC Actions: No meetings held.

IX. BUSINESS

A. Consent Agenda

All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and are enacted by one motion without discussion. A member of the committee who desires a separate discussion of any item may pull that item from the Consent Agenda.

2025-26 Associated Students Committee/Council Appointments

Confirmation of appointments to Social Justice and Equity Committee

- Executive Vice President Appointment: Io Loya-Gaytan
- Director of Academic Affairs Appointment: Molly Skinner
- Director of Social Justice and Equity Appointment: Savanna Dupart
- Director of Social Justice and Equity Appointment: Amari May
- ~~-Director of Social Justice and Equity Appointment: Talia Gelfand~~

Confirmation of appointments to Community Affairs Council

- Commissioner of Community Affairs Appointment: Trinity Cook
- Commissioner of Community Affairs Appointment: Blake Harris
- Commissioner of Community Affairs Appointment: Jake Barsdale
- Director of Social Justice and Equity Appointment: Jordan Johnson
- Executive Vice President Appointment: Savannah Dupart
- Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointment: Becca Gault

Confirmation of appointments to Campus Engagement Council

- Vice President of Facilities and Services Appointment: Adin White
- Commissioner of Student Engagement and Advocacy Appointment: Vincent Roberson
- Director of Social Justice and Equity Appointment: Shira Kalish

Confirmation of appointments to Sustainability Affairs Council

- Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointment: Eddie Ramirez
- Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointment: Zion Fozo
- Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointment: Bobby Gordon
- Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointment: Truman Smith
- Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointment: Nuntuchapawn Josie Klainark
- Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointment: Maya DeHoyos
- Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointment: AJ Dell'Aringa

Confirmation of appointments to Associated Students Businesses Committee

- Government Affairs Committee Appointment: Alex Lopez

Confirmation of appointments to Legislative Affairs Council

- Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointment: Aaron Schwartz
- Executive Vice President Appointment: Jose L Cruz Lopez

Confirmation of appointments to Student Academic Senate

- Director of Social Justice and Equity Appointment: Amari May

Wright provided advisement to the committee on procedural options available.

Prior to approval of the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Lanum requested to remove the line item for appointment of Talia Gelfand to the Social Justice and Equity Committee.

Approval of the Consent Agenda. **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended (Takayama/Beale) 6-0-0 MSC.**

B. Action Item: Appointment of Talia Gelfand to the Social Justice & Equity Committee on behalf of the Director of Social Justice and Equity. **Motion to postpone the appointment of Talia Gelfand to the Social Justice and Equity Committee to a future meeting. (Monticello/Fozo) 6-0-0 MSC.**

C. Information Item: Activity Fee Budget vs Actual June 2025

Teaney stated this was our final quarter of the fiscal year and this shows the Activity Fee fund broken down. This is important as GAC is the committee voting on the Activity Fee budget for the next fiscal year.

Wright commended Chair Teaney on her retention of information regarding this document as they have been reviewing it together. This document tells the story of revenue received for how the AS runs their business and summarizes expenditures per department. Our fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. Wright went on to explain that revenues is money in. Anything over 100% is good. In this case we anticipated getting \$1.6 million and we got \$1.7 million. Expenses encompass money going out. Activity Fee Other Expenses is at 88%. AF Operational Expenses spent 77.87% of their budget. Government Affairs spent 96.13%. Campus Programs refers to Child Development Lab, they spent 68.75%. Community Programs (CAVE) spent 98.42%. We anticipated spending ~\$1.9 million; we spent ~\$1.6 million, which represents 87.78% of our overall budget.

Dr. Joseph Morales entered at 3:05pm.

Fozo asked about Activity Fee General Operational Expenses and that being a negative number. Wright responded that she will return to this committee with the information as to why that is.

X. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

- A. **President Report** – Saunders reported that there will be a Town Hall on 10/29 from 11:30am-1:00pm. Know Your Resources also started. Next week there will be more videos on the AS page. There's a faculty resolution of procedures and policy and AI in the classroom. They are looking for student input. Monticello and Saunders will be going to CSSA in two weeks and will have information regarding it then. NAACP gala is tomorrow and there are tickets available.
- B. **Commissioner of Community Affairs Report** – Fozo stated no council meeting has been held yet. Transgender Task Force discussed the power of community which ended with the message: don't forget to care for each other, don't forget to say I love you.
- C. **Commissioner of Legislative Affairs Report** – Monticello wanted to remind the community about Prop 50 which authorizes temporary changes to the congressional districting in response to the Texas partisan redistricting. On October 6th there will be vote by mail ballots, October 20th is the last day to register to vote, and on November 4th the election day will happen from 7am to 8pm. Voter registration will be directly on campus and you can vote in the BMU in 203 on 11/4. Legislative Affairs Council has not met yet but is being worked on.
- D. **Commissioner of Student Engagement and Advocacy Report** – Beale stated he is waiting to have the first meeting. He will also be absent from the next GAC meeting.
- E. **Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Report** – Lanum stated the Sustainability Affairs Council meeting is in the works. The creek cleanup was inspiring as a lot of trash was picked up. There's another cleanup going on tomorrow, it's a canyon cleanup at 8:30am and the Butte Environmental Council posted it. They'll be meeting at the last parking lot before the covered bridge. There will be parking occupancy maps posted over Thanksgiving breaks.

XI. **STAFF REPORTS –**

Dr. Morales serves as University Diversity Officer and uses he/him pronouns. Alberto Ledesma visited campus. There was a keynote, lunch, and a faculty roundtable which talked about the impact of anti-ethnic studies, and anti-immigrant rhetoric on campus communities. Morales has free speech office hours every Friday or by appointment. He stated it's important to understand what your rights are. Everyone is covered by the first amendment, but hate speech is protected speech right now which means not every community is covered in the same way. The Diversity certificate program last covered anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim racism. Next week is a safe zone where you can learn about how to become an ally for the LGBTQ+ community.

Dr. Cortez sent an email to Teaney about the CCLC diversity summit this weekend. It's October 3rd-5th. Student Affairs is working to form the Student Learning Fee committee this academic year.

XII. **DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT—**

Wright wanted to share that at our next meeting she looks forward to sharing a summary that showcases the who, what, when, where, why, and how with our contract programs. Wright would also like for people to complete their Title IX training.

XIII. **CHAIR REPORT –**

Teaney stated this was another successful committee meeting and she enjoys the camaraderie present at the table. One-on-ones are also being scheduled with her commissioners. She also appreciated the public comment today. SFAC is currently hosting their workshops. This is a sustainability fund that helps fund grant ideas proposed by students. They are a year long in length up to \$5,000. The first is on the 7th, all of them except the last two are held in BMU 210. Each one after is the 9th, the 13th, the 16th, and the 20th of October. CatsConnect has information available on these. Cool Cat Closet is next Thursday. GAC is on Halloween, and she expects there to be costumes- unless people cannot dress up. She also wanted to give kudos to commissioner Lanum as she was talking to one of her last committee prospects and gave great understanding of what the role is for that student.

XIV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS—**

Lanum wanted to say thank you. She also stated it's sustainability month. They're going to be hosting Campus Sustainability Day on October 23rd from 12-4 in Colusa 100, from 11-2 clubs will be tabling. Fozo stated No Kings Bingo is this Wednesday, October 8th from 5:30-8pm, two days later is Queer Prom from 5-:30-9pm on Friday October 10th. There will also be a prom swap.

Monticello stated there's a soccer game at 4:30pm. There's 21+ activities happening at the event. Next week is also wellness week hosted by the AS. There's also an injection clinic if you have an animal from the pre-vet association on 10/6 which is on CatsConnect. Undocuweek is on the 13th potentially, bike auction on the 9th, there's also the Alpha meeting hosting Sherwin-Williams professional workshop. Dr. Morales added that faculty members in History have written an overview of free speech on campus. He encouraged people to take a look at the history on campus of students and staff mobilizing to protect their First Amendment rights.

XV. **PUBLIC OPINION—**

Charles Barsdale reiterated the importance of understanding career and financial implications of free speech.

Aaron Schwartz wanted to thank everyone for their hard work. He wanted to respond to what Takayama brought up, and wanted to encourage emailing Dr. Diana Dwyer. He also had an unrelated unknown student who came up to express his views of the same student. Saunders can also speak about her interactions with said student. He also went on to discuss Prop 50, and encouraged people to get out and vote.

Jasmine Saephan wanted to remind everyone that in addition to Wellness Week we also have a concert with Nezza on October 11th and tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. More information is on CatsConnect.

XVI. **ADJOURNMENT –** Teaney adjourned the meeting at 3:36PM.