GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Wednesday, November 16, 2022  12:30 p.m.  BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Jade Tsao, Krystal Alvarez, Josh Rubinoff, Autumn Alaniz-Wiggins, Chloe Renner, Jay Friedman, Mujtaba Azam, Gianna Echavez-LaRocca, Allison Wagner
MEMBERS ABSENT – Mary Wallmark
OTHERS PRESENT – Kendra Wright, Jon Slaughter, Karen Bang (recorder), Hugh Hammond, Curtis Sicheneder, Eliza Miller, Shar Krater, Max Cordeiro

I. CALL TO ORDER – The Chair, Tsao, called the meeting to order at 12:30 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 11/16/22 regular meeting agenda. Motion to approve the 11/16/2022 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Alvarez/Wagner) 6-0-0 MSC.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of the 11/2/22 regular meeting. Motion to approve the minutes of the 11/2/22 regular meeting, as presented (Wagner/Alvarez) 6-0-0 MSC. (Alaniz-Wiggins joined the meeting at 12:32 p.m.)

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.

A. Student Academic Senate (SAS) Committee – Wagner said Bella from KCSC attended SAS yesterday and discussed the direction that KCSC is going. SAS discussed the AS collaborating with them on a possible spring event that would include a Battle of the Solos, various college booths and clubs tabling, as well as spring election awareness information. Wagner said discussions are continuing to be held with the Graduate students and some are considering running for the HFA position.
   1. SAS Actions of 11/15/22
      a. Approved the 11/15/22 regular meeting agenda.
      b. Approved the 11/1/22 regular meeting minutes.

VIII. BUSINESS

A. Action Item: Approval of revised 2023 Associated Students Election Procedures – The date of elections was revised. Motion to approve the revised 2023 Associated Students Election Procedures, as presented (Wagner/Alaniz-Wiggins) 6-0-1 MSC.

B. Discussion Item: Max Cordeiro, EDI Coordinator for stateside Human Resources Department, regarding EDI recruitment efforts on campus – Cordeiro said he is the stateside Human Resources Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Specialist for retention and recruitment and noted that both he and this position are new to campus. He said his position is related to hiring and retaining diverse staff and faculty. He said in the HR context, they don’t tend to think too much about how that impacts student experiences or what students would like. He said he would like to gather feedback and impressions from student representatives and how they’d like to utilize a connection to HR. He asked if they were aware that HR is working towards EDI strategic goals
and also noted that there’s an office of EDI on campus for programming and policies. He explained that his position was created in the past year to work towards the strategic goals of the university related to EDI through HR processes. He said this involves hiring, recruiting and improving the culture of new hires to encourage them to stay and not leave. He asked what EDI and HR means to folks and Rubinoff said it makes sense to have an EDI person in HR since that’s where employees are hired. Rubinoff asked about his qualifications for this position and Cordeiro provided his background. Cordeiro said we need to remember Chico State is a very unique space and that he wants to create a better relationship between Chico State, Chico and Butte County. He wants new employees to be prepared for the Chico experience. Alaniz-Wiggins said she discussed with Cordeiro collaborating together, noting this goes back to the Hot Chocolate and Hot Topics concept of asking students what they want on this campus. She said HR knows what positions are needed at Chico State, but then there’s what students actually want. She suggested the AS do another version of Hot Chocolate and Hot Topics, asking students what positions they would like to see here on campus. Cordeiro said a difficulty with his position is that HR is very data driven but what gets lost is how it impacts the student experience; what they need and what they’re asking for. He said he’s hoping the AS can help gather information from other students and he can report back to this committee on how HR is seeing EDI work. He said he can also provide data regarding problem areas on campus. Cordeiro explained the yearly Affirmative Action Plan report and noted campus isn’t hiring diverse candidates. He said key roles or support mechanisms that Alaniz-Wiggins brought to his attention is that a lot of folks have been asking for more diversity in terms of counselors, especially for those that may be experiencing racial tension or racial hatred on campus. Rubinoff said the GE lectures area is an area that needs diverse lectures. Echavez-LaRocca said our counseling system is geared more towards mental health issues and doesn’t address racial tension/diversity on campus. Cordeiro said he’s not sure if there are folks on campus that are qualified or feel comfortable working through those issues, and doesn’t think that space is diverse enough in terms of staff to be able to provide that support. He also noted that folks on campus don’t know of safe spaces on campus. Cordeiro explained that this campus community won’t dramatically change for a while due to a hiring slow down. In terms of their strategic goals, he said they’re aiming for a 1% diversity increase each year and that Chico State will be a predominantly white campus for a while. He said his passion with this work is to also make sure the white people on this campus aren’t letting all the work on this campus fall on people of color. He said he’s promoting more educational programming for staff and faculty regarding EDI policies and concepts through different EDI spaces. He said he would appreciate the committee sharing their concerns with him so he can broaden the entire campus cultural competency and would like to meet with GAC again.

IX. Elected Representatives Reports – Alaniz-Wiggins said black student, staff and faculty had a roundtable at the President’s Mansion recently and focused on really showing up for Black History Month in February. She said the CCLC doesn’t feel supported by the AS in terms of CCLC events as we aren’t showing up in a timely manner or marketing for them. She reminded that we need to remain connected with the CCLC at all times, not just during Black History Month. She suggested stopping by to say hi and asking how we can support them. Alaniz-Wiggins said the De-Stress Fest will be catered and the Nope movie premiere will be held soon. She said the clothing swap continues through tomorrow. • Alvarez said she would be sending a document to everyone in December, giving them an opportunity to send a brief description of why they’d like to sit on the Presidential Search Committee. She reviewed the requirements as well as the schedule of meetings and interviews.

X. Staff Reports – Wright summarized the email she sent to the student representatives late yesterday, noting the intent is to have them review their duties and provide any updates or revisions. She said an additional line would be added to everyone’s duties regarding support of the First Year Leadership Opportunity (FLO) Program. Wright said a connection coordinator for that area will be joining the AS soon and explained the program. Revisions to job duties are to be submitted to Wright and Bang by 5 p.m. on 11/28/22.

XI. Chair Report – Tsao had no report.

XII. Announcements – Alvarez said Happy Wednesday.

XIII. Public Opinion – None

XII. Adjournment – The Chair, Tsao, adjourned the meeting at 1:09 p.m.