

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Friday, March 13, 2026

3:00 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Gia Monticello, Kureha Takayama, Beatrix Teaney, Sarah Lanum, Zion Fozo, Shari Anderson, Kaylee McAllister-Knutson,

MEMBERS ABSENT – Tia Saunders, Mahraya Davis, Dr. Cirillo Cortez, Dr. Joseph Morales

OTHERS PRESENT – Eliza Miller (recording) Jon Simmons, Kendra Wright, Hugh Hammond, Kim Canisso, Madi Sunderman, Natalie Norton, Chase Weiland, Dr. Steve Perez, Ashley Gebb, Brooke McCall, Luke Bagwell, Andrew Ly, Richard Oliver, Katey VonMosch, Briar Briggs, Aubrie Norton, Alisyn Diaz, Hector Perez, Zanuvar Vaishnav, Alyssa Reynoso, Cherie Higgs.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Teaney, called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Approval of the 3/13/26 regular meeting agenda as presented. **Motion to approve the 3/13/26 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Lanum/Takayama) 4-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approval of the 2/27/26 regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion to approve the 2/27/26 regular meeting minutes, as presented (Fozo/Lanum) 4-0-0 MSC.**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None
- VI. **PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to items on the agenda, three minutes per speaker, nine minutes for entire topic – None.
- VII. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS** – *Action Items forwarded to the Government Affairs Committee from the standing committees stand approved unless overturned by a 2/3 + 1 Committee action.*
 - A. Student Academic Senate Committee
 1. SAS Actions of 2/27/26 – Takayama reviewed the SAS actions of February 27. SAS meeting; briefly shared the degree planner presentation at the SAS on February 27.
 - a. Approval of 2/27/26 Student Academic Senate Agenda
 - b. Approval of 2/13/26 Student Academic Senate Minutes
 - B. Social Justice and Equity Committee
 1. SJEC Actions of 3/3/26
 - a. Approval of 3/3/26 Social Justice and Equity Committee Agenda
 - b. Approval of 2/3/26 Social Justice and Equity Committee Minutes
 - c. Approval of the Pride Flag in the BMU Memorandum
 - d. Approval of up to \$1,000 allocation to support the Global Student Society International Prom event
- VIII. **BUSINESS**
 - A. Information Item: Chico State Community Agreements presentation with President Perez - University President, Steve Perez, introduced the Chico State Community Agreements to the Committee. He discussed the origin and intention of the agreements. He emphasized the importance of the agreements' pillars in how the campus community treats one another: Respect, Empathy, and Integrity. He shared his own commitment to the agreements and asked for accountability from all. He opened the floor to the committee for any

questions. Teaney asked if, since the Government Affairs teams rotate out each year, future teams would have this same opportunity to hear about these agreements. President Perez said he would bring this to future teams if they are interested. Monticello shared that this agreement was also presented to GAC last year. Fozo asked if these agreements are presented to new incoming students. Chief of Staff Ashley Gebb shared that they are working on a video for Orientations. Fozo asked what the process is for updating or changing the language. President Perez shared that that would be a discussion when someone has something they would like to change. The committee expressed agreement with the document's sentiments, and Chair Teaney signed the agreement on behalf of the Government Affairs Committee.

B. Information Item: 2025-2026 Associated Students Committee/Council Appointments – Resignations

Resignation from Sustainability Affairs Council

-Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointment: Alex Thomas-Rochin

C. 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 appointment to Sustainability Affairs Council

Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointment: AJ Dellaringa

Approval of the Consent Agenda. **Action Requested: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. (Fozo/Lanum) No vote taken**

- D. Information Item: Presentation from CAVE – The CAVE leadership team presented on their program. They shared that they are a program that offers students opportunities to volunteer on campus and in the Chico Community. CAVE is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, having been founded in 1966 by the then-AS President. They shared that approximately 500+ volunteers are overseen annually by student staff and interns. They shared the different experiences offered by their program, from semester-long programs like Tutoring or Adopt-a-Park, to single-day “Weekend Wildcat” projects. They also shared the benefits to students who volunteer through CAVE, such as skill development, connections, and experience that may help them find a job after college. CAVE Program Director Katey VonMosch reviewed actual statistics for 2024-2025, including 641 total volunteers who provided 12,682 service hours for the academic year. She discussed their current funding levels and outlined some aspirations for the next 60 years. She shared that all of their volunteer programs are full each semester, but they would like to expand to offer more opportunities. She expressed a desire to address equity gaps among their student participants through scholarships or other financial assistance, noting that, as the economy has changed, it has become increasingly difficult for students to afford to volunteer. Takayama asked if students were getting units for participating in CAVE. VonMosch clarified that some roles do earn an academic unit for participating in a semester-long program, and that the unit can be waived in cases where it might actually be detrimental to the student to earn it.

Student Director Briar Briggs shared the event details for the upcoming CAVE event, Cats in the Community, and encouraged all to register to attend.

- E. Discussion Item: Student Organization Event Allocation Fund (SOEAF) Policy revision – Teaney reviewed the proposed changes to the SOEAF policy. She shared that the original intent of this funding was to support student clubs hosting events when they have limited funding. She shared that previously, this funding was only available for on-campus events. One of the primary changes removes that restriction, allowing funding for off-campus events to be approved. She also shared that she is proposing to raise the funding ceiling from \$3,000 to \$3,500 per event. She is proposing to cap the total for groups hosting multiple events at \$7,000 per semester. Monticello asked whether this proposed change could also raise equity concerns, as the proposed increase in the cap for individual events could result in fewer groups being funded because more money is being spent per event. McAllister-Knutson shared that the range of amounts varies wildly and can be as little as \$200 for a single event. She doesn't feel they are having major issues with individual clubs using too much, and wouldn't want funds to go unused if nobody else is using them. McAllister-Knutson expressed significant concern about allowing SOEAF funding to be used for off-campus events, citing a lack of campus support or regulation for such events, as well as transportation challenges when SOEAF-funded events must be open to all students. She also expressed concerns about the administrative workload associated with the proposed changes, noting that she feared it may result in greater frustration for student

organizations. Monticello also shared concerns about student funds being used for events that weren't accessible to all. Lanum asked whether it could be incorporated that off-campus events must still take place in Chico to keep them more accessible. Teaney shared that she and Director Wright have been discussing a similar concept. Fozo stated that she would like to affirm the proposed changes from an equity lens. She expressed that funds could still be misused under the current policy. Simmons pointed out how moving events off campus could also impact the operational budgets internal to the AS, like reductions in events using AS Catering, which is now one of the primary uses of SOEAF funding. Teaney expressed that at this stage, it's hard to say how many events would choose to move off campus, given the additional requirements, and many would still opt to hold on-campus events. Anderson pointed out that to hold off-campus events, clubs would be required to provide liability insurance, which they likely don't have. Takayama asked if AS Catering could be used off campus. Simmons shared that they have recently started providing catering for off-campus events. Teaney reviewed additional proposed changes, including written justification for any denied funding applications, prohibited uses of funds, and a clause stating that anything purchased with approved funds becomes the property of the Student Organization. Teaney shared that she hopes to bring this back for some more discussion after making adjustments based on the committee's feedback.

IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

- A. President Report – Saunders was absent
- B. Commissioner of Community Affairs Report – Fozo shared that she is currently serving on the Time Capsule Ceremony planning committee. She encouraged everyone to come up with something to put in the time capsule as a team. She shared that she will be volunteering at CAVE's Cats in the Community event and concluded her report by expressing her appreciation for CAVE and all they do.
- C. Commissioner of Legislative Affairs Report – Monticello shared that she just joined a new committee. She will be attending CSSA's CHESS conference with a small group of other Elected Reps and Council Members, and she's excited to report on how the conference goes.
- D. Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Report – Lanum reported that they met quorum at their last meeting, and they discussed a resolution that will be coming to GAC. The Sustainability Affairs Council also discussed planning a Sustainability Summit in April. She also invited the members of GAC to an upcoming luncheon discussing sustainability with a couple of folks from the chancellor's office.

X. STAFF REPORTS – McAllister-Knutson wished everyone a happy spring break. Anderson shared that Gia is attending Hill Week with the alumni office.

XI. DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT— Wright shared that the WLC Office Coordinator is out of the office until the end of March. She explained that the GAC schedule after spring break will be to approve the budget between March 27 and April 17. She shared that the Pass the Gavel ceremony will take place on April 10.

XII. CHAIR REPORT – Teaney thanked everyone for the discussion about the SOEAF revisions. She also shared that Tia will be chairing on March 27th.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS— Fozo said: "VOTE in the AS General." Takayama shared a couple of club events, including the International Prom and the Enchanted Forest. Lanum shared This Way to Resilience on March 27. Simmons shared that budget season is coming up. Teaney shared that the GSEC Drag and Burlesque Show was a huge success.

XIV. PUBLIC OPINION— none

XV. ADJOURNMENT – Teaney adjourned the meeting at 4:36 pm