

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Friday, March 27, 2026

3:00 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Tia Saunders, Kureha Takayama, Gia Monticello, Mahraya Davis, Zion Fozo, Sarah Lanum, Shari Anderson, Kaylee McAllister-Knutson, Dr. Cirillo Cortez, Dr. Joseph Morales

MEMBERS ABSENT – Beatrix Teaney (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT – Eliza Miller (recording), Jon Simmons, Kendra Wright, Ben Spiess, Brooke McCall, Katey VonMosch, Katrina Leach, Jasmine Saephan, Natalie Norton, Chase Weiland, Kendall Ross,

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Vice Chair, Saunders, called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Approval of the 3/27/26 regular meeting agenda as presented. **Motion to approve the 3/27/26 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Takayama/Fozo) 5-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approval of the 3/13/26 regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion to approve the 3/13/26 regular meeting minutes, as presented (Lanum/Monticello) 4-0-1 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 3/13/26
 - a. Approval of 3/13/26 Student Academic Senate Agenda
 - b. Approval of 2/27/26 Student Academic Senate Minutes
Takayama reported on the action taken at the March 13th SAS Meeting and reviewed the discussion topics, including GPA scales.
 - B. Social Justice and Equity Committee
 1. No Meeting Held – No report.
- VIII. **BUSINESS**
 - A. Information Item: Activity Fee Budget Preview – Wright reviewed the upcoming budget process. She reviewed the areas that are overseen by the Activity Fee, which will fall under the budget approved by this committee. She shared the fundamental concepts of budgeting, such as fixed expenses, and the impacts of factors like inflation on the budgeting process. Monticello asked if the B-line allocation from the AS will change as a result of the B-line moving to electric buses. She also asked whether the buses' power source was sustainable. Simmons shared that conversations have been happening, and there isn't a final answer. He also clarified that the chargers run off the local grid using PG&E power. Wright reviewed the current contract program allocations under the existing AS Services Agreement. **Monticello left the room at 3:29 pm.** She reviewed the concept of budget revisions and shared the process that will come before this committee for revisions to this year's budget and budgeting for next year. **Monticello returned to the room at 3:30 pm.** Davis inquired if the enrollment number used to create the

budget for the upcoming year is an actual count or a projection. Wright clarified that it is a projection from the Enrollment Office. Dr. Cortez shared that the enrollment continues to trend higher. Wright shared that, because it is an estimate, they tend to budget for the most conservative enrollment estimate to avoid falling short. Wright requested that the team take time to closely review the proposed budget when it is distributed and engage at the upcoming meetings to ensure that their feedback is taken into consideration when the budget is approved. She concluded by reviewing the timeline of the budget approval process. **Davis left the room at 3:51 pm.**

- B. Discussion Item: Student Organization Event Allocation Fund (SOEAF) - Fozo shared a brief note on behalf of EVP Teaney, who was unable to attend the meeting. The proposed changes from Teaney involve striking the proposed change to allow off-campus events. One proposed change was to reinsert "On-Campus" after activities under Section II. Purpose, and to combine Items H and I, creating one line that states events must be hosted on campus and be free and open to all students. McAllister-Knutson shared that item E has a redundant second sentence, which should be removed or combined with another line. **Davis returned to the room at 3:55 pm.** Takayama asked McAllister-Knutson if she had more information about how the funds have been utilized this year and last year to help the committee make an informed decision. McAllister-Knutson shared that she and EVP Teaney discussed utilization when the original revisions were proposed, adding that only two clubs exceeded the \$ 3,000 limit. Takayama shared that she would like to see those numbers at GAC before they vote on these changes. McAllister-Knutson shared that she will be giving a presentation at GAC later this semester with a breakdown of the events funded. She added that with these new proposed changes and expansions of what funding can be used for, the trends of SOEAF usage will completely change, so past insight might not be as helpful going forward. Fozo shared that she sees two key advantages to the proposed amendments J and K. She specifically noted that the ability to retain the items or equipment they purchase through SOEAF funding can be an investment in the club. Takayama posed the challenge of storing purchased equipment for a club, as most clubs lack storage space. McAllister-Knutson echoed that club storage is an overarching issue for clubs. Davis asked McAllister-Knutson what the proposed changes look like for SLL, as they administer the fund. McAllister-Knutson shared that the type of work SLL is doing will change a little, but largely this will require greater effort on the clubs' part due to the breadth of spending options. SLL will be able to pay for fewer purchases directly on behalf of the club, as they do now for invoices like AS Catering. Fozo inquired about item F, covering written reasons for funding application rejections. McAllister-Knutson shared that this does already happen, and is rare due to the process clubs undergo to access funding. Wright clarified that SOEAF funding is intended to be event-based, and general club supplies would be more appropriate for Revenue Sharing. Dr. Cortez expressed his appreciation to the committee for a thoughtful discussion of this topic and its impacts.

IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

- A. President Report – Saunders shared that she and a group of students just returned from CHESS at the state capitol, where they lobbied legislators on behalf of the CSU. She also shared that she is part of the Executive Director Search Committee.
- B. Commissioner of Community Affairs Report – Fozo shared that Tuesday, March 31st, is United Farmworkers Day, and even though the Cats in the Community Event is not happening on that specific day, there are many volunteering opportunities with CAVE throughout April. She shared that the Time Capsule Ceremony is on April 21st and encouraged everyone to put something in before it is buried.
- C. Commissioner of Legislative Affairs Report – Monticello also discussed CHESS, sharing that they met with reps from the offices of James Galliger and Heather Hadwick, and met with Megan Dahle. She also shared that CSSA is supporting SB1006 and AB 2236, Legislation impacting financial aid for California low-income students and the agreements between Community Colleges and public 4-year institutions. She also shared that CSSA voted to form an endowment to allow free registration to plenary, CHESS and CSUnity for two student reps per campus.
- D. Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Report – Lanum shared that she met with two reps from the Office of Sustainability at the Chancellor's Office. They discussed alternative transportation and food waste diversion.

- X. **STAFF REPORTS** – **McAllister-Knutson** shared that all of the SOEAF funding for the year has been allocated. She will present details on those allocations at a future meeting. She reminded everyone that next Wednesday is Wildcat Wednesday. SLL is hosting its annual awards ceremony on May 7th. **Anderson** shared the new poster for Wildcat Spirit Week. **Dr. Cortez** shared that enrollment is trending upwards, which is positive for Campus. He shared that Student Affairs is currently engaged in safety planning for the upcoming weekend. He asked everyone to be safe and take care of each other. They are working with WellCat Prevention, FSL, and SLL to pass out water, test strips and

other supplies to help keep students safe over the weekend. He also shared that they are recruiting for a new TRIO Director.

Dr. Morales reported on the Diversity Certificate program. He shared that for the last two years they have been focusing on Jewish and Muslim Identities. The next session is on April 10th. He also shared Conversations on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion on April 23rd, where they will discuss the university's most famous free speech crisis 60 years ago, as well as academic freedom and free speech. He thanked Director Davis for her wonderful speech at the recent unveiling of the public art installation on the Meriam Library facing Trinity Commons. He shared that the campus is currently undergoing assessment for the Seal of Excelencia.

XI. DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT— Wright yielded her time.

XII. CHAIR REPORT – Saunders read a written report on behalf of EVP Teaney. In the written report, Teaney shared that she recently received inquiries from students regarding EO 1068 from the Chancellor's Office, specifically the 150-unit cap for students pursuing leadership roles.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS—Fozo announced Speech Night on April 9th. Davis announced Monday is the general meeting for QTPOCS. DR. Cortez shared that the Hall of Fame inductees have been selected and will be inducted in May.

XIV. PUBLIC OPINION— Kendall Ross encouraged all students to be safe this weekend and take care of each other.

XV. ADJOURNMENT – Saunders adjourned the meeting at 4:38 pm.