

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

2:30 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Jade Tsao, Chloe Renner, Gianna Echavez-LaRocca, Kaylee McAllister-Knutson, Josh Rubinoff, Autumn Alaniz-Wiggins, Krystal Alvarez

MEMBERS ABSENT – Allison Wagner (excused), Mujtaba Azam (unexcused), Jay Friedman

OTHERS PRESENT – Kendra Wright, Lexi Extein (recorder), Shar Krater, Curtis Sicheneder, Karen Bang

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Tsao, called the meeting to order at 2:30 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 3/8/23 regular meeting agenda. **Motion to approve the 3/8/2023 regular meeting agenda, as amended (Rubinoff/Renner) 5-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the 2/22/2023 regular meeting. **Motion to approve the minutes of the 2/8/23 regular meeting, as presented (Alaniz-Wiggins/Renner) 5-0-0 MSC.**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None
- VI. **PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to items on the agenda, three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic –
- 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 - Absent

VIII. BUSINESS

- A. Information Item: Revisions to Associated Students Corporate Codes:
 - Duties for Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs.
 - Duties for Director of Academic Affairs.
 - Duties for Executive Vice President.
 - Duties for College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Senator.
 - Duties for College of Business Senator.
 - Duties for College of Natural Sciences Senator.

Wright explained that the positions listed above have suggested changes to their duties. They need to be updated as some show a committee that doesn't exist, still existing. Bang has made updates that reflect the changes Wright said she discussed with each member in one-on-one meetings.

Wright believes that Bang shared these edits with each member and they responded that they agreed with the changes. McAllister-Knutson inquired on if the duties that were being removed were replaced by other duties in their place. Wright said yes, but that it varies by position.

- IX. **ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS** – Rubinoff said they just attended CHES Conference this past weekend. He is going to go in depth about legislation that was discussed. He met with Senator Dahle's office and Assemblyman Gallagher. CSSA co-sponsorship position on two pieces of legislation; Assembly Bill 789 would make the CSU system meet the federal standards on satisfactory academic

process. He explains that if a student is on academic probation, they can lose their scholarship if they're below a 2.0 GPA in the CSU system. Federally this is a 1.7 GPA for the same consequences. The CSU system has above the federal standard for SAP's which means people that are outside the CSU system do not. The issue lies in the fact those losing financial aid for unsatisfactory academic progress are those who are being marginalized. As an example, those with dependents. Removing the extra barriers will help those marginalized groups. He states the second bill that we have taken a co-sponsorship on is Assembly Bill 1160, which is an existing law which requires institutions to withhold diplomas from graduating students who have institutional debt. Rubinoff said people should be able to graduate even if they have a \$30 book fee. Assembly 135 prevents student loan borrowers in the state of California from being taxed on amounts cancelled by student loan debt. This means if the Biden Administration student loan forgiveness is passed, Californian's would not be taxed on it. Assembly Bill 274 would make it so that scholarships don't count as income when applying to CalWORKs and CalFresh because they currently do. Assembly Bill 311 and Senate Bill 245 which are identical bills in different houses that make it so your immigration status does not make you ineligible for CalFresh. Assembly Bill 656 would allow CSU's to offer doctoral programs. Currently, doctoral programs are only offered by the CSU's if dual-program with a UC campus. CSU's are not allowed to offer doctoral programs if they are not already being offered at UC programs. Assembly Bill 1142 would reestablish the California post-secondary of education commission which used to exist in 2011. California is one of two states that does not have a commission for communication between higher education institutions. Senate Bill 260 would include under CalWORKs menstrual products, diapers, and transportation costs. Senate Bill 808 which as Chico State we are backing due to it being related to safety and Title 9. They have decided to push this when speaking to representatives, as it requires each President or Vice Chancellor to approve all sexual harassment settlements, require a report to legislature on the number of sexual harassment cases every year, and prohibit retreat rights for President, Provost and Senior Administrators. McAllister-Knutson spoke on Kate Spade and how it was revealed that she didn't graduate from ASU because of a \$30 book fee. McAllister-Knutson said it's cool they're addressing these things now. • Renner reported that she has been working with Joe Dorgali and O.P.S. to plan an event for March 29th to get interest for Quiz the Candidates and to make sure people know to vote in the election. They will table with coffee and donuts at Trinity Commons from 10-12pm on the 29th to spread this information. • Echavez-LaRocca said that Sustainability Affairs had their first meeting, it went well, and they went over Robert's Rules. She stated their next meeting will be Thursday following Spring Break. They will be working on what they're planning for Earth Day coming up. • Alvarez said early today she met with President Hutchinson, Academic Senate Chair Dr. Paiva and Jay Friedman in Sacramento advocating on behalf of Chico State. They discussed initiatives that arose during CSSA and CHESS with Senator Dahle, Assemblyman Gallagher, and Assemblywoman Dahle. Alaniz-Wiggins reported they have having their meetings and are working with the Cross-Cultural Leadership Center for Women's Month which is focusing on women of color this year. She will continue to work on altering the budget rules to help EDI clubs more.

- X. STAFF REPORTS** – Wright said we are in full swing for election period for the '23-'24 term, and tomorrow is candidate orientation where they declare what position they're running for. She asked those that are currently in the seat to attend Meet the Candidates on Wednesday March 22nd out on Trinity at 11 a.m. where there will also be free food. Quiz the Candidates is March 29th in BMU 203 at 4 p.m. Election Extravaganza is the large-scale event out on Trinity/Glenn lawns, encouraging students to vote and providing additional opportunity for student organizations to recruit. April 4th is voting day. All AS employees are invited to May 4th VIP appreciation event. This is the Associated Student's way to show appreciation for all AS students and she is hopeful that all the representatives can join. It will be three hours, from 1-4 p.m. to accommodate class schedules by being drop-in. Hooper will send an Outlook request to all members to remind them of event.
- XI. CHAIR REPORT** – Tsao has sent out email to all contract program coordinators, about the annual contract program overview to gauge the student experience. She has heard back from Community Legal Information Clinic and she has invited them to attend to speak at an upcoming GAC meeting.
- XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Alvarez said happy Wednesday.

XIII. PUBLIC OPINION - Limited to three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic – None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT – The Chair, Tsao, adjourned the meeting at 2:44 p.m.