

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Friday, April 10, 2026

3:00 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Beatrix Teaney, Tia Saunders, Kureha Takayama, Mahraya Davis, Zion Fozo, Sarah Lanum, Kaylee McAllister-Knutson, Gia Monticello

MEMBERS ABSENT – Dr. Cirillo Cortez, Dr. Joseph Morales, Shari Anderson

OTHERS PRESENT – Eliza Miller (recording), Ben Spiess, Katrina Leach, Jon Simmons, Kendra Wright, Luke Bagwell, Katey Von Mosch, Natalie Norton, Jackie Hansen, Windy VanDam, Anna Paladini, Kendall Ross

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Teaney, called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Approval of the 4/10/26 regular meeting agenda as presented. **Motion to approve the 4/10/26 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Fozo/Lanum) 6-0-0 MSC. Roll Call Vote: Saunders: Yes, Takayama: Yes, Davis: Yes, Fozo: Yes, Monticello: Yes, Lanum: Yes.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - No minutes to approve
- 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. No Meeting Held- Takayama reported that they held a meeting today, and she will report next GAC on that content.
 - B. Social Justice and Equity Committee
 1. No Meeting Held – Davis reported that her next meeting is on Tuesday.
- VIII. **BUSINESS**
 - A. Action Item: Revisions to Student Academic Senate Code. **Motion to approve Revisions to Student Academic Senate Code, as presented (Lanum/Saunders) Davis left the meeting at 3:08 pm** Fozo shared encouragement with Takayama for her hard work on the proposed changes. **Davis re-entered the meeting at 3:09. 6-0-0 MSC Roll Call Vote: Saunders: Yes, Takayama: Yes, Davis: Yes, Fozo: Yes, Monticello: Yes, Lanum: Yes.**
 - B. Discussion Item: Activity Fee Budget (including Capital Expenditures), estimated results 2025-26 and proposed budget 2026-27 - Wright reviewed the estimated results from 25-26 and proposed budget for 26-27. She began by reviewing key points that informed the creation of this proposed budget, including headcount, the amount of the Activity Fee, the CPI estimate and its impact on projected costs, and the needs of the programs under the Activity Fee. Wright reviewed income numbers, including projected

income for the 25-26 budget, and the estimated income for 26/27. **Monticello left the meeting at 3:33 p.m.** The estimated income for 25-26 is \$1,954,976, and the projected income for 26/27 is \$2,350,059. Wright reviewed the University Service Fee/expenses, which include costs to CSE, a custodial fee to the VPBF office, and campus IT charges. Estimated service fees for 25/26 are \$52,914 and projected for 26-27 are \$54,122. Wright reviewed the Corporate Services costs, which encompass Financial Services, Administration and HR, the AS IT office, and corporate services depreciation. Estimated results for 25-26 are \$439,242 and projected for 26-27 are \$490,251. Wright reviewed the Activity Fee Operational costs, which include expenses such as insurance, equipment, utilities, custodial reimbursements, and bank charges. The estimated results for 25-26 are \$188,428, and the projected results for 26-27 are \$261,016. This difference is due to the AS Programs Director position being vacant for most of 25-26, but now being filled, and thus reflected in the budget for 26-27. She reviewed the Government Affairs budget, which includes administration, scholarships for Elected Representatives, Elected Representatives' budgets, and the AS Elections budget. Estimated results for 25-26 are \$606,491, and the projected budget for 26-27 is \$737,814. She shared that the increase is due to several factors, including additional CSSA travel during the 26-27 period, budgeting for a new platform for board management, and a new professional staff position to support the program. Teaney asked for clarification about the staff already covered under the government affairs budget, and why the Student Involvement Supervisor position sits within the Government Affairs budget specifically. Leach clarified that, on the back end, this allocation makes the most sense to come from the same budget as Government Affairs, and that the arrangement results from the program evolving over the years, but she acknowledged that it could be confusing. Wright clarified that the Involvement Program position helps educate and connect students with leadership opportunities in the AS, such as Government Affairs and CAVE. Wright reviewed the annual program allocations, including Revenue Sharing, Social Justice & Equity, and Traditional Programming, noting that \$30,000 is available in this budget area for the GAC to allocate. Wright reviewed the estimated and proposed budget for the CDL; the estimated results are \$299,600, and the projected budget for 26-27 is \$402,175, sharing that the difference is due to adjustments to this year's budget based on available grant funding. Wright reviewed the estimated and proposed budgets for CAVE, with estimated results for 25-26 at \$293,048 and the proposed budget for 26-27 at \$328,410. Wright reviewed the summary, revised \$1,954,976, and proposed \$2,350,059 for 26-27. Wright shared that there is a \$30,000 allocation that GAC can decide how to allocate within the proposed budget. Saunders shared that she would like to allocate \$12,000 to the CCLC to support their Diversity Summit. She also proposed a \$10,000 one-time allocation to GSEC and \$8,000 to the Counseling Training Center (CTC), which offers free mental health services and MFT student training. She hopes that the funding could help them make some improvements to their space, as they are a program that doesn't often receive outside funding. Teaney Shared that Commissioner Fozo had also discussed a \$10,000 allocation to GSEC with her. Fozo shared that, in addition to GSEC, she would also like to allocate additional funding to CLIC. Director Takayama shared that she would like to consider a \$3,000 allocation to International Education (IEGE) to help international students purchase basic household items like utensils and pillows, as international students often don't have these items when they first move to the US and have less financial assistance available to them due to their status. Davis shared that she would also like to allocate funds to GSEC and agreed to the already-proposed amount of \$10,000. Lanum also agreed on the GSEC allocation and expressed that she liked Takayama's suggestion as well. The group settled on \$10,000 to GSEC, \$12,000 to CCLC, \$4,000 to CTC, and \$4,000 to IEGE.

- C. Information Item: Student Life & Leadership Presentation – McAllister-Knutson reviewed the SOEAF Process that students complete to receive event funding. She reviewed usage data for SOEAF funding from 2025-26, noting that they approved 38 events, 22 of which were culturally relevant, an overall increase of 52% in events funded and a 100% increase in cultural events hosted with SOEAF. Due to time, the Chair, Teaney, called for a **Motion to suspend the rules and adjourn the meeting at 4:30pm (Fozo/Lanum) 4-1-0 MSC.**

IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

- A. President Report – Saunders
- B. Commissioner of Community Affairs Report – Fozo
- C. Commissioner of Legislative Affairs Report – Monticello
- D. Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Report – Lanum

~~X. STAFF REPORTS — McAllister Knutson~~

~~Dr. Cortez~~

~~XI. DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT — Wright~~

~~XII. CHAIR REPORT — Teaney~~

~~XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS —~~

~~XIV. PUBLIC OPINION —~~

~~XV. ADJOURNMENT —~~