

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Friday, April 17, 2026

3:00 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Beatrix Teaney, Tia Saunders, Kureha Takayama, Mahraya Davis, Sarah Lanum, Kaylee McAllister-Knutson, Dr. Cirillo Cortez

MEMBERS ABSENT – Dr. Joseph Morales, Shari Anderson, Gia Monticello, Zion Fozo

OTHERS PRESENT – Eliza Miller (recording), Ben Spiess, Kendra Wright, Luke Bagwell, Chase Weiland, Gianna Gonzales, Windy Van Dam, Katrina Leach, Kendall Ross, Katey VonMosch, Brooke McCall, Natalie Norton, Chris Hutton.

- 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 4/17/26 regular meeting agenda as presented. **Motion to approve the 4/17/26 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Takayama/Saunders) 4-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Approval of the 4/3/26 and 4/10/26 regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion to approve the 4/3/26 and 4/10/26 regular meeting minutes, as presented (Saunders/Takayama) 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 4/10/26
 - a. Approval of 4/10/26 Student Academic Senate Agenda
 - b. Approval of 3/27/26 Student Academic Senate MinutesTakayama reviewed the actions from the 4/10 SAS meeting and shared some of the discussions, including transfer student support.
 - B. Social Justice and Equity Committee
 1. SJEC Actions of 4/14/26
 - a. Approval of 4/14/26 Social Justice and Equity Committee Agenda
 - b. Approval of 3/3/26 Social Justice and Equity Committee MinutesDavis reviewed the actions from the 4/14/26 SJEC meeting and shared that the committee decided to distribute three allocations to recognized student organizations to help them get established. Awards will be in the amounts of \$3,500, \$1,000, and \$500
- VIII. **BUSINESS**
 - A. Action Item: Approval of Activity Fee Budget (including Capital Expenditures, estimated results 2025-26 and proposed budget 2026-27. **Motion to approve Activity Fee Budget (including Capital Expenditures).**

estimated results 2025-26 and proposed budget 2026-27, as presented (Takayama/Lanum). Teaney shared that this approval would be based on the presentation at the 4/10/26 GAC meeting. 4-0-0MSC.

- B. Discussion Item: Resolution for Waste Disposal Education and Improving Sustainable Practices On Campus – Lanum reviewed the proposed resolution and gave some context as to why she has brought it to the GAC, citing ongoing recycling contamination across campus, and lack of awareness of reusable options for to-go containers and drinkware. Teaney shared a statement of support for the resolution's content on behalf of Commissioner Fozo, who was unable to attend the meeting. Wright shared that the titles of the AS Businesses Committee and the AS Facilities Committee needed corrections before this resolution was approved. Wright also reviewed the lifecycle of this resolution, authored by Lanum with support from the Sustainability Affairs Council, which will ultimately be adopted when GAC makes its revisions and votes on it. Takayama asked what methods would be used to educate students about sorting their recycling. Lanum clarified that when she discussed this resolution with Tom Rider, they thought signage would be the primary means. Takayama asked how success would be measured. Lanum shared that campus waste audit data before and after signage implementation could provide useful data.
- C. Information item: Activity Fee Fund Capital Expenditure Reports for quarter ending 3/31/26. – Teaney shared that zero capital expenditures were planned or expensed during this quarter.
- D. Information item: Student Organization Event Allocation Fund Annual Update- McAllister-Knutson continued her presentation from the previous meeting, which was cut short due to time. She reviewed the participant info from all the SOEAF-funded events in 25-26. She shared that, with five funded events remaining, attendance at SOEAF-funded events is already 16% higher than last year's total attendance. She shared a breakdown of where SOEAF funds are being spent, with 70% of allocated funding going to catering for events through AS Catering. She also shared data on where these events are being hosted, with 30% taking place in the BMU. She shared the most attended event at the time of the presentation: Pride Festival, with 216 attendees, and pointed out that all the most attended events on the list were held outside. She concluded by sharing that, going forward, she would like to present earlier in the year to help the GAC understand how the funds are being used, enabling them to make more informed decisions as SOEAF evolves.

IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

- A. President Report – Saunders shared that Commissioner Monticello is on her way back from Hill Week in DC. Saunders shared that the AS Executive Director search is wrapping up with the final candidate on campus today. She shared that the next CSSA is coming up and asked the GAC members to share any desired advocacy with her.
- B. Commissioner of Community Affairs Report – Teaney shared a report on behalf of Fozo, who is competing in speech and debate. Fozo wrote that Community Affairs meetings are wrapped up for the year and expressed her pride in SAC and GAC for their work on the resolution.
- C. Commissioner of Legislative Affairs Report – Teaney shared a report on behalf of Monticello, who is on her way back from Hill week. Monticello's report included a brief update on her lobbying at Hill Week in DC and an update on the CSSA Finance Committee's work to create an endowment to fund CSSA attendance for two reps per campus.
- D. Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Report – Lanum reported on the Gateway to Sustainability event, which took place yesterday. She shared that they will debrief the event feedback at their final SAC meeting on Tuesday.

- X. **STAFF REPORTS –**McAllister-Knutson shared that spirit week is next week. She also thanked Director Davis for the SJEC committee for creating the SLL awards to help support student organizations on campus. Dr. Cortez shared that the Asian market is today on the Kendall lawn. He also announced the student leadership awards on May 8th.

- XI. **DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT—** Wright thanked the table for their thoughtful conversations around the budget. She shared that the government affairs staff hosted an orientation for the incoming team. Finally, she shared that next week's GAC meeting is the final one of the year. She also reminded the elected students that the AS-funded regalia for all graduating AS student staff and interns is now available from the Wildcat Store.

- XII. CHAIR REPORT** – Teaney thanked Commissioner Lanum for her work on the resolution. She shared that she is also participating in the Executive Director search, and that decision will be coming to the Board soon. She expressed her appreciation for the hard work this year and the good things they have done so far.
- XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**— Takayama announced on behalf of the Global Student Society that the International Prom is on April 24th at 5:30 in the BMU Auditorium, this year’s theme is Enchanted Forest. She expressed appreciation to the Social Justice and Equity Committee for its financial support of the event. Teaney shared that the Earth Day Festival is next week. Lanum added that this year, they are focusing on all three spheres of sustainability.
- XIV. PUBLIC OPINION**— Kendall Ross announced spirit week next week and reviewed the events being held each day during the week. She concluded with a word of encouragement for the students as the semester wraps up.
- XV. ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair, Teaney, adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm