

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

2:30 p.m.

BMU 205

**MEMBERS PRESENT** – Jade Tsao, Josh Rubinoff, Autumn Alaniz-Wiggins, Chloe Renner, Gianna Echavez-LaRocca, Allison Wagner, Kaylee McAllister-Knutson, Krystal Alvarez (Zoom), Mujtaba Azam (Zoom)

**MEMBERS ABSENT** – Jay Friedman

**OTHERS PRESENT** – Kendra Wright, Lexi Extein (recorder), Jon Slaughter (Zoom), Hugh Hammond, Shar Krater, Imani Martin, Katrina Robertson, Eliza Miller, Kyle Alsberry, Windy Van Dam, Kristina Barger, Curtis Sicheneder, Dawn Frank, Kendall Ross, Allen David Turner, Jamile Balli, Raquel Lee

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Tsao, called the meeting to order at 2:31 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 4/19/23 regular meeting agenda. **Motion to approve the 4/19/2023 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Echavez-LaRocca/Wagner) 5-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the 4/5/23 regular meeting. **Motion to approve the minutes of the 4/5/23 regular meeting, as presented (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 – None
- 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 (SAS) Committee** – Wagner said they had their SAS meeting before break and approved last meeting's minutes and agenda.
    1. SAS Actions: 4/10/23
      - a. Approved the 4/10/23 Agenda
      - b. Approved the minutes of the regular meeting of 2/27/23.
      - c. Approved Mia Arisman as the new Vice Chair of the Student Academic Senate for 2023.
        - i. Wagner stated they discussed that SAS still has a funds that have not been used.

### VIII.BUSINESS

- A. Action Item: Approval of the Activity Fee Fund Budget, estimated results 2022-23 and proposed budget 2023-24. **Motion to approve the Activity Fee Fund Budget, estimated results 2022-23 and proposed budget 2023-24, as presented** – Tsao offered the opportunity for discussion **(Wagner/Wiggins) 5-0-0**. Alaniz-Wiggins said she spent the last week talking to professional staff and thanked them all for answering her questions. Alaniz-Wiggins believes the general feelings from the committee is that the contract programs rely on us. She said they're worth investing in for social benefit over the financial costs. Alaniz-Wiggins asked Tsao how much of the amount given to contract programs is being used? Tsao said we currently do not have those figures. Rubinoff asked for explanation on the process of voting on a new budget. Tsao said that if they want to make modifications they can. Rubinoff said that the Associated Students values, are embodied as the contract programs. He said their job is to protect the vulnerable people at our school. Wagner said they had meetings about Chico State's problem with diversity. She believes it is counterproductive to decrease funding to these programs. McAllister-Knutson asked for clarification on the process. Alaniz-Wiggins said that when she talked

to professional staff, it was highly recommended not to go into reserves. Not lowering the contract program's funding by an additional 5% would mean having to go into reserves approximately \$20,000. Alaniz-Wiggins said when looking for places to decrease, the majority were already operating on bare minimum. Wagner said this is for emergencies and saving these programs is an emergency. Wagner said that's a large need, and she believes that Chico is not known for its diversity. She said it's important to have these programs funded to back the claims that we are working to become more diverse as a university. Alaniz-Wiggins also clarified for the committee that the 25% proposed decrease isn't an additional decrease of 25% it's only an extra 5% additional to the 20% decrease we are currently allocating. She stated that this matches enrollment decreases in recent years. Alaniz-Wiggins stated that regardless of enrollment issues, these communities don't have the financial backing already. She said she notices the huge gap between white and black students, and stated that it was actually the Chancellor's charge to close that gap by 2030. Tsao asked if this is across the board. Meeting paused for technical difficulties at 2:44 p.m. Meeting resumed at 2:46 p.m. Slaughter said that he would like to clarify that the Associated Students are reducing allocations not cutting any programs. Slaughter asked if Alaniz-Wiggins is petitioning to continue allocating the same amount of funds to contract programs this upcoming academic year as allocated this year, not the amount from 5 years ago. Slaughter explained that the difference between the current allocations and the proposed allocations is approximately \$14,000, which is a manageable hit. Slaughter stated we have a part in the budget already that's for emergency allocation. He suggested pulling the \$14,000 from the \$26,000 that typically goes into emergency reserves. The \$14,000 goes back to contract programs which puts them at 20% like they were at last year. Slaughter said that Tsao has to call for a motion to reinstate the contract programs to 20%. Tsao stated she would like a **Motion to approve the Activity Fee Fund Budget, estimated results 2022-23 and proposed budget 2023-24, as presented with modifications which includes reinstating the contract programs to 20%. (Wiggins/Rubinoff) 5-0-1 MSC.**

- B. Action Item: Approval of revisions to Associated Students Corporate Codes – Duties for the Director of Social Justice and Equity, effective beginning the 2023-24 elected representative term. **Motion to approve revisions to Associated Students Corporate Codes – Duties for the Director of Social Justice and Equity, effective beginning the 2023-24 elected representative term, as presented (Wiggins/Wagner) 6-0-0.**
- C. **Information Item: Revisions to Associated Students Corporate Codes – Revenue Sharing Policy –** Wright would like to explain the current Revenue Sharing Policy. She explained that revenue sharing can be difficult to understand. She explained revenue sharing was created 20 years ago as a way to increase votership in our student body election. It is apparent across other CSU's that voting turnout is low. She stated we believe Chico State's voter turnout is higher because of revenue sharing. She said the student body, as it stands, allows students to allocate all recognized student organizations to use revenue sharing when voting. She explained this can be \$15 to one organization, \$7.50 to two organizations or \$5 to three organizations. Our current policy states that current recognized student organizations that receive Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) funding don't qualify for revenue sharing allocations. She explains IRA funding is defined as integral to the function of instruction. In the past, the Associated Students said that if organizations received IRA they do not qualify for revenue sharing. For example, the American Marketing Association receives IRA money to attend a conference and because of that, they can't be allocated revenue sharing during the election process. Wright explains that this has raised questions recently. She consulted with Slaughter, who stated we need to look at all avenues including bylaws, policies and education codes. She also consulted with our 23 CSU auxiliary listserv and cannot find a reason not to allow these organizations to receive revenue sharing. Wright opened the floor for questions and stated McAllister-Knutson and Ross are here to answer any questions as well. Ross oversees our fraternity and sorority affairs, recreational sports and student organizations. These all fall under a recognized student organization with EO 1068. Wright said the ultimate goal is to increase the civic engagement opportunity of voting for our student body. Echavez-LaRocca asked if this includes Recreational sports? Wright said yes. Echavez-LaRocca stated she is the treasurer for her club soccer team, and stated they would all vote if they were eligible for revenue sharing. McAllister-Knutson said that last meeting she talked about the revenue sharing success this past election. She stated that outside of fraternity and sororities, the computer graphic club had 68 votes. They were allocated \$877 and they were the third highest. McAllister-Knutson says this to show we are looking at a couple hundred dollars allocated to organizations through revenue sharing. As the person who oversees the student organizations, she said she does get pushback about those who do not have the chance to receive revenue sharing. She said that recreational sports are the most overlooked and believes that they're an untouched population when looking to increase voting. McAllister-Knutson said this isn't going to add barriers to funding, but dissolve the ones currently there. Wagner asked if this were to change, would there be a way to inform the clubs? McAllister-Knutson said we would campaign largely if this were to pass. She thanked Wright for taking this step. Wright said that today this is an info item, and next meeting will be moved to an action item. If it passes it would go into effect for the 2024 election and would be available for redemption at the beginning of the 2024 Fall semester. It would be a

part of a large marketing campaign and will ensure that we see the elected representative's positions become more popular and sought-after.

D. Discussion Item: GSEC Presentation – Abe Reutenia from GSEC presented. They stated GSEC is hiring and thanked the committee for having them. Reutenia said this has been the best year since the pandemic, with the biggest team standing at 13 members. Reutenia explained the history of GSEC, their mission, along with a variety of events they have coming up. Wright thanked them for coming in and for their dedication to the program. Alaniz-Wiggins said a lot of her collaborations were with GSEC, and she hopes the next elected student in her position can work closely with them.

E. Discussion Item: CCLC Presentation – Allen David Turner, Jamile Balli, Raquel Lee and Dawn Frank all introduced themselves as coordinators and the director for the CCLC and gave a presentation. Collectively, they explained the history of the CCLC, the ways they are helping Chico State students, and opportunities they have coming up. Wright said she was extremely impressed, and she has noticed their programming is everywhere. She understands that these events don't just happen and thanks them for making such an inclusive space for all Chico State students. Alaniz-Wiggins thanked them for working with her and she is excited to see them continue.

**IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS** – Alvarez checked in from Washington DC viz Zoom. She had meetings with many people advocating for Pell grant and the Dreamers Act while in Washington DC. She would like to encourage students to come forward if they're comfortable sharing stories. Alaniz-Wiggins said she's been preparing for AAPI, there will be table downstairs before end of this week. She also said there's a "day in her life" on the AS Instagram page. Wagner said she's organizing the interview process for people/times for senator positions that were left open after elections. She is excited to interview, and pleased with the amount of applications for the openings. Echavez-LaRocca said the Earth Day Festival is tomorrow on Trinity Commons from 11-2 p.m.

**X. STAFF REPORTS** – McAllister-Knutson commends Alaniz-Wiggins for speaking up to support Chico State's under-served communities. She acknowledges that budget cuts are difficult but necessary and she thanks the committee for looking at all options. She said it's a privilege to learn how to advocate for yourself and she's proud the student voice was heard today. She said the numbers are unmatched on how many lives they help. Wright said reminder GAC's next meeting is next week on April 26. It's the last one and she thanked the amazing team. She also said one week after that is the invitation to transition luncheon, from 12-1p.m. with lunch provided to welcome in our new officers. Lastly, the University Housing department is partnering with a consulting firm regarding affordable housing. The Zoom meeting is on April 28 at 10 a.m. and please rsvp through the Outlook invitation. Upon completion, their name will be entered into chat and they will be given \$20 uploaded directly to their student account.

**XI. CHAIR REPORT** – Tsao said AS Marketing is going to come into next GAC meeting to record footage for B-roll. She said they can wear polos. Wagner suggested the GA t-shirts. Rubinoff suggested business casual. Tsao told all to dress nice or wear something representative of the AS. She also said she is still looking for people to be on the AS scholarship committee and let her know if interested.

**XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Alaniz-Wiggins said last week of Ramadan. Alvarez happy Wednesday.

**XIII. PUBLIC OPINION** – Krater said afro-latin band will be at Earth Day tomorrow.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair, Tsao, adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.