



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Friday, April 25, 2025

12:00 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Aaron Schwartz, Chris Sullivan, Dev Kachiwala, Madison Kelley, Aishwarya Gowda, Gia Monticello, Adin White, Humberto Partida

MEMBERS ABSENT –

OTHERS PRESENT – Kaylee McAllister-Knutson, Eliza Miller, Jon Simmons, Hugh Hammond, Megan Kurtz, Jasmine Saephan, Beatrix Teaney, Cirilo Cortez, Emily Berry (recording), Dr. Joseph Morales, Keith Crawford, Kendra Wright

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Schwartz, called the meeting to order at 12:01pm.
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Approval of the 4/25/25 regular meeting agenda as presented.
Motion to approve the 4/25/25 agenda, as presented. (Sullivan/Kachiwala) 7-0-0 MSC
Sullivan yes
Kachiwala yes
Gowda yes
Monticello yes
White yes
Partida yes
Kelley yes
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approval of the 4/11/25 regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion to approve the 4/11/25 regular meeting minutes, as presented (White/Gowda) 7-0-0 MSC**
White yes
Gowda yes
Kelley yes
Monticello yes
Partida yes
Kachiwala yes
Sullivan yes
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None.
- VI. **PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to items on the agenda, three minutes per speaker, nine 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 Committee
None.
SAS will be next week on Thursday.

VIII. BUSINESS

A. Discussion Item: Capital Expenditure Reports for quarter ending 3/31/25

Schwartz stated we have had no capital expenditures so we still have our budget available.

B. Information Item: Resolution Regarding Reimagining Chico

Schwartz said the resolution passed by GAC was not approved at BOD. Schwartz has started a subcommittee comprised of himself, Sullivan, Kachiwala, and White. He called for notes to be sent prior to the planned meeting on Tuesday so as to meet the call of students being represented. Gowda stated she was a part of the special action team and on Friday April 11th at GAC she voted in favour. She would like to propose an amendment. She says the resolution was oversimplified and presented possible legal and procedural risk. White wanted to add that the resolution was speaking to the emotionally heavy work done and stated that it wasn't implemented in an actionable way into a more final model. That could potentially be worked to be made clear in the document. Gowda said this is shared governance as well, and we also need to consider what that means.

Schwartz passes the gavel to Sullivan to chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Partida thanked Gowda for sharing her thoughts and feelings and hard work as well. He wanted to share that students came to the team with concerns regarding what they felt was a lack of transparency. Kachiwala wanted to state that the legal counsel came in and that made him change his opinion on it so we weren't legally liable. He also stated the resolution could've been denied outright, but the Board decided to return the resolution instead. Sullivan said he hadn't seen the final resolution until that morning with the special action team. He wanted to call for identification of what students feel/have realized about things with alternatives and suggestions to ensure that students feel more comfortable. Wright was recognized and wanted to tell the team that they did great work editing, talking, and working with the resolution. One of the paragraphs is asking for a binding, decision-making role on the initiative that could result in layoffs, which means the responsibility would fall on the role of multiple elected reps. Schwartz wanted to address Gowda and stress that no one was questioning the hard work of the SAT committee themselves. He also stressed that by calling on the administration to not be perjurative with their recommendations, they are not opening themselves up to liability. White asked if as a member of the subcommittee if he'd be able to see the original comments the lawyer made about the resolution, to which Schwartz stated he didn't have anything to provide. Partida wanted to ask what happens next with the resolution, to which Wright clarified the subcommittee's goal is to connect with the lawyer next week, and the meeting next Friday is the action item for the resolution. It would then report up to BOD on the May 7th meeting if it passes. Gowda wanted to make sure a few things were considered in the resolution. Better communication, proposing structure of the next 6 months, and our already existing job security demands. Schwartz then called for everyone to email their ideas/suggestions for the resolution.

IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS—

Kachiwala stated SAS is next meeting which will have the new chair present. April 30th is the last day to put in your feedback for phase 2 reimagining Academic Affairs. The Provost was at Academic Senate yesterday as well.

Kelley stated Jeff Colon the Assistant Vice Chancellor in DC is here and she'll be giving him a tour of the University farm after GAC. Legislative Affairs committee did not meet due to quorum. She will be trying to get a meeting done before the semester ends. Her blog is also on the website. Schwartz asked for some DC highlights to which Kelley stated they met with congressmen Thompson and LaMalfa and were able to give their stance on where grant money should be going. There was also a lot of networking. Partida asked who paid for the trip, and Kelley stated she went on the Alumni Association's behalf. Sullivan went under the President's office.

White said Earth Day was good. He said he was excited for Sarah, the next student rep coming into the role, to do networking as well for her council. He's also working on a transitional packet.

Partida wanted to thank everyone for everything they do. He went to the time capsule event after the Pass the Gavel event and was in the news with Kelley and Monticello. Prom is today and the theme is urban cowboy. His committee meeting is today and they're looking to remove the AS director in their committee code and looking for someone from AS marketing or AS Presents to be part of the committee instead. The new chair will also end the meeting next week.

Monticello said her committee was unable to meet this Monday as they did not meet quorum. They are donating some items to the shelter. Monticello wanted to yield time to Megan Kurtz who stated the city was disappointed Monticello would not be in the same role.

Gowda stated she's happy to see what everyone is doing. They could not have a meeting this week. Next week they'll be having some of the departments and organizations who received some of the funding from SJEC.

Besides that she's been working on the resolution and transition documents.

White departed at 12:45pm.

Schwartz stated he's been focused on the reimagining Chico resolution. He's also heard from a few student groups about desiring to hear about SOEAF funds expanded for larger use. He is in the process of taking a look at that.

He also wanted to remind everyone to engage with the agenda before the meeting. He also wanted to echo excitement over the time capsule and thank everyone for their continued awesome work.

X. STAFF REPORTS –

Dr. Cortez wanted to say thank you for being able to represent Student Affairs. He wanted to thank the AS for their financial support and partnership. He will be joining the team visiting DC to visit the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities for their annual capital forum. They'll also be advocating for federal grants. He wanted to mention they're working on bystander training in the fight against sexual assault and sexual violence. He also wanted to remind everyone to consider the Student Hall of Fame to highlight student success. Schwartz said welcome. He also said over the past week it was brought to his attention that he was addressing groups from SLL and other groups on campus regarding budget priorities. He said students have been concerned about the reimagining of academic affairs and the fact that it's linked towards budget. Cortez said budget planning is underway for 25-26, and is public information available on the UBC website. Schwartz asked if the budget priorities were still abstract, to which Cortez confirmed, yes, they are not finalized. Kachiwala had questions about the next Bystander training and if Title IX is involved, to which Cortez confirmed yes. Gowda asked about the deadline for the Hall of Fame, to which Cortez confirmed it's been extended to April 30th. Monticello wanted to suggest that they partner with UPD, as the self-defense training was really fun. Schwartz said there was an active shooting drill given to some staff and he asked about extending that to students as Butte is one of the highest issuers of conceal carry permits.

Dr. Morales mentioned his office has partnered with GSEC for a queer and trans student assessment. Their response rate has gone way up. In partnership with the DREAM center, his office has a limited number of tickets available to promote the university's community agreements for Bonfire Storytelling on Thursday, May 1st at 6PM. He wanted to remind that he has free speech office hours available. The Time, Place, and Manner policy is from the Chancellor's office, but the addendum is Chico State's. Today is the diversity certificate program, with a change in the session. Today, they'll be focusing on social media and the outrage economy. He does have to leave for a system-wide meeting but he appreciated working with everyone this year and the meetings. Schwartz asked if those sessions are recorded/made available. Morales said they are not being recorded.

Dr. Morales left the meeting at 1:00pm.

McAllister-Knutson wanted to commend this committee's commitment to the student voice. She wanted to state how proud she is of what everyone in GAC does as it is not easy work. There will be a SOEAF presentation next week. International Prom is tonight as well. It's Spirit Week and Spirit Day. There are two more events, the Fanatics softball game and the Spring concert on Kendall lawn. Kachiwala wanted to shout out SLL for an event at the Bear and Thursday night market takeover.

Simmons said the last ASFC meeting was this morning. They went over the capital project's update and everything is on track. They also went over something added in the arts committee for this building, but in the policy it says to establish guidelines which was never done, and those guidelines have now been established. Next week is the Wildcat baseball game. He also wanted to applaud the Earth Day event. He also reminded we can work together instead of competing for events for the students. Schwartz asked about the fencework project and timelines, to which Simmons said it's scheduled to be completed by July 2nd. Schwartz asked if the existing electrical structure would be used, to which Simmons confirmed yes. Monticello asked about lights that have ties on them from Safety Stroll, and she asked if they would be fixed over the summer, to which Simmons confirmed there would be an increase in lighting and is wrapped up in the Capital budget. They would also be going from traditional lighting to LED's.

XI. DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT—

Wright wanted to share a warm thank you to those who participated in Pass the Gavel. She also wanted to share that everyone was invited to the VIP celebration, which is an AS drop-in with food, snacks, and celebrations from 12:30-2:30 on Wednesday in BMU 203.

XII. CHAIR REPORT –

Sullivan said Pass the Gavel was lovely. He wanted to echo what Dev mentioned in Academic Senate, VP Clyde, The President, Dr Brundage, discussed the budget deficit and strategies for dealing with it. Schwartz was also there asking questions about student jobs to VP Sendze. The Big C Event was great. The Board is also doing a subcommittee on the code of ethics and the bylaws. Wright states it's not a subcommittee, but instead just asking

the team to submit by way of email. He called for suggestions, comments, and edits. The young South East Asian leaders initiative happened as well, he said it was about 25 students total. They got a tour of the Government Affairs office. He's currently onboarding the next AS President. Board Designated Fund he had a meeting with Jamie and Kendra to follow-up on next steps and to iron out what specifically will be sent to different areas outside of AS on those allocations.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

McAllister-Knutson said even though Anderson isn't in the room that she wants to give kudos to alumni because they're the reason Spirit Week has been able to happen.

Schwartz wanted to echo and commend all the pro staff for their hard work. With May coming up it's Jewish American heritage month and Social Justice would be decorating as much as they did this month.

Sullivan said he was asked the same question when he was in the role as well.

Simmons wants to make an announcement to echo Schwartz's commitment to student jobs as the AS is the largest student employer on campus.

Kachiwala wanted to echo for everyone to take time to rest.

XIV. PUBLIC OPINION—

None.

XV. ADJOURNMENT – The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:21pm.