

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Friday, April 3, 2026

3:00 p.m.

BMU 205

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

MEMBERS ABSENT – Gia Montecello, Dr. Joseph Morales, Shari Anderson

OTHERS PRESENT – Eliza Miller (recording) Hugh Hammond, Jon Simmons, Christian Hutson, Janae Rankins-Ezell, Faith Yah, Rubi Lupercio, Adin White, Autumn Garrison, Luke Bagwell, Chase Weiland, Natalie Norton, Kendall Ross

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Teaney, called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Approval of the 4/3/26 regular meeting agenda as presented. **Motion to approve the 4/3/26 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Lanum/Takayama) 4-0-0 MSC. Roll Call Vote: Saunders: Yes, Takayama: Yes, Davis: Yes, Lanum: Yes.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approval of the 3/27/26 regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion to approve the 3/27/26 regular meeting minutes, as presented (Lanum/Takayama) 4-0-0 MSC. Roll Call Vote: Saunders: Yes, Takayama: Yes, Davis: Yes, Lanum: Yes.**

Fozo joined the meeting at 3:05pm

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 3/27/26

a. Approved minutes of the 3/13/26 Regular Meeting

b. Approved revisions of Student Academic Senate Code

Takayama reviewed the actions of the previous SAS meeting. She also shared an overview of the discussion topics from that meeting, including grade scales.

B. Social Justice and Equity Committee

1. No Meeting Held – Davis shared that she had no meeting due to the Tuesday Farmworkers Day holiday.

VIII. **BUSINESS**

A. Information Item: CCLC Presentation – Christian Hutson, Janae Rankin-Ezell, Faith Yah, and Rubi Lupercio from the Cross-Cultural Leadership Center (CCLC), El Centro, Black Resource Center, and APIDA Center presented on the Diversity Summit Hosted by the CCLC each year. They shared that the Diversity Summit is

a legacy program for the CCLC, started in 2009, that includes a three-day retreat. They shared testimonies and experiences from students who participated in the summit. This past October, they took 35 students to the Summit. They reviewed a breakdown of the costs for holding the summit and how those funds contribute to students developing leadership skills they will take with them far beyond the three-day retreat. They shared that, due to funding changes, they do not currently have the allocated budget to host the summit next year without outside help. They shared that an additional \$20,000 allocation from the AS, along with the \$6,000 anticipated from SLF, would ensure that the Summit continued for the upcoming year. Simmons inquired about the reduction in SLF funds received to help cover the retreat costs. Dr. Cortez stated that the reduction in the individual SLF allocation is due to more proposals for funding being submitted to the SLF. Dr. Cortez asked if they had considered alternative locations for the summit. They shared that they often reevaluate the location but have found that Camp Via West in Cupertino has been the choice recently due to its accessibility and the cost-effectiveness of the camp's own catering, feeding the students for less than it would cost if they prepared their own meals. McAllister-Knutson asked the students presenting to share their personal experiences with the summit. Each student shared their positive experience and how it allowed them to try new things, develop leadership skills, and find and foster community.

- B. Action Item: Revisions to Student Organization Event Allocation Fund (SOEAF) Policy. **Action Requested: Motion to Approve Revisions to Student Organization Event Allocation Fund (SOEAF) Policy, as presented. (Lanum/Fozo)** Davis asked Simmons what the impacts on AS Catering and AS student jobs could be if these funds were primarily spent on outside vendors rather than on AS Catering, as the policy currently requires. Simmons shared that the impacts of this remain to be seen, and the budget for next year would not be affected, but it could affect future budgets if it causes a noticeable reduction in catering income. McAllister-Knutson shared that, under current AS policies, if events are held in the BMU, students would still be required to use AS Catering regardless of the proposed changes to SOEAF. Teaney called the vote. **5-0-0 MSC Roll Call Vote: Saunders: Yes, Takayama: Yes, Davis: Yes, Lanum: Yes, Fozo: Yes.**
- C. Discussion Item: Revisions to Student Academic Senate Code – Takayama reviewed the proposed changes to the Student Academic Code as were approved at SAS. The primary change is the addition of a non-voting member to represent undeclared students. Takayama also added “if applicable” to the requirement that each senator hold a college council, since some colleges do not have a council structure for the senator to participate in. Teaney asked how the non-voting members are selected for SAS. Takayama shared that, depending on the seat, some are appointed, and others are sent by the office they represent as delegates. Fozo asked how adding a member might create challenges with the time available for all the reports. Takayama shared that she recently increased the SAS from 60 to 90 minutes and feels that time will not be a concern with that change.

IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

- A. President Report – Saunders shared that they have decided not to move forward with the Board Designated Fund due to time constraints. She also shared that a virtual CSSA is coming up and asked members of the committee to let her or Commissioner Monticello know if there are any topics they would like to advocate for.
- B. Commissioner of Community Affairs Report – Fozo shared that despite the change to the March 31st Cats in the Community Event, CAVE is hosting many opportunities to get involved in the community throughout April. She also reminded everyone to vote in the AS Election.
- C. Commissioner of Legislative Affairs Report – Monticello was absent.
- D. Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Report – Lanum shared that her next SAC meeting will be on Tuesday, and the location is changing to 205. She reported that SFAC deliberation is scheduled for April 10th. She concluded her report by noting that April is Earth Month and that Wednesday, April 22nd, is the Earth Day event on campus.

X. STAFF REPORTS –McAllister-Knutson shared updates about Spirit Week and reminded everyone to cast their vote and allocate their Revenue Sharing to their recognized student organizations of choice during next week’s AS Election.

Dr. Cortez shared that he has been working on commencement planning, noting that the support and affinity program and cultural graduations are starting up soon, with the first few scheduled for next week. He provided an update on the Seal of Excelencia process. He concluded by thanking the CCLC for the wonderful presentation.

XI. DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT— Simmons reported on behalf of the Director of Government Affairs. Simmons encouraged everyone to reach out to Wright with any questions about the

upcoming budget process. He asked all to encourage their peers to vote in the election on the 8th and 9th, and reminded the student members of GAC that the Pass the Gavel ceremony is next Friday, after GAC.

XII. CHAIR REPORT – Teaney shared her appreciation for the work on the SOEAF revision conversations and thanked the CCLC for their presentation. She also shared that a few more programs will be presented in future meetings.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS— Lanum shared that there is an event on April 16th called Gateway to Sustainability at the Gateway Science Museum. Fozo shared that April 9th is Speech Night with the Speech and Debate Team. Simmons shared that the Paul Russel concert is happening at the end of this month.

XIV. PUBLIC OPINION— Autumn Garrison from GSEC shared their annual Take Back the Night event on April 30th in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The event will include a march around downtown and campus, beginning at Trinity Commons.

Adin White shared that the FASP committee is discussing campus-wide shared governance. He shared that they are seeking student feedback on shared governance to help them prepare a presentation for the Academic Senate. He shared that he has reached out to the representatives via email on this topic.

Kendall Ross shared that April is a very packed month on campus and encouraged all to take care of themselves.

XV. ADJOURNMENT – Teaney adjourned the meeting at 4:08 pm.