

## **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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

**Wednesday, April 5, 2023**

**2:30 p.m.**

**BMU 205**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT** – None

**OTHERS PRESENT** – Kendra Wright, Lexi Extein (recorder), Jon Slaughter (Zoom), Hugh Hammond, Shar Krater, Imani Martin, Katrina Robertson, Ember Funk (Zoom), Harron (Zoom), Saly, Rohan, Liz, Mia

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Tsao, called the meeting to order at 2:30 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 4/5/23 regular meeting agenda. **Motion to approve the 4/5/2023 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Alvarez/Azam) 6-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the 3/22/23 regular meeting. **Motion to approve the minutes of the 3/22/23 regular meeting, as presented (Alvarez/Azam) 5-1-0 MSC.**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Wagner said she's glad we got through elections, and glad we are maintaining the student voice regardless of complications.
- 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: No meeting held.

### **VIII. BUSINESS**

- A. Information Item: The Activity Fee Fund, estimated results 2022-23 and proposed budget 2023-24 – Slaughter is sharing screen with presentation. He stated last meeting Government Affairs Committee got a preview of the revised and proposed budgets. He sent them all abridged version of budget packet earlier this week. He said it's full of information and may help them answer questions they may have. Slaughter will share the PowerPoint with Government Affairs Committee after today's meeting. Today he is focusing on next year's proposed which is scheduled to be approved at the next GAC meeting. He explained this PowerPoint shows how we expect to perform this year and how we are projected to do next year. (Alvarez exits at 2:37 p.m.). Slaughter stated the proposed budget is based on a conservative estimated enrollment of 12,000 combined with a \$10 CPI increase to the Activity Fee to \$162 per enrolled student, per year. He then talked about "University Service Fees/Expenses" and explained that these are expenses associated with grant administration and costs and reimbursements per our Associated Students Services Agreement with the University. Slaughter then moved onto "Contract Programs" and stated that in addition to the variety of in-house programs, we contribute operational funding for a collection of campus-based entities that provide significant programs and services to the student community. Most allocations have been reduced by 25% for 2023-24 to reflect continuing decline in enrollment. Slaughter continued with "Corporate Services" and stated all areas of the corporation are assessed for the operations and support provided to their respective areas.

Next was “AF Operational Costs” where it explains the Activity Fee Administration budget reflects the costs associated with providing the oversight and corporate direction to the annual programs supported by the Activity Fee. Following this is “Government Affairs” which showed a significant increase in net expense which illustrates the re-adoption” of the FLO program and adding the career Connection Coordinator position to the GAO roster. Scholarships for the elected representatives include the 2.5% increase for senators and the COA adjustment for the 2023-24 year. The Elected Reps Expense Budgets have been reduced by 25% to reflect the continued decrease in fee income due to declining enrollment. The Elections Budget programming dollars have also been reduced by 25%. Slaughter continued, with the “Annual Program Allocations” and explained that this section represents the programming dollars available to recognized student groups and organizations through the Associated Students allocation funds, revenue sharing pledges, and the annual programming directly sponsored and produced by the Government Affairs elected representatives. Historical amounts have been reduced by 25% in all annual program areas to compensate for the continued declining enrollment and loss of fee income. Slaughter continued with the “Campus Programs” which mainly focuses on the Associated Students Child Development Lab. The CDL has received a CCAMPIS grant for the last 4 or 5 years and it expires this year. They are planning to reapply. Following this is the “Community Programs” where Slaughter explains includes Community Action and Volunteers in Education (CAVE). Overall, their net allocations are restored to pre-pandemic levels for the programs and operations. Overall, the projected income for 2023-24 is \$2,069,670. The total expected expenses for 2023-24 is \$2,264,027. Slaughter proposes to use \$194,357 of reserves to balance the budget. The reserves are approximately 5 million dollars at the moment. Slaughter stated if they have an increase of enrollment they may not need to go into reserves. He opened the floor for questions after stating that next meeting will include approving the budget and this will go to the Board of Directors for final approval. Alaniz-Wiggins asked about the student shuttle program. Slaughter explained they’re currently paying per ride, but they used to pay a flat amount. Around 95% of riders on student shuttle used to be students, but ridership has decreased significantly since COVID. Ridership numbers for this year total have yet to come in. They are hoping those numbers increased. Alaniz-Wiggins wants to know last time it got to \$175,000. Slaughter stated we will most likely hit that expense this year. Committee members wondered if the closure of Whitney Hall might have an effect on future ridership. Rubinoff voiced he is against reducing allocations to the contract programs. Alaniz-Wiggins states she thinks shuttle bus budget is too big. Alaniz-Wiggins wants that money allocated to contract programs instead. She worries it will create distrust by taking it away from contract programs. Wagner asked if we are predicting more students are going to ride the shuttle? Slaughter said not at this time, but if it increases due to Whitney Hall closing, it may exceed the \$175,000. Alaniz-Wiggins wants to know if we need another contract later on to increase funding to contract programs, if that would cost more than just approving money now. Slaughter said that if enrollment increases that’s great but if it drops we are impacted highly. Slaughter said they can revise budgets if things change during next term. He explained this can happen for any of our contract programs as well, they are able to approach and the Government Affairs Committee can entertain revising the amount allocated to them. Wright inquired if the budget could come back as an information item again at the next meeting or does it need to come back as an action item. Slaughter said GAC could call a special meeting if the Committee felt the need for further discussions before the action meeting, Slaughter said that discussion could certainly still happen at the next meeting before the call for the vote of approval.

- B. Information Item: Revisions to Associated Students Corporate Codes – Duties for the Director of Social Justice and Equity, effective beginning the 2023-24 elected representative term – No comments.
- C. Discussion Item: CLIC Presentation – Tsao introduced CLIC representatives and gave them 10 minutes. They presented a PowerPoint. They started with background information on CLIC and explained their services. They currently have 11 programs. They want to continue implementing more programs. They explained their hierarchy in CLIC. They are the administrative directors. They gave a run-down of their 2021-2022 statistics. CLIC awards 3 credits each semester to each student. They explained what they provide at CLIC. They also explained what skills can be gained through CLIC. They supplied student responses about how CLIC has impacted those using the service. They listed notable alumni. They noted events, budgeting, and advertising. They ask for help advertising in the future to reach more students. Wagner wanted to know if you need to have career in law to join. Saly stated they open their doors to all, most are legal students. Wright said thank you for coming, it was impressive, and it was education. They know programs exist but that was extensive and well done. Rubinoff said it’s clear they provide a vital service and we should not reduce their budget.
- D. Discussion Item: STAR Center Presentation – Tsao introduced Liz Freitas from the STAR Center. She explained when the STAR Center was added. They opened fall of 2019 and are support for underserved students. They work with faculty members, designed to be a bridge between student and academic affairs. They have inhouse office hours and librarians and academic coaches. Freitas is the only pro staff at the STAR center as of now. She explained what they do, including serving as an active study space, academic advising, campus resources, faculty engagement, post-graduation exploration and academic preparation and support.

She also touched on the student experience and explained they are a low-barrier access point. Explained they are extremely collaborative with ITSS, GSEC, etc. Her student staff have done all the programming by themselves since October because it's just her for pro staff. She touched more on academic advising, women of excellence which is a class, looking to do a community program for women of color. Student staff was listed and she listed their collaborations. Tsao asked for questions. Alaniz-Wiggins said she uses their services often. Wright said she is extremely impressed with her running this on her own. Wright thanked Freitas for her hard work and dedication.

**IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS** – Alvarez said over the weekend her and Rubinoff attended CSSA on zoom. Board of Directors discussed the student participation policy, and the student dining engagement policy. Both have been discussed thoroughly and she will send email with details to Government Affairs Committee members.

**X. STAFF REPORTS** – McAllister said elections were yesterday, and she gave a shout out to Associated Students as a whole including: Government Affairs, Operational Programming Services, Marketing, Dining, Catering, etc. She stated that the revenue sharing the amount of funding last year was approximately \$22,000, with 6 student organizations not receiving any funding. This year, \$29,000 was allocated with only 3 organizations not receiving funding. That's a nearly \$7,000 increase in revenue sharing. She thanked all for commitment to student organizations. She gave a special shout out, and stated fraternities and sororities typically have the largest chunk of this money, but our computer graphics club was the third highest to receive funding this year. Last year, highest organization was in 7<sup>th</sup> place that wasn't Greek life. Student Life and Leadership thanks everyone in this space. Student Life and Leadership is hiring for Student involvement coordinators and graphic design positions. Wright said elections was fantastic. She thanked all and congrats to some in this room and current reps that participated. She explained they are planning an experience early May that will be a transition experience. Those who currently hold roles will do transition experience with new elected representatives on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. She also stated reminder tomorrow for all current student representatives of 1:30 pm event at WREC where they will be meeting with the Cabinet. She said this is a last opportunity for us to touch base with Cabinet in a team experience.

**XI. CHAIR REPORT** – Tsao said nothing to report, thanked contract programs for sharing.

**XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Alvarez said happy Wednesday.

**XIII. PUBLIC OPINION** – None

**XII. ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair, Tsao, adjourned the meeting at 3:29 p.m.