

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Monday, May 6, 2024

2:30 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Allison Wagner, Christian Sullivan, Sri Ramani Thungapati, Gia Monticello, Mia Arisman, Kaylee McAllister-Knutson, Autumn Alaniz-Wiggins

MEMBERS ABSENT – Dr. Joseph Morales, Shari Anderson, Katie Chai

OTHERS PRESENT – Kendra Wright, Kyle Alsberry, Eliza Miller (recording), Jon Simmons, Brooke McCall, Shar Krater, Katrina Leach, Anna Paladini, Brooke McCall, Katey Von Mosch, Richard Oliver, Sophia Aujero.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Wagner, called the meeting to order at 2:33 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 5/3//24 regular meeting agenda as presented. **Motion to approve the 4/29/24 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Arisman/Sullivan) 4-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approval of the 4/22/24 And 4/29/24 regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion to approve the 4/22/24 and 4/29/24 regular meeting minutes, as presented (Sullivan/Arisman) 4-0-0 MSC.**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None
- VI. **PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to items on the agenda, three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic – Brooke Mccall shared a statement about the Commissioner of Student Engagement and Advocacy role and how she hopes to see it interact with her pro-staff position to support students. She also shared her perspective on the importance of student engagement in student success. Her message to the committee was to support keeping the role while still exploring the new IT position.
- 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.

Student Academic Senate (SAS) Committee –
 - a. Approval of the 4/26/24 regular meeting agenda.
 - b. Approval of the 4/12/24 regular meeting minutes (attached, page 8).

VIII. BUSINESS

- A. Action Item: **Elimination of the Commissioner of Student Engagement & Advocacy position and the concurrent implementation of the Commissioner of Technological Affairs position for the 2025/2026 term.** - Wagner shared some context for the new IT Commissioner role and the desire for a role focusing on distance students. Wagner also shared that the intention of removing the existing Commissioner of Student Engagement and Advocacy role was due to it feeling like it doubles up on duties carried out by other elected student representatives. Sullivan shared that he supports the IT role due to the support for distance and online students, as well as helping advocate for technological support and AI on campus. Wagner summarised the options available to the table: keeping Student Engagement and adding IT, replacing Engagement with IT, or not moving forward at all. Arisman shared that she felt conflicted considering engagement as everyone's role because, similarly, it is representing distance students, which is justification of the new IT position. She recommended waiting and giving the situation more thought to ensure we were taking the right path. Sullivan recommended that the incoming Student Engagement Commissioner carefully examine the duties and suggest revisions instead of eliminating the role. Montecello shared some hesitation about how this IT student would engage better with distance learners than the student engagement

commissioner could accommodate. McAllister-Knutson added that as an AS partner in SLL, she finds student engagement incredibly important, and she advocated for the Student Engagement position to stay. Alaniz-Wiggins entered the meeting at 2:50 pm. Arisman questioned whether the IT role needed to be its own. Alaniz-Wiggins shared that she is still advocating for eliminating the Engagement position because it simply hasn't worked. She also reminded the committee that this change wouldn't take effect until 25/26, so there is still time to change it. Sullivan reminded the group of the necessity of student engagement and the value of the partnership with Student Life and Leadership. Alaniz-Wiggins asked if that role was truly being tapped frequently or if they were seeking other more topically related elected representatives for outreach. McAllister-Knutson advocated for the importance of giving the Engagement position the support they truly need and added that she and Brooke McCall were there to help this role thrive. Shar Krater was recognized and also spoke to the issues with removing the position without addressing its current duties and how that might affect AS departments that currently have support from that role. Wright made some recommendations to the committee about how they could move forward. Based on the discussion thus far on this business item, she recommended that the committee consider not moving forward with the implementation until the duties are satisfactory to all relevant parties, simultaneously giving the Engagement role time to adjust to the new staff support from the Involvement Center.

Action Requested: Elimination of the Commissioner of Student Engagement & Advocacy position and the concurrent implementation of the Commissioner of Technological Affairs position for the 2025/2026 term. (Sullivan/Arisman) 1-4-0 Motion failed.

- IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS** – Alaniz-Wiggins shared that she just returned from CSSA with Madison. She was awarded as the student advocate of the year at CSSA. She also shared that there is a free speech event on Kendall's lawn until 4 pm. There will also be a showing of the academic senate at BMU 203 tomorrow. Arisman shared that SAS had a Hatchet House Celebration, and she passed the gavel to incoming officer Dev at the final Sas meeting last week. Sullivan shared that they had their last meeting last week. He also shared that the International Festival was successful. Thungapati shared that the council has wrapped.
- X. STAFF REPORTS** – McAllister-Knutson thanked everyone for a great year! Wright thanked everyone for the past year and gave kudos to the committee for their thoughtful and honest conversation at today's meeting.
- XI. CHAIR REPORT** – Wagner thanked the team for their support this year and wished them a wonderful next year wherever they find themselves.
- XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None
- XIII. PUBLIC OPINION** – Sophia Aujero joined the committee from KCSC to share a little about their program and offerings. She shared that the radio station hosted many events this year and switched from physical media to streaming for their on-air music broadcasting. They focused on giving local artists a platform at their events, which was very successful.
- XIV. ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:17 pm