GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Friday, August 25, 2023, 3 p.m. BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Autumn Alaniz-Wiggins, Mia Arisman, Katie Chai, Christian Sullivan, Imani Martin, Itzel Saucedo Dominguez, Jay Friedman (Zoom), Kaylee McAllister-Knutson
MEMBERS ABSENT – None
OTHERS PRESENT – Kendra Wright, Lexi Extein (recorder), Jon Slaughter (Zoom), Hugh Hammond, Eliza Miller, Curtis Sicheneder, Chris Navarrete, Windy Van Dam,

I. CALL TO ORDER – The Interim-Chair, Alaniz-Wiggins, called the meeting to order at 3 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 8/25/23 regular meeting agenda. Motion to approve the 8/25/2023 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Chai/Arisman) 5-0-0 MSC.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of the 4/26/23 special meeting. Motion to approve the minutes of the 4/26/23 special meeting, as presented (Chai/Saucedo Dominguez) 5-0-0 MSC.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Alaniz says happy first week. Sullivan says it is his birthday. Everyone wished Sullivan happy birthday.

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 –
   1. SAS Actions: No meeting held. Arisman said she is sending survey to find a scheduled time for upcoming meetings.

VIII. BUSINESS

A. Action Item: Approval of the Resolution for Establishing Time and Location for Associated Students Government Affairs Committee Meetings for Academic Year 2023-24. Action Requested: Motion to approve the Resolution for Establishing Time and Location for Associated Students Government Affairs Committee Meetings for Academic Year 2023-24, as presented (Arisman/Sullivan) 5-0-0 MSC.

B. Discussion Item: Local Agency Investment Fund for quarter ending 6/30/23 (attached, page 6). Kendra Wright said good afternoon and introduced herself as the Director of Government Affairs, and advisor for the Government Affairs Committee. She said happy first meeting. She proceeded to give the members a summary of where the Associated Students is at financially in terms of investments. Looking at the Local Agency Investment Fund, referred to often as LAIF, she explained we have an investment committee that’s comprised of our Vice Presidents, Executive Vice-President, President and some colleagues throughout the state-side. She explained this is where we invest our money on behalf of the Associated Students. It’s extremely low-risk due to not chancing risking student dollars. She asked them to look at line 2, and explains
that the Government Affairs Committee runs the Activity Fee. She said they will be asked to help guide the business through the Activity Fee lens. She shows the members the beginning and end of the quarter (April 2023- June 2023). Average daily investment is $1.1 million, with interest earned totaling $36,986.62. The annualized return on investment is 3.15%. She explained that percentage fluctuates and the higher the percentage the more the Associated Students gets back. Last term it was low and we are hoping that it grows and increases. Our investment balance as of the end of June 2023 is $5,078,023.67. We will refer to that balance as our “reserves”. Wright explained it’s helpful to have reserves when you’re a business to continue to run the operations. She will keep us posted on a quarterly basis how the number changes.

IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS – Arisman said she went to CSSA and CSUnity which was a cool experience and they discussed “hot topics” like tuition increase. She said in her role she is working on fostering collaboration. Sullivan said that in May himself and Wiggins went to restorative justice training with CSU San Diego. He was also able to connect with tribal relations in their new space. He is also talking to Owen Boggeln, Senator of Humanities and Fine Arts, and they want to collaborate about heritage month paintings on BMU’s 2nd floor. He connected with CCLC and GSEC and would like to explore having a clothing swap. Martin has no updates but is excited for the future. Saucedo Dominguez has meeting with Eliza on Monday to explore more about role. Chai said she is working to create her committee and sharing information. She wants to come up with exciting events and following the new regarding student loan relief potentially and spreading that information to those around campus. Sullivan met with Barger about the initiative to change the core value to intersectionality focusing on inclusion, transparency and what the history looks like regarding that. He is recruiting and focusing on the benefits students get from joining. Alaniz-Wiggins and him spoke to Tribal Relations about a pending hearing in the CSUs regarding the anthropology departments study of native American people (NAGPRA).

X. STAFF REPORTS – McAllister-Knutson introduced herself. She is sharing that wildcat welcome is in full swing and thanked the Associated Students. She just left WREC and Wild event for this meeting and it looks great. Congratulated OPS because of Catastic Carnival’s success with over 770 students attending. Thanked them for their effort. She said Student Life and Leadership just finished their recognition training and said that if anyone is looking to start an organization please let her know. Hugh Hammond introduced himself and said invited the student elected representatives to use him as a resource for technology, stages, sound stages, lighting, ect. Alaniz-Wiggins said he’s the best! Friedman had nothing to report. Wright said happy first meeting and shared her gratitude for the participation at the carnival and she’s so glad they showed up; it brought her joy and was a great experience and she appreciates them all. She sent an email yesterday and said to please let her know if you have any questions. For those that chair the committees, there will be a meeting on Wednesday. Wright said that Extein creates the packets for them all to review before the meetings so they know what they’re walking into. They may not completely understand what everything is, but please ask questions as we are here to explain and give context, history, information and support. That way when we get to the item, they know a little bit more. The packets are small as of now but will become bigger as time goes on. Chai said Catastic Carnival was great because they got the chance to talk about Government Affairs and tons of flyers and such were passed out. She’s glad to see the campus so alive again, it was the biggest one they’ve had since COVID and their booth was extremely busy.

XI. CHAIR REPORT – Alaniz-Wiggins shared that she went to Panetta Institute and met a ton of presidents from other CSUs. She also attended CSSA and CSUnity, one in Long Beach and Dominguez Hills. The tuition increase will be voted on in September at the meeting she will be attending. They have taken the stance to oppose this bill due to it’s broadness of how the funds will be spent. The councils and committees are about to begin and she is having Arisman partake in the hiring committee for positions in cabinet. The Executive Vice President and Commissioner of Sustainability positions are still open, and the form closes the day after Labor Day. If you want to be part of hiring committee please let autumn know. Sullivan asked for the hiring committee what time would that be? Alaniz-Wiggins said it would be worked out depending how many people they have apply for those positions. They would work around their schedules and please have some availability if you want to take part. Alaniz-Wiggins said Academic Senate happened yesterday and it was fun. We are looking for two students for Academic Senate. Chai asked when the meetings are. Alaniz-Wiggins said every Thursday from 2:30-5 p.m. CFAC is also up for grabs for two seats as well, on how the student dollars are spent. Availability is also requested there as well. NAGFRAN hearing is on Tuesday. President Steve Perez will be on that hearing with other CSU president to discuss how we can do better, and this will be taken to CSSA.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS – McAllister-Knutson said Clubtacular is next Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. There’s so many clubs that want to take part that they have a wait-list. They will have Madison Bear Garden catering and stamp cards. The first undisclosed number of students that fill up their cards will get a free hamburger. Please stop by and say hi. They have had over 120 clubs sign up already. Alaniz-Wiggins said happy birthday Chris.
XIII. PUBLIC OPINION – Sicheneder introduced himself and welcomed the students to their first meeting. He has been here for 25 years and stated it’s been a long time since he has seen an event with 700+ students like Catastic Carnival. He thanked all for participating. McAllister-Knutson noted that is this has been achieved without Whitney Hall. Navarrete introduced themselves and said they are here for marketing help if any of the elected representatives need it.

XII. ADJOURNMENT – The Chair, Alaniz-Wiggins, adjourned the meeting at 3:29 p.m.