Associated Students
California State University Chico

**MEETING MINUTES**

# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

**Tuesday, September 22, 2026** **3:30 p.m.** **BMU 205**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** – Kaylee McAllister-Knutson, Kureha Takayama, Chase Weiland, Ysabella Marin, Gianna Gonzalez, Cynthia Cobian, Beatrix Teaney, Shari Anderson, Ricardo Hernandez-Serrano, Dr. Reginald C. Stewart,
**MEMBERS ABSENT** – Madison Sunderman (Excused)
**OTHERS PRESENT** – Emily Berry (Recording), Eliza Miller, Kim Canisso, Kendra Wright, Hugh Hammond, Jon Simmons, Jasmine Saephan, Katey Cotton, Katrina Leach, Natalie Norton, Brooke McCall, Jussi Tinnemeyer, Tom Rider, Keith Crawford, Anna Paladini, Cherie Higgs, Thomas Duran, Chuy Rojas Rivas

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Takayama, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA –** Approval of the 9/22/26 regular meeting agenda as presented. **Motion to approve the 9/22/26 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Weiland/Teaney) 6-0-0 MSC**

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Approval of the 4/24/26 regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion to approve the 4/24/26 regular meeting minutes, as presented (Teaney/Marin) 6-0-0 MSC**

V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS –** Takayama set expectations for attendance and participation for the upcoming term. Attendance is expected for the President, Commissioners, and two Directors. For all voting members, if you are unable to attend a meeting, please let Takayama know, ideally 72 hours in advance or as early as possible. She also strongly encouraged everyone to attend the meetings in person, unless they are traveling or sick. Dr. Reg C. Stewart, University Diversity Officer, provided an introduction.

VI. **PUBLIC OPINION –** Limited to items on the agenda, three minutes per speaker, nine minutes for entire topic – None.

VII. **DIRECTORS 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 9/4/26
      a. Approval of 9/4/26 Student Academic Senate Agenda
      b. Approval of 4/24/26 Student Academic Senate Minutes
      c. Approval of the Resolution for Establishing Time and Location for Associated Students Student Academic Senate Meetings for Academic Year 2026-27, as presented.

Weiland stated the team is up and running. Their first meeting was on September 4th. They approved the agenda, approved the minutes, and approved the Resolution for Establishing Time and Location for 2026-27. The next SAS meeting is this Friday, 9/25, from 3:00 pm-4:30 pm in BMU 205. The Academic Senate is reviewing shared governance and how to better support students, staff, and faculty who serve on committees. UNCC also has its next meeting this Thursday. The Academic Integrity Council's next meeting is from 11 am-12 pm, with two seats available. Anyone interested can reach out to Teaney or Weiland. The Campus Fee Advisory Committee is currently working on an SLF advertisement to publicize the presence of students on SLF committees.

B. Social Justice and Equity Committee
   1. No meeting held

Cobian stated that her committee has not yet met, as there are two seats to be filled. She has an interview coming up for a seat, but if anyone knows other interested students, please send them her way.

## VIII. BUSINESS

A. Action Item: Approval of the Resolution for Establishing Time and Location for Associated Students Government Affairs Committee Meetings for Academic Year 2026-27. **Action Requested: Motion to approve the Resolution for Establishing Time and Location for Associated Students Government Affairs Committee Meetings for Academic Year 2026-27, as presented. (Teaney/Weiland) 6-0-0 MSC.**

B. Information item: Activity Fee Fund Capital Expenditure Reports for quarter ending 6/30/26.
Wright explained that she will be coming to GAC with quarterly reports. The definition of a Capital Expenditure is an expense of $5,000 or more with a lifespan of over one year. Examples would be equipment, electronics, furniture, and others. There were no expenses for the 2025-26 year.

C. Information Item: Local Agency Investment Fund and Money Market for quarter ending 3/31/26 and 6/30/26.
Wright stated this document encompasses January through March, 2026 and we are focusing on the Activity Fee line item. Our fiscal year is July 1st through June 30th. The Average Daily Investment was $1,422,280.74, Interest Earned was $56,617.52, Annualized Return on Investment was 3.98%, and Investment Balance was $6,481,477.59. For quarter four ending 6/30/26, the Average Daily Investment was $1,466,219.20, Interest Earned was $57,494.59, Annualized Return on Investment was 3.92%, and Investment Balance was $5,915,095.11.

D. Information Item: 3/31/26 Activity Fee Budget vs Actual.
Wright stated that this document is reported quarterly and this report is for quarter three, which ended March 31st, 2026. Starting at the top of the document, revenue is money in the bank account. 75% is the typical quarter three benchmark, but anything above 75% is ideal in this particular category. Total revenue reported is 78.71%. Everything below this line item is expenses, which is money out of the account. The Service Fees and Contract Program line used to house the contract programs as we know them, but those are now listed under Campus Allocation of Fee Income. Service fees are the fees that we pay to our other auxiliary, Chico State Enterprises. These fees cover grant administration for our CDL, as well as to the Vice President's office of Business and Finance. When students pay, it starts on the stateside, and then the fees are allocated to the AS. Corporate Services are defined as HR, IT, and Financial Services. Activity Fee reserves are for emergencies; $30,000 was budgeted for the year, and as of quarter three, there were no expenses. Student Programming is below 75%, which is great. AF Operational Expenses pertain to Natalie Norton and her team. In this category, it includes operating expenses and employees. Natalie's seat was unoccupied for a portion of the year, so that's why you'll see it below 75% there. Government Affairs has several amounts with parentheses, and Wright explained that these are deposits into the account. The total expenses for Government Affairs was 70.06% which includes income, wages, employee benefits, and general operating expenses. The wages for student staff include front desk Involvement Coordinators. The general operating expenses category includes funding allocated to student representative scholarships and training expenses such as meals, polos, name tags, etc. Campus Programs includes the Child Development Lab, or CDL. Budgeting is always done at full capacity and CDL often applies for grants for supplemental funding. For quarter three, CDL is at 33% due to grant funding. Community Programs includes Community Action Volunteers in Education (CAVE). 75% is the benchmark, and CAVE rounds out to 71.73%, which means they are running their budget extremely well. The bottom row of the report shows total expenses, which are $1,303,389; the Original Budget is $2,237,236, which puts us at 58.26% for quarter three.

E. Discussion Item: Review of Cost of Attendance Methodology for Elected Student Representative Scholarships.
Takayama made clear that there is no action on this item today. She wants a general sense of the committee members' thoughts on the information presented. Takayama then reviewed the attached document. Elected Student Representatives are eligible for scholarships that are intended to help defray students' educational costs and are awarded based on the cost of attendance. The document does not specifically identify a California resident in its calculation. Additionally, if anyone wants to access this document, it can be found on the Government Affairs page under general elections, then the scholarships link. There are multiple categories presented for cost of attendance. The right-most item shows non-residents. The only changing component is tuition between each category, something Takayama highlighted. The formula examines students taking 12 units in 2 semesters. $471 x 12 units x 2 semesters would be the formula for tuition difference. The AS President

position was then presented as an example. The California Resident scholarship formula was calculated as 60% of $28,756, which equals $17,253.60. The current calculation for the nonresident President's scholarship was shown as $17,253.60, although with the published non-resident COA of $40,060, this scholarship calculates to 43.1% of COA. Teaney stated the last three presidents have all been grad students, and the scholarship is based on undergrad costs of attendance. Grad students pay about $2,000 more per semester. Takayama then presented two questions to GAC. If AS universally uses the California resident off-campus COA, is that clearly disclosed? Does a universal California resident COA base best serve the stated purpose of defraying educational expenses and broadening access to candidacy? Takayama then set a direction for GAC to discuss. She is not proposing individual COA. Instead, the idea would be to think about using a different category based on classifications that are being paid for by each student. The formula she suggested is: Scholarship = Position % x (CA Resident off-campus COA + Mandatory Tuition Differential). The tuition for 2026-27 is $6,838 for a CA resident, + $3,420 for a WUE, and +$11,304 for a non-resident. Marin stated that technically on the AS scholarship method it takes it off undergraduates living off-campus for the year. Going from an undergraduate position to a graduate position, she stated it's inequitable to compare an undergraduate to graduate cost. She thinks that difference should be stated as well. Teaney enjoyed that Takayama drew attention to the fact that the information was not clarified on the website. Additionally, Teaney wonders about the financial implications and how doable the changes would be. She also wanted to know what the impact would be to the budget. Weiland agreed that this topic should be discussed. Scholarship processing times have historically caused issues. The math for calculating each person's scholarship after election season makes it sound like there could be budget variance as well. He worries about adding on additional issues in processing and having to pay things back. Weiland also states that if the scholarships are based on individual residency in the future, there is a chance that if the EVP is a non-resident, they could end up making more than the President's scholarship as a CA resident. McAllister-Knutson asked if there has been an audit of ASI's, to which Wright stated many CSU's have gone to scholarships. Takayama also wanted to mention that historically, elected representatives receive scholarships because students who were non-documented or international students were not eligible to apply to those positions. Tinnemeyer, as a former international student, stated that the restrictions for students were 20 hours or less per week which may not be suitable in this situation. He continues to state that the difference between the two positions that Weiland referred to brings to mind an equity issue between two people doing the same job, such as Commissioners, who could be paid different amounts. Wright asked to provide the committee with historical context on this topic. She states, in 2008, compensation began for the officers as non-hourly compensation. The students total compensation was allocated monthly for over 12.5 months. If the AS pro-staff received a general salary increase, the amount would go up for the students as well. In 2016, the AS formally switched to the scholarship model, as suggested from GAC, which increased opportunities for a larger pool of candidates. The formula for compensation would be based on the designated percentage of cost of attendance for California residents living off-campus, published annually by the Chancellor's Office and specific to Chico. The compensation would adjust with annual increases in costs, tuition fees, supplies etc., and would no longer be tied to the career employee adjustments. She went on to emphasize that no two students at this table have the same cost of attendance when you factor in rent, food, books, etc. She then compared compensation for the elected roles to student employment jobs. These are hourly rates to do a specific job and are not adjusted based on residential status when hired. Referring back to the COA table, she states the first category lists CA resident, off-campus, and this is the predominant population in Chico State's enrollment. When budgeting, the budget is set six months in advance. She stressed that a standardized index is used to approximate what is needed for the budget, and what each role receives as compensation. If you were to individualize compensation dependent on residency, there would be a significant budgeting challenge since those numbers are not known until after elections and the budget for the year has already been approved by then. Lastly, she asked the table to consider whether the purpose of the Government Affairs scholarship formula is to calculate a percentage of each representative's individual educational costs, or whether the cost of attendance serves as a standardized benchmark for establishing the scholarship amount attached to each position.

## IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

A. President Report

Teaney stated it's important to find students to appoint to the open committees right now. The AS also has a great relationship with the Council of Graduate Students, who are always ready to sit on stateside committees. An offer has also been extended to the Council of Graduate Students to sit on the internal AS Councils and Committees. She's had a few students reach out about Board Designated Funds, and she has proposed a meeting with Director Wright to learn more about this fund. Teaney held one-on-ones last week, including an interesting opportunity in the future to support a stateside project. FASP is not meeting this week, instead, they are having a Zoom meeting tomorrow to discuss executive memorandums.

B. Commissioner of Community Affairs Report

Marin stated that she received three student applications who would like to join the Community Affairs Council. She will be hosting interviews for that tomorrow. She's announced the Moonlight Safety Stroll, an activity that might be changing its name moving forward. This will be on October 22nd at 6pm starting in BMU 203. Weiland asked if a video would be made, and Marin stated she's already planning it. Additionally, she and the other Commissioners filmed a council recruitment video that was released this past weekend in the hopes of filling some appointments.

C. Commissioner of Legislative Affairs Report
Sunderman is absent today but sent a report to Takayama. Takayama stated that Sunderman attended CSSA via Zoom last weekend. They discussed a variety of issues the CSU campuses are experiencing. For example, some campuses have reported visits from ICE, so they are addressing student safety. Additionally, there has been a lack of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus with some suggestions to change that. There will be a CHESS summit in March, and she will have more information for that at the next meeting.

D. Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Report
Hernandez-Serrano stated that he has three students willing to join his committee and he will be meeting with them soon. On September 15th, he attended the campus sustainability meeting. They discussed the time and location, as well as This Way to Resilience and Campus Sustainability Day which are both happening in October. We may also be getting a grant with news on that in late October. Chico State has a new parking service available on the Chico State app which explains if the parking structures are occupied or empty. Users have the option to opt out.

E. Commissioner of Student Engagement and Advocacy Report
Gonzalez stated she is also in the process of filling seats on the council. She needs a total of seven.

**X. STAFF REPORTS –**
McAllister-Knutson stated there are over 200 clubs recognized right now. Wildcat Welcome events shows that students want to get involved, as there have been higher numbers at every event this year. CatsConnect currently lists 1,114 events. The incoming class of students this year is the first that have had a full high school experience without the pandemic. Cobian explained that there was a student that opened up an LGBTQ+ center in the Creek Café area, which McAllister-Knutson clarified that centers are different than clubs.
Anderson reports there are over 190,000 Chico State alumni. Wildcat Weekend is coming up October 8th, 9th, and 10th.
Dr. Stewart stated he's scheduled for a meeting with the Director of Social Justice and Equity. He may have clarity to offer regarding an LGBTQ+ center.

**XI. DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT—** Wright thanked everyone for a wonderful first GAC meeting and a fruitful conversation. She invited anyone to schedule a meeting with her to discuss the topics at hand and answer questions.

**XII. CHAIR REPORT** – Takayama had a great opportunity to sit on the UPD search committee. She also shared that the Vice President of Facilities and Services applications are being reviewed. The University Curriculum Committee has put a lot of time and effort into improving the University's curriculum. She stressed that if anyone has questions or experiences as a student, not to hesitate to reach out to the student who serves at UNCC, or their primary Senator.

**XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Teaney stated tomorrow is the Autumn Harvest market and registered attendees have the opportunity to win a karaoke set.
Weiland encouraged everyone to take the AI survey that is due October 19th. He and Teaney have also been working to put together a booth at the Farms Harvest Festival on October 3rd so reach out if you are interested in assisting.
Hernandez-Serrano said there will be another cleanup October 3rd from 9am to 12pm.
McAllister-Knutson reminded everyone that their mandatory trainings, including Title IX, are accessible from the announcement on CatsConnect.

**XIV. PUBLIC OPINION** – Jasmine Saephan, AS Marketing Manager, wanted to draw attention to a Sustainability Fund workshop this Thursday. There is also an Oktoberfest dinner at Estom Jamani at 5PM. Additionally, the Moonlight Movie will be Project Hail Mary with stargazing equipment available. All events are on CatsConnect and our AS social media site.
Jon Simmons wanted to draw attention to the Board Designated Fund related to the scholarship conversation. He wants to figure out how to accomplish additional funding without taking away from something else.

Chuy Rojas Rivas welcomed almost 300 students into fraternities within the Interfraternity Council and the Multicultural Greek Council. They are expecting another 500 next semester and wanted to echo that the students want to get involved. They are also working to welcome back a Black letters social sorority. Additionally, they are also doing National Hazing Prevention Week.
Katey Cotton stated that Make a Difference Day sign-ups begin on Monday, the 28th, with eight sights available for this year's event. Registration is first-come, first-served.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair, Takayama, adjourned the meeting at 5:01pm