

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Friday, September 8, 2023

3 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Autumn Alaniz-Wiggins, Mia Arisman, Katie Chai, Christian Sullivan, Itzel Saucedo Dominguez, Imani Martin, Jay Friedman (Zoom), Kaylee McAllister-Knutson (Zoom)

MEMBERS ABSENT – None

OTHERS PRESENT – Kendra Wright, Lexi Extein (recorder), Jon Slaughter (Zoom), Hugh Hammond, Kyle Alsberry, Eliza Miller, Curtis Sicheneder, Chris Navarrete, Windy Van Dam, Juanita Mottley

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Interim-Chair, Alaniz-Wiggins, called the meeting to order at 3:01 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 9/8/23 regular meeting agenda. **Motion to approve the 9/8/2023 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Saucedo Dominguez/Sullivan) 5-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the 8/25/23 regular meeting. **Motion to approve the minutes of the 8/25/23 regular meeting, as presented (Chai/Martin) 5-0-0 MSC.**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None
- 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 survey responses are due today and will have it ready Monday.

VIII. BUSINESS

- A. Discussion Item: Campus Safety Discussion with the Division of Student Affairs.

Alaniz-Wiggins welcomed Juanita Mottley to the table. Mottley introduced herself as the Associate Vice President for Student Support Programs and thanked the Government Affairs Committee for having her. Last year, Mottley made a commitment to do safety forums every year to make sure students understand that safety is their number one priority on campus. She likes the format that is speaking to the students instead of at them. She said that she believes peer-to-peer communication regarding safety seems to be preferred by the students she has interacted with, so she is at this meeting today to get the student representative's opinions on the best way to go about this. She would like to attend the next Government Affairs Committee meeting to discuss what the elected student representative's ideas. Alaniz-Wiggins said she would like to supply the committee with background information; last semester, Student Affairs had the safety forum following an incident with a biology professor at Chico State. Last year's Government Affairs Committee came to the consensus that they did not feel the safety forum format was the most engaging way to pass this information to the students without overwhelming them. Mottley invited the student to think about their role and please come with some ideas for the next Government Affairs Committee meeting on September 22, 2023. Wright said the ultimate ask is for the Government Affairs Committee to figure out how the students think it's best to receive information regarding safety updates and resources. She stated Mottley's team has a ton to offer and have done presentations in the past, but would like

to explore a new way to do this. Wright explained that Government Affairs Committee is being asked to advocate for what the students want as their elected representatives. Sullivan said that from his experience working with first year students, he has found it best to have small group communication, specifically from peer to peer. He also said that scenario-based situations can also help. Arisman asked for clarification on what aspect of safety Mottley's team is looking to focus on? Mottley stated physical, emotional and all other types of safety should be covered. She likes the idea of group work and peer engagement. She would like the students to let her know how they would like to see professional staff help and they have supplied an abundance of resources in the past. Chai suggested a presentation be given at the Title IX training in which all recognized fraternities and sororities must attend. Mottley stated they already do that, but they are open to doing even more presentations if the students believe it would help. Wright stated that Latrice Madkins, the Program Coordinator for Fraternity and Sorority Affairs would be a good person to consult. Sicheneder asked if there will be an opportunity for students to voice their concerns at these presentations, and states that he has also seen small groups exchanging ideas be effective in the past. He stated we do something similar during our fall safety walk. Mottley said that a concern that is oftentimes brought up is the lighting on and surrounding campus, and bike theft. Mottley restated that this is why she is looking for the student's opinions and that she looks forward to discussing their proposals at the next Government Affairs Committee meeting. Alanaiz-Wiggins suggested the Moonlight Safety Walk be held twice a year and expanded upon to hopefully generate more interest. Mottley said she likes that idea and said that breaking out into smaller sessions could be beneficial at these events. Alaniz-Wiggins said that it would be great to expand and collaborate together on this. Wright stated that approximately 40 people attended the Moonlight Safety Walk last year and expanding on the event is a great idea. They need to find incentives that will help boost student engagement during these important events. Sicheneder stated many of the students that attended last year said they were receiving extra-credit in class to attend and that could be helpful. Martin chimed in that many Greek like organization's members are required to do community service hours and if this could count they could see an exponential increase in numbers. Chai said she will get in contact with Madkins. Martin will be the one leading the Moonlight Safety Walk in the spring. Wright said both the campus and city community gain valuable information from this. Alaniz-Wiggins asked all student representatives to come up with a few ideas for the next Government Affairs Committee meeting, as Mottley would like to do something this semester. McAllister-Knutson said we can work to incentivize student organizations to attend as well. The table thanked Mottley for coming.

- IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS** – Arisman said they are finding a time for SAS and will know by Monday. Martin said she has a few people interested in committee. Saucedo Dominguez said that she also had people interested in committee. Sullivan said he has multiple people interested in his committee, and he will reach out next week. He said that from September 15-Oct 15th is Hispanic Cultural month. Tribal relations have a cultural class this month. Orange t-shirt day on the 29th. The Black Student Union is selling t-shirts if anyone is interested. The Gender and Sexuality Equity Coalition's clothing swap has been moved to Nov 2nd. They recently had a situation where they needed to keep their door closed for a week due to a campus safety concern. The Cross-Cultural Leadership Center is having cultural fashion show on the 2nd. Sullivan is also looking for another MC to help him host MAC night, please contact him if interested. Chai said she has interest in the committee and she wants to work with the Associated Student's marketing team to gain even more interest. Alaniz-Wiggins and Chai filmed the tuition increase video, and Chai has had a few professors reach out expressing their gratitude.
- X. STAFF REPORTS** – McAllister-Knutson said nothing to report. Friedman said nothing to report. Wright said the day they decided on for dinner at the President's Mansion with president Perez will be on on October 3rd, and they will all receive an invitation via Outlook soon. She will send an email mid-week with any more information.
- XI. CHAIR REPORT** – Alaniz-Wiggins shared Board of Trustees meeting is happening Monday and Tuesday in Long Beach and she is signed up for public comment. The Cozen O' Connor report is underway and she is coming up with aspects they want to tackle. She also said the tuition increase video Chai and her did went well.
- XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None
- XIII. PUBLIC OPINION** – Sicheneder announced that by the end of this calendar year he will be departing from the Associated Students. Navarette said that the video he filmed for the elected representatives is doing great on social media, and they will be filming another one regarding councils and committees next week.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair, Alaniz-Wiggins, adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.