



## **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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

**Friday, February 14, 2025**

**12:00 p.m.**

**BMU 205**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** – Aaron Schwartz, Chris Sullivan, Dev Kachiwala, Aishwarya Gowda, Gia Monticello, Adin White, Humberto Partida, Shari Anderson, Kaylee McAllister-Knutson, Dr. Joseph Morales

**MEMBERS ABSENT** – Madison Kelley

**OTHERS PRESENT** – Eliza Miller, Emily Berry (Recording), Jon Simmons, Kendra Wright, Leah Slem, Brooke McCall, Dr Cirilo Cortez, Luke Bagwell, Chase Weiland, Megan Kurtz, Tyler Friend, Jasmine Saephan, Katey VonMosch

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Schwartz, called the meeting to order at 12:00pm
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Approval of the 2/14/25 regular meeting agenda as presented.  
**Motion to approve the 2/14/25 agenda, as presented.**  
  
**Motion to Amend the 2/14/25 agenda to move item F in place of item B to present it earlier.**  
**(Sullivan/Kachiwala) 6-0-0 MSC**  
  
**Motion to approve amended agenda (Gowda/Sullivan) 6-0-0 MSC**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approval of the 1/31/25 regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion to approve the 1/31/25 regular meeting minutes, as presented (White/Gowda) 6-0-0 MSC**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None
- VI. **PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to items on the agenda, three minutes per speaker, nine 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 Committee
    1. SAS Actions: Approval of 2/13/25 Student Academic Senate agenda
    2. Approval of 1/30/25 Student Academic Senate Minutes

They discussed the new college of nursing changes and the council meetings that are required by SOLE for the recognized clubs on campus. Some of the student senators had concerns about student leaders not being able to attend council meetings each month.
- VIII. **BUSINESS**
  - A. Action Item: Approval of Revisions to Duties of the Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs as presented (attached, page 7-8) **Action Requested: Motion to approve the Revisions to Duties of the Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs as presented (attached, page 7-8).**  
**(Kachiwala/Partida) 6-0-0 MSC**

- B. **(F.)** Information Item: Proposal for \$5,000 Annual Funding Allocation to Hungry Wildcat Food Pantry (attached, page 13-16)

Gowda said she's here with Partida and Sullivan with the proposal. When Sullivan was the director of SJEC last year \$1200 was secured to the pantry in 2024. They had a partnership to source culturally diverse foods with Asian Market and Panaderia La Michoacana. This year they came up with the same proposal, allowing \$1200 to go to the pantry, it just has to go through a procedure and vote each year to allow it. This policy would allow this to be done without a vote every year and it would be \$5000 instead. Last year the food ran out quickly and that's why they've decided to increase the amount. They broke down the fund utilization to vendor partnerships, inventory expansion, heritage month programming, and Ramadan food allocation. This will also adjust with student enrollment, if it decreases it will adjust, if it increases they have to come back to GAC to vote on potential fund changes. Monticello asked where the funds will be taken from since this is a reallocation. Sullivan said it depends on GAC but a request can be made to pull from what we currently have. Wright said it would come up when budget comes to GAC for the 2025-26 year. Schwartz asked about the fund allocation that would represent additional holidays for other minority groups not listed. Gowda clarified this was an example and not all they are sticking to in the future. Sullivan expanded that they did surveys of minority groups and they have to start somewhere. Wright summarized Schwartz original comment was in-line with the suggestion to GAC that less is more on the proposal, and they are not married to the items. Kachiwala asked if it wasn't previously recurring funding and if this proposal was making it so, to which Wright confirmed. Sullivan also expressed gratitude towards Partida and Gowda.

- C. Information Item: Resolution regarding Interim System-wide Time, Place and Manner Policy (attached, page 9) White said there are free speech office hours here. This resolution is about the way the policy was implemented. He says a lot of students have been worried about this as the policy governs when, where, and how freedom of expression can be exercised, and he believes decisions like this should be communal.

Sullivan asked about the timing, because he felt like last semester the Time, Place, and Manner conversation and concerns were discussed then. He wanted to know where things went from there. Shwartz clarified that it states at the bottom of the document. This statement will be disseminated to ASCSU, CSSA, and the senior professional staff and administrative leadership of the AS organization. Sullivan clarified he meant how to present it, and White said as a blanket statement of this council on behalf of students. Schwartz asked why we aren't renouncing the policy entirely. White said he agreed and the problem with the bureaucratic options was the sidestepping Schwartz also felt was happening. Gowda asked if this was being presented to CSSA and Schwartz said it would be distributed to the CSU Board of Trustees, the Chancellors Office, CSSA, and all of the senior professional staff and administrative leadership. Wright clarified today is an information item, then she'll work with White to have that item come back as an action item next meeting, be voted on, and then be presented to Board for approval. Sullivan wanted to express gratitude to White for his hard work.

- D. Information Item: Activity Fee Budget vs Actual December 2024 (attached, page 10)

Schwartz said the numbers are cut and dry. If you look at our revenues the total was \$970,786, the original budget was \$2,178,960. That's 44.55% of the originally approved budget.

For other expenses we have total expenses of \$247,602 compared to the allocated budget of \$991,407, which is 24.97% of the approved expenses.

He said something he noticed was if you look at our expenses there's a pretty large gap in student programming versus other numbers like corporate services, but it was explained by Wright that of that allocated number there's quite a bit that's already pulled off the top and allocated to other student programming, like SJEC/SOEF, etc.

Operational expenses \$111,360, allocated budget of \$234,602 which leaves us at 47.47% of budget.

Government Affairs \$272,542, allocated budget of \$621,932, puts us at 43.82%

Campus Programs \$100,915 with allocated budget of \$389,382, bringing us to a yearly percentage of 25.92%.

Community Programs total thus far of \$117,957, with an allocated budget of \$283,888 putting us at 41.55%.

Total expenses year to date \$850,376, compared to annual budget of \$2,521,211 leaving us at 33.73% which was a net increase for that period of \$120,410.

Partida asked if the money is left is what's left for the rest of the year, to which Schwartz confirmed. We run on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. Kachiwala asked about the community programs income, and he wondered if 18,000 was being used or was an expense. Schwartz said his understanding was that the original money that was thought to be brought in from the community programs was budgeted at \$9,000, and the community programs brought in \$18,000. Gowda asked if this was a net increase, and Schwartz said yes. Simmons said a lot of the small percentage of dollars is still allocated. Schwartz asked if we're on track, and Simmons said yes. Kachiwala asked what the programs are that we're getting income from. Wright said \$15,000 is from the Office of Civic Engagement which helps CAVE, community engagement workshops, one time projects, and so on. Additional funding sources would be Chico Unified, grant writing proposals and so on. Gowda asked if students in CAVE had to pay fees, and Schwartz said no, they're a job opportunity.

- E. Information Item: Capital Expenditure Reports for quarter ending 12/31/24 (attached, page 11)  
Schwartz reports on an unallocated balance of \$25,000, thus far we have not had to make any capital expenditures, so it is still remaining in the budget.
  
- F. Information Item: Local Agency Investment Fund and Money Market for quarter ending 12/31/24 (attached, page 12)  
Schwartz reports Auxiliary Businesses has an average daily investment of 1,006,181.49. With an annualized return on investment of 4.62%, which gives total interest earned of \$46,510.02, leaving our ending balance at \$3,966,915.81.  
Activity Fee had \$1,352,242.52, with an annualized return on investment of 4.62% which gives total interest earned of \$62,506.44, leaving our ending balance at \$5,284,720.36.  
Student Union had \$2,878,603.39, with an annualized return on investment of 4.62%, which gives total interest earned of \$133,061.38, leaving our ending balance at \$10,398,347.77.  
Board Designated Fund had \$291,868.92, with an annualized return on investment of 4.62%, which gives total interest earned of \$13,491.43, leaving our ending balance at \$1,160,027.08.  
LAIF Total of \$5,528,896.32 average daily investment earning 4.62% for a total interest earned of \$255,569.27, leaving our investment balance of \$20,810,011.02.  
Money Market Account for the Tri Counties had interest earned of \$42,365.93, earning an annual yield of 4.39% working out with \$5,093,046.50.
  
- G. Discussion Item: Office of Civic Engagement Partnership Event  
Friend said he's not too far into the planning process because he wants to partner with the AS. He wants to do a panel with the student reps. This could be an open discussion of how they got to this point, Civic can fund it, and provide food and drinks and leave it as an open forum for everybody. Schwartz said anything that helps students learn more about how to get involved on campus and what services are provided. Sullivan asked about a projected time frame. Friend said yes, he spoke with Amy Magnus, and they're thinking end of March early April, just after spring break. Gowda asked if she's considered other collaborations or if it would be a single project. Friend said he's completely open to other collaborations. Partida said his Campus Engagement and Advocacy Council in 205 has a meeting at 2PM as well and Friend can also discuss this there. Kachiwala asked how big the panel would be and how many hours. Friend said panel size is up to collaboration. Kachiwala went on to clarify time frames for the panel, which Friend agreed was a good idea. Schwartz wondered if Friend was envisioning more of a round table, or if he was looking for highlighting all the different student opportunities that exist on campus through leaders? Friend said he likes the idea of a round table conversation so everyone can have a voice in the matter, but it's also important to hit on the opportunities for students on campus. Sullivan said they're currently in the process of planning a student town hall that's also a roundtable, so he's asking for differences. Friend said it's still too early to determine but it would be a little bit of everything, including random questions and pre-made questions. Schwartz clarified that the town hall was just for AS but the event from Friend would be a wider swathe of student leaders. Wright wanted to offer

a chance to connect in regards to the intent and the who on the panel, as there will be some restrictions on elections and students who are running for office as they'll be restricted – unless it's open to all running. Schwartz asked if they weren't campaigning if that was still a problem, and Wright clarified due to equity it would be because everyone deserves the same level of exposure and marketing. Gowda asked what help was needed immediately, and Friend said gauging interest was important, but everyone seemed interested. Where to go from here, he'd want to figure out who helps host the events and make contacts/emails to proceed.

#### **IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS—**

Gowda just had an academic integrity council meeting today. They were also asking to revise the responsibilities of the AS in the council, and they'll be working on that. She also sits on the University Diversity Council. They are discussing grants and EO's. She's also been called to be on the committee for the APIDA opening and also attending meetings for graduation and Black History Month events.

Monticello is working on obtaining two more members for her committee. They meet on Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30. She is also working on getting back on to the UPPSAC. She's also working with CAVE for their Cats in the Community event. She is also looking to partner with GSEC and will be applying for a grant to get funding for additional lighting near the WREC and bike path.

Kachiwala said the senators did a women in STEM event this week which was fun. Student Academic Senate was yesterday, CFAC is today and they are looking at the student learning fee money being given to different programs on campus. The academic integrity council talked about the policy/ executive memorandum about the duties of AI. They'll also be revising their titles. Board designated fund committee was on Wednesday and they talked about using that fund for our campus.

White said a lot of people went to the SFAC workshops, and a lot of people are applying for the grants. He is working another resolution to bring as an information item hopefully next GAC about EO 1068 which is an Executive Order that dictates caps and minimum of units that a person can have to join a student org. He is available Tuesdays, Thursdays 10-12 and Fridays 12-1. Or he can be emailed.

Partida said he's meeting with his council today at 2 to potentially get a date for their incoming Men's mental health workshop. Kachiwala left the meeting at 1:09. He said he was also in a video for AS Marketing promoting run for office. He also wrote a blog for the AS website that should be published today that reflects on his role.

Sullivan said we're a month in and are working hard and wanted to acknowledge and express gratitude towards the Government Affairs team and Women in STEM. He will be doing panels next week from 6-8 PM in BSS 122

This is for graduate students. He's also speaking at the CCLC event called First, it's from 4-5PM. He'll be speaking on a student leadership class next week as well. He's working on getting some AS wristbands and SWAG. Student Town Hall is March 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5. This is a hybrid event. CSSA is this weekend, it's a virtual meeting from 8-4:50. Kelley will be making a public comment as well about EO 1068. He attended the reimagining of academic affairs. He's part of the VP of Business and Finance search committee. Board designated fund met. He meets with the Provost and President Perez next week and asks that other students provide questions and comments to him to provide to the President.

#### **X. STAFF REPORTS –**

McAllister-Knutson talked about SAS accommodation. Spirit Days on Fridays, she also thanked the AS for collaborating on that. Spirit Week this year is going to be a hoot and a half. She thanked everyone for the work they did and the support. All information is available on Cat's Connect.

Simmons said thank you for the mingle. He also said budget is a big deal and the AS is doing a great job. He clarified we are still deficit spending but the money that's in the account was put there during good years to carry us through. State of the University is on Monday at 3PM.

Anderson said we are continuing having meetings with campus partners like AS and SLL about spirit week and etc. If you are a senior and you want to learn more about senior send off, gradfest is in two weeks, the last week of February. Kachiwala asked if any of our help was needed and Anderson clarified more information was to come.

Dr. Morales asked if there were any questions about anything. Schwartz was curious about the resolution put forth about the TPM policy and whether it went to any other stakeholders like the faculty association. Wright clarified that White created it. Partida said he's seen Orion stories about immigration and he asked if students knew who he was and were utilizing him as a resource. He said yes. Schwartz asked if there was a place on campus that had red cards. Dr. Morales said the DREAM center has those available.

Anderson left the meeting at 1:29PM.

#### **XI. DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT—**

Wright wanted to seize the opportunity to introduce our Chief of Staff Luke Bagwell.

**XII. CHAIR REPORT** – Skipped

**XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS** –

Sullivan said Happy Valentine's day.

Gowda said Young Black and Gifted on February 20 on Cats Connect. Latinas in Action on Cats Connect, El Centro Presents, Take a Pause, APIDA summit – all on Cats Connect.

Monticello said spirit Friday was happening today.

Schwartz said on February 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:15-8pm the Chico State Democrats are having an event to have students band together to speak towards causes they feel are important but may not be properly represented.

**XIV. PUBLIC OPINION**— None

**XV. ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:33PM