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ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

2:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT- Jennifer Mendoza, Breanna Holbert, Ella Snyder, Anthony Ruiz, Nick Blackwell, Kiley Kirkpatrick, Logan Lee, Mary Wallmark, Jay Friedman, Edgar Hernandez

MEMBERS ABSENT – None

OTHERS PRESENT – Jon Slaughter, Katie Peterson, Karen Bang (recorder), Hugh Hammond

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - The Chair, Mendoza, called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting was started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion to approve the 10/21/2020 regular meeting agenda (Lee/Ruiz) 7-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the 10/7/2020 regular meeting. **Motion to approve minutes of the 10/7/2020 regular meeting, as presented (Holbert/Snyder) 7-0-0 MSC.**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Hernandez was welcomed to his first GAC meeting.
- VI. **PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to items on the agenda, three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic - None
- VII. **BUSINESS**

A. Consent Agenda

All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and are enacted by one motion without discussion. A member of the committee who desires a separate discussion of any item may pull that item from the Consent Agenda.

2020-21 Associated Students Committee/Council Appointments

Confirmation of appointment to Community Affairs Council (CAC)

-Commissioner of Community Affairs Appointment: Lauren Jaramillo

Confirmation of appointment to Sustainability Affairs Council (SAC)

-Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointment: Carl Nelson

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented (Ruiz/Kirkpatrick) 7-0-0 MSC.

- B. Discussion Item: 8/31/20 Activity Fee Fund Budget vs. Actual – Slaughter reviewed the August financials with the committee, noting this is for the first two months of the fiscal year and the benchmark is 17%. Snyder asked if the CDL could accept research grants and Slaughter explained that the AS, as the operator of the CDL doesn't do educational grants; ours are from the CA Department of Education and Federal child care money. He said the University can do research grants but we don't do receive funding from those grants.
- C. Discussion Item: Commissioner of Student Organizations and Resources Committee – Mendoza said they want to redefine the specific duties for this position. Ruiz encouraged that during their officer hours, they look at what positions other AS' have, noting they are all different. He said we are probably the only campus that has commissioners. He also suggested looking at their campus resources and AS programs. Holbert agreed and said it's also important to assess what our students at Chico State need right now and said something to do with wellness should be done. Snyder said students don't seem to be participating in campus activities such as student clubs, Student Life and Leadership, etc. and don't seem to be aware of various activities. She

said student officers and staff have taken on trying to help with this issue of connecting and communicating with the students. She said this position should be focused on the idea of involvement and suggested that a subcommittee could be created, which could go into more detail regarding how this would look. Holbert said they need to differentiate what engagement looks like by asking the question of the whole campus. Mendoza said they have to look at what the AS can do as well, such as meeting students where they're at. She said there are a lot of students going through mental health issues right now, and we need to keep that in mind while redefining this position. She said the subcommittee could talk about specific challenges this position can address. Lee said Anna Paladin is very busy dealing with marketing and suggested the Commissioner of SOAR could be the middle bridge of looping in AS officers with resources as well as a liaison to students. Ruiz suggested reaching out to the CSU East Bay Director of Communication regarding their duties. He noted they also have a Director of Wellness, and he's been trying to find information regarding their duties. Slaughter said he could reach out to the Executive Director for some direction on where this information can be found. Discussion was held regarding who is to be on the subcommittee, the timeline for finalizing the revisions to this position, as well as how to share the information with each other. Hernandez said his major focus is engagement and wellness, and would incorporate these into this position. He said the subcommittee should meet at least once a week to accomplish the task in a timely manner. Ruiz suggested getting opinions from student organizations for this as well.

- D. Discussion Item: Government Affairs Town Hall – Holbert said she has been working with Mendoza, Peterson and other staff to come together and talk about five key issues that students really care about right now. The five issues they've collected are equity, fiscal (fees), basic needs, mental health, freedom of speech and advocacy. She said each topic would be presented by folks who play a large role in those themes regarding what both Chico State and the AS are doing on them. Students would also have an opportunity to ask questions. She said she has been emailing staff as well as Cabinet members to see if they would like to be a part of the discussion. Holbert said they are planning to hold this Town Hall after the Thanksgiving break, possibly December 3. She said she plans on having an AS officer help moderate each section of Town Hall; the agenda to be determined. Holbert said she and Mendoza have discussed having five different presentations, which would include time for students to ask questions. Mendoza said students could join sections that they're interested in and that they are trying to make it very structured in order to communicate effectively regarding student concerns. Snyder said SAS is doing a similar forum on November 12.
- E. Discussion Item: California State University, Los Angeles Resolution on Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Transparency and Mental Health Service Standards – Mendoza said as discussed at the previous GAC meeting, the ASI of CSU, LA is trying to address mental health services. She said she sees the potential for this to be discussed at various areas of this campus. Kirkpatrick asked if our AS would be coming out with a statement regarding how we feel about mental health initiatives or actually doing something for students. Mendoza said they'd like to have a tangible plan when they come out with the statement because it would reiterate statements that Government Affairs has recently made. Holbert suggested talking with Kaylee Biedermann as she is working with Jamie Clyde to open a Wellness Center inside the BMU. Discussion was held regarding how to move forward with increasing mental health services on campus. Ruiz suggested evaluating if there is an issue with the availability of mental health counselors for students. Snyder said each CSU in unison could create a statement like this and suggested Holbert and Ruiz discuss this at CSSA and perhaps a resolution could be prepared there to send to the Governor. Holbert said she spoke with Sandy Parsons about counselors on campus and was told CSU Chico is doing well based on quotas, and also offers 24/7 counseling services. In addition, they are also offering numerous programs regarding the upcoming elections. She said the AS could help more with mental health issues. Wallmark said she likes the idea of checking in to see where we're at and noted the Counseling Center currently has open appointments. She said that campus lacks services regarding wellness, noting students may not need counseling, but need some type of help. Ruiz suggested reviewing CSSA's website regarding a basic needs project that they did in 2018-19. Kirkpatrick suggested doing a social media campaign so that students could say how they're doing and what they'd like to see, and go from there. Mendoza said it's important to analyze where students are at right now. She said she would reach out to Biedermann regarding the Wellness Center and also would reach out to those services on campus that provide for mental health and ask if students have been engaging with them, if the hotline is being used, etc. Peterson suggested contacting Juanita Mottley, as she is responsible for wellness on campus. She also noted the MacMillan Matrix could be a valuable tool to use as it's designed to help programs assess what we and others do, how to best partner, and identify where there is a gap in needs. Peterson said she could also share results from a number of assessments that went out to students last spring from the campus and the AS. Mendoza said by next Thursday, she would create a subfolder which would hold mental health resources.
- F. Discussion Item: Brainstorm Regarding Communicating Student Needs with the University Police Department on Behalf of the Commissioner of Community Affairs – Kirkpatrick said she would be meeting with Chief Dillon

this Friday, noting she's on the Police Advisory Board. She will provide an update at the next GAC meeting. Mendoza said with the election coming up, she's not sure what the University is doing and is also curious regarding what the city is doing community wise for Chico. Kirkpatrick said she hasn't heard from anyone on the city level regarding what they're doing regarding elections, and she will reach out to them to find out. She noted the ballot box is still outside the BMU auditorium. Snyder said she met with the City of Chico Chief of Police and he didn't mention anything about that. Ruiz said there will probably be a protest at the City Plaza one way or the other when elections end. Kirkpatrick said she would bring this up when she meets with Chief Dillon regarding what they're planning for the campus after the election. Wallmark said since the 2016 election, the campus has developed a more formalized protocol on how to react to protests and civil unrest, particularly planning for events. She explained that it's a partnership between her office, (Wallmark is the Campus Free Speech Advocate), the Campus Activity Review team and UPD so that no matter what happens, they will be ready. She noted they are monitoring various channels to find out if something is being planned. Wallmark said the Student Affairs professionals are the first contact for students any time there are protests on campus. She explained that if there's free speech activity on campus, UPD is not being sent in right away and that they are very intentional about where campus police are at on campus. She said the biggest message they are sending out to faculty, staff and students is that this will be very difficult no matter what the outcome is. She said Chico State is #1 in the CSU per capita for students that are registered to vote. Wallmark said they are trying to create Wildcat community for this and they have an extremely solid security and action plan set up.

- VIII. REPORTS: OFFICERS** – Blackwell said there's a week and a half left of Sustainability Month and the ASH Conference is going on today and tomorrow. He held his first ice-breaker meeting for SAC yesterday and their first official meeting is next week.
- IX. REPORTS: STAFF** – Peterson said the AS got their first in-person event approved, the Boo-rito Bonanza, next Friday from 9 p.m. to midnight and they will be providing free boo-ritos and water. If interested in helping, contact her as she's trying to create an outreach team. She said there is outdoor study space open on campus, and requested help in spreading the word to students about it. Peterson said student engagement is lower than usual; however, the AS has started to show increased numbers of students participating in events.
- X. REPORT: EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT** – Mendoza said they were supposed to discuss new office hours but due to time, will discuss at a later time or in group chat.
- XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Ruiz said the LAC Debate Watch Zoom Party is tomorrow.
- XII. PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic – None
- XIII. FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP** – Mendoza said have a great Wednesday, it's almost Friday! Kirkpatrick reminded everyone to get their flu shot.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair, Mendoza, adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.