



**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

*This meeting was facilitated both in-person and via an online Zoom format, consistent with the Governor's Executive Order N29-20, suspending certain open meeting law restrictions.*

**Wednesday, October 13, 2021**

**2:30 p.m.**

**BMU 205**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** – Taryn Burns, Duncan Young, Olivia Rosso, Michelle Borges, Michelle Davis, Megan Oliver, Delaney Love, Jay Friedman, Mary Wallmark

**MEMBERS ABSENT** – None

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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - The Chair, Burns, called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting was started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Rosso requested revising the agenda to include Information Item: Revisions to Student Academic Senate Code. **Motion to amend agenda and add Information Item – Revisions to Student Academic Senate Code (Rosso/Young) 6-0-0 MSC. Motion to approve the amended 10/13/21 agenda (Rosso/Megan Oliver) 6-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the 9/29/21 regular meeting. **Motion to approve the Minutes of the 9/29/21 regular meeting, as presented (Love/Borges) 6-0-0 MSC.**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Young said regarding student COVID certifications, that 80 students with some in-person courses were dropped from classes, only 15 of those were full withdrawals. The deadline for employees to finalize their certification is in two weeks and only 39 of 1,000 employees have not yet finalized their certification. Young said they are looking at approximately 75% of classes in person next semester. Of the remaining 25%, 60% will be synchronous online, and 40% will be asynchronous online. • Peterson said the Fuerte event will be held in BMU 203 tomorrow. She said MAC Night applications are now live on Wildcat Sync and requested spreading the word to cultural organizations that want to perform. Applications are due by 10/26 and the event is 11/10. • Oliver said she and Young have been working on the upcoming Town Hall, aiming to get in touch with students to see what we can do as a team to help them and see what they're getting/not getting out of the semester. Wallmark said Wildcat Vibe is tonight at 6 p.m.
- VI. **PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to items on the agenda, three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic – None
- VII. **BUSINESS**
  - A. Action Item: Approval to request BOD to amend the Bylaws to lower the enrolled unit requirement to file for elected office to match the Chancellor's Office minimum requirements – **Move to request BOD to amend the Bylaws to lower the enrolled unit requirement to file for elected office to match the Chancellor's Office minimum requirements, as presented (Young/Rosso) 6-0-0 MSC.**
  - B. Action Item: Approval to not allow a write-in process for uncontested positions appearing on the AS General Election Ballot and instead appoint those positions prior to August training – Young expressed concern about not having a process in place to appoint and Burns said it would follow

the same process, but would be starting earlier. Slaughter said as soon as the election ends, they need to try appointing for open positions. He said wording could be added to the ballot that a position is open, and provide contact information if students are interested in the position. Discussion was held. Miller said a sample ballot comes out two weeks prior to the election, so we'll know then if there are any uncontested positions. **Motion to approve not allowing a write-in process for uncontested positions appearing on the AS General Election Ballot and instead appoint those positions prior to August training, as presented (Rosso/Borges) 6-0-0 MSC.**

- C. Information Item: 2022 AS Election Topics – Burns said the last item to discuss is August training and noted from previous discussions it sounded like the committee wants to find a way for trainings to be shorter, more accessible, possibly one week before classes begin or the first week of school. Rosso said the two week training was very beneficial and that it would be really stressful to hold training once the semester begins. Peterson suggested that training be done in August or earlier in the summer. Discussion was held regarding possible virtual training for at least a portion of the training. The committee liked the idea of spreading the training out and Davis suggested half of the training be done as soon as the spring semester ends, the second half of training right before the fall semester begins. Borges said the first half could be the presentations regarding expectations, budgets, etc. Representatives could then begin planning what they want to do, committee membership, etc. Peterson said they could do one full week at the end of May, then the rest of the training before fall classes begin. Hybrid solutions would also be used when possible and trainings recorded in case someone could not attend. The committee agreed with the timeline that was discussed. Slaughter said today's suggestion of one week after the spring semester ends and one week before the fall semester begins would go in the Elections Procedure document, which has to be approved by GAC by the end of the fall semester. Burns asked if the committee would like this information to be placed in the Intent to File packet and the committee agreed. Slaughter said since this information would be contained in the Elections procedures document which the GAC approves, this doesn't need to be separately actioned, unless they would like to do so. The GAC decided no separate action was needed. Slaughter requested affirmation from the committee that these changes would be effective for next year's election; current officers are still required to follow the same procedures as when elected, and the GAC confirmed.
- D. Information Item: Revisions to Associated Students Corporate Codes – Scholarship Committee Code – Slaughter said he and Miller worked on revisions to this code and he noted that Miller is the staff representative on the Scholarship Committee. He said the AS has three active scholarships that we either support, or appoint for scholarships. Slaughter said they have had recent challenges due to time, availability, commitment, as well as students on this committee actually being in the queue to be a possible award recipient. He reviewed the voting membership revisions and noted the committee meets at the end of April or beginning of May. He said this would come back as an Action item at the next GAC meeting. Young said it doesn't say who selects those additional students, such as GAC or Board. Slaughter said he would add "affirmed by GAC" to the code.
- E. Information Item: Revisions to Associated Students Corporate Codes – Student Academic Senate Code – Rosso said a subcommittee of four met regarding how to include students on Student Academic Senate (SAS) that are more representative of all students. She reviewed the suggested revisions with the committee and noted this item is scheduled to be voted on at SAS this Friday.
- F. Discussion Item: 7/31/21 and 8/31/21 Activity Fee Fund Budget vs. Actual – Slaughter said the benchmark was 16.66% for August and provided an overview of the report. Total Revenues were at 7.93%, Total Expenses at 13.95% and Net Increase at 89.84% He explained the process regarding funds being held by the campus for the AS.

**VIII. REPORTS: ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES** – Rosso said at this Friday's SAS meeting, Patrick Newell, former Dean of the Library, will be talking about a grant the library received, and he would like feedback from students on how to use that grant. She said Jason Nice, chair of the Curriculum Advisory Board and head of the Honors Department will also be attending in order to discuss equity gaps in GE classes. • Davis said the Legislative Affairs Council orientation was held last week,

which included a brainstorming session regarding possible events they could hold, as well as various issues and topics to focus on throughout the year. They will be holding their first meeting next Wednesday. • Borges said her council had a brainstorming session as well, and their meeting is scheduled for next week. She said they discussed holding a sustainability event at the farm. They also discussed recommending a possible policy or regulation to ban plastic glitter being used on campus during graduation as its bad for the environment. Young said the Center for Regenerative Agriculture does a cross between agriculture and sustainability, and received a large donation recently. He said they might have the resources to collaborate with them. • Love said she is working on her committee appointments. She said she is also working with Megan Kurtz regarding off campus student life and they're working on possibly developing a neighborhood ambassador program for leadership roles for students off-campus, so that those students that live off campus will feel connected to the community and campus. • Oliver said she is working on filling up all appointments on her committee. She said she has also been reaching out to a lot of clubs and organizations and scheduled some one-on-ones regarding what they're working on in their clubs this year, and what she can do to help. • Young said there are 20 current reported COVID cases on campus – 14 students and six employees. He said 93% of campus population is vaccinated and that we are coming back after Thanksgiving, unlike some campuses which are not. He also noted that the testing site is cutting down to about 50% of capacity. Guidance on boosters should be out by the end of the month. Young said James Lawrence, Senator for College of Natural Sciences, put out a survey that received approximately 200 responses regarding modality of instruction. Results show that students don't like Zoom fully synchronous online. Young said his meeting with Jason Nice went pretty well and there seems to be some interest from faculty to encourage GE courses to shift to more equitable practices. Young said at Town Hall they will also discuss off campus housing as well as hiring of the new police chief.

- IX. REPORTS: STAFF** – Peterson said Jade Tsao has been hired as the Chief of Staff. Tsao will help and support Young and Government Affairs. Wallmark said 93% vaccinated is doing really well. She said she has heard of campuses like Fresno State that disenrolled 2,500 students, and we're down to 80. She said the booster program is going to start rolling out for Pfizer for staff and students. Wallmark said that wearing of masks continues to be challenging noting that she has heard a lot of complaints from the library. Wallmark said she hands out candy on the BMU second floor as a thanks to students for wearing their masks. She said they are finalizing searches in the Student Life and Leadership area for the Administrative Support Coordinator position and the Program Coordinator for Student Organizations and Leadership Education (SOLE).
- X. REPORT: EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** – Burns invited the committee to send her items for the GAC agenda and expressed appreciation for the committee's work regarding the AS Elections topics.
- XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Oliver questioned when the flu clinic is and Burns said the first one would be held on October 14, the last one around October 29.
- XII. PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic – None
- XIII. FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP** – None
- XV. ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair, Burns, adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.