



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, September 8, 2021

2:30 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT- Taryn Burns, Duncan Young, Olivia Rosso, Michelle Borges, Michelle Davis, Megan Oliver, Jay Friedman

MEMBERS ABSENT – Mary Wallmark

OTHERS PRESENT – Jon Slaughter, Katie Peterson, Karen Bang (recorder), Hugh Hammond, Austin Lopic, Kiley Kirkpatrick, Eliza Miller, Charlie Foor, Kayla Holland

- 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 – Motion to approve the 9/8/21 regular meeting agenda (Rosso/Davis) 5-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the 8/25/21 regular meeting. **Motion to approve the minutes of the 8/25/21 regular meeting, as presented (Davis/Young) 5-0-0 MSC.**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Burns said interviews for the Commissioner of Community Affairs started this morning. Interviews for the Director of Social Justice and Equity and the Senator of Engineering, Computer Science and Construction Management (ECC) will be held later this week. Davis said the next CSSA Plenary meeting is Saturday and if students are interested in attending, let her know.
- 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.

2021-22 Associated Students Committee/Council Appointments

Confirmation of appointments to Sustainability Affairs Council (SAC)

- Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointments: Faith Churchill and Natalie Pangilinan

Confirmation of appointment to Legislative Affairs Council (LAC)

- Commissioner of Legislative Affairs Appointment: Triston Haverty

- Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointment: Mia Shew

Approval of the Consent Agenda. **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented (Young/Davis) 5-0-0 MSC.**

- B. Information Item: Government Affairs Committee Mission and Program Statements – Slaughter said last spring a new Strategic Plan for the AS was approved, which included a revised and truncated Mission Statement. He said Mission Statements for the various areas of the AS are on our website and he hopes to update and/or reaffirm all of the Mission and Program Statements for the new website. He explained that GAC's Mission Statement and Program Statement were done 20 years ago and noted a good Mission

Statement answers what we do, how we do it and why we do it. Slaughter noted that this Mission Statement doesn't necessarily say why we do it, and that might be something this committee would like to revisit and perhaps reword. He said the Program Statement is more of a general description of what we do and who we do it for. Slaughter suggested that perhaps a sub-committee could be set up to work on this, unless the entire GAC would like to work on it. Discussion was held and Burns suggested a sub-committee of three to four members could meet to discuss this. Rosso, Davis and Borges expressed interest in the sub-committee. Burns requested the information be provided to her by Wednesday of next week so it can be added to the upcoming GAC agenda.

- C. Information Item: 2022 AS Election Topics – Burns said last year's election brought up various concerns. Slaughter said the concerns were regarding GPAs, units, write-ins, trainings, and good cause. He said this is generated by comments made by last year's members, and that staff keep track of questions and challenges that come up. He explained the timeline for discussing and making changes, if needed, by the end of the fall semester, for next year's filing period. Slaughter said the following discussion topics came up: Possible Eligibility Modifications, Write-ins vs. Appointments, Required Trainings and Orientations. He explained the process for revising the AS Bylaws and said the items being discussed today would require the Board's approval; however, the GAC could make recommendations. He noted the following possible eligibility modifications: GPA's – AS Chico's requirements to file for and maintain office are higher than the Chancellor's Office (CO) minimums, Residency and Enrolled Units – AS Chico's requirements to file for and maintain office are higher than the CO minimums. Full-year Commitment – should known mid-year graduates be eligible for office? Slaughter first reviewed the GPA requirements, noting that the CO minimum is 2.0, AS Chico is 2.5 to file/2.3 to maintain office (undergraduates), 3.0 to maintain for graduate students. He said over the past three years 7 representatives became ineligible after being elected because of their GPA's. Regarding Residency Requirements, the CO minimum is that undergraduates have completed one semester and earned 6 units prior to filing for the election, Graduate students actively enrolled in 3 semester units to file. AS Chico requires for Directors that they need 45 units minimum (12 from Chico) and enrolled in the semester immediately preceding filing. Commissioners and Senators need 12 units minimum from Chico, no immediate preceding semester enrollment. Enrolled Units: CO Minimum is 6 for undergraduates, 3 for graduates. AS Chico requires 9 for undergraduates, 6 for graduates to file and maintain office. The maximum unit load of 150 is the same as the CO. Slaughter said regarding Write-ins, it needs to be discussed if they should allow write-ins, or instead appoint vacant offices. Appointments could start before the end of the spring semester. He said many other CSU campuses do not allow write-ins during elections, they instead go through an appointment process to fill vacant offices. If we do allow the write-in process, should a candidate be required to achieve a minimum percentage of the vote count from the previous election in order to win? He noted that sometimes someone can be elected with very few votes. Slaughter showed a working draft, "a candidate must receive at least 10% of the total vote from the immediately preceding AS General Election to be elected to office." He provided data on the last three elections. He said it could be modified that the candidate must receive at least 10% of the total vote **for that office** from the immediately preceding AS General Election. He reviewed common Write-in Issues and also said Write-in candidates are not required to have their eligibility verified like the declared candidates. A student could receive the most votes and then be found to be ineligible to hold office, and the next eligible candidate becomes the winner. Write-in candidates do not currently need to make contact of any kind with the Election Supervisor prior to the election, which can be a challenge. Required Trainings and Orientations were next reviewed. Slaughter questioned if August requirements should be cancelled or shortened; could trainings happen after school starts? He said a definition of "good cause" is needed and that practice has been to honor academic, medical, civic and military reasons. Regarding removal from office, he said there has been confusing and conflicting actions and practices within the Bylaws and Policy. He questioned whether or not the requirement for a pre-semester return be removed altogether, or return and train one week before start of the semester, or do orientation and on-boarding after the semester starts? Slaughter next reviewed Good Cause – Academic (summer course, study abroad, unit earning internship), Medical, Military, Civic. He said our Attendance Policy defines similar cause for regular meetings, not just trainings. Slaughter said regarding removal from office, it happens by missing required trainings and orientations without cause and by practice has been an automatic removal. The Bylaws say it's 2/3 vote of Board or Committee for missing trainings without "good cause." In addition, it is noted that automatic removal will happen on the third unexcused absence from meetings. Non-performance of duties requires 2/3 vote to remove. He said removal from office is done differently and interpreted differently. The Attendance Policy says they will be removed from office on the occurrence of their (third) absence without cause or excuse. Slaughter said up for discussion are the following regarding Eligibility: 1. Do we lower GPA requirements to match the CO minimums? 2. Do we lower enrolled unit requirements to match the CO minimum? 3. Do we modify our required units (12/45) to run for AS office? 4. Do we require a full-year commitment? Next, Write-in Candidates: 1. Do we allow write-in candidates, and if so do we require a minimum number of votes to win the office? 2. Or do we not allow write-in candidates and go strictly to the appointment process for uncontested offices? Slaughter explained that elections fall under GAC purview, so

it's their decision, and reported to the BOD. Regarding Required Trainings: 1. Do we require attendance at August orientations and trainings? 2. Do we define "good cause" specifically for trainings? 3. Is removal from office automatic or by Board/Committee vote? If August Orientations are changed, it would require BOD approval as it's in the Bylaws. Slaughter reviewed the semester timeline regarding decisions on these subjects.

Young suggested considering the EVP position as a sliding vote; the person who gets second place as President, becomes the Executive Vice President. Lopic said he is exploring the possibility of opening the required majors for his position, which could also be discussed. He said he would like to see the EVP position removed from the ballot and that position go to the second vote getter in the election for President. **Motion to continue this discussion until it concludes, or until 3:30 p.m. (Young/Rosso) 5-0-0.** Young said the only way to be equitable is to be as accessible as possible and said it doesn't seem fair or just to have some of these requirements as they exclude more people. Discussion was held regarding the GPA requirements. Rosso noted that if a student has a low GPA then they're struggling; adding on an elected position could make them suffer more. She reminded that students are here for school. Oliver suggested lowering the GPA requirements to the CO minimum. She also said for most offices we shouldn't say they have to be on campus for the full year, except for the President position. Davis said from a commissioner's point of view, they should be required to be here the full year as it causes difficulty in transitioning while still maintaining meetings. Lopic said regarding the full year commitment, any students running for Board positions should not be eligible to run if they're not here the full year as it has a detrimental impact on the corporation. Young questioned if it means present at Chico State and taking classes here at the University, or if they could be studying abroad and holding their position. Rosso said when she learned that a full year commitment wasn't required, she was surprised. She agreed that directors should have the full year commitment requirement. Burns said if current orders are not extended for Zoom meetings, students would need to be present on campus. She noted that commissioners and senators are encouraged to be here the full year. Young questioned how to make sure the unit requirements are inclusive of transfer students and Slaughter reviewed the Residency requirements with the committee. **Motion to extend discussion to 3:35 p.m. (Young/Davis) 5-0-0 MSC.** Oliver noted that there are a lot of elected officials on this team that were write-in candidates. She said she has heard from a lot of students that they don't like when someone campaigns for one position, then says write me in for this other position. She suggested if keeping write-ins, that they should have to receive a minimum vote count from the previous election to make it fair. Young suggested 5% of the turnout of the current election. He also said anyone who receives up to five write-in votes should be considered for appointment to that position so that if it's not filled, we could reach out to them. Oliver said if you're a confirmed candidate for a position, you should not be allowed to do a write-in or campaign as a write-in for another position. Discussion was held. Slaughter said if the write-in is eligible to hold office, if they get the most votes, they'd win. Peterson said they could think about what the guidepost is that they want to establish, they don't have to have write-ins. She said if there's a position that isn't being run for, it would be filled via appointment. Required summer trainings were discussed and Davis said she enjoyed the summer trainings and felt more confident about her role and what she is supposed to be doing. Borges said she likes the idea of holding trainings just a week before school starts, and then do the rest of training the first week or weekend of school. Lopic said regarding defining good cause, it mentions internship, but unit earning internship, which prohibits a lot of the academic resources that are gained. Regarding removal of office, he suggested that this decision go to the Board at the third absence for review to determine why they are missing meetings.

- D. Discussion Item: Possibility of recognizing California Indians Day as a paid holiday – Kirkpatrick said she met with Rachel McBride recently to discuss the possibility of creating California Indians Day as a paid holiday for the AS. She advised that the AS takes Indigenous Days, previously Columbus Day, as a holiday. She said McBride liked the idea of this new holiday; otherwise, she suggested doing something else to recognize the holiday within the AS. Burns said Juneteenth was approved as a paid holiday. Young added that establishing this as a holiday would have to go to BOD and that there is a cost to having a holiday, which they also need to keep in mind as well. He agreed with recognizing these people whose land was taken from them. Rosso agreed with Young. Oliver said she supports it 100% but noted that Chico State as a whole need to explain the importance of this holiday, making sure we share the importance with students. Kirkpatrick said students would still have to go to school and AS student employees wouldn't get paid for this holiday, only career staff would. Peterson suggested talking to someone at University Housing regarding renaming Sutter Dining, as John Sutter participated in native American genocide. Kirkpatrick said Peterson also suggested possibly renaming the BMU conference rooms. She said her intention was to find out what the committee thought about this, and whether or not to move forward. The committee agreed with moving forward with the holiday, and considering the other items suggested. Peterson reminded that they'll have to answer the questions about a lot of causes and a lot of reasons to have holidays.

VIII.REPORTS: ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES – Rosso said that SAS is this Friday at 1 p.m. Also, an interview is scheduled for this Friday with an applicant for the Senator of the College of ECC. (Rosso left the meeting at 3:48 p.m.). • Davis said we're still in first place for the Ballot Bowl, which is a very big accomplishment as it's between all the CSU's, UC's, Community Colleges and Private schools. The deadline for registering by mail has passed, although you can still register to vote until September 14. She suggested reminding students about the importance of this election. • Oliver said she has been working with AS Marketing to create a vaccine information video. She is trying to get other student elected representatives and students that work inside the Wildcat Leadership Center to participate to show how important it is that students get vaccinated, and resources they need to know if they choose to not get vaccinated. Oliver said she has been working on a Town Hall event for club leaders and Greek Life presidents to attend, to interact with one another and find ways to support and provide fund raising ideas, student involvement, etc. • Young said the office hours policy will be discussed at Friday's SAS meeting as office hours seem ineffective regarding meeting students. Young said he and Lopic are involved in the interviews for the Director of Financial Services. He said he and Krystal Alvarez sat in on the first meeting yesterday regarding Enrollment Management. He said everyone has been doing a great job getting appointments to their committees/councils, and noted the senators are doing a good job putting together their committees as well. Young recommended that Oliver reach out to Mike Guzzi regarding the vaccination video. (Oliver left the meeting at 3:54 p.m.) Quorum was lost and the meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.