



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 29, 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 2:35 p.m.
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting was started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Davis requested revising the Consent Agenda to include three Legislative Affairs Council Appointments. **Motion to approve adding an Action Item to the agenda (Davis/Rosso) 6-0-0 MSC. Motion to approve the modified 9/29/21 agenda (Borges/Oliver) 6-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the 9/8/21 and 9/15/21 regular meetings. **Motion to approve the Minutes of the 9/8/21 and 9/15/21 regular meetings, as presented (Rosso/Davis) 5-0-1 MSC.**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Young said the trustees were in town and also that President Hutchinson's wife asked if we could find a candidate for Soroptimists Live your Dream Education Training Award for Women which is a scholarship for women who are the primary financial caretaker for dependents. Love was welcomed to the committee.
- 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 appointment to Sustainability Affairs Council (SAC)

- Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs Appointments: Olivia Peirce and Kyla Powers

Confirmation of appointments to Legislative Affairs Council (LAC)

- Executive Vice President Appointment: Olivia Rosso

- Director of University Affairs Appointment: Kimahri Meredith

- Commissioner of Legislative Affairs Appointment: Amy Magnus (University Representative)

Approval of the Consent Agenda. **Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented (Borges/Young) 6-0-0 MSC.**

- B. Action Item: Approval to request BOD to amend the Bylaws to lower the current GPA requirements to file for and hold elected office to match the Chancellor's Office minimum requirements – **Move to request BOD to**

amend the Bylaws to lower the current GPA requirements to file for and hold elected office to match the Chancellor's Office minimum requirements, as presented (Young/Rosso) 6-0-0 MSC.

- C. Action Item: Approval to request BOD to amend the Attendance Policy for Elected Representatives and Restated Bylaws of Associated Students of California State University, Chico to reflect the approved list of causes to miss scheduled orientations and trainings. The list being: personal or family illness, emergency, or Associated Students related business requiring a representative to be unavailable, at jury or witness duty, military service, internships (unit bearing or not unit bearing). Other causes not listed must go to the Board of Directors for approval by a majority vote – Oliver questioned if a religious exemption should be included and Young suggested not adding it as he said it falls under other clauses because of the broadness of what can be considered religious. Discussion was held and religious exemption was not added to the motion. **Move to request BOD to amend the Attendance Policy for Elected Representatives and Restated Bylaws of Associated Students of California State University, Chico to reflect the approved list of causes to miss scheduled orientations and trainings. The list being: personal or family illness, emergency, or Associated Students related business requiring a representative to be unavailable, at jury or witness duty, military service, internships (unit bearing or not unit bearing). Other causes not listed must go to the Board of Directors for approval by a majority vote, as presented (Rosso/Oliver) 6-0-0 MSC.**
- D. Action Item: Approval of revisions to the Government Affairs Committee Mission and Program Statements – Burns presented revised Mission Statement wording from Slaughter that she said was more cohesive, “The Government Affairs Committee serves the students of California State University, Chico by raising the level of consciousness and amplifying the student voice on pertinent issues.” **Motion to amend the attachment to include this new wording for the Mission Statement (Borges/Rosso). 6-0-0.** The Program Statement was next reviewed and Young suggested that in order to remain consistent, some of the wording should be revised. Upon discussion, the wording was revised to, “Elected and appointed representatives shall serve as leaders and advocates by taking action to achieve educational, social, sustainable, equitable, civic, and campus goals; and work to present the expressed desires and interests of the student body to the University Administration, faculty, staff, Alumni, community and the California State Student Association.” **Motion to amend the Program Statement as discussed (Young/Oliver) 6-0-0 MSC. Motion to approve revisions to the Government Affairs Committee Mission and Program Statements (Rosso/Borges) 6-0-0 MSC.**
- E. Information Item: 2022 AS Election Topics – Burns said this is a continued conversation from previous GAC meetings. Slaughter noted the list of topics: 1. Regarding eligibility, they lowered the GPA requirement. Should we lower unit requirements to match Chancellor's Office (CO) minimums of six units? We require 9 units to run and be in office. Should we modify required units to run for office? Currently commissioners and senators need at least 12 units from Chico; directors and executives need 45 units. Do we require a full year commitment? 2. Do we continue to allow write-in candidates? 3. Hold August trainings or move to another time? He noted that “good cause” and removal from office have been finalized.

Regarding units, Rosso said the committee lowered the GPA requirements so she agreed with lowering units to match the CO for running and holding office. Young suggested requiring that they maintain 9 units to hold office, 6 for running. Davis agreed with Young. Young questioned if required units have ever been an issue for a student graduating and Slaughter said they would pick up an internship or something similar to meet the minimum requirements. Slaughter said 12 units at Chico are required to run for a commissioner or senator position. Miller said 45 units total from either Chico or another campus; however, Board members must have 12 units from Chico. The committee decided to adjust the requirements for running and the units that have to be held during office. To run for office, students would need to have a 2.0 GPA and be enrolled in at least 6 units. To hold office, students would need to maintain a 2.0 GPA and be enrolled in 9 units. Slaughter said he and Burns would work on the wording for the next GAC agenda, to request the Board make these changes regarding unit requirements. The 12 and 45 unit requirements will not be changed. • Required time commitment was next discussed. Davis said they discussed a full year commitment for Board members. Oliver said if doing a full year commitment, the only exception should be for commissioners and senators for studying abroad. Young questioned if it's stated explicitly that students have to commit to a full year. Miller said they encourage everyone to plan on being here for the full year, but it doesn't explicitly say that you have to be here for the full year. Young suggested requiring that they be spring graduates, couldn't graduate in the fall. Discussion was held regarding those that graduate in the fall and it was suggested to require those running for Board positions to graduate in May and not be allowed to leave for study abroad during the spring semester. Other positions would be allowed to do spring study abroad. Burns suggested making it clear in the application packet that we expect a full year commitment from all elected officers, including commissioners and senators, but not require it. Miller said she liked the idea of including this in the packet in an obvious way but noted she generally does not meet with write-in candidates so they wouldn't be aware of this item. Peterson suggested talking with them about this after they are elected, before they accept or decline the

position. Slaughter said he and Miller will be preparing the wording, which the GAC approves later in the semester. • Write-in Candidates were discussed. Young asked if there could be a type of Google doc form that write-in candidates fill out the week of elections in order to easily match up the name to who is running as a write-in. Miller said some but not all write-in candidates reach out to her before elections so they can fill out paperwork and be verified for eligibility. Burns said we can't make everyone fill out a Google form. Discussion was held. Davis said they had talked about getting rid of write-ins entirely and making appointments immediately after the election. Young suggested adding to the ballot that if they're interested in a position, providing their email so we can reach them when looking to appoint a position, which would provide a pool of applicants. Peterson said write-ins sometimes wait to see who is running, and then go for an open position. She asked if the current elected students would be appointing the new positions, or the newly elected students would be making the appointments for the upcoming year. Slaughter said they have time to work on procedures; at this point, they just need to decide if they want to allow write-in candidates. Davis asked those who went through the write-in process for their opinion regarding if it would have been better to have been appointed. Rosso and Burns, both write-in candidates, agreed that an appointment process would have been a better way to handle the situation (Wallmark left the meeting at 3:23 p.m.). After further discussion, the consensus of the committee was to not allow write-in candidates for any uncontested positions appearing on the ballot. August training will be discussed at the next GAC meeting.

- F. Discussion Item: 6/30/21 Activity Fee Fund Budget vs. Actual – Slaughter said this report is for the end of the year results from last year and noted that at the next meeting the July and August reports will be provided for this fiscal year. He said Activity Fee brought in over \$2 million in revenue, which is amazing considering the full year of COVID that we went through. Total expenses were only \$1.2 million and they were able to put almost \$850,000 on the bottom line. He reviewed the report with the committee. Young requested that Slaughter provide the balance of the Activity Fee reserves next time.

VIII. REPORTS: ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES – Rosso said last week in EPPC, the Vice Provost of Academic Affairs and the Dean of Regional and Continuing Education presented regarding an online program development that they're working on. She asked if they've received student feedback and they haven't, so she invited them to present this information at this Friday's SAS meeting. • Borges said her first Sustainability Affairs Council meeting will be on October 6 at 2:30 p.m. She attended the recent Campus Sustainability Committee meeting and said at their next meeting they will be discussing climate change resilience strategy for campus. She will be sitting on a subcommittee regarding student engagement involvement regarding sustainability. • Oliver said she received a lot of applications for her council and is working on appointments. She said she has been working with AS Marketing regarding doing a vaccination info video to put on Instagram for our students. She is also working with Kendra Wright to plan a Town Hall event with club and student organizations. • Love said this is her first week in her position and she is working on understanding her role and appointing students to her council. • Young provided a COVID vaccination update and said campus is down to 16 reported cases. He said that tomorrow is the deadline for students to provide proof of vaccination; otherwise, they'll be dropped from their campus classes at 10 a.m. Friday. He said a lot of students are getting sick, but it's not COVID, and reminded everyone to stay home if they're not feeling well. Young said he is holding a Town Hall meeting on October 18. He said he had dinner with the CO trustees when they were in town and had the opportunity to speak with Krystal Raynes, our student trustee. He said another trustee will be here next Friday.

IX. REPORTS: STAFF – Slaughter said the various Mission and Program Statements are moving along. He presented to ASBC on Monday and will be presenting to BMUC soon. He expressed appreciation for GAC's work on their Mission and Program Statements.

X. REPORT: EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT – Burns said she is holding one-on-one meetings with commissioners. On Friday she will be taking Trustee Linares through the CDL as well as to the STAR Center and CCLC in the library.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Rosso reminded to take the survey that James Lawrence sent everyone regarding learning modality.

XII. PUBLIC OPINION – Limited to three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic – None

XIV. FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP – None

XII. ADJOURNMENT – The Chair, Burns, adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.