



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

Friday, April 18, 2025

12:00 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Chris Sullivan, Dev Kachiwala, Madison Kelley, Aishwarya Gowda, Adin White, Humberto Partida

MEMBERS ABSENT – Aaron Schwartz, Gia Monticello

OTHERS PRESENT – Kaylee McAllister-Knutson, Dr. Joseph Morales, Eliza Miller, Jon Simmons, Ben Speiss, Luke Bagwell, Katrina Leach, Anna Paladini, Cirilo Cortez, Jennell Hall, Gage Dobos, Julia Boyko, Emily Berry (recording)

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Sullivan, called the meeting to order at 12:01PM.
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Approval of the 4/18/25 regular meeting agenda as presented.
Motion to approve the 4/18/25 agenda, as presented. (White/Kachiwala) 5-0-0 MSC
Kachiwala yes
Kelley yes
Gowda yes
White yes
Partida yes
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approval of the 4/4/25 regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion to approve the 4/4/25 regular meeting minutes, as presented (Gowda/Kelley) 5-0-0 MSC**
Kachiwala yes
Kelley yes
Gowda yes
White yes
Partida yes
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Gowda wanted to talk about the resolution. It was presented to BOD and brought back to GAC. She wanted to create another resolution with similar meetings in a good way rather than an accusatory tone. Kachiwala said the lawyer was at the BOD meeting and informed how changes could be made to the resolution.
- 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
SAS Actions: Approval of 4/17/25 Student Academic Senate Agenda
Approval of 4/3/25 Student Academic Senate Minutes
Kachiwala stated they also discussed transitioning officers into new roles and have a document for reference. President Sullivan attended Capitol Hill day and he lobbied for students.

VIII. BUSINESS

- A. Action Item: Approval of Activity Fee Budget (including Capital Expenditures), estimated results 2024-25 and proposed budget 2025-26. Action Requested: Motion to approve Activity Fee Budget (including Capital Expenditures), estimated results 2024-25 and proposed budget 2025-26, as presented (previously distributed). (White/Gowda) 5-0-0 MSC

Open discussion. Sullivan shared EVP Schwartz's thoughts in his absence. He expressed concern about the Child Development Lab and potential for grants to be revoked. He also believes our admin costs are high in relation to CAVE and wanted to focus on the possibility of bringing them down around the programs. Wright also responded in a prior email exchange with Schwartz to say that there are reserves present in case grants are revoked for CDL. Simmons also stated the CDL doesn't get federal grants they're mostly state grants, which is why we aren't expecting issues with funding right now.

Sullivan communicated Schwartz's next question was about the cost of doing business overhead/admin costs, Simmons said our salaries are about 60% of overall budget, compared to Stateside which is over 80%.

Sullivan communicated Schwartz's next question about SOEAF funding being greater. Wright's email response was shared about steadily increasing this allocation since COVID and McAllister-Knutson would present to explain more on May 2nd.

Sullivan/Schwartz asked are we doing the most we can with contract programs or can we do more? We can advocate for stateside to contribute more for Bline expenses. Simmons stated we cover 68% of the Bline costs. Gowda asked if it would be possible for the service to be free rather than having AS fund it. Simmons stated that Schwartz's request- as far as he's aware- is for stateside to fund it. Kachiwala asked if the contract was up for renegotiation every year, to which Simmons confirmed yes.

Role Call Vote

Kachiwala yes

Kelley yes

Gowda yes

White yes

Partida yes

- B. Action Item: Revision to Scholarship Committee Code
(Gowda/Partida) 5-0-0 MSC

Kachiwala asked about incoming and outgoing officers, to which it was confirmed that verbiage was already present.

Role Call Vote

Kachiwala yes

Kelley yes

Gowda yes

White yes

Partida yes

- C. Action Item: Revision to Government Affairs Committee Code
(Kachiwala/Partida) 5-0-0 MSC

Role Call Vote

Kachiwala yes

Kelley yes

Gowda yes

White yes

Partida yes

IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS—

Partida stated that there is potential for editing the code, and it will be discussed in his committee meeting today. He's also considering a follow-up to the mental health workshop. Next week, he'll be speaking at the time capsule event.

Kachiwala stated for Reimagining Academic Affairs there's feedback available online until April 30th. There's a review committee today as well to review the 46 standing committees for the University and to make it smaller to 26.

Gowda stated this Tuesday the APIDA center opened. There was also an SJC meeting for what can be passed on to the next committee as well as what can be done with the rest of the money. SLL awards were yesterday. Today Empower Expressions is in front of the Arts and Humanities building. Next Friday is International Prom from 5-8PM. On the 22nd of April is the Earth Day festival in Trinity commons.

Kelley stated she just got back from DC, and it was a really successful meeting with the Congressmen. She also helped with the social media and marketing for that trip. Her blog is now up on the website. Legislative Affairs Council is on Monday at 10am in BMU 209.

White stated Earth Day is coming up next Tuesday, with event check-in starting at 11 until 2. There will be lots of sustainability fun and performers. He's working on a transitional packet as well. White asked about minutes, to which Miller stated the minutes have to be approved before they can go public.

X. STAFF REPORTS –

McAllister-Knutson reminded team that it's Spirit Day. Spirit Week is next week. Everything going on is present on CatsConnect. Duke's Comedy Show has Lovebird coffee vouchers for the first 100, as well as being entered into a raffle for a Nintendo Switch. Senior Send Off is the same day as the Time Capsule. The Big C Photo is from 12-1 on Thursday. That afternoon the Wildcat Takeover is at the Farmer's Market. All of this is free to students.

Dr. Morales stated there was a queer and trans student needs assessment in partnership with his office. He has free speech office hours every Friday or by appointment. We are part of the Hillel campus initiative to combat antisemitism. He was also invited to travel to Israel in June for a week-long program dedicated to understanding diverse perspectives. He also wanted to acknowledge McAllister-Knutson's efforts. The Diversity Certificate Program is happening. The first session explored the roots, impacts, and manifestations of Antisemitism and Islamophobia. The second session focused on the Israel-Palestine conflict. It is our responsibility to make sure everyone has an equitable opportunity. Next Friday the third session happens, which will focus on social media and the outrage economy, digital manipulation and bias. Kachiwala asked about hearing from International students because of the current situation with visas. Morales stated they received guidance from the Chancellor's Office this week and are working on a website for this for the Chico State campus. He also stated he's available for individual questions. He went on to say that political speech used to be, no matter what an individual's status is, not a reason for deportation, though the current situation is fluid.

XI. DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT—

In place of Wright, Simmons provided a report to say baseball is this week as well. He also reviewed multiple activities previously discussed. He also stated the budget got passed and ASFC passed theirs this morning as well. Simmons also wanted to discuss the resolution and that sometimes there are learning opportunities from those struggles.

Miller stated we have the pass the gavel luncheon on Wednesday right before the time capsule.

XII. CHAIR REPORT –

Sullivan stated the reimagining Chico resolution did not pass due to legal consultation and inconsistencies. He met with COGS and there was a meeting about graduate students. They discussed possible ways to provide further seats and what that would look like. Division of IT hosted an AI immersion video. The Vice President of IT stated the student account can now be claimed. The Board Designated Fund Committee was approved through BOD, and the following proposals of the International ambassador's program, the scholarship fund, EJ dining night, wellness vending machine, professional attire, funding through basic needs, Student Rights and Responsibilities ambassador programs, AS contract program funding, Affinity Centers and STAR center, Lab Equipment for the college of natural sciences, BMU revamp progress, The Well red light therapy, and banned books library were all approved. \$181,000 will be in the process of being distributed. He did meet with Perez and Brundage about the international student Visa situation. They echoed that students that are impacted should be directed to the International Office, and the Office of International Engagement and Global Engagement can also assist. He returned from DC and met with Mike Thompson, they lobbied about the Pell Grant and more. He also stated it was great to go to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. There will be a calendar invite for the Young South East Asian Leaders Initiative from 10-11:30 on April 24th. He came back from CSSA elections on

Sunday where there's a new CSSA president with the result information there. There was a Chair that ran unopposed and did not get the seat. Student Affairs has a deadline on April 21st for the Hall of Fame. White asked if the resolution would come back to GAC, where it would be on the next GAC.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS—

Simmons stated there is a dance showcase this weekend in the BMU from 2-7 on Saturday.

Sullivan stated it's April and called for everyone to be kind to themselves. He also recognized everyone's hard work.

XIV. PUBLIC OPINION— Leach said Happy Friday! Paladini said there are free wings in the marketplace.

XV. ADJOURNMENT – The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:06pm.