

Tuesday, February 4th, 2025  
02:00 pm BMU 209

MEMBERS PRESENT: Aishwarya Gowda, Kalyn Peterson, Siddhi Pandit, Maddison Smith, Maren Petersen, Valeria Chavez

OTHERS PRESENT: Kendra Wright, Brenda, Lisette, Kiara Castanos, Shenita Gorantla, Delaney Love, Aaron Schwartz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tia Saunders

I. CALL TO ORDER - Chair called the meeting to order at 02:03 pm

II. MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION: The meeting started with a reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition.

III. Purpose of SJEC - The Social Justice and Equity Purpose Statement was read.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA -

Motion to update Budget sheet from the discussion item. Action Requested: Smith moves to approve, Pandit seconds. No objection or abstentions. 5-0-0 motion approved. Approval of having the 1/28/25 regular meeting minutes in the next meeting. Action Requested: Smith moves to approve, Pandit seconds. No objection or abstentions. 5-0-0 motion approved.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - No meeting minutes.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS - No announcements.

VII. PUBLIC OPINION - No public opinion.

VIII. BUSINESS -

A. Discussion Item: Budget -

a. Cultural/Heritage Awareness Displays 2024-25: Gowda thanks Madison for her help to set up the Heritage table for Black History Month. She notifies the decorations will be updated this & next week too as more supplies are ordered for the same.

b. Volunteer Times: Gowda informs that any availability for the Volunteer time needs to be updated through the group chat.

c. Budget Sheet: Already made amendments to the agenda for the budget sheet.

B. Discussion Item: Semester Planning-

a. Culturally Appropriate Foods Among International Students at Chico State University survey by Areej Anwer: Gowda explains that it's a survey & thesis by Areej Anwer, in which she's hoping to conduct a survey, which is a thesis project, & is hoping to get 24 students from APIDA & International Students to inquire about their actual necessities. So, we'll be helping her gather qualitative research for her work. Gowda informs that she has given Anwer the contacts to reach out to the international office, APIC, APIDA & SWANASA centers. She shows the email shared by Anwer & explains the method & requirements of the participants.

b. Wildcat Food pantry proposal discussion: Gowda explains that she will meet Leah & Luiz this wednesday 10 to 11 am, to discuss the Pantry proposal & also inform them about Anwer's thesis. As of now she informs that they are deciding if money should come from SJEC or GAC, which Gowda & Kendra will further work on today. Kendra suggested connecting with the office of EDI & some other people who

collaborated to support it last year, which will help sustain this project in longer run on government office as a yearly allocation. Gowda says she will add a message on the group chat in case anyone wants to join in or join through the Zoom meeting link that will be provided.

c. Updates from GSEC about drag show: Brenda explains that GSEC is a student run organization, located now at BSS 102. They are made up of 3 programs- LGBTQI+ (Brenda herself is the coordinator), Women's program (Lisette is the coordinator), as well as an Outreach program. The Drag show has been done for the last 10 yrs, has sold over 300 tickets, and is one of their main events, especially for students 21 & below as it allows them to experience this side of the community. It will be held on March 13, 2025. They are asking for allocation of some funds from GSEC as this semester it is not being funded by other organizations. The performers are not being paid, which they are ok with, but the funds are needed to run the event successfully. They need help with printing the flyers & the posters here on campus, flags for handing out every identity, stickers, goodie bags & merch (done before typically) & drinks for the audience, food for performers, which comes to a total of 1000\$. They have asked for help from other clubs but due to lack of members or funds being allocated to other programs the other clubs are not able to help much currently. Gowda informs Brenda that will be a discussion item for the next 2 meets & asks her to get a more detailed budget sheet for that meet. Brenda also informs that GSEC will hold another event Vagina monologue on Feb 13th & 14th, the information about which is available on Instagram, Cats Connect, GSEC's webpage.

d. AI policy approved by the University President and published reference Academic Integrity: Gowda informs that updates are made to the use of AI policies on campus last semester that she hadn't shared with everyone yet. The changes were made to clearly differentiate plagiarism & appropriate use of AI. Gowda then proceeds to read the changes made only in the 'Artificial Intelligence' section, which basically states that when using AI, one must have explicit direction of faculty. If no permissions are mentioned it is the student's responsibility to go forward & ask the faculty. Whenever used, AI must be used to assist students, not serve in their place of student's production of their own work. Also, students with disabilities may require accommodations when using AI tools, for which the faculty must get assistance from the Accessibility Resource Center. Usage of AI tools must be mentioned in the same manner of citations.

#### IX. CHAIR REPORT:

Gowda mentions that the Budget sheet will be updated. She was also supposed to meet Sherry Hicks from BSU to talk regarding the infographics update & the black heritage month event, but as she could contact her, she'll reach out to her this week. She informs all that they have sent the flyers to be printed which will be up soon. She also reminds volunteers that in case they won't be able to make it, then please inform her via text on the group chat. Whenever they do come for the work, the required task will be written on the board in the AS office in case she won't be there. Gowda again reminds that she'll soon be meeting with the AS marketing team to move forward with the infographics. There is another GSAC proposal coming up, so we'll be reaching out to them soon.

She'll also be collaborating with Areej Anwer for the thesis proposal that is working on. She has also ordered the Women's History Month & the Black Heritage Month decorations for the Cultural / Heritage Table. She'll be working with Kendra & other committee members on the Pantry Proposal. Gowda then reminds that last year

they were working with the special action team focused on reimagining Chico State in a better way by restructuring the academics. She'll soon be having those updates to share. Gowda informs Abbassi had reached to talk about the faculty lead groups for MENA & SWANASA center, & Abbassi will be sending out emails to check if any faculty or professors are interested in the same. Lastly, Gowda will be attending a Chess conference on 8th & 9th May.

**X. MEMBERS REPORT:**

Smith shared that she was in contact with a representative from GESC, who mentioned their efforts in conducting a Queer & Trans students' needs assessment. They are looking for support from SJEC to assist with participant incentives, organizing events to attract participants, funding refreshments for focus groups, and promoting the survey to maximize participation and benefits for Queer & Trans students on campus. Since she was unable to attend the meeting, Smith has brought this matter to us attention and has also shared her and Gowda's emails with the GESC representative for further communication. Additionally, Smith is volunteering with them and will keep us updated on any developments. Gowda expressed support and suggested that we could display their flyers at the Heritage Table to help increase student engagement. Peterson also voiced her support for learning more about the needs of Queer & Trans students. She mentioned that through her conversations with some students, she has found that they need emotional and social support in the current campus climate—aligning with the concerns discussed in our previous meeting. Pandit adds to this by informing that she had talked with the members of Pride Club on campus during the event last week, & their conversation did reflect what Peterson had informed them about. She heard the word 'fear' a lot & so the community does need reassurance. Pandit has given the member her email to contact & also asked her that if she wants, they can attend the weekly SJEC meetings conducted to voice their concerns. What their needs are, & how we can help them. Gowda asks if all members wish to add this to the agenda for 2 weeks from then so that they can contact GSEC & Pride & discuss this in a broader way. On unanimous agreement she says she'll also draft an email to be sent to all from the SJEC committee.

**XI. STAFF REPORT:**

Kendra thanks everyone for running an amazing meeting & suggests everyone do little intros as some of the members were new. She reminds everyone that the AS general elections are coming up soon on April 2nd, & on February 10th the run for office will be launched for the 17 seats in the team. She suggests a meeting with Brooke McCall if any student is interested in knowing more about the positions or running for them, as she is the election supervisor. The run will conclude on February 26th at noon. She says if the members share this information in their networks that would be greatly appreciated. Gowda adds that in case anyone needs help with the campaigning or getting to know more about the role, they are free to reach out to her or the commissioner senators.

**XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Castanos introduces her as the grad assistance from CCLC & has some exciting events to share for this month. For Black History Month, they will be hosting a Black Skate Night coming Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 pm, which is open to all who RSVP through Cats Connect. They however will not be able to provide transportation. They'll be having the Tic-Tac-Toe event from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in CCLC. Also, during Black History Month, they will be showcasing a series of different Black History movies every Friday at 10 am & this Friday it will be 'Six Triple Eight' movie. Starting February 11th, till April 1st, she'll be hosting the First program, which will be open to all where students can come & build their leadership skills. It will have a mixer at the end with people on campus that holds leadership positions to come & mingle with students & help them build their network. She informs that Sullivan will be one of the spokespeople. The information for all these events is available on their Instagram page or on the front desk in CCLC. Kendra asks if they could get the flyers from CCLC which Castanos affirms, & Pandit adds that they could be placed on the Heritage table too. Castanos also informs that they'll be starting a Women's History Month & will be having a committee meeting on February 11th from 11 to 1 pm, & all are welcome to attend & give their inputs if they want to be a part of events coming up. The theme decided for this year is 'Generations' & they will be showcasing all the women here at Chico state who have made milestones. Gowda informs that she'll also be attending the next University Diversity Council (UDC) meeting & will have updates from there as well.

Though she can't attend that weekly meeting every time due to time conflicts with another meeting, she encourages any of the members to attend the UDC weekly meeting as a designee that are on Wednesdays from 3 to 4:30 pm. Gowda also informs that the international fest has been changed to April 26th, instead of May 3rd as on that day an Alumni association event. The International prom will be on April 18th.

**XIII. PUBLIC OPINION:**

Delaney starts by thanking Castanos the information from CCLC & informs her that she would like to get more from flyers for those events. She also informs all that the 'Bingo & Bubbly' event will be conducted in BMU 309 at 5 pm the following day & encourages all to show up early & attend as they have an exciting variety of gifts. Next Schwartz introduces themselves as the Executive President of AS, as well as the Treasurer of the Chico State Democrats, & they're holding a meeting to discuss how the current political climate has affected them on February 26th starting at 5:15 pm & wanted to spread the word regarding the same. The location is yet to be decided but will be updated soon. They will have a couple of different activities to help students make their voice heard. Lastly, Gowda thanks everyone for their time.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting is adjourned at 02:48 pm.