

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO
BELL MEMORIAL UNION COMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

2:30 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kaylee Biedermann, Alex Smith, Austin Lopic, Art Cox, Isabella Constantino, Ange Bledsoe, Annabel Grimm, Victorina Jeffers, Carolyn Allen, Emely Ramos

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Jamie Clyde, Karen Bang (recording), Curtis Sicheneder, Shar Krater, Katie Peterson, Nani Teves, Kaelin Ricci, Riley Fernbach, Thang Ho

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The chair, Biedermann, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
- II. **AGENDA** – Biedermann added as Information Item D., Revisions to Associated Students Corporate Codes – BMU Third Floor Art Gallery Policy, and BMU Public Art Space Policy. **Motion to approve the 2/5/20 revised agenda (Constantino/Lopic) 8-0-0 MSC.**
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the regular meeting of 1/22/20. **Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of 1/22/20, as presented (Lopic/Constantino) 8-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Smith was welcomed to the committee.
- V. **BUSINESS**
 - A. Information Item: 12/31/19 Combined Student Union and WREC/AO Summary Income and Expense Statement – Clyde said that 50% is the target for December. She said the Student Union expensed 40.47% of the approved annual budget and generated 50.95% of projected income. She provided an overview of the budget for the committee (Jeffers joined the meeting at 2:33 p.m.). Jeffers was welcomed to the committee.
 - B. Information Item: Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) and Certificates of Deposit for quarter ending 12/31/19 – Clyde reviewed the report with the committee and noted that LAIF is where some of our reserve dollars are held and is a very low risk investment. Annualized Return on Investment was discussed.
 - C. Information Item: 12/31/19 Student Union Fund Capital Expenditure Report – Clyde reviewed the items purchased during the second quarter of 2019-20, noting that anything purchased over \$2,500 goes on this list. Clyde reviewed the Student Union planned purchases and Sicheneder reviewed the WREC planned purchases.
 - D. Information Item: Revisions to Associated Students Corporate Codes – BMU Third Floor Art Gallery Policy, and BMU Public Art Space Policy – Biedermann explained that the Associate Executive Director title needs to be updated to be listed as Executive Director.
- VI. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT** – Clyde introduced Nani Teves, the AS Sustainability Coordinator, explaining Teves would like to talk with the committee about some changes they are looking to do regarding the Sustainability Fund, wanting this committee to be aware and provide feedback. Teves explained that the center started in 2006 and half of their annual budget, approximately \$100,000 per year (\$50,000 per semester), goes towards the Sustainability Fund, overseen by the Sustainability Fund Allocation Committee (SFAC). She said funds are awarded each semester, noting an environment and sustainability piece have to be included in the projects. Teves reviewed some of the projects that have been funded. She said that recent changes have been made to increase the minimum score to 70, adjust the rubric to better meet goals, and a final report survey is required. She said they are promoting the fund with a \$5,000 limit, and larger requests would go to BMUC first, then to SFAC for final approval. She said they would not fund travel, entertainment, conference registration fees, hospitality, nor labor/wages/internships (will need to be match). Allen suggested for future approved SFAC projects that they provide either BMUC or SFAC with an update regarding their project. Sicheneder questioned if there is a vetting process before larger requests go to BMUC first. Teves said it would go to Sustainability first to review/assist with the project to assure it meets criteria for BMUC. Allen suggested two processes, one for larger projects, and one for smaller projects, which Teves said she

would try to do. Clyde said if a faculty or staff member has been here for a long time, they have the benefit of knowledge by being here longer and their projects tend to be approved. By lowering the project amount to \$5,000, this would provide more opportunity for student projects as faculty/staff/administrators are less excited about a \$5,000 project and can obtain the funds elsewhere. Smith questioned the previous minimum, and Biedermann said there was no limit previously. Discussion was held and the committee agreed with the suggestions. It was noted that these should be student or AS projects. Teves said they're all fantastic projects but they want to empower the students more.

Clyde said due to a time sensitive situation, she would like to discuss with the committee the use of BMU conference rooms and potential costs. She explained that student organizations have to be officially recognized in order to use conference rooms for free. In addition, the AS, contract programs such as CLIC and SL&L can use the rooms for free. She noted with the AS being non-partisan, you can come into the room but cannot support a particular political person, for example, Bernie Sanders. She said if a club comes in and says they are here to support a political person, there would be set charges. Clyde said that currently there is a recognized student group, Wildcats for Bernie that would like to use one of the conference rooms for campaign training, which is not non-partisan. She said it is a gray area regarding whether or not to charge for the room and needs this committee to feel comfortable that we'll uphold the law on both sides, either charging or not charging. Whatever is decided, Clyde said it's going to be equal. Krater said she reached out to the other 23 CSU campuses. Six of them got back to her and said they do not have any rules about partisan political activities in their buildings. She said that the Otter Student Union at CSU, Monterey Bay has a display regarding not supporting any candidates. In this particular case, Clyde said the student club has said they will be inviting community members for the training. Clyde said as soon as you choose a side that's when it becomes problematic. Allen said if space is being offered for students to better themselves and be socially active, it's probably in our best interest to support students. She expressed concern regarding running into issues if we charge if they are political. Clyde said if we charge one political group, we would charge others. Allen said charging them is taking a position. Krater said if any student group wants to book a room and talk about political items, the issue is inviting community members, and whether or not that would be crossing a different line of student groups using their benefit for holding meetings that are not just for students. Lopic suggested charging if they're a political group; maybe a smaller fee. Clyde said the issue is who books it, as well as the political endorsement. Krater said this group wants to invite student groups and the public to learn how to campaign successfully for Bernie Sanders. Lopic asked if they could be asked to pay if supporting a specific candidate. Sicheneder said there are Christian student organizations that are not partisan and they aren't charged. Clyde said the issue is the inviting of outside community members. Jeffers said that by limiting the amount of information in general, we are limiting the risk of the political problems that already exist. She noted that hate speech is legal and very well could happen here. Biedermann said it seems strange that when we find out what they'll be talking about, that we would charge them. Allen said if this is a student facility, and this is a student event, then it should be treated like any normal event. Clyde said they would continue to research this and provide policy so that when it comes up again they'll have a policy to stand by. She said the reality is that they will get backlash either way. Clyde expressed appreciation for the student's input regarding this issue. She said whatever is decided, it will be equal, neutral and consistent. Krater said there could also be an issue regarding community or campus non-student groups trying to get room fees waived by asking a student group to reserve rooms under their student group name. Biedermann said at CFU they discussed that if outside groups attend, there will be room charges. Jeffers said there can currently be up to 20% of non-students at student group events and that it is being changed to be 100% students only at club events.

- VII. **WREC DIRECTORS REPORT** – Sicheneder said historically the WREC has a good record from a custodial standpoint as far as keeping equipment and touchpoints clean, testing for bacteria, etc. He said that in response to the email from the Wellcat Health Center, they have now doubled their efforts to keep the WREC clean, same as other AS areas are doing. Sicheneder said the WREC's numbers continue to be down but other CSU directors are all seeing the same thing and they are working on it.
- VIII. **VP APPOINTEE'S REPORT** – Lopic said the February 10 ASBC meeting was moved to February 17.
- IX. **CHAIR'S REPORT** – Biedermann said she is going to host a BMUC networking event on February 19, inviting participation from the various programs under the Union so that students can attend and see where their money is being spent. She invited all to attend and further information will be provided.
- X. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None

- XI. PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic – Teves said the new waste bin centralization has been rolled out and staff are getting used to it. She noted that custodial staff have said it makes their job much easier. Sicheneder announced various upcoming WREC events and Krater announced various upcoming AS Productions events. She thanked the group for their input today.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair, Biedermann, adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.