

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

8 a.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT- Jared Geiser, Alisha Sharma, Trevor Guthrie, Tania Ruiz, Alejandra Becerra-Silva, Prairie Francia, Harley Mulengwa, Mary Wallmark, Jay Friedman

MEMBERS ABSENT – Samuel Akinwande (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT – Jon Slaughter, Shar Krater (recorder), Alex Williams, Jamie Clyde, Elybeth Alcantar, Adela Gutierrez-Diaz

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - The Chair, Geiser, called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.
- II. **AGENDA** – Slaughter added Information Item D: Election Procedures for 2019 to the agenda. **Motion to approve the revised 12/4/18 regular meeting agenda as amended (Francia/Becerra-Silva) 5-0-0 MSC.**
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the 11/27/18 regular meeting. **Motion to approve minutes of the 11/27/18 regular meeting, as presented (Francia/Becerra-Silva) 5-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None.
- V. **PUBLIC OPINION** – None.

VI. BUSINESS

- A. **Information Item: CSSA Student Travel** – Geiser reminded the group that this was discussed at the last meeting. Sharma shared that this will be discussed and voted on at BOD next week and asked if any members had questions or concerns with moving forward. Francia asked if this impacts allowing additional students to attend and Sharma stated that we would still open up the opportunity for officers to attend driving trips. Krater clarified that we reserve two rooms for each trip if necessary. The AS President and Director of Legislative Affairs would go to all CSSA meetings as they are voting/alternate members.
- B. **Information Item: Local Agency Investment Fund and Certificates of Deposit for quarter ending 9/30/18** – Slaughter explained that this is a review of each quarter as a schedule of investments and earnings. This reflects what money we have invested in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF).
- C. **Information Item: 9/30/18 Activity Fee Fund Capital Expenditure Report** – Geiser noted that there is no current activity or planned expenditures on this report and the officers will discuss any upcoming needs at the January retreat.
- D. **Information Item: Election Procedures for 2019** – According to the Election Policy, GAC approves the procedures by the end of the fall semester. Slaughter shared the revisions to the AS Election Procedures. The proposed dates are Wednesday, April 17 through Thursday, April 18. There are a few areas up for discussion including if a Board position does not have a declared candidate. Discussion was held regarding a percentage of vote needed in order to become elected in an uncontested position. The recommendation is 10% of the overall vote or of the number of students who voted for AS President in the previous year. Clarification that this would only apply to the six board members was confirmed. Wallmark shared that we should focus on how to make running for office more accessible and affordable to all students. Geiser wondered if there would be a negative impact on students with smaller social circles. Williams asked if GAC was being asked to review the percentage and Slaughter clarified that GAC could make the suggestion to the BOD. The second proposed change was to add the language, “Any elected candidate disqualified from office at any time during their term is not eligible to apply for the same position in the appointment process referenced above in Section I, G.” Slaughter clarified that this has been an issue in recent history and it is normally a fall semester GPA issue. There were concerns expressed by Francia about this change by the group. The Camp Fire was used as an example of a potential scenario that was out of their control. Slaughter clarified that they could run again in the election but not go through the appointment process. Lastly, depending on how the BOD votes in regards to student compensation, the following language could be removed, “A candidate must be eligible to work in the United States and provide documentation as proof of

eligibility at the time of filing for candidacy.” If we move forward with scholarships, this language would be removed from the procedures. Francia asked why students are not allowed to choose how they are compensated. Discussion was held about this including why labor attorneys do not advise that we treat individuals differently which would be the case if one person was on scholarship and another in the same/similar role was on payroll. Any undocumented student in the past has not been able to run for office as we compensated our officers through payroll. Most other campuses are on scholarship for their elected officers. Sharma shared that she does not feel that it is right to take the choice away from an undocumented student but has concerns about the impact of a financial aid package. Ruiz wanted to know if the BOD discussed the percentage recommendation to see how attainable that is. Slaughter reminded the group that his door is open if anyone has questions or wants to discuss this more before it becomes action.

- E. Discussion Item: Support and Inclusion of Undocumented Students – The Real ID Act may impact students running for AS President or Director of Legislative Affairs as they travel to CSSA. Krater will reach out to other campuses to inquire about their reactions to this. Alternative travel opportunities were suggested including driving to meetings or taking the train. Geiser asked for feedback regarding the compensation discussion on the next BOD agenda. Krater shared that she is collecting feedback from all campus groups to see how they handle compensation. Geiser shared a video to shed some light on the migrant crisis happening at the Tijuana and American border right now. Discussion was held regarding what other AS groups are doing and what may be most effective for this group. Francia thanked Geiser for the presentation and agreed that we should take a stance on issues such as we did during the Vietnam War and the Apartheid in South Africa. A sub-committee will be formed to draft a statement. Members who would like to be a part of this are Sharma, Francia, Becerra-Silva, Ruiz and Guthrie. Sharma asked the SQE representatives for their input and they shared that many southern campuses have been working on this and are focused on utilizing their resources. They would support a statement from GAC. Guthrie asked if there could be support in a resource drive and Alcantar explained that a lot of resources supplied to migrants are being confiscated before the items are delivered. Gutierrez-Diaz stated that this is a human rights issue. All agreed that there is an opportunity to work with the student from CAFÉ as well as professors who teach Latin American studies.
- F. Discussion Item: Electric Scooter Ride Sharing on Campus – Geiser received an email from a company called ‘Bird’ and this item will be discussed at a later time.

VII. REPORTS: OFFICERS – Becerra-Silva: Chief Reid confirmed that the event with First Responders, University Police and Chico Police will not be possible until next semester due to the Camp Fire. **Ruiz:** SFAC was rescheduled and will happen today. **Francia:** DAC will be hearing two proposals this week. MAC Night has been rescheduled for February 21. **Sharma:** The CCLC Open House is today and hopes everyone can attend. Milton Lang would like to have an event for campus climate and safety. She is gathering ideas for how the elected officers can support Camp Fire victims. Pleasant Grove High School is raising money for Paradise High School’s winter ball and there may be an opportunity to assist with that. Krater is reaching out to the local high school ASB advisors to discuss an event. The FLO mentorship application is open. **Mulengwa:** He received responses from two students who are interested in EFAC next semester.

VIII. REPORTS: STAFF – Krater: There were three candidates contacted for the SOAP position. Two of them have been scheduled for interviews on Thursday. This will be on the GAC agenda for 12/11. Geiser, Francia, Ruiz and Sharma are on the hiring committee.

IX. REPORT: EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT – Friday is a Basic Needs meeting in ARTS 212. The Community Practice Geography class is holding a presentation for everything they have been doing this semester. Creek cleanup is tomorrow.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.

XI. PUBLIC OPINION – Alcantar and Gutierrez-Diaz reminded the group how important it is to remember that undocumented students are now, and have always been, politically vulnerable. The way that this body votes on the compensation item could have a negative backlash on the officers.

XII. FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP – Happy Tuesday everyone. The GAC Outreach event is tomorrow and Geiser asked everyone to let him know what time they can commit to. Hot chocolate will be provided for students.

XII. ADJOURNMENT – The Chair, Geiser, adjourned the meeting at 9:32 a.m.