

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

Thursday, December 5, 2019

5 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT- Anthony Ruiz, Trevor Guthrie, Alejandro Alfaro Ramirez, Breanna Holbert, Lupe Santana, Allyah Perez, Jared Geiser, Sydney Puccetti, Mary Wallmark, Jay Friedman

MEMBERS ABSENT – None

OTHERS PRESENT – Jon Slaughter, Katie Peterson, Sarah Fenton (recorder), Jamie Clyde, Melys Jerez, Robin Miki, Saul Reyes, Heaven Grant, Kimberly Morales, Han Beaty, Ella Snyder, Jessica Giannola, Delaney Jones, Yulisa Castaneda, Elsa Iteel Lopez Montano, Juventino Alcaide, Patrick Manning, Cami Tillman, Alex Smith

I. **CALL TO ORDER** - The Chair, Ruiz, called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

II. **AGENDA** – Ruiz amended the agenda by adding Information Item E. Update to 2020 Election Procedures. (Santana/Alfaro Ramirez) 5-0-0 MSC. **Motion to approve the revised 12/5/19 regular meeting agenda (Santana/Alfaro Ramirez) 5-0-0 MSC.**

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the 11/14/19 regular meeting. **Motion to approve minutes of the 11/14/19 regular meeting, as presented (Holbert/Santana) 5-0-0 MSC.**

IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None.

V. **PUBLIC OPINION** – Two students from the gallery read scripts regarding the rise in hate speech and shared different experiences with the matter. (Guthrie and Geiser joined the meeting at 5:07 p.m.)

VI. BUSINESS

- A. Action Item: Approval of Revised Resolution for Establishing Time and Location for Government Affairs Committee Meetings for the Spring semester of 2020. **Motion to approve Revised Resolution for Establishing Time and Location for Government Affairs Committee Meetings for the Spring semester of 2020, as presented (Guthrie/Perez).** The group discussed other possible days and times for the committee to meet and decided it will stay as presented on Mondays from 1 – 2 p.m. but meet weekly instead of bi-weekly. **7-0-0 MSC.**
- B. Action Item: Approval of Resolution Denouncing White Supremacy and Hate Speech. **Motion to approve Resolution Denouncing White Supremacy and Hate Speech, as presented (Holbert/Guthrie).** Alfaro Ramirez made an amendment in the fourth instance by changing the year from “2018” to “2019” and changing “an unrecognized fraternity held an ‘Around the World’ party where Chico State students wore cultural attire...” to instead say, “an ‘Around the World’ party was organized by students on a Facebook page titled ‘Chico State: Class of 2020’ where Chico State students wore cultural attire...” **(Alfaro Ramirez/Guthrie)** Holbert questioned if the specific instances need to be listed in this resolution. Santana shared that the purpose is to document the instances that happened at Chico State to make it more powerful. Guthrie shared that Senate talked about adopting this resolution and once the inaccuracies are fixed today it will give it more power. **7-0-0 MSC.**

Guthrie changed the building floor stated in the second instance from “6th floor” to “7th floor” and changed “Queer faculty” to “Queer employees” **(Guthrie/Santana) 7-0-0 MSC.**

(Perez left the meeting at 5:31 p.m.)

Alfaro Ramirez added a ‘Whereas’ to the resolution that states “**Whereas**; white supremacy can present itself in overt and covert ways. Covert white supremacy is insidious and is not always recognized as harmful or as white supremacy; examples may include US policies and practices that are dehumanizing and violent towards historically marginalized communities, colorblindness, cultural appropriation, etc., and” **(Guthrie/Santana) 6-0-0 MSC.**

(Perez rejoined the meeting at 5:34 p.m.)

Alfaro Ramirez added another 'Whereas' to the resolution that states "**Whereas**; as of 2019, the Southern Poverty Law Center has recognized the following organizations as active white supremacist organizations north of Sacramento: Identity Evropa, Asatru Folk Assembly, Wolf Age, European-American Evangelistic Crusade, and the Golden State Skinheads, and" **(Guthrie/Perez) 6-1-0 MSC.**

Slaughter reminded everyone that this resolution is currently coming from Government Affairs. If it comes from the committee specifically instead of just Government Affairs, it doesn't need approval of the Board of Directors. Guthrie suggested changing that this resolution come from the Government Affairs Committee instead of just Government Affairs where stated **(Guthrie/Alfaro Ramirez) 7-0-0 MSC.**

Alfaro Ramirez motioned that he and Santana state their titles next to their names on the document as they are co-authors of this resolution and foot-noting the students from Long Beach that also assisted. **(Alfaro Ramirez/Guthrie) 7-0-0 MSC.**

The group discussed next steps for this resolution. Santana mentioned that the Diversity Affairs Council will be an activist council starting fall 2020 and can assist with this.

Santana suggested changing a sentence in the third 'Whereas' from "...resolution/statement to in order to..." to "...resolution/statement in order to..." **(Guthrie/Perez) 7-0-0 MSC.**

Motion to approved the revised Resolution Denouncing White Supremacy and Hate Speech, as presented (Santana/Guthrie) 7-0-0 MSC.

- C. Discussion Item: Government Affairs Open House – Peterson and Ruiz talked about what it would look like for students to come in and see what our office has to offer. Having it at this time would help promote AS Elections and our councils and committees. Santana mentioned this would be great for transfer students as well. Peterson shared that this would increase visibility, accessibility, and can invite feedback for our space. She's thinking of hosting the event somewhere around the second week of school.
- D. Discussion Item: GAC Strategic Plan – Geiser stated that the Government Affairs Committee is supposed to approve this every year. It identifies the Government Affairs Committee's goals and strategies. The group shared some ideas that would be good to make into goals. The will discuss it further at retreat.
- E. Information Item: Update to 2020 Election Procedures – Slaughter shared that a few dates have been modified and this is more of an update. If everyone is ok with them a vote will not be needed.

VII. REPORTS: OFFICERS – Santana: She thanked everyone for everything and feels that she grew so much from being in her elected officer position. She stated that Emonnie Jones will do great. **Geiser:** The Sustainability Affairs Council passed a resolution on Tuesday for reducing plastic waste cutlery and he'll be sending it out to everyone. Tomorrow is the third climate strike of the year. There is a planned movie screening of The Game Changers next week on December 12 from 3 – 5 p.m. **Guthrie:** He was reviewing the timeline of CSSA and January is the only one remaining that additional students can attend for the rest of the year. **Holbert:** She will not be attending CSSA for the rest of the year for personal reasons. The Legislative Affairs Committee is planning two events with the HUB and one will be in conjunction with AS Elections. Political clubs came to BMU 220D to talk about campus climate and student safety. Cats, Dogs and Dialogues will be an event name to get students registered to vote. **Alfaro Ramirez:** There's a documentary in AYERS 106 called Unsheltered about student homelessness at Chico State. He's working with Walter from AS Productions to screen the movie 'Obligated to the Truth' about the Marc Thompson murder which was shown at the El Rey Theatre recently. Senate had a good conversation about white supremacy today. There are students of color who have been activists on campus and he wants to see if this body would be open to providing assistance to these students. The group agreed to help.

VIII. REPORTS: STAFF – **Slaughter:** The suggestion for our two AS Vice President officers was not to be voting members and they can attend in the audience but not at the table due to the quorum of BOD then being present. They can participate in public opinion if so desired. **Peterson:** Tomorrow is the winter celebration in the Government Affairs office. She shared information on the Government Affairs R&R sessions and what that will look like throughout the year. (Holbert left the meeting at 6:02 p.m.) **Wallmark:** Faculty have come together looking for ways to support students in this political time and are advocating for students. The Student Life and Leadership Involvement Coordinators will be wearing 'Free Speech' vests for advocacy.

IX. REPORT: EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT – He reminded everyone to email Fenton their council and committee resignations as well as meeting days and times for spring semester.

- X. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Perez asked where Little Miss Sunshine was. Puccetti will pass it on.
- XI. PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic – Grant is one of the students who was involved in the incidents before Thanksgiving break. She wanted to acknowledge that she and students of color do not feel safe since she has not had any outreach out from anyone on campus except for BFAS: Black Faculty and Staff. Giannola shared that the backlash is horrible and she is heartbroken over the political toying with students. She would love to help in any way possible in the future. Miki shared that in the coming days everyone needs to start standing up for the students. Jerez shared that she would like the Government Affairs Committee to step up next semester and be on their side outside of BMU 205 as well. Grant shared an example of someone she knows that has been personally victimized.
- XII. FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP** – Alfaro Ramirez shared that someone keeps putting his sign about white supremacy face down on his desk and asked whoever it is to stop doing so.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair, Ruiz, adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.