

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

THE SENATE/BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

**Meeting #15
December 12, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Montano at 3:32 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Voting Members Present

Senator Justin Alfonso
Senator Moad Bensaid
Senator John Blowers
Senator Philip Bustamante
Senator Rosannara Chhun
Senator Ruben Cordova
Senator Alex Cortez (Arr @ 3:38)
Senator Marilei Denila
Senator Minh Thi Doan
Senator Jessica LaVenter (Dp @ 4:00)
Senator Greg Lim
Senator Megan Miller
Senator Raul Preciado (Dp 4:40)
Senator Erin Swetland
Senator Pia Talamayan
Senator Juliana Wise
Senator Denise Wright
Senator Jeff Yutrenka
Vice President Lucy Montano

Voting Members Absent

Non-Voting Present

Dr. Mike Hostetler (Designee for Dr. Caveness)
Dr. Jeane Caveness (University President's designee) (Arr @ 3:43)
Mr. Dave Edwards (Designee for Mr. Haller)
Mr. Richard Haller (Executive Director) (Arr@ 4:29)
Ms. Kim Hinckson (Advisor to the Senate)
Dr. Chris Burnett (Faculty Rep)

Non-Voting Absent

3. INVOCATION

The invocation was done by Senator Talamayan, who told a story about a population of tiny frogs. Though the crowd cheered, none thought any frog could reach the top of the tower. As the race progressed, the tiny frogs began collapsing. Eventually all the tiny frogs gave up, except for one. The one frog that did not give up made it to the top of the tower.

The other tiny frogs asked the winner how it had found the strength to succeed, only to find that the winning frog was deaf. Senator Talamayan summarized that people who are negative and pessimistic take away an individual's most cherished dreams, and emphasized the importance of believing in oneself.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Hinckson distributed flyers about Finals Week in the USU and encouraged senators to pass the information on to their college councils and other constituents.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair apologized for her absence at the previous meeting, and explained that she had a district meeting due to a misunderstanding. The Chair then yielded the floor to Senator Preciado for the announcement of the Senator of the Month for the Month of November.

Senator Preciado selected Senator Yutrzenka as Senator of the Month, citing his activism in committees and commitment to working together with the other senators.

The Chair announced that the next Senator of the month will be selected at the meeting on February 6, 2008. The Chair reminded the Senate that there will be a retreat taking place during Winter Break.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

There were no corrections made to the minutes from the last meeting.

(M) Yutrzenka (S) LaVenter to approve the Senate Minutes #14 dated December 5, 2007.

Motion carries unanimously.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes from Subsidiary Boards

- 1) Board of Control Minutes, Meeting #15 dated December 4, 2007
- 2) USU Board of Trustees Minutes, Meeting #6 dated November 2, 2007.

B. Receipt of Minutes, Reports, and Communications

- 1) President's Report-verbal
- 2) Vice President's Report
- 3) Administrator's Report

Vice President Montano stated that, in President Andrews' absence the Senate should strike his report from the agenda.

(M) Yutrzenka (S) Cordova to approve the Consent Calendar.

Senator Alfonso delivered a report on the BOC meeting.

Senator Lim briefly recounted the USUBOT meeting.

Motion carries unanimously.

8. WAIVERS OF THE SENATE RULES/URGENT BUSINESS

There were none.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

10. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

11. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

There was none.

12. SPECIAL ORDER BUSINESS

A. Presentation from Dr. Marcela Chavez, Director of the Women's Resource Center-Project Safe: A campus response to eliminating violence – TC 3:45pm

Dr. Marcela Chavez introduced several of her colleagues also involved in Project Safe, which is a two year funded program. The project is overseen by the Women's Resource Center and the Sexual Assault Crisis Agency (SACA); its mission is to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. There is an executive order in place that mandates a collaborative effort on each CSU campus to address these issues. The project is also concerned with date rape and seeks to educate students about personal responsibility and how the campus addresses the issue of acquaintance rape. The project is currently in its second year of funding, and they are planning to submit for a three-year grant in January 2008.

Dr. Chavez presented a flyer that is being distributed to faculty, highlighting resources available on campus. She also introduced another pamphlet with information about Project SAFE. Dr. Chavez emphasized that Senators should take personal responsibility to educate and address the issue of sexual assault on campus.

Dr. Chavez described the immense efforts made by the program in training with police and residence assistants to establish a protocol of how to better serve students. She then asserted that even if the project is not refunded it will continue, especially in light of the executive order. Another effort being made is to integrate all the separate entities on campus that deal with sexual assault matters. Additionally, the program is working towards educating men as to how they can speak out against sexual assault.

Dr. Burnett inquired how the program intends to get information to the male portion of campus. He described a mandatory course at another school and asked if CSULB has something similar.

Dr. Chavez replied in the negative. The CSULB program is one of eight funded programs. The other Cal State funded program is located at Cal State Pomona. The CSULB program is learning from the other schools with funded programs. Future efforts may include a class geared towards men.

Dr. Burnett inquired if this kind of coursework could be integrated into University 100.

Dr. Chavez confirmed this.

Dr. Burnett emphasized that the most effective way to get the message out is through integrating it into the curriculum.

Officer Amy Rzasas informed the Senate that she had addressed many University 100 classes this semester and the Spring 2007 semester in which she covered the issue of sexual assault.

Senator Wright asked if the Women's Resource Center had a display. She also asked about Interval House. Dr. Chavez replied that the Women's Resource Center has bulletin boards that can be seen on the way to the Campus Library. Interval House was present during an event in October that addressed the issue of sexual assault. Dr. Chavez expressed that because CSULB is largely a commuter school, many faculty members are ill equipped to handle matters of sexual assault. There are efforts being made to initiate training programs for this purpose.

Senator Swetland questioned if, after being sexually assaulted, individuals are able to receive help on campus, or if they are referred to resources outside the campus. Dr. Chavez explained that when an individual reports an instance of sexual assault, the first step taken is called crises intervention, in which the advisor determines what action should first be taken. There are multiple resources on campus that can provide help to victims of sexual assault, such as Campus Security, Psychological Services, and the Health Department. Reports of sexual assault are handled on a case-by-case basis according to the individual's needs. If additional resources needed that are not provided on campus, the Center is able to utilize resources in the Long Beach community.

Lynne Coenen indicated that off campus resources are valuable in situations in which an individual may not want to report a sexual assault. The Health Center can perform physical exams, but do not have specific exams for sexual assault. Victims are referred out to a forensic nurse in the community. All the entities involved in sexual assault cases are tightly connected and can easily interact to cooperate in such cases.

B. Verbal Engagement with the Treasurer of Associated Students – TC 4:00pm

Treasurer McClinton distributed a packet summarizing the financial status of ASI, stating that it included funds for October 31. In light of the end of fiscal updates, students who received grant money must submit receipts by December 17th so that checks may be delivered before Christmas break.

In her financial summary, Treasurer McClinton explained that some key operating ratios are a little low because student-athlete scholarships were paid out a month earlier than anticipated. There is one more grant allocation not listed on the handout, and any remaining funds will be rolled over to the Spring 2008 semester. She added that BOC will be meeting over winter break on January 17. The student travel funds read as negative due to the fact that more students applied this semester for travel funds, therefore money that would be used for travel funds during Spring semester was spent in advance. Last week the BOC reinstated the student undergraduate research fund. BOC is also looking at setting up a graduate research fund. Lastly, she stated that the first meeting with the Big Pulse Corporation has occurred, and in February their online services will be used to conduct a Treasurer's survey.

Senator Wise inquired if Senators would be able to take the class on filling out grant forms.

Treasurer McClinton replied that she had been working with Anna Nazarian-Peters in the Office of Student Life & Development, and that the orientation on how to apply for ASI funds will be at the same time, before the Spring allocation process.

Mr. Dave Edwards complimented Treasurer McClinton on her outstanding work this semester.

C. Verbal Engagement with the Executive Director of Associated Students

Mr. Haller indicated that Associated Students Inc. is doing well in generating income, but has a slight deficit because of the student-athlete scholarships that Treasurer McClinton mentioned. ASI's stock market investments were doing well until the November losses, however the corporation is still on target with budgets. On the other hand, the Student Union investment portfolio generated over \$25,000. The University exceeded its enrollment target for this year, and as a result plans are being made to stabilize enrollment for the next couple years. A large part of the budget is enrollment driven, thus when enrollment stabilizes ASI will not generate additional revenue. Mr. Haller added that he did not know the full implications of this, but warned that ASI will have to carefully balance its budget.

The Child Development Center is wrapping up its capital outlet projects. A heating/ventilation system was just installed, and in June the preschool will close early in order to replace the roof. The IPCDC will lose revenue during the time of construction, but will not generate expenses during that time.

The appropriate parties have signed the contract and submitted payment to the Big Pulse Corporation that will be hosting online elections. Associated Students Inc. will have access to the platform year-round for \$5,900. Typical elections cost \$15,000. Mr. Haller requested that Senators report to their respective College Councils on the possibility of online elections. He continued that the elections calendar for next year has been proposed, and it involves hosting elections in April instead of early March. This will give Senators running for reelection more time to file and more time to campaign.

Development Officer Bridget Young left the University's employment on November 30 to spend more time with her children. As a result, the University currently has three professional staff vacancies. Mr. Haller assured the Senate that he would be working feverishly over winter break to fill these positions.

Mr. Haller enlightened the Senate that by approving the BOC minutes the Senate had upheld a decision made regarding student organizations. This decision was a result of a Supreme Court ruling that Associated Students may not withhold funds from student organizations based on the organization's point of view. ASI had previously maintained a policy against using AS fees for religious purposes, but this policy can no longer legally be sustained. Consequently there will be more organizations requesting funds from ASI, this includes social and political action committees as well as religious entities. Also as a result of this policy change the process for reviewing applications has been modified so that ASI may not review the program's content or point of view in order to establish basis for funding.

Mr. Haller related to the Senate an article written to the editor of the Daily 49er from the ASI Communication Department. As a result, the newspaper printed a correction stating that ASI had spent \$9,500 on blackberries, not \$22,000 as it previously reported. Additionally, ASI did seek legal council before withholding the information requested by the newspaper.

Mr. Haller announced that he had been late for today's Senate Meeting because he was selected to serve on Student Services Committee on learning outcomes. He was also selected to make a presentation on Disability and Ethics at an annual conference in January.

Dr. Burnett inquired what percentage of ASI funds was invested in the stock market. Mr. Haller stated that it was a high percentage.

Dr. Burnett indicated his concern regarding this matter, stating that the results of a down market could be disastrous. Mr. Haller explained that ASI is invested in the stock market for the long run, not just to generate income. In addition, ASI's portfolio is managed by a professional firm this is capable of investing it more safely if the market looks bad.

Dr. Burnett agreed that there is considerable money to be made in the stock market. He related his personal experience, stating that even after September 11 disaster he kept his investments, and that they slowly returned.

Dr. Caveness addressed the matter that although student organizations must presented a detailed plan of activities, the box outlined on the application is far to small for such an involved outline. If there are guidelines, what is going to constitute a detailed plan? Additionally, is the new policy regarding organization funding effective immediately? Mr. Haller explained that the grant form will be redesigned, and surmised that the new policy will not take effect until the Spring 2008 semester.

Dr. Caveness asked what happens in the event of two similar student organizations with similar goals applying for funds. Mr. Haller replied that most student organizations had managed to supply enough differentiation to establish separate funding.

Dr. Burnett asked as to the practical ramifications of opening up funding to political and religious organizations. Mr. Haller explained that previously only a few student organizations did not qualify for funding. Student organizations pertaining to these interests were already informed that an application for funding would be denied. However, once word gets out that restrictions have been lifted, he anticipates previously excluded organizations will jump on the opportunity.

Ms. Hinckson interjected that the Senate may be hearing negative commentary on this new policy next semester.

Mr. Haller agreed, stating that the competition for limited resources will become even worse. He also indicated that there may be backlash from students who do not wish to fund religious organizations. The Associated Students Inc. is only able to deny funding if the purpose of the organization is incompatible with the mission of ASI.

Senator Alfonso stated on a positive note that some students would be happy about the new policy.

Dr. Burnett inquired what would happen if a student organization affiliated with a national political campaign were to request funds. Mr. Haller replied that further research would be necessary. As a 501 C3 corporation, ASI cannot spend its resource endorsing candidates or positions on issues, otherwise ASI risks losing its tax-exempt status.

Senator Preciado inquired if this also applied to campaigns for on campus issues and elections. Mr. Haller replied that groups campaigning for on campus issues and elections also will not be eligible to receive funding.

Mr. Haller recognized that, on a related note, a ninth district court of appeals ruling overturned a previous ruling that established campaign spending limits on student elections. ASI dispelled student campaign spending limits several years ago.

13. VOLUNTARY CLOSING COMMENTS

At the request of the Chair, each member of the Board gave a brief reflection on his or her experiences in the past semester. Most of the members expressed pride and pleasure in the accomplishments and learning that took place during the semester, and indicated a desire to work harder and get to know each other better next semester.

Senator Talamayan summarized her reflection in a statement one of the other senators had made previously: "This semester I learned how to spread my wings, and next semester I hope to learn how to fly."

14. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:54 pm.

RECORDED BY:

Danielle Gilstrap, Recording Secretary

Date

APPROVED BY:

Lucy Montano, ASI Vice-President

Date

VETO OR WAIVE VETOES BY:

___ Waive Veto

___ Veto

Items: _____

Mark Andrews, ASI President

Date

Dr. Michael Hostetler, Associate Vice President for Student Services/Dean of Students

Date