



Student Senate Minutes (Approved)

Monday, August 28, 2017, 2:15 p.m.
College Center Building 10, Room 194

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Colby Riley; Vice President Katrina Relos; Finance Director Mark Helsel; Vice Chair Spencer (Sitt) Paing; Commissioner of Publicity Natalia Gomez Torres; Secretary Jordan Chavez; Senators Jose Barajas, Fatima Briones, Tony (Jose) Herrera, Andreas Langenbacher, Effy (Wenfei) Li, Yimin Li, Claire (Linfang) Liu, Aaron Meneses, Farid Qobti, Karan Soni, Gabriela Topete Eng Goon, Mandy (Yaxuan) Wang, & Vivian (Qingyan) Xu.

Members Absent: None.

Advisors Present: Aaron Schaefer, Student Life and Leadership Manager; Fauzi Hamadeh, Student Life and Leadership Assistant.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Senator Topete Eng Goon; seconded by Vice Chair Paing. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING(S)

Senator Topete Eng Goon indicated that on page 1 of the minutes from the August 21, 2017, meeting, under the item "Reports," the meeting day and time Advocacy Board meets should be Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., and not Thursdays. Motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, August 21, 2017, meeting with the recommended correction by Senator Wang; seconded by Senator Briones. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None.

REPORTS

CSM President, Mike Claire, and Vice President of Student Services, Kim Lopez, both attended the meeting to introduce themselves to the Senate, and to discuss how they wanted to foster a stronger bond with ASCSM. President Claire acknowledged that, in the 29 years he has worked at CSM, he had never seen such a chaotic environment outside of campus; that with the particular political goings-on of the nation, it was imperative for all students and school administration to support each other. He noted how important it was for students to vocalize their concerns to himself and the administration, and also how ASCSM was an essential medium for that purpose.

Vice President of Student Services, Kim Lopez, indicated that she was new to this campus, having worked at Cañada College for six years prior to joining CSM's administration. Vice President Lopez reiterated President Claire's statement, expressing the immense worth of initiating dialogue with ASCSM and students at large. She pointed out that, due to a variety of implications, the campus would potentially encounter numerous complex changes and situations; thus, it was critical to maintain active communication between the CSM administration and student government.

ASCSM President Riley welcomed everyone who attended the meeting; he also thanked those who assisted in preparation for the Fall 2017 Welcome Week event.

Vice President Relos expounded on the topics covered at the Sustainability Committee meeting she had attended the previous week. Ms. Relos announced that the campus's Earth Day event would be booked for April 18, 2018. She also explained that the district's sustainability initiative is hoping to launch a Sustainability Network program, in which students can earn certification after taking courses with a sustainability component. Vice President Relos conveyed her desire to pioneer a "zero waste day" with the district's sustainability office; this particular event would entail refrainment from utilizing non-reusable utensils, plates, cups, etc. Ms. Relos stated that she would be posting a hard copy of the volunteer shifts for the Fall 2017 Welcome Week event.

Commissioner of Publicity Gomez Torres declared that she and Finance Director Helsel would be taking photos throughout the Fall 2017 Welcome Week Event; because of this, she encouraged fellow Senate members to wear ASCSM apparel or apparel that would represent different aspects of the campus.

Secretary Chavez announced that Botany Club was in need of a secretary, and asked the Senate to notify him or Professor Paul Hankamp if they were interested or if they knew of anyone who might be interested in taking on the position. He also prompted the Senate to let students know they should visit the new Center for Student Life and Leadership Development.

Senator Bathai informed the Senate that Programming Board would be meeting on Mondays from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Senator Soni apprised the Senate that the San Mateo Union High School District was in need of students for paid math tutor positions at different high schools throughout the peninsula.

Student Life and Leadership Manager Schaefer stated that the College Heights conference room was used to hold a press conference for California Representative Jackie Speier, thus explaining why the Senate meeting had to be moved to another location. He told the Senate that there would be no meeting the following week because of the Labor Day holiday. Advisor Schaefer described the importance of committing to events such as Welcome Week; it was crucial for Senate members to be present at events during the times they signed up for. He also asserted that, during events, ASCSM representatives were responsible for promoting the boards, their functions, and the role of student government on campus; he stressed that, social media, too, was a vital tool in getting the word of ASCSM out there. Mr. Schaefer emphasized the Senate's role as the "eyes and ears" of the school, insisting that representatives be proactive in bringing up any concerns the student body had.

Student Life and Leadership Assistant Hamadeh reported that a new ID card printer for the Student Life Center would hopefully be up and running by Wednesday of that week. He also recapitulated Mr. Schaefer's point on having Senate representatives as dedicated advocates for ASCSM at events and through social media. Advisor Hamadeh also noted that President Mike Claire was an avid listener of the student voice on campus, and that students could express their concerns to him as needed.

APPOINTMENTS

President Riley made the following appointments:

- Senator Bathai and Commissioner of Publicity Gomez Torres to Advocacy Board
Motion to approve the appointments by Senator Wang; seconded by Senator Briones. With no objections, the motion carried.
- Senators Bathai, Herrera, and Topete Eng Goon to Cultural Awareness Board
Motion to approve the appointments by Commissioner of Publicity Gomez Torres; seconded by Senator Meneses. With no objections, the motion carried.

- Senator Topete Eng Goon to Programming Board
Motion to approve the appointment by Senator Liu; seconded by Senator Soni. With no objections, the motion carried.

Participatory governance committee appointments were to take place once all Senate members finalized the committees they were supposed to serve on. The Senate was instructed to send any conflicts or concerns with tentative committee appointments to President Riley by Wednesday of the following week.

LEGISLATIVE BILLS

None.

FUNDING FOR ATTENDANCE AT CCCSAA CONFERENCE IN SAN JOSE

The Senate reviewed and discussed utilizing \$5,500 to fund a trip to San Jose for the annual leadership conference hosted by the California Community College Student Affairs Association. It was determined that ten student representatives, along with Advisor Hamadeh, would travel to San Jose on Friday afternoon, October 13th, and return to campus by Saturday evening, October 14th.

Motion to approve \$5,500 to fund attendance at the CCCSAA conference in San Jose by Senator Topete Eng Goon; seconded by Senator Briones.

By a vote of 16 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, the motion to approve \$5,500 to fund attendance at the CCCSAA conference in San Jose carried.

FINAL PLANNING FOR 2017 WELCOME WEEK EVENT

Vice President Relos briefed the Senate on final plans for the Fall 2017 Welcome Week Event, indicating that, so far, everything was going smoothly. Food and activities for each day remained as planned: Filipino food and a video game truck on Tuesday, Cuban food and Aces Up casino games inside Building 10 on Wednesday, and Mediterranean food and oversized board games on Thursday. Ms. Relos requested that the Senate share the online survey with current students, as well as alumni; she also asked members to get students to follow ASCSM on different social media platforms. Vice President Relos highlighted the necessity of attracting potential ASCSM board members through the Welcome Week event.

SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF NEPAL FLOODING

President Riley recommended tabling this item until more information on the topic was received. Hearing no objections, this item was tabled for the next meeting.

ASCSM GOALS FOR 2017-18

President Riley presented the Senate with ASCSM's updated goals for the 2017-18 academic year. The goals were as follows:

Participation Goals

- Increase and encourage participation in both Senate and board events.

Communication Goals

- Improve communication among the boards.
- Find innovative ways to advertise the Senate, as well as clubs and activities.

Senate Goals

- Plan more creative and inclusive programming.

Motion to approve ASCSM's updated goals for 2017-18 by Senator Topete Eng Goon; seconded by Senator Bathai.

By a vote of 16 in favor, 0 opposing, and 0 abstaining, the motion to approve ASCSM's updated goals carried.

WELCOME DAY EVENT DEBRIEF

The Senate reviewed and discussed the recent Welcome Day event that took place on August 10, 2017.

Secretary Chavez explained some difficulty of getting new students to participate in their groups' icebreakers; he also suggested having a table specifically for ASCSM at the next Welcome Day event. Advisor Schaefer remarked that, once more support from learning communities, clubs, and other groups was established for that particular event, it would be possible to conduct a table for ASCSM.

Senator Soni indicated that different tables had different amounts of groups flocking to them; he recommended trying to get more tables at future Welcome Day events.

Senator Meneses recalled leading a small group of students to receive their ID cards at the Student Life Center; however, the line of those who wanted to get their ID cards was rather extensive. Mr. Schaefer pointed out that, in the future, distribution of student ID cards would be easier with the two new machines arriving later this semester.

Senator Briones recounted that many students were curious about the clubs and organizations on campus; she proposed having clubs table at the next Welcome Day event.

Within the topic of club participation for Welcome Day, Senator Xu proposed for event ambassadors to have an idea of the active clubs on campus. A possible way of achieving this, as discussed by Mr. Schaefer, was to have clubs submit their mandatory information packets as early as spring of the semester prior to the Welcome Day event. Senator Xu also advocated for conducting a variety of interactive games and tables at the event to attract students; she advised having more information on athletics at CSM for incoming students, as well.

Senator Topete Eng Goon revealed that many incoming students who attended Welcome Day knew of its occurrence because of the postcard sent out to them; she stated that there were also numerous high school students present at the event. Ms. Topete Eng Goon also recalled that attendees tended to respond particularly well to professors who tabled at the event.

Vice Chair Paing hoped to get the school's athletics department involved with the event in the future; however, Advisor Schaefer detailed the challenges of initiating a working relationship with athletics.

ASCSM SUMMER RETREAT DEBRIEF

The Senate reviewed and discussed the recent ASCSM leadership retreat held August 11, 2017 to August 13, 2017.

Vice President Relos stated that the retreat venue at Los Altos was rather impressive, despite having a small space for the attendees to hang out in. She expressed her appreciation for the "Privilege Walk" that Senate members partook in, conveying its significance in demonstrating the diversity of everyone's upbringings in relation to each other.

Student Life and Leadership Manager Schaefer indicated that he and Advisor Hamadeh were working on finding a venue that would accommodate both the summer and winter retreats for ASCSM.

Commissioner of Publicity Gomez Torres shared that, during this retreat in particular, she felt closer to everyone within the group. She also commended the variety of workshops conducted at the retreat, mentioning that they were very interactive and inclusive, and helped attendees establish a bond together. Ms. Gomez Torres enjoyed the workshop in which members were instructed to collaborate and compose a story based off one picture.

Senator Barajas reiterated Ms. Gomez Torres's point, explaining that the workshops aided Senate members in developing connections with one another. Mr. Barajas also hoped that, for future retreats, there would be spaces that attendees could utilize for different physical activities, sports, and games.

Senator Meneses recalled a change in the energy among Senate members, recognizing that everyone was much more comfortable around each other than they were before the retreat.

Senator Topete Eng Goon enjoyed the workshop pertaining to everyone's varying political stances; she remarked that it was nice to know all the different perspectives of the group. Ms. Topete Eng Goon also recounted how the retreat attendees were able to hang out and have fun after each day concluded.

Secretary Chavez appreciated the introvert/extrovert workshop during the retreat, citing its usefulness in learning how members of the Senate communicated with each other.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following items were recommended for the next ASCSM Senate meeting:

- Fall 2017 Welcome Week Debrief
- Support for Victims of Nepal Flooding
- Planning Action Steps for ASCSM 2017-18 Goals

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Senator Meneses expressed interest in holding a hackathon on campus with different computer science companies and related programs at CSM.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 3:38 p.m. by Senator Topete Eng Goon; seconded by Senator Barajas. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

Submitted by,

Jordan Chavez
ASCSM Secretary