



## Student Senate Minutes (Approved)

Monday, November 6, 2017

College Center Building 10, College Heights Conference Room (Room 468)

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### ROLL CALL

Members Present: 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, Mondana Bathai, Fatima Briones, Effy (Wenfei) Li, Yimin Li, Claire (Linfang) Liu, Aaron Meneses, Farid Qobti, Gabriela Topete Eng Goon, Mandy (Yaxuan) Wang (*late arrival*, 2:30 p.m.), & Vivian (Qingyan) Xu (*late arrival*, 2:33 p.m.).

Members Absent: President Colby Riley (*excused*); Senators Langenbacher & Soni.

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

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Vice Chair Paing; seconded by Commissioner of Publicity Gomez Torres. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING(S)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, October 30, 2017, meeting Commissioner of Publicity Gomez Torres; seconded by Vice Chair Paing. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

Senator Briones later noted that her name was not included in the roll call for the prior minutes; a revised draft of the minutes will be presented at the next Senate meeting for approval.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None.

### REPORTS

Before heading to a District Participatory Governance Committee meeting, President Riley reported that he had attended the last District Student Council meeting; he announced that an AS mixer for all three colleges within the San Mateo Community College District would take place on December 8<sup>th</sup> at Cañada College. The theme for that event would involve pajamas.

Vice President Relos recounted her attendance of the Institutional Planning Committee meeting last Friday; the committee was working on revising their mission statements, and also on the campus's accreditation renewal. Ms. Relos brought up the committee's ongoing research pertaining to reduced cost and digital textbooks; she also apprised the Senate on Botany Club's upcoming native plant presentation table that would be in Building 10, Bayview Dining Room on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, as well as the club's work day on November 15<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., for restoration of the Cesar Community Garden on campus.

Finance Director Helsel reassured the Senate on the ASCSM budget, revealing that there were ample funds left to spend.

Vice Chair Paing announced that CSM Writers' Project editors, Senators Bathai and Topete Eng Goon, would be attending the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Atlanta, GA later that week; he also told the Senate that applications for the upcoming leadership conference were open to all CSM students until November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Paing also remarked that club information packets for next semester would be accepted following the Thanksgiving break.

Commissioner of Publicity Gomez Torres stated that she would upload photos of the Halloween/fall carnival event to Facebook, and requested that members send any photos they had of the event to her.

Secretary Chavez reminded the Senate to be on time to meetings.

Senator Topete Eng Goon promoted Phi Theta Kappa Club's bone marrow drive for their Honors in Action project; the drive would most likely take place the week after Thanksgiving break. Ms. Topete Eng Goon asked members to share the event with others and seek volunteers to staff the drive.

Senator Briones conveyed that a panel discussion for the LGBTQ+ community would occur during the World Village event on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Briones asked members to direct students or faculty interested in participating on the panel to herself or to Christine Su from the International Education Department.

Senator Bathai expressed Programming Board's interest in conducting an event for students taking night classes; the board was also planning on holding a "Relaxation Week" before the start of final exams. Ms. Bathai, as well as other members on the Senate, were in the process of organizing a Women's Empowerment Club for the CSM community; this club will work on empowering the younger generation of women, fostering more leadership for women on campus, and coordinating and volunteering for events geared towards the promotion of gender equality.

Student Life and Leadership Manager Schaefer underlined the importance of attendance and punctuality at Senate meetings, noting that without quorum, a meeting could not be held. Mr. Schaefer also pointed out that absences were only to be used in cases of illness or emergency, and that walking into meetings five minutes after the call to order would constitute lateness.

Student Life and Leadership Assistant Hamadeh told the Senate that the college would be closed, and that there would be no class in observance of the Veterans' Day Holiday.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

President Riley forwarded the following appointment to the Senate:

Camina del Rio to Cultural Awareness Board

Motion to approve the appointment by Senator Topete Eng Goon; seconded by Senator Bathai. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

## **LEGISLATIVE BILLS**

On behalf of the Advocacy Board, Senator and Advocacy Board Chair Topete Eng Goon presented the following legislative bills and recommendations:

- **A.B. 647 — Personal Income Taxes: Credit: Full-Time Community College Students**  
This bill was introduced to provide a tax credit up to \$2,000 for community college students, allowing them to pay back any expenses from the academic year.  
Recommendation from Advocacy Board: Support  
Motion to approve support of A.B. 647, Personal Income Taxes: Credit: Full-Time Community College Students by Senator Qobti; seconded by Senator Meneses. By a vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, the motion carried.
- **H.R. 1079 — Campus Gun Policy Transparency Act**

This bill requires campuses that participate in federal student aid programs to report certain crime statistics, including criminal offenses, criminal offenses motivated by bias, domestic abuse, dating abuse, stalking, arrests, and referrals for disciplinary action. Reports shall be issued annually to both students and campus employees, and will also include every on-campus case involving usage of a firearm.

Recommendation from Advocacy Board: Support

Motion to approve support of H.R. 1079, Campus Gun Policy Transparency Act, by Senator Meneses; seconded by Senator Bathai. By a vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, the motion carried.

- **H.R. 1762 & S. 717 — POWER Act (Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2017)**

This bill will require district attorneys to lead at least one annual, public event that will promote pro bono legal services for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, empower these survivors, and engage the public at large in assisting those who have survived such situations. During these events, it is imperative that both legal professionals and survivors be present.

Recommendation from Advocacy Board: Support

Motion to approve support of H.R. 1762 & S. 717, POWER Act, by Senator Bathai; seconded by Senator Meneses. By a vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, the motion carried.

- **H.R. 909 & S. 322 — Pet and Women Safety Act of 2017**

This bill aims to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence, as well as their pets, from emotional, physical, and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence. It will also provide grants for the emergency shelter of pets and survivors of domestic abuse.

Recommendation from Advocacy Board: Support

Motion to approve support of H.R. 909 & S. 322, Pet and Women Safety Act of 2017, by Commissioner of Publicity Gomez Torres; seconded by Senator Briones. By a vote of 11 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstaining, the motion carried.

- **H.R. 3207 — Zero Tolerance for Domestic Abusers Act**

This bill will increase protection of those who seek to distance themselves from their abusers; the bill entails the addition of dating partners and individuals subject to restraining order. This will alleviate the process of getting a restraining order against an individual who may have been one's significant other.

Recommendation from Advocacy Board: Support

Motion to approve support of H.R. 3207, Zero Tolerance for Domestic Abusers Act, by Senator Bathai; seconded by Commissioner of Publicity Gomez Torres. By a vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstaining, the motion carried.

- **H.R. 2670 & S. 1539 — Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims Act of 2017**

This bill will aid those who have endured domestic violence or stalking by expanding current laws to include "intimate partners" in the current protection laws for domestic violence and stalking victims. This bill will also bar those who have been convicted of stalking from purchasing firearms, lessening the risk of harm to victims.

Recommendation from Advocacy Board: Support

Motion to approve support of H.R. 2670 & S. 1539, Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims Act of 2017, by Senator Bathai; seconded by Senator Briones. By a vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, the motion carried.

## **FUNDING FOR 3D PRINTING TOOLS, ROBOTICS KITS, & GENERAL TOOLS BY ROBOTICS CLUB**

Thomas Ragsac, a representative from Robotics Club, attended the Senate meeting to request funds for needed materials that the club will utilize to build various projects. The proposal, although primarily covering the funds for 3D printing tools, printer filament, and a glass printing bed, also accounted for different robotics kits including three drone kits, three robotic arm kits, and three Arduino micro controller kits.

The Robotics Club's 3D printer will be open to everyone on campus; a mandatory training will be conducted for anyone who intends on using the machine. Robotics Club hopes to provide more accessibility to 3D printing as an extension of the library's program for 3D printing.

To foster a more active learning community for robotics and programming, the club requested funding for several robotics kits. These kits will give students the ability to design, create, and control interesting experiments.

A total of \$1,200 was proposed to be taken out of the 5031 Club Assistance/ICC account for the purchase of 3D printing tools and robotics kits.

Motion to approve \$1,200 to fund the purchase of 3D printing tools and robotics kits by Senator Meneses; seconded by Senator Topete Eng Goon. By a vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

## **FUNDING FOR ASCSM WINTER LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

Due to the lack of a funding request, this item was turned into a discussion about the upcoming ASCSM winter leadership retreat. Advisor Schaefer told the Senate that, due to the recent fires in Northern California, the usual retreat site utilized for the winter leadership retreat was unavailable. In lieu of a different retreat site, Advisors Schaefer and Hamadeh discussed bringing the Senate to Los Angeles and visiting the Museum of Tolerance; the museum is dedicated to remembrance of the Holocaust, and also includes different exhibits regarding civil and human rights, and issues of race. Mr. Schaefer explained that, because of the current Senate's particular maturity and display of leadership, they would be able to handle this trip.

Tentative dates for the ASCSM winter leadership retreat were between January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Board members will be invited on a selective basis once the number of Senators attending is established.

## **DEBRIEF OF HALLOWEEN/FALL CARNIVAL EVENT**

Senator and Programming Board Chair Bathai thanked everyone who spread word of and volunteered at the recent Halloween/fall carnival event; she also praised Programming Board for all the dedication they exhibited in putting on the event. Ms. Bathai told the Senate that, when volunteering for events that included food, members had to ask some helping out beforehand to set aside some for them, or go through the process that other students went through for food. To further inform volunteers on what is expected of them, she will send out a description of what the event entails and what volunteers can do to help. She will also be able to sign off on any service hour verification forms for events sponsored by the Programming Board.

Senator Topete Eng Goon stated that the event went really well, though she expected more participation from the Senate and hoped that, in the future, members would encourage each other to help out. Ms. Topete Eng Goon also noted that, because the campus was open to the public, some visitors brought their dogs into the vicinity of the event and did not leave them on their leashes.

Vice President Relos congratulated Ms. Bathai and the Programming Board on all their hard work for the event, recalling the unique setup, intriguing array of activities, and the great turnout. Ms. Relos suggested including additional times to volunteer for before the event; these shifts would involve setting up decorations and other preparation.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Funding for ASCSM Winter Leadership Retreat
- Fire Relief Fundraiser

- Executive Cabinet Participation Statement

## **FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:17 p.m. by Senator Bathai; seconded by Senator Qobti. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

Submitted by,

Jordan Chavez  
ASCSCM Secretary