



## Student Senate Minutes (Approved)

Monday, November 13, 2017

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

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 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, Mondana Bathai, Fatima Briones, Effy (Wenfei) Li, Yimin Li (*late arrival*, 2:37 p.m.), Aaron Meneses (*late arrival*, 2:22 p.m.), Farid Qobti, Gabriela Topete Eng Goon, Mandy (Yaxuan) Wang & Vivian (Qingyan) Xu.

Members Absent: Senator Claire (Linfang) Liu.

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

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Secretary Chavez pointed out that, Item F, "Survey for Inter Club Council," should have been "Funding for Inter Club Council Survey," and also that Bill S. 565, Martin Luther King, Jr. Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act of 2002, would not be discussed during the meeting because it was not a recent bill.

Motion to approve the agenda with the above changes by Senator Topete Eng Goon; seconded by Senator Bathai. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

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

A revision of the minutes for the Monday, October 30, 2017 meeting was presented to the Senate; this updated draft included Senator Briones's name in the roll call. Motion to approve the revised minutes of the Monday, October 30, 2017, meeting by Senator Topete Eng Goon; seconded by Vice Chair Paing. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of Monday, November 6, 2017, meeting by Senator Topete Eng Goon; seconded by Senator Wang. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None.

### REPORTS

President Riley hoped that everyone was doing well; he mentioned that he had spoken with Danny from the International Education Office regarding the scheduling conflict that Cultural Awareness Board's Civil Rights Unite Day had with the department's World Village event. A compromise had been reached; Cultural Awareness Board would be able to conduct their event on the same day outside of Building 10, while the World Village event would take place inside the Bayview Dining Room. Several tables for the Civil Rights Unite Day event will include informational tables on different social justice movements and other tables for decoration of "Unite" t-shirts. **Note:** The Civil Rights Unite Day was moved from November 15<sup>th</sup> to November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Vice President Relos brought up the idea of partnering with the Programming Board to hold a canned food/toy drive for those who were in need. She also expressed interest in having a day during which ASCSM could volunteer in the local community; both opportunities were open to being done before the week of finals. Those who wanted to help coordinate the potential volunteer opportunity and canned food/toy drive were instructed to contact Ms. Relos.

Vice Chair Paing remarked that Business Club would be holding a Pitch Deck competition for students interested in developing skills in patenting, trademarking, and presentation; the competition will conclude on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, and winners will be announced on the 27<sup>th</sup> of the same month. Mr. Paing also reported that Botany Club would work on restoration of the Cesar Chavez Community Garden on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner of Publicity Gomez Torres announced that she had worked on a poster for the upcoming Civil Rights Unite Day, and requested that Senate members share it out and invite people to attend the event.

Secretary Chavez revealed that he would start accounting for late arrivals during meetings; those who come in five minutes after the meeting is called to order will be marked as tardy. He also pointed out that CSM had begun composting and encouraged members to be more mindful of how they regulate their waste; he noted that, in the restrooms, paper towels had disposal bins designated solely for them to be composted.

Senator Bathai reported that the Programming Board would be holding an event for students attending night classes after the week of Thanksgiving; the board will provide treats and other gifts to nighttime students. Ms. Bathai told the Senate that the board would also be launching a “Relaxation Week” before the beginning of final exams. Funding requests for both events will be forwarded to the Senate the following week.

Senator Topete Eng Goon indicated that she or Senator Barajas would be sending out a SignUpGenius for the Civil Rights Unite Day and Northern California fire relief fundraiser; a description of what was expected of volunteers would be included in the email.

Senator Soni reminded the Senate that scholarship applications were currently open, and that they should take such opportunities if they could.

Student Life and Leadership Assistant Hamadeh encouraged members of the Senate to visit the Child Development Center for snacks and fun with the children after they had taken their daily nap.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

None.

## **LEGISLATIVE BILLS**

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

- **H.R. 3122 — Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2017**

This bill was introduced to protect individuals who are eligible for increased pension; H.R. 3122 requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to work with federal agencies, states, and other professionals to develop and implement federal and state standards that will ensure veterans’ access to proper compensation. Because of how prolonged the process of receiving payment has become for veterans, H.R. 3122 aims to mitigate that issue.

Recommendation from Advocacy Board: Support

Motion to approve support of H.R. 3122, Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2017, by Senator Meneses; seconded by Senator Soni. By a vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, the motion carried.

- **H.R. 2498 — Freedom from Discrimination in Credit Act of 2017**

This bill will revise the language of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to expand the categories of prohibited discrimination to include discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Discrimination in credit is prohibited on accounts made for race, religion, national origin, sex, age, and marital status. Adding gender identity and sexual orientation will bolster the protection of those not previously included in the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

Recommendation from Advocacy Board: Support

Motion to approve support of H.R. 2498, Freedom from Discrimination in Credit Act of 2017, by Senator Langenbacher; seconded by Senator Xu. By a vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, the motion carried.

- **H.R. 40 — Commission to Study and Develop Proposals for African Americans Act**

This bill will establish a commission to study and develop possible methods of reparation for African Americans as a result of the centuries-long and ongoing repercussions of slavery and discrimination. H.R. 40 will address the fundamental injustices, brutality, and cruelty that burden the African American population in the United States; the bill will require a study on ways to compensate for such atrocities.

Recommendation from Advocacy Board: Support

Motion to approve the support of H.R. 40, Commission to Study and Develop Proposals for African Americans Act, by Senator Bathai; seconded by Senator Meneses. By a vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, the motion carried.

- **A.B. 809 — Veterans: Public Postsecondary Education: Veterans' Priority Registration for Enrollment**

This bill will ensure that those who are currently members of the U.S. Armed Forces, or are veterans, receive priority registration. California state law requires that veterans and members of the Armed Forces receive priority registration at community colleges and California State Universities; however, this bill will supersede other law to uphold the priority registration of Armed Forces members due to possible methods of exclusion from such.

Recommendation from Advocacy Board: Support

Motion to approve the support of A.B. 809, Veterans: Public Postsecondary Education: Veterans' Priority Registration for Enrollment, by Senator Bathai; seconded by Senator Meneses. By a vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining, the motion carried.

## **FUNDING FOR X-WING TOURNAMENT SUPPLIES**

Eduardo San Miguel, Treasurer of Table Top Gaming Club, came to the Senate meeting to propose funding for the club's upcoming X-Wing Tournament; this tournament is based on different spacecrafts from the Star Wars franchise, and will be open to all students on campus for both attendance and participation. This event will promote the Table Top Gaming Club to the rest of campus, as well as give students the opportunity to enjoy a unique competition. Dates for the X-Wing tournament have yet to be determined.

A total of \$325.88 was proposed to be taken out of the 5031 Club Assistance/ICC account for the funding of Table Top Gaming Club's X-Wing Tournament Supplies.

Motion to approve \$325.88 to fund the purchase of Table Top Gaming Club's X-Wing Tournament Supplies by Senator Meneses; seconded by Senator Langenbacher. By a vote of 14 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, the motion carried.

### **FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GARDEN WORK PARTY BY BOTANY CLUB**

On behalf of Botany Club, Secretary Chavez proposed funding for the club's restoration of the Cesar Chavez Community Garden. As a tradition, the Botany Club, CSM Sustainability Committee, and several other on-campus programs work together to replant different species of flowers in the Cesar Chavez Community Garden, located just in front of the library. This semester, the Botany Club planned on holding the work party on November 15<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mr. Chavez encouraged members to come out and help during the work party.

Funding was requested for refreshments from Pacific Dining and also for mulch, both priced at \$250.00 and thus totaling up to \$500.00; these funds will be taken out of the 5031 Club Assistance/ICC account.

Motion to approve \$500.00 to fund Botany Club's Community Garden Work Party by Senator Briones; seconded by Senator Wang. By a vote of 14 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, the motion carried.

### **FUNDING FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNITE DAY BY CULTURAL AWARENESS BOARD**

Senator Barajas told the Senate that Cultural Awareness Board would be holding a Unite Day event revolving around different civil rights movements, including Black Lives Matter and feminism. This event will educate the campus community on the true purposes and goals of each respective movement, as well as empower students who feel drawn towards them. "Unite" t-shirts will be distributed during the event for decoration; individuals will have the option of choosing how they would like to decorate their shirts.

A total of \$1,000.00 from the 5050 Ethnic and Cultural Affairs account was proposed to cover decoration materials for the tables and t-shirts, food, and miscellaneous items.

Motion to approve \$1,000.00 to fund the Cultural Awareness Board's Civil Rights Unite Day event by Senator Bathai; seconded by Senator Soni. By a vote of 14 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, the motion carried.

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

Student Life and Leadership Manager Schaefer apprised the Senate on the upcoming ASCSM Winter Leadership Retreat to be held in Los Angeles towards the end of the winter recess. This particular visit to the Museum of Tolerance will entail a guided tour of the museum, a presentation by a Holocaust survivor, an exhibit on Anne Frank, and other activities regarding issues of discrimination and race. Several workshops will be conducted throughout the retreat to complement the trip to the Museum of Tolerance. ASCSM Board members will be invited on a selective basis after Senate members indicate their availability to attend.

Along with airfare, lodging, and meals, the proposed budget of \$12,500.00 will also cover admission of 25 members to the Museum of Tolerance.

Motion to approve \$12,500.00 from the 5033 Conference account to fund the ASCSM Winter Leadership Retreat by Vice Chair Paing; seconded by Senator Meneses. By a vote of 14 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, the motion carried.

### **FUNDING FOR CLUB ADVISOR STIPENDS**

Advisor Schaefer indicated willingness to provide stipends and/or other forms of gratitude for primary club advisors and co-advisors; he noted that advisors are not compensated for the hard work they put into their clubs, and that they deserved some form of recognition for the voluntary efforts they bring to help students succeed. Mr. Schaefer proposed offering primary club advisors \$100.00 gift cards, and co-advisors, \$50.00 gift cards, at the end of the semester; he also brought up the possibility of including small cards signed by students as part of the expression of gratitude. This would serve as ASCSM's way of thanking the club advisors for all they do, he stated.

A total of \$10,000.00 from the 5080 Hospitality account was proposed to fund the club advisor stipends.

Motion to approve \$10,000.00 for the purchase of club advisor stipends by Senator Topete Eng Goon; seconded by Senator Bathai. By a vote of 14 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

### **FUNDING FOR INTER CLUB COUNCIL SURVEY**

Advisor Schaefer announced plans to conduct a survey for the Inter Club Council in regards to various policies, procedures, and needs; he told the Senate that, this year, there had been a substantial drop-off in the number of events and funding requests by clubs. Not enough money from the \$20,000.00 budget was being utilized, thus raising concerns and the need to gauge what is needed ameliorate the issue. Mr. Schaefer brought up that there were still numerous obstacles in communication between the Inter Club Council and individual clubs, as well.

This survey will be geared towards promoting the necessities of each club and the problems and confusion they feel must be addressed. The goal, Mr. Schaefer conveyed, was to enhance the growth of each club.

A total of \$7,000.00 was proposed to be taken out of the 5080 Hospitality account for the funding of club survey incentives. Club officers and advisors will be rewarded \$25.00 for their clubs after completion of the survey.

Motion to approve \$7,000.00 to fund incentives for the Inter Club Council survey by Senator Wang; seconded by Senator Effy Li. By a vote of 14 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, the motion carried.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Funding for Nighttime Treat Event by Programming Board
- Funding for Relaxation Week by Programming Board
- Debrief of Civil Rights Unite Day

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

Senator Topete Eng Goon recounted her attendance of the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Atlanta, GA the prior weekend; she remarked that the workshops conducted at the conference were more oriented towards faculty. Ms. Topete Eng Goon also mentioned that the first place winners of the newsletter competition had gone up to her Senator Bathai, professing that they had gained much inspiration for their work from *The Labyrinth*.

Student Trustee Olguin, Jr. recalled that, during the district's board meeting, discussion of the SMCCD's involvement in an initiative regarding the protection of DACA took place. Dialogue about community education/non-credit courses, as well as public safety, their new uniforms, and the potential inclusion of local police departments on campus also occurred.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Paing; seconded by Senator Topete Eng Goon. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

Submitted by,

Jordan Chavez  
ASCSM Secretary