



Associated Students of College of San Mateo

Student Senate Minutes (Approved)

Monday, March 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:16 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Vice President Dyana Huaraz; Vice Chair Andrianna Pellini; Finance Director Anthony Frangos; Secretary Livienna Lie; Senators Kyle Guanzon, Alec Guiulfo, Mele Ikahihifo, Suzy Ito, Jessie Liu, Anna Mahoney, Andrea Morales, Natalie Zamora

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 Ikahihifo; seconded by Senator Mahoney. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING(S)

Motion to approve the minutes of Monday, March 1, 2021, as presented by Senator Liu; seconded by Senator Ito. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Lia Thomas, CSM's Digital Recourses Librarian, announced that the Library has received a new shipment of Wi-Fi hot spots, Chromebooks, and calculators that will distributed to students. She also encouraged students to reserve any resources they will need for mid-terms or finals soon as the Library will be closed during spring recess.

Aubrey Roderick, CSM's International Program Manager, reported that students at a recent forum shared their experiences with anti-Asian racism. She noted that some students are feeling unsafe amid the rise in violence and discrimination against the AAPI community. Ms. Roderick announced that the International Program Office is developing a "buddy system" that will pair international students with other students to provide a sense of safety. She asked that the Senate consider endorsing the initiative once more details have been worked out.

REPORTS

Finance Director Frangos reported that funding has been approved for campus renovations, including the Cosmetology program area, the Library, and the athletics facilities. Most of the renovations will take place during the summer.

APPOINTMENTS

President Nguyen made the following appointments:

- Isabelle Antaranto the Programming Board

Motion to approve Isabelle Antaranto to the Programing Board by Senator Ikahihifo; seconded by Senator Liu, with no objections.

LEGISLATIVE BILLS

None.

DEBRIEF OF ASCSM EVENTS

Mr. Hamadeh reported that Club Fair went well, despite a few technical difficulties. Vice Chair Pellini highlighted a change that allowed each club to do their own unique presentation.

SUICIDE PREVENTION PRESENTATION

Members of the CSM Mental Health Peer Educators provided a presentation on suicide prevention. They highlighted statistics on the rates of suicide and the spike in cases since the COVID-19 pandemic began. They stressed that mental health is treatable, and that suicide is preventable.

The presenters highlighted the importance of language when talking about suicide. Language is important because it can make someone thinking about suicide less likely to seek help. Statements such as “died of suicide” versus “committed suicide” do not villainize. Any language that perpetuates thoughts of suicide should not be used when working with folks with mental health issues. A conversation can be lifechanging for many people and feeling supported might be just what they need. A conversation that includes the three V-A-R steps—validate, appreciate, and refer—can help when talking to a friend or loved one about suicide prevention.

Several resources were provided, including the website suicideispreventable.org. The site describes signs to look out for if you think someone may be considering suicide. Some signs include increased alcohol or drug use, uncontrolled anger, feeling a lack of sense and purpose, feeling worthless or hopeless, changes in sleep, reckless behavior, talking about being a burden to others, having a sense of withdrawal, and sudden mood changes. The website also has ways to have conversations with other people beyond the signs and how to reach out for more resources.

The peer educators engaged the Senate in a discussion about mental health, how it is treated in other cultures, taking personal steps for mental health, and advice one might give. Some common experiences during the pandemic can be feeling lonely or disconnected, difficulty being motivated, concerns being exposed to the virus, and screen fatigue. Talking with a personal counselor does not mean that you have serious psychological problems, it just means that you might like to talk to someone outside of your friends or family about what is going on in your life. They outlined CSM’s Personal Counseling and Wellness Services, as well as hangout sessions held by the peer educators.

FUNDING FOR CULTURAL AWARENESS BOARD CAMPUS SPEAKER EVENT

This item was tabled for the next ASCSM meeting.

ENDORCEMENT OF STATEMENT CONDEMNING RACISM ANF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE ASIAN COMMUNITY

This item was tabled for the next ASCSM meeting.

FUNDING FOR ASCSM BOARD SOCIAL EVENT

The event will be on March 17th for all senate and board members to socialize and provide a chance to get to know one another through planned activities and games. The funding will go towards prizes for the board member winners of said games.

Motion to approve \$250.00 from the College Program Support account by Senator Ikahihifo; seconded by Senator Liu. Motion carried with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Discussion on opportunities for students to return to campus.

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Senator Guanzon reported that CSM Interim President Kim Lopez attended a portion of the Myanmar student panel. She thanked everyone involved for putting on the event and said the College will use the panel as a way to inform how to best support impacted students.

Mr. Schaefer reminded the Senate that candidate registration for the spring 2021 elections will start directly after spring recess. He also announced that next academic year there will be 14 Senator seats available.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:13 p.m. by Senator Ikahihifo; seconded by Senator Mahoney. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

Submitted by,

Livienna Lie
ASCSM Secretary