



Associated Students of College of San Mateo

Student Senate Minutes (Approved)

Monday, June 8, 2020

Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Joseph Nguyen; Vice President Dyana Huaraz; Finance Director Anthony Frangos; Senators Zaina Abdelrahman, Janice Cheung, Mae Ikahihifo, Suzy Ito, Jessie Liu, Anna Mahoney, Andrea Morales, Htet Naing, Andrianna Pellini, Megha Rai, Yasmine Scott, HaoNan Ye, Natalie Zamora

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

Others Present: Mike Holtzclaw, CSM Vice President of Instruction

SWEARING IN

This item was tabled for the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Senator Zamora; seconded by Senator Abdelrahman. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING(S)

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None.

Mr. Schaefer noted that CSM Vice President Instruction Mike Holtzclaw has asked to speak with the group. Given Mr. Holtzclaw's other obligations, Mr. Schaefer asked that the order of the day be suspended, and the group take up New Business Item B, Response to Current Social and Racial Inequities. Hearing no objections, the Senate took up the item.

RESPONSE TO CURRENT SOCIAL AND RACIAL INEQUITIES

Mike Holtzclaw, CSM Vice President of Instruction, first welcomed and congratulated the new officers of the ASCSM. He discussed the how he, and most likely many others, have had multiple conversations regarding racial inequality and the shooting of George Floyd. Mr. Holtzclaw stated that these types of killings happen all too frequently in our country and he addressed the cyclical trend of outrage that then fades away until the next thing incident happens. Unfortunately, what happened with George Floyd is not new, but this time seem to be different. He mentioned that there seem to be a difference in this movement, with people moving from outrage to action. Mr. Holtzclaw mentioned that amongst the faculty and staff there has been great trauma and need for a space to have dialog. He asked the Senate for the student perspective on what is going on and what are the feelings surrounding this issue.

President Nguyen discussed the protest that have been happening and how he along with others feel that the injustices towards Black people should not be happening. He also expresses approval of Minneapolis' attempt to defund the police. Mr. Holtzclaw mentioned how this issue has gone global due to this cry of people saying, we have had enough.

Vice President Huaraz asked if CSM, like other college campuses, can work with the police department to put out a public statement. Mr. Holtzclaw brought up a conversation had with the football team, various police departments, some politicians, activists, and the sheriff's department, and how that was a good conversation addressing the deep problems there are, and how there were a lot of tough questions being asked by the students. He suggested that a conversation like that with a broader audience of students could be a good start. Mr. Schaefer stated that if we do have these conversations, they have to be honest and real.

Senator Mahoney suggested an education-based solution, where we are actively seeking out the information about these deep seeded issues and how we got where we are. Mr. Holtzclaw discussed how we all need to actively address the problem within ourselves and how everybody, no matter your skin color, needs to be participating in the conversation and in the actions towards the solution. He also asked if there are currently places for students to dialog about these topics, and how are they going overall.

Vice President Huaraz suggested adding classes to the administrative justice program in the sociology field, so these students who are becoming police are getting the education they need about these issues. Senator Morales mentioned the need and importance of listen to the stories from people if color. Mr. Holtzclaw expressed the want to assist in the ASCSM's effort to facilitate these conversations or any actions the ASCSM would like to take for the students of CSM.

Mr. Hamadeh noted that there have been many discussions about adding an Ethnic Studies requirement to the local Associates degree requirements. CSM is the only College in the District that does not include this prerequisite. While the change would have to come from the faculty, it seems like this is a good time to restart these discussions. Mr. Holtzclaw stated that it would be a big step forward to do so. He also noted that the College should be looking at fostering a culturally responsive curriculum across all disciplines. Senator Zamora expressed support for this idea and emphasized the importance in learning about the struggles of people of color.

Mr. Holtzclaw stated that ASCSM representatives on College committees have a real voice and have power in these conversations and the faculty really want to listen. He reminded the Senate that they have some real power in these situations, especially as a body that represents the student on campus. Mr. Schaefer suggested that the members of the College Cabinet and the Student Senate arrange a time to hold a joint meeting to further the discussion.

At the conclusion of this item, the Senate resumed the order of the day.

REPORTS

Because this was the first meeting for the new Student Senate, Mr. Schaefer shared the purpose of reports is to allow officers or senators to report back on the various meetings they will be attending, to share important information and updates from the Boards, or provide news that the Senate may need to hear.

Vice President Huaraz expressed excitement for all the new senators and for the upcoming school year. Vice President Huaraz also noted that CSM student Hekim Tursunjan had recently passed away. He was a very involved student and he will be missed by all who knew him.

Finance Director Frangos emphasized the need to keep having conversations about what is going on in the world.

Mr. Schaefer gave a little background to who he is and stated how this year will most likely be a difficult year for the ASCSM and the advisors. Along with that, he encouraged the senate in stating that the year will be what they make of it and how this can make them stronger leaders. This year will be a learning process for both the senate and the advisors, which also means that we are going to need new and fresh ideas, especially when handling the current issues surrounding

Covid-19 and the social inequities that are going on in our society. Mr. Schaefer also mentioned the abundance of resources and departments that the senate has the option of using and or partnering with.

Mr. Hamadeh seconded much of what Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Holtzclaw have stated. He also commended the current senate for stepping up during a stressful time. He encouraged the senate in their potential impact on the school and how they are in a unique position to make the year what they put into it. Mr. Hamadeh encouraged the senate to stand up, think outside of the box, and take risks.

In order to provide the new members of the Senate a framework on how meetings are to operate, Mr. Schaefer asked that the order of the day be suspended and the group take up New Business Item A, Review of Ralph M. Brown Act and Parliamentary Procedure.

REVIEW OF RALPH M. BROWN ACT AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Mr. Schaefer presented on the Brown Act. Because a Student Senate is mandated to exist at California Community Colleges, it has been determined that the Ralph M. Brown Act applies to those organizations. The Brown Act is a “sunshine” law that requires the Senate operate in an open and transparent way. The Brown Act also applies to standing committees, such as the Advocacy Board, Cultural Awareness Board, and Programing Board. Mr. Schaefer discussed logistics such as what constitutes a meeting and the requirements for notification and posting of agendas. He also noted that engaging in discussions about Senate business – or potential Senate business – outside of a meeting and coming to. A decision is a violation of the Brown Act. Due to Covid-19, Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order that suspended some aspects of the Brown Act in order to facilitate online meetings while maintaining transparency.

Mr. Hamadeh shared information on parliamentary procedure and Robert’s Rules of Order, which provide a framework and a common language for operating a meeting of small to medium sized groups. It is important to note that Robert’s Rules of Order are a tool and are not to be used as a way to shut down debate or discussion. The Senate employs an informal interpretation of Robert’s Rules that emphasizes the need to encourage discussion rather than adhering strictly to the rules. Mr. Hamadeh stated that the Brown Act can contradict Robert’s Rules, and in that situation the Brown Act takes precedence. Some of the need to knows Mr. Hamadeh discussed included language, who can make a motion, and other details on motioning. Some helpful tips were given regarding personal remarks, and what silence means when discussing an item.

At the conclusion of this item, the Senate resumed the order of the day.

APPOINTMENTS

President Nguyen made the following appointments:

- Kyle Guanzon for Advocacy Board Chair
Motion to approve the appointment by Senator Mahoney; seconded by Senator Abdelrahman. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.
- Mae Ikahihifo and Andrea Morales for Cultural Awareness Board Co-Chairs
Motion to approve the appointment by Senator Abdelrahman; seconded by Senator Zamora. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.
- Jessie Liu and Natalie Zamora for Programming Board Co-Chairs
Motion to approve the appointment by Senator Ikahihifo; seconded by Senator Mahoney. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.
- Suzy Ito and Hayden Noe for Public Relations Board Co-Chairs
Motion to approve the appointment by Senator Liu; seconded by Senator Morales. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

Mr. Schaefer stated that Vice Chair position is still up for election and outlined briefly what that role entails.

LEGISLATIVE BILLS

There were no Legislative Bills to discuss but Mr. Schaefer did briefly discuss what this item might look like in future meetings, as well as what advocacy board does in relation to this agenda item.

DEBRIEF OF ASCSM EVENTS

There were no prior ASCSM events, but Mr. Schaefer briefly discussed what this item might look like in future meetings.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE(S) FOR RESPONSE TO CURRENT SOCIAL AND RACIAL INEQUITIES

This item was tabled for the next meeting. Mr. Hamadeh suggested that member of the Senate talk to friends and classmates regarding what they are feeling and experiencing and potentially suggestions for actions, to help drive this conversation for next meeting.

OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

This item was tabled for the next meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Swearing In
- Establishment of Task Force(s) for Response to Current Social and Racial Inequities
- Overview of the Role and Function of Student Government

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 p.m. by Senator Morales; seconded by Senator Abdelrahman. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

Submitted by,

Livienna Lie
ASCSM Secretary