



## Student Senate Regular Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Monday, September 20, 2021

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:20 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Andrea Morales; Vice President Anna Mahoney; Finance Director Tania Farjat; Vice Chair Nicole Hong; Senators Brittany Arriharan, Tito Barquero, Nerissa Chang, Airu Chen (remote), Alani Frias, Jiana Javier-Ramos, Nomin Khurelchuluun (remote), Min Kyaw Myat (remote), Sofiana Skinas, Yoon Wadi Zaw (remote)

Members Absent: Senator Susan Sun

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

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice President Mahoney said that there has been a request to remove New Business Item B, Guided Pathways Update, from the agenda. Motion to approve the agenda with the requested change by Vice Chair Hong; seconded by Senator Skinas. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

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

Motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, August 23, 2021, meeting by Senator Barquero; seconded by Senator Chang. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, August 30, 2021, meeting by Senator Chang; seconded by Senator Barquero. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, September 13, 2021, meeting by Vice Chair Hong; seconded by Senator Skinas. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARINGS OF THE PUBLIC

Aaron Schaefer, student life and leadership manager, introduced Mondana Bathai, the new staff assistant who will be supporting Student Life, SparkPoint, and Promise. Mr. Schaefer said that Ms. Bathai had been in the staff assistant position on a short-term basis prior to the pandemic and had recently been hired into the full-time position. Ms. Bathai will be handling the processing of club paperwork in addition to providing other office support. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that Ms. Bathai served as student body president and was editor in chief of The Labyrinth.

### REPORTS

President Morales reported that she attended the first meeting of the Centennial Activities Planning Committee. The group introduced themselves and began brainstorming ideas for events. President Morales will be soliciting input from members of the Student Senate regarding the kinds of events they would like to see. President Morales

said that she already suggested inviting former members of student government back to campus for a centennial event and inviting a well-known speaker to provide a special presentation.

Senator Barquero said that he had attended the first meeting of the Student Services Council but there was nothing important to share with the Student Senate.

Acting Vice President of Student Services Kristi Ridgway introduced herself and extended well-wishes on behalf of herself and President Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza. Acting Vice President Ridgway said that she looks forward to getting to know members of the Student Senate and working with the group as the campus continues the recovery process. She shared that she has a background in communication and taught in the classroom for many years before becoming dean of the Language Arts Division at CSM. After teaching for 15 years, Acting Vice President Ridgway said that the opportunity to work directly with students is what gives her energy and passion for her job.

Aaron Schaefer, student life and leadership manager, said that starting with the Monday, October 4, 2021, Student Senate meeting, members who are not currently out of the country will be required to attend meetings in person. This is because the emergency executive order issued by the governor that suspended portions of the Ralph M. Brown Act will be expiring on September 30. Mr. Schaefer also reported that the college will start rolling out a campaign encouraging students to upload their COVID-19 vaccination status. The exact system has not been finalized yet, but it will most likely be similar to how employees are required to upload copies of their vaccination cards via WebSMART. If students do not upload their vaccination status or refuse to be vaccinated, they will not be allowed to register for in-person classes for the spring 2022 semester.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

President Morales made the following appointments:

### **Advocacy Board**

- Gamze Akildiz
- Caroline Cotton
- Hadil Florez
- Justin Lai

### **Cultural Awareness Board**

- Carissa Cheng
- Tomoya Ishimaru
- Lita Kavapalu
- Jasmine Law
- Zahra Razak

### **Public Relations Board**

- Lucy Chang
- Julia Ferrer
- Guillermo Garcia Zacarias
- Dekaye Hailu

Motion to approve the above appointments by Senator Skinas; seconded by Vice Chair Hong. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

## **LEGISLATIVE BILLS**

None.

## **DEBRIEF OF ASCSM EVENTS**

None.

## **FALL 2021 CAMPUS REOPENING**

Finance Director Farjat noted that the free drive-thru pop-up COVID-19 vaccination clinics would be taking place throughout the rest of the semester. She said that the Student Senate can help promote those events to encourage students to get vaccinated prior to the start of the spring 2022 semester.

Mr. Hamadeh let the Student Senate know that Vice President of Administrative Services Micaela Ochoa would be joining the meeting at 3 p.m. to discuss New Business Item A, Update on Financial Aid and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). The Student Senate tabled New Business Item A until Vice President Ochoa joined the meeting.

## **ASCSM STAGE 1.0 BUDGET FOR 2021–2022**

Mr. Schaefer introduced the proposed stage 1.0 budget for the 2021–2022 academic year. He noted that the budget is an assumption of income and expenses based on enrollment estimates. The numbers that are being presented are not set in stone. The budget will be reviewed in January to reflect updated income and expenses through the end of the fall semester and the start of spring registration. The proposed budget does assume that the district will move forward with reimbursing the Associated Students for the lost student body fee income from the fall 2021 semester and that there will be slight rebound in enrollment for the spring 2022 semester.

Mr. Hamadeh reviewed the proposed budget with the Student Senate. The budget does assume a drop of income of approximately \$45,000.00 due to the loss of enrollment caused by the pandemic. However, the Student Senate can backfill some of this lost income, if necessary, using reserves. Mr. Hamadeh noted that the budget makes significant investments in club assistance (\$15,000.00), ethnic and cultural affairs (\$30,000.00), and programming (\$35,000.00). Mr. Hamadeh reiterated that the proposed allocations can be adjusted when the budget is reviewed in early spring.

Motion to approve the proposed ASCSM Stage 1.0 Budget for 2021–2022 by Senator Chang; seconded by Senator Frias. The motion carried with 11 voting in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

## **FUNDING FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH EVENT**

President Morales said that she had originally hoped to hold an event celebrate Latin America Independence Day on September 15. However, after discussing the event and reviewing the timeline, the idea shifted to holding an event to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month on Wednesday, September 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Moving the date of the event back and expanding the scope will allow more opportunities to collaborate with the boards and with college programs. The Multicultural Center and Dream Center will participate in the event, as will the Immigration Institute of the Bay Area, which provides free immigration consultations and related legal services for students, faculty, and staff.

Motion to allocate \$4,500.00 from the Ethnic and Cultural Affairs account (#5050) for the Hispanic Heritage Month event by Senator Chang; seconded by Senator Barquero. The motion carried with 11 voting in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

### **FUNDING FOR PURCHASE OF DISPLAY CABINET**

Mr. Schaefer explained that a display cabinet used to be located next to the doorway leading into the ASCSM Office in the Student Life area in Building 17. After the building was remodeled, it was discovered that mold had begun to grow in the area behind the wall. When Facilities removed the display cabinet and began work on the wall, they found that the mold had worked its way into the back of the cabinet and the cabinet had to be disposed of. Therefore, the display cabinet needs to be replaced. The cabinet is used to display photos of the current members of the Student Senate so that students know who their representatives are.

Motion to allocate \$400.00 from the Furnitures, Fixtures, and Equipment account (#5181) to purchase a replacement display case by Vice Chair Hong; seconded by Senator Arriharan. The motion carried with 11 voting in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

### **FUNDING FOR PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT A-FRAMES**

Mr. Schaefer said that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Student Life had eight plastic A-frames that were used to display posters and promotional materials to advertise events and announcements. During the pandemic, some of the A-frames were probably borrowed by other departments and have thus gone missing. Only two A-frames remain in the Student Life storage area. Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Hamadeh have not been able to locate the missing A-frames anywhere on campus. Therefore, they are requesting funding to replace the missing A-frames.

Motion to allocate \$1,500.00 from the Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment account (#5181) to purchase six replacement A-frames by Senator Skinas; seconded by Vice Chair Hong. The motion carried with 11 voting in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

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

Mr. Schaefer announced that the Center for Student Life is planning to resume the off-campus ASCSM Winter Leadership Retreat in January 2022. The retreat is an opportunity for members of the Student Senate to receive leadership training and build interpersonal bonds in a setting away from the campus. The off-campus retreats have been on hold since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with the availability of vaccines and the district's vaccination requirements, student off-campus travel is again being authorized. The retreat will be held January 14 through 16, 2022, at the Bishop's Ranch retreat site in Healdsburg, California. The amount being requested covers lodging, meals, transportation, and supplies for up to 28 people.

Motion to allocated \$11,000.00 from the Conferences account (#5033) for the ASCSM Winter 2022 Leadership Retreat by Vice Chair Hong; seconded by Senator Chang. The motion carried with 11 voting in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

At this time, Vice President of Administrative Services Micaela Ochoa joined the meeting, and the Student Senate took up New Business Item A, Update on Financial Aid and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

### **UPDATE ON FINANCIAL AID AND HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (HEERF)**

Vice President of Administrative Services Micaela Ochoa and Director of Financial Aid Services Claudia Menjivar provided the Student Senate an update on financial support provided to students via the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Vice President Ochoa reported that CSM has received a total of \$15,279,666 in HEERF funding [\$2,042,860 in HEERF I/CARES funding, \$4,571,602 in HEERF II funding, \$8,156,194 in HEERF III funding, and \$509,010 in HEERF III MSI (minority serving institution) funding]. Of that amount, \$8,551,615 has been disbursed in direct student aid. The remaining \$6,219,041 has been utilized for

college and district institutional support to purchase student technology, backfill revenue losses, and fund obligations under the memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the employee bargaining units. The following are the amounts disbursed to students based on Pell eligibility and unit load:

**Non-Pell Students**

|               | HEERF I Actuals | HEERF II Actuals | HEERF III Planned |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 6 to 11 units | \$500.00        | \$750.00         | \$1,250.00        |
| 12+ units     | \$650.00        | \$975.00         | \$1,625.00        |

**Pell Students**

|               | HEERF I Actuals | HEERF II Actuals | HEERF III Planned |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 6 to 11 units | \$800.00        | \$1,200.00       | \$2,000.00        |
| 12+ units     | \$1,100.00      | \$1,650.00       | \$2,750.00        |

Vice President Mahoney asked for the distinction between “non-Pell students” and “Pell students.” Ms. Menjivar said that a non-Pell student is someone who has submitted a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application but has not provided the additional required documentation. In addition, students who have only applied for the California College Promise Grant (CCPG) or who have income levels that only make them eligible for free grants are considered “non-Pell students”. Vice President Mahoney also asked if the HEERF III MSI funding is available to all students or only to minority students. Vice President Ochoa said that the HEERF III MSI funds are not restricted to support only certain students but that they were granted based on CSM’s student demographics. The funds may be distributed as the institution sees fit. Vice President Ochoa said that CSM, Skyline, and Cañada have made efforts to be consistent in the way funds are distributed so the percentages will be similar at all three campuses. This will also be true for the MSI funding.

Finance Director Farjat asked how students could provide input regarding technology purchases. Vice President Ochoa said that the administration has already received approval from the Board of Trustees for the allocations for technology purchases. Approximately \$900,000.00 has been allocated to make spaces “hi-flex” and to purchase additional technology for students, such as laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots. Finance Director Farjat noted that there were concerns about Wi-Fi coverage on some parts of the campus. Vice President Mahoney said that the plaza in front of College Center Building 10 is of particular concern because the Wi-Fi signal degrades significantly not far from the building entrance. Finance Director Farjat also said that students have expressed concerns about the current technology being distributed. Specifically, students have said that the Chromebooks are too slow and don’t support certain capabilities required by their classes. In addition, some of the current Wi-Fi hotspots don’t provide reliable internet service. Vice President Ochoa said that students can feedback about current technology directly to the administration and they will investigate it.

Finance Director Farjat asked if the HEERF moneys are being used to support international students who may be having internet connectivity issues from their locations outside of the country. Director Menjivar said that funds are being used to waive enrollment fees for undocumented students but that international students outside of the country are not currently being supported. Eligibility for undocumented and ESL students is verified through the Multicultural Center and Dream Center. The HEERF moneys may only be used for enrollment fees but not textbooks or other supplies.

President Morales asked if the Chromebooks have recently been updated. She said some students, herself included, have run into challenges using the devices. Ms. Morales also asked how the college is reaching out to

students regarding these support programs. Director Menjivar said that an email went out to all students regarding the HEERF support and that programs like the Multicultural Center and Dream Center and EOPS are conducting targeted outreach. Vice President Ochoa said that she would check in with ITS regarding whether the state of the Chromebooks and other technology. President Morales suggested sending out reminders to students about the HEERF and technology support.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Vice President of Instruction Mike Holtzelaw
- Discussion with ITS Regarding Student Technology
- Update on Student Body Fee Issue
- Availability of Masks for Students
- ASCSM Discord Server

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

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 3:31 p.m. by Senator Skinas; seconded by Senator Barquero. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

Submitted by,

Fauzi Hamadeh  
Student Life and Leadership Assistant