



Student Senate Regular Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Monday, June 7, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

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

SWEARING IN

Mr. Hamadeh administered the ASCSM Oath of Office to President Morales. President Morales then swore in the ASCSM Student Senate for 2021–2022.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Andrea Morales; Vice President Anna Mahoney; Treasurer Tania Farjat; Senators Brittany Arriharan, Tito Barquero, Nerissa Chang, Airu Chen, Alani Frias, Nicole Hong, Jiana Javier-Ramos, Nomin Khurelchuluun, Min Kyaw Myat, Susan Sun

Members Absent: Senator Sofiana Skinas

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

Others Present: Yoon Wadi Zaw

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING(S)

The minutes of the Monday, May 10, 2021, ASCSM Student Senate meeting were not available. Hearing no objections, the item was tabled until a future meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARINGS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

REPORTS

President Morales welcomed and congratulated everyone. She expressed her excitement at working with the group for the next year. President Morales is looking forward to a great year full of amazing experiences.

Vice President Mahoney said she is also excited for the new year and is happy to see so many new faces. She looks forward to getting to know everyone. Vice President Mahoney noted the diversity of the group and recognized the initiative everyone showed in stepping up to lead during such a challenging time.

Finance Director Farjat expressed her pleasure at being a member of the Student Senate. She is excited to work with everyone and reiterated the pledge in the oath of office to keep students' best interests at heart.

Mr. Hamadeh noted that Ashley Garcia, the new district student trustee, has not been sworn in yet. Once she is, we will extend an invitation to her to attend these meetings.

Aaron Schaefer, Student Life and Leadership Manager, welcomed everyone to the 2021–2022 ASCSM Student Senate. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that members may noticed that he and Mr. Hamadeh will be talking a lot and providing guidance during the first several meetings. Mr. Schaefer said that these are student meetings and he and Mr. Hamadeh respect that, but since the group is so new, he and Mr. Hamadeh will be providing guidance around things like parliamentary procedure, the Brown Act, and historical context. Eventually, Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Hamadeh will take a backseat as the group becomes more familiar with how the meetings operate.

Mr. Schaefer noted that the summer meetings are mandatory and that the attendance rules outlined in the ASCSM Constitution and Bylaws are in effect. He told members of the Student Senate to be aware of how many absences they have because sometimes unexpected situations arise that may require them to miss a meeting. He pointed out that there are no excused absences except for folks who may be on Student Senate related business, such as attending a participatory governance committee meeting. Mr. Schaefer also said that it is important for members to communicate if they will miss a meeting.

Finally, Mr. Schaefer stressed the importance of checking in with himself or Mr. Hamadeh before making decisions that may impact their role in student government. He noted that he and Mr. Hamadeh are familiar with the rules around adding and dropping classes and may be able to provide advice on ways to mitigate issues folks may be having. Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Hamadeh will never tell folks what to do or how to proceed, but instead help talk through situations and provide input and advice. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring 2020 semester, some members of the Student Senates took steps that cost them their positions. Had those folks spoken to Mr. Schaefer or Mr. Hamadeh, they could have provided additional information about policy changes that were being implemented to help students in similar situations. Mr. Schaefer reiterated that he and Mr. Hamadeh are available as resources for members of the Student Senate.

Fauzi Hamadeh, Student Life and Leadership Assistant, welcomed the members of the 2021–2022 Student Senate. Following up on Mr. Schaefer’s comments, Mr. Hamadeh again stated that he and Mr. Schaefer are available as resources, even in a virtual environment. Mr. Hamadeh also noted that even though the pandemic seems to be on the retreat, there are still many unknowns about the fall 2021 semester. He pointed out that the Board of Trustees has not made a final decision on opening for the fall semester. Once the board has provided direction, details of how services and classes will be returning to campus need to be finalized. This is all going to have to take place between the end of June and the start of fall classes in mid-August. The Student Senate is going to play an important role as the student voice as the college reopens. Finally, Mr. Hamadeh said that while he and Mr. Schaefer are resources for members of the Student Senate, he also encouraged the members to serve as resources for each other. Mr. Hamadeh pointed out that he is still in touch with folks who were part of student government when he served as vice president. He urged members of the Student Senate to build those bonds because they will provide support and camaraderie among the group.

Regarding absences, Senator Hong asked if the two-absence limit was just for the summer or the entire academic year. Mr. Schaefer stated that the absence counter resets each term, so each member receives a new set of absences for each the summer session, the fall semester, and the spring semester.

Mr. Schaefer stated that going forward, members of the Student Senate will be asked to have their cameras turned on during the meetings. He pointed out that this is an open and public meeting, and therefore the public should be able to see their representatives. If a member has an overwhelming reason why they cannot have their camera on, they should contact Mr. Schaefer or Mr. Hamadeh to discuss the matter.

APPOINTMENTS

President Morales appointed Yoon Wadi Zaw as a senator. Motion to approve by Senator Hong; seconded by Senator Khurelchuluun. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ICE BREAKER

The members of the Student Senate participated in an ice breaker introduction activity where they shared their names, an interesting fact about themselves, and one personal goal they would like to achieve while members of student government.

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Mr. Schaefer presented an overview of student government, including the role of the Center for Student Life and Leadership Development and the leadership models taught by the center, including the social change model, servant leadership, and the rational leadership model. Mr. Schaefer also discussed the keys to being a great leader, such as communication, empowerment of others, having an ethical foundation, serving as a role model, being caring, and keeping an open mind. Mr. Schaefer reiterated that communication is a key part of success as a leader and noted that members of the Student Senate should make sure to check their email on a regular basis to make sure they don't miss any announcements.

Hearing no objections, the Student Senate took up New Business Item D, Communications Strategies.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

President Morales and Vice President Mahoney led the Student Senate in a discussion of ways that the group can maintain effective communication and build community. The group discussed setting up a group chat in apps like WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger. Email will always be the default method of communication, but there is interest in finding more opportunities real time interaction. There was also talk about setting up a social event such as a game night sometime during the summer. President Morales stressed the importance of keeping the lines of communication among the group open and encouraged members to reach out to her, Vice President Mahoney, Mr. Schaefer, or Mr. Hamadeh if they have any questions, concerns, or other matters that may arise. Because there are members of the Student Senate who are currently living abroad, it was noted that it would be necessary to use an app like WhatsApp to communicate. Mr. Schaefer suggested that the group pursue using WhatsApp. Vice President Mahoney volunteered to take the lead on setting up the group chat.

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

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE (ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER)

Mr. Schaefer presented an overview of parliamentary procedure and specifically Robert's Rules of Order, which is used by all the ASCSM committees and boards, to run meetings. Robert's Rules of Order provides for the minority voice to be heard while also assuring that the majority can get things done. ASCSM uses a relaxed interpretation of Robert's Rules of Orders so that the group doesn't get bogged down in the minutiae of parliamentary procedure. Mr. Schaefer highlighted portions of Robert's Rules of Order, including making and seconding of motions, amending motions, and voting. He stressed the importance of establishing and maintain quorum for meetings. Mr. Schaefer discussed when it is appropriate to abstain from a vote and noted that an abstention is not an avenue to avoid deciding on an item. It is only appropriate to abstain from voting on an item when there is a conflict of interest—in other words, the person voting stands to personally gain from the result of the vote—or when a member feels they don't have enough information on an item. Mr. Schaefer indicated that there are instances where the group invokes unanimous consent, such as when taking care of

“housekeeping” items like the approval of the agenda. He also stressed that silence during a discussion is interpreted as consent, and that once a vote is taken, it is too late to express disagreement. Finally, Mr. Schaefer noted that there are ways in which the California Brown Act supersedes Robert’s Rules of Order. The group will review the Brown Act at the next meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- ASCSM Goals for 2021–2022
- ASCSM Welcome Statement
- Fall 2021 Welcome Day/Week Event
- Brown Act presentation

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Schaefer thanked everyone for being present and attentive during the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted by,

Fauzi Hamadeh

Student Life and Leadership Assistant