



Student Senate Regular Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Monday, July 26, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:18 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Senator Brittany Arriharan

Advisors Present: Aaron Schaefer, Student Life and Leadership Manager

Others Present: CSM President Dr. Jennifer Taylor Mendoza; Edna Letran, Executive Assistant to the President

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Vice Chair Hong; seconded by Senator Kyaw Myat. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING(S)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, July 12, 2021, meeting by Senator Chang; seconded by Senator Wadi Zaw. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARINGS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

REPORTS

President Morales reminded the group that the board chair positions are still open. She encouraged members of the Student Senate to step out of their comfort zones to take on a leadership role. President Morales is still considering who to appoint as chair of the Programming Board. She asked anyone interested in leading a board to reach out to her directly. Mr. Schaefer said that anyone who may have a question about being a board chair should reach out to him or Mr. Hamadeh. Mr. Schaefer also echoed President Morales's encouragement to members of the Student Senate to take on a leadership position.

Vice President Mahoney expressed support for the comments by President Morales and Mr. Schaefer.

Student Life and Leadership Manager Schaefer noted that CSM President Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza would be joining today's meeting. Mr. Schaefer extended apologies on the behalf of Mr. Hamadeh who could not be at today's meeting because he is attending a conference. Regarding the return to campus, Mr. Schaefer reported that the Campus Safety Committee held a meeting a last week where there was overwhelming support for instituting a requirement that face masks be worn inside district buildings, regardless of an individual's vaccination status. The Safety Committee is holding an additional meeting concurrent with this meeting to adopt a formal

recommendation to the district regarding the mask mandate. Mr. Schaefer again encouraged members of the Student Senate to volunteer to chair one of the boards. Mr. Schaefer also announced that Kim Lopez, the college's vice president of student services, has been named the interim president of Cañada College effective August 2. In addition, CSM's vice president of administrative services, Micaela Ochoa, has accepted the executive vice chancellor position at the district. President Taylor-Mendoza has expressed a strong desire to have students on the search committees for senior administration positions, but some of the details still need to be worked out.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Schaefer noted that there are currently three hiring committees that students may have the opportunity to serve on. They are for the director of community relations and marketing, the interim vice president of administrative services, and the acting vice president of student services. The members of the committees will be reviewing resumes, selecting candidates to interview, and attending first-level interviews. They will need to be able to keep the information shared as part of the hiring process confidential. The director of community relations and marketing committee will most likely start meeting in September and will require a significant time commitment because it is open to the public. The other two committees are on a shorter timeline because they are for acting and interim positions. Mr. Schaefer is working with the college and district to find a way to compensate students who serve on hiring committees. He is hoping to be able to hire the student members of the committees as student assistants and pay them \$15.00 to \$16.00 per hour to review applicant materials and participate in the interviews. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that involving students in the hiring process is a demand that came from the "Speak Truth to Power" student town hall held last summer. He asked that anyone interested in serving on the hiring committees should contact President Morales.

President Morales asked if executive officers are eligible to serve on the hiring committees. Mr. Schaefer said they are. Vice President Mahoney asked when the interviews would be held. Mr. Schaefer said interviews usually take place over the span of a day and are held back-to-back. The interviews may extend over multiple days depending on the number of candidates the committee decides to invite in. President Morales asked if the committees would extend for the entire academic year. Mr. Schaefer said the entire process usually takes three to four weeks, depending on the number of applicants and the nature of the position. He also noted that last year's ASCSM vice president, Dyana Huaraz, was a part of the president hiring committee. Ms. Huaraz made such a positive impression on the rest of the committee that it helped push the importance of student involvement to the forefront.

LEGISLATIVE BILLS

None.

DEBRIEF OF ASCSM EVENTS

None.

Hearing no objections, New Business Item A, Welcome and Introductions with CSM President Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, was tabled until President Taylor-Mendoza joined the meeting.

PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

Mr. Schaefer shared that one of the roles of the members of student government is to sit on one of the college's participatory governance committees. There are several committees that cover a broad range of topics, from curriculum to auxiliary services, such as food service and vending. Mr. Hamadeh will provide more information, including a list of committees, by the next meeting.

Vice Chair Hong asked if executive officers are required to serve on a participatory governance committee. Mr. Schaefer said that some executive officers serve on certain committees by virtue of their positions. If an executive officer is not automatically assigned to a participatory governance committee, they have the option to be appointed to one after all senators have been assigned to a committee. Vice Chair Hong also asked how many students are appointed to each participatory governance committee. Mr. Schaefer said that the number of student appointments depends on the committee, but most groups have one or two seats for students. He noted that most committee meetings are open to the campus community and that members of the Student Senate may attend without being formally appointed. Mr. Schaefer said that Mr. Hamadeh would send out a list of the participatory governance committees along with descriptions and meeting schedules (where available).

FUNDING FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION ON CAMPUS HIRING COMMITTEES

Mr. Schaefer explained that students who would serve on hiring committees would be hired as student assistants. This would not preclude them from being hired elsewhere on campus, but the position would count towards the 20 work hours per week limit for student assistants. The proposal being considered would provide \$10,000.00 in base funding, but the hope is that the college will also provide financial support. Students would be paid \$19.00 per hour for serving on a hiring committee.

Motion to approve allocating \$10,000.00 from the Student Assistant Salaries account (#5183) to support students serving on campus hiring committees by Senator Barquero; seconded by Vice Chair Hong. The motion carried with 11 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 voting to abstain.

FUNDING FOR ASCSM LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Mr. Schaefer said that the Center for Student Life is requesting \$3,500.00 to provide food, learning materials, and other supplies for the upcoming ASCSM Leadership Retreat.

Motion to approve allocating \$3,500.00 from the Conference account (#5033) for the ASCSM Leadership Retreat by Senator Chang; seconded by Senator Wadi Zaw.

Mr. Schaefer noted that because the Student Senate is not holding a traditional off-campus retreat, there are significant cost savings. President Morales asked if the executive officers would be needed to help setup anything prior to the retreat. Mr. Schaefer thanked President Morales for the offer of assistance but said it would probably be unnecessary. Senator Skinas asked if attending the leadership retreat is mandatory. Mr. Schaefer said that it is not required, but it is very strongly encouraged because of the learning and community building that takes place.

The motion carried with 11 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 voting to abstain.

At this time, Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza joined the meeting, and the Student Senate took up New Business Item A, Welcome and Introductions with CSM President Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS WITH CSM PRESIDENT DR. JENNIFER TAYLOR-MENDOZA

CSM's new president, Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, thanked members of the Student Senate for inviting her to today's meeting. Dr. Taylor-Mendoza was joined by Edna Letran, executive assistant to the president. Dr. Taylor-Mendoza shared some of her background, including her experience as a tenured faculty member of psychology and counseling at a community college in Southern California. She spoke about her transition to CSM as director of the Learning Center, then the founding dean of the Academic Support and Learning Technologies division, and her transfer to Skyline College as the vice president of instruction. Dr. Taylor-Mendoza noted that as she

starts her tenure as CSM's president, she is also starting her tenth year in the San Mateo County Community College District.

Dr. Taylor-Mendoza said that she is currently a resident of the coast side city of Montara, where she lives with her husband. She has two children, one who is 18 and just graduated high school, and a 25-year-old son. Dr. Taylor-Mendoza began her journey in higher education by attending El Camino College in Torrance, California. She received her bachelor's in psychology, a masters, and a Ph.D. in education. Dr. Taylor-Mendoza credits who she is today to influence from her mother, who raised her as a single parent, and her grandmother.

Edna Letran shared that she is from Guatemala and came to the United States in 1988 with her two-year-old son. Upon arriving in the United States, Ms. Letran took part in the English Institute at Cañada College to improve her language skills. She then pursued an associate degree in accounting. Upon graduating, she went to work for a non-profit organization as a financial aid officer. She then went to work for the San Mateo County Office of Education, where she stayed for over twenty years. Ms. Letran joined College of San Mateo as the executive assistant to the president in December 2019. Ms. Letran's son attended CSM before transferring to San Francisco State University, where he completed a degree in mechanical engineering.

President Morales thanked Dr. Taylor-Mendoza and Ms. Letran for being at the Student Senate meeting. Members of the Student Senate then introduced themselves.

Dr. Taylor-Mendoza said that she interested in having a partnership with the Student Senate that includes continuous dialogue and regular check-ins. Dr. Taylor-Mendoza is focused on students and making sure that all students are successful. Dr. Taylor-Mendoza said she looked forward to sharing her community college story with the campus community. Although she is now here as CSM's president and with a Ph.D., her journey had its ups and downs, and it's important to know that although everyone's path is different, we are all here with a common goal.

Dr. Taylor-Mendoza asked if the Student Senate had started planning for the academic year or if that would take place at the leadership retreat. Mr. Schaefer said that the Student Senate has an item later on the agenda to start brainstorming goals for the year. Dr. Taylor-Mendoza said she looks forward to hearing the Student Senate's goals. Dr. Taylor-Mendoza reminded the group that next year marks CSM's 100-year anniversary, and with that comes opportunities for innovation and new directions. She also noted that she would like to have student input into the centennial planning. The centennial celebration will kick off on March 31, 2022, with a gala, and Dr. Taylor-Mendoza is ensuring that students will be able to attend free of cost.

Regarding the campus recovery, Dr. Taylor-Mendoza said that students should have received a communication informing them that services are returning to campus for the fall semester. She noted that the district's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has disbanded, but that the Chancellor's Cabinet has taken on the decision-making responsibilities that used to sit with the EOC. Dr. Taylor-Mendoza said that the district is still in negotiations with the bargaining unit for classified staff, which is why more details regarding service hours haven't been shared. Mr. Schaefer shared that the Student Senate has been discussing what student events and activities may look like in the fall, and how clubs will function.

Dr. Taylor-Mendoza discussed the transitions that will take place with the vice president of administrative services and the vice president of student services positions. She said that she has spoken with Mr. Schaefer and Mr.

Hamadeh about student participation in the hiring process and hopes to have both vice president positions filled by the college Flex Day.

Finally, Dr. Taylor-Mendoza said that the college is looking at relocating the Wellness Center to Building 5 from its current location in Building 1. Discussions are still in the early stages as funding and possible designs need to be considered, but there is a sense that a relocation would help increase usage. She asked that the Student Senate think about the possible move and provide feedback.

With Dr. Taylor-Mendoza present, Mr. Schaefer suggested that the Student Senate discuss goals for the academic year. Hearing no objections, the Student Senate took up New Business Item F, ASCSM Goals and Welcome Statement for 2021–2022.

ASCSM GOALS AND WELCOME STATEMENT FOR 2021–2022

The Student Senate identified and discussed the following items as possible goals:

- Improvements to technology provided to students for remote classes
- Support for students who may not be able to immediately return to the area
- Ways to communicate to students that the district and college are taking steps to ensure student safety
- Increase mental health services for students
- Rebuild a sense of community and connections among students (academic and social)
- Rejuvenate the campus club culture
 - Find ways to encourage staff and faculty to serve as club advisors
- Explore ways to offer lab and center service hours and appointments to students who may not be in the area (e.g., out of state and international students)
- Improve communication and transparency between ASCSM, students, and administration
- Integration in Building 17 among ASCSM, learning communities, and other programs
- Monthly updates directly from ASCSM to students
- Explore ways to partner with the Multicultural and Dream Center, learning communities, and other student support and service programs
- Engage in advocacy work and other activities around social justice, anti-racism, and other equity-based work to build stronger connections among the student government, the student body, and faculty.
- Regularly scheduled student town halls

Dr. Taylor-Mendoza said she had to leave but thanked President Morales for mentioning the unfinished work around social justice, equity, and anti-racism. She said that she recognizes that there is much more that needs to be done and is committed to making progress on these issues. Dr. Taylor-Mendoza thanked the members of the Student Senate for allowing her and Ms. Letran to be a part of today's meeting. She looks forward to returning to a future Student Senate meeting.

President Morales and Senators Chang, Skinas, and Wadi Zaw volunteered to serve on a task force to work with Mr. Hamadeh to further develop the Student Senate goals and welcome statement. Mr. Schaefer said that if anyone else had suggestions for goals, they should send them directly to President Morales.

After the conclusion of this item, the Student Senate returned to the order of the day and took up New Business Item G, Fall 2021 Campus Reopening.

FALL 2021 CAMPUS REOPENING

Mr. Schaefer suggested that this item be added to future agendas as a standing item so the Student Senate can review and discuss developments as they occur.

Mr. Schaefer shared that Vice President of Student Services Kim Lopez had communicated that the administration would like to encourage student clubs and organizations to resume meeting on campus. However, this may become challenging if groups cannot find faculty and staff who will be present to monitor their in-person, on-campus meetings. Mr. Schaefer said that the Center for Student Life will send out a communication to current advisors outlining the requirements and possible options. Vice President Mahoney asked if the same rule applied if a group is using an outside facility. Mr. Schaefer said that he would need to seek guidance from the administration.

Mr. Schaefer announced that the Center for Student Life will be open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. starting in early August. In addition, the Student Senate will hold in-person, on-campus meetings at least twice per month once the fall semester starts. Mr. Schaefer also encouraged members of the Student Senate to utilize their office space in Building 17, which will initially be available the same hours as the Center for Student Life is open for business. Mr. Schaefer stressed that flexibility is going to be an important consideration for the fall semester. The administration is hoping for a phased reopening with most services returning to regular service hours by the end of the fall semester. He stressed that the student voice is going to be vital as the college moves forward with reopening.

WELCOME EVENT FOR FALL 2021

Mr. Schaefer suggested tabling this item until the next meeting to give members of the Student Senate time to come up with ideas. Hearing no objections, the item was tabled until the next meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Welcome Event for Fall 2021
- Fall 2021 Campus Reopening
- Participatory Governance
- Recruitment for ASCSM Boards
- Mask Requirements for Students
- Funding for Zoom Webinar Extension

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

On behalf of Mr. Hamadeh, Mr. Schaefer reminded members of the Student Senate to RSVP for the welcome social for President Taylor-Mendoza if they planned to attend. The event will be held on Thursday, August 5, at 1 p.m.

Finance Director Farjat reported that the Safety Committee adopted a recommendation to the district endorsing a masking requirement in campus buildings, regardless of an individual's vaccination status. The committee also supported a requirement that students provide proof of vaccination before returning to campus. Mr. Schaefer suggested that the Student Senate add a discussion item for the next meeting regarding this item. Finance Director Farjat also said that the colleges will be hosting pop-up vaccination clinics on August 10 (Cañada), August 12 (Skyline), and August 13 (CSM). The clinics will be open to students and the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 4:10 p.m. by Senator Wadi Zaw; seconded by Senator Khurelchuluun. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

Submitted by,

Fauzi Hamadeh

Student Life and Leadership Assistant