



Associated Students of College of San Mateo

Student Senate Regular Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Monday, June 12, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 2:20 pm.

SWEARING IN

Mr. Hamadeh administered the ASCSM Oath of Office to Enzo Ferreira. President Ferreira then administered the ASCSM Oath of Office to the members of the 2023–2024 Student Senate.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Enzo Ferreira; Vice President Brittany Shive; Finance Director Montse Morales; Secretary Lianna Lim; Senators Jake Austin, Marlo Cowan, Luana Ferreira, Michelle Lopez Grijalva, Ryan Luftman, Ashley Phyu, Antu Sosa, Megan Sullivan, Paola Tagashira, Karina Viner

Members Absent: Senators Andy Cheng, Jasper Cheng, Eugene Teng

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

Others Present: Arthur Veloso, SMCCCD Student Trustee-Elect for 2023–2024 (via Zoom)

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Senator Tagashira; seconded by Senator Lopez Grijalva. Hearing no objections, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING(S)

Hearing no objections, this item was tabled until a future meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None.

REPORTS

President Ferreira welcomed the members of the 2023–2024 ASCSM Student Senate and said he looks forward to getting to know all the new folks on the Senate. Mr. Ferreira reported that he and Vice President Shive attended the Campus Leadership Retreat, which was held June 5 and 6. President Ferreira said the groups discussed the College’s goals for the future. He also said it was an opportunity to get to know the College administration better.

Vice President Shive also welcomed members of the 2023–2024 Senate. She encouraged anyone who may have questions to reach out to her or President Ferreira.

Student Trustee-Elect Veloso said that the Board of Trustees is currently discussing class size limits and the threshold for when classes should be canceled due to low enrollment. The old limit was 20 students,

but that was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. The District administration would like to restore that limit, but District faculty are pushing against it. Mr. Veloso would like to get feedback from the Associated Students so he can more effectively advocate for the student voice. Mr. Veloso also said that he would like to gather input from additional student groups, such as student clubs, to get a fuller sense of what students are experiencing.

Student Life and Leadership Manager Schaefer said that the Campus Leadership Retreat was a great experience, and that President Ferreira, Vice President Shive, and Finance Director Morales represented the Associated Students very well. He commended President Ferreira for participation in a panel and Vice President Shive for her contributions during group discussions. Mr. Schaefer noted that CSM's administration is very respectful and supportive of the student voice, and that they are very open to listening to students. He did point out, however, that things don't always change overnight and that it is important that students be present to voice their thoughts and opinions.

Mr. Schaefer said that he and Mr. Hamadeh generally have an open-door policy, but he asked that folks check-in at the front counter before coming to their offices. Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Hamadeh are available to provide support and feedback to the members of the Student Senate on almost any topic. Mr. Schaefer did mention that members of the Student Senate should speak to himself or Mr. Hamadeh before making any changes to their class enrollment, particularly because any changes in their number of units could impact their position on the Senate.

Mr. Schaefer announced that the dates for the ASCSM Leadership Retreat had to be changed due to scheduling conflicts and to allow members of the Senate who are international students to attend. Student Life staff are working to finalize dates and a location, but the retreat will most likely be held in mid- to late-September.

Mr. Schaefer noted that the vice chair position is open. The vice chair is elected from among the members of the Senate and serves on the Executive Cabinet. The vice chair is also responsible for chairing the Inter Club Council (ICC), which meets on Tuesdays at 1:15 pm during the fall and spring semester, and for assisting the Center for Student Life with club-related matters.

Mr. Schaefer announced that he is working with Staff Assistant Bathai to clean and organize the Event Prep Room in Building 17 and the Student Life Storage Room in Building 12. Mr. Schaefer said that he is going to coordinate with the Executive Cabinet and the board chairs to make sure that both spaces stay clean and organized, particularly after events take place. He also said that more emphasis will be placed on returning, cleaning, and organizing items since several pieces of new Student Life equipment have gone missing over the past several months. If the missing items cannot be located, the Student Senate will be responsible for their replacement.

Student Life and Leadership Assistant Hamadeh encouraged members of the Student Senate to take advantage of the ASCSM Office in Building 17. He noted that the room is available during times when the Center for Student Life is open. During the summer, that will be from 9 am to 3 pm, Monday through Thursday. Mr. Hamadeh mentioned that other programs, such as SparkPoint, the Learning Communities, and the Office of Equity, also have offices in Building 17, and that the building closes at 6:30 pm.

APPOINTMENTS

President Ferreira made the following appointments:

- Senator Phyu as chair of the Programming Board
Motion to approve the appointment by Senator Lopez Grijalva; seconded by Senator Viner.
Hearing no objections, the motion was carried with all members present voting in favor.
- Senator A. Cheng as chair of the Advocacy Board
Motion to approve the appointment by Senator Tagashira; seconded by Senator Phyu. Hearing no objections, the motion was carried with all members present voting in favor.
- Senator Teng as chair of the Public Relations Board
Motion to approve the appointment by Senator Ferreira; seconded by Senator Phyu. Hearing no objections, the motion was carried with all members present voting in favor.
- Senator Ferreira as chair of the Cultural Awareness Board
Motion to approve the appointment by Senator Lopez Grijalva; seconded by Senator Viner.
Hearing no objections, the motion was carried with all members present voting in favor.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ICE BREAKERS

Members of the Student Senate introduced themselves and shared what they hope to accomplish over the next year. Some of the thoughts mentioned were:

- Rebuild connections within the campus community a lot of students just come and go. New events and more events to reconnect the campus community.
- Communicate more services to the student body and build awareness of ASCSM and student government.
- More engaging and culturally relevant events that involve the community.
- Make sure that the student voice is amplified in college decision making.

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Mr. Schaefer provided a presentation that explained the roles and responsibilities of student government. He said that ASCSM and the Student Senate have three main functions: Advocacy on campus and in the local, state, and federal governments; social and cultural event programming; and representing the student voice in matters of participatory governance. Mr. Schaefer noted that the California Community College system is the only segment of higher education in the country that is mandated by law to give students “the right to participate effectively in district and college governance.” The Associated Students are recognized by the Board of Trustees as the official voice of the students. He said that CSM has always been a particularly inclusive environment, and that the College’s current administration goes out of their way to provide students with the opportunity to provide input.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE (ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER)

Mr. Schaefer presented information on parliamentary procedure and Robert’s Rules of Order, the system of parliamentary procedure that is used by the Student Senate. He noted that the Senate uses a loose

interpretation of Robert's Rules of Order, and that the technicalities of the system should never get in the way of being able to accomplish the Senate's business. Mr. Schaefer said that Robert's Rules of Order are designed to allow the minority's voice to be heard while ensuring that the majority can move business forward. Mr. Schaefer highlighted several parts of Robert's Rules, including motions, amendments, and other procedural maneuvers.

APPROVAL OF LEAVES OF ABSENCE FOR SUMMER 2023

Article III, Section 1.6.1 of the ASCSM Constitution allows the Student Senate to grant leaves of absence to members who may have "extenuating circumstances," which has been interpreted to mean extended travel, unavoidable class scheduling conflicts, and situations where international students may have to return to their home countries. The leaves of absence are only in effect during the summer session and must be approved by the Senate.

For Summer 2023, the following members of the Student Senate have requested leaves of absence:

- Senator Andy Cheng
- Senator Jasper Cheng
- Senator Eugene Teng

All are international students who will be returning to their home countries for the summer.

Motion to approve leaves of absence for the Summer 2023 session for Senators A. Cheng, J. Cheng, and Teng by Senator Ferreira; seconded by Senator Tagashira. The motion was carried with all members present voting in favor.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

Members of the Student Senate discussed ways to communicate among themselves. Mr. Hamadeh said that it was important that members get in the habit of checking their email at least once a day to make sure they do not miss announcements and other communication from the Center for Student Life. Members of the Senate decided to utilize WhatsApp for communications among themselves. Mr. Hamadeh mentioned that they will need to make sure that internal communications comply with the Brown Act, which Mr. Schaefer will discuss at the next meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Election of Vice Chair
- Information on the Ralph M. Brown Act
- ASCSM Office Rules

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Student Trustee-Elect Veloso thanked the members of the Student Senate for inviting him to today's meeting. He said that he looks forward to working with the group over the next year to better represent students to help them achieve their academic goals.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 3:55 pm by Senator Lopez Grijalva; seconded by Senator Ferreira. Hearing no objections, the motion was carried.

Submitted by,

Lianna Lim
ASCSM Secretary