

MEETING MINUTES
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

The Wednesday, February 6, 2019 meeting of the Associated Students Senate was held at 6:05 PM in the Price Center East Forum, Speaker Nikhil Pothuru presiding and Clerk Christian Walker was present.

The roll was called.

The following members were present: Kiara Gomez, Daron Woods, Nathan Park, Kenji Asakura, Emma Potter, Jasraj Johl, David Hickman, Kelly Morris, Ethan Christensen, Joseph Giltner, Elvin Topalov, Lin Let Hai Thi, Amor Goetz, Aaron Hanna, Shirley Zhang, Annika Manlutac, Kimberley Giangtran, Spencer Lee, Eni Ikuku, Arthur Porter, Eric Ron, Eleanor Grudin, Nikhil Pothuru, Brandon Milledge, Melina Reynoso, Myra Haider, Jamshed Ashurov.

Senate reordered into special orders.

A special presentation was given by Alex Wu, regarding the Information Technology Services App, on a new mobile app which is being developed in order to make food notifications more personable to students.

The following members asked questions:

- **Senator Ikuku:** Why wasn't I informed about a free food notification? Also, the app constantly crashed every time me and my friend signed in. Were they aware of this situation?
 - **Alex Wu:** Bug log that would show the type of crashes, but not specific information about who it crashed for. You can also contact help desk.
- **Senator Christensen:** I like the free food feature and think it's a great initiative. However, there is an issue with publicity, as it has not spread as much as it should. People don't know about the app enough. Are there plans to market the app better to students?
 - **Alex Wu:** The marketing department will be making a bigger push coming up, talking with advisors regarding conveying message to students.
 - **President Gomez** clarified that it's AS' job to be marketing the food notifications as well, since it came out of their work. There was also a joint session was held for troubleshooting issues.
- **Senator Asharov:** You said that you are going to create space for colleges to provide their own notifications?
 - **Alex Wu:** That is an option to make the app more personable to students, by having college specific notifications.
- **Senator Giltner:** What were you looking for in improvements?
 - **Alex Wu:** All upcoming features come from open source. We have a list of upcoming features for next 6 months. Currently notifications only one way with no feedback coming back. We are working on making it more robust so that they can get feedback back and there will be two way messaging.
- **Senator Pothuru:** If any students want to work on it can they bring their own request?

- **Alex Wu:** Contact us if you want to contribute and get onboarded. They have had successful students in the past.
- **Senator Asakura:** Can you share if there will be availability on tablets or other technology?
 - **Alex Wu:** We are focusing on phone right now. With a bigger screen they would expand everything.
- **Senator Grudin:** Are there features available only to iPhone or Android users, or are features uniform?
 - **Alex Wu:** The features are fairly uniform. We are focusing on one platform, but if we look at specific, we will probably focus on functionality.

Senator Giltner moved to table the Special Presentation regarding Accessibility and Accountability of A.S for one week.

With no objections, the item was tabled for one week.

Reports of Members:

- **President Gomez:** Applications are up for judicial board and there have already been lots of applicants. Remind councils and constituents. Next week we will be having associate vice chancellor of EDI to talk about strategic plan about bringing forward diversity on campus. We will discuss an overview of the plan, including where it is and where it will be moving forward. We are working on the Agents of Change campaign through residential life, which concerns programming, in addition to going through orientation and RA training. The disability experience workgroup formed subgroup of committee as own. They are analyzing policies from other campus' and promoting faculty accountability for student disabilities. OSB is responsible for making sure people who have disabilities, streamlining process, bring forward training for faculty.
- **Financial Controller Park:** When you're applying for money funds, make sure you have TAP started. Make sure to start TAP by deadline, otherwise even if funds are allocated, you can't use them. College councils have expressed interest in AS funding and senators are encouraged to set up a meeting with me. Office will not be releasing emails about changes to funding policy for a while. There is also a Student Fee Committee that has been established which has the goal of matching the policies of AS and college councils.
- **VP Campus Affairs Woods:** Weekly report deadline moved to Tuesday night, so that there will be a chance to look over weekly reports before joint on Wednesday. We will then use time in joint session to ask questions rather than just read reports. Keep submitting reports and utilize TTV service, as we went through the effort of getting TTV to create the positions.
- **Senator Pothuru:** Started conversation in UCAB about blue pepper space, wants to ask senate whether UCAB should have blue pepper remaining on campus.
- **Senator Morris:** The Student Transportation Advisory Committee met and the notes up on AS website. Tomorrow the Gilman Bridge officially opens. Also discussed by was a friction between student residents and commuters, since permits were rolled out. STAC is looking for suggestions to create incentives to get students to commit to biking. Sustainability collective working on recovering abandoned bikes on campus, fixing them up, reselling them. Route 41 doesn't stop at VA anymore.

Reports of External News:

VP External Affairs Siegel-Singh: UCSA Board is meeting in Santa Barbara. Half of office will be going to DC. There are proposed federal changes to Title IX which presents issues that affect UC students such as removal of federal protections for off-campus violence and assault. UCSA Board is meeting in Santa Barbara. Half of office will be going to DC. There are proposed federal changes to Title IX which presents issues that affect UC students such as removal of federal protections for off-campus violence and assault. Higher education act will most likely be passed this year, which means that the federal financial aid portfolio will be passed. ACHA act authorization is a big deal, as it only happens once every ten years. Student lobbying conference hosted by her office and applications are open. Apply for professional development and to learn about the legislative process. Budget town hall next Monday, Feb 12, from 5-7pm in PC East. CFO from division of office of the president is coming to campus. Attend to learn where money goes on campus and the campus-specific budget. There will be a cater dinner and sprinkles cupcakes. Office is doing lobby day in Sacramento on Feb 26, where will be focusing on financial aid reform, basic needs services, and how will state continue to provide funding, opportunity. Met with Janet Napolitano, regarding discrepancies in UC task force, police accountability boards and how over policing affecting students on campus, particularly undocumented students. UC Path, payroll system, hasn't come to our campus, but will be next year. Come out to town hall next week and apply to student lobby conference.

Reports of Senator Projects:

- **Senator Pothuru:** There will be a fair around week 7, where several orgs and reps can talk about food related issues, sustainability and informing student body about food related issues on campus. They will hopefully have flyers by next week. AS Talks will be taking place in Week 9, artwork done around next week and flyers will be available by week 7.
- **Senator Zhang:** There was a town hall last week town hall about student climate. They implemented student success, which happened yesterday and they got a lot of student feedback regarding student orgs on campus, regarding what they want to see about student success center. They will give a presentation to allow students to give input, in order to see what student needs are, create the best structure for organization of event on campus and address imbalance between graduate and undergraduate student resources. The presentation posted online and the data is posted.
- **Senator Asakura:** Senator Office hours will be taking place in week 8, February 27, from 10-2pm. A signup sheet will be posted on FB group so you can sign up. Please take any hours to have consistent presence. They are still open to ideas on food.
- **Senator Asharov:** Agents of Change will be taking place on Week 7, which will deal with issues of underrepresented students on campus, socially or academically. The event is available on Facebook and will soon be available on the AS page.
- **Senator Grudin:** Stipend related meeting will be happening on week 8 and they will have mini-fun cakes.
- **Senator Giangran:** Meeting with Collin, coordinator of student activities about how they can make orientation program better for first-years, orientation forget about you, throw you aside, talk about first years and first week here.

Question Time:

- **Senator Christensen asked Senator Grudin:** What time and day did you say your event would be taking place?
 - **Senator Grudin:** Monday of week 8, February 25, from 6-8. Space is reserved until 10, in case people are having a good time. She is sending out specific invitations to people.
- **Senator Reynoso asked Senator Grudin:** Do you want us to invite our college councils?
 - **Senator Grudin:** Any student outside are invited, but we will be talking specifically about AS stipends. Any other issues regarding stipends that anyone wants to bring up, she can make sure is included.
- **Senator Giltner asked Financial Controller Park:** Do we create funding after we create the TAP?
 - **Financial Controller Park:** Senator Projects are only approved by me. Make sure to at least start your TAP within a 21 day gap. You don't have to complete it until at least 24 hours before TAP is due, but at least start ASAP it so the module is up.
- **Senator Reynoso asked President Gomez:** The time commitment varies depending on the things that come up, but there are certain times when you have to be there?
- **Senator Asakura asked President Gomez:** What are the qualifications for the judicial board?
 - **President Gomez:** Anyone can apply, similar to any AS position. You only have to be a student. Contact Michelle, who chairs the jboard, with any questions.

Financial Controller Park moved to reorder agenda to new business.

With no objections, Senate reordered into new business.

Financial Controller Park moved to suspend the bylaws to allow for Senator Grudin's Academic Senator's Bill to enter the agenda.

With no objections, Senate suspended the bylaws to allow for Senator Grudin's Academic Senator's Bill to enter the agenda.

Financial Controller Park moved to add the Academic Senator's Bill to new business.

With no objections, the Academic Senator's Bill was added into new business.

Financial Controller Park moved to enter into a moderated caucus for the Academic Senator's bill.

With no objections, Senate entered into a moderated caucus for the Academic Senator's bill.

Financial Controller Park moved to suspend the bylaws to allow AVP Academic Affairs Maddula to speak on the speakers list.

With no objections, Senate suspended the bylaws to allow AVP Academic Affairs Maddula to speak on the speakers list.

AVP Madulla spoke on Senator Grudin's bill: The Bill has been brought to senate to open up discussion on how we appoint academic senators to AS and how we can improve that process to increase representation. Due to slates and how elections work, people who have been elected have not really been interested in student government. Although appointments are not the most representative way, the current method, is not the most effective. Under the new bill, senators can run, but they must run independently.

The following members spoke on the item:

- **Senator Asharov asked AVP Madulla:** You said that some academic senators weren't best fit for positions?
 - **AVP Maddula:** I'm not targeting academic senators, however people who have run in the past may have not actually wanted the positions. The whole goal is to reevaluate the process, whether senators will be appointed or how elected process with no influence of slates could promote an equal playing field.
- **Senator Grudin:** Change needs to be discussed really quickly with elections coming up, in terms of bill itself. Best way she's understood it is that someone could run for senator, who is not from the specific academic department, which wouldn't be the best representation. Popular vote with slate influence may not be the best way to get that position.
- **Senator Pothuru asked AVP Maddula:** What kind of problems can we circumvent by making the positions appointed rather than elected?
 - **AVP Maddula:** Slates in the past may have just selected people for a major even if they're not actually interested in student government. Students in a major who apply for appointment are more likely to be interested. If the positions remain elected, it should be in an independent manner. We would need to alter the election code to have candidates not work with slates, therefore appointment process would be more feasible.
- **Senator Porter:** I'm not fully against appointment, but I'm concerned the language of how it's being proposed, the committee could be composed by anyone and not representatives for the specific major, therefore anyone could have the power, even not from the major.
- **Senator Giangtran asked AVP Maddula:** You're thinking that slates pick and choose people within majors? I don't see how appointing people would fix the problem. If appointment is supposed to find people that want the position, they would have run for the position if they wanted it.
 - **AVP Maddula:** With the process of how students apply for the position, independently running students may not have equal opportunity, because slate sponsored students had better access to resources. Whether we want to stick with elected, or move to appointed, we should make sure that candidates are on the same plane.
- **Senator Reynoso:** It is very hard to encourage people to run independently who aren't already involved in an academic community, as these people who are already involved in student government tend to have less interest.

Senator Johl moved to extend presentation time for 10 minutes.

With no objections, presentation time was extended for 10 minutes.

The following members spoke on the item:

- **Senator Johl asked Assistant Director of AS, John Weng:** Would these changes apply to this election cycle, or not until the next one?
 - **Assistant Director of AS, John Weng:** The bill has to be approved and accepted by the college councils by the week 7 meeting if they wanted it to go into effect this session.
- **Senator Christensen:** Running as independent doesn't create a fair scenario, as independent senators would have a hard time running if they aren't part of the group. The language is weak and leaves it up to dangerous interpretation. The language should be changed so that committee has to be composed of senators from last term as well, so we don't create a situation of impartial unfairness where insiders choose their own people.
- **Financial Controller Park:** It's important for AS to create stability. Although appointment process may be questionable, it can be bad in the reverse, as it creates problems if there are two different budgets. Elections aren't always the best and it's really hard for people to get in independently because it's all about connections. Appointees are generally more committed and less likely to resign.
- **Senator Zhang:** We could look toward faculty in each department, having student nominations from staff to represent the departments. It's hard to get representations for students from all different colleges and market directly for all the different positions. We should look for as much input for the colleges and from the departments.
- **Senator Asakura:** Some committees may be larger than others, with competition certain senators will win. The system is slightly flawed because as a social science senator you cannot vote for an engineering senator. Public input does come from department, but there needs to be drawn a distinction between students and faculty.

Senator Johl moved to extend presentation time by 10 minutes.

With no objections, presentation time was extended by 10 minutes.

The following members spoke on the item:

- **Senator Christensen:** Students will have difficult time in competing with students from other organizations. They shouldn't be given a default win in that situation. There is an unbalancing factor between independent and non-independent students.
- **Senator Potter:** If we're concerned, we should talk about how we conduct elections generally. We are leaving it up to the students to make decisions about whether they are qualified. Leaving it up to students is a powerful thing. It's important to make committee special for academic position. We don't want to make process too difficult for people by requiring people from past years to be on committee.
- **Senator Ikuku:** By getting faculty involved we risk them getting people involved based on merit, rather than a situation where people are elected based on students.

Senator Ikuku moved to close the speakers list without additions.

By a straw poll vote of 21-3-2, the speakers list was closed with no additions.

The following members spoke on the item:

- **Senator Giltner:** We should consider what role students should play in election of their representatives. Someone should bring up new language and look at percentages. If we take out the college senators, there will be a smaller portion of senators elected.
- **AVP Maddula:** Issues about language are important should be discussed. We shouldn't step out of bounds by establishing a committee not approved by us. Constituents have brought concerns to me already. Reach out to me about being more specific about the language. I opposed going to faculty for appointments, as working with faculty it creates a lot of work for them and might not be representative, as faculty may not know what students need. Fine with the senators being appointed or elected. It's important to discuss or decide on whether they want it to be appointed by select committee.

Senator Asakura moved to extend presentation time by 10 minutes.

By a vote of 20-1-3, time was extended by 10 minutes.

The following members spoke on the item:

- **Senator Johl:** The discussion about electing vs appointing has trade-offs. We can't have both democratic and best persons. We have to stick with one or the other and decide what is more important. Through that it may be hard for independent person, elections will be contested either way. Worrying won't do much. Maybe have one faculty person involved in the process.
- **Financial Controller Park:** Last election there was 22% turnout, 4,000 votes cast, and not much competition. For elections, to make it independent, it depends on how you force it. If the person who's on a slate is marketed on them, if a slate name, no policy on it, see student orgs do it, hard for administrators to catch that. In practice, having someone elected in theory is great but in practice doesn't work. For election as it, there's issues with general elections, issues with academic senators, how slates work, slate's how work. Student orgs can bypass, although log rules are in place.
- **Senator Giltner:** Votes are dependent on major, but when you do go to vote you can only vote for what your major is in the registrar.
- **Senator Asharov:** Almost every concern can be applied to almost any elected position. Candidates who have resources and are affiliated are more likely going to get the position. If we make any changes it should be applied to almost every elected position.
- **Senator Pothuru:** Academic orgs are putting out candidates. Candidates have huge investment in committee they're going to represent. Community trusts individual to make decisions for them and their constituents. While it is true that independent candidate may have best chances, they also usually aren't as involved.
- **Senator Christensen:** Not suggesting we should stop people who are affiliated from running, but we should try to create independent candidates. By slates, we are not creating independent candidates. If slates are creating inequality, we're going to run into issues.

Senator Giltner moved to table the item for one week.

With no objections, the item was tabled for one week.

Senator Giltner moved to unsuspend the bylaws.

With no objections, the bylaws were unsuspended.

Reports of Committees:

Financial Controller Park reported on behalf of Finance Committee that the following item was amended and then approved by Finance Committee: Allocation of \$71.12 from Programming Funds to UCSD Recreation – Volleyball Men's National Collegiate Volleyball Federation at Denver Convention Center.

With no objections, the item stands amended and then approved by Finance Committee.

Financial Controller Park reported on behalf of Finance Committee that the following item was amended and passed senate with finance committee ruling: Allocation of \$50,000 from Mandate Reserves to Sun God Festival 2019.

With no objections, the item stands amended and passed senate with finance committee ruling.

Financial Controller Park reported on behalf of Finance Committee that the following items were tabled indefinitely: Allocation of \$37.68 from Programming Funds to Ecology, Behavior & Evolution Club at UCSD Movie; Allocation of \$2,500.00 from Programming Funds to Kappa Alpha Pi Attorney Networking Night.

With no objections, the items stand tabled indefinitely.

Vice Chair of Legislative Committee Reynoso reported on behalf of Legislative Committee that the following items were tabled for one week: Merger and Certification of the A.S. Office of Enterprises and Services Act 2019; The Uniform Process of Impeachment Act 2019; Creating More Accessibility To A.S. Act 2019; Dissolving of Redundant Position Act 2019.

With no objections, the items stand tabled for one week.

Open Forum:

The following members spoke in Open Forum:

- **Financial Controller Park:** In ACTA they found it difficult to deal with the right people and saw the impact made to residents. When they wanted to take next step for advocacy it was difficult to adjust for transfer senators. When we have a transition from appointment senators, it becomes difficult to become accustomed. Appointed senators should come in earlier, as ACTA needs to have right people to represent them. There is a two to one ratio for transfers.

- **Senator Pothuru:** Went to org meeting last week and discussed what students think about 2.5 GPA threshold. Put out google form, with 73.8% of responses from Warren and the rest from other colleges. 23.8% wanted to keep threshold where it was and 75% of people still want students to have opportunity to run. Student body thinks differently and the vast majority wants students to have the ability to run.
- **Senator Giltner:** Regarding the transfer issue, transfers get thrown to side. Administration doesn't understand that the biggest issue against the bill was that first-year transfers get throw aside and don't have voice. They can apply for first-year senate. Working on revising the standing rules. 20 more pages to go through. There is a sophomore leadership conference coming up, where there will be cool companies, the big 4 accounting firms and opportunity to network for internships.
- **Senator Reynoso:** Yule Ball is on Sunday, so come out to destress. Going to VCSA committees need restructuring, rather than just positions.
- **Senator Johl asked Senator Pothuru:** Can you send the data over the listserv?
 - **Senator Pothuru:** I can put it up on Facebook so we can read through it.
- **President Gomez:** As we are going through standing rules, we need to make sure to check in with people whose rules we are changing, prior to making decisions.
- **Senator Ron:** Muir holds concert during spring, lots of students will perform at muir stock. A form is open right now. Reach out to me if anyone wants to perform.
- **Senator Grudin:** Talk was amazing. Anyone submitting new business, it would be helpful to have attachments pending, even if it's just a little statement about what the business is going to be about, that would be helpful.
- **Financial Controller Park:** Going back to transfer thing. Having 2 elected and 1 appointed transfers or 2 transfer elected and one first-year elected geared to first year transfer.

A straw poll was taken on the following 3 options:

1. Two elected transfers, one appointed transfer senator (add 1 elected transfer senator).
2. Keep two transfer senators, both elected, one first year senator geared toward first year transfer.
3. Keep as-is.

By a majority, Senate expressed interest to keep as is.

The following members spoke during Open Forum:

- **Senator Pothuru:** I voted for the second one because I had a poll going out. Majority were not transfer students so it was more skewed. Of those 79.3% wanted to see an additional first-year transfer position, guarantee of a first-year transfer position in senate and 2 rather than 3. Will get more input from transfer committee.
- **Executive Assistant Walker:** Time sheets are due on Friday. Sent an email explaining that the hiring system will now be sending individualized emails to everyone hired, so that execs don't have to forward emails to staff.

The roll was called.

The following members were present: Kiara Gomez, Daron Woods, Caroline Siegel Singh, Nathan Park, Kenji Asakura, Emma Potter, Jasraj Johl, David Hickman, Kelly Morris, Ethan Christensen,

Joseph Giltner, Elvin Topalov, Lin Let Hai Thi, Amor Goetz, Shirley Zhang, Annika Manlutac, Kimberley Zhang, Spencer Lee, Eni Ikuku, Arthur Porter, Eric Ron, Eleanor Grudin, Ulysses Velasco, Nikhil Pothuru, Brandon Milledge, Melina Reynoso, Myra Haider, Jamshed Asharov.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.