AS SENATE MEETING

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Date:  Wednesday, March 10, 2021
Time:  6:00 P.M. PST
Location: via Zoom

Meeting Outline:
1. Special Presentations
   a. SSC Directorship Stipend Changes
2. Reports of Senator Projects
   a. Transfer Giveaway
   b. International Student Feedback
3. Reports of AS Offices
   a. Triton Dine/Game Night Giveaway, Event
   b. AS Movie Night
   c. Find Your Fit
   d. Disability Awareness Track
   e. Envision Policy-Thon
   f. Operating Funds and Funding Guide date changes
   g. Spring Break programming, HEERF II Funding, increase in undergraduate housing costs, remote instruction in the Fall
   h. ISPO, international students funding
   i. Financial Controller hiring committee
4. Reports of Standing Committees
   a. LI – L3 approved
   b. Closed session, L4 approved
   c. F1 approved, F2 tabled indefinitely
5. Reports of External Committees
   a. Academic Senate definition of “residency”
   b. Triton Commuter Club
6. New Business
   a. Allocation of $31,600 from Unallocated to Office of Transportation & Transformation, for Transportation Safety Program Pilots. Sponsored by Harper Estus and Zaccary Bradt approved
7. Open Forum
   a. Dining Dollars donation program
   b. Farewell, Financial Controller Nicholas Butler!

Order of Business

Meeting started at 6:02 P.M. PST.

Roll Call

Public Input

Special Presentations
Special Presentation by Student Sustainability Collective regarding SSC Directorship

Stipend Changes

1. Sophia Jara, Qianni Huang, Kelly Tobar
   a. About Us
      i. Brief history
      ii. Where we’re located (SRC, PC Plaza)
   b. Projects: A Closer Look
      i. Energy and Waste – “Destress and DIY with the SSC”
      ii. Food Justice: Storage, Systems, and Sovereignty
      iii. Public Health — COVID Info Series
      iv. External Development and Zero Waste Language
   c. 2020-21 Projects
      i. Cycle 11 Engagement
      ii. October — March
      iii. Cycle 12 Engagement
   d. Our Budget

   e. What We Hope to Gain

   i. Updates since our Last AS meeting
      1. Accountability measures and work log
      2. Moving Forward
1. Thank You, Questions
   
2. Lonc
   a. Non-hierarchical nature of the SSC, wondering how that meshes with unpaid interns doing a lot of work with directors who are being paid quite substantially, how do you reconcile those two?

3. Kelly Tobar
   a. We all have equal accountability, we do acknowledge that interns are not getting paid, we are working hard to bring compensation to interns
   b. We've talked to Nicolette about this on what it would mean to start paying interns and how to exactly restructure the internship program

4. Pandya
   a. Wondering if there’s any additional responsibilities or time commitments that are factored in into your calculation just because what the heavy emphasis on marketing and etc., that’s something that we’re doing here
   b. Curious behind that

5. Sophia Jara
   a. As a smaller organization, we have a smaller platform
   b. We are almost reaching 1K followers, pivotal point for us
   c. I wouldn’t say that we added additional roles or responsibilities
   d. We are taking into more account of respecting one another's time and valuing each other’s work
   e. Almost all our directors have 1-2 other jobs aside from working here
   f. We want to respect their time

6. Kelly Tobar
   a. We included the section not to invalidate the work that you do
   b. Wanted to add this section to show the behind the scenes of what we do

7. Bradt
   a. Concerning funding for specific programs; heard from student groups that their funding was denied for specific reasons that may or may not outlined in the by-laws or rules of specifically SSC
   b. One of these specific organizations was Roger’s Urban Farmlab

8. Will Tanaka
   a. Background of concerns that have been going on the past number of years
   b. Fellow students have been trying to get funding through the TGIF funding through the SSC
   c. Denied several times purely on the basis that the SSC is not comfortable with having animals on campus due to their veganism
   d. Primary reason for getting funding in addition to more administrative reasons
e. Every single application, we’ve played out how having chickens on campus would provide a health, cruelty-free protein source from chicken eggs
f. Having chickens on campus would overall reduce the carbon footprint of UCSD campus
g. Main question to AS Council: is it appropriate to deny funding to student organizations based on ideological differences?

9. Qianni
a. Thanks for the question.
b. This was a collective vote and not a personal ban on poultry or animal products
c. We were talking about administrative reasons which is first having those eggs to students for consumption; compared to produce, there is more documentation needed, and they haven’t been able to provide us with that documentation
d. Also an attached letter of support from the faculty I believe but that’s not enough to grant funding
e. One of your projects was suspended over the summer because students are back home; especially with the chickens, that requires constant care
f. We are not convinced you will be able to take care of those chickens if you requested a lot of funding with eggs, chicks, which require intensive work
g. Those are the reasons that primarily prevent us from accepting your project

10. Many Agni
a. All directors receiving stipend from $250 to $150 which is more than our AVPs get paid
b. Can you provide some details on what the other directors are doing?

11. Kelly Tobar
a. Just included some directors just for brevity’s sake
b. We do have a Wix website where we upload all of our weekly agendas to as information on what every single director is doing and what they’re working on
c. As an internal development director, although my job duties are based on hiring and retreat planning, I have also been working on a mental health give away the past 9 weeks
   i. Engage with a lot of people
   ii. Give away a lot of money to students, student satisfaction is pretty high
d. Our urban development and transportation director just did a panel and is working on a policy panel for next quarter

12. Bradt
a. It seems that there were specific funding rejection reasons, not all of them were listed there; is that common practice? Those reasons should be listed when you do deny/approve funding, I’m not sure why they weren’t all listed there and if that’s changed or that is just something that happened one time.

13. Qianni
a. In the Fall Quarter, we didn’t have a meeting agenda for every TGIF meeting, so that every decision we made, we don’t have every meeting detail outlined
b. Starting from the beginning of this quarter, we already had two TGIF meetings
c. The exact things each Director has said will be used at the end of the quarter when all the projects have been processed and we will upload all of them, including the denied projects with reason of denial or projects with partial funding and reasons for the partial funding
d. We recognize that is something we’re not doing good in, and we will do better in the future

14. Will Tanaka
a. We’ve had students at the Garden for the past three summers in the row to take care of the garden and the ability to take care of chickens
b. We’ve had this problem with the denial for the past number of years, not just limited to this year’s set of SSC directors
c. In our first cycle of applications in I believe 2018, the fact that we were denied on the basis of veganism was explicitly stated in our rejection email
d. Last year’s denial was more based on administrative basis
e. Nicolette actually met with us and couple of the directors
f. We’ve had live animals for the past several years even during the summer time

15. Isaac Lara
   a. Lack of communication between commissions and AS
   b. Adding onto this, we looked into referenda including the one you all referenced, called for funding to the resource center itself, TGIF fund, and sustainability and environmental initiatives
c. Would you be open to having this conversation about lowering stipends even further to providing more funding to the student body through those initiatives as the referenda previously called for?

16. Qianni
   a. We would like to say no because we do a lot of work and it’s not to devalue what you are doing at this moment
   b. We are planning to pay interns as well, we would like to see how this fits in our budget

17. Lonc
   a. Slightly confused by this answer, lowering director stipends could free up money to the compensation of interns
   b. Why the stipend reduction for directors can’t be used immediately for compensation of interns

18. Qianni
   a. You are asking us what lowering our budget at this moment will benefit interns in the future?

19. Kelly Tobar
   a. We are already reducing our stipend that we admit was too high in the beginning
   b. We are already lowering our stipends so we believe we can still use some of that money toward interns
   c. We want to continue our activist work and to be financially supported by the university

20. Bradt
   a. Issue with the lowered stipends, these stipends are still higher than stipends originally
   b. Keeping director stipends are a lower, reasonable level is direct way to help fund other programming or internships

21. Sophia Jara
   a. One of the main reasons in increasing stipends was because we respect each other’s time and efforts that go into the collective and work
   b. Lowering to $150 is meant to show that we are prioritizing the students and still respecting director’s time behind the scenes
   c. In 2017, it was about the same amount we are raising our stipend in 2021
   d. It is around the same amount we have done in the past
   e. We would be able to support our directors even more as they hold multiple jobs as a student

22. Rollison
   a. I would like to remind everyone in AS Senate that just because we’re underpaid doesn’t mean everyone else has to be underpaid
   b. The solution should not be everyone comes to our level
   c. My question: Does members of the SSC have office hours for members of the public?

23. Sophia Jara
a. When people have more privileges and opportunities, we shouldn’t seek to bring them down to our level
b. We should be able to uplift each other
c. Going back to the Office Hours, Kelly and I have office hours every Monday 10-11 AM
d. It usually does extend from 10AM – 12 PM
e. Open for all directors and to the public

24. Kelly Tobar
a. SSC meetings are weekly on Mondays 6PM – 8PM at least for the quarter
b. We had a public member come on Monday

25. Pandya
a. I don’t think the notion that we don’t have to bring people down
b. I think that’s the wrong way to look at this
c. Framing it as an equity issue is more important
d. These are student fees and we have an obligation to be stringent in a way
e. Even if it’s been allocated by student vote or student reps., we have an obligation to be very careful with each penny and dollar spent

26. Isaac Lara
a. I find it disappointing that there’s no opportunity to discuss a decrease in the stipend
b. I do understand the notion to want money to support your worth
c. The fact of the matter is that this is student’s money supporting me and you; this is not the university’s money
d. When the students agreed to that referendum, it was for initiatives and projects not for the linings of your own pockets
e. I do not say that to devalue your work, it’s very difficult to blatantly tell our Senate to build a relationship of transparency, communication, and accountability when it feels like those are buzzwords
f. AS has said that they are not comfortable with that stipend level
g. What does transparency and accountability look like to you all in terms of your stipend and the work you all put out?
h. A stipend is inherently not supposed to be a livable wage; for example, my stipend of $100/month gets me groceries, but it doesn’t pay my rent; I still work another job

27. Kelly Tobar
a. Senator Pandya, I acknowledge your argument of keeping directors in check, we’ve been working to up our transparency by publishing our agendas and implementing a weekly log
b. We do director quarterly evaluations
c. We will take time to internalize what this conversation has brought about and these topics of accountability
d. We’ve been working during the past year to increase accountability in our transparency
e. We look forward to working with you and your committee to improve that

28. Giangtran
a. This is a Q&A session and if we’re not going to use it for Q&A, the comments can be put in the agenda next week for discussion item
b. Let’s keep it to questions

Special Presentation by AVC Diane Forbes Berthoud regarding VC EDI Principles of Community Update and Feedback. Sponsored by Kimberly Giangtran.

Reports of External News
Reports of Senator Projects
1. Medina
   a. Transfer give away this week, invite your Transfer friends, giving away an Apple Watch, more information in the Transfer Instagram
2. Saraf
   a. Along with the International Student Advisory Council, sending out a form for international student feedback
   b. Giving away incentives such as school merchandise and gift cards
   c. Please forward it to as many international students as possible

Reports of AS Senators

Reports of AS Offices
1. VP Kreitman
   a. My office has a few events coming up
   b. Triton Dine
      i. Function similarly last quarter
      ii. Opening up form, any student following AS UCSD on social media is able to submit this form
      iii. Does not require attendance
      iv. Will draw 30 names to win a $50 gift card to the UCSD bookstore
      v. Will open on Monday and will close on Friday of finals week
      vi. Gift cards likely won’t go out until few weeks until Spring Quarter, wouldn’t be fun for seniors who want to participate
      vii. In addition, Friday of Finals week, hosting Triton Dine Game Night
      viii. If you are attendee, you will be entered into an opportunity drawing
      ix. Getting 10 diploma frames
      x. Friday of week 1, my office is hosting an AS movie night
         1. Going to include movie about student elections
         2. All candidates for AS Executive positions would be able to introduce each other as candidates and we’ll go on to watch the movie
      xi. I’ll send out the zoom info over the listserv later
   c. Monday evening of week 3 spring quarter
      i. Most if not all of you were at Find Your Fit
      ii. Had 175 attendees over the three days
      iii. A lot of the current staff members and senators heard about AS through this
      iv. Really successful, hosting another one
      v. Post-AS elections and pre-AVP applications
2. EVP Paskowitz
   a. Working with Syreeta Nolan develop a disability awareness track for VCSA’s spring break
   b. About 10 events
   c. Actively recruiting for Student Lobby Conference, please sign up for this!
   d. You will learn how to lobby and engage on different workshops
   e. Really exciting UC alum in policy and advocacy spaces
   f. Working to develop an envision policy-thon, happening week 3 spring quarter
3. FC Butler
   a. This is my final AS meeting
   b. It’s been an absolute blast being here
   c. Fourth floor remodel; will follow up with the layout update
   d. In the process of transition document
   e. Reach out to me if you want to discuss anything with me
   f. Operating funds, we did change it, changed some dates on the funding guide
4. Giangtran
a. FC application have reopened and will close this Friday
b. Other updates: Spring Break programming is a way for our campus to encourage students to stay on campus to mitigate spread of COVID-19 after break on campus
c. HEERF II funding, has begun to roll out, students with highest need have started to receive $900 in their student accounts
   i. SPECIAL needs request, still trying to figure out
d. Special needs request, trying to get more information about, some technological issues on the back end with ITS
e. The form should have opened up this Monday, we should news about the form for special needs, make them aware of the emergency grants they can receive
f. Hearing that grad and family housing was experiencing increase in cost
g. Asking if there is an increase in cost for undergraduate housing too, revealed to me that there have been talks about increasing cost of housing for undergraduates
h. Trying to get more information, in the talks for a while
i. Classes for Fall,
   i. No official approval of remote instruction for Fall
   ii. Still has to go through EPC and Academic Senate
   iii. There’s a delay in the list of classes they were supposed to put out
   iv. Usually put it out in the end of Week 10, they’re not going to make that deadline because they haven’t gotten approval to do remote instruction in the Fall yet
   v. We are usually able to enroll in classes the week after Finals of Spring Quarter, pushing that date back
   vi. If we rush that process, there will be inaccuracies in the list of classes, big no from me
   vii. If you’re going to say something is in person or remote, it cannot be inaccurate
j. SPARK
   i. There has been a decision to table the item until they determine more logistics
   ii. I don’t anticipate it being on the Regents meeting in March
k. Meeting with Director of ISPO
   i. To talk about partnerships
   ii. HEERF II funding and who’s getting funding, we can start getting game plan together
   iii. Going to look where we can support international students, what their numbers look like

5. FC Butler
   a. We need one more senator for the FC hiring committee
   b. Looking to do public interviews for the FC

Question Time

Reports of Standing Committees
1. Legislative Committee
   a. Kreitman
      i. Items L1 – L3 were approved
      ii. Decision of the committee stands
      iii. L5 was amended to read Maya Vargas and approved
      iv. Item L4 discharged to Senate Floor
   b. Medina
      i. Move to approve Amy as Transfer Senator
   c. CLOSED SESSION
   d. Tristan Tjan
i. Discussion about hiring practices, roll call vote
ii. L4 was approved, appointment did go through

2. Finance Committee
   a. FC Butler
      i. F1 approved, F2 tabled indefinitely
      ii. Decision of committee stands

Reports of External Committees
1. Pandya
   a. Admissions committee met again today
   b. Committee gave a reviewing of a proposed revision to a system-wise Academic Senate regulation that would change definition of “residency”
   c. UC system is trying to change the rules in respect to residency so now it’s not required physical presence on campus and changes unit threshold to 6 units in terms to what is considered to be a student in terms of residency
   d. Nothing has been changed yet, still going through the process
   e. Concern that there’s no sunset clause, still going to exist after the pandemic is gone
   f. Consensus that there is a challenge international students face during this virtual environment
   g. Admissions decisions will be released for undergraduate students this month
2. Bradt
   a. Triton Commuter Club has a new interface
   b. Pretty good rewards through this club, sign up!

Committee Question Time

Discussion Items

Unfinished Business

Appointment of Rachel Kroesche as the SSC Director of Food effective immediately until the appointment of a successor. Sponsored by Hannah R Kreitman
1. Jung
   a. Motion to table to next Senate meeting

Appointment of TBD as Financial Controller effective Week 1 of Spring Quarter until appointment of a successor. Sponsored by Hannah R Kreitman
1. Butler
   a. Motion to table until next Senate meeting

New Business
1. Estus
   a. Motion to enter into new business
      i. Allocation of $31,600 from Unallocated to Office of Transportation & Transformation, for Transportation Safety Program Pilots. Sponsored by Harper Estus and Zaccary Bradt.
      ii. Approved!

Open Forum
1. Giangtran
   a. I am looking into a possibility of creating a dining dollars donation program at the end of the school year
   b. Students who typically who have dining dollars left over usually on Facebook and other social media platforms to find someone who wants to buy their dining dollars
c. It would be awesome for students if they could donate to a general funding to give back to other students, Triton Food pantry, or San Diego food bank
d. Especially during COVID times, students want to contribute to others during food insecurity
e. I was asked to let you all know they are seeking volunteer judges during Spring Break if you’re in the SD area
   i. For the break, there’s a kindness competition, chalk art opportunity
   ii. On Library Walk
   iii. Will receive Spring Break bucks, vouchers for food on campus

2. Pandya
   a. Commemorate that Week 10 Winter Quarter meeting last year was the last in person Senate Meeting that we had
   b. It’s been a long year, despite being online, we’ve definitely engaged well
   c. Wish everyone good luck on finals and continuing work into Spring

3. Kreitman
   a. We’re going to miss you [FC Butler] a lot
   b. Sad that you’re leaving 😢

4. FC Butler
   a. [emotional speech]
   b. After three years of going into AS, wild to think time’s going to an end!
   c. Will for sitting on the FC hiring committee
   d. Campus Wide Senators this year, huge support group
   e. Shout out to Harper and Abby!
   f. Shout out to last year’s exec
   g. Shout out to Hannah and Kimberly
   h. Shout out to AVP Luc
   i. Amazing Professional staff, Christian Walker, Nicolette Solarez, John Weng, Heather Belk
   j. Cannot thank you all to get where I am

Roll Call

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:51 P.M. PST.
Bills in Committee

Finance Committee

F1 Appeal of Financial Act 8426. Sponsored by Nicholas Butler

F2 Appeal of Financial Act 8440. Sponsored by Nicholas Butler

Legislative Committee

L1 Appointment of Nicholas Geoghegan as TTV Director of Staff effective immediately until appointment of Successor. Sponsored by Nicholas Butler

L2 Appointment of Brenna O'Brien as Chair of ACCB effective immediately until appointment of successor. Sponsored by Nicholas Butler

L3 Appointment of Abigail Warner as Vice-Chair of ACCB effective immediately until appointment of successor. Sponsored by Nicholas Butler

L4 Appointment of Amy Bianchi as Transfer Senator effective immediately until appointment of a successor. Sponsored by Kimberly Giangtran

L5 Appointment of Maya Vargas as Office of Food and Housing Resources Housing Resource Advocate effective immediately until Week 8 of Spring Quarter. Sponsored by Kimberly Giangtran