

AS SENATE MEETING

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Time: 6:00 p.m. PDT

Location: via Zoom

Order of Business

MEETING STARTED at 6:02 p.m. PDT.

Roll Call

Public Input

Special Presentations

Reports of Senator Projects

1. Medina
 - a. Working on Virtual Transfer Graduation
 - b. Two events (1) grad cap decoration and (2) actual graduation
 - c. Hoping to give out cap and gowns to transfer students
2. Lam
 - a. Went to a meeting regarding international students and international student issues
 - b. Fall Instruction, trying to talk to faculty about making online classes an option in the fall
 - c. From the chancellor's message, a lot of people are assuming everything is going to be in-person and no accommodations are going to be made
 - d. Planning travel is going to be hard if announcements about if things are online are made in June
3. McLaren
 - a. AS Fellow Spirit Week
4. Rollison
 - a. Working with AS Office of Food and Housing, SLS, and the Hub
 - b. Workshop on off campus housing

Reports of AS Senators

1. Blackshire
 - a. CSAC; will be having a meeting soon

- b. Let me know if you have any thoughts or opinions that you would like me to share at the meeting

Reports of AS Offices

1. VP Kreitman
 - a. AVPs, holding an event with CSI, Food for Thought
 - b. Spirit Game Week
 - c. Lots of interest in superlatives
 - d. Housing update; met with Basic Needs and emailing with HDH
 - i. If we do make the 100K allocation to funding temporary emergency housing for graduate seniors
 - ii. No way to define how many students could be helped
 - iii. Amount of time varies so much
 - iv. We can help fund 1960 beds or nights
 - v. It's for graduated seniors because basic needs can fund students who need temporary emergency housing but for seniors who graduate in June but won't be starting a job or grad school until August may not have the best home situation
 - vi. Since they can't receive help from Basic Needs, they'll get assistance from us
 - vii. Money has to go directly to HDH
 - viii. Next step is to connect with person from HDH who works with summer housing programs
2. VP Paskowitz
 - a. Transfer lobby day next week
 - b. Sexual Awareness Month Lobby Day
 - c. Meeting with President Drake coming up on April 29
 - d. Working on student regent interviews
 - e. Last UCSA board meeting on May 2
 - f. Activist Training Summit with CALPIRG and Office of Local Affairs
 - g. Sign up for Experian!
3. President Giangtran
 - a. Money is currently not a problem for them
 - b. Program has been running whether AS UCSD contributes 100K or not
 - c. Either way, this will happen in the summer and students will have access to this in the summer
 - d. Our choice if we are going to make that contribution and if we want just seniors to benefit from this OR any other undergraduate to benefit from it
 - e. Classes in the fall, most are going to be in person; campus admin is looking for ways to accommodate for students who cannot be in San Diego
 - i. Nothing tangible yet
 - f. Campus wide email regarding hazing

- i. It's just a legal requirement that it must be sent every year

Question Time

1. Bradt
 - a. I would like some clarification that money will see a direct benefit and we can house an X number of more students then would be possible otherwise
2. Kreitman
 - a. The program is happening regardless
 - b. Started this program last summer or two summers ago
 - c. The cost is 51\$/night
 - d. Graduated seniors living on campus in the summer cannot benefit from the funding from basic needs
 - e. This would allow students who can't afford the \$51/night to have support on being housed in the summer
 - f. The program happens regardless but whether there's financial support for graduated seniors in the same way there is for existing students relies on whether AS is willing to contribute
3. Thompson
 - a. I would personally affected by the data hack
 - b. Is there anything else the UC or the UC as a whole can do to help students with the situation given that a lot of our data has been exposed
4. Paskowitz
 - a. If you have a credit card that's building credit, I would highly recommend starting freezing your credit
 - b. If not, I would start getting a credit card under your name and freeze the credit
 - c. Sign up for the Experian account
 - d. I signed up for another service called LifeLock
5. Giangtran
 - a. What I mean by the program happening regardless is that housing will be made available for students, it's just a matter of whether there will be financial aid for those students and whether they'll have financial help to stay for the \$51/night
 - b. Basic needs helps high need students
 - c. The people at the basic needs hub said this would be a great way to fill in the gaps for students who may not be necessarily high-need but may have had their financial situation change
 - d. This is a way to fill in the gaps

Reports of Standing Committees

Reports of External Committees

Committee Question Time

Discussion Items

Unfinished Business

New Business

Open Forum

1. Pandya
 - a. Move to enter twenty-minute caucus to discuss Senate Leadership
 - b. Motion passed
 - c. Want to gather input on this position from members of the Senate
2. Jung
 - a. Two questions: (1) To John Weng, some AS senates and governments separate their executive and senate branch—is there any reason for this? (2) Was there a Senate Lead position in our AS before?
3. Weng
 - a. Other governments with separate AS Executive and Senate have Executive with a natural function
 - b. Executive officers have a board position and purpose
 - c. We did use to have a Senate lead position
 - d. The senate felt that the position was not very useful, so they voted to get rid of it
 - e. Part of why they got rid of it is because Wednesday meetings used to be called Council Meetings
 - f. 4pm meeting with the Senate lead to do ice breakers and check ins
4. Pandya
 - a. We should strongly consider having the Senate Lead have accountability functions
 - b. Currently the VPCA is listed as the person who will be responsible overseeing senator performance standards
 - c. Currently the VPCA is a placeholder
 - d. In the long-term, I believe that the Senate lead should take over those responsibilities; having an individual overseeing that process should be someone from Senate and selected by the Senate
5. Gabelman
 - a. I would like to recognize Isaac Lara
6. Lara
 - a. What do you think the VPCA's role is in relation to this?
 - b. All of the VPCA equivalents on other campuses does act as the COO and overseer and check on the Senate

- c. Can you all explain how you all see the VPCA role developing when you take away a lot of the Senate role responsibilities because the VPCA is the executive advisor to the Senate
 - d. A lot of the role of the Senate lead is to advise and support Senators
 - e. Is this an issue of structure or more of a complaint by Senators?
 - f. If it's a complaint, I would encourage you to say that rather than to overhaul the entire structure
 - g. It seems like it's just becoming a VPCA replacement
7. Bradt
- a. The reasoning is having a clean separation between the two so there's a delineation and transparency between the roles of the executive officers and senators elected
 - b. I would say that the VPCA would still have a role in all of dealings of AS, just not in AS
 - c. The VPCA would still be in charge of, for example, assigning people to committees and oversight of their own AVPs
 - d. Trying to delineate the roles so we operate as transparent as possible and there's a separation
8. Estus
- a. A quick question: did you know about these previous lead positions?
9. Pandya
- a. I didn't know about these positions
 - b. The structure of our meetings were extremely different back then
 - c. We still had exec and senate and we still had these joint sessions
 - d. The role existed in a different niche
 - e. If we don't make changes, the lead can end up in the same irrelevant status
10. Jung
- a. I do believe that our Senate structure has not changed
 - b. I'm more curious to hear if the incoming VPCA has contacted any for of us to discuss this matter and why this concern hasn't been brought up the four-person group earlier
11. Lara
- a. Senator Pandya and I have had conversations in the past
 - b. Not in-depth conversations however
 - c. Whole notion of division of power: how many of y'all think your constituents care about this notion of division of power
 - d. If we start spending so much time on this power dynamic, it minimizes reputation
 - e. We should consider how to benefit our student body
 - f. When we start giving this person authority, I question how this may affect the power dynamic issue because you're not changing the power dynamic issue

- g. I highly doubt that the student body cares about the division of power
12. Kulkarni
- a. A more equitable division of power is going to allow our Senators to be productive next year and into the future
 - b. I wholeheartedly support this because I saw how it was last year and I saw how divisive and hostile it got at times
 - c. Having a Senate lead position would be easier to resolve some of the hostilities
13. Wei
- a. I think that an advisory role is okay for a Senate lead
 - b. Having a senator that could help me guide through things would be beneficial
 - c. Title would be helpful as opposed to just Senator
 - d. I dislike oversight, possible conflict of interest
 - e. Could lead to conflict of interest
 - f. Senate lead is a good position, but its powers need to be specifically laid out
14. Jung
- a. I want to ask VPCA Kreitman when the last time she was consulted on the Senate lead position
 - b. What senate-executive relations were like?
 - c. Lot of animosity that came out of senate-exec relations did start from Senators
15. Kreitman
- a. We talked about it in Leg and Senate
 - b. The last time I had a meeting was June
 - c. Sept/Oct, exec team met with Zach to talk about it
 - d. Only heard ponderings and hearings from the exec's side
 - e. No clear idea why the animosity began and why it was there
16. Thompson
- a. I was under the impression that this would be a person who would take questions from incoming senators
 - b. I think having a Senate leader would be helpful in that regard for more procedural things
 - c. Not liking the idea of the separation but can't say on anything that happened in AS last year
17. Bradt
- a. We could lean towards a less oversight-focused role
 - b. That was included due to the performance standards and requirements introduced this year, wanted to be consistent
 - c. It's not like we're making it more totalitarian, it would shift to someone who has a more intimate relationship with whom they're dealing with

18. Gabelman

- a. I currently like the relationship with Executive
- b. I like the ability that we can interact with execs often
- c. Separating that would the interaction more difficult
- d. If there's more separation, less likely to reach out to them
- e. The only time I considered exec's advice was the budget meeting and we were listening to Nicholas
- f. I like the idea of not being too separate
- g. What are your thoughts about the position and how it will impact you as VPCA and how it would change next year?

19. Kreitman

- a. The part of removing exec's vote makes sense; we're one of the only UCs yet where the exec has a vote in the Senate
- b. I'm for reform; what would change next year—so a lot of my work is internal
- c. If someone takes for student engagement stuff and someone takes of internal stuff, I don't know what leftovers I would have
- d. I'd like to know what problem I'm trying to solve
- e. I'm hearing a lot of power imbalances
- f. I'd like someone to explain to me how giving someone more power will amends a power imbalance
- g. My other question—if you separate the ideas of creating a senate lead and removing the exec vote, I'd like to hear what the problem the Lead would be solving outside the room of the Senate

20. Giangtran

- a. Never last year, I don't think there was a time that this rift could be solved with a Senate Leadership position
- b. That doesn't sit well with me

21. Pandya

- a. The purposes of the Senate lead position has not been decided yet
- b. What problem are we solving?
- c. Inevitable that there will be a power dynamic, always going to exist
- d. The question is how we want that dynamic to exist
- e. We want to shift that dynamic from Exec to Senate to into Senate
- f. It felt like Senators were reporting to the VPCA
- g. We will have that dynamic where Senators feel like reporting to an executive office the same way an AVP might feel like reporting to an exec office
- h. We have individual mandates that say we get to be here
- i. If there is a dynamic, we could reach a conflict and senators may feel they have to report to the VPCA who have their own mandate
- j. What are we trying solve: we're not trying to eliminate influence, we're trying to shift it to a more localized, grounded way

22. Lonc

- a. I wanted to address I don't think is being discussed
- b. Problem was between people not the positions
- c. We are trying to place a title upon somebody whom senators can turn to from within Senate to seek advice
- d. That person's going to be there regardless of being labelled Senate Lead
- e. More focused on creating a relationship between exec and Senators rather than trying to dictate how how relationships work
- f. We should try to make something rather than to put a label on something that already exists

23. Jung

- a. One of the biggest questions is why we need separate exec and senate
- b. I've realized my anxiety comes from trying to push a solution forward without trying to find the problem first
- c. When I ask why we need this position, the reason changes from person to person
- d. Straw poll? If you are interested in being in the Senate Lead discussion (16 hands excluding my own)

24. Giangtran

- a. It just felt like this position was de facto going to a returning member
- b. The senate lead position is going to have that undue influence; it's just shifting that power and influence from exec to senate lead

25. Blackshire

- a. There is a theme of animosity between senate and exec
- b. With the creation of this position, this honestly sounds like the most cowardly move any senator can possibly make
- c. Rather than to solve what cause the animosity, you would rather create a position where you would not have to deal with that in general

26. Pandya

- a. We'll come back to the drawing board next week
- b. It's hard to contextualize what went down last year
- c. The frustration was accumulating
- d. There was some validity to some of the complaints
- e. I don't think the position was made to get closer to exec, it's supposed to be a first among peers
- f. @Jung, can you clarify the straw poll question and what you meant

27. Jung

- a. I want to make sure the Senate lead discussion does not revolve around the same four sponsors
- b. I would like to invite Senators, AVPs and exec members to the conversation

28. Estus

- a. I'm curious to hear when people think it would be appropriate to appoint Senate lead

29. Wei

- a. We are still a glorified student organization with a lot of funding
- b. Our goal is to not have a super detailed bureaucracy, we are here to help students
- c. I don't see how having a senate lead would help students in any way
- d. Senate lead as an advisory role can help a lot
- e. I think we should appoint the Senate as soon as possible, definitely before new students come in, especially first-year Senators
- f. I think this should only be an advisory role

Roll Call

Written Reports

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:37 p.m. PDT.

Bills in Committee

Finance Committee

Legislative Committe