Associated Students, Inc.
Sonoma State University
SENATE MEETING
Tuesday, October 18th, 2011
6:00 p.m., Erin Fisher Room, Student Union

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Public Comment
IV. Issues of the Week—This is an opportunity for officers to discuss issues that may pertain to their constituents (Discussion)
V. Questions on Reports—this item is an opportunity to ask questions of the officers about their submitted reports. (Discussion)
VI. Reports from Liaisons—Oral reports to be given to the ASI Senate from our Academic Senate Representative and the University President’s Designee (Discussion)

VII. Business
   a) University proposal to add additional duties to the Executive Director of ASI, submitted by President Boyar, Chair of the ASI Personnel Committee (Action)
      i. Discussion
      ii. Action
   b) AS-R 01.11.12 Resolution on Composting for Dining Services at SSU, submitted by Senator Stephanie Parreira (Action)
      i. Discussion
      ii. Action
   c) Reports from the AS Boards (Discussion)
      i. Legislative Affairs Board- Senator Havens
      ii. Representation and Engagement Board- Senator Burke
      iii. Internal Affairs Board- Senator Barker
   d) AS-I 06.11.12 Approval of the Minutes from 10.4.11 tabled from 10.11.11 meeting (Action)
      i. Discussion
      ii. Action
   e) AS-I 07.11.12 Approval of the Minutes from 10.11.12 (Action)
      i. Discussion
      ii. Action

VIII. Items for the Good of the Order
IX. Adjournment

Posted on Friday, October 14, 2011 at the ASI Senate Office by Amanda Kosty, Chair of the Senate
Associated Students
Sonoma State University

SENATE MEETING Notes
Tuesday, October 18, 2011
6:00 p.m., Erin Fisher Room, Student Union

MEETING NOTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alex Boyar, Paul Ramey, Collin Yballa, Tony Kerr, Emily Hurd, Alex Barker, Amanda Burke, Laura Paneno, Katie Havens, Stephanie Parreira, Tyler Stenzel, Amanda Kosty, Jeff Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kimberly Liaz (Unexcused)

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Margie Purser, Jason Fitzner, Erik Dickson, Katie Linderme (recording), Peter Neville, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Neil Markley, Patrick Maloney

I. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Ms. Amanda Kosty, Chair of the Senate at 6:02pm

II. Roll Call

III. Public Comment – no public comments were made this week

IV. Issues of the Week

Petition to save the Sycamore Tree (Senator Parreira): Senator Parreira was asked by the Global Environmental Activism Club to save the Sycamore Tree that will be removed due to the construction of the student center. They have asked Senator Parreira to address the Senate about efforts to save the tree. According to the plans of the student center, the redwood tree grove will be protected, but the Sycamore will be removed to accommodate the new building. President Boyar was also met by the Global Environmental Activism Club, and wanted to let the Senate know that the Sycamore tree is not a native tree to the campus or even to Northern California. The Global Environmental Activism Club would like to see the tree saved because it helps with carbon dioxide on our campus, and planting younger trees won’t help with carbon emission for several years. According to Markley, moving the Sycamore tree would incur a significant cost and it will most likely not survive the move. The plan is to plant more trees around the center than before.

Polling Students (Senator Stenzel) - Senator Stenzel brought up the idea of polling students for the student center through the use of the upcoming registration for spring classes. This idea stemmed from STAR letter to the editor from Sharon L. Cabaniss a Mathematics and Statistics Professor. President Boyar informed Senator Stenzel that it has come up in previous meetings, but that they felt that there was a worry of another referendum. Lopez-Phillips worry was that it would bring up the issue of “how many times would we have to re-poll in order to get the answer that we want?” Chair Kosty liked the idea of polling as a method, but that in terms of using it for the student center, it would not necessarily work.
Admissions and Records (Senator Stenzel) - Majors in communications are automatically enrolled into a coms 304 class. Senator Stenzel was curious on what the protocol is for dealing with this situation, if we deal with it at all, due to our arts and humanities representative stepping down. Lopez-Phillips believes that there was not a fundamental change to the process, but just to the major. Dickson wanted the Senate to take this as an opportunity to help students who need a senator. Senator Burke suggested that for the mean time, RAB can assist as a temporary cover.

V. Questions on Reports

Senator Parreira to Senator Young: The career center wants to hire as soon as possible, without the full spectrum of applicants available. Senator Parreira’s question was to whether or not that was set in stone or not. Senator Young explained that an “ideal” time line was given, but they are not optimistic about the hiring pool. Lopez-Phillips believes that if the career center is not satisfied with the number of applicants, they repot and search for the position again.

Senator Kerr to Senator Havens: Kerr asked Havens to explain the item in her report dealing with Cognitive Psychology. Senator Havens responded that it was used in class as an example for a program that was taught not with a professional teacher. Because of budget cuts, do we not fulfill this class, or do we remove it entirely? Dr. Purser informed the senate that many positions that are hired on this campus are actually temporary positions. Getting a qualified person to teach the lecture is very difficult to find, and that’s why some classes are getting deleted or put by the wayside.

Chair Kosty to Vice-President Ramey- Needed clarification on what an MOU actually was. According to VP Ramey, it pertains to intercession courses through extended education and academic affairs. Dr. Purser also informed the senate that it does not cover online classes.

President Boyar to Senator Burke/ Vice-President Yballa- President Boyar noticed that there was no write up on the previous meeting for City Hall. He was curious as to what was good about the meeting. VP Yballa informed the Senate that the City Council was very happy about the community service SSU has been performing as well as the events and programming that has occurred. Senator Burke will have more information about it in her upcoming report.

Chair Kosty to Senator Stenzel- A question on what exactly the school boards were in his report. Senator Stenzel said that it was roughly 6-7 people that consisted of teachers for the school board (advising and department chairs)

Senator Kerr to President Boyar- Firstly, he liked the report because of how articulate it was. His main question resided in what Political Action meant. Was there a request for more protest or not enough protesting? President Boyar explained that his cabinet was asked to write down input that they felt was needed for the campus. One of the major items that came up, is that the cabinet feels that it would be nice to see more organizations of peaceful protest given the hard economic and political times we are facing.

Senator Parreira to President Boyar- Senator Parreira wanted to know why we needed to stop using the acronym of AS or ASI. President Boyar said that the cabinet feels that not enough students even know what AS or ASI is to begin with, and that using the full phrase of “Associated Students” was better than AS.
Chair Kosty to President Boyar- GMC will need to raise approximately 2 million dollars; Kosty asked if there are there plans? President Boyar believed that it would be up to the board of advisors or fundraising to help GMC board to pick up the effort.

VI. Reports from Liaisons- Oral Reports to be given to the ASI Senate from our Academic Senate Representative and the University President’s Designee

Dr. Purser: Purser explained how she will provide future reports to the Senate. On every other Tuesday she will present highlights from the Academic Senate meeting, and the other Tuesdays she will offer a potential Agenda. Both times will be used in order to spread information on what the constituents and students believe. She then moved into a recap of what had happened. Purser shared two items; the first was on the student affairs committee: they are in the process of cleaning-up the process of the dispute resolution board and their website has also been updated. The second was a resolution to address the CAPS fee- the request is that either students need to pay, or they want the fee covered for PEL grants (which they believe is the greatest financial need. This discussion may continue in the future due to its controversial nature. It is officially catalogue copy season. This means that if the university cannot support a class, it will be officially removed from the catalogue. This is going to be finalized in a week so that the university has enough time to update the website for available classes. The Chancellor’s Office has issued an executive order addressing risk management regarding internships and field management partnerships, which now must have yearly checks on the sites. This is going to lead to cancelling internships because they will not have enough people to actually accompany students on their internships or field management partnerships. This created a discussion of concern from the Senate, because many felt that this information came out of “left field” and that internships are a huge concern for the student body. Dickson informed the Senate that often times Executive Order is a mandate to all campuses, and that they are not necessarily interested on first gaining input, but rather are making a decisions that will affect all campuses to put into implement immediately. Dr. Purser suggested creating and utilizing a partnership with the students so that they could then inform on the negative input from students. That will hopefully implement change. Fitzar explained that sometimes the faculty makes decisions based on “best interest” rather than first gaining input from students. Dickson stressed the importance of allies.

Lopez-Phillips: This week Lopez-Phillips has been working with President Boyar on the hate speech protest that occurred on campus. This rally affected many students, and they were worried on keeping the peace and safety of the students. Lopez-Phillips was very impressed by President Boyars attempt to really gage how students were feeling, as well as proud of the student body that formed silent protests to acknowledge peace and a sense of community among the students. Lopez-Phillips reported the vice-presidents of student affairs throughout the system will be meeting in Chico to discuss the dream act, early start, and more. Chair Kosty was informed about a potential scheduling conflict and students were unable to make many of the meetings for the new committees and addressed this with Lopez-Phillips. Lopez-Phillips was unaware of this development, and encouraged those students to really work out the best possible time to hold their meetings fairly. Another conversation about the protest occurred after this scheduling conversation, which included where the protestors came from, how they affected the students, whether the university has a right to remove them from campus, and how the school utilizes speech dialogue effectively. A peace rally will be occurring on Thursday October 20th.

A BREAK OCCURRED AT 7:10. RESUMED AT 7:15
VII. Business
A) University Proposal to add additional duties to the Executive Director of ASI submitted by
President Boyar, Chair of the ASI Personnel Committee

President Boyar introduced the item, referring to the 3 documents attached to gain understanding
about the proposed additional duties to the Executive Director of ASI duties. Chair Kosty
identified the personnel committee so that everyone knew who to ask questions and clarifications
to. Dickson then described the proposed new duties as Director of On-Campus Presents and what
that would mean to not only SSU but to AS and who that affects. Chair Kosty clarified that the
proposal is to accept the proposal as presented, accept with revisions, or deny it entirely. Senator
Paneno opened up the discussion and commented in favor of the proposal. Senator Parreira was
curious as to how Dickson felt about the proposed changes. Dickson replied that he is fully
aware of what will happen, and is actually excited to expand his portfolio after ten years of
working for ASI. He also continued to explain that collaboration of spaces and utilizing
programming and professionals will change slightly, but that he feels confident in his time
management for both positions. At this point Dickson removed himself from the room and the
Senate was encouraged to really speak openly on the ideas without Dickson’s presence. President
Boyar recognized that it was an addition not a reduction of any of his normal Executive Director
duties. There was a concern from the business office that they will be bogged down by the new
OCP information if it were to go through the business office. Markley does not anticipate the AS
business office be affected by any of the additional responsibilities. A discussion on how this
new description to Dickson’s Executive Director duties will help make the Green Music Center a
more popular venue to create potential to live up SSU. Vice-President Ramey agreed that this
would be nice, but that the main issue was whether or not we want OCP to have the Executive
Director’s duties. While Ramey acknowledges that he’d like to see Dickson take on this new role
because of his work ethic, but it is because of his work ethic that AS runs so efficiently. Often,
Dickson covers for senators, and with these new duties, he will not be around 100 percent of the
time anymore. Markley then transitioned the conversation to inform the Senate as to why they
wanted Dickson to cover the position. They believed that Dickson has the experience to handle
this position with the kind of personality and knowledge to actually handle that position. Senator
Kerr then wanted to know who would cover for Dickson if the Senators needed help. VP Ramey
believed that Dickson and Fitzer would still cover and help to guide the process, but that the
Senate as a whole still has a lot more work to do to handle their own problems without the
influence of Dickson. Senator Young was concerned that Dickson would be stretched thin in this
new position, but did acknowledge that the Senate has resources to utilize if Dickson is no longer
around all the time to help. A general consensus that Dickson is more than capable for the OCP
position occurred at this time. President Boyar then moved into the new conversation direction
on what the new arrangement of duties would be. If Dickson is spending more time with OCP vs.
AS, then it will be easy to fix because his main duties are still going to be for AS. However,
President Boyars concerns were on whether or not a new President without the main experience
of being on the Senate and making connections that could influence how much time Dickson
would spend with AS. Markley then clarified that the new position’s goal is not to suck up all of
Dickson’s time, but rather let Erik know his own time commitments. This then led into whether
or not the proposed changes affect future executive directors or just Dickson. The proposed
changes are only going to affect Dickson. Markley discussed the proposed 90 day termination
clause. If the position seems like it will be too much to handle, Dickson will have about 90 days
to decide whether or not it is too much, and then they can post online for a new Executive
Director. (90 days is enough time to actually recruit and hire for new positions). He also stressed
the importance of not getting bogged down with the “what if” situations, because there is risk for
every job position required. At some point a leap of faith is needed in order for a quick decision about the OCP to occur. Dickson was acknowledged as to going “above and beyond” his job description to help incoming Senators feel comfortable with their positions. A general worry that those “above and beyond” qualities would disappear was brought up. Boyar prompted to explain the financial side of the new description. With the addition of these duties, the Executive Director would receive a salary increase to reflect the addition of duties. Boyar presented information regarding the salary adjustment, currently the Executive Director salary is reflected as $69,500. The proposed salary would be $95,000 with benefits included as well, which would result in a University reimbursement of approximately $25,000 for salary and also benefits. Ramey mentioned last year’s Senate increased the salary of the ED to 81,000. Ramey believes that the money situation is a big criteria into making a concrete decision on salary and quality of life, but that this matter needed clarification into making a right decision. Lopez-Phillips then moved into the conversation into how relationships/quality of interactions will be affected due to the position changes. While efficiency is a good criteria to look at, it is not the only criteria: what is the consequence of the expanding of duties and what is the goal of changing the job description?

At this point Erik was invited back into the room for a Q&A period.

Senator Kerr opened up the questions with whether or not this job will be considered part time. He was worried that if he took on the work load with this above and beyond nature, that these amazing qualities would go away because the job position would be shifting. Dickson answered with a very realistic answer that most of his job consists of people asking impulse questions, talking about stuff, and in general asking his opinion. If he is changed to a new site, stuff like that will change how the senate is running, but in general Dickson will take care of it. This led into a discussion on how organizations in general shift over the course of time and that it is nothing that isn’t normal. It is impossible to say how the functions will change as a whole. Senator Kerr than recognized that the Senate is going to have to take on more responsibilities to make the Senate function, but that it is important for new officers to gain guidance to their new jobs. Dickson believes that whether or not he takes on the new position, efficacy and how dilemmas are taken on are already being dealt with every week. Chair Kosty then asked the question of how supervision for potential conflict of interest will be handled (moral stand point). Dickson then answered that the campus is just now getting up to date with how procedures on potential conflicts occur already. He will rarely be alone in handling a situation.

A TEN MINUTE RECESS OCCURRED AT 8:50- RESUMED AT 9:00

Senator Young then resumed the conversation on how student engagement could improve ASI by taking more initiative with this new position. Senator Kerr disagreed because he believed that the Senate needs to seek guidance on many issues. President Boyar then brought up the point that many campuses do not have a direct line to their Executive Director.

Vice-President Ramey moved to table the University Proposal to add additional duties to the Executive Director of ASI until the next Senate Meeting, 2nd provided by Senator Parreira.

A discussion on whether or not tabling the motion would be a good idea or not. Lopez-Phillips reminded everyone that the next OCP meeting would occur on Friday and that having the Senate
approval or disapproval was pressing. If the item was tabled, it was stressed that members of the Senate would need to do their homework and be prepared for the next meeting.

**Motion to approve tabling of the University Proposal to add additional duties to the Executive Director of ASI until the next Senate Meeting, failed 5-7-0.**

Chair Kosty then reminded the senate on what they were voting on specifically. VP Ramey was concerned that the Senate was not informed enough to actually make a vote. Dickson then reminded everyone that to execute an MOU, we can pass as a whole, and then get down to the nitty gritty of the changes.

**Senator Paneno then moved to recommend to add additional duties to the Executive Director of ASI, 2nd provided by Senator Parreira.**

A discussion on how the motion was phrased was explained. I (recording) re-read the proposed motion twice. The motion was unclear to many senators and Senator Paneno believed that maybe it needed to be reviewed for more detail.

**Senator Havens moved to amend the motion made by Senator Paneno to recommend to add additional duties to the Executive Director of ASI with an updated MOU by the Senate. The motion was seconded by Senator Barker.**

**Motion was withdrawn.**

Chair Kosty then redirected the conversation to actually discuss the motion on the floor made by Senator Paneno. A discussion on vocabulary was mentioned and many felt that the motion should be withdrawn to restate what exactly needed to be stated.

**Senator Paneno withdrew her motion on the floor.**

A discussion on possible vocabulary of the future proposed motion was discussed. Chair Kosty urged the Senate to take the time to think about how they were going to phrase their future proposed motion to articulately state exactly what the Senate wants. A brief conversation about whether or not tabling this again would be allowed occurred. The Senate then took about two minutes to formulate a proposed motion.

**Senator Parreira moved to approve the university proposal to add duties to Executive Director pending a senate approval of a memorandum of understanding revised by President Boyar, 2nd provided by Vice-President Yballa.**

**Motion passed to approve the university proposal to add duties to Executive Director pending a senate approval of a memorandum of understanding revised by President Boyar, approved 12-0-0.**

**B) AS-R 01.11.12 Resolution on Composting for Dining Services at SSU, submitted by Senator Stephanie Parreira**

Senator Parreira expressed her need to have more time to make edits to the proposed resolution. She did not feel that it was up to her standards yet and that she needed more time to make edits.
Senator Parreira moved to table the Resolution on Composition for Dining Services at SSU until November 8, 2011, 2nd provided by Senator Paneno.

Motion to table the Resolution on Composition for Dining Services at SSU until November 8, 2011, approved 12-0-0.

C) Reports from the AS Boards (Discussion)
   i. Legislative Affairs Board (Senator Havens) – Senator Havens reported back from LAB’s last meeting. They recommended a resolution denouncing trigger cuts that will be submitted soon to the Senate. They discussed panel for voter registration again.

   ii. Representation and Engagement Board (Senator Burke) – Senator Burke informed the senate on the minutes from REB’s last meeting. They make a task list in every meeting to generate issues to bring back to constituents back to REB. Students talked about the career center and sent out information to REB/look for it on campus. They discussed goals for career center. Paul was appointed to GMC chair committee

   iii. Internal Affairs Boards (Senator Barker) – Senator Barker had business items to report. They approved in the last meeting to table the business club information that changed for their programming, but they didn’t show up. If they do not show up to the next meeting, the programming request will be denied. They approved $300 for fall and $100 for the physics club to put on a plasma display. $236 travel grant was also approved for the physics club for a travel event. A $1000 travel for accounting forum was granted with a stipulation that if they win, $1000 will go back to the university, and the student’s winnings will remain with the students. A bylaw discussion was also discussed. They believed that the difference between AS and ASI should not be dealt by this committee, but to be brought up to the students. They also accepted the 2010-2011 audit.

D) AS-I 06.11.12 Approval of the Minutes from 10.4.11 tabled from 10.11.11

Senator Parreira moved to approve AS-I 06.11.12 Approval of the Minutes from 10.4.11 tabled from 10.11.11, 2nd provided by Senator Paneno.

The motion AS-I 06.11.12 Approval of the Minutes from 10.4.11 tabled from 10.11.11, approved 12-0-0.

E) AS-I 07.11.12 Approval of the Minutes from 10.11.12

No motion was presented, the item died on the floor.

VIII. Items for the Good of the Order
Senator Kerr informed the Senate that on October 24 on Monday the school of business and economics meeting of accreditation will be up to date. Senator Kerr will be attending this meeting and will report the news to the Senate next week. President Boyar thanked the advisors, the minute taker (recording) and everyone for being patient during the meeting. Chair Kosty informed the Senate of Senator Liaz’s item for the good of the order. She informed the Senate to check their email for
Liaz's email about Asian Heritage Month. Chair Kosty then informed the Senate that she had created a new Ad Hoc Committee for revising the referendum policy for campus. Senator Young, another student and Chair Kosty all reside on the Ad Hoc committee. Dickson informed the Senate that homecoming is next week.

IX. **Adjournment** - Amanda Kosty, Chair of the Senate adjourned the meeting at 10:13 pm

Approved by the Associated Students Senate: **November 1, 2011**

Amanda Kosty, Chair of the Senate