Associated Students
Sonoma State University

SENATE MEETING
Friday, November 22nd, 2013
1:00 p.m., Russian River Valley, Student Center

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Public Comment
IV. Task Force Reports
V. Business
   a) AS.55.13.14 Installing new bike and skateboard racks (Discussion)
      i) Discussion
   b) AS.56.13.14 Senate In-service (Discussion)
      i) Discussion
      i) Discussion
      ii) Action
VI. Items for the Good of the Order
VII. Adjournment

Posted on Tuesday, November 19th, 2013 at the AS Senate Office by
Iman Rashed, Chair of the Senate
Associated Students
Sonoma State University

SENATE MEETING
Friday, November 22nd, 2013
1:00 p.m., Russian River Valley, Student Center

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT Mallory Rice, Anthony Gallino, Sara Dinari, Matt Dougherty, Libby Dippel,
Allison Jenks, Mac Hart, Angie Durkee, Annie Green, Natalie Sampo, Tyler Davis

MEMBERS ABSENT Sarah Anthony, Luke Tesluk, Bianca Zamora, Iman Rashed (unexcused)

OTHERS PRESENT Justin Gomez, Erik Dickson, Richard Senghas

I. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chair of the Senate, Libby Dippel
   at 1:02 PM.

II. Roll Call

III. Public Comment

IV. Task Force Reports
   a. Senator Dinari reported that she did outreach with Senator Tesluk regarding
      their advising resolution. They got about 80 or 90 students to write down an experience
      they had with advising. They met with Senator Sampo today to read through them.
   b. Senator Jenks reported that her task force met to narrow down their focus,
      discuss possible projects and decide when to meet next semester.
   c. Executive Vice-President Gallino reported that his task force of reorganization of
      majors did not meet.

V. Business
   a. AS.55.13.14 Installing new bike and skateboard racks (Discussion)
      i. Discussion Senator Durkee, with the help of Senator Dinari, had other senators read
         through her resolution. She thinks this is a real problem. There is simply not enough
         racks. Senator Dinari provided an anecdote of her friend who had his bike stolen
         because he could not lock it up. President Hart asked if anyone knew of new racks
         being put in. Executive Vice-President Gallino said yes. In the Student Center board
         of advisors meeting they discussed putting them in and around the Student Center.
         Senator Sampo mentioned that she talked to students and the main problems are
         not enough racks around the library and theft. Senator Jenks thinks another major
         problem is that students don’t know how to lock their bike properly. She suggested
         offering an info session. Executive Vice-President Gallino suggested bring this kind
         of issue to the Campus Reengineering Committee. Vice-President of Finance Matt
         Dougherty mentioned that at the Student Center board of advisors meeting they
         only talked about Student Center locations. He agrees that there are some areas
         not touched around campus that need racks. The locations that need more racks is
         something for them to discuss. Senator Durkee commented that there are only 30
         bike racks around campus which means the campus can only hold 300 bikes. Durkee
thinks they should move forward with a recommendation of locations. Dr. Senghas mentions that there is a task force chaired by Nate Johnson that discusses bike and skateboard safety. Senator Green thinks they should add a therefore clause to the resolution written by Senator Durkee mentioning why certain locations need them. Executive Vice-President Gallino asked if there were enough racks in residential area. Senator Rice asked Executive Director Erik Dickson if they have any numbers as to how many bikes the new racks will be able to hold. Dickson says not yet but they are working on it now. He suggests that they should see how many bikes can be held on central campus. President Hart added that SSU has lowest percentage of people who commute to campus on bike. Hart also brought up the notion of putting racks where they are the safest. Senator Sampo answered Gallino’s question that the amount of bike racks in the residential area is very slim. Vice-President of Finance Dougherty brought up a national survey that stated 39% of students had ridden a bike in the last 30 days, which is equivalent to 3,000 students out of our 9,000. Dougherty adds that SSU’s 300 bike racks are only serving 3% of our students. Dickson adds that racks are not the only solutions. They could use a bike barn like at San Francisco State, which holds 300 bikes and has an attendant at all times. He urges the senators to think about what can move them forward the most. In other words to “think bigger”. Senator Green thinks that national statistics are good but they need some for our campus and that she agrees with Dickson. She thinks there may be another way. Senator Sampo agrees that they need to know how our students use their bicycles. President Hart adds that he can get the information that Senator Green is talking about. Dr. Senghas suggested working with bike coalitions in the community and on campus. He mentions that maybe there are people not biking because there are no racks, etc. Student Government Coordinator Justin Gomez adds that the senators need to make sure to talk outside of meeting. Dickson adds that it may be a good idea to add racks around the outside of campus and people can walk in to campus. They need to establish a bike culture. Executive Vice-President Gallino thinks that if the issue is safety then they need to focus on that first. He agrees with Gomez, they need to communicate outside of meeting. Hart added that it could be a good idea to recommend a more updated transportation plan for the school. The campus paths have changed from what they were originally planned for. Senator Jenks thinks that issues will come up with skateboard racks. She mentions that we will probably not allow them in buildings because there will be racks outside but this might cause a problem because most boards are wood and would get ruined in the rain. Senator Dinari mentioned that she talked with students and they said that skateboard racks would be helpful. She added that if it is raining, most students wouldn’t ride their skateboard. Dinari also asked about locations because the students she talked to said that if they were not outside the building their class would be in then they probably wouldn’t use them. She thinks placement is a top priority. Senator Davis agrees. He adds that bikes could also be a problem in the weather. President Hart asks about what campus committees they should utilize. Executive Vice-President Gallino says they should certainly utilize Nate Johnson, the Chief of Police, and Christopher Dinno of facilities. Dr. Senghas added that they should consider contacting those who load and unload shipments around campus because they would not want to obstruct their work. Dickson added the Director of DSS Brent Boyer would be someone to contact because this could impact them as well. He adds that a bigger problem of skateboards in the classrooms is growing. This could cause accessibility issues and conflict with capacity. Dickson thinks this issue needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. Senator Green added that the quality of paths is a big issue too. Senator Rice mentioned that other campuses have designated lanes for wheels and pedestrians. She wonders if there is talk of that. Dickson says that yes there is
conversation regarding lanes but struggling with funds is a major obstacle.
President Hart adds that something that can be done now is the creating of a set of
standards so that in the future when they have money the school can follow those
standards. He thinks there may be more to gain off of a thorough transportation
plan that can be used for any transportation project done on the campus in the
future. He adds that he can look up examples of such plans for their next meeting.
Senator Rice volunteered to talk with Nate Johnson. Executive Vice-President
Gallino suggested to Rice to get questions from everyone to ask him. Senator
Sampo says that she is willing to talk to more students. Dr. Senghas mentioned that
the next Campus Reengineering Committee meeting is December 10th if anyone is
interested in going. Dickson urges the senators to look at what other campuses are
doing. Vice-President of Finance Dougherty nominated Senator Tesluk to talk with
Brent Boyer of DSS as they already have a close relationship. Senator Durkee
commented that she will continue contact with police services. Dougherty said that
he would look into the bike information at the campus Rec. Hart adds that he can
get ENSP stats about bikes on campus. Dickson adds that Sally Miller would be a
good person to contact in Police Services regarding this issue. Senator Durkee also
suggested making observations around campus at the most high-traffic time.

The Senate took a 5 minute break at 2:00 PM.

b. AS.56.13.14 Senate In-service (Discussion)
   i. Discussion- The senators participated in a discussion regarding a new method to
      bringing resolutions to the attention of the Senate.

   CERTAIN 3:30 (Action)
   i. Discussion- The Senate had Niel Markley come in to answer any questions the
      senators may have regarding plastic water bottle sales. Niel passed around some
      statistics about water bottles being sold on campus, revenue that came in from
      water bottles, what the school does with the revenue, etc. Niel explained his
      answers. He went on to explain the background of SSE and that they are working
      towards being sustainable. SSE brought composting to the cafeteria. In addition,
      they have a sustainability ambassador. He adds that composting will be in all food
      places once the Student Center food area is up and running. They use all "green"
      chemicals for cleaning. Niel also mentions that 1,800 water bottles have already
      been saved so far using the filling stations. Also, they have been selling mugs in the
      Kitchens so students don’t have to use paper cups. They are using recyclable and
      compostable paper bags all over campus. Overall, Niel states that he wouldn’t be
      overly thrilled with banning water bottles outright because of the revenue it does
      bring in to the school. However, he thinks that working with students and faculty to
      decline their use of plastic water bottles over time would be another solution. He
      doesn’t think the campus is quite ready. Niel adds that they are hoping to begin
      replacing water fountains with filling stations. Vice-President of Finance Dougherty
      agrees that the Student Center is doing a great job, but the purpose of the
      resolution would be to allow students to refill water bottles all around campus and
      not just in the Student Center. Dougherty adds that the Pub and Ameci’s don’t allow
      students to fill their water bottles at the spouts they have but instead students must
      pay for a 10-cent cup. Senator Durkee mentions that it could be a good idea to
      replace the plastic water bottles in vending machines with reusable water bottles.
      Niel comments that he does not know of a machine that currently does that.
      Senator Green clarifies that the majority of water bottles are sold at events. Niel
      says that the majority is sold at retail venues, such as Charlie Brown’s or Toast, and
      then next is catering events and then in vending machines. Senator Green suggests
keeping the plastic water bottles in vending machines and events but to stop selling plastic water bottles in Charlie Brown's and the Pub. Niel says that the problem with that is that students have voiced that they like the taste of water from the bottles better than the filling station water. Also, if they did that they would be losing $50,000 in revenue. Senator Green counters that decreasing places on campus selling plastic water bottles is a solid solution. Niel comments that overtime if they educate students on reducing their use of plastic water bottles then the purchasing of water bottles would gradually decline. Green adds that maybe the employees at Toast or wherever could explain why they are not selling water bottles and direct them elsewhere. President Hart thanks Niel for coming and asks him what AS could do to work with SSE on this issue. Niel answers that talking with Larry of the Campus Reengineering Committee would be a good start. He adds that the education component is the most important. Executive Vice-President Gallino argues that SSE has an $11 million budget and 80,000 is only 0.7% of that. He thinks they can look at ways they can limit the purchase of water bottles and also add an education aspect. Niel says that with helping pay for the Student Center to be built, $80,000 is now a lot. He prefers a slower approach from a financial standpoint. Senator Rice mentions that Science and Technology students like the idea of filling stations being implemented instead of the banning of plastic water bottles. She thinks that adding more filling stations should be the main focus. Executive Director Dickson adds that SSE is an auxiliary just like AS. He thinks it is a good idea to share commitment on such an issue. Dickson adds that once they get on the same page with their values, they can move forward with one unified voice. He adds that they are currently sitting in the result of auxiliaries working together in the past and getting over their differences. Senator Dinari brought up the idea of raising the price of plastic water bottles to deter students from buying them and using the money of those who still buy plastic water bottles towards filling stations. Niel says that is certainly a thought but he is sensitive to raising prices. Dinari thinks it could change the culture of SSU. Student Government Coordinator Gomez urges the senators to consider that students may not take the raising of prices very well. They could go to Target and buy a case of cheaper water bottles instead of buying a reusable bottle. Dickson adds that people with the most education can make the most changes. Senator Green brings up the number of 569 cases being sold in vending machines. She wonders what would happen if they eliminated those water bottles. Niel says that most vending machines are in places where water is least accessible so that may be a bad idea. Dickson comments that last meeting they asked him to look up how banning water bottles would affect AS. He reports that the Children's School and JUMP are the most sustainable. Dickson adds that in emergency cases or if they are in remote locations, say for alternative breaks, they would need to turn to SSE for their store of plastic water bottles. ASP’s concern with the ban was that some performer contracts require certain bottles of water. ASP also suggested glass bottles. At events, they have to have non-alcoholic options. ASP said that water is easiest, but something they could do would be to sell water in non-individual bottles. Dickson adds that the ban is not an impact on the whole corporation but only small things that could be exceptions. Niel adds that they have to store 10 or 20 thousand bottles in case of emergencies. He thinks the only location that will have the option of only plastic water bottles to sell is Toast. All other venues will have fountains in the Student Center. Executive Vice-President Gallino says that it doesn’t sound like SSE is on board with banning water bottles in one year, but they seem interested in working together with educational campaigns or other such things to make for a gradual change of moving forward. Senator Jenks agrees that the educational aspect is super important. Jenks added that in Seattle when they banned plastic water bottles, soda sales went down and tea/vitamin water sales
went up. She also suggests that glass bottles and boxed water could be an alternative. Senator Green thinks they should move forward with the resolution in a slow manner. She states that places not selling plastic water bottles in the Student Center are already moving in that direction. Green adds that they need to request more filling stations. Senator Davis agrees with the educational aspect and the slow process. He also thinks filling stations are a priority. Niel says that according to their contract with Pepsi that if they stop selling water bottles, then the prices of sodas will go up, something he wouldn’t want. However, he adds that they aren’t required to sell the plastic water bottles they get from Pepsi. Dickson suggests asking the purchasing bodies of SSU to stop purchasing bottles of water. He adds that restricting purchasing as opposed to selling could be a different way to go. Senator Green agrees with Dickson. President Hart asks for Vice-Chair Dippel’s input. Dippel answered that it is good hearing the information brought forth and she is leaning more toward a gradual change and the educational aspect. Senator Green thinks the resolution needs to be rewritten. Senator Durkee disagrees and wants to pass the resolution today to get started. Hart thinks they should fail it and then rewrite it. Senator Davis commented that he isn’t comfortable passing the resolution today with just learning all of this new information. Niel comments that things move slowly here, but he is happy to sit down and start working with AS. He suggests maybe having a resolution asking to decline the use of plastic bottles in general and then go from there.

ii. **Action-** Senator Green moved to table the resolution and delegate Vice-Chair Dippel and Senator Jenks to edit AS-R.49.13.14 Banning the Sale of Single-Use Plastic Water Bottles according to the conversation had today. Seconded by Senator Davis. In discussion, Vice-President of Finance Dougherty thinks it could be a good idea if they incorporated multiple sustainable issues in the resolution if so possible.

10 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Dippel)

VI. **Items for the Good of the Order-** Student Government Coordinator Gomez mentioned the dates for the winter retreat for all senators will be here on campus on January 10, 11, 12, 2014. Senator Rice comments to keep in mind to respond promptly to all emails. Vice-President of Finance Dougherty brings up the December 6th meeting. He wanted to see if the senators want an in-depth meeting or a short meeting. Dickson comments that he requested the meeting and they need to bring up the search committee for Bruce’s replacement. He adds that he will be getting out a job description soon. Senator Green thinks that having a normal senate meeting is best because she likes them. Senator Rice wants to continue the talk of transportation on campus also. Dickson adds that he will not be around next week and won’t be back until after Thanksgiving.

VII. **Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned by the Vice-Chair of the Senate, Libby Dippel, at 4:43 PM.

Approved by the Associated Students Senate on ____________________.

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Iman Rashed, Chair of the Senate