Associated Students  
Sonoma State University  
SENATE MEETING  
Friday, April 4th, 2014  
1:00pm, Bennet Valley, Student Center  

AGENDA

I. Call to Order  
II. Roll Call  
III. Public Comment  
IV. Business  
   a) AS.82.13.14 SSU Debt Presentation (Discussion)  
      i) Discussion  
   b) AS.83.13.14 Ideas for Big Nite (Discussion)  
      i) Discussion  
   c) AS.184.13.14 Temporary increase in executive director pay (Action)  
      i) Discussion  
      ii) Action  
V. Items for the Good of the Order  
VI. Adjournment

Posted on Tuesday, April 1st, 2014 at the AS Senate Office by 

Iman Rashed, Chair of the Senate
Associated Students
Sonoma State University

SENATE MEETING
Friday, April 4th, 2014
1:00pm, Bennet Valley, Student Center

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

MEMBERS ABSENT Bianca Zamora (excused), Iman Rashed (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT Erik Dickson

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

II. Roll Call

III. Public Comment Gabe, with the sports clubs, spoke on his concerns regarding the decision to move sports clubs from the Rec to CSLIS. He questioned why they are being moved and is concerned that they will be treated as a social club and not a sports club. He feels it will take away from the overall experience of sports clubs. The president of the rowing club commented that they have a lot of questions regarding the move but they just wanted to voice their overall opinion. He commented that he met yesterday with representatives from the sports clubs and a lot of people were upset. He added that he may not understand entirely what is happening but is distressed and worried. He believes they have a good system as it is and it’s going well. The overall opinion to move to CSLIS was negative. He added that they feel ignored because the decision is already made. Another student commented that things are going well at the Rec Center and they have great help there from Mike Dominguez. He doesn’t think that help will continue with the move. The president of the rowing club clarified that they are concerned that CSLIS is too busy. They already have a lot on their plate, whereas right now in the Rec Center they have an entire department whose one goal is to help sports clubs. He added that Mike is a great help and they understand he is losing his job which is concerning. If this is the best idea then that is great but he is not convinced. Alec, from the rowing team, commented on the amount of competition that is associated with their sport. The Rec is doing great and he fears that if they don’t get the support they have been then those members of the team following will not get the same opportunities. The president clarified that moving the sports clubs to CSLIS will divide the attention and thus they will lose support. Katie, from the equestrian team, commented that her main concern is losing the individual attention and specialization of sports clubs.
IV. Business

a. AS.82.13.14 SSU Debt Presentation (Discussion)
   i. Discussion The Treasurer of the University, Ian Hannah, came to give a presentation
      on the current debt at SSU. He commented that he presented at Academic Senate
      as well. The senators asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation.

b. AS.83.13.14 Ideas for Big Nite (Discussion)
   i. Discussion After talking to their constituents, the senators reported back the ideas
      they heard. Senator Rice said more food, either paid or free; live performers, SSU
      students or local bands; and a dance. Rice added that the Geology department
      wanted to see more information about what to do in the community and
      surrounding areas. Senator Durkee reported more spread out tables; having clubs
      and organizations table only for one hour; have the dance team perform; hypnotist;
      kettle corn; photo booth; live performers; hot dogs or In N’ Out; Spray painter from
      San Francisco or a student; henna tattoos; free food sampler from the Student
      Center; having businesses give out things; more amusement rides; spotlights in the
      sky; giant banner; and a photographer. Senator Tesluk commented that he spoke to
      students and clubs. He said they were satisfied with how Big Nite is now but more
      signs or maps as to where things are set up would be helpful. Senator Green
      reported that those she spoke to were adamant about having more crafts and more
      resources for crafts. She added that they complained a lot about the wait in a line
      and more food was a big thing, even paid. President Hart reported that students
      said they have seen improvement over the years or that they like how it is. Hart
      suggested maybe having it span over a weekend or week instead of one day and
      doing different things to ensure quality so everyone can do everything. Senator
      Anthony agreed with Hart. Those she talked to suggested having it span 1 to 2 days
      and having a map or something of the like so they can connect with other Education
      students. Anthony also added that they wanted more amusement rides. VP of
      Finance Dougherty reported that he heard the map idea a lot; having a main and
      sub stages for different functions; dance at the end of night; and to make it longer.
      Executive Director Dickson commented that they actually shortened it because
      people were leaving at 11 PM. He wonders what they need to do to keep the
      students there and appeal to what scope of students. Senator Sampo emphasized
      that clubs are important and that maybe they would suffer in a week long event. If
      there were no free things to draw students to a club day, then there would not be
      as big of a turnout. Sampo suggested combing those things in one day. She added
      that she thinks it would be a good idea to have in Parking Lot D. Executive VP
      commented on the spacing out issue. He suggested having time slots where tabling
      would be during certain times, rides at another time and then the dance at another
      time. He added that the issue is they see everything all at once and feel that they
      have seen everything so they leave. Senator Green added that students mentioned
      that they liked going into the Student Union and doing things in there such as
      movies and henna. Green suggested moving things into the Student Center and
      using Lobo’s, playing a movie on the wall, or having a performer inside. President
      Hart commented that an issue is the new students go to house parties thrown by
      returning students and get 120-days, which draws everyone away. Hart suggested
      deferring them to another location headed by returning students. They could go to
      another location for the peer/social aspect while staying on campus. Senator Green
      added that they could utilize the ballroom. Vice-Chair Dippel reported that students
      wanted a petting zoo; comedians; better music; entertainment for the long lines;
      dolphins; other Big Nite apparel; and more henna people. Dippel added that most
      students thought it was fine which is good news. Dickson clarified that no one said
      it was awful. Hart added that students like it on campus. The president of the
      rowing club spoke up and agreed with some opinions. He likes the idea of keeping
students on campus and agreed with the over-crowding issue. He added that he likes moving it to the new parking lot, but wonders if there would be a size issue. He also liked spacing it out over a few days, because he agreed that students have seen all they can and then want to leave and party, but if they had something to look forward to the next day then maybe they wouldn’t party too hard the night before. Senator Davis reported that students liked the concert idea and overall he heard good things. Dickson commented that they will most likely be seeing both fall and spring semester Big Nite.

The Senate took a 5 minute break at 2:15 PM.

c. AS.I.84.13.14 Temporary increase in executive director pay (Action)

i. Discussion

Executive VP Gallino explained the reasoning for the temporary increase in Executive Director Dickson’s pay. The personnel committee met last week and looked to temporarily revise the job description. Gallino explained that the job has changed over the last decade and there will most likely be another discussion in the summer to permanently change the position description. A raise is usually constituted by a 10% increase of the base salary; however they thought it should be more than 10% because Dickson is taking on the jobs of 3 professional staff members. They decided on 25% and the university agreed. Gallino explained that the temporary increase will last from March 1st to June 30th. Gallino notes that the document says 20% but should be 25% and also the date should be June 30th, not July 1st because of an accounting issue. Gallino discussed the numbers and logistics of the increase. The money will be coming from the left over salaries of the professional staff members who left. Senator Dinari asked who initiated the conversation. Gallino answered that he and President Hart had the discussion and that Dickson was being hands off. He added that AS has not kept up with reviewing the duties and position description of Executive Director Dickson. Dickson has done so much and has not received the recognition. VP of Finance Dougherty asked how the position description will change to the permanent one in the summer. Gallino answered that this temporary position description will revert back to the old one and a completely new one will have to be constructed in the summer for the permanent change. Senator Davis clarified the 25% increase and amount. Senator Green wondered if they should continue with the increase after the temporary period is over. Gallino said no and explained how to permanently increase pay. Green asked if they will be doing that in the summer with the permanent position description change. Gallino responded that he would like to do it before May 2nd. He added that he made this position description very specific to cater to the temporary increase; it is very bulletled and clear. The permanent increase will be reflected in the position description change later. President Hart expressed his concern regarding the confusion of the 20% versus 25% in the personnel committee meeting. Gallino clarified that the dollar amount number in the document is correct and corresponds to a 25% increase but is stated incorrectly as 20%. He added that the percent number is less important and they have leeway. Everyone on personnel committee was given the dollar amount number, which is 25%. Senator Anthony asked where the salary savings from the professional staff members would go if this temporary increase was not approved. Gallino responded that the savings would go into the reserves or would be budgeted in somewhere else. Senator Sampo asked why they decided on 25%. Gallino answered that he compared the salary to other professional staff members and then thought of a number and worked backwards. He added that he worked closely with Human Resources. Sampo wondered if there would be a problem with the confusion on the exact percentage. Gallino responded that he does not know, but they will
present the document to President Arminana and he can either sign it or not. President Hart added that, as Dickson’s supervisor, it was clear to him and Gallino that Dickson’s workload had increased drastically and the increased pay was appropriate. VP of Finance Dougherty commented that he sees the work Dickson puts in and agrees that this increase is reasonable and deserved. Senator Davis expressed that he was also in favor.

II. Action Executive VP Gallino moved to temporarily increase the Executive Director’s annual salary by 25% from March 1-June 30, 2014, which is approximately $24,000 to be paid for by using salary savings in the professional staff salaries line and the staff benefits line of the AS General Fund budget, Seconded by Senator Anthony. In discussion, Senator Sampo asked if the position description can still be amended if the document is rejected. Gallino responded that if President Arminana rejects the document, they can ask if he is okay with a 20% increase and then will go from there. Senator Durkee expressed that she is nervous about saying 25% if personnel committee only discussed 20%. Gallino responded that if President Arminana says no then they can amend the document and go from there and do it over again. He added that he does not think the percentage will negatively impact anything else. A guest of the Senate commented that they should make sure to have a discussion with President Arminana that there will be a permanent change in the future. Senator Green clarified that he will be back paid for March too. President Hart added that he will clarify to President Arminana the 25% number, but he did receive an email with the correct dollar amount number.

12 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions (Rashed and Zamora absent)

V. Items for the Good of the Order Executive VP Gallino thanked the Senate for passing the temporary increase. He reported that he received news from President Arminana yesterday. Arminana promised that over the next 3 years, a minimum of 15 tenure track faculty will be hired per year. Adding those to the 11 current tenure track faculty, there will be a total of 55 tenure track faculty in 3 years’ time. Senator Rice asked where the money to hire those people is coming from. Gallino explained that it will be from savings from prior years in various budget lines. Arminana plans to divert money from “healthy” budget lines to more “needy” ones. Senator Sampo asked if Senate would have a chance to discuss where those faculty will be going or is Arminana going through with that himself. Gallino clarified that the money will only be towards new faculty and that Arminana will not be personally choosing where those faculty will go, but will be a discussion with the departments and deans. President Hart expressed his congratulations to those who were elected. He urged the senators to keep in mind the issue brought forth during public comment and he hopes to have more information on it soon. He added that there will be a discussion soon on having a position in AS tying the Children’s School and the Business Office. Hart also urged the senators to get the word out about the 10 $1,000 scholarships being awarded. Also, there is still talk of connecting students to the GMC. An idea of this is having a concert at the back of the GMC on the lawn at the beginning of the year that will be free to students. Hart also commented that Market Day is on April 8th, which is an event encompassing things from all groups on campus. Also, the Tunnel of Oppression is happening next week and Seawolf Decision Day is coming up on April 12th. Senator Tesluk reported that he, Senator Jenks, and Senator Sampo have decided not to do the workshops for the town hall meeting with the provost but instead will have a short presentation before the town hall meeting. They are looking to do class wraps and tabling. Senator Green reported that there are 3 artists from New York coming in for various performances around the dorms. She also urges senators to attend Market Day and that they will be having more speakers coming to talk. President Hart asked when the artists from New York will be doing the “dorm storming”. Green answered that she thinks it is next week. She added that the GMC will be reducing the costs of tickets
for those who continue to attend concerts. VP of Finance Dougherty urged the senators to get the word out about the AS job openings. He commented that they should not be overwhelmed by the budget next week. He advised not to go straight to the numbers but read the explanations first. Dougherty added that there will be a few more Lobo Preferred trainings at the end of the semester to extend the privilege to a year. He also stressed the importance of volunteering for the Tunnel of Oppression or at least attending. Senator Sampo suggested advertising the Lobo Preferred trainings at the chartering meetings. Senator Anthony commented that she thinks now is the time to reach out to constituents and lend a hand as the year is winding down. Senator Durkee expressed her concern regarding the double booking happening in the Student Center. Gallino responded that CES handles that upstairs and that it has been brought to their attention. President Hart commented that he will be talking with the senators the next 2 weeks about constituency and transition to new officers. Senator Anthony clarified what goes in the transition binder.

VI. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chair of the Senate, Libby Dippel, at 3:37 PM.

Approved by the Associated Students Senate on 4/8/14.

Aman Rashed, Chair of the Senate