

Minutes of the Meeting of the
University Student Union Board of Directors
of the California State University, Fresno Association, Inc.
February 4, 2013

A meeting of the University Student Union Board of Directors of the California State University Fresno Association, Inc. was held on Monday, February 4, 2013.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:05p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The following voting members were present:

Mr. Kris Westcott, Chairperson	Mr. Estevan Gutierrez
Mr. Jesus Vargas	Ms. Kelli Walker
Ms. Bianca Rodriguez	Mr. Andrew Esguerra
Ms. Jamila Ahmed	Mr. Edward Brown
Ms. Tamar Karkazian	Ms. Melissa Ellis
Dr. Andrew Hoff**	Dr. Yishaiya Abosch***

The following voting members were not present:

Mr. John Gonzalez	Mr. Arthur Montejano
Dr. Carolyn Coon*	

The following non-voting members were present:

Ms. Ulfat Saif	Ms. Brittany Mitchell
Ms. Parmita Choudhury	Mrs. Sally Ramage
Mrs. Mehrzad Zarrin	Ms. Shawna Blair

The following non-voting members were not present:

The following guests were also present:

Juan Guzman	Sean Kiernan
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III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MSC to approve the agenda for Monday, February 4, 2013 as printed, with the following amendment: Under section VI, New Business, add Action Item F to approve Brittany Mitchell as a new non-voting member of the USU Board.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC to approve the minutes for Monday, December 3, 2012 as printed.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Carolyn Coon – Dr. Coon was not present to give a report.

Dr. Andrew Hoff – Dr. Hoff shared that the CSU system is waiting to see if any new funding will be coming to campuses, but it won't be known for another month or so. There is also a state-level discussion considering whether funding should be based upon graduation rates versus being based off enrollment as it currently is. This would ultimately be a system-wide decision.

Dr. Yishaiya Abosch – Dr. Abosch did not have any updates.

Associated Students, Inc. – Ms. Choudhury began the update by inviting the group to their meeting this

*Representative of Dean of Students

**Designee of University President

***Academic Senate/Faculty Representative

Wednesday and to encourage people to run for open ASI positions. Continuing, ASI is hosting a dance marathon on April 26th, partnering with Greek Life and any proceeds will go towards community revitalization efforts. Other updates included: the first session of Fresno State 101 took place last week and two more sessions are left, looking forward to Crime Prevention week this month, and three self-defense workshops are being offered on campus. Sean Kiernan was introduced to the group. Ms. Ellis added that a Responsibility workshop will be held on March 9th. There are 80 positions available and anyone can apply, however the application asks about previous involvement on campus.

Guests – Juan Guzman introduced himself to the group and is applying to be a USU Board member.

External Committee Reports

1. Integrated Marketing Council- Mr. Esguerra shared that they just had their first meeting of the semester. The branding of Fresno State Talks was discussed, in addition to reviewing social media practices.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Action Item: Vote to approve Edward Brown, 2012-2014, and Andrew Esguerra, 2012-2013, as voting members of the USU Board of Directors-** MSC to approve Mr. Brown and Mr. Esguerra as voting members of the USU Board of Directors.

b. **Action Item: Vote to approve a new member, Ulfat Saif, 2013-2014, as a new member of the Board-** MSC to approve Ms. Saif as a new non-voting member of the Board.

c. **Information Item: Presentation of Jamila Ahmed as new Chair of the Personnel Committee and Edward Brown as new Chair of the Planning and Operations Committee-** Mr. Westcott shared with the group that Ms. Ahmed will become the new Chair of the Personnel Committee and Mr. Brown will become the new Chair of the Planning and Operations Committee.

d. **Information Item: Presentation of Akoo TV System by Leticia Herrera-** In the absence of Leticia, Ms. Blair shared that the Akoo TV system was something observed at the ACUI conference last semester in Sacramento. Leticia had been researching details, but she was just informed that the company is stopping their work with universities at this time. Ms. Blair added that until more information is received regarding their work with universities, there is no point in going forward at this time.

e. **Information Item: Update on the Satellite Student Union leak and the repair cost by Mehrzad Zarrin-** Mrs. Zarrin began by sharing that with the rain a few weeks ago, a leak was found around the stage area of the SSU. When this had happened in the past, we usually patched the leak ourselves but this time decided to get a quote on having it done. The estimate came in at \$4,800.00 and the work will be done February 6th. Mrs. Ramage added that this is an unbudgeted capital expense that will go against our budget, but that we are fine financially and no other projects will have to be pushed back because of it.

f. **Action Item: Vote to Approve a new member, Brittany Mitchell, 2013-2014, as a new member of the Board-** MSC to approve Ms. Mitchell as a new non-voting member of the Board.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a. **Action Item: Recommend for approval support of the furniture and design for West Lounge for a cost not to exceed \$45,000-** Mr. Westcott began by stating that funds were set aside in the budget to complete the project and the group needs to vote to approve it in order to move forward with the plan. Mrs. Ramage showed the group mock ups of the plan and students have showed their support of it. They seemed to like the funky chairs, the clean look, and the tables with plugs. MSC to approve support of the furniture and design for the West Lounge with a cost not to exceed \$45,000.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. **Budget and Finance**- Mr. Vargas started his report by stating that the student phone app is being finalized and they are working on a distribution plan; people should have seen posters of the image around campus already. Mrs. Ramage shared that most students realize they pay for USU services, but were interested in exactly where the funds were going and how they were benefitting the campus. Funding requests have come through from Leadership programs, Club Sports, and USU Productions. The next step will be to talk about the plans and budgets for the requests.

b. **Marketing and Public Relations**- Mr. Gutierrez shared that the committee's new vice chair will be Mr. Esguerra and that the ACUI tournament took place this last weekend in the USU recreation center. Representatives from a variety of universities attended the event and everyone thought it was very successful. Both Mr. Gutierrez and Mr. Esguerra are on the team planning I Heart Fresno State week, in which the USU Board will have a specific activity to do during the week.

c. **Personnel**- Ms. Ahmed shared that she is the new chair of the committee and that the new vice chair will be Ms. Rodriguez. This semester the committee will focus on socials, staff appreciation projects, and on recruitment.

d. **Planning and Operations**- Mr. Brown stated that they were able to provide students with more information regarding the patio/pit renovations at the Welcome Back event and are still waiting on approval to move forward with the project. Mr. Brown added that he is still in the process of selecting the new vice chair of the committee.

e. **Campus Involvement Ambassadors**- Ms. Ellis began her report with past events which included a table at the Welcome Back event and a recruitment presentation to the Smittcamp Honor's Colloquium. Upcoming events include a table at the I Heart Fresno State week, 11 recruitment interest sessions will begin February 22nd (applications due by March 15th), and the Emerging Leaders Retreat will take place March 1st, 2nd, and 9th. Ms. Ellis added that five involvement class presentations have been scheduled and there are five pending appointments for involvement advising.

f. **USU Productions**- Ms. Karkazian stated that there will be a Bulldog Wednesday and a Chinese New Year celebration this week. They are trying to help increase student attendance at basketball games by hosting a pre-game tailgate event for the next men's game. Next week is I Heart Fresno State week; each day has a theme and a variety of activities. Ms. Karkazian added that Nooners will start in March and Fresno State Talks is coming up. The *Discovery* lecture will be done by Dr. Chapman on February 21st, *Diversity* will be by Dr. Johnson on February 28th and the *Distinction* lecture will be given by Dr. Gilbert on March 5th. Mr. Esguerra added that during the I Heart Fresno State week, Wednesday will be dedicated to I Heart Me day in collaboration with the university's suicide prevention program. Suggestions included adding a yellow ribbon component to show support and solidarity and to have a place set up where students can post notes to one another.

IX. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Westcott began his report with old business which included a meeting with Mrs. Debbie Astone, Mr. Gonzalez, Dr. Coon, and Mrs. Scogin to discuss how to move forward with major capital projects and how to access the local reserve fund for the USU. Mrs. Astone noted that the only means to access the reserves is for the USU to operate at deficit. Mr. Westcott expressed concerns about this approach noting that the USU Board and staff would not want it to appear that they were being fiscally irresponsible and that each year the staff tries to save money to help fund the reserves. Mrs. Astone shared that when the USU operates with a surplus, it appears that we do not need all of the student fee dollars so less is transferred to operations and that the current accounting system only allows access to the reserves if the USU operates at a deficit. Continuing with his report, Mr. Westcott shared that presentations were also held by all programs and events on funding and they need to be prioritized before the drafting of the budget. Mr. Westcott gave the group a Budget Priority Planning document regarding the prioritizing of projects, programs, etc. Mrs. Ramage added that this document acts as a guideline and lets Mrs. Astone know we are being conscientious about what is needed to be done. Mr. Westcott continued his report sharing he had a meeting with

Kelci Goss about doing a paper on the pit/patio project for one of her classes. Other updates include Circle K and Alpha Kappa Psi expressing interest in volunteering for planting new trees around campus, discussions of bringing farmer's market food to center of campus, and there are no further updates on the search committee for a Student Involvement Director.

X. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Ramage began by sharing that she and Mrs. Scogin continue their work on the Center for Leadership concept and vision and that it's been fun working with the team on Fresno State Talks. This was also the first year having a focused Welcome Back event for the spring semester. In addition, there was a large water leak in the amphitheater over winter break, causing standing water and mold on walls and other materials stored there. An abatement company was contacted and given the campus master plan, it would be better to clean it out and demolish it. This can become a problem for us due to lack of storage, so they are looking into renting or buying metal storage containers to place on site. This will be another unbudgeted cost and will probably be quite expensive. Continuing, Mrs. Ramage shared that Dog Prints has changed its business model and have been allowed to end their lease. This will impact the USU in terms of rental income and it can be quite difficult to fill the space especially with the new Campus Point construction. In terms of planning for the budget, many times, more needs come up than we can fund but you try to project the needs of the facility as well as you can. Mrs. Ramage added that it can be hard to project needs because unions have changed significantly since they started and continue to do so. Ms. Ellis suggested asking students what they would like to see in the Dog Prints space.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MSC to adjourn the meeting at 4:27p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Ramage, Director

By Taylor Clanton, Administrative Assistant