

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.
CSU NORTHRIDGE
March 24, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Nicole Umali called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the USU Grand Salon. A quorum was present.

Voting members present: Sam Amirshahi, Stephanie Barahona, Luis Carbajo, Andrew Collard, Erin Garrovillas, Emily Gross, Jeanette Guaman, Conor Lansdale, Jessper Maquindang, Alexis Montoya, Richard Morgan, Yasmin Nadershahi, Johan Barry Neilan III, Abel Pacheco, Montana Pham, Paul Pugh, Cassaundra Rodriguez, Benjamin Yarbrough, and Austin Ysais.

Voting members absent: none

Cabinet members present: Michael Ryan, Sam Scruggs, Savanna Grow, Audrey Younna, Sunita Popal, and Pedro Trujillo.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - March 24, 2009

MS (Neilan III/Pugh) to approve the agenda.

MSC (Neilan III/Amirshahi) to add as Informational item, Finance, New Business: 2009-2010 Annual Budget for senators' review.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - March 17, 2009

MSC (Pugh/Ysais) to approve the minutes as presented.

IV. OPEN FORUM

- Doug Shapiro – spoke in support of a budget request for the CSUN Triathlon Team
- Alvin Henry – expressed his disappointments about the sound system provided by the USU during their performance at the Pub.

V. REPORTS

A. President - Miguel Segura

Vice President Umali informed the senate that President Segura is attending the USSA (United States Student Association) in Washington D.C. and will be back tomorrow.

B. Vice President - Nicole Umali

- United State Student Association (USSA)- LEGCON
 - Conference regarding lobbying legislature about student issues, particularly the Federal Dream Act and increasing Pell Grants.
 - Culminates in Lobbying Congress on Tuesday; Miguel is in attendance.
 - Miguel and I each attended workshops.
 - Overall, the conference was good and informative. It would be helpful for the next administration to attend the conference to get training and information on how to be a better student leader and organize students.
 - USSA is a good organization that provides a lot of support to student governments. However, I personally do not think it is worth paying dues unless there is a representative at every board meeting in order to really have influence on what the USSA agenda will be. (Travel is very expensive plus membership dues.) The money that is used to pay dues can be used to travel to the different conferences USSA provides or can be used for something else.
 - I think the priority of A.S. should be at the state level, continuing support to CSSA. More emphasis on supporting CSSA on state wide issues affecting our students.
- 5 Year Plan-
 - Meeting this Thursday. Time to be announced.
 - We will be discussing the resources needed to achieve the specific priorities that are established in the plan.
 - Please provide your feedback regarding the priorities of the plan.
- Annual Budget-
 - The annual budget is being distributed today for review. If you have any questions, please contact Director of Finance, General Manager, or myself.
- Elections-
 - Elections started today; trying to get a voter turnout of 5,000 students. Please help in this effort.
 - NO CAMPAIGNING IN ANY A.S. OFFICE OR USE ANY A.S RESOURCES.
- Housekeeping-
 - We will not be having a senate meeting next week due to Cezar Chavez Day.
 - The next week after that is Spring Break.
 - Please check you email regularly on the progress of the annual budget, any updates from the directors, as well as any other pertinent information.
 - Chairs please keep up with your legislative referrals. If you need anything, just let me know.

C. **Directors**

Sunita Popal - Clubs and Organizations

- Friday, March 27th -Roundtable, Flintridge room at 2:00 p.m.
- 10th annual African American Music festival this week
- April 22nd - Earth Fair; discussions on vendors are underway.

Vianney Moran - Legislative Affairs

- Attended the CSSA conference at CSU Channel Islands last weekend; discussed **AB 462** which would establish the College Affordability Act of 2009. This bill would limit, notwithstanding any law and commencing with the 2010-11 fiscal year, the system wide tuition and fees charged to resident undergraduate students at CSU and UC to those in effect during the 2009-10 academic year.
- President of Stanislaus State University was voted President of the Year.
- Participants to CHESS (California Higher Education Student Summit) will be contacted soon.

Pedro Trujillo - Political Awareness

- Thanked the students who attended the rally against budget cuts.
- Amazed at the nomination process for President of the Year; the President of the Year attends senate meeting twice a month and other ASI events. The new University President of the Year is Dr. Hamid Shirvani, President of CSU Stanislaus.
- Spoke about the student elections online.

Savanna Grow - Personnel

- AS Member of the Month is Austin Ysais
- Conducted two interviews last week

Audrey Younna - SPACE

- Wednesday, April 1st - Jam session at 4:00 pm; at the Pub
- Poetry Night last Thursday was successful
- Appreciation Night for the Matador Men's Basketball Team; AS President Segura will present the resolution commending the team for an exemplary performance (approved by AS senate last week). Event will start at 7:00 p.m. at the Matadome
- Attended the CSSA conference at CSU Channel Islands last week.
- Explained the transfer of account for the Big Show, which is on today's agenda.

D. **Attorney General - Michael Ryan**

No report

E. **Finance - Sam Scruggs**

Reported the following account balances:
\$6,948 – Academically Related Reserves Account
\$19,333 – Unallocated Reserves Account
\$34,166 – Capital Improvement

F. Committee Reports

- 1) University Affairs – Luis Carbajo
 - Discussed the Campus Memorial legislative referral, and the Support for International Students referendum; details were discussed with Yeprem Davoodian such as liability and implementation of the referendum.
 - Met with Astrid Logan, Transportation Dept. to discuss the referendum (Support for International Students); she informed that the university-run charter services are outsourced to companies that cover the liability, and the shuttle service to/from LAX requires special permits.
 - Discussed Matador TV legislative referral.

- 2) Internal Affairs – Montana Pham
 - Discussed the assessment of Elections such as vendors (online elections) and priorities.
 - Drafting a recommendation for the Matador Spirit Card
 - Discussed the Matador TV; this process will be more of a collaboration project with other departments

- 3) External Affairs – Austin Ysais
 - Discussed a resolution for the Antelope Valley Transit
 - Working on the memorial for CSUN students who passed away of tragic incidents.

- 4) Academic Affairs – John Barry Neilan III
 - Contacted Dr. Sheryl Spector about working with the Freshman Convocation and Freshman Reading.
 - Will meet with the Art Department to discuss the Senior Projects referral.
 - Continuing its work on the Matador TV; would like all Senators to create a video blog in preparation for Matador TV website.
 - Working on internet-based classes.

 - Dr. Ward suggested looking into DIGLA for Freshman Reading tie-in, a possible downtown trip. Noted that most faculty feels that online

classes do not teach students as well as traditional lectures.

- 5) Policies – Andrew Collard
- Worked on the changes of the following Codes: Elections, and Judicial Court
 - Working on the referendum for next semester’s elections.

G. General Manager – David Crandall

- Elections today and tomorrow. A problem on the ballot was reported, a name on the ballot (Arts, Media and Communications) was missing; AMC candidates will be disregarded and will be included again next week for the run-off elections.

H. University Advisor – Tom Piernik

- Athletics event - Mentioned about the success and distinction of the athletic event last week, students were very excited. He challenged the student leaders to continue the excitement and suggested to invite the coach and members of the Men’s Basketball Team to our senate meeting to reflect their experience at the NCAA tournament last week. He said that it made his job easier to sell CSUN at the Discover CSUN event last week.

I. Faculty Advisor – Veda Ward

Last week I was conducting a Focus Group with students who participated in Blackboard and Moodle this Spring during the Academic Affairs Committee meeting. I later left for a national professional organization meeting in Washington, DC. My report summarizes activities and responsibilities that relate to students’ academic experiences across campus.

Learning Management System (LMS) Committee

This committee is nearing completion of its assignment, and will soon forward a recommendation to Provost Hellenbrand. Committee members are writing a report that summarizes findings from the *Zoomerang* survey, two focus groups (one student and one faculty), from vendor demonstrations and comparison-research, as well as input from IT staff. Security, back-up, flexibility of design, ADA compliance and support of linguistic and mathematical symbols are among areas of concern. Integration with current campus systems (e.g. SOLAR) and hosting options are also being debated. The selection of an LMS will directly impact teaching and learning environments for faculty and students for several years to come.

Federal Programs

President Segura and VP Umali recently visited Washington, DC as did I. many academic departments at CSU Northridge have one or more federal agencies that manage programs related to their discipline. While every CSUN student may not be able to visit the nation's capitol, or speak directly with representatives, any student can incorporate information on federal legislation or programs into papers, projects, reference databases, etc, to enrich the learning experience. The federal government should also be considered as a potential employer, especially federal employment within California. While it can be quite expensive to fly "back East", it is important to see our government in action and to share all that Californians have to offer the rest of the US; agriculture, socio-economic diversity, urban centers, tourism and commerce, as well as the entertainment industry.

Be Proactive

It is just at the "half-way" point in the semester, and it is time to share feedback on your courses with faculty. One way to approach this subject is to ask for a "round-circle" discussion focusing on three strengths and three concerns with the course to date. AAUP's *Academe* recently featured an article on the "mid-point" assessment as a positive way to give faculty and students an opportunity to move toward a positive learning experience for the remainder of the semester. So rather than focus on "old news" of past teaching evals, why not take a proactive approach while in the course. This will help faculty and students commit to a positive and collaborative approach to giving and receiving course-related feedback.

60 Minutes and The Soloist

Sunday night's television mainstay *60 Minutes* featured an interview with Steve Lopez and the enigmatic Mr. Ayres, main characters in next Fall's freshman common reading, *The Soloist*, which is set in Los Angeles. CSU Northridge has already posted the interview on the First-Year Experience website, and a tour is planned for Fall '09 with DigLA. In the meantime, the movie should be coming out, starring Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey, Jr. It is great to recognize CSU Northridge as being way out front on this powerful learning experience and to see it as a tribute to our learning community in the broader context of higher ed in the US. Wouldn't it be great to have *60 Minutes* visit our campus to do a follow-up story at Freshman Convocation?

WASC Accreditation: Theme 3 Case Studies

Theme 3 : How We Learn Together as an Institution case study groups will meet Friday March 27, 11 am-1 pm. Students unfamiliar with qualitative methodology might wish to sit in on one or more of these

meetings to get a better understanding of the process as well as the content, which will be folded into the larger campus re-accreditation review. Interested students can contact Dianne Schwartz or Maryann Cummins-Prager for specific sub-group meeting room locations.

Cesar Chavez Day

Next Tuesday is Cesar Chavez Day, and I hope students will take time not only to learn more about the man and the movement, but also to understand the role of labor unions in this country.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointments - none

B. Finance

Informational item

- 1) 2009-2010 Annual Budget - will be presented to the senate on April 14th for approval. Amendments must be submitted to the Finance Director before April 14th senate meeting.

Action items

- 1) To allocate \$1,600 for Western Psychological Association, from Academically Related Reserves Account.
- 2) To allocate \$600 to CSUN Triathlon Team for Tri-Team Annual Budget from Unallocated Reserves Account.
- 3) To allocate \$500 to Associated Graduate Students of English for Spring Conference, from Unallocated Reserves Account.
- 4) To allocate \$900 for Banquet "Russia", from Unallocated Reserves Account.
- 5) To approve the Transfer for Big Show, as follows: \$20,000 from Student Composition; and \$6,000 from No Bull Magazine, to Associated Students SPACE Big Show.

MS (Ysais/Neilan III) to approve action item nos. 1 through 5 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

MSC (Amirshahi/Carbajo) to divide question no. 2. Motion passed unanimously

MSC (Neilan III/Garrovillas) (10-9-1) to divide question no. 4

MSC (13-5-0) to approve action item nos. 1, 3, and 5 as recommended by Finance. Senator Lansdale asked to note on the minutes that he voted “no” on this motion.

Item no. 2 – CSUN Triathlon Team
 MSC (Amirshahi/Garrovillas) (14-1-4) to allocate \$1,100 to CSUN Triathlon Team for Tri-Team Annual Budget from Unallocated Reserves Account.

Item no. 4 – Banquet Russia
 MSC (Neilan III/Collard) to allocate \$900 to Phi Beta Delta for Banquet “Russia”, from Unallocated Reserves Account.

MSC (Collard/Barahona) (13-4-2) to reconsider motions on item nos. 1, 3, and 5

MSC (Morgan/Lansdale) (14-4-1) to divide question nos. 1, 3, 5.

Item no. 1 – Western Psychological Association Conference
 MSC (Collard/Carbajo) (17-0-2) to allocate \$2,775 for Western Psychological Association Conference, from Academically Related Reserves Account.

Item no. 3 – Associated Graduate Students of English
 MSC (Collard/Lansdale) to allocate \$500 to Associated Graduate Students of English for Spring Conference, from Unallocated Reserves Account. Motion passed with one abstention.

Item no. 5 – Big Show Transfer
 MS (Austin/Garrovillas) to approve the transfer

Discussions followed.

MSC (Guaman/Barahona) (with one nay) to call the question.

MSC (Lansdale/Ysais) (14-0-5) for a roll call vote.

Names	Yes	Nay	Abstain
Nicole Umali	X		
Sam Amirshahi	X		
Stephanie Barahona	X		
Luis Carbajo	X		
Andrew Collard	X		

Erin Garrovillas	X		
Emily Gross	X		
Jeanette Guaman	X		
Conor Lansdale		X	
Jesper Maquindang	X		
Alexis Montoya	X		
Richard Morgan	X		
Yasmin Nadershahi	X		
John Barry Neilan III	X		
Abel Pacheco	X		
Montana Pham			X
Paul Pugh	X		
Cassandra Rodriguez	X		
Benjamin Yarbrough	X		
Austin Ysais	x		

MSC (18-1-1) by roll call vote, to approve the Transfer for Big Show, as follows: \$20,000 from Student Composition; and \$6,000 from No Bull Magazine, to Associated Students SPACE Big Show.

- C. **Clubs and Organizations** - none
- D. **Elections** - none
- E. **Committees**

Action item

- 1) To approve the changes to the following Codes:
 - a) Judicial Court
 - b) Elections

MSC (Pacheco/Pham) to approve action item no. 1 (a, b), with two abstentions.

F. **Legislative Referrals**

- 1) To: Academic Affairs
Subject: Student Evaluation of Professors

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The following voting members were present at the close of the regular meeting: Sam Amirshahi, Stephanie Barahona, Luis Carbajo, Andrew Collard, Erin Garrovillas, Emily Gross, Jeanette Guaman, Conor Lansdale, Jessper Maquindang, Alexis Montoya, Richard Morgan, Yasmin Nadershahi, Johan Barry Neilan III, Abel Pacheco, Montana Pham, Paul Pugh, Cassandra Rodriguez, Benjamin Yarbrough, and Austin Ysais.

MSC (Pacheco/Ysais) to adjourn the regular meeting at 4:27 p.m.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted by:
Brenda Lacy
Government Secretary

Miguel Segura
President
2008-2009