Elections Committee Meeting Minutes for April 20th, 2012

I. Call to Order: Chair Weisbecker calls meeting to order at 1:09 pm

II. Roll Call
   Members Present          Absent Members          Guests
   Mark Weisbecker          Marguerite Hinrichs
   Riddhi Sood              Danielle Anderson
   Kayla Wilson             Stan Hebert
   Randy Saffold

III. Action Item - Approval of the Agenda
    Motion: (Anderson) to approve the Agenda.
    Amendment I: (Anderson) to add the Action Item-Appointment of Working Groups
    Amendment I Carries.
    Motion Carries as Amended.

IV. Public Comment
    Public Comment is intended as a time for any member of the public to address the
    Committee on any issues affecting ASI and/or the California State University, East
    Bay.
    No Public Comment

V. Action Item- Discussion and approval of the elections timeline.
   Chair Weisbecker states that with this current timeline things have been pushed back
   from the previous year giving us time to get everything out. Chair Weisbecker
   highlights the following dates:
   • April 20th, 2012- Approval of items to make packets available online for students
   • May 7th, 2012- 5pm deadline for candidate filing
   • May 9th, 2012- First mandatory Candidate Meeting, time is still TBA
   • May 11th, 2012- Make-up Candidate Meeting-mandatory for candidates to
     come to either meeting before they began campaigning
   • Week of May 14th, 2012- Open Candidates Forum
   • Week of May 21st, 2012- Open Candidates Forum
   • Takes place on Agora Stage and is a chance for the candidates to get their
     message out
   • May 23rd, 2012- May 30th, 2012 Voting Period
   • 8-day voting period

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• May 31st, 2012- 5pm deadline to file grievances
• June 1st, 2012- Grievance hearing
• June 4th-5th – Runoff Elections if necessary
• June 6th, 2012- 5pm deadline to file grievances
• June 7th, 2012- Grievance hearing (if necessary)
• June 11th, 2012- Certified by the president’s office

Then be able to post the election’s results

Hebert mentions that the timeline gives structure to the elections, it’s a long voting period, and one of the challenges is the possibility of infractions. One consideration is to shorten it, but we will need to make sure that everyone is aware of when the voting period is. Because we vote online people having proximity to voting stations is not a big challenge. Shorter voting periods also allows you to put more effort towards validating the information and a little bit more time for runoff elections. Timely placing of the Pioneer Ad, the signs around of when the voting period is, and the consideration of will students remember that they will have to vote over a holiday weekend are things that the committee will need to consider.

The committee discusses the amount of days the voting period should consist of.

Chair Weisbecker states that the best day to have a hearing will be on a Friday. The five day voting period covers everyday that students come to campus and go to class, in which this would remind them that they would need to vote. The problem is the filing of grievances, how would this take place if voting ends on a Friday. An option can be to take the grievances on a Monday and have the hearings on Tuesday or Wednesday.

ED Saffold mentions that grievance sessions can be held later on in the day.

Hebert states that the way the schedule is can be very workable if managed. Many of the grievances happen during the activities while students are voting. Rather than looking to have another schedule, I want to support the committee’s decision on the proposed schedule. The committee should have very well managed polling and monitored campaigning because it really does help the committee when it comes to violations.

Chair Weisbecker mentions that the committee is looking at compromising with the proposed voting dates rather than changing the schedule altogether.

Hebert states that we do not want to have an undo amount of time sorting through grievances. I will commit to making sure that we get the technical so that everything is accurate. Also the other part is once the grievance part is completed this becomes a transmission to the president’s office, letting them know who has won the elections.

The president will have to certify the results.

Motion: (Sood) to accept the timeline that is proposed.
Motion Carries.

5:50-6:44
VI. **Action Item- Discussion of a resolution to eliminate slates for Election.**

Chair *Weisbecker* states that this year he along with the committee is looking at eliminating the slates because it seems like it is not democratic. It seems that if a person is not a part of specific slate or is not friends with someone on a slate then they would not have a chance of winning the elections.

ED *Saffold* states that this would not necessarily be a bad thing due to different student’s voices being heard when it comes to being on the board. When it comes to slates everyone tends to vote in a certain direction and this will be limited if there were simply no slates candidates would be running individually. But there are positives and negatives when it comes to slates.

*Hebert* states that his experience with slates has been up and down. Slates do not determine the way students vote. We do not recognize slates on the ballot; if so I would be in very much favor to eliminate the slates or parties on the ballots.

*Anderson* states that it is fine if people would like to campaign together but in the previous year students were proposing voting on their personal slates. To add diversity to the ballots the slates should definitely be taken off.

The committee discusses the issues of having slates and not having slates.

*Hebert* mentions that having an individual campaign can be a challenge, over the years I have seen some successful slates but students initially voted for who they wanted. As we can monitor voting locations, they can’t hand out campaigning materials within certain proximity; the committee will have to make the candidates aware of this specific thing.

Chair *Weisbecker* states that there are benefits when students are campaigning together, students can group together and not have to worry about fronting all the money for individual flyers. If students are simply campaigning with their slates there will not be any issues later on down the line when it comes to slate affiliation.

*Hebert* states that the committee can restrict that there are not any voter guides who are slate oriented. The slates can do posters and they can do speeches as a team but individual flyers should be composed and handed out by the individuals on the slate. The idea is to not have the individual slate cards and asking students to take the whole deck of cards. There are ways to address these kinds of things.

Chair *Weisbecker* states that there will be guidelines set in the upcoming meetings. These are things that would need to be worked out in the future if the committee decides to eliminate them from the ballot.

The committee mentions that the candidates will try to find loopholes so the rules should not be too complicated when it comes to handing out materials to students.

Chair *Weisbecker* states that a voter’s guide was generated consisting of the name, face, their statement, along with their slate designation. This gave students who weren’t familiar with the candidate’s brief information to help them decide who to vote for.

*Sood* mentions maybe we should not have slate designation there.

The committee continues to discuss slates in the past elections.

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Hebert states that a slate does have considerable influences because the slate is campaigning as a managed team. I have even seen slates pick up individual candidates to fill their roster or because they feel that person will enhance their slate. Slates generate interests; it is very different to get around this. Sometimes it seems like a popularity vote.

Motion: (Anderson) to eliminate slate designation on the ballot.
1 Abstention.
Motion Carries.
26:44-48:00

VII. Discussion Item-Discussion of marketing strategy for this year’s elections.
Chair Weisbecker states that there will be a poster printed to get people involved. That will be the first thing so we can reach out to students and we will indicate on the poster if students are interested in ASI go to this website and apply. Also something new I was looking at this year is putting up large signs, stating Vote during Elections. We are also planning to conduct ASI debates which will be modified by Dr. West; it will be conducted like the previous year in which it was filmed in the studio. It will be live streamed to the University Union TV’s so that students can watch them.

Sood states that the live stream should take place other places as well, for example, The Diversity Center has a large TV so possibly inside of there.

Chair Weisbecker states that the committees are also looking at some Face book things.

Hebert inquires on if there will be a Pioneer Ad.

Chair Weisbecker states that in his opinion most people do not read the Pioneer Ad. Partly because they put five thousand papers on campus and another five thousand papers off campus. Half of their focus is on people that are not currently on the school’s campus. Also the cost is expensive, spending six to eight hundred dollars on an half or a quarter page ad for that one day and one week; the money can be spent on some other marketing strategy that would reach students longer than that one specific ad for the day. Also states that he has spoken with the editor of the Pioneer and proposed that they should do an article about the elections and who the candidates are; rather than the committee pay for an ad in the paper. Looking to provide all the candidates with a board so that all the candidates will have equal access to one board to put around the campus.

Hebert states that in regards to signage there is a limit to 25 signs in total around the campus. The idea is that there will be an ASI sign encouraging people to vote.

The committee discusses the signs for the elections.

Sood indicates that there can be a live streaming in Lassen Hall or voting stations for the students in housing.

Anderson states that she hasn’t lived on campus in three years and she doesn’t have any connection with Lassen, her life is school and home. What should we propose for the students who are not living on-campus?

Chair Weisbecker states that we have to focus also on those who don’t come the part of the campus where ASI is located.

48:00-1:03:30

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VIII. **Action Item- Discussion and approval of marketing budget.**
Chair Weisbecker mentions that the marketing budget is $4,000.00.
Chair Weisbecker yields the floor to the committee to highlight what the funds should be spent on:
- How much will be spent on posters and signs
- How much will be spent on food for the forums that will be held
- The funds will have to be divided up for the upcoming activities
The committee decides on setting up a task group to decide on the activities and things to be funded on for the upcoming elections.
Sood states that students who need community service hours can help with elections, some students have violated rules have to do so many hours of community services in housing so possibly they can help with us.
Chair Weisbecker recommends that the committee tables this item until the task group decides on what the funds will be spent on in regards to Elections.
1:03:30-1:09:18

IX. **Discussion Item-Discussion and distribution of areas of responsibility for Committee members.**
Chair Weisbecker along with committee members states a couple of task areas they can focus on for the upcoming elections.
- Locating labor- a person to get contractors for polling for specific days, or people to do other work related activities
- Facebook- electronic marketing
- Review of guidelines
- Coming up with a list of costs
- Pioneer Web TV/ Newspaper
- In-between meetings the task groups can meet and decide on things and bring it to the meetings for the committee to decide on.
- Peer Mentors can mention different tasks in freshman classes
Chair Weisbecker indicates that responsibilities for the committee will have to be tabled due to eligibility of some committee members.

X. **Action Item- Appoint Working Groups**
Chair Weisbecker states that the budget and the review of the elections policy and campaigning guidelines are the two big ones. He along with Stan Hebert can be appointed as a working group for the budget.
Hebert states that once everyone receives the guidelines document by the next meeting, all the committees members will have had a chance to have went through it and identify areas that they have questions about, corrections, or some suggestion areas. It would be good for us to be familiar with this by the next committee meeting.
**Motion: (Anderson) to approve Stan Hebert and Mark Weisbecker as the budget working group.**
Motion Carries.

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XI. **Roundtable Remarks**

*Anderson:* states that in regards eligibility how would the committee adjust to making the changes, would this affect the committee meetings as far as meeting corium. Chair *Weisbecker* indicates that this may affect the committee meetings when it comes to meeting corium but hopefully this will not be the case if so we will have to find replacements immediately.

*Weisbecker:* thanks everyone for attending the committee meeting.

XII. **Adjournment**

Motion: () to adjourn meeting at 2:38 pm.
Motion Carries.

Minutes Reviewed and Approved By/On:

**Elections Committee Chair**

*Name: Mark Weisbecker*

*Signature*

05-07-12
Date: