Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes for March 23rd, 2012

I. Call to order: Chair Symonds calls meeting to order at 2:08pm.

II. Roll call
Members Present: Courtney Symonds, Jerry Chang, Abby Andrade, Ian Crueldad, Stan Hebert
Absent Members: Lyla Pehrson, Sita Ream-Rao, Laurel O’Brien, Chris Prado
Guests: Chris McCoy, Helena Straughter, Art Jung, Fernanda Karp

III. Action Item - Approval of the Agenda
Motion: (Crueldad) to approve the agenda.
Amendment 1: to add the Informational Item-CHESS on the Legislative Affairs Agenda.
Amendment I Carries.
Motion Carries as Amended

IV. Action item- Approval of the March 9th, 2012 Minutes.
Motion: (Crueldad) to approve the March 9th, 2012 Minutes.
Motion Carries.

Public Comment: None
Public Comment is intended as a time for any member of the public to address the Board on any issues affecting ASI and/or the California State University, East Bay.
Chris McCoy states that he is privileged to be present at the Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting and he is a part of the CSUEB Democrats.

V. Action Item- Approval of New Debate Date and Time
The Committee will elect and approve a new date and time for the debate.
Chair Symonds indicates that the date for the Debate has been changed once more in order to work around everyone schedules. The new proposed date, location, and time is on Wednesday, April 25th, 2012 in the multipurpose room taking place from 4pm to 9pm.
The change was made due to the event not really expecting student turnout because the Debate was previously scheduled to be held on a Sunday.
Hebert indicates that midweek will have a higher number of students expected to attend the Debate.
Chair Symonds states that the candidates are being contacted in regards to the date change. Crueldad states about 95% of the candidates indicated that they are able to attend the Debate with the scheduled date change. There’s only one candidate as of right now who does not have an opponent for the debate.

The committee discusses the candidates that will be attending the Debate. Chair Symonds states that if there is not enough candidates available to attend the Debate there will just be a Forum held.

Chair Symonds states that with the Debate being held on Wednesday it is expected that the multipurpose room will be filled, with the option of an overflow room.

Hebert states that one of the opportunities of having this debate during the week is that there will be participation from faculty as well as a better turnout of students due to the professors letting the students know about the event. It is rare that faculty would require students to attend something on a Sunday when there are not classes held.

Chair Symonds indicates that after the last Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting the vice chair started to draft a letter that will be going out to the candidates with the proposed Wednesday date.

Chris McCoy states that there may be a conflict with evening classes on Wednesday Night also there should be publicity to the public to attend the Debate not just the people who are on campus.

Hebert states that in the past scheduled classes will attend the event even if the event is scheduled at a specific time of the event; but it is up to the discretion of the individual faculty members.

One point of clarification is that the primary consideration of the committee is student participation not candidate availability. That was addressed when the item first came up, if ASI will be hosting this specific event then it will be a student lead event. The proposed date was what the committee came up with when it comes to the attendance of students. Chair Symonds states that this was the best decision when it comes to finances and students being able to attend the event.

Motion: (Andrade) to approve the new proposed date of April 25th, 2012 for the Debate.

Motion Carries.

*Jerry Chang was present at the meeting 2:24pm

VI. Information Item – Debate

Chris McCoy states that he mentioned to committee member Ian that he would be pleased to draft a press release and start contacting the different media outlets and market this as an opportunity to show that young people are really engaged in politics.
Chair Symonds states that she has been in contact with the Director of Public Relations in which she will be drafting a press release but indicates that Chris McCoy can draft one as well.

Chair Symonds states that there will be a reception before the debate starts in which there will be food provided also I met with the Director of Finance to discuss the budget for the food.

Chris McCoy states that another option can be having guests introduce the event; he states that he was thinking about reaching out to Keith Karson’s Office, the supervisor in the past has spoke at Bay Area Urban Weeks. He is on the county Board of Supervisors which means that he will not be a candidate at the debate.

Chair Symonds indicates that they have already worked out the logistics on who will MC the Debate at the previous Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting. ASI President Chris Prado as well as myself may be moderators at the Debate. There were also three or four students that volunteered to introduce the candidates.

The Committee discusses if there will be a need for more speakers at the Debate.

Chair Symonds states that the first hour of the event is a reception to get people talking.

Chair Symonds states that there are three races, State Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional. Once we hear back from people this will determine the number of people that will be showing up to the actual Debate. Once that information is provided we can then schedule how many candidates per race will actually be present.

The committee discusses the students/faculty that will be MC’s and moderators for the Debate event.

Chair Symonds states now that the date of the Debate is finalized the committee can now move on with the logistics.

Helena Straughter states that now that the date is finalized we just have to figure out which candidates is on board with this specific date, so she can know who to talk to and who not to talk to.

VII. Information Item – Earth Day Event

Chair Symonds states that the committee can look at having the Earth Day Event an hour before the Debate. This will help to draw people into the reception, and the Debate can also be advertised at this specific event. If the committee would like to hold the Earth Day Event in the Diversity Center I have the contact information. We can talk to Craig Collin, we also may speak with Jennifer Eden in which they can come and discuss Earth Day issues for the Earth Day Event, but focusing on a legislative standpoint when it comes to Earth Day issues.

Chang states that with the idea of keeping things simple the events should be done in the same room.
The committee discusses where the Earth Day Event should be held.
Chair Symonds states that for the Earth Day event we are not shooting for a huge event, so the Diversity Center will be okay to hold an event like this due to the smaller setting, also looking to book the Diversity Center as the overflow room for the Debate Event.
35:26-39:00

VIII. Action Item – Approval of Earth Day Sub-Committee
The Committee will consider the approval of a sub-committee to help plan earth day event.
Chair Symonds indicates that since the committee is looking to hold two large events on the same day it would be wise to develop a sub-committee for the Earth Day Event. Since Laurel and Jerry are both on Environmental Affairs Committee it only makes sense to delegate them for this project.
Chair Symonds updates present members on the Earth Day Event.
Motion: (Andrade) to approve Laurel O’ Brien and Jerry Chang to be on the Earth Day Sub-Committee.
Motion Carries.
39:07-41:30

IX. Information Item- Update on the Bob Wiecowski’s visit to campus. Brainstorm ideas for the event.
Chair Symonds states that she has been working really hard to get Bob Wiecowski to come to the campus. Since he is so much in support of the Middle Class Scholarship Act there has been talk about him coming to the campus to put on a rally with Assembly Speaker Member Perez. It is kind of up in the air on if this is still going to take place. The original idea is still going to take place which is the forum on Job Creation and Legislature. There is a possibility that there may be a small rally held. We don’t have an official date but I was looking at May 18th, 2012 late morning to early afternoon. If the forum is held it will be an hour visit but if the rally is done it will be a two hour visit from Bob Wiecowski.
Chair Symonds also states that starting next quarter she will be working in Wiecowski’s Office so it will be much easier to plan.
39:08-44:11

X. Informational Item-CHESS
Chair Symonds states that the California Higher Education Student Summit is taking place April 19th, 2012 –April 23rd, 2012 and is looking to send five students for those four days. It is a conference in Sacramento in which the students will learn how to lobby. Then Monday there is a big lobbying day in which the legislature will be lobbied. She also indicates to the committee to let her know if they have interest on attending CHESS. President Prado indicated that the Legislative and Lobby Core Committees can send a total of 5 students.
The April 20th, 2012 committee meeting will have to be rescheduled and also if Wieczowski shows up the May 18th, 2012 committee meeting will have to be rescheduled.

The committee discusses meeting times.

Chair Symonds states that the committee members can send her an email if they are interested in attending the CHESS Conference.

44:15-47:32

XI. Roundtable Remarks

Symonds: indicates to the committee that this was a great meeting overall.

Chang: states that it is pretty simple on what the priorities are for the committee members, for him, he states that he will reach out to the constituents to see if he can get as many candidates as possible for the upcoming Debate event. He would also like to see as the committee does the planning that we get as much support from the University as possible, being that they have an increased amount of resources. Today's tasks are going to be assigned to the committee members and would like to see them on a master calendar with due dates to assure that the tasks will be completed.

Cruekdad: states that he does not have a problem going to different organizations.

Hebert: states that the committee had a good meeting and he will be forwarding the requests for the publicity, it will be good if the committee has an item on the agenda for the April 4th. ASI Board Meeting and for the earliest Academic Senate Meeting. Also, he will do what he can so that the faculty members know about the opportunity. As soon as the committee puts out something in print he would be more than happy to generate a University Communiqué for the campus.

XII. Adjournment

Motion: () to adjourn meeting at 3:03pm.

Motion Carries

Minutes Reviewed by:
Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
Name: Courtney Symonds

44:15-47:32

Minutes Approved on:
04-06-12

Date

"Students working for Students!"