ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
CAL STATE EAST BAY

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External Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes for January 27th, 2012

I. Call to Order: Chair **Laluan** calls meeting to order at **11:14am.**

***indicates member is present at the start of meeting**

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present	Absent Members	Guests
*Mark Allen T. Laluan	Jesseca Stone	Randy Saffold
*Danielle Anderson		
*Melanie Sutrathada		
*Chinna Ford		
*Derek Volk		
*Cesar Lafarga		
*Stan Hebert		

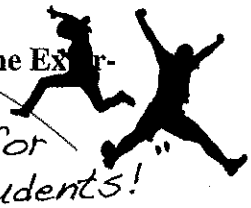
III. Action Item – Approval of the Agenda
Motion: (Anderson) to approve the agenda.
Motion Carries

IV. Action Item – Approval of the Minutes of May 25th, 2011
Approval of the Minutes of June 1st, 2011

Motion: (Sutrathada) to approve the minutes of May 25th. 2011
Motion Carries.
Motion: (Ford) to approve the minutes of June 1st, 2011
Motion Carries.

V. Emergency Action Item – Appointing the Vice Chair of the External Committee.
The Committee will vote on appointing the Vice Chair of the ASI External Committee for 2011-2012.
VP **Laluan** states that the eligibility requirements are such, and can only be taken from a student-at-large. We have one student-at-large. VP **Laluan** addresses student-at-large **Anderson** about the duties of vice chairs. VP **Laluan** states that she will work with him on recording the minutes, taking notes during the meeting, coordinating resolutions, and working on scholarships.

Motion: (Ford) to nominate Danielle Anderson as the vice chairs of the External Affairs Committee.
Motion Carries.



"Students working for Students!"

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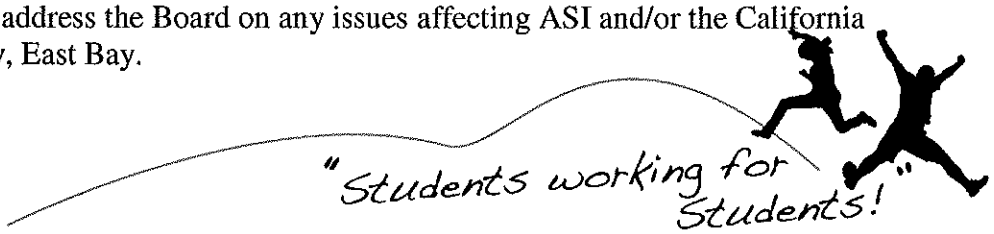
VI. Emergency Special Presentation

A. Chairman **Laluan** will speak briefly on both the purpose as well as the mandate of the External Affairs Committee.
VP **Laluan** states that we deal with issues that are external to ASI. We deal with the University Administration, the foundation, the faculty, academics, and we will be working with the local community. Our mandate is to interact with factors within our region. When we are drafting resolutions or policy points and other forms of advocacy, let's keep in mind that we want to bring in as many people on board as possible, which would be students, staff, faculty, administrators, and local community especially. What I would like to see is more outreach in the city of Hayward overall.

B. Chairman **Laluan** will report briefly on the proceedings of the Academic Senate.
VP **Laluan** states that he appreciates those who came out to the Academic Senate meeting. It's extremely important. In the last three to four meetings, every vote that has come up has been decided by students. The faculty split has been even. I want to bring a specific example from the last meeting which is the FDEC proposal. It's a faculty of diversity committee. **Ford** states that it is a faculty of diversity committee that helps to explore diversity within the university. **Hebert** states that the Faculty Diversity and Equity Committee are taking on a university responsibility for outlining competency with respect to diversity. When we were going through our accreditation it was one of those items where it was not clear what it meant because we don't select students based on any particular diversity criteria. It's included as an element that searches new staff and faculty hires, but it isn't always clear when we have met any kind of recognized level of success with respect to diversity. The committee is trying to explore how we can measure those areas in success and diversity. They also produce the annual diversity day which is a showcase of the various efforts around the campus. Those efforts include academic efforts, student club efforts, and campus activities that are connected to diversity. VP **Laluan** states that he was very pleased that students used a decisive voice from keeping the committee being "watered down". I am pleased with the outcome. At the next Academic Senate meeting I'm going to assume that they will be taking up the CSU Online Initiative or at least the faculties stand point. I really look forward to seeing our student senators out there continuing to display their voice.

VII. 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.



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VIII. ACTION CALENDAR

A. New Business

1. Emergency Discussion Item: Student Advocacy Feasibility Reviews

VP **Laluan** states that we had a big agenda when we were talking to students during election process and even into the summer. We had many concerns filtered down from them. It's important to focus on what we can achieve and do, whether it's laying a foundation now, for future action, or for something we can get done with the remaining time we have as a board.

a) Resolution in favor of a campus clean air bus.

VP **Laluan** states that there was discussion at the beginning of summer about if it were feasible to go to our current transportation arrangements and maybe work towards adopting a clean air bus proposal. This is something that would be more environmentally friendly. I want the committee's thoughts as to if this is feasible or if this is workable, given our current economic constraints.

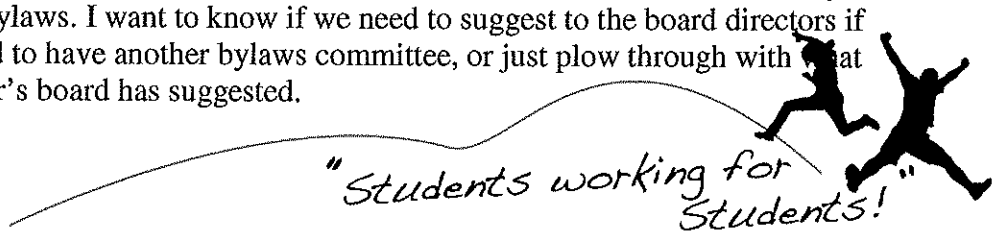
Ford gives her thoughts on grants and states that she will put in more research to see if there is any way that we can be reimbursed for it. There probably is some type of way, especially if it's for being environmentally friendly.

ED **Safford** proposes that ASI does not put itself into the position of trying to propose that we get into the business of clean bus. University Enterprise Operations handles that. I don't think it will be a situation where we would be looking to reimburse anyone for anything. ASI is not in a position to reimburse the university as we are battling a $500,000 deficit. From the stand point of being in support of sustainability initiatives, I would encourage us to seek partnership with other groups that are dealing with sustainability issues on campus to talk about more strategic ways as to if we are moving this forward or not.

VP **Laluan** states that it's important to realize that this is something that would take more than six months. It requires an environmental study. There are also the financial reasons that ED **Saffold** laid out. My own personal recommendation is that it is not within our mandate to flip the bill for a project this large.

b) Proposal to revisit and review bylaws before scheduling a referendum for their approval.

VP **Laluan** states that he wants the committee member's thoughts on this topic. On other occasions I know privately assembled members have expressed their reservations about moving forward without review or changes to the bylaws. I want to know if we need to suggest to the board directors if we need to have another bylaws committee, or just plow through with what last year's board has suggested.



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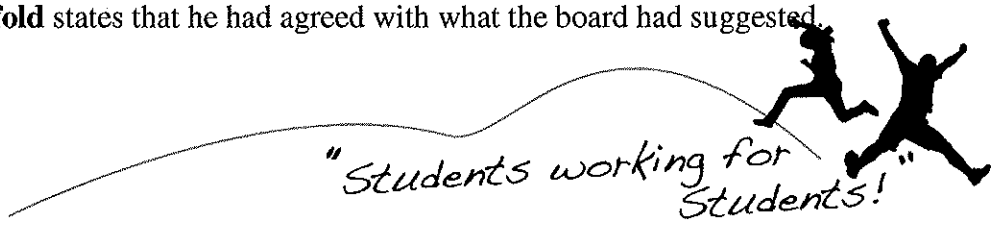
Sutrathada states that she does not think there has to be a bylaws committee, but as a board we do need to re-visit these bylaws because I do not think everyone has read through them and understands them properly.
Hebert states that he supports what **Sutrathada** has suggested. This group can take the leadership of making sure the bylaws and versions are clear, and what is expected from board members in terms of review, is very clear. The External Affairs Committee can make sure that the calendar that we need to go through in order to have a referendum is very clear.
VP **Laluan** states that his thoughts are in agreement. As a committee, we should take into account to look over the bylaws.

c) Resolution against the implementation of a CSSA Stability Fee; a $1 to $2 per levied on all CSU students to support CSSA activities.
VP **Laluan** states that from his understanding last year's CSSA board, they wanted a way to support their staff members to make sure that they have a level of funding that they can predict from year to year so that they can make choices. From what I've heard, the stability fee is not being put up for a vote with the current CSSA board. They are just mandating it through from last year. After talking with Frank Quintana and Christopher Prado, our CSSA reps, I'm suggesting that we start discussions on a resolution to oppose this move.
ED **Saffold** states that he would highly stand against the idea a one to two dollar per student fee. We don't have a $13,000 line item to give CSSA annually in addition to the dues we pay CSSA currently. It's not anything that I would recommend. I understand that they need additional support, but I do not think that is the way to do it based on student charge.

2. Emergency Discussion Item: Discussion about concerns regarding a proposal for a "Great Debate" between local congressional candidates.
   - VP **Laluan** states that the Legislative Affairs had volunteered to take the lead on this. One concern I did have was how moderators would be picked and how questions would be forwarded.
   - **Ford** states that one of her concerns if the students will be able to vote for this which we know a majority of them won't be able to, but I appreciate having a political atmosphere.
   - Chair **Laluan** states that it is definitely important to bring the candidates and students and to let them know that they work for us, and it's not the other way around. I am certainly supportive of their efforts, and I hope that we can work to create something that is non-bias that will really appeal to all demographics and all concerns.
   - ED **Saffold** states that he had agreed with what the board had suggested.



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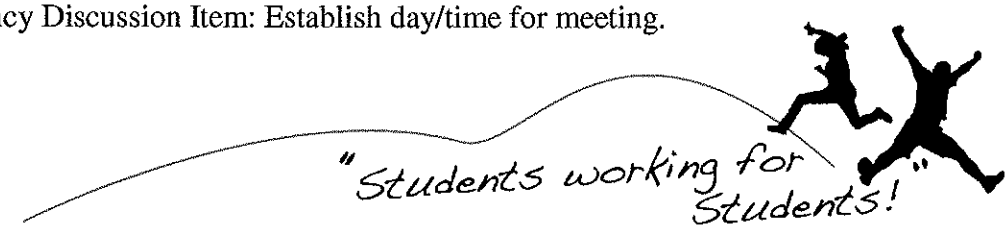
This should be a student-led activity as opposed to being externally led. The Legislative Affairs committee is forming a task group to identify who the moderators will be. The committee will generate all the questions for this event as well as handle all the things that need to be done. One of my concerns was just having a group coming on campus to use us for a free rent, but we gave control to East Bay students over how this will turn out. Another concern is having it as an all-day event, but scheduling will take place for this activity as soon as possible.

3. Emergency Discussion Item: Process for revising current ASI scholarship regulations.
   - VP **Laluan** explains that they may be scholarships, but the way they are written they look like grants. In a grant, you have to meet a certain stipulation by a certain time and day. As a graduate student, I like grants, but if we are talking about scholarships targeted towards undergraduate students, they might not necessarily need $1800 to do research. We should look at ways to make these scholarships more manageable and accessible to students especially undergraduates. Looking over the scholarships, our highest one is $1800.
   - ED **Saffold** states that he spends a lot of time talking with university officials, finance people, and members of the board to talk about what went wrong with this. As Mark said, you don't give a scholarship as a grant, and you can't have a scholarship have criteria after the fact. We told students in the summer and spring that they had a scholarship, but in the fall we told them we were taking it away because they didn't jump through this little hoop we had set up for them. In my opinion, ASI can do this campus a service by making them smaller amounts because since we put so many regulations on them was because we wanted to make sure that people weren't wasting the money. If you're giving a $1000 scholarship, I'd be concerned if they were doing that. If you give recipients a scholarship of $250 or $500 you can now double the number of students that have access to the scholarships. Scholarships are based on your past performance, not your future performance. If you merited enough to get a scholarship, we then hand them the money. They don't have to get C's, B's or A's to get your second installment. We were giving scholarships over multiple quarters, and then requiring them to jump through hoops to get the second portion, but that's not a scholarship; that's a grant. The will get one lump sum without all of these bad criteria on the back end of it. Then the whole process becomes much more manageable.
4. Emergency Discussion Item: Establish day/time for meeting.



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- VP **Laluan** states that he wants a convenient time for everyone. He states that Friday is the convenient time for everyone to meet. The committee will meet every other week. The requirement is to meet twice a month.

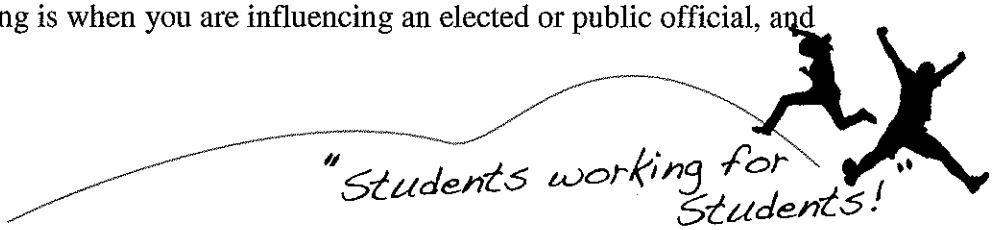
IX. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

Sutrathada: I'm excited to be on the ball with this committee. We're going to do a lot of great things. What I would like everyone to do is to bring two or three people to the meeting. We are here to serve the students, but there are no students for public comment. Therefore, I feel as if we are failing them. They need to be here as well. A lot of it has to do with not knowing, so if we could inform them that would be amazing.

Lafarga: I'm glad to be here and to learn more about what we do and what we can do for the students. I heard a few concerns about students complaining about how dirty the classrooms are. Can we talk about this? People have told me they cannot put their backpacks on the floor because they are so dirty. So I was wondering who we can talk to about this. ED **Saffold** states that Chris Brown who is the Deputy VP for Enterprise Operations and Facilities has offered to come to Board meetings and talk about what he does. I think it is quite possible to extend an invitation for him to come to a committee meeting as well, to talk about some of the external things that have nothing to do with ASI. These are concerns that students have told us, therefore we should inform him. **Hebert** suggests that Chris Brown be aware of the concern prior to coming as a guest to the meeting. If he does have some solutions or a response, he can address it at that time. VP **Laluan** states I was not sure if we had a mandate for facilities, maintenance, and concerns. ED **Saffold** states that is a legitimate external affairs related item. It is external to ASI, but it is still important to students. If you kicked it up to the board level, that's also an option for you to tell the Board of Directors that we should be dealing with all student concerns, large or small.

ED **Saffold:** states that someone has approached me with parking. They want to understand why the meters are for an hour, but their classes are an hour and a half. The question she wants to know if we could have meters on campus that are an hour and forty-five minutes so students can come seven minutes before class and have seven minutes after class to get back and leave and not get ticketed. I've encouraged that person to come talk during public forum to the board. This might be an issue you would want to bring up as an external issue and share in advance.

Hebert: congrats to Danielle on your victory as newly elected vice chair. I want to talk about lobbying and advocacy. It is part of the job for ASI members to support the cause or proposals as they come from the students or the board, and that is advocacy. Lobbying is when you are influencing an elected or public official, and



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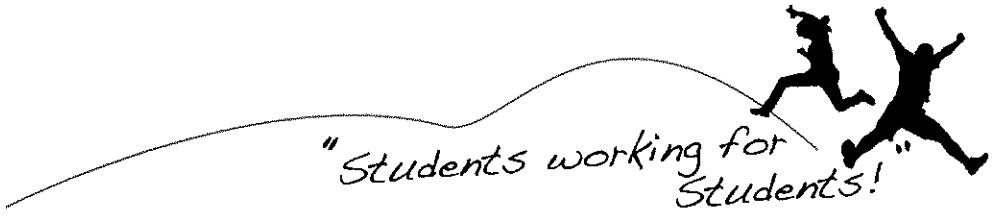
Influencing their decisions. That's not the job; that is an activity that's associated with another arm that has been developed. That's only been a recent part of ASI, that's not the legacy of ASI or even CSSA. Within the last five years, a lot of these efforts have grown, and it can take all of your energy because influencing public officials is a full time preoccupation of many paid professionals. Then what happens to the 14,000 of Cal State East Bay when they want advocates for dirty floors, parking meters, and other things that are real important to their success as students. Just a little reminder, advocacy is your embrace, and lobbying is not the embrace of the board members, but an activity that we can casually get involved with through legislative days.

Ford: I'm thankful for participating on this board. I want to congratulate Danielle for the new position. I also want to say that I love advocating for my fellow peers, and I'm happy to help them achieve a higher education.

Anderson: thank you all for the warm welcome. I appreciate you nominating me for this position. This is my first time with being involved with anything like this, so it is a little nerve-racking as it is exciting. My head is in an area of informative things for the students. My biggest thing is for people to be informed. My concern is that not many people know about ASI. It's good for me to be in this area so I can soak in all the information. I apologize for not talking as much, but I'm a sponge right now just soaking it all in. I'm educating myself so I can relate to information and other people. I'm happy to be here.

Laluan: congratulations Danielle. I look forward to working with you. I look forward to working with everyone especially on scholarships. It's going to be quite a bit of work to have them all revised. The primary objective to this committee of ASI is to benefit students on campus, and if we're not getting them out to these meetings, then we failing at our job. If we aren't making a difference on this campus, and aren't impacting students at this level, then we don't deserve to go to out places such as Sacramento or Long Beach. That's student money not spent well. I want everyone to bare that in mind. If we're not accomplishing our primary mandate or goal, which is to serve Cal State East Bay here, then we're not doing our jobs.

Volk: students were upset about funding for clubs and organizations. I heard that students had to go through a lot when it came to that. VP **Laluan** states that if you want, we can arrange a meeting with Siddharth to talk about that and you could bring the club leaders who have experienced some dismay with the process to that meeting. I heard the same in my interactions as well. I think it's too early in the game to know if it's because of the process itself, or if there is a lack of communication on all ends. I really think it's too early to pass judgment on the new funding policies.



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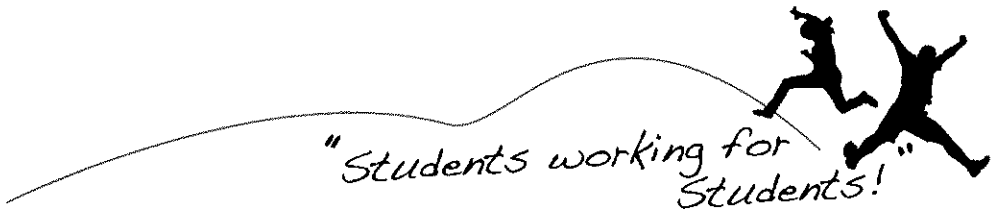
X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: () to adjourn meeting at 12:08pm.
Motion Carries.

Minutes Reviewed by:
External Affairs Committee Chair
Name: Mark Allen T. Laluan
Mark Allen T. Laluan
Minutes approved on:
02-23-12
Date: