**Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes for March 2nd, 2012**

1. **Call to order**: Chair **Symonds** calls meeting to order at **2:02pm.**
2. **Roll call**

Members Present Absent Members Guests

Courtney Symonds Laurel O’ Brien J. Pablo Benavente

Sita Ream-Rao Lyla Pehrson

Jerry Chang Stan Hebert

Abby Andrade

Ian Crueldad

Chris Prado

1. **Action Item - Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion: (Crueldad) to approve the agenda.**

**Motion Carries.**

1. **Action item- Approval of the January 20th, 2012 Minutes.**

**Motion: (Ream-Rao) to approve the January 20th, 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.

1. **Action Item** – Approval of Lobby Corps Chair

The Committee will elect and approve a chair of the Lobby Corps Committee.

Chair **Symonds** states that we need to re-approve a new Lobby Corps Chair. If there is anybody interested, please speak up.

**Motion: (Ream-Rao) to approve Ian Crueldad as the new Lobby Corp Chair.**

**Ream-Rao** states that **Crueldad** has made a great effort to make the Candidate Debate happen. He is a responsible person that will be able to take the Lobby Corps in a great direction, and he has the knowledge on how to do so.

Chair **Symonds** explains the role of the Lobby Corps Chair and states that they will work with her and will lead as well as run the area of lobbying within Legislative Affairs.

**Crueldad** states that he has done lobbying before and he has been doing it for quite some time.

President **Prado** states that **Crueldad** is dedicated. He has gone out of his way many times

to invite me to different political events even though he doesn’t have to. He has worked on several campaigns before; therefore I think he is a good recommendation for Lobby Corps Chair.

**Motion Carries.**  6:57

1. **Information Item** – March 5th – March for Higher Education

Chair **Symonds** states that the ASI Board elected to not fund the busses to go to the event; however the event is still going to happen.

President **Prado** states that the original idea was to get a bus and have the members of the Board and students ride the bus to the event. I think the Board generally came to a consensus that it was not advertised and there weren’t a lot of the efforts and resources, and paying a couple hundred or thousands of dollars for a bus didn’t justify that. March 5th is a national day of action in support of higher education. There is a rally that will be held on Monday from 10am-12pm. A group called Occupy Education and other education activists will be there hosting other events throughout the entire day. That is what March 5th is, and this year it’s going to be a largest turn out ever. If you want to go, the California Faculty Association which is mainly the teacher and professors on campus still has room on their bus. Email me if you would like to go, and I will give you the information to get signed up for that. This is one of the biggest days this year. 9:38

1. **Information Item** – Debate

Chair **Symonds** states that we are still planning the big debate between candidates for next quarter. We have a proposed date that we would like to approve for the next action item. The proposed date is April 29th. It was very difficult to find a date that worked with reservations and with candidates and other schedules. April 29th was suggested; other dates included May 4th and 5th as well as April 6th, but there is a religious holiday on that day. April 29th is a Sunday which provides a concern about attendance, but the event was marketed to the community, therefore the community will be coming as well. 10:56

1. **Action Item** – Approval of Debate Date and Time

The committee will consider the approval of the proposed debate and time for the candidate debate.

**Motion: (Crueldad) to approve the April 29th as the date for the candidate debate.**

**Motions Carries.**

Chair **Symonds** states that 11:30am-4pm was the suggested time for the event.

**Motion: (Ream-Rao) to approve the 11:30am-4pm time slot for the Candidate Debate on April 29th.**

**Motion Carries.** 14:21

1. **Information Item** – Questions for Debate

Chair **Symonds** states that the committee needs to discuss the idea of questions for the debate and how we want to choose who will pick the questions as well as who converts the questions. Chair **Symonds** yields the floor to the committee for discussions on how the questions will be selected.

**Ream-Rao** states that an idea that was talked about was opening it up to students, and having them submit questions to an email, and as a committee, we can look through them and approve certain questions to be asked during the debate. We want to make sure that we have students input. We can reach out to student groups on campus by emailing them. Chair **Symonds** suggests that there be a mass email sent out to student that would state looking for questions and submit to this email. 17:09

1. **Action Item**– Approval of Sub-Committee

The committee will consider the approval of a debate sub-committee and approve members for this committee.

Chair **Symonds** states the idea was to create a sub-committee out of this legislative affairs committee for people to make decisions about the debate and report that information back to the committee. We won’t have to make all the decisions during meetings; we’ll have a committee to work on it separately.

**Motion: (Crueldad) to approve the idea of a sub-committee.**

Chair **Symonds** states that we will approve the sub-committee and we’ll pick three people to be a part of that committee.

**Motion Carries.**

Chair **Symonds** states that each member who wants to be a part of the sub-committee will speak on why they feel they should be on the committee.

**Crueldad** states that he should be in the sub-committee because he has been reaching out to some of the candidates and they have the ability communicate with him if they need anything. I also have other political organizations in which I’ve been reaching out to as well. I’m also am a main person coordinating the event.

**Chang** states that he has been trying to reach out to his college, the college of engineering, to get students to be more motivated about what’s happening on campus. I have been reaching out to a lot of these student groups and have tried to motivate them to join events. It’s important to get the students to care and that’s something I want to be able to bring to the candidates. I also want to make sure things are fair and balanced.

**Ream-Rao** states that she would like to be a part of the committee because I think candidate debates are always interesting, and I have done three debates for mayor races in Sacramento and other open forums with candidates. I can bring that knowledge to the table, and I believe that I’m detail-oriented and task-focused; therefore I can keep things on track.

**Andrade** states that she does not care whether or not she is or isn’t on the committee, but she’d love to work with **Ream-Rao** on the side.

**Motion: (Crueldad) to approve Ian Crueldad, Jerry Chang, and Sita Ream-Rao for the sub-committee.**

**Motion Carries.** 21:54

1. **Action Item** - Approval Meeting Time

The committee will consider the approval of every other Friday at 2 pm for the meeting time.

**Ream-Rao** suggests that the committee have a calendar as a reminder for the upcoming meetings. **Crueldad** makes the suggestion to approve the 2pm time and make a calendar later.

**Motion: (Chang) to approve the 2pm meeting time.**

**Motion Carries.** 23:43

1. **Roundtable Remarks**

**Chang:** I just want to introduce myself. My name is Jerry and I am a graduate student here. I work with the Environmental Affairs on environmental related stuff. I work with a lot of the engineering groups in trying to organize the cross between department groups like tying together the sciences, engineering, and business department. We share the same buildings, we go to the same classes, but there is nothing connecting us.

Those are the things that I’m working on right now.

**Ream-Rao:** My name is Sita and I am a junior here. I am a political science pre-law major with an environmental studies minor.

**Crueldad:** My name is Ian, and I am a freshman. I am a political science and economics major.

**Andrade:** I’m Abby. I’m an ethnic studies major with a minor in youth service administration. I’m a senior.

**Pablo Benavente:** I’m Pablo and I’m a double major in music and political science pre-law.

**Prado:** My name is Christopher Prado. My formal title is ASI President and I’m also a political science major as well. I want to commend you guys for your maturity and being able to handle the transition of the new chair. I know that was difficult for a lot of us. I think that Courtney’s leadership, lobbying experience, and ability to recognize different forms of political ways of bringing out social change through politics would give good direction to the committee. I’m excited to see the candidate debate, and I think that’s pretty big for our campus. I’m glad you guys are investing your time in that.

**Symonds:** I’m Courtney and I’m a senior. I am the new Director for Legislative Affairs as well as the chair for the committee. I’m pretty excited to be here and work with you guys. I have some cool events coming up that I’ve been working on. I don’t have dates, but I’ve been working on trying to get an assembly member to come here to talk to students about the economy and about the job situation after college. I know that’s and issue for a lot of students as to what’s going to happen after they graduate. I think we have a lot of good stuff planned.

XIV. **Adjournment**

**Motion: () to adjourn meeting at 2:30pm.**

**Motion Carries.**

Minutes Reviewed by:

**Legislative Affairs Committee Chair\_\_\_\_**

**Name: Courtney Symonds**

Minutes Approved on:

**03-09-12\_\_\_\_**

**Date**