

**Elections Committee Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Yusufi calls meeting to order at **9:09AM.**
2. ROLL CALL

Members Present Absent Members Guest

Jalila Jones Stan Hebert Hendrix Erhahon

Anjila Yusufi Jordan Leopold

Asha Ravi Mohammed David Lopez

Ishita Thanki Stacey Acosta

Martin Castillo Nesreen Albanna

Marguerite Hinrichs Marie Ibarra

Ainsley Shallcross

Lil Brown-Parker

1. ACTION ITEM - **Approval of the Agenda**

**Amendment I: (Mohammed) to add DISCUSSION ITEM – Grievances and DISCUSSION ITEM – T-Shirts as discussion items 1 and 2.**

**Amendment carries.**

**Agenda approved as amended.**

1. ACTION ITEM – **Approval of the Minutes of April 10, 2015**

– **Approval of the Minutes of April 17, 2015**

**Motion: (Thanki) to approve the meeting minutes of April 10, 2015 and April 17, 2015.**

**Motion carries.**

1. 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.

1. DISCUSSION ITEM – **Grievances**

Chair Yusufi discusses the following:

* There have been a couple of grievances that have been filed!
  + Grievance 1- **Shallcross** had a grievance filed against her by Alexandra Staville for speaking at a RHA meeting at housing on Tuesday April 21st when campaigning did not actually start until Wednesday April 22nd.
  + **Shallcross** states that she in fact did speak at the RHA meeting on Tuesday but prior to speaking she asked at the mandatory candidate meeting if she could speak at the meeting and they gave her an okay. She doubled checked and asked **Castillo** if she could and he told

her she could as well. She also emailed the RHA president asking if she could attend the meeting and speak and the RHA president allowed her to do so.

* + Chair **Yusufi** states that there was no date clarified, she does remember **Shallcross** asking about talking at the RHA meeting but it was not brought to attention that it was going to be on a Tuesday.
  + **Shallcross** stated that general assemblies are always Tuesdays at 7PM. She also states that when she spoke with **Castillo**, he stated that anything after Tuesday 2:30PM is okay.
  + **Castillo** states that he has already spoken with Dean of Students **Hebert** and owns the mistake. It was to his understanding that campaigning could begin right after the last mandatory candidate meeting. Since the RHA meeting was at 7PM that Tuesday night then he thought it would be okay. He believes that this situation was a matter of miscommunication.
  + **Lopez** spoke on behalf of Alexandra and retracts the grievance.
  + Grievance 2 – The slate League of Achievers had a grievance filed against by Stacey Acosta for posting lawn signs on the grass.
  + Chair **Yusufi** stated that she believed she had made it clear at the mandatory candidate meeting that posting on the middle of the grass what not allowed because they did not want to make it inconvenience for those mowing the lawn. However, there were signs on the edge of the lawn therefore it was not causing any conflict or inconvenience.
  + **Erhahon** stated that as soon as he saw where the sign was posted on the grass he immediately moved it.
  + **Lopez** stated that on the landscaping policy it states that you cannot post on the grass.
  + **Acosta** stated that when she attended the mandatory candidate meeting it was stated that you cannot post on the grass and it was to her understanding that it included all the grass. She asked the committee what was meant when they stated that at the meeting.
  + Chair **Yusufi** stated that basically the rule for posting on the grass is to post it on the side of it not at the middle.
  + **Motion: (Jones) to allow all candidates to post their lawn signs on the edge of the lawn rather than in the middle of the grass.**

**Motion carries.**

* + Grievance 3 – Posting over other postings not necessarily some other candidate’s poster. The grievances filed against were Rahul Anand, Sujeeth Kumar, LOA, Christina Sanchez, Silvia Ortez, Surpreet Narula, and Anum Ahmed.
  + **Hinrichs** states that as long as the candidate gets permission from the department to post on the department’s board then it is okay for them to post on it. She also stated that it is not clear if what a candidate posted over is out dated and that is it an important thing to note. She believes that it’s important to clarify to candidates that when they are going to post something that they should utilize a little bit of courtesy and a whole lot of common sense in terms of what they are covering.
  + **Castillo** states that it is very important to be careful with these situations. So unless you see who is actually posting the flyer it could easily be somebody moving the flyer and sabotaging someone else, this situation has be handled from a certain perspective.
  + Grievance 4 – Double Posting
  + **Jones** states that on every department board there is a note that states that you cannot double post. Every candidate should read that before they post something up. She also states that when you ask the department whether you can post something on the board it is only allowed to post once.
  + **Thanki** stated that it should be cleared to all candidates that one candidate cannot move another candidate’s poster.
  + **Lopez** stated that if grievances are being filed and none of them are actually going through then why should there be grievances submitted.
  + **Jones** stated that the grievances that have been submitted do not have enough evidence for the committee to go ahead a take action on them.
  + Chair **Yusufi** stated that it was mentioned in the candidate mandatory meeting by Interim Executive Director **Pinlac** and herself that many times grievances do not go through because there is not enough evidence.
  + **Motion: (Jones) to make it a warning for covering flyers for a specific candidate and after that they have two more strikes before they are not eligible to run.**
  + **Lopez** suggests that when sending out the warning there also be a timeline by when the candidates should fix what is wrong.
  + **Hinrichs** states that there should be a remedy provided for the candidates to reposition, repost or remove inappropriately placed posters.
  + **Castillo** wanted to point out to the candidates present at the meeting that it is going to the thing that each candidate be responsible for their own flyer whether they posted it or not. Candidates might have to be urged to have friends constantly checking that they are not in violation of posting in inappropriate places. Three strikes and you are ineligible to run.
  + **Acosta** suggests that for next elections to make sure to go back and review all loop holes because she was under different impression when she attended the candidate mandatory meeting. She states that she was following the rules stated at the meeting however the rules are not specific.
  + **Motion carries.**
  + Chair **Yusufi** will be sending out an email to all candidates.
  + **Motion: (Thanki) for all the candidates that have double posting on the boards to get a warning, 2 more warning following the 1st warning will make the candidate ineligible**.
  + **Lopez** states that there is no evidence that states that one cannot double post on general boards.
  + **Acosta** states that she has an issue with the entire meeting discussing all these topics. To her the motions seem bias being that a candidate’s twin is on the committee.
  + Chair **Yusufi** states that everyone on the committee is a student and everyone can possibly have a friend running for any position and she does not believe it is fair to prevent someone from serving on the committee because he/she has a friend or a sibling running for a position. She states that everyone on the committee is expected to not be biased.
  + **Jones** reiterates that the committee runs on Robert’s Rule of Order which means that majority votes rules in a favor or a motion.
  + **Castillo** states that if a specific grievance is against a family member, as advisors, Castillo and others would ask for example Jones to step out but there has not been any grievance filed against her sister.
  + **Acosta** states that she feels some kind of attitude towards other candidates when she is present at the committee meeting because she had heard the rules at the meeting and she is following all the rules and there was no rule that stated there cannot be double posting.
  + Chair **Yusufi** states that on the posting policy it states that duplicate signs on the same bulletin board will be removed. She states that she referred to this policy during the candidate mandatory meeting.
  + **Hinrichs** states the purpose of filing grievances is for the committee to come to a resolution. Part of submitting a grievance when the rules are not clear is help the committee find a solution.
  + **Acosta** states if it is then possible for the committee to send out an email to all the candidates the new set of rules but it is now unclear what is and is not a grievance. She also wishes for it to be reiterated what is document proof, because at the candidate mandatory meeting it was stated that pictures are document proof but now it is being said that it is not proof because it is a “she said he said” type or thing.
  + **Hinrichs** states that part of the resolution is to send out an email that states what the rules are to all the candidates.
  + Chair **Yusufi** agrees that there is an email that needs to be sent out but the specifics do have to be addressed. She states that wording in the email is key.
  + **Motion: (Jones) to give all those candidates that have done double posting, a warning and 24 hours to fix it and after that they have two more strikes before they are ineligible.**
  + **Leopold** asks just to clarify if a slate poster plus an individual candidate poster does not count as double posting.
  + Chair **Yusufi** states that no, it does not count as double posting, if a slate flyer and a candidates individual flyer is on a bulletin board.
  + **Albanna** states that it was in fact stated to not post on top of other people’s posters in the candidates mandatory meeting, however it was not stated that it was not allowed to double post.
  + **Castillo** states that it was stated at the meeting and it is in the actual rules.
  + Chair **Yusufi** states that the candidates were hold responsible for reading through the elections codes and through all the policies. It was reiterated during the meeting to make sure to read the elections codes to read the policies to know the rules and to know the regulations.
  + **Albanna** states that it does not seem fair to get a warning when they were not even told that double posting was something that could not be done.
  + **Motion carries.**
  + **Lopez** states that he read the elections codes and there was nothing on there that mentions double posting and that it is not allowed.
  + Dean of Students **Hebert** states that on the university posting policy, which is what the elections codes has reflected in the past, does state that there is no double posting allowed in the general posting board.
  + Grievance 5- **Albanna** filed grievance for removal of her posters in the south science and the north science building.
  + **Albanna** stated that it is not allowed to post on the office doors or by the office unless allowed by the department or professor. She stated that she went to talk to the department and to all the teachers to ask for permission to post her poster up in every office. When she goes back she sees that all her posters are gone but Christina Sanchez’s are up.
  + Jones asks Albanna to provide pictures that here posters were up right where Christina Sanchez’s are up now. She also asked to know who the person that gave her permission to post is.
  + **Albanna** stated that the person who she asked and gave her permission was Andy Dobin, the department head. She states that Jason Singly’s door was one of the offices that she posted on.
  + Dean of Students **Hebert** states it was allowed for students to speak to departments and ask for permission to post posters up, but if a department said yes to one person it should be fair and say yes to the rest of the students that go up to the department and asks as well. With that in mind and if there is a limited amount of space to post then candidates should have smaller posters or the Department should at least be aware that such requests to post posters up will or could come from multiple people so that they have a solution for such cases.
  + **Motion: (Jones) to consider a grievance against Christina Sanchez by**

**Nesreen Albanna for removal of posters.**

**Motion carries.**

**1:06:05**

1. DISCUSSION ITEM – **T-Shirts**

Chair **Yusufi** discusses the following:

* The committee decided that the 1,500 t-shirts received will be passed out to encourage people to vote.
* The committee was under the impression that the committee had regulations in terms of the way that the shirts will be distributed.
* The committee started tabling last week and passing some shirts out however the ASI president, **Alhathal** went up to them and stated that they were not allowed to pass out the t-shirts until the actual days of elections because the current Board of Directors decided so they packed up.
* The elections committee decided that they were going to distribute the shirts whether it was elections day or not because it is a marketing tool and there is no point in having the t-shirts packed up in boxes when students could be wearing them and promoting it to others to vote.
* **Castillo** stated that he believes that it was a matter of miscommunication and that initially it was possibly on the board’s plans for the shirt’s to be an incentive.
* **Leopold** states that the intent for the shirts were to act as incentive to get students to vote not for promotional purposes.
* Chair **Yusufi** states that there seems to be too much overlapping of the Board of Directors in the elections committee decisions/actions.
* **Brown-Parker** states that it is recorded in the Board of Director’s meeting minutes the whole discussion about the t-shirts, where the money for them came from and how they were going to be distributed.
* **Ibarra** goes on and reads the section that talks about the shirts on the Board of Director’s meeting minutes.
* **Hinrichs** states that this is a complete conflict of interests and it should be resolved. In the future she states that the board should not be making decisions for a committee that has not even been formed. The whole situation created a confusion for everyone and then everyone was confused with their role was. It was thought that the Elections Committee was given a tool from the ASI Board of Directors but it was not specify that it had to be used in a specific way. For next year she suggested that the Elections Committee be appointed in the fall in that way they have time to get things done.
* **Castillo** stated that he is researching other schools to see how it is that they do their process when it comes to elections. He does see how it is a problem the whole situation that occurred.
* Chair **Yusufi** stated that it seems that the Elections Committee has no control or power over what to do with the t-shirts.
* **Brown-Parker** states that it not a matter power but a matter of policy and following the procedure and utilizing the intention.
* **Thanki** believes that it is a waste of time arguing over t-shirts.
* **Leopold** believes having the t-shirts as incentives vs for promotion purposes is much more stronger because for doing a certain action you get a reward.
* **Mohammed** states that everyone should be in the loop of what is going on so that there is no more miscommunication.
* It was decided that the elections committee can do what they want with the buttons since there was no decision made previously about how they were going to be passed out. However, the shirts will be distributed during the elections voting period as it was decided by the ASI Board.

**1:29:15**

VII. DISCUSSION ITEM – **Marketing**

Chair **Yusufi** yields the floor to **Ibarra** to address the following:

* The marketing team came up with images for the count to voting
* **Ibarra** will be sending those out to the committee
* Dean of Students **Hebert** asked if the marketing department were the ones that took care of the candidate’s statements.
* **Ibarra** stated yes, the marketing department were the ones that took care of the candidate’s statements.
* Dean of Student’s **Hebert** states that they did a good job.
* **Brown-Parker** addresses the committee and states that if material or assignments are given to the
* Marketing Department and they do not want the material to be distributed right away to let the Marketing Department know or do not give the assignments way in advance since the Marketing

Department is on top of things and get work done really fast.

**1:30:58**

VIII.DISCUSSION ITEM – **Open Forums**

Chair **Yusufi** discusses the following:

* The Agora stage is reserved to have open forums from 11am to 2pm.
* Chair **Yusufi** will be emailing all the candidates
* There are 30 chairs and 2 tables that will be available
* Cake and coffee will be distributed, there is enough for up to 200 people
* Flyers have been created for the forum
* Some candidates have reached out to Chair **Yusufi** stating that they have to be in class by 12noon and so there will be rearrangements to when it is that students will be talking
* Candidates will be given 1-2 questions to answered at the open forum
* **Hinrichs** suggests that candidates give 3 main points relating to leadership at CSU East Bay
* Each candidate will have about 2 minutes to speak, possibly less
* Dean of Students **Hebert** recognizes Chair **Yusufi** and **Ibarra** for working late nights to make sure to get the information forwarded to the Pioneer. He thinks that the relationship developing with the Pioneer is going to be very positive moving forward.
* Chair **Yusufi** did want to say that some candidates did not get their pictures in the Pioneer because they did not get their pictures in on time.

**1:35:35**

IX. DISCUSSION ITEM — **Volunteers**

Chair **Yusufi** discusses the following:

* There are not so many volunteers
* Chair **Yusufi** has created a google document of volunteers and times that they are available to help
* **Hinrichs** will be sending out an email inviting student club leaders to volunteer their time. She will also be sending Student Life and leadership workers
* ASI will help also be posting it on Facebook.
* **Ibarra** states that she volunteers to help when she can.
* **Brown-Parker** stated that if she has extra customer service assistants she will send them to help as well

**1:37:49**

X. ROUNDTABLE REMARKS

**Lopez**: I think the Elections Committee is doing a great job and I applaud all of you. On behalf of all the candidates may you send an update on the boards? I speak on behalf of my candidates personally and we apologize for any heated moments at today’s meeting.

**Yusufi**: I can give you an update on the A frames, hopefully the Marketing team was able to print and laminate everything. Hopefully all the A frames will be up by today.

**Brown-Parker:** I did get a late email from Lindsey but I was not able to act on it. I will do what I can to get everything done.

**Erhahon**: I would like to say moving forward to the candidates to try and focus on your individual campaign and not anybody else’s because it is a takes the excitement from your campaign. So we should focus on our individual campaigns and move forward from that.

**Jones**: It was stated at the mandatory candidate meeting so please remember that grievance is not a means of winning. This is about the students of CSU East Bay not about yourself.

**Yusufi**: It’s a tough time for everybody. We are all passionate about making a difference on this campus, serving the students so great job with everybody for dealing with this pressure so far. Make sure that we are all nice and professional.

**1:14:05**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at **10:50AM**

Minutes reviewed by:

**Elections Committee Chair**

**Name: Anjila Yusufi**

Minutes approved on:

**5-1-15**

**Date:**