

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER at **12:12 PM**

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Daisy Maxion, Kabir Dhillon, Bronte Kuehnis, Riley Miller, Siddharth Valecha, Patricia Regalado, Daisy Padilla, Omer Shakoor, Euridice Sanchez-Martinez, Antoinette Milano, Martin Castillo, Erik Pinlac, Heather Gardley, Michael Lee, Andrew Yunker

Late: Melissa Baron, Tyler Engquist, Brittney Golez

Absent: Yajaira Ortega-Huerta, Lynn Vu, Mark Almeida, Tyler Schoh

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

Move to approve to approve the agenda by **S. Valecha**, second by **K. Dhillon**.

IV. ACTION ITEM - **Approval of the Minutes of February 19, 2020**

Motion to approve the minutes of February 19, 2020 by **E. Sanchez-Martinez**, second by **S. Valecha**.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – **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.**
No Public Comment.

VI. UNFINISHED ITEMS:
No Unfinished Items.

VII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. INFORMATION ITEM - **CHIRLA Presentation**

The Northern Region Organizer of CHIRLA Eva Jimenez will present the Board of Directors with information on the organization and its advocacy efforts.

B. Kuehnis states that the presenter had to cancel due to sickness and it will be rescheduled.

2:37

B. INFORMATION ITEM - **Referendum to Increase Student Fees**



The VP for Student Affairs will discuss with the Senate the preparation for a referendum to increase student fees taking place on April 14th and 15th.

Suzanne Espinoza states that the referendum is on increasing the UU fees and the RAW fees. The union and RAW are two entities that are linked. When they were established, the UU board at the time, was comprised of students and the idea was to expand the union that existed. They wanted a fee increase and it was provided to them. They realized that it was beneficial to build a new building than renovating the old one. They utilized the equity from the old building to build the new one. A few years later, the students leveraged the equity in both of the buildings. The first priority item is to build up a reserve. These two areas are serving supporting entities meaning that staff funding is not co-mingled with student fee revenue funds. These fees are strictly used to support the enterprise of the University Union and the RAW. For the past several years, we have had difficulty running the businesses with the funds that are being drawn. The RAW has had to reduce the building hours and you will notice that it is not open as many hours as it used to be. This year, it has affected staffing, the ability to renovate, and replace furniture. We had to reduce the budget of the RAW and the unions by \$15,000. It does not provide us with any cushion should enrollment fluctuate. The reason why I initiated this is that we don't have resources to continue managing the two enterprises. A little bit of background information regarding the UU, it used to be a cafeteria and the initial fee was \$22. In 2000, students approved the building of the second building, with the idea that they will get more for their money. The fee increased from \$55 to now \$82 per semester. Recreation and Wellness was established in 2007. At the time that it was approved, there was a gradual increase in the fee referendum. One of the things that the students did not think of at the time is the cost of living adjustment and that is one of the objectives for the fee increase. The fee increases due to the increase of student minimum wage. Utility costs have increased. We cut operating expenses in the RAW, reduced building hours and student assistant hours, and the number of student assistants as well. We are currently below our minimum reserve levels. One of the objectives is to increase the fee level that will allow for the effective and efficient management programming of the UU and RAW. That is a critical issue. If we do not get the fee, we will have to cut down on hours for the Unions and the RAW more than they are now. The second objective is to have a **colus**. If we had had a **colus**, we would be bringing the fee up to the level of what we are proposing now. It would have been a gradual increase and it would not be much of a shock. The third objective is to establish clearly that student focus program is an allowable expense for both the UU and the RAW. We included that because I walked into a huge debate a couple of years ago as to whether or not it was intended that the Union create funding for student programming. The students and staff assumed that was the case, but the language in the



original referendum did not state that. The fourth objective is to establish an advisory board, one for the UU enterprise and one for the RAW. The group would be comprised of a majority of students that would help make decisions as we move forward. The fifth objective is to use a portion of the fee revenues to renovate and expand the University Union, African-American student center, and Undocumented student center. These are requests that have been made to the Administration for years, but we do not have the space. Students feel very strongly about these initiatives and there may be other offices, programs, and services that students would like to have in the future. This particular fee increase will put us in the position where we would have the resources to address those. The benefits would be renovation. It sounds like students want to have a bigger space. If you look at the space on other campuses, they have much more that they offer to students. We are in the position where we would need to have a minimum increase to maintain the buildings. If we want to go out for renovation, we would have to save a minimum down payment. The most recent renovation for other campuses happens around \$16,000,000. I was recently at Stanislaus and they had four referendums for the renovation of their union. They lost three of them and the fourth one, they were able to pass. That particular referendum started off being very low and at the end of the day of the fourth referendum, they needed to ask for \$256 more per student per semester, in order to get the same renovation they started out with. If renovation and expansion is on our list, it is important to convince students and do it in the most cost effective way. The benefits of renovation would be many things. These are some ideas that student boards would help us to decide what we would do and how we can make the decisions. Some ideas would be to create a bigger food pantry and we have a small one currently. We have a lot of students that use the pantry. We also want an expansion or specific space for the coat closet. That was one difficulty that we had last year and it was removed from the Student Welcome center. All gender restrooms is something that students have been asking for. A commuter lounge is something that students have been wanting because we have a lot of commuter students. There is a lot more that can be done to support students such as a resource center, cross fit space, eateries, additional places and restaurants. It will also provide us the opportunity to hire more students. We are talking about more staff hours, but it means more student hours. Right now, we incur a lot of risks in the RAW because there are only times that the building is running and only students are there. We need to have additional professional staff. We also want to provide students more opportunities to work. We can work to make these spaces more pleasant for students. The furniture is worn down and needs to be replaced. Some of the equipment is coming to its end of life. When the RAW referendum was passed, the students mentioned that there would be outside recreational trips, but we have not been able to do that due to the lack of funds. Some



campuses have pods, where students can take naps in between classes. In order to receive the best programming, we would need to improve staffing. The proposed fee increase is \$157 per semester for the University Union and \$172 per semester for the RAW. Those both represent a \$75 increase. \$75 is the minimum amount needed to generate the down payment and also to make the bond payment once we begin the process of any renovation. It is based on the cost of a potential \$16,000,000 and it seems to be the average amount that CSUs are spending. We tried our best to figure out what number to use and we believe that \$16,000,000 is a good number. This puts us in an area that we can possibly have a renovation in the year 2022-2023, which is not too far out. CSU Stanislaus is charging \$439 per student per semester, for their union. The fact that they had to wait, had a significant effect on how much they had to pay. We have a website for frequently asked questions and we will be having town halls through Zoom. We are looking to create a video and we want to do whatever we can to make sure that the word gets out. The referendum date is April 14th through the 15th and all day, students will get the chance to vote. We hope that you will support it. **D. Maxion** states that a good thing to add would be for the comparisons with other CSUs, would to include the populations they serve. I know Monterey Bay has the same as us. If they see schools that have a lot more, they will say that the school has more students. **M. Lee** asks how the timing with switching to online affects the ability to reach students.

Suzanne Espinoza states this is a temporary issue. Those who are a part of the CFAC, I think we need to regroup to discuss what the strategy is in light of this new situation we are facing. The one thing that we did decide on is to put the referendum voting pamphlet in the newspaper 30 days in advance. We will continue with the town halls on Zoom. **E. Pinlac** states that for the CFAC, it would be good to have James Carroll as a representative of the Elections committee. **Suzanne Espinoza** mentions that they want to get the words out so that students can have their voices represented. **B. Golez** says that during the Senate Committee meeting, Karen Parada, mentioned that it would be good to make the flyer student friendly. I was wondering if you started working with her to get the information. **Suzanne Espinoza** states that they are trying to find a time to meet. **M. Lee** adds that in terms of Election dynamics, people who use the unions and RAW now, are the key constituents. If they come out to vote, chances are, that leads to a supporting situation. If they are not informed or engaged, they may not participate. It all comes down to the turn out. **Suzanne Espinoza** adds that Student Housing will help and students do complain that the RAW is not open as much as they want it to be open, since they live on campus. We do not want to be criticized that we did not do what we could have. **S. Valecha** states that it should be sent out to all students because they are encouraged to check their emails now. We can put it on the Student Affairs Instagram page and through emails. **Suzanne Espinoza**



adds that if there are not enough votes, it will have to be attempted next year. **Dessiree Cuevas** states that more pictures were added and asks if it is enough for students to grasp the idea. **D. Maxion** asks if there is a way to get someone from the RAW to do a video testimony or a quick 15 second video. They could state that their hours have been cut and that they are highly in favor of this so that it shows more emotion. You can also have student discuss how the deferred maintenance is affecting their experience at East Bay. **Suzanne Espinoza** states that she was thinking of doing a video with students. We are trying to find students that are willing to do that. **S. Valecha** mentions that there are many international students that work at the unions. Also, including a picture of what it would look like after renovations would be helpful. **B. Golez** states to enlarge a picture to show damaged one item is. You can place it on an entire slide so that students can view it. **D. Maxion** adds that adding a slide to address Concord students would be great. They will probably see the vote as well. The slide can address the pros and cons for Concord students. **Suzanne Espinoza** mentioned that it was noted into their projected budget and they will have students find the ways to meet the needs of students. **A. Milano** states that they were going to have a town hall meeting with pizza and they would be able to hear what is being said and to let them be informed. This was supposed to be April 8th, but with the way things are going, we will have to see if it is still possible. To get the word out to Concord, it is difficult. That is why I would like to have pizza day town hall meeting and that is the best way to talk to them. **Suzanne Espinoza** adds that if A. Milano needs anything, she should let her know. **A. Milano** states that they discussed this yesterday at the committee meeting. We were going to put a mass email out and we can still possibly do that. For students that want to come, can come and still have the pizza. Whatever it takes, I want to bring students in. I want this to have its best shot in every angle possible. I want the best representation that can possibly happen. **M. Baron** states that the African-American Resource center and the DREAM center, it would bring pros, but we have a few students that are not for it. I do not want it to seem as though we are playing with them and using them to get the votes. I think we have to be careful of the approach that we take. **Suzanne Espinoza** states that it is not the way it came about. It is intended to be a commitment that the Administration in response to what students said. If we able to do a renovation, we want to ensure that there is extra space for other purposes. **M. Baron** states that it is a great idea. **B. Kuehnis** clarifies that the members that are present here from CFAC, did understand it as something that needs to happen for all the reasons that the African-American student center and DREAM center is a commitment. If we do need to renovate and expand the UU, we want this as a contingency because of the past referendums that have not included that language. **Suzanne Espinoza** states that there has been a lot of dissatisfaction from many students that the school has not been responsive to their requests.



I know it is frustrating for students. There is a lot of concern that these two groups of students in particular, are having lower retention rates and lower graduation rates. They need particular resources to feel a certain belonging. We have not been in the position to be responsive to this. Students have been demanding commitment from the administration and we want to be responsive to that. **B. Golez** states that students from the College of Education will not support this and with this, we have to ensure to them that this will impact their quality of education. From their view point, they see it is that if they want it, they have to pay for it. The school has money and the money is going somewhere else. I feel like we need to be a little more transparent and show that we do not have the money and that we are not hiding anything from them. **Suzanne Espinoza** states that if we have a center, we would like to put staff in it. The issue is space and right now, we do not have any. The President appropriated the space that was used for the semester conversion to be used as a multicultural hub. Students were not satisfied with this response. It is a small room, it is glass enclosed. They wanted to have a specific space. This is a self-support enterprise and state funds are not used to support the unions.

Move to amend the agenda to strike out the word Senate under New Business Items Information item B and replace it with Board of Directors by **K. Dhillon**, second by **B. Golez**.

Motion to amend the agenda to strike out the word Senate under Information Item B and replace it with Board of Directors by **ALL**, motion **CARRIES**.

36:31

C. DISCUSSION ITEM - **Repurposing Special Events Banners**

The Board of Directors will discuss the Director of Sustainability's plan to repurpose banners as give-aways for earth week and an update on Pathwater.

O. Shakoor states that they will not be continuing with their collaboration and there will not be a bottle coming to ASI soon. **Adriene van Dyke** had ideas for repurposing banners for Earth week, but there has been a time constraint on those. **Adrian van Dyke** stated I reached out to people in the Theatre department to see if they are willing to sew. **E. Pinlac** mentions that he like the idea of repurposing and I would like to see this in the Sustainability policy for the organization. **O. Shakoor** states that having quotes on hand would be helpful

39:08

D. DISCUSSION ITEM - **College Shirts Funding**

The Board of Directors will discuss funding shirts for the CEAS, CBE, CLASS, and College of Science.



D. Padilla states that the College of Science shirts are popular. K. Dhillon and I were speaking and we thought it would be nice if all the Colleges had shirts. Tyler, Brittney, Patricia, and I want to see what you all think about ordering shirts for each individual college. **S. Valecha** asks how much the shirts would cost. **D. Padilla** states that last year, Karen Parada, purchased 800 shirts for a total of \$800. We were thinking that we would use half of the money from the Board initiative and half from the Senate budget.

S. Valecha states that they could ask the Colleges to split the cost. **D. Maxion** mentions that it would be good to ask the Deans of the Colleges for funding. I know that they have money. I like the idea of splitting the cost between the Senate and Board. When presenting this, I would suggest including the quantity of shirts per college and a specific quote.

E. Sanchez-Martinez states that there is a lot of money left and with the events being cancelled, we will have even more money. I would ask for more shirts. Each student here belongs to at least one of these colleges. **E. Pinlac** states that there will be extra money this year. Building a partnership with the Colleges would be great. **A. Milano** asks if Concord can be included in the shirts as well. **D. Padilla** responds that they can be included. Concord has Colleges and we can provide shirts to be passed out. **A. Milano** mentions that she can pass them out.

43:16

VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS:

A. Director of Legislative Affairs

E. Sanchez-Martinez says that Chess is the California High Education Student Summit and it is very transformative for current student leaders and for students-at-large to get inspired to become student leaders. CHESS is what inspired me to join ASI. The first day at CHESS, we have a giant conference with all of the CSUs and students-at-large. We are educated on how to advocate for different bills. This year, we focused on the same that was fought for last year which is fixing financial aid. Specifically, we are advocating for a specific Cal Grant and it will lead to high graduation retention rates. We were able to meet with other people who represent our district. Everyone stated that they felt heard. We have most of Yajaira Ortega-Huerta's lobby corps. We went to the Capital in Sacramento and it was fun.

E. Pinlac states that CHESS is a great experience for all students to attend. This is one of the best years we have had. **E. Sanchez-Martinez** states that it was fun and it was like an East Bay reunion. You can see how East Bay students have grown.

IX. ROUND TABLE REMARKS



A. Milano states that she had an idea. When we met with the President during the luncheon, he could not state that we were his favorite. I thought of having a gift for him with a picture of us that he can remember us by.

E. Pinlac states that it should be an agenda item.

D. Maxion states that her idea was great and it will be made into an action item.

S. Valecha states that there will be changes in the dining common hours and for residents that are living on campus, they will have lunch and specific times. Each building would have different times to eat. **E. Sanchez-Martinez** asks if there would be a shuttle for University Village. **S. Valecha** says that he will let his boss know.

E. Sanchez-Martinez states that she had her self-care event yesterday and it was successful. I had reusable items and I included sustainable items. Everyone had fun. I spent a lot of money and hopefully, I can do this again next year.

E. Pinlac states that he sent emails of what is going on. I will send more and there will be no more office hours. I am trying to answer everyone's questions. Please make sure to check your emails.

D. Maxion thanks everyone for being responsive and providing their thoughts. Everything is last minute and I know we are students also. Thank you for your solidarity.

S. Valecha states that if anyone is sick, they should stay home and take care of yourself.

X. ADJOURNMENT at **1:05 PM**

Minutes Reviewed by:

Chair of the Board

Name: Bronte Kuehnis

Minutes Approved on:

Date:

