

Elections Committee Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2020

- I CALL TO ORDER at **12:15 PM**
- II ROLL CALL
Present: Abhay Bilapatte, Kenneth Lefin, Antonio Orejel, Sia Saquee, Erik Pinlac, James Carroll,
- III. ACTION ITEM – **Approval of the agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda by **K. Lefin**, second by **A. Bilapatte**, motion **CARRIES**.
- IV. ACTION ITEM – **Approval of minutes May 6, 2020**
Motion to approve the minutes of May 6, 2020 by **A. Bilapatte**, second by **K. Lefin**, motion **CARRIES**.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT – **Public Comment is intended as a time for any member of the Public to address the committee on any issue’s affection ASI and/or the California State University, East Bay.**
No Public Comment.
- VI. UNFINISHED ITEMS
A. DISCUSSION ITEM – **Marketing (Kenneth) – Voter’s guide, and Media postings**
K. Lefin states that a lot of things have changed due to COVID-19. A lot of things that they planned to do on campus were moved to online. They did their best and completed the Voter’s guide. They will be putting the Voter’s guide on top of the ballot. That way student can click on it and see what each candidate is about. As for marketing online, they have posted their videos on Instagram. The candidates pictures are up stating the position they are running for as and their two-minute video is up as well. **S. Saquee** asks how many candidates sent in their videos? **A. Bilapatte** states that 16 candidates sent in videos. **S. Saquee** states if only 16 candidates sent videos out of the 27 that it is not on the committee. It is the candidate’s responsibility. They give everyone a fair chance to send in their videos but not everyone does. Since they are paying for all the other marketing and events maybe they can sponsor the posts. It would be nice to sponsor the post because not all the candidates running have a lot of connections on instragram. That way all candidates can have a fair chance. **A. Orejel** states that on instragram they can use an app and pay for the post but isn’t sure as to how much it would cost. **S. Saquee** states that she was able to sponsor them on Facebook but was not able to do it through Instragram. **E. Pinlac** states that there is only one log in on instragram and if they aren’t able to do it through then he wouldn’t know what else to do. **S. Saquee** believes that if instragram sees that they are also connected to a page on Facebook.



And if they aren't an admin on the Facebook page then it won't let you sponsor a post. **E. Pinlac** states that he is not sure if the Instagram they use is connected to Facebook. A member in the committee made it last year. **A. Orejel** states that if it isn't giving access then they will need the actual account of the Facebook. That's probably how it will work but if we don't have it then it might not give us access even if we are an approved admin. That may be a complication for advertising and we will just have to keep the post on there without giving it a boost. It would save us money but it would be great if we were able to do it. **J. Carroll** asks if she wasn't able to boost through Facebook? **S. Saquee** states she would have been able to through Facebook but posting through Facebook was another issue. The other option was to post it through Instagram. **E. Pinlac** states that he sent all the information he was given from the former committee member. **S. Saquee** states that she isn't going to give up on the boosting and she will try her best to figure it out. If it fails we will continue to do what we are doing.

11:13

B. DISCUSSION ITEM – **Campaigning** (Abhay)

i. **Elections ballot:** In-person to virtual polling (BaySync updates)

A. Bilapatte states that there is no update on the election ballot. They will be sending out an email and it will have the Voters guide and all the links to see what the candidates are doing. **E. Pinlac** states that he kept the ballot the same. The Voter's guide is the only thing that needs to be added. We are keeping it simple. It will only have the name of the candidates. If the students select a College then students will be able to vote for their College not all of them. They will have to double check that all the names are spelled correctly. The order was switched around because the order of the form was different than what was on the ballot last year. They talked about adding pictures but decided not to do that because it will make the ballot way too long and students didn't like it. **J. Carroll** asks if they use the Google document will students be able to view it since they don't have access to that folder. **E. Pinlac** states that he will make the voters guide into a Google document that everyone can view but not edit. **J. Carroll** states that if they use Google document they just have to give permission to everyone to view. In the ballot the year has not been updated to this year. **E. Pinlac** states that there is no new folder for 2020-21. **A. Bilapatte** states that the name of the folder is different but the content is pretty much the same. **J. Carroll** states that there will be one student email that will be sent out today to the students. It will have the Voters guide, it will have our social media accounts and it tells students to get ready to vote next week. During the week of voting there will be an email that will go out on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with the direct link to vote. It might seem like email spam but it is our best bet to get students to vote. **K. Lefin** asks if



after those three days will they be the first to know is going to be elected for the position or will students be able to see what everyone is voting for. **E. Pinlac** states that on Sunday night he will be removing their access so he can see the votes. Only him James and maybe Sia will see the votes. They announce the winners on Wednesday after they go through the votes. They have to make sure that only students are voting. **S. Saquee** states that there are some candidates still sending in pictures because they didn't like the ones that have been posted. **A. Orejel** states that we should be allowed to change their bios. **J. Carroll** states unless someone has a critical reason otherwise at this point we shouldn't be changing anything. The reason being is that we gave the candidates opportunities to change their pictures at the candidate meeting. They should have a valid reason because if we do allow someone to change anything that it could bring up some issues. **A. Orejel** states that they will not be changing any pictures from now on.

25:29

ii. **Calendar updates**

A. Orejel asks if there are any calendar updates with any changes or are they still in track to proceed with Monday through Wednesday. **A. Bilapatte** states that they are pretty much on track. Besides everything being online they haven't changed anything. **S. Saquee** states since everything has been moved online they should start thinking about grievances around social media. **A. Bilapatte** states that they could start monitoring the candidate's pages. They have to keep an eye out on what candidates are posting. **S. Saquee** states that they don't have all the instagram handles of the candidates so it might be a bit difficult to track. They just have to keep in mind of how the grievance will look like this year. They need to find a strategy on how to approach these problems that happen on social media. **J. Carroll** states that it makes sense for us to monitor our own social media. If we hear rumors about comments on the candidates personal instagram than they will need to come forward, file a grievance and take a screenshot. For now, the committee should focus on our social media.

29:30

C. DISCUSSION ITEM – **Candidate Forums logistics** (Kenneth)

S. Saquee states that due to the COVID-19 they will not be able to continue with the forums. We can have something online or they can continue with what they are already doing. **A. Orejel** states that we can continue with what they are already doing. The candidates can continue to post on their accounts and on their slate accounts. We can monitor the slate accounts since they are public accounts. So if we see any comments about a candidate we can record it or take a screenshot of it.



31:00

VII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. DISCUSSION ITEM – **Grievance Evaluation**

A. Bilapatte state that so far they have received 5 grievance forms. Two are from the same person and the other three come from different candidates. Majority of them deal with things that have happened on campus. One is about a poster being posted where it is not allowed. Another is about posters being stapled. When candidates were told that they should be pasted. The person who filed the grievance form sent pictures. **J. Caroll** states that since they have a screen shot and all the names of the candidates. It is best to send them an email letting them know that they have received that complaint. It can be count as a warning because whether they stapled it or used unapproved tape where they hung their poster is not okay. We were very clear with candidates that they cannot post anything on walls. We need to let them know that this concern was raised by the College of Science and that there was some potential damage to the wall. **A. Bilapatte** states that there were posters posted on the small bulletin boards outside the classroom in the science building and there were screen shots sent. **E. Pinlac** states that the candidates aren't allowed to post there because that is were faculty put up their information. **A. Bilapatte** states that most grievances received have to do with posters being posted on places that they shouldn't be. The last grievance was by one of the slates. It sates that some of the posters they posted have been taken down or damage and believe that their opposing slate had something to do with it. He also sent in his screenshots. **A. Orejel** states that if it was only Kabir's picture moved it would be difficult to figure out who did that and to whom to send a warning to. **A. Bilapatte** states that Mahdi also filed a grievance for the same thing. Stating that their flyers were removed or damage by the other slate. **J. Caroll** states that there doesn't really seem to be anything that they can do. There really isn't proof on which we would follow up. There has to be proof on this because we can't base this of assumptions. **E. Pinlac** states that they can thank the candidates for submitting the grievance. Since it is difficult to determine who did what. **J. Caroll** states that they can let the candidate know that they received their form but there isn't someone that we can hold accountable. Unless they have more information to give us such as they saw some one do it or they believe a certain person did and a reason why. Otherwise we should let them know that we aren't able to take action on this. **A. Orejel** states that they can send an email to everyone about the grievance. It can state that they all have to considerate and assuring them that this has been brought up to our attention. To assure that everyone is respecting each other's flyers. **J. Caroll** states that the transparency could hype them up more and alert them that people were messing with their flyers. When the reality is that people cant really be on campus right now. We have to think this through and what is the message we want to give the candidates. It is not about withholding information but if we send this email will be stressing the candidates more. **S. Saquee** states that this might not happen for the rest of the



election season since most people are gone. **J. Carroll** states that they shouldn't use language that will stress candidates even more. **A. Bilapatte** states that they will only send an email to those who submitted the grievance form and send a positive email to all the candidates.

49:03

B. DISCUSSION ITEM – Feedback from forum/filming/uploads

A. Bilapatte states that he tried looking up the videos on YouTube but was not able to find them. **S. Saquee** states that they have a YouTube channel but isn't sure how many people will watch it. She will be posting up the videos up on YouTube. Maybe we can add the YouTube link on the email as well. **A. Orejel** states that candidates get their own video. **S. Saquee** states yes but she will send the link to our YouTube channel. Since those are the only videos that will be up on the channel. **A. Orejel** states that the YouTube channel will also help because Instagram didn't allow us show the entire two minutes of the videos. **S. Saquee** states that most candidates sent in videos that were shorter. What if there were candidates that didn't send in a video at the beginning but now sent one now because they believe it will help their campaign. **K. Lefin** states that they gave everyone a hard deadline. **A. Bilapatte** states that they also sent reminder emails about the deadlines. **A. Orejel** states that we should stick to what deadline. **S. Saquee** agrees since there were many reminders, emails and messages sent to the candidates.

54:53

C. DISCUSSION ITEM – Meeting Logistics

A. Orejel wants to make sure that everyone is okay with the time of the zoom meetings. Or if anyone has any complications. **A. Bilapatte** states that the times works for him.

55:51

VIII. ROUNDTABLE REMARKS

J. Carroll thanks everyone for being flexible. All the emails and communication they are doing is so they can have a successful election season. Hopefully we get a good voter turn out because it is all-online this year. He appreciates all their hard work.

S. Saquee thanks everyone for being available online. Not being able to see everyone can be challenging. Thanks everyone is available through group text and me.

57:36

IX. ADJOURNMENT at 1:12 PM

Minutes Reviewed By:

Committee Chair

Name: Antonio Orejel



Minutes Approved On:

Date

