

Senate Committee Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER at **9:31AM**

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Siddharth Valecha, Bronte Kuehnis, Brittney Golez, Patricia Regalado, Daisy Padilla, Angelica de Leon, Karen Parada, Justin Mercado, Zaira Perez, Petr Chudinov, Tyler Engquist, Phuong Mai

Absent: Jocelyn Baldon, Freshta Sharifi, Dessiree Cuevas, Ashley Depappa

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

Motion to approve the agenda by **K. Parada**, second by **P. Regalado**, motion **CARRIES**.

IV. ACTION ITEM - **Approval of the Minutes of February 20, 2020**

Motion to approve the minutes of February 20, 2020 by **K. Parada**, second by **B. Golez**, motion **CARRIES**.

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:

A. DISCUSSION ITEM - **Homelessness Awareness Resolution**

The Senate will discuss a resolution on homelessness awareness.

Motion to table Discussion Item- Homelessness Awareness Resolution until Senator of Online Students comes to the meeting by **S. Valecha**, second by **K. Parada**, motion **CARRIES**.

2:15



VII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. 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.

Motion to table Information Item – Referendum to Increase Student Fees until Dr. Espinoza comes to meeting by **S. Valecha**, second by **K. Parada**, motion **CARRIES**.

2:50

Dr. Espinoza states students utilized equity in the old building to generate income to build the new building. At the time it was better and cheaper to build a second building. That's the reason why we have two union buildings. Later, students decided they wanted to have a recreation center. They used the equity from both unions to build the RAW. These facilities are self-supported entities and they are fee supported. It is typical for students to pay for these with their revenues. It has become difficult to manage all three buildings, programs, hours and staff. If we move forward without a fee increase, we will have to reduce building hours and continue to reduce staff. We just don't have the resources to continue to run these buildings. There was no cost of living adjustment and the cost have gone up. Cost and utilities have gone up. We have not had the resources to refresh these buildings. We have few professional staff running those areas. There are times in which only student staff are overseeing the activities. There are risks with that. There are required reserves and this year we are under our requirement. We are trying to build it up. This year we had to reduce the budget of both sides because we must keep the buildings running. We will have to continue looking at cutting hours like the we did with the RAW if we don't get a fee increase. We have not replaced positions, we have had to decrease student assistant hours, we have delayed maintenance repair and replacement of furniture. We have five objectives. The first is to increase student fees to a level that they will cover the expenses. Establish that student focused program is an allowable use of fee revenue. To establish an advisory board to make decisions and that the student voice is heard. This fee will allow us to accumulate resources and contemplate a renovation that will provide us a space. The benefits of renovations and expansion is more choices, one stop shops, commuter lounge and gender-neutral bathrooms. Operation hours have been cut but with the fee increase we could go back to having longer hours of operations. The RAW is in a



tougher position compared to the unions. The fee increase will open more opportunities for us to do more. Any of these decisions would be based on what students want.

Motion to extend the meeting until 10:45AM by **S. Valecha**, second by **K. Parada**, motion **CARRIES**.

1:00:25

Dr. Espinoza states that there aren't enough staff running the building. We are proposing to increase the union fee by \$75 and the RAW fee by \$75 beginning Spring 2021. If we do this, we have estimated that we will be able to accumulate enough reserve in order to be able to start a potential expansion or renovation of the UU in the 2022-23 school year. A lot of these are estimates and it looks like the average project is around \$60 million. We must be able to support it over the years. We looked at \$5 increments to see at what point we will be able to sustain and support the renovation. We aren't asking for more than we need. We are only asking for what we need to initiate this project. \$75 is a lot of money but this is a self-support enterprise and it is something students wanted. We all benefit from this. **P. Chudinov** states that not everyone uses the RAW and not everyone wants to pay for it. **Dr. Espinoza** states that she will not ask for more, but this level of increase will put us in a good position. We will be prioritizing any renovation that needs to be done in the unions. That's is what we have decided but we will be asking the students. What we are trying to do is increase student enrollment so we can generate more funds for the RAW renovations. **K. Parada** asks if they plan to show this to students. **Dr. Espinoza** states that they will be having town halls and go through this. **K. Parada** states that students might be more responsive if they see photos or flow charts. If they just see numbers, they won't be as receptive. You all can't promise but if students were to agree they would want a solid commitment. **S. Valecha** states that they will need help advertising this. We need this fee increase especially if we want these resource centers. **P. Chudinov** states that these specific resources are exclusive for certain populations. Maybe not everyone will want to pay for it. **Dr. Espinoza** states that they will be adding more language to the pamphlet that state that any decision made about space will be based on what students need. We will be having a lot of space for a lot of groups. So far, we have identified two groups that need this space in order to improve their sense of belonging. We agreed on that based on the retention and the persistence rate of those groups. But there are other groups that can benefit from the



space. **E. Sanchez-Martinez** states that it is our job to represent all students. Everything on this campus you get what you pay out of it. Students might be angry about it, but it is something that we need. **Dr. Espinoza** states that this is a lot of money and there will be some students who will not want to pay it. I worry about cutting services and in the future having to ask for more. **D. Cuevas** states that they should promote the website. It has more of the charts and pictures. **B. Golez** states that the student advisory board will have a say. If these students aren't properly advised of how much each addition will cost, she is afraid they will say yes to a lot of things. It will go against each other if those finances aren't properly advised. **K. Dhillon** states that they are the Student Government and that they must represent everyone. As well as informing and education students about this fee increase. It is not easy to ask students to pay more but these buildings are self-supported. If students have all the facts, they might make an educated vote. **D. Padilla** states to list all the benefits that students want. This all can't happen without no money. If students know that they can't have all this with out this increase they might be more understanding. **Dr. Espinoza** states that she will need help. What do they say and what do they not say?
Motion to take Discussion Item A under Unfinished business off that table by **S. Valecha**, second by **K. Parada**, motion **CARRIES**.

1:16:40

B. INFORMATION ITEM - Office of the Provost and Vice President

The provost will present information to the entire Senate.

Provost Inch states that they are working hard to ensure that students are having a positive experience through the curriculum. As well as making sure that students can complete their degree in a timely manner. The first focus is on persistence and completion. It involves academic support, redesigned curriculum work and moment management. Making sure that students receive the support that they need when they need it. Financial support and better use of analytics. We have also looked at any roadblocks that students have run into. Within academic support we worked on redesigning the curriculum from quarter to semester. We changed the developmental courses so there are no longer no credit courses in math or English. We are targeting our supplemental instruction with courses that have large equity gaps. There is a math lab open with peer tutors. We have a student technology



access program that provides technology to students. We have increased the amount of equipment that a student can check out at the library. We wanted to make sure that students still have access to a computer when they are not able to make it to campus. The student research has been very successful. Evolvement management makes sure that we have enough capacity to cover our student needs. We want to make sure that there are enough seats for students either through zoom or online. The pathways of development is to make sure that our students are on track to graduate. We want to make sure that there is enough financial aid support for our students. That way once they graduate from here they wont have a huge debt. We want to have student staff positions open in departments that way student won't have to work off campus as much. Advising changes are going to be shifted. The goal is that every student will have one primary advisor. It will eliminate confusion, conflicting information and students will have someone that has their back. The analytics will be able to tell us what we need to do for scheduling. It will give us information that can help students plan further ahead. We are looking to have a much better catalog design and look for a much simpler administrative system. We want to make our catalog easier to navigate for all our students but also the ones who will be incoming. We have begun to expand our services in order to reach more students. Our equity gap is dropping but there is still more that needs to be done. We are a diverse campus and everyone on this campus deserves good teaching. We need to be hiring people that have specific expertise. That way students will be able to transition from general courses to major courses. The transition is important because the expectations change. **K. Parada** states that the first experience that students get on this campus is through orientation. They are supposed to get a lot of information on all the programs that are on campus. But they don't necessarily get it and it is a problem. Orientation might be separate, but it is something that should be looked at and they should be kept accountable. There is so many great things that we are doing but miscommunication works against it. Transfer students come in not knowing what classes get transferred over. By the time they figure it out or find help it is already too late. It is also hard for students to plan their schedules from semester to semester. Sometimes the departments don't put out the information in a timely fashion, its wrong or they don't tell anyone. Accountability and communication are the two key points that this campus needs to work on. The attitudes that make the documents that goes into the catalog is negative. It



is a big problem because sometimes students read these documents and don't understand yet it still affects them. If the catalog is made for students, faculty and administrators it should be user friendly and not hard to read. There are a lot of great opportunities to take online classes; however, the professors teaching the class might not be from East Bay. So who holds them accountable because sometimes it is difficult to get in contact with them. **Provost Inch** thanks, Karen, for the feedback. They will have student focus groups and they will learn more about what students need.

27:58

C. INFORMATION ITEM - **Chartwells**

Two representatives from Chartwells will present information to the entire Senate.

Kayla is the Marketing Director for Pioneer Dining. The Pioneer Dining is broken down into the Residential meal plans, Commuter meal plans and the Retail locations. We also have catering and our marketing team. One thing that Chartwells does great is all the opportunities that we offer the employees. Chartwells has student success interns that we focus on. We make opportunities available to students and we give them a curriculum to learn all about Chartwells. We are always open to helping the students on campus. The best part of knowing all these faces is that you can talk to any of us. We are always willing to have a conversation whether it be feedback or criticism. We want to know because we are always looking for ways to improve. Our student success interns also bring feedback to us and it is appreciated. The Pioneer Kitchen has changed, and it was made to cater for our campus community. Each station caters to different dietary restrictions students may have. We want to know what the students want instead of putting out the same menu regularly. Our Pioneer catering does most of the catering on this campus. The best part is that you can customize a menu or just chose a menu. We just created a value menu that is more affordable. We would love to hear student feedback from our catering. Sustainability is important to us and we have a few initiatives that we are working on for next year. We just hosted weigh your waste campaign in the Pioneer Kitchen. In which students can see how much waste they produced after eating their meal. We work with the Sustainability department and work on our initiatives. We plan to have another one in our retail locations. We are trying to adopt a system in where students would be educated about their food



waste. We have specific things that we focus on each month. For this month we are focusing on mushrooms because it is an item that fuels our systems in many ways. Our Sustainability and Wellness intern will be tabling and educating students about the fuel item of the month. As well, as giving recipe cards that students can follow. We have our super food Tuesday's which is like fuel. But on Tuesday's we will be serving a super food of the month. We are hoping on transition our cutlery to bamboo cutlery. The current utensils that we have are compostable, but waste management can't distinguish that they are compostable because they look so much like plastic. We are trying our best to transition to bamboo cutlery by Fall. We are working with Sustainability and we also want to include ASI to get that communication out there. Feedback really matters to us. We have multiple platforms that you can tell us instantaneously about your feedback and you will always get a response within a day. An instant text is sent to all our management team and it holds us accountable. We also have our foodie feedback. It is a three-question survey to tell us about your satisfaction of your meal. We do have a focus group coming up in March 16 and 17. If you would like to participate, we will be sending out email communications, having flyers and post on social media. We will be doing raffles for those who do attend. Follow us on social media. **D. Cuevas** states sometimes students are not aware of the food they are serving themselves at the Pioneer Kitchen. **Kayla** states that something they are trying to do is have an someone specific in one station. That way students are aware of what is there. We are working on training more our staff. **Z. Perez** states that sometimes with Boost they don't have all the options. Or when stating a specific time to pick up my food they don't respect that. So sometimes I get my food cold. **Kayla** states that she will make a note and pass it down to the retail tea. **A. de Leon** asks if there is a specific person who creates the meals at the rooted station in the Pioneer Kitchen. **Kayla** believes that no one has told them on what they want. If you would like to have a discussion or send us some ideas. We must follow the 80/20 menu. So, 80% must come from our webtrician, those are menus that were already created. The other 20% we can change. **Z. Perez** states that for late night there is sometimes only pizza given. **Kayla** states that for late night it could a miscommunication issue. The stations have changed because the hours have changed. From 8PM-9PM it is supposed to be closed for us to get ready for late night. Late night starts at 9PM and I will make sure to communicate that to our team. I know the service times have been an issue.



Residents have the option to use the meal exchange. They get to use one of their swipes at one of the retail locations.

45:43

Motion to Information Item A off the table by **S. Valecha**, second by **K. Parada**, motion **CARRIES**.

46:07

D. DISCUSSION ITEM - **It's On Us**

The Senator of Online Students will discuss with the entire Senate the It's On Us event.

E. DISCUSSION ITEM - **Title IX Resolution**

The Senate will discuss the Title IX Resolution.

F. DISCUSSION ITEM - **Dead Week Funding**

The Senate will discuss funding snacks and coffee for the college of CEAS during dead week.

G. ACTION ITEM - **Event for International Students**

The Senate will take action on funding an introductory event for international students.

VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS:

IX. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

X. ADJOURNMENT at **10:47AM**

Minutes Reviewed By:

VP of University Affairs & Chair

Name: Siddharth Valecha



Approved On:

Date:

