

Elections Committee Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2023

I CALL TO ORDER at **12:36 PM**

II ROLL CALL

Present: Prasaana Pawar, Andrew Pedroza, Shyamili Vishwanatha, Bala Surya Teja Nandamuri, Michael Cesena, James Carroll, Krystle Tonga

Absent: Megh Dave, Heather Gardley, Siddhesh Kadam,

III ACTION ITEM – **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda of April 13, 2023, by **S. Vishwanatha**, seconded by **A. Pedroza**, motion **CARRIED**.

IV ACTION ITEM – **Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes of March 17th, 2023**

Motion to approve the minutes of March 17, 2023, by **A. Pedroza**, seconded by **S. Vishwanatha**, motion **CARRIED**.

V 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.

1:58

VI NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

a. DISCUSSION ITEM - POLLING DEBRIEF & FEEDBACK

The election committee members present during polling will give a brief summary of the voting turned out.

P. Pawar states we had over 442 students who participated and cast their vote. Which is less than what we originally targeted, but it is twice the amount of what we had last year. I believe there wasn't many candidates who are running for the positions. Most of the positions were being run unopposed, so the candidate did not put themselves out there for votes. The day we held elections outside the CORE building, we got about 220 votes. Day two and three, we had to go inside for the undergrad fest event at the New University Union Building due to the weather.

M. Cesena states the weather played a role. We had a table outside of the CORE, but with the wind and rain it was not realistic to be out there. We did have more votes than the last



year, but if the weather fares better that would be nice. I understand we discuss about multiple polling stations, but we didn't have the manpower. We need more volunteers; we are stretched thin. I do appreciate the committee having two times a day that was beneficial. That could be why we had more votes compared to last year.

A. Pedroza states I was working the third day at the grad fest event, there were many students, and I advertised it alongside other ASI events at the table.

P. Pawar states on the second and third days at the polling stations, I noticed that students signed the petition for the Bylaws, rather than scanning the QR code for the Bylaws. I would like to make a suggestion to have election on paper and collect students Net IDs, and the online system that we have.

M. Cesena states the challenge with going to paper is we need to have validation purposes. Years ago, they used to do more pen and paper, but the idea is to reach everybody with the email. Whether it's a mobile polling station set up, so students don't have to scan the QR code. I'm not sure if it's a talk James and I need to have on how students can single sign on, and we can refresh, but to streamline and make that easier. We want to avoid paper because the University and the world want to be more sustainable.

P. Pawar states at the grad fest most of the student do not want to get involved in changing the Board of Directors structure. To the students, it wasn't going to affect them as they are not going to be on campus. This may be the reason why we received fewer votes than we were expecting.

M. Cesena states we were not planning on polling there, but given the weather, that's the best is where we can get the most foot traffic. Initially, polling was planned to take place outside the CORE, so we can get any students, but grad fest we knew we'd get a guaranteed audience. We figured we would use the guaranteed audience and remind graduating students if they're current students their vote still matters. We want to empower students to encourage the vote and use that as an opportunity to leave a mark for the next year.

J. Carroll states the ballots I believe the challenge would be is we cannot do both the online voting system and paper. What we're spending for Big Pulse manages the system for us. I believe we need to find out from Big Pulse is how do we get all the paper ballots replicated into an online system and ensuring the student is an enrolled student. I believe it's something we must investigate. Given the timing of elections, I believe the CORE wasn't a good polling location as we thought it was in part due to the weather as well. There were some feet traffic there, but it was windy. If we have a windy season, it's not conducive in that spot, because it creates a wind tunnel. In the future, is to identify the weather, and where our tabling makes the most sense. I agree the grad fest was a helpful



opportunity, but that wouldn't be the ideal because it's not targeting the general population.

M. Cesena states one location that get a lot of foot traffic is the R.A.W. plaza. In the past, the shuttle stops and students are getting off, students are coming from housing or going to eat. This location might be one for you to consider. In the past, we used many incentives of shirts designed for voting. This idea drew student to come to our booth to vote and show us they have voted, so they could a get a shirt. Students would wear it the next day to encourage other students to vote. I want to highlight the fact most of the candidates ran unopposed, which causes some students to be uninterested. There are two slates, and this is where grievance come from because it's a matter of how close they get to the line. They are out there recruiting students to vote, so aside the Elections Committee, we have two dozen people that are recruiting students to vote. I believe the candidates were minimally involved because some candidates knew. I believe the biggest fear we had is why don't we have the most candidate running and why is all the position not being run for?

K. Tonga states I believe stickers or items from Student Life can be used as a giveaway when elections are happening. We're in an odd year where we didn't have a candidate poll, and we have bad weather. I believe the incentive to not vote as the candidates were unopposed, but if that does happen, we can find creative ways to incentivize students meeting them or having them participate. We can target audiences like the GS classes. We send the Elections Committee to make an announcement to the GS classes. We can target all our student leaders and have them come to a special initiation ASI Meet the Candidates. There are a handful of committed students that we can cater to and knows the value of ASI. I believe being able to combine all the target audience will help us get better results. Everything was against us this year and we got a better turnout last year. I believe the idea of having an incentive that brings visibility, "I voted for my ASI" or "I haven't voted" and recognizing we have a captive audience.

P. Pawar states I hope we have more candidates to participate, so they will be more involved.

15:20

b. DISCUSSION ITEM - GRIEVANCES

The Election committee will discuss if any grievances were filed and how to proceed.

P. Pawar asks do we have any grievance report?

J. Carroll states no, the grievances were closed out I believe it would have two weeks ago.

15:41



c. DISCUSSION ITEM - MOVING FORWARD/ ELECTION CERTIFICATION

J. Carroll states we're in the process in gathering information for certification of the election, a copy of all the election paperwork from Big Pulse, and get it submitted via Adobe sign to the University President, President Sandeen. This should be completed but the beginning of next week. We must get the final letters together in the Adobe sign and it becomes the official that the elections have been verified and certified.

P. Pawar states if anyone wants to look at the certification it on our Google Drive for the Election Committee. If you have any changes to be made just let us know or email me.

17:14

d. INFORMATION ITEM - REFERENDUM VOTE April 17th, 18th & 19th - (bylaws change)

P. Pawar states the Bylaws are being changed and the Board of Directors structure is being updated. There's going to be a Referendum vote from 17 of April to 19 of April. We wanted to ask if any of the committee members would be interested to help table with the Board members of ASI.

M. Cesena states it's Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of next week and it's been advertised. It's going to be through Big Pulse, but the only difference is everyone's going to get the email. We need students to go and vote and if they ask questions about the referendum, we can explain to them, but we cannot encourage students to vote. We need the committee help and it's just tabling and reminding students to vote.

P. Pawar asks are the committee members interested? I will not be available Tuesday and Wednesday, but I'll be available on Monday.

M. Cesena states if the committee can sign up now that would be the best. We want to be able to publicize because it is a big vote for ASI. We can encourage students outside of the polling station I believe 20 or 50 ft. but we should abide the rules. This is important not only to ASI, but the student body.

J. Carroll states the ballot and emails being generated by Big Pulse there will be a hyperlink to the Bylaws if students want to read what the Bylaw changes are. We want to have this available because it's important for students to understand why.

M. Cesena states we printed at least once copy to be at the polling station.

P. Pawar states Surya will be available on Tuesday from 2 pm – 3 pm. I can do it from 12 pm – 2 pm on Tuesday.

J. Carroll states it's along the UU.

M. Cesena states I believe its outside the New Union in the corner.



J. Carroll states the ASI Board members are coordinating the table. We can let each other know if we need any help picking up items from the office to take it out but it'll be along the New UU.

M. Cesena states it will be on the corner by Panda Express. My goal is to go to as many of freshmen GS classes and encourage them.

S. Vishwanatha states if I can get the link, I can get signatures from my classmates because that will be useful.

M. Cesena states this will work on getting the QR codes to the Big Pulse, but it's the actual voting, so it'll be in their horizon email. The email is sent at 8 am, so if you go to class on Monday and inform them to look at their horizon email.

S. Vishwanatha states thank you, I will inform my class.

P. Pawar states I can do that in my class. All the committee members can try to implement this. Are there any committee members who wants to sign up for the referendum tabling?

S. Vishwanatha states I have midterms, so I will not be able to make it.

23:46

VII UNFINISHED BUSINESS ITEMS:

No unfinished business items.

23:54

VIII SPECAIL REPORTS

No special reports.

24:00

IX ROUND TABLE REMARKS

No round table remarks.

24:09

X ADJOURNMENT at 1 PM

Minutes Review By:

Committee Chair

Name: **Rajat Bakshi**



Minutes approved on:

04/18/2024

Date:

