

**Associated Students of Santa Monica College
A.S. Board of Directors Regular Meeting
February 24, 2014 3:00 PM
Cayton Center, Room #202
MINUTES**



I. Call to Order 3:06 PM

II. Roll Call

AS President: Ty Moura P	Director of Student Advocacy: Okky Jaya L 4:00
AS Vice President: VACANT	Director of Publicity: Michael Greenberg P
AS Secretary: Diana Echeverria P	Director of Outreach: Cassandra Ramirez P
Director of Student Affairs: Kseniya Lyalina P	ICC Chair: Jasmine Jafari P
Director of Sustainability: Halie Willis L 3:38	ICC Vice Chair: Maya Kaitel P
Director of AcSupp/S.G.: VACANT	ICC Communications Officer: Sarah Yoseph A
Director of Activities: Matthew Nicholson P	Student Trustee: Jesse Ramirez P
Director of Inst. & Tech. Support: Cyrus Hosseini P	Associate Dean of Student Life: Sonali Bridges P
Director of Budget Management: Inayat Issa P	Counselor/Student Advisor: Benny Blaydes P

III. Approval of Agenda

*Motion to Approve by Jasmine, Second by Inayat.
Agenda Approved Unanimously*

IV. Approval of Minutes for February 19, 2014.

*Motion to approve by Jasmine, Second by Maya.
Minutes Approved Unanimously.*

V. Public Comments (2 minutes per person)

Professor David Burak: I came by to remind you that the film series you helped fund starts this Friday. The movies will be fascinating on several levels.

VI. A.S. Announcements to the Public

Michael: March in March is happening. We will be leaving Sunday night and coming back Monday night. The March is about public education funding. We are reminding the legislators that students are strong. We are giving \$25 for food. If you want to sign up, go to the AS office and sign up. There's a \$10.00 deposit.

Jasmine: Our election packets are online. This is an excellent opportunity to be involved for the 2014-2015 year.

Cassandra: Just a reminder we have 2 vacancies. Applying is an easy way to get on the board, make changes, and get to know us.

Ty: The month of March will be dedicated to women empowerment programs. We have a calendar of the activities.

VII. Presentations

7.1 Presenting the AS Budget and Possible Fiscal Policy Changes (Inayat Issa, Budget Management).

Inayat: For the unrestricted we have spent 119,000. Special Projects we have spent almost 50,000 and we have 70,000. We have spent 17,000 in conference line item. The possible fiscal policy changes will be on the agenda next week.

VIII. Action Items

8.1 Approval of issuing a Student Transit Pass transportation consultant fee in the amount of \$3,500.00 for the month of February 2014. (PR, \$3,500.00)(Santa Monica District / Administration).

Diana Ho: I am a transportation consultant. I work on student transportation projects. I am working with Move LA. I am proposing to provide student transit pass and advocacy projects with Move LA. SMC has a successful anytime any line. All the college programs challenge the funding. There are

Associated Students of Santa Monica College
A.S. Board of Directors Regular Meeting
February 24, 2014 3:00 PM
Cayton Center, Room #202
MINUTES



some unfunded portions of rail lines. Having students be strong transit advocates affects the life of a college student. Move LA and myself have been taking to SMC. We want to see cap and trade passes in the state. With advocacy, we will have a bigger voice. The goal is to work towards a regional pass that will work with various bus lines.

Michael: I think this is a great idea but why is it coming out of AS?

Diana Ho: I have spoken to Dr. Tsang and he was supportive. It takes time. We need student advocates and student leaders and represent the collective student group. We want students to be at the important meetings. People are starting to get on board.

Jasmine: I love the idea but what is the specific 3500 dollars for?

Diana Ho: It would be for myself since I have experience with college passes.

Jasmine: We are funding you so you can advocate for us? What amount has the school contributed to this?

Sonali: This is the final payment for Ms. Ho's final contract. This is for February and services that have already occurred.

Motion to amend Action Item 8.1 to read: Approval of paying a Student Transit Pass Transportation consultant fee in the amount of \$3,500.00 for the month of February 2014, (PR, \$3,500.00)(Santa Monica College District/ Administration) *by Jasmine, Second by Inayat.*

Diana Ho: MSRC wants to improve the quality and always to look at matching funds. If we are able to get funding to start a pilot they may consider a matching fund. We need to present our program as a pilot and collect data.

Sarah: Is it a longer process?

Diana Ho: It is a longer process.

Michael: I understand that the program, that funding is coming from other sources but why has this \$3,500.00 came to our board when it is a greater Los Angeles project. I believe in the project but am confused to why we are here now. Have you approached other colleges?

Diana Ho: We are starting to meet with the LA community colleges. There are 9 colleges and it is more difficult but we are starting the process. We have made outreach to Pasadena city college and are interested in expanding regionally. It takes time.

Cassandra: Would this agreement infringe on our agreement with the big blue bus?

George: No. It has nothing to do with it.

Diana Ho: I am asking for this one month and depending on what happens with other groups, we will come back reach and update to you.

Jasmine: What happens after February?

Sonali: There is a fund where both AS and the President of the college agree on spending an amount. This was an agreement in order to spend funds. The contract work was already completed. If the amount is greater than 5,000.00, it needs to go to the board. She has already done the work but this is for her to get paid.

Diana Ho: This is just the beginning of it. Our efforts will continue.

Ty: They exposed the idea to us. I agreed with them. I didn't know the account was solely AS funding. I didn't know about the limit. We couldn't complete the February payment because of that. They proposed that from March and on, AS would sponsor it from another AS account but we should start from step on.

Jasmine: Would this be considered retroactive spending?

George: I have never known about the 5000 dollar limit. I don't know.

Sonali: After spending the 5,000.00, it would have to go to the board.

Ty: It is unclear is this is actually retroactive spending.

Motion for a Two Minute Recess by Michael, Second by Inayat.

Reinstate the motion by Jasmine, Second by Michael.

Motion to Divide item 8.1 into 2 sections to read:

Associated Students of Santa Monica College
A.S. Board of Directors Regular Meeting
February 24, 2014 3:00 PM
Cayton Center, Room #202
MINUTES



8.1A: Approval of Associated Students Board of Directors to take a stance of support of a regional student transit pass.

Motion to approve by Jasmine, Second by Kseniya.

Action Item 8.1A Approved Unanimously

8.1B: Approval of the funding for the Associated Students Board of Director for paying a Student Transit Pass transportation consultant fee in the amount of \$3,500.00 for the month of February 2014.

(PR, \$3,500.00) *by Michael, Second by Inayat.*

Motion to approve by Jasmine, Second by Kseniya.

In Favor: 1

In Opposition: 7

Action Item 8.1B not Approved.

Michael: I feel like the administration should be funding this. I believe in this project and think that it will and should happen.

Ty: We did approve 8.1A, we can assist you in contact people and help build a coalition that's necessary.

8.2 Adoption of a supporting or opposing stance on the Reinvest in our Future Act, SB1017 (Ty Moura, AS President).

Ty: I have a copy of the bill, a summary of the bill, and a resolution.

Inayat: How does the funding get broken down and how is it used?

Michael: the bill says that there are specific things that the funding can be used for.

Jasmine: We are voting on whether the board supports the bill.

Ty: It has already been presenting in the senate.

Michael: the writers of the bill come from students at UC Berkeley.

Kseniya: The bill says how it will be spent on page 9

Inayat: the funding would go to instructional purposed such as English as a second language, faculty, etc.

Action Item 8.2 Unanimously Approved.

IV. Discussion Items

9.1 Implementing an Associated Student Assistance Program (ASAP). (Ty Moura, (AS President).

Motion to discuss by Jasmine, Second by Kseniya.

Ty: The student relief fund only activates once a faculty sees a student who needs relief. They then go through a process. They can be given up to 500 dollars but they can't use it for meals and textbooks.

Cassandra: I think this program is extremely important. It is sad that they can't pay for book using the aid. Since we fund half of it, we should be able to choose what it funds.

Michael: these are two separate programs. Ours will be separate and fund textbooks and meals.

Jasmine: One thing I would like to add, I know UCLA works with the food bank for students who struggle with food. I think we can do something without worrying a big liability issue.

Sarah: I think it is admirable. Since publicity will be at a minimum, how would we prevent student word of mouth? What would the student due if they saw another student who might need it.

Michael: I think that we can go to the financial aid office, and ask how they find students with financial need and ask if they can be sent to the program.

George: You can't do that. You're stepping all over FERPA. There are really strict rules on this.

Ty: I think that a person can meet with a financial aid director and the director can direct them to the program.

George: there are already book loans through EOPS.

Ty: A lot of students don't qualify for financial aid that can go through an emergency. How do we fill in that gap?

Benny: The student relief funds have a lot of restrictions since the funding is limited. You need to put

Associated Students of Santa Monica College
A.S. Board of Directors Regular Meeting
February 24, 2014 3:00 PM
Cayton Center, Room #202
MINUTES



restrictions on it or it will be chaotic. You can give funding to the programs that already exist.

Cassandra: I agree with Benny when we said that we can use our budget money and give to the programs that are already in existence and make financial aid more accessible and scary.

Jasmine: Are we able to work with programs with EOPS? We can contribute to an ongoing library that might be an option.

Benny: the state requires that they only work with EOPS students. You want to make it as simple as possible and provide vouchers.

Ty: For now I would like to set up a committee made up of myself, Benny, Sarah, Inayat, Kseniya, and Cassandra.

9.2 Cooperatively working on the Associated Students Discount Board (Ty Moura, AS President)

Ty: I think that we should go in one day and go around and ask businesses.

Michael: I think it should be on Mondays at 3:00. We need to take advantage of all of us being there and make sure the general manager is there.

Cassandra: This is one of my projects. I am happy to know that you would take the time to help.

Inayat: If we do this on the Monday, we should just have action items and major action items on the agenda.

Sarah: I think we can organize this and make sure someone isn't overwhelmed with work that day.

Maya: Maybe we should go in pairs or threes.

Ty: We can figure that out, whatever is comfortable. Monday the 10th would be the day.

Kseniya: There will be a student resource fair on March 13th and there would be a booth for AS. I want to find clear discounts and amounts. I put on a proposal to hand out blue books and scantrons. I didn't want to hand out chocolates when we could ask for blue books.

X. Director & Committee Reports / Student Trustee Report/ Advisor Reports

Michael: I was selected to be the student speaker in march in march. There are signs on the side of the building saying this is where the associated students is and the back side has events. Clubs can publicize in the cafeteria as well. More publicity stuff is the AS monthly, the AS poo times, and small publicity things are being ordered.

Jasmine: ICC has their first meeting on Thursday. The ICC constitution is finally online. Elections stuff is online.

Cassandra: Michael delegated March in March questions to me. If you have any questions let me know.

Ty: If you don't know your representatives go to findyourrep.legislative.ca.gov

Sonali: How many directors are planning to attend March in March? I only have 7 deposits. You need to have at least 30 students deposited for Wednesday by noon or else the bus will be canceled by Mike Tuitasi.

Michael: We just put the box there a couple of hours ago. There will be more than 30 students. My name is attached to the bus. I am able to cancel it.

Sonali: I encourage all of you to make sure that there are 30 paid deposited students.

Michael: I already reserved the buses. I don't know what VP Tuitasi says that he can cancel it.

Sonali: I spoke to him and he wants deposits in or they will be canceled. At this moment the only advisor is attending is Tuitasi. That's why he has left the note on my desk and states this because so that we have more people turn in deposits.

Ty: I think Thursday afternoon is a better deadline. I don't think we should cancel the bus even if we don't. It does seem like people are trying to overstep their boundaries.

Jasmine: We can still find alternative measures.

Ty: Threats are not good.

Jesse: I am with 2 of my trustees. In the board of trustees, one topic that has come back is student equity and the achievement gap.

**Associated Students of Santa Monica College
A.S. Board of Directors Regular Meeting
February 24, 2014 3:00 PM
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Daniel: The governor's office approved a hundred million dollar budget for student equity. Jesse brought a resolution and that was one aim at tackling the equity and diversity. There is not one answer, it's a broad topic. If anyone is interested in forming a team.

Jesse: student equity is specifically to help close the achievement gap. If anyone wants to participate and help, we would appreciate it. These past few months, I have been to many conferences and have seen many talks on closing the achievement gap. It's time to change the way we see things and see that someone's background is an issue.

Cassandra: Would you be interested in publicizing a meeting with the public, like an open forum, but specifically for this topic. Our team as a whole can go to the ICC meeting and get input.

Sonali: The rest of the furniture will be arriving tomorrow morning at 7:00. We are closed to the public and will reopen at 3:00. You can come into the space. If you need to come, please do come. Tomorrow will be chaotic and busy. Thursday will be our grand reopening.

Benny: Mike Tuitasi isn't really threatening. Trying to get staff going on the trip, we can't pay them. When I ask people to come, they come as volunteers. The Cal Grant income ceiling has been raised. They have the middle class scholarship this year. People making 100,000-150,000 dollars can get financial aid. This year is not a year to miss the deadline for financial aid and Cal Grant. Each school wants different information. Make sure you know the deadlines. I think it is March 3rd.

XI. Adjournment 4:56 PM
Motion by Jasmine, Second by Inayat.