

Executive Director Report To the AS Senate

October 5, 2016

By Marisela Márquez, Ph.D.

I. Personnel:

The committee will be interviewing the candidates for the Assistant Director, Independent Media position (overseeing KCSB, the Bottom-Line, KJUC and helping to manage the AS department) in the next couple of weeks. I will then schedule time with the finalists and be making an appointment soon. In fact, there will be an invitation to the department for participation in forums to gain your insights in to the candidates. Each forum includes an evaluation form.

Currently, the record keeping position is now in open recruitment.

Finally, upcoming positions include: a position in support of the IV Tenant Union, in support of KCSB and in support of the Program Board are all in discussions with student leadership and staff managers. More on these will be upcoming in the next few weeks.

II. Issues/ Report

Alternative Transportation Program, *GauchaRide*

Over the past year—really over the last 7 years—there has been a concerted effort to sponsor a program that will help students who are temporarily or permanently disabled. Thanks to students from CODE, Jerel Constantino, and President, Austin Hechler for following up on all of these details all summer.

There will be various elements to this work—but for now the part of the program that helps students be transported between campus and their homes has been solved, in that we've entered in to an agreement with Lyft, and the Disabled Students Program to identify students in need and provide rides provided by Lyft rides. DSP will be responsible for identifying the students in need and an automated process will distribute the codes for use.

Electric Vehicle and PediCabs

We have been looking in to leasing or purchasing an electric vehicle for on campus transport and we were the recipients of donated Pedi cabs last year. I'm also aware that the Health Center is interested in partnering with AS to enhance a program that they've developed to help transport students. I will be following up with the Director in the next few weeks.

We will continue to discuss this in the upcoming weeks.

III. On-Going Issues

IRS and ASUCSB

Last week I addressed with you all the issue that has been ongoing for AS with the IRS. I've attached a letter to your email, which is our latest correspondence with the IRS where we are asking for a Private Letter Ruling on behalf of ASUCSB.

I'm pulling together a meeting of the executive department next Monday at 8:30 am to meet with our lead accountant, Jeff Harris to review all that has transpired since we began to assert that AS is not expected to file the required 990s for non-profit agencies.

At the present time, this request for a private letter ruling is being reviewed by outside counsel who expects to complete his review by this coming Friday. So, by next week should have more updated information.

Regarding the potential liability—that would only be levied if the IRS again asserted that ASUCSB does need to continue to file 990s as we have over the past few years, and that it will need to pay penalties going back to the years when it did not file them. I've reviewed the numbers and potential liability could be around \$450,000. We also have funds to cover the defense of this matter, including hiring our accountants, attorneys, etc. So, no new fees or monies would need to be expended to cover this liability. As your Executive Director, I announce this at the beginning of each school year so that you're informed.

More on this as things become clearer...and you will be meeting our accounting firm when they come to present their findings of their external audit to you this Fall.

AS and our Internal Controls

As Austin and I reported last week, the AS department underwent an audit of our internal controls and one of the findings was that the department did not have delegated authority for procurement. Over the course of time, this department has maintained its authority, delegated by the Regents, and the Chancellor. Backup documentation that has instructed us on how to conduct our business regarding this financial authority including procurement has been the AS constitution and legal code. We are currently unsure about that process—or are in discussion about how to further our work and comply with what the university recognizes as our responsibilities. We will bring more of this to you in the upcoming weeks. Until this is resolved however, I will be asking many of the usual contracts to seek out directional resolutions from you—directing me to sign on your behalf and enter in to contracts. That, at the present time, will ensure that you are fully aware of the contracts as they are being signed – until more training has been provided for me.

AS and Stewardship of Student Fees

There was an additional audit by the UCSB audit department which culminated this past year and it recommended to we develop manuals and other controls over our programs such as the CFF, the EOP grants, emergency grants etc. If the Senate would like, I could bring those to you for review—and/or prepare a presentation in the upcoming weeks.

My Time

I have office hours each Friday from 3-5 pm and by appointment. Over the past few weeks I've met with several Senators, appointed students and have worked to help you develop projects, and ideas. I've met with the Execs in planning and then delivering (and attending) various orientations including this past Sunday with the EVPSA office. Absolutely one of the best elements of my jobs is sitting with you in community to develop your skills and make plans for the upcoming year. This past weekend in particular, we met hundreds of students in the AS / OSL leadership conference and had oodles of conversation regarding collaborations—existing and planned. I also sit on the Campus Community Council, appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and we are currently sponsoring the Resilient Love program that has been going on our campus the past couple of days. We are also looking in to scheduling a lecture and work around community policing models in response to the issues that are occurring around the nation.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming year.

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