



ELECTIONS BOARD AGENDA

Associated Students

9/9/20, 4:00 PM

Virtual Meeting - Zoom

CALL TO ORDER by Andrew Yan at 3:59 PM

A. ROLL CALL

Name	Note:	Name	Note:
Andrew Yan <i>Chair</i>	Present	Ruth Garcia Guevara <i>Advisor</i>	Present
Wessal Esber <i>Vice Chair</i>	Present	Diana Collins Puente <i>Advisor</i>	
Emma Xing	Absent	Ahura Nezhad <i>Senate Liaison</i>	Present
Shannon Hollingsworth	Absent	Dylan Martinez <i>Senate Liaison</i>	
Austin Foreman	Present		
Lauren Sullivan	Present		
Daniel Ong	Present		

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B.1. SAG

Andrew: So just 20 minutes ago, we got an email from Melissa Perez, the current SAG, about their resignation from the student advocate general position.

Wessal: Austin was talking about the runner-up system, so I'll pull up Elections Code. It's right here if everyone just wants to read that really quick.

Wessal: Who was it that ran versus Melissa?

Austin: It was Tyler Ferguson.

Wessal: So in this position who would it go to?

Andrew: It says "Upon the vacancy of an Executive Officer position, a Special Election may be called. If an Executive Officer position becomes vacant before the fifth (5th) meeting of the Senate of Fall Quarter, an election must be held before the end of the quarter."

Wessal: So there needs to be a special election.

Austin: It says may be called. I don't understand why the runner-up system [used for Senators if someone resigns, where the position goes to the runner-up] can't be used for executive positions.

Wessal: What I was thinking is the reason why Senate is a runner-up system and an executive vacancy results in a special election is if that were the case, if someone like the President gets recalled, it would usually then go to the opposite party. That would encourage the other party to try and recall the opposing party's president every year. This current system disincentivizes that.

Austin: Secondly, there's the party thing. SAG is independent and in this case there's someone right there, they're willing and they already have a plan for the position. They already participated in an election for the position and showed their willingness for the position. The party system makes it harder for other positions but I'm wondering about SAG especially in the case of a resignation instead of a recall.

Ruth: Especially for executive positions, it's usually not our place to just give it to them since we are just the Elections Board, but it's true that have already done a lot of the groundwork for the position.

Wessal: People already know their name.

Ruth: And we need to remember that they might not want to do it.

Wessal: That's true.

Austin: It says in the runner-up code that it's offered to them, not given. But I do understand, if you think about it at the President level for example it's definitely different.

Wessal: In the code it does say that the runner-up system is just for Senators.

Austin: I see it now. The other thing is, I don't want the SAG office to be vacant for that long.

Andrew: I think it would go to the Chief of Staff but we would need to check.

Andrew: Never mind, it says "The Executive Offices shall be considered vacant until a duly elected officer is sworn into office." It says duly elected. Either way we will need a special election to fill this vacancy.

Andrew: Is everyone good with this so far?

Daniel: Yes

Lauren: Yes

Austin: It would be difficult to reach the 20% needed. Can it be changed?

Ruth: We only need to meet 20% in the spring election, we do not have a set number for special elections.

Andrew: It wouldn't be 20% if it's a special election. We could choose a voter threshold.

Ruth: 10%?

Wessal: Yeah I was thinking 10% too.

Austin: Yeah 10% would be good.

Andrew: Do y'all really think 10%? Just to give everyone some context, in 2018 there were two special elections for EVPSA. The voter threshold for the first one was 16% and the second one was 4%. It failed both times. It's hard to get students to vote in special elections, especially if there are just 1-2 people running.

Andrew: I would honestly recommend 1%. I think the voter turnout will be extremely low in an election for the SAG office (which has an education problem where people don't know what the position is) and also during a pandemic.

Ahura: Just to clarify, we are sure that Tyler Ferguson could not replace Melissa either, right?

Wessal: No, the runner-up system is only for Senators.

Austin: What about a potential recall? Would the recall portion require 20% of the student body to be valid? If it got put on the ballot with the SAG.

Andrew: Yes.

Wessal: Could we have two different thresholds for two different positions?

Andrew: Yes.

Ruth: We do have two different thresholds for candidates and fees.

Andrew: We're just about out of time for today but this would definitely be a discussion we will continue later, before fall quarter.

B.2. Senate Bill

Andrew: Next week we have two Senators coming to our meeting to discuss suggestions for next year's Elections Code. I have the text of the bill and I'll send it to everyone now.

Ruth: Just to remind everyone, this isn't a time to debate, it's a time for everyone to discuss, take notes, things like that. Just keep that in mind.

Andrew: Sounds good, we'll see everyone next week.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Andrew Yan at 5:00 PM