



ELECTIONS BOARD AGENDA

Associated Students

10/6/20, 2:00 PM

Virtual Meeting - Zoom

CALL TO ORDER by Andrew Yan at 2:00 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	Present	Ahura Nezhad <i>Senate Liaison</i>	Present
Shannon Hollingsworth	Absent (Excused)	Dylan Martinez <i>Senate Liaison</i>	Present
Austin Foreman	Present		
Lauren Sullivan	Present		
Daniel Ong	Present		

Also in attendance:

Tyler Barth, AS Attorney General

Icebreaker:

"drop your fav emoji in the slack chat"

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B.1. Updates

Andrew: Hi everyone, this is the Fall Elections kickoff meeting. Starting off with a few logistical things, I can tell that everyone saw by now, but we launched our new Slack channel earlier today.

Andrew: A reminder since we have new members, I'm chill on the roll call, if you have to miss a meeting just put a message in the Slack or by email. Two reasons, so we can mark you as excused and so we aren't waiting to start the meeting for someone that won't be coming.

Andrew: Let's do introductions again.

Dylan: Hi my name is Dylan, I'm a 4th year here at UCSB and I'm a senate liaison.

Tyler: My name is Tyler, I'm a 3rd year here at UCSB and I'm the attorney general.

B.2. Recall

Andrew: So all of us know by now but last Thursday night we received notification of a petition which is being conducted using our university-approved method. The recall is for the office of the President. Does anyone have thoughts?

Wessal: Basically, on October 2nd 4 days ago we sent a statement to the Senate that there's a recall petition circulating so everyone knows what's going on. It basically says this statement serves as a notification to the AS UCSB Senate that there is a recall petition and it says the petition is student sponsored and is not sponsored by AS or the AS Elections Board. The petition is provided in accordance with recall procedure which is attached on the next page. Andrew quoted a part of code that has to do with the recall election.

Wessal: I wanted to let you all know that the statement is in Senate and we are impartial, we are not supporting or not supporting this, we are there retrospectively and we are there to provide information to everyone no what the process looks like and what needs to happen.

Ruth: I was going to ask if folks had any questions or had any clarifications on what that meant. It's definitely new for the folks on the board now. Especially now that we are all remote it makes things a little more difficult.

Andrew: Summary of the process, basically three main steps. The first step is they need to collect 542 signatures. That is where they are at right now. Then AS Career Staff validates the signatures. The second step is Senate has a series of votes on it. The decision is up to Senate when it gets to the second step. The third step is the actual election with a 20% voter threshold and a 2/3 majority needed to pass the recall. Those numbers were not decided by us, they are in Legal Code. We can't change them even if we wanted to, for example say that we wanted to change the 20% threshold to 4% to match SAG. We couldn't do that.

Lauren: I have a question for something that Andrew said earlier. What was the initial email about?

Andrew: They wanted access to the backend of the petition. They are allowed to see the signatures because if you think about it, we often compare the online petition we have to a paper petition. If it was a paper petition then the petition supporters would be in the Arbor right now trying to get signatures. They could just count the number of signatures on their paper. Similarly, the petitioner can see how many signatures they have right now.

Andrew: Also if y'all remember, last year there was a digital recall effort for the first time in AS. There was a circulating Google Form petition and last year's board made the decision to require verified signatures through a university platform.

Ruth: And one of the reason why the Elections Board decided to create this, instead of having some random Google Form is being able to verify signatures and the perm numbers is crucial. Also it's really important that some of the language on here is very clear to the people that's signing the petition. If it was a Google Form we have no control of what's on there. Gauchos for Transparency wants transparency right, so it's important for them to be as transparent as possible for the people signing their petition. For example, now it clearly contains legal language about the recall and everyone knows exactly what they're saying. Now people are using their netID to login and I will be able to verify that students are currently enrolled and they can tell if their signature is being counted.

Austin: Do you think this would be the future of petitions? Do you feel like from now on it would be best done online?

Ruth: It might be. It's definitely something to consider. The petition process is actually incredibly tedious. One to collect the signatures, there's hundreds of papers that I have to print and I have to take those papers back. It's easier for people to login and put their perm numbers. I also have to type perms individually. The system we use on campus doesn't even allow me to copy and paste. It's not difficult, it just takes forever. I do like that we have at least one of these pieces online now.

Austin: How many signatures is the petition at?

Ruth: I was not necessarily going to share that because I was treating it very similar to the paper signatures. My thinking is that I don't want any number out there which is wrong anyways because there may be signatures that are not valid. I do know the number though.

Austin: I was just thinking to know how soon this petition is coming if it seems like the petition would maybe appear on the Fall Special Election.

Andrew: It would be up to Ruth.

Wessal: How about not an exact number but just so we can start working on the language.

Ruth: You should start.

Ahura: I had a quick question. This time she's doing it in a very legitimate way and let's say she does get the required number of valid signatures. Would that automatically call for a recall election. If it does when does it have to happen? What I'm trying to say is are we going to be left with an AS that doesn't have a president?

Andrew: If it is at 542 and if Ruth has verified the signatures, then it would go to Senate.

Wessal: Am I right that we have a line of succession? The next person would be elected.

Andrew: There is, the IVP would be the President, not in name I think but the IVP would at least fill the constitutional duty of the President.

Andrew: There's a lot that's still up in the air because as far as I know, there's never been a recall question in AS before. None of us have been here for a recall.

Ruth: Yes, every other time the petitioner either decided not to continue on the process or the person being recalled resigned.

Andrew: Let's talk deadlines. Monday, October 26 would be the day the Fall ballot opens. The last day for Sean to update the ballot would be the business day before that, which is Friday, October 23, although we should obviously tell him before the last day. We should probably give him at least a 2-3 day notice. The Senate meeting before that is Wednesday, October 21, and that would be the last Senate meeting where we could present this petition to Senate. That and then you have to add 1-2 business days for Ruth to validate the signatures. Based on everything else that needs to happen, I think it makes logical sense to say that the de facto deadline for them to get the signatures is Monday, October 19. Ruth, what do you think?

Ruth: At some point, are we moving to build a ballot for the recall or not? As Sean is building the ballot for SAG, should we ask him to do it? Even though we don't have the signatures we should move forwards. Even if we don't have a deadline we do have our own internal deadline. Not only does Sean need to build that piece on the ballot, it's not just a simple form and I don't know the technical side of it. The other thing I need to do is I need to ask for a list of all the registered students and we don't have that in AS so I would need to ask another department to hand that over to me. Once that happens it needs to be quick. What week is October 19?

Andrew: Week 3.

Ruth: We get the census for the quarter Week 3. That's how we get our data. That's why we have the Elections week 4 so we can get the numbers week 3 so we know what numbers we're supposed to

hit. That makes it a little tricky because then we have to wait for a whole another separate department. There's just a lot of moving parts and the sooner the better.

Andrew: I think it's fair to say that you should request the list of registered students soon, Ruth.

Ruth: I've already talked to other staff because you have to be special permission to check these things if they can get permission from campus to also be approved and it can't be students unfortunately. There's a lot of information on that system that is staff only. There are only two staff members that have access to that system and Sean is not one of them.

Wessal: Are we going to stick with that October 19 thing? Ruth, should we set a deadline?

Riuth: I think you should. It's helpful to the petitioners if they know.

Wessal: I think Monday of Week 3 is good. It's enough time, I think.

Austin: I think as long as that date is feasible for Ruth then it's a good date.

Ruth: Yes.

Wessal: I was going to be suggest that we check as the petition gets signed but I realized you don't have access to that, right.

Ruth: Because of the 3rd week census, we couldn't, because then we don't know if people are dropping or things like that until the 3rd week. And that's the only tricky piece. I can give folks a heads up in the other departments that its' coming but also keeping in mind that there's thousands of students that they need to put together. Even in the regular Spring election they can't get that number until Week 4. If I'm lucky I'll get it week 3 but sometimes I get it week 4.

Wessal: If you get it late are we going to have to push the recall election until next quarter?

Ruth: I think I'm going to figure it out on my end, like the staffing need, we would figure out what would be the best way.

Motion to set a deadline for the Fall 2020 recall petition of the president to be October 19, 2020 at 11:59pm

First/Second: Esber/Xing

Vote: 5-0 to APPROVE, no abstentions

Ruth: We should tell her that if she wants it by Fall this is how it'll be feasible. If it's not then she's going to have to wait.

Wessal: I'll work on the email after this meeting.

Andrew: Also, we had a Senator suggest that we should link or display the petition on the elections website. I forwarded that email chain to everyone so we could have this discussion. Everyone please read it if you haven't yet. Any thoughts?

Wessal: I read it. We don't promote individual positions. We don't promote fees and we don't say vote for Wessal to be SAG or something like that. I personally think it's weird to put the petition on our page because we wouldn't post someone's paper petition right at our door or in our office.

Personally I'd want to keep it like normal and an equivalent of what we do in elections on paper.

Emma: I agree with Wessal. I think it's their responsibility to get signatures. It's not like we're trying to hide it or anything. I think it's best to remain neutral. We can't really advertise it.

Wessal: I want to point out that our statement to the Senate is on our Facebook page too. So that is transparent. No one is hiding that the recall is a thing, we just can't help with signatures.

Austin: I think it's up to the petitioner to distribute the means of collecting signatures just like they do in person. Even though it's hosted on our backend so we can do our job effectively, it's not our petition, it's the petitioners. If we put a link to the recall on our page, that is effectively us distributing it and I would say that is partial and we would be showing some sort of favorability in the recall.

Wessal: If we put it on our frontpage then it's equivalent to putting the petition on the AS Main door and I think it's not fair and it's definitely partial. And that would be my opinion on why we wouldn't want to do that.

Lauren: I agree, what Wessal said made a lot of sense to me. Like we wouldn't put the paper petition on the AS door. It would be up to the petitioner to advertise it.

Daniel: I also agree. I think if we were to display the petition on our website it would sound like we would be encouraging students to sign it.

Motion to deny the request to put the link to the Fall 2020 recall petition on the elections website due to the fact that it is partial to promote the petition

First/Second: Esber/Xing

Vote: 5-0 to APPROVE, no abstentions

Andrew: I wanted to go to Tyler to see if you had any thoughts or maybe if you know anything that we don't know about yet.

Tyler: I met with Marisela and she thought it would be best for me to speak about the recall on behalf of the AG office. Is someone from Elections going to the meeting, and if so is anyone going to be speaking too?

Andrew: A lot of us will be there, I will be there too. You can be the one to talk about it.

Tyler: Sounds good.

Andrew: Actually we still have the SAG election. You can still talk about the recall.

Ruth: I'll be at that meeting too.

Ruth: Tyler, is there anything else that you'd want to talk about or you'd like the group to consider.

Tyler: I told Andrew that I'm really glad we finalized the timeline last year. It's really complicated and Legal Code is fairly ambiguous. I think the timeline is clear and I'm happy that we talked about it today. I'm glad that we're all on the same page with that.

Austin: One thing that I wanted to say, being on Senate last year and having the thought of the recall at the end of Spring. My comment is on something that Tianna should tell the Senators. The Senate is basically just approving the legitimacy of the petition, not whether or not they support the recall effort. I think it's something that could become contentious in the Senate, I know it was sort of like that last year. That's why everyone sends minutes to Senate, they're just legitimating that the BCUs met and that they're checking it off. It's the wording and that they're legit. Especially because they're new senators and it's not really part of their responsibility for them to discuss if it's the right reason for a recall. I'm not sure who should deliver that to Senate.

Ruth: That is a great point.

Andrew: Yes, that was well-worded. And Tyler should.

Wessal: I think the most ideal presentation to the Senate is very impartial. If someone can bring the Legal Code timeline graphic and tell them that is what's happening and that's the only thing that would be ok.

Tyler: I think it would be best if whatever Senator who shares the graphic during the meetings, I think it's Dylan, if you could share the graphic when this is being discussed.

Dylan: Sure.

Andrew: Ok, we're at 3pm so we'll end this discussion here. We'll talk about SAG next week.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Andrew Yan at 3:02 PM