ELECTIONS BOARD AGENDA

Associated Students
9/16/20, 4:00 PM
Virtual Meeting - Zoom

CALL TO ORDER by Andrew Yan at 4:00 PM

A. ROLL CALL

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

Also in attendance:
Ky Youssef, Off-Campus Senator
Dania de Ramon, On-Campus Senator
Sean Lieberman, Assistant Director for Technology

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B.1. Senate Bill

Ky: Hi everyone. Senator de Ramon and I wrote a bill and we wanted to talk to the Elections Board. It's a bill to increase transparency in AS Elections and we wanted to talk about these suggestions and y'all can listen and change it if you feel it's necessary.
Ky: The first change is to release election records, basically all of the ballot files. I feel like that would increase transparency with the students and it should be public for student access online just in case the students wanted to calculate it themselves and just to increase transparency and accountability throughout AS.
Ky: Another suggestion is to release Election data on an online database, from 2010, if applicable but UC Davis and Berkeley have adopted a similar project and they have access online, you can just click

documents and all of it is there from previous election years. Senator de Ramon, you can go ahead and do the next two.

Dania: Following that, we were also suggesting that if some reason the data cannot be published to the website, that Elections Board and the Executive Director put out a public statement saying why the information isn't available, if it as deleted or something. We also wanted to write something saying all the complaints are made public throughout election season, so people know who is getting fined and for what reasons and for the complaints. But also, you can exclude any kind of confidential information and that's just to increase transparency.

Ky: Basically this bill all we want to do is help increase transparency especially on a remote digital network and these are all suggestions that we hope y'all can take and maybe check out UC Berkeley and Davis' database and see how they set up.

Austin: Something separate, a question for Sean. This is my first year on Elections Board I'm not sure what the ballot files or the election files takes like. So Sean, is that something that reasonably could be published.

Sean: Right, so right now we use custom software to calculate the single transferable vote. Berkeley has the original software, we took it, and we made it better. It's open source and it's on our Github page so anyone could download it and use it. What people have been asking for is the ballot data which is a gigantic csv file where each row is a vote but with certain things taken out such as initiatives, so the file is just candidate stuff. It's that and the configuration file. They asked for two separate files in the configuration file and it's just one file in the configuration file. Our software works both for Berkeley's model and our model. Our configuration file contains data like: what are the parties, how many files are elected for each position, who's a legitimate write-in candidate. All those things together plus the software and when you run it on Election night, it's the exact same thing I stream from my machine. The only additional thing I would have to do if we have to publish is to further anonymize data. Right now it has a unique ID. I would anonymize that even further by doing a randomized code. One reason we haven't published full data to date is because we have been using Qualtrics only since 2016, so before that we used the survey department on campus when that was a thing so we don't have the same kind of data if we actually went back to 2010.

Sean: The other thing is, if you know how to look at the data then that's an advantage. If you are a stats person you could dive into it further you could go through and say who voted on everything, the Nexus endorsed or who voted along party lines. So yes, if we released the raw voting data then it could definitely give a certain party or person an advantage. But it would take some extra work if anyone were to do that.

Ky: We also have one more thing to talk about if you all have time.

Ky: Currently Senate has a runner up system as you know, if someone resigns or is impeached. We were wondering if Senate retabulation is a bylaw change or if that violates Election policy. I wanted to hear from the Board on this.

Andrew: Maybe Sean can speak on this because that's happened in recent years.

Sean: When it happens, it goes to the next runner up. We have that built into the system already and that has happened twice since we instituted the single transferrable vote system. They'll drop after the ballot is locked. We have a system in place that can remove them so it then goes on to their next choice. The issue comes when you try to do that after the fact. Let's say someone resigned, during the summer period. If I take them out now it retroactively changes the results of several things. It probably won't change the results where someone who already won ends up losing their seat but it

might. Right now we look at who is next and they'll be the one who is next in line. I could do a test to see if it would change things but retroactively it would be a lot trickier to do it like that.

Austin: Once the elections results night happen the results do go to Senate and Senate does approve them. So I would think that once the list is approved in its order then that is pretty set how it is. And that the retabulation would be undoing what Senate already set the results. That's my opinion.

Ky: There's limitations, but would that be an Elections Board issue?

Ruth: Yes.

Sean: There's a remote chance that someone you could have a case that removing someone who resigned could make it so someone who has a seat doesn't have a seat anymore. It could appear like that person didn't win anymore. That's my biggest concern there. I have to run tests to see what it would look like if it took out someone who got a lot of votes. When you take someone out after the fact then it just skips after that. Most people have a next choice. It's just unpredictable.

Andrew: Would you want to do those tests Sean then come back and tell us about the results?

Sean: Yes, I can do that.

Wessal: A couple things I'd like to add/ask. As I'm understanding it you're wanting to have the election results retabulated. Right now it's currently just the next person and you'd rather. I have a couple concerns with that as well just because the current code. I guess we could change the code if we wanted to, but we also already have the results on Elections night and those results have already been accepted by the Senate. If someone were to step down it would have to retabulated, reaccepted, etc. After Sean goes through and sees all of that I think it would cause more issues. What's the reason behind the change, are you just trying to make sure it's transparent?

Ky: Just to make it more fair to the person who is choosing to resign.

Andrew: Alright, sounds good. If no one else has any more questions, we'll move on from this now but we'll revisit this during Fall quarter once we get the special election plans done and the Board has a chance to review Legal Code.

Ky: Sounds good, thank you all for having us.

Dania: Thank you.

B.2. SAG

Andrew: Switching to the fall special election now and continuing from our discussion from last week. First off, does everyone agree that we need a Fall special election? If anyone has other opinions now is the time.

> **Motion to call a Fall 2020 special election for the SAG position**
> *First/Second: Esber/Xing*
> Vote: 5-0 to APPROVE, no abstentions

Andrew: Let's talk about the timeline first. I'm sending everyone a sample schedule. This was copied straight from the 2018 Fall election schedule with no changes except with 2018 dates changed to 2020.

Ruth: When does school begin?

Andrew: Week 0 begins on Thursday 10/1 and Week 1 begins on Monday 10/5. I know that the current schedule is very tight in terms of deadlines. Again this is just a draft, but right now it says ~~candidacy forms are due on 10/5~~. [This was changed in the next meeting, see 9/23 minutes]
Wessal: Doesn't Legal Code say that the special election needs to be done by a certain week?
Andrew: That might be why.
Andrew: So looking at it, there are a few immediate changes that need to be made. For example the DoC meeting needs to be changed to be online. I know that a lot of us have been to DoC meetings before but in Fall it's different since it's just one position. It's only going to be a couple people there instead of 70. I'll talk about election rules for like 10 minutes and then we'll be good.

Andrew: What does everyone think about active campaigning? For those that are new, active campaigning includes in-person campaigning.
Emma: I think we shouldn't allow it.
Wessal: I don't want to give people who live in IV an advantage.
Austin: I want to stay by the health guidelines, I know it's less than groups of 6 but we want to keep people from interacting each other to stop the spread of the virus.
Wessal: And I don't want to incentivize people to go to IV.

Andrew: We're out of time. Just a few miscellaneous things before we end, I reached out to the SAG Chief of Staff last Monday to inform them about what is happening.
Sean: One suggestion, maybe we could put a poll link at the end of the ballot and do something like a giveaway to encourage voter turnout.
Wessal: I like that, at the end of the ballot so votes and the giveaway aren't together.
Andrew: Cool, we'll continue this discussion next week.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Andrew Yan at 5:09 PM