



ELECTIONS BOARD AGENDA

Associated Students

9/23/20, 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 <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 | Present | Dylan Martinez <i>Senate Liaison</i> | |
| Austin Foreman | Present | | |
| Lauren Sullivan | Absent | | |
| Daniel Ong | Present | | |

Icebreaker:

https://twitter.com/foxxi_loxxi/status/1308451019421110275

Reese's Pieces (3), Twizzlers (2), Sour Patch (1), Swedish Fish (1)

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B.1. Senate Resignations

Ahura: We had an online vote this week and there was one resignation on the vote. I believe there is another one coming up. So there are two senators in total who are resigning, excluding the executive that already resigned. And I think we will be accepting that by Friday. It would be helpful if we want to talk about the runner up process and how it goes.

Austin: Isn't that the IVP's duty to fill the empty Senate seats? Last year we had three seats open. I was the second pro-temp and Alli ended up creating a committee to fill the slots.

Andrew: I would think it would go to the runner-up because that's what's in the code right now.

Ruth: Yes, it's Tianna who is in charge of going down the list and it just keeps going until she runs out of candidates basically. Once they run out of candidates they would have to create a committee to interview Senate candidates. So it's all on the IVP to do it, we can keep telling her what it is but it is up to her. The results list is already online so she already has it.

B.2. SAG Special Election

Andrew: I met with the OSA Chief of Staff last week to talk about the election and we discussed potentially starting the election process a little later this quarter, to allow people to get settled into the virtual quarter since deciding to run for an exec is a big decision. Right now our declaration deadline is Monday of Week 1 and when I look at it now it does seem like the deadlines are too close to the beginning of the quarter.

Andrew: I'm putting my new proposal on the screen. What does everyone think?

NEW:

Declaration of Candidacy TBA until Wed 10/14 11:59pm (on our website)

Candidate Meeting Thurs 10/15 @4pm on Zoom

Virtual Campaigning Begins Sun 10/18 @8pm

Candidate Forums TBA

Voting Begins @8am, Mon 10/26-10/29

OLD:

~~Declaration of Candidacy TBA until 10/5 11:59pm (on our website)~~

~~Candidate Meeting 10/6 @4pm on Zoom~~

~~Virtual Campaigning Begins 10/8 @8pm~~

~~Candidate Forums TBA~~

~~Voting Begins @8am, 10/19-10/22~~

Emma: The new schedule is good.

Daniel: I think the new schedule is better.

Motion to approve the new Fall Special Election schedule

First/Second: Hollingsworth/Xing

Vote: 5-0 to APPROVE, no abstentions

Andrew: We still have candidate forums. We need to discuss how we're going to do that later.

Wessal: I just double checked it with the calendar and it's fine because we're still done before Week 4. I know we should have deadlines but when it comes to forums, I think we could be a little more flexible with that.

Austin: By forums does it mean the recorded videos from last year?

Andrew: Yes, it'll be the 1 minute videos at this point unless anyone has other ideas later.

Andrew: Now it's time to talk about the voter threshold. Just to give y'all some background info, in 2018 we had two special elections. The first one, 16% voter threshold and only 10% voted. The second one, 10% voter threshold and about 4% voted. Both elections failed.

Ahura: What's the lowest voter threshold we can do this time?

Andrew: 0%. Or 1%.

Wessal: I'm going to say what a voter threshold does so we're all on the same page. So if we say 10%, that means 10% in total needs to vote to legitimize the election. That doesn't mean that someone needs 10% to vote for them, but the total needs to be 10%.

Andrew: Just to give everyone a frame of reference, 1% would be a little less than 250 students.

Andrew: Any initial thoughts?

Austin: I think greater than 5% would be nice.

Ahura: I think 3-4% is safe.

Wessal: I'm thinking 5-10%.

Austin: Same.

Emma: I was thinking 10%.

Austin: Yeah 10% would be 2,500 students.

Shannon: What was the voter threshold in Spring?

Wessal: 20%.

Ruth: In order for the ballot to be valid, it is 20% for spring

Andrew: Ruth, what are your thoughts?

Ruth: It is an executive position and you don't want to minimize it. Obviously I think 20% is too much and I agree. I think making it too low also makes it a little insignificant or not as important. One thing I will say, Andrew, is we don't have the official numbers quite yet but we have an increased number of students enrolled so far, maybe more than last year.

Andrew: Another variable is that we don't know if this will be contested or not. If it was contested then I would think something like 3% would be totally reasonable. If it's not, maybe 1%?

Ahura: This is an experience I don't think our student government has dealt with exactly. This is a special election that is completely virtual. I don't insist on 3 to 4 percent like I said earlier but we should keep that in mind.

Austin: One thing is the threshold is going to be under public knowledge and it does go to the Senate. There are other people that do see it and provide their input as well.

Andrew: Whatever the number is, I can justify it to Senate.

Andrew: Just to clarify, I think we can get 10%. I really do but why put everyone in a situation where we might not? I'm very cautious about a high number like that given our virtual quarter. If this special election were to fail again due to 10%, not only do we have to go through this again, but the candidate would be out of a position because of our completely arbitrary number and the OSA office would be without a SAG for at least another quarter.

Wessal: Now that I'm thinking about it on these terms. There are two sides I'm torn between. We don't want this position to be failed and I don't want it to be that way. The Senate's going to see the number, is it delegitimizing the election and all of that stuff and what Ruth says? I do understand we want this to be filled. I retract my 10% and I think doing a raffle would help. I think 1 or 2% is too low.

Emma: I guess now, thinking about it more, maybe 5% would be better.

Ruth: I think I already said my piece. I am afraid of it being too low but I am aware of it being too high and it fails and that is our downfall. We're going to get voter fatigue if we have to do this again and I'm really, really aware of that because we have a big election for fees. And we have all of AS on there this year.

Andrew: Ok, using that logic, what about 4%? That would be about the same as the voter turnout for the last special election.

Shannon: I like your reasoning for 4%.

Daniel: At first I thought we should set it at 1% because I don't think many people would vote. I guess 4 is ok because if we had the raffle and things like that we could reach 4% pretty easily.

Ahura: 4% is a thousand students. I think a thousand would be fair and challenging enough to the point where you won't get elected solely because you have a huge social group.

Austin: 4% is ok.

Wessal: I think 4% is reasonable.

Motion to set the voter threshold for the Fall 2020 special election to 4%

First/Second: Esber/Hollingsworth

Vote: 5-0 to APPROVE, no abstentions

Andrew: Great, let's talk about advertising. We will be doing all digital advertising this quarter like ads on Facebook and Instagram that target specifically UCSB students. Here's how we allocate advertising funds. We set a high number and we usually don't spend all of it, but it's there in case we need to. The funds obviously stay with us if we don't spend it all.

Austin: How much does an ad campaign cost?

Andrew: At least \$500 for a week-long event on Facebook + Instagram combined. Let's start with that number, \$500.

Austin: That was the number I was thinking.

Ruth: Did you also want to allocate money for prizes or a raffle? We could also ask the AS Ticket Office.

Andrew: We'll do that next quarter.

Motion to allocate \$500 for advertising in the Fall 2020 special election

First/Second: Esber/Foreman

Vote: 5-0 to APPROVE, no abstentions

Andrew: Does anyone have experience with Shoreline? I was going to say that we could participate in their club fair but then I realized it would be mostly first-years there who are ineligible to run anyways.

Andrew: Just to clarify, right now we're in the recruitment advertising stage. After that we will do voting advertising.

Ruth: I actually had a meeting with SEAL [Office of Student Life] because no one is able to do anything in person basically everything is going to be done on Shoreline. This year everyone has to do event stuff through that portal.

Andrew: We'll look into that.

Andrew: A couple other things to address. First off, should we allow new fee initiatives or amendments on this Fall election ballot?

Austin: No.

Wessal: No.

Austin: My reasoning is that fees is something that needs a higher voter threshold. That's something that stays for at least two years until they need to get reaffirmed. And most fee initiatives get reaffirmed anyways.

Motion to not allow fee initiatives and amendments in the Fall 2020 special election

First/Second: Esber/Foreman

Vote: 5-0 to APPROVE, no abstentions

Andrew: Last thing to address is write-ins. Basically write-ins are usually people who miss the declaration deadline and still want to run. They are not technically on the ballot but that still allows people to write them in as a candidate. In the past we have not allowed write-ins during special elections just for simplicity. I'm also not worried about people missing the deadline because we just extended it more than a week.

Ruth: It's also a pain for Sean to deal with them.

Motion to not allow write-in candidates in the Fall 2020 special election

First/Second: Hollingsworth/Xing

Vote: 5-0 to APPROVE, no abstentions

Shannon: When do you think we should start advertising and looking for candidates?

Andrew: Next Monday. By then we will be able to get our graphics and I will also contact Sean to get our special election FAQ page running. [elections.as.ucsb.edu/declareSAG, the link currently gives an error; it won't work until next week]

Ruth: Don't forget that the petition also has to go through Senate.

Andrew: It'll be Monday or Tuesday then. [That will probably be when declaration opens, but the latest date will be the first day of instruction, Thursday 10/1.]

MEETING ADJOURNED by Andrew Yan at 5:02 PM