## Elections Board Agenda

## ASsquare_logo.tifAssociated Students

11/1/19, 9:45 AM

Nati Conference Room

**CALL TO ORDER by Davis Quan at 9:45 AM**

**A. ATTENDANCE**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Note:** | **Name** | **Note:** |
| Davis Quan(Chair) | **Present** | Ruth Garcia Guevara(Advisor) | **Absent** |
| Andrew Yan | **Present** | Kendra Sandoval(Advisor) | **Absent** |
| Emma Xing | **Absent (Excused)** | Kevin Sway(Senate Lialson) | **Present** |
| Wessal Esber | **Present** |  |  |

**B. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**B.1. Introductions**

Davis: First we’re going to do introductions.

Davis: Hi, I’m the chair of Elections Board. I’m a fourth year and this is my third year on the board.

Andrew: I’m a third year and this is also my third year on the board.

Wessal: I’m a second year and this is my first year here.

Kevin: Hi, I’m your Senate Lialson for the year. I’m a fourth year. Let me know if you all ever need help with Legal Code changes.

Davis: Here’s our timeline for Legal Code: We submit the code week 4, it gets tabled for a week then week 5 it gets approved. We will need your help setting up the code at the beginning.

Davis: We may also put something on the ballot for a change to the constitution because we need to update some language that has to do with fees.

Davis: Also Kevin, just to let to you know, you will have to make the decision Week 5 of winter quarter if you want to participate in the election process or if you want to stay on the board with us.

**B.2. Fundraising**

Davis: We’re going to be meeting biweekly (once every two weeks) during the Fall quarter because there’s not a whole lot going on. A lot of the code has been updated already. But there are a couple of things that I’d like everyone to participate on.

Davis: I’d like everyone to look at the fundraising part of the Elections Code. Basically this section of Legal Code is vague and confusing and we need to clarify it.

Wessal: What does it say?

Davis: Candidates can fund our campaigns through contributions. They can get fundraising money from fundraisers to fund their campaign.

Wessal: And we set the rules on how they’re supposed to make that money?

Davis: There’s something in the code that says you can’t get an exclusive fundraiser for university money.

Kevin: That’s under Legal Code, Elections Board?

Davis: Right now we’re on Page 36 of the word doc, section 8b.

Davis: Are there any problems we can see with fundraisers?

Wessal: Is there a limit for an individual candidate or parties?

Davis: Usually parties will be slightly under the max. Independent candidates usually spend $200 regardless of what position they’re running for.

Davis: Did you want to add a cap to what each fundraiser can contribute to a campaign?

Wessal: I think it’s a problem if a party works to fundraise but the other party just has a check.

So yes, I think individual contributions should be limited.

Davis: How it usually works is that Senators contribute a little and execs contribute a little more. That’s the candidate contribution, not like a donation.

Davis: Donations can also be physical contributions, like wood or materials. There is an issue with some candidate parties may have more leeway than others do.

Wessal: You shouldn’t be able to run for free, but you should have different ways of donating or fulfilling your contribution requirement, for example you should be able to fundraise. It shouldn’t be a cash barrier to entry.

Kevin: I agree. I’d love to see more independent candidates.

Andrew: Yes.

Davis: How would you want to quantify that information, like a $6,000 budget? How much do you think a person should contribute?

Kevin: You should just add a clause that says independent candidates can’t contribute more than $200.

Wessal: Yes, I think candidate contributions should be limited in general.

Kevin: I’ve seen it before when parties makes candidates pay $100 and if they win they pay another $100.

Wessal: I really think there should be a max amount.

Kevin: The other thing we should do is no donations or a limit on donations from campaign managers.

Andrew: Does that happen?

Kevin: Not that I know of, but it should be a rule.

Davis: I think the best way to combat that is to reduce the overall cap, from $6,000. There would be a certain amount where after this xx amount of donations then you can’t do anymore.

Kevin: Hypothetically, if we lowered the cap from $6,000 to 4 to 5, how would that affect the parties?

Davis: Would you say the average party runs 30 candidates?

Kevin: Maybe a bit less because no one gets enough on-campus senators.

Andrew: That needs to change. We need more outreach there but that’s another discussion.

Davis: Let’s say a party say a party has 25-30 candidates, and $200 per Senator and $300 per Exec it would actually be about $6,000 in total. That’s probably the math that was done to come up with the $6,000 number in the first place.

Andrew: It seems a little more reasonable when you break it down that way.

Kevin: We should be more specific in our language. At that amount, a party that runs a full slate would want to max out on the budget limit.

Andrew: If we choose to change the spending limit, we should have some justification for it instead of replacing it with another arbitrary amount.

Wessal: How about a max breakdown by category instead? For example xx for donations, xx for fundraisers, etc.

Davis: What number would we want to put on donations?

Kevin: Just straight up donations? The only people that would donate are people in the party. Maybe we could say donating goods only?

Davis: That’s a possible idea.

Andrew: I’m just hesitant to make something that’s already so complicated more confusing. We think the fundraising rules are vague but it turns out it’s already two entire pages in Legal Code. I think it should be our job to make guidelines like this less complicated. If we put limits, we should at least do it based off what was seen in past years.

Davis: So here are the numbers we just discussed. $5000 for campaign contributions, $500 donations, $500 fundraising.

Andrew: This would force fundraising and donations to hit the $6,000 limit?

Wessal: I don’t think we should limit the amount of fundraisers that much, there should be more means to get the $6,000.

Andrew: I still feel like this is too complicated if we set x caps on donations, x on contributions, x on fundraising, when all of those are different but no one knows the difference because it’s all defined in different places in the code. I would not want to be a campaign treasurer with all these new rule proposals in place.

Kevin: Definitely.

Wessal: I think the entire code is just unnecessarily long. So much of this can be condensed, for example the section on infractions is written so many different times.

Andrew: Yes.

Davis: I do agree it could be condensed but I’m worried that there are some things in here where it may be hard to shorten without changing the meaning.

Kevin: Ok, a new proposal. Set a general spending limit that differs by number of candidates. For example, parties can spend $5,000 if they have 20 candidates, if they have a full slate it could be something like $6,500. It would be less if there is a small party.

Andrew: I like that idea much better.

Wessal: That’s a good idea.

Kevin: It also has a second incentive. This would give parties an incentive to get more people involved with AS.

Wessal: I still think want to limit contributions. People are spending too much for their individual campaigns.

Kevin: The reason that candidates have to pay is because everything the party is spending in terms of outreach, advertising, etc. is for your benefit.

Wessal: You should have to pay, but you shouldn’t have to pay that much.

Kevin: How do you know how much is too much? How much do they need to campaign effectively? We don’t know that and we need to find out. Limiting that amount too low would be detrimental to people’s campaigns.

Kevin: I still like the idea of putting a threshold of money based on how many people are running, and maybe we can consider putting a cap on individual contributions, so a single person can’t donate the entire budget. If we do the second one, I would keep the maximum at $200-350.

Andrew: Agree.

Davis: We’re out of time, but that’s something to think about during a future meeting.

**MEETING ADJOURNED by Davis Quan at 10:45 AM**