## Elections Board Minutes

## ASsquare_logo.tifAssociated Students

2/10/2017, 2:00 PM

Nati Conference Room

**CALL TO ORDER 2:03 by Tiffany Yeh**

**A. MEETING BUSINESS**

1. **Roll Call**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Note:** absent (excused/not excused)arrived late (time)departed early (time)proxy (full name) | **Name** | **Note:**absent (excused/not excused)arrived late (time)departed early (time)proxy (full name) |
| Tiffany Yeh | **Present** | Elias Jordan | **Present** |
| Mary Zhu | **Present** | Austin Hechler | **Present** |
| Lorenzo Dela Rama | **Present, 20min late** | Gefen Laredo | **Present** |
| Steven Kwok | **Present** | Aaron Jones | **Present** |
| Carlos Castillo | **Present** | Ruth Garcia Guevara | **Absent** |

**Also in attendance: Izzy, Candace, Cole, and Ashcon**

**B. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

B-1. Reminders

Tiffany: declaration of candidacy is on 3/9 at 3:34 in the GSA, pictures start at 3:30pm and go till 5pm.

Austin: execs need to know what to say if they want to say something

B-3. Elections Board Staff Shirt Design

Tiffany: how does everyone feel about the proposed design for our staff shirts?

Mary: beautiful

Carlos: I like it

Steven: I like it

Tiffany: we still have some left over swag from last year. We have the rank your vote bag, sunglasses, and buttons. Swag will be this (the colors on the staff shirt) color theme for this year and other parties cannot use them. Unfortunately our left over buttons from last year are green.

Jonathan: are the shirts green bill compliant?

Mary: yes

Tiffany: other BCU’s haven’t been compliant for years

Aaron: the staff shirts we got last time have lasted 6-7 years.

Tiffany: we only have extra large shirts left. We will allocate money next time after we finalize the design of the front of the shirts.

B-4. Complaints Process

Tiffany: last year we voted to change the complaints process. Everyone who violated anything would get an FYI and then a formal warning afterwards. Do we want to change the complaint process to do the FYI or keep it as is and start with the official warning?

Austin: what was the average number of complaints that you received last year. What is the rational at? More fines better or did the FYI help?

Tiffany: the complaints started way earlier than before the board started meeting. The chair last year gave FYIs out so candidates knew that fines were a thing in the beginning. Then to maintain consistency we gave FYIs for everyone the entire election season. Last year there was a huge change in code so we added the FYI as a cushion. This time code this year is the same code as last year.

Steven: how long before candidates got formal warnings after the FYI?

Tiffany: the next time the candidate got another complaint in the same category, the formal warnings and fines started kicking in.

Steven: so this extended the time they had from 24 to 48hrs?

Tiffany: no, for a complaint we would give a candidate an FYI for their first warning. If we got another complaint within that same category then the board would decide if it was another warning. That would start the official process and they would get a formal warning.

Steven: I think the FYI is excessive, parties should know the code and someone should know the code back and forth. The FYI and formal warning isn’t that different. It’s the same thing. Elections are as high stress as it is; unaddressed things make people more frustrated. It is better to resolve things before they become bigger issues. We don’t want to make the elections climate more negative and it’s better to resolve things sooner rather than later.

Gefen: I agree, the FYI doesn’t work as a deterrent

Jonathan: The board should assess the severity of a violation and decide if an FYI is necessary. It should depend on what they violate. If they make the election climate of more negative then they should be given a warning immediately.

Tiffany: Candidates should be checking emails regularly especially during the season

Steven: maybe we can ask for the receiver to confirm and reply back they got the email. Then warn/fine afterwards.

Tiffany: are you asking to add another layer to the complaints process?

Jonathan: do you mean like put in a stipulation in the email that once you get this email, the 24hr starts?

Steven: sending out email isn’t actually informing the person. When they open the email of the complaint it is when they are actually informed

Tiffany: Look at page 49, section 4 of e-code. Do you mean their notification as in when we sent or when they open it/see it?

Elias: people can say they didn’t see it

Austin: we’re adding extra stress for the board. It should be on the person running to be responsible for checking their email constantly.

Izzy: some complaints are more serious than others. Being subjective when giving out FYIs means we need clear guidelines. This means a lot more work on e-board

Tiffany: we’re non-partisan and not looking at anything subjectively. We refer to code for reference for our decisions. We can include the party liaison, we can CC to them it so two people are responsible for it. We started doing that near the end when I took over

Gefen: So does this mean any changes?

Tiffany: no since we’re keeping things as they are. No motion or anything needed.

B-5. Party Slate Due Date

Tiffany: did people see the email Izzy sent? It’s on pg31 of elections code. The forms are due week 6 of winter quarter, but recruitment doesn’t end till week 9. That’s how it’s currently in written in code and in the calendar. We need to take into consideration that this means there are only 5 days left to recruit.

Austin: what did we do last year?

Izzy: I think they ran into the same issue and extended to the Monday of Declaration of Candidacy. There are so many conflicting parts of e-code.

Jonathan: we shouldn’t tie ourselves down with policy since these are obviously mistakes and it’s too late to fix them. As an advisory committee to senate, I think e-board has the authority to change certain things.

Steven: I think we should stick with the date we have now. We can change the form and make a separate form for members/slate with party members. Stick to what is in code and we can adjust to the issue accordingly.

Tiffany: We changed the date to the Friday before Declaration of Candidacy at week 8 last year

Steven: is it possible to change the form itself?

Tiffany: the form doesn’t include space for the list of party members

**Motion to do what we did last year and move the due to date to the Friday before Declaration of Candidacy. The new due date for the form would be 3/6.**

*First/Second: Zhu/Kwok*

*Vote: 4-0-0*

*Motion Passes*

Tiffany: it will be due at 4pm on 3/6.

Aaron: will there be an email sent out? Sent to AS entities?

Austin: will it be on the website?

Tiffany: it will be on the calendar and an email will be sent out

B-2. Reaffirmations Bill

Cole: I want to get everyone’s input. I want to table it to talk to BCUs and the e-board

Tiffany: Ruth sent it out on Wednesday at around 3. Board members can now use their technology. Here’s my question: if a reaffirmation does not get 66% yes, 60% no what happens?

Cole: it will remain the same as it was

Tiffany: reaffirm that students continue to pay?

Cole: 66% to increase, anything less then no under reaffirmation. Existing fees need 60% to be reaffirmed

Aaron: what part of legal code are you attempting to change

Cole: It’s on pg 7. We need an okay from senate to get it on the ballot. It would start the next election cycle. We need sponsorship from senate to continue the process.

Aaron: your predecessors changed this in 2006. They changed it specially to pass a student initiative the year before. It failed before 60% and 61% respectively. They wanted to raise the base fee and they were ultimately successful

Steven: a lot has changed in 10 yrs. Students are still concerned with student fees. We are functioning well to be consistent that what initiatives we take are good for the student body. Students think critically about how they are deciding, but there are students who don’t know what the association is up to. Allocating student fees to the BCUs is a senate responsibility. They decide how much and where.

Tiffany: yeah, they need to be more responsible on where the money is going. Even in bike comm I there are problems. This is definitely something the association needs to work on

When there are not enough who vote yes and not enough vote who vote no, what happens? That void area? This is what I’m referring to: Associated Students’ Membership voting. If a fee is put on the ballot to be increased, such fees can only be increased with a vote of two-thirds (66%) vote in support to the increase of the fee, with at least twenty percent (20%) of the Associated Students’ Membership voting. I understand/get the point, but the way it is written is confusing

Steven: the language: 60% don’t vote yes to cancel. Whether students want to cancel student fees?

Aaron: I invite Cole to talk to committees with lock-in fees. They may have worthy opinions and this is a big reaffirmation year

Tiffany: yeah we have 35 this year. I’m not saying senate isn’t doing its job, but they should have been told to us and every other entity that will be affected. Will there be enough feedback to be approved to be on ballot on time?

Cole: we catch all the things, table it, talk to all the BCUs, departments, board, and then have the final document

Jonathan: e-code doesn’t refer to it in section 5

Aaron: before the initiative was determined there was a gathering of everyone. People were not getting lock-ins at the time and there was a “constitutional convention”. Everyone gathered and it’s easier to call for a gathering

Cole: okay, perfect

Austin: last year it was hazy with execs liking things and changing profile pictures. What’s the rule on that this year? I want a flat to rule to tell all the other execs

Tiffany: you are changing topic

Austin: I’m sorry, I was wondering what the rule is

Austin: in code it says: titles can be used to endorse for identification purposes with a disclaimer stating, “this title is used only for identification purposes” and the party the endorsing Candidate ran with. So we can like pictures and change cover photos?

Tiffany: yes, but you cannot like things

Austin: so we can change pictures and not like?

Tiffany: it’s definitely hazy. We wanted to change it but it did not happen. The changing of profile pic is something the board would like to decide is considered an endorsement.

You can post a pic right now with the identification line. The board needs to determine if it’s an endorsement.

Austin: So we’ll not share pics, not change profile pics. Execs should stay out of it

Tiffany: is changing a profile pic not a social media post? You can change a pic without making it a post

Steven: this is an interesting discussion. AS is a non-partisan space. Execs bring in/identify with a party. Not supposed to bring any party things into AS main, but it is a right to express yourself

I anticipate if you change your picture, people will argue it is an endorsement. People who are execs and senators will get involved with their party

Tiffany: if you do use your title like “office of the president”… and get a complaint we will discuss it then. Put the identification on the top

Izzy: every time or one time

Tiffany: every time they post related to a party put the identification. Anything else?

Jonathan: what part of the agenda are we on? Can I include something I’m working on?

Tiffany: we still have the fee initiative from Courtney? Should we accept late updates?

Steven: do we need to still make changes with UCOP?

Tiffany: yeah, meet Friday at 2pm. We can decide to not put them on the ballot because she sent it back late. Accept updates? She can ask senate it put it on the ballot. And we have till week 9 to send the official ballot to UCOP. The deadline at Wednesday 9pm. I emailed her this morning at 11am and she said she forgot to send it in. She is at work and will send it when she gets off work at 5

Austin: what does UCOP do?

Tiffany: UCOP goes over all the ballot language to make sure that all the language is unbiased and clear.

**Motion to reject the fee initiative. We need to be strict on deadlines. We shouldn’t make exceptions for people.**

*First/Second: Kwok/Castillo*

*Vote: 3-0-1*

*Motion Passes*

Austin: senate can still accept it

Tiffany: yeah so its not end all be all

Aaron: week 9 deadline?

Tiffany: the deadline we need to send the language to UCOP. She has to week 9 to tell senate

Aaron: this is in section 6, pg 35

Jonathan: e-board deals with the process of recruiting student leaders in these positions. We need to tell student leaders what they are getting themselves into. This applies to not just senators and execs. I have a survey and I need to get input from as many people as possible. I’ll send it to elections email. There needs to be something at Declaration of Candidacy that explains the duties they will have during election season and after. It will be good if we can get senators to speak about this

Tiffany: we can’t ask senators if they are not running. We know Elias can speak. It is good to get more senators to speak though

Jonathan: it was good that we had to sit in a senate meeting though

Tiffany: divestment one was the one they had to sit in last year

**Adjournment at 2:53pm by Yeh**