Elections Board Minutes

## ASsquare_logo.tifAssociated Students

5/5/2016, 12:00 PM

Asian Resource Center

**CALL TO ORDER 12:14 by Chamberlain**

**A. MEETING BUSINESS**

1. **Roll Call (Pre-entered Names)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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) |
| Avery ChamberlainChair | **Present** | Erin BarnettSenate Liaison | **Absent** |
| Mary ZhuGeneral Voting Member | **Present** | Jimmy VillarrealA.S. President | **Absent** |
| Tiffany YehGeneral Voting Member | **Present** | Hector ContrerasAttorney General | **Absent** |
| Cole HoytGeneral Voting Member | **Absent** | Marisela MárquezExecutive Director | **Phone Call** |
| Yesenia NavaGeneral Voting Member | **Present** | Aaron Jones Assistant Director Community Affairs, Civic Engagement & Advocacy | **Present** |
| Lorenzo Dela RamaGeneral Voting Member | **Absent** | Ruth Garcia GuevaraCommunity Volunteer Coordinator | **Present** |
| Jeffery FungSenate Liaison | **Absent** |  |  |

**B. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

B-1. Legal Counsel recommendation

1. They asked legal council what the best thing to do moving forward and they recommended that they go
2. Mary: Who would be paying this?
3. Avery: Student fees, they said last night that there might be
4. Aaron: For clarity sake, the vote was to consult with legal counsel. Audit services this is what they do, they verify the CEC elections
5. Ruth: Just FYI Nancy Hamill used to go through all lock-ins, before we send it UCOP, she would sit and go through ballot language. Audit services conducted an Audit of elections a few years ago, their recommendation was to have a back up. Before CEC posts them, the Audit services goes through them
6. Marisela joins via phone
7. Mary: Are there costs?
8. Marisela: Not sure, but if it does, Jimmy has approved funds
9. Mary: Does this mean that the elections is invalid?
10. Marisela: No, and the length of time , don’t know, but they are going to asked to be a very quick but thorough investigation. This department has conducted a full on audit of campus elections before. May or may not be able to share information they give to me. The investigation is about the processes and specifically the complaints. If you ask them to do this, you are looking to them to complete your work.
11. Aaron: If they don’t ask you to forward what would happen
12. Marisela: If the committee chooses not to complete this investigation then it ends with you now. The question that was bounced back if they want an outside investigation or not. The senate’s only action was to ask for legal counsel, the only motion was to send the counsel’s opinion to elections to decide if you want to follow legal council’s advice or not in asking for an outside investigation
13. Avery: What do we think?
14. Tiffany: I’m not sure…
15. Mary: We don’t have anything to lose
16. Avery: I think we need to follow legal council and follow through. We need to do our due diligence and do this
17. Mary: Its better to do this instead of just pushing it under the rug
18. Yesenia: What exactly are they looking for and is this just for show?
19. Aaron: It is an independent body that is not affiliated with campus elections, it isn’t even in student affairs, who’s sole purpose is to do audits and investigations, which they do with any departments and respond to whistle blower reports. It is removed as much as possible but still in the university.
20. Ruth: My experience is just that they would ask questions and documentations and ask process questions. For this, I imagine it would be, where in the code, how did you come to this conclusion. And for the elections they came out with a report with their recommendations
21. Aaron: In terms of time and scope, what they typically do after they do a review is that they will say okay, this is the time we’re going to need and this is the scope of it. We intend to interview x, y, z people. From what is in the report, they understand that this is coming
22. Ruth: What are your concerns? Like you said just for show
23. Yesenia: It requires a lot cooperation from IFC? Are they going to look at who voted for which party? Would they be looking at peoples’ votes?
24. Ruth: I don’t know
25. Aaron: I don’t know, we don’t know their scope. And that is something you can ask Jimmy and Marisela. Perhaps, you can suggest things that you want investigated, things you can’t determine
26. Ruth: If you have questions, you should let Marisela know and the audit and investigations. Like are they going to get info from IFC or not.

**Motion to request the Executive Director and A.S. President to request Audit and Advisory Services to conduct an investigation.**

*First/Second: Yeh/Zhu*

*Vote: 3-0-0*

*Motion Passes*

1. Aaron: Would you like to request any questions for them to look into?
2. Tiffany: I don’t really want to ask them to look into who voted for who because that isn’t what we found to be an issue.

B-2. Compile a list of Elections Code edits

Avery: Need a threshold for write-in candidates for exec positions

Aaron: If we look back at write in candidate voter turnout for the past five years and take an average

Ruth: We’ve only had two years of official write-ins to look at.

Tiffany reads the list compiled last meeting

Avery: Why should write-ins be treated differently? I think putting the voting threshold we would be fixing things

Tiffany: Its just because in the section it defines write-ins as candidates, but they aren’t candidates as defined in the candidates section

Ruth: I think the write-ins were not candidates because they hadn’t done everything yet

Aaron: You shift things and that might be opening up something else.

Avery: So do we want to completely take away the write-ins?

Ruth: You’re giving Sean enough time by moving the deadline to before active campaigning

Mary: Fines aren’t part of the final budget

Tiffany: And the fact that parties can’t endorse one another

Avery: We can just take the language for the independents and change it to parties

Ruth: We used to have this, but a candidate could not be present, or within a specific distance, as people are voting

Avery: we should include party supporters because there were complaints about supporters standing over people’s shoulders while voting

Mary: Do we want to take out endorsement night?

Ruth: We could just put it on the website on that same night and with the same deadline.

Mary: Will we have to add the new residence halls?

Yesenia: I think that they are part of the Santa Catalina

Ruth: What do you think about adding something about meetings? There isn’t anything about your minutes being confidential? What do you think about not letting senate liaisons be able to disclose any information or be able to text during the meeting?

Tiffany: Yes.

Mary: Have something for the vertical boards.

Avery: So no vertical boards

Ruth: Oh we were discussing doing a lottery for the spots on campus for boards

Avery: That takes all the fun out of it

Tiffany: You can do it so that the lottery happens at that 8pm at the start of active campaigning.

Ruth: And we’re only talking about the spots around Storke Circle. Saying how many boards can fit in each spot.

Tiffany: So when are we going to get started?

Ruth: We need to get in touch with the Senate liaison

**Switching computers for taking minutes**

Mary: I remember having discussions about deadlines and hard deadlines.

Avery: Do we need to write that in?

Ruth: I feel like it is too much

Avery: It is up to the Board’s discretion

Ruth: Yeah as long as it is consistent

Vote language for write-in threshold

Avery: Do we want to get rid of endorsement night?

Tiffany: I think we should just change the way that it works

Ruth: You can do an endorsement day, just not a full on Hub event.

Aaron: Your experience means a lot as you are all carrying this out.

Avery: That 8pm presidents’ debate didn’t really work. It was meant to get students more involved

Mary: its the same people that show up, but just less people.

Can we maybe serve food to get more people to show up?

Avery: For the midyear party fair, parties aren’t really going to be registered at that time anyway.

Ruth: you can say it just didn’t work out and it wasn’t a good use of resources

Ruth: There is an issue with the calendar with deadlines for the fee initiatives. If they don’t get signatures, it conflicts with when the ballot is due and when they can add themselves to the ballot. I just need to check that.

**Adjournment 1:25 by Chamberlain**