



# Legislative Affairs and Advocacy Meeting Minutes

Day/Date: Tuesday November 17th, 2020  
 Time: 3:15  
 Location: <https://calstatela.zoom.us/j/94560342251>  
 Attendees: Legislative Affairs committee, General Public  
 Type of Meeting: General

**I. Organizational Items:**

**Call to order by: Chair Analiz Marmolejo, ASI Vice President for External Affairs and Advancement @ 3:17 p.m.**

**b. Roll Call**

Diana Chavez	ASI President	Present
Analiz Marmolejo	Vice President for External Affairs and Advancement/Chair of Leg Affairs	Present
Brooke Mero	Civic Engagement Officer	Present
Jasmine Parker	Diversity and Inclusion Officer	Present
Sasha Prakir	Associate Justice	Present
Ivan Garcia	Committee Member	Present
Nataly Aviles	Committee Member	Unexcused Absence
Phoebe Wong	Committee Member	Present
Sidney Lim	Office Manager of Administration & Services	Present
Dena Florez		Present

**c. Adoption of Agenda: November 17th, 2020**

<b>Offered By:</b>	<b>Analiz Marmolejo</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>	<b>Sidney Lim</b>
Motion to approve the agenda for November 17th 2020. Consensus reached. Analiz motions to amend the discussion items to add the removal of Nataly Aviles from the committee. Diana motions to include a discussion item to remove Nataly Aviles from the committee. Ivan seconds.			
<b>All in Favor</b>		<b>Opposed</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
		<b>Motion: Passed/Failed</b>	

**d. Approval of Minutes (action): November 17th, 2020**

<b>Offered By:</b>	<b>Analiz Marmolejo</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>	<b>Phoebe Wong</b>
Motion to approve the minutes for October 20th, 2020 by Ivan. Consensus reached.			
<b>All in Favor</b>		<b>Opposed</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
		<b>Motion: Passed/Failed</b>	

## II. Public Forum

- a. This time is allotted to members of the public to address the board regarding items not included on the meeting agenda. Speaker cards are available for those wanting to speak on agenda items as listed below. Those comments will be heard as the item is introduced.

None

Analiz: Seeing as how there is no one we will move on to our action items.

## VI. Discussion:

### III. Action Items:

- A. The committee will revise the codes of procedure for the Legislative Affairs Committee and make changes

Analiz: Is this the most updated one?

Dena: Yes, this is the one that went to bylaws.

Dena: I re-sent it to you just in case.

Analiz: Okay basically we did send our code of procedures to bylaws and we were asked to revise everything that has a period because it's a branding issue, so we're going to revise and remove that today.

*Analiz opens up the codes of procedure and begins making the necessary revisions.*

Analiz: Do you guys have any questions or comments?

Dena: So Analiz, while you're doing this, they approved the procedures, with the stipulation that you take out periods between VPEAA?

Sasha: Yes, so they sent it back. I'm sorry I missed this when the committee was approving it. I should have caught it here before we submitted this. So if we revise it here and send it back it will be good.

Dena: Where I was going with this was as long as the changes to content were approved, that could have been approved if it's only a branding issue, then we could have fixed that, and it could've been taken care of at Board of Directors this week. It's a branding issue so it could have been approved on content with stipulations. It's a branding issue that is on ASI, it's not actually on title. Not a big deal or anything but moving forward this could have been approved in bylaws on content, with stipulations on branding.

Sasha: I can tell the Chief Justice for the future. We had no idea.

Dena: Thank you. It would have been a stipulation. Bylaws reviews it for content, such as the meetings, changes in quorum, anything that effects the policy. That's what they're looking at, that we know we approve this, we approve your changes, with the stipulation that you change the periods. Aesthetic issues do not affect policy.

Sasha: I just told the Chief Justice so that in the future we can do that.

Diana: So technically it doesn't have to be approved at Leg Affairs correct, it's approved at BOD?

On a recommendation to the chair from the board of directors? So once it's discussed here it will go back to BOD for action right? Could we approve it this week?

Dena: No, because technically it has to go back to Bylaws to get approved first which is next Friday so it won't be approved until the last BOD.

Diana: Yeah we have one more, on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. That is the last one I believe.

Analiz: Okay I will have it ready for then. That's pretty much it right?

Ivan: Quick question, so for the absences, it wasn't able to be approved right? Were they able to be approved for two?

*Analiz explains the situation with the branding issue again, and clarifies that once bylaws approves the new code of procedures will go into effect.*

Analiz: We don't have any action items, so we'll move on to information items.

#### IV. Information Items:

##### A. Free The Period

Analiz: I know Brooke had received an email about the Free the Period coalition, and ASI Cal State LA will not be endorsing this coalition, but in the works there is a resolution that ASI has previously been working on that that I will be bringing to Legislative Affairs. So that's something that we could really be apart of. That is something that I want to make available to all students on campus wherever they may be. So what ASI would like to do, is pay for boxes and have the University be responsible for stocking them. For those of you that don't know, free the period campaign is making access to products like tampons and pads for people to have access to for free. So these products aren't always accessible in the health center, even if you happen to have an accident we want to make these products available to any student on campus wherever they may be so that they will be available. So what we would like to do write a proposal for ASI to buy the actual boxes that will be on campus but for the school to be responsible for filling the boxes. Does anyone have any questions?

Ivan: Since we are virtual, how will that be students to be able to access those right now?

Analiz: Students won't be able to get them right now, but once students return that resource will be available for them. Its something that I would like to continue once we are no longer virtual. It's something that I would like students to have in the future. Does anyone have any questions? Is this something the board would like to be a part of?

Dena: Question, so you'll be paying for this out of your budget? How will ASI continue to pay for this when we aren't virtual and there isn't a surplus in the budget? We won't be asking for additional funds right?

Analiz: Yeah actually yeah we wouldn't need to. Under our budget right now we actually have the funds for them.

Dena: So right now you are virtual and you have those funds available, but next year when we are back on campus we will still have to be funding that. Or you would be asking for more?

Analiz: So what I'm looking into is that we provide the boxes. It will be a one time purchase of the boxes, and then the University will be responsible for stocking them and for maintenance. We had a resolution that was worked on previously that wasn't passed in senate, and I would like to bring that back and look over it and be able to take it to senate.

Does anyone have any thoughts on this? Do we want to work on this?

Ivan: I think it's a great idea, but we don't know how long school will be virtual for. We're praying Fall 2021, but at this point we don't know. We have a student population on campus now, in housing. Will housing students be able to get support from this?

*Analiz explains that there are still students who are on campus (nursing students etc.) and who are still working who will have access to these items until campus opens back up.*

*Diana shares the previous resolution about Free the Period.*

Diana: I'm not sure if you saw in the chat I put in the menstrual period resolution, I'm not sure if you want to look at it now if we have time. It's the one that was presented at the last board. This is the most updated one I found on the ASI website. This is what we have so far. Again, I have shared this in the past and it was an action item I believe last time. This committee can look at it and they can add on, or if you like we can see if the author at that time can come to the next Leg affairs and look at it.

Analiz: It's a discussion item now so we wouldn't be able to edit. Nobody is saying anything, so this something that we want to take part in?

Diana: It's a discussion item, so we can look at it now as we discuss it. You can edit it as a chair, and bring it back to your committee for edits. I'll go ahead and prevent this at the next Leg Affairs. Is anyone interested, Ivan I know you are, Brooke?

Brooke: Yeah I'm definitely interested since I forwarded you the e-mail. I didn't know something was in the works but I'm definitely interested.

Ivan: So I'm looking at the document now, and have we looked into the effects of this program in various universities? Like have we consulted with people who like, is there actual data that shows like, how it goes. I see there are some examples about how these programs have been effective at Universities like Brown.

Analiz: So this is my first time seeing this resolution, so that's why I'm looking through and editing. We want this to help our students. Again, personal experience, this is accessible for students at the health center but for someone who is at the Forensic Science building or Salazar, they do not have access to these products there. So this is something that would be very useful in the creation of this new resolution.

Dena: So this is a great idea, I'm looking at it and Asi is a 501C3 and it might not cost us any dollars. We could go to any one of these companies and get a donation of this to make it accessible to students. That would be really great, and that's how we partner with other organizations to get the university products. Look at it that way.

Analiz: That would be great, I will take a look at the resolution and I would like to take it to the committee and then start looking for sponsors. Does anyone have any questions or comments on anything?

Ivan: I feel like this initiative is very great, but I'm worried that there are people who are against it. *Ivan brings up the fact that there may be potential issues and people could be against it.*

Diana: I wouldn't think anyone would be opposed to a menstrual resolution. I wouldn't see any negative comments on a menstrual resolution. It is an equitable issue. Our campus demographic, we have more females than males in our campus and the fact that we don't have this accessible to the students that we serve is disheartening and needs to be addressed so I don't think anyone will be against it. The only issue we may have with it is funding and who will take care of the products in the restroom. I don't know where that conversation ended up last semester but I do see the university using the budget like this. If somebody is against it then wow, we'll just see if anybody has any negative comments.

Ivan: I want this to work and make this a reality. My biggest worry is that administration might use budget limits and stuff so I just want to make sure that everything's fine.

Analiz: Yeah so that's why we're creating a resolution and we'll be discussing it and making it to the best of our ability. But I am also going to be reaching out to sponsors to see if we can make it so it doesn't cost any money. That will be one of my tasks for one semester. Under our budget we can already fund the boxes, so if I can find some sponsors who will stock the boxes that will be even better. I don't know how it will go right now, because it hasn't been put in front of anybody who is opposed to it, but that's why we have to have a good resolution. So that's pretty much all I have today for our discussion items, I think this is something that would be really great that could continue on to the next administration.

## Reports:

ASIVPPA: So my report is pretty simple. I went to CSSA this weekend, but I had a hard time getting into the first meeting because my internet was out. We took a vote and Diana filled in for me. Diana do you want to recap the vote that took place?

Diana tells us about the vote on the grading scale that took place.

Diana: For those of you who remember last semester Cal State La gave students a category of three grading scales so students can choose, the first option was credit no credit, the other one was regular grades, and the third option was ABCD/no credit, being that we are in remote learning and a lot of us will fall back with lockdown and quarantine and everyone going through stressful times. So for this semester CSSA wrote a resolution to have this grading scale once again for the semester for after finals. Because our deadline is fairly close and it's not after finals. So this resolution is to give students more time so students can opt in to another category. Our school does not want to do that for many reasons but we are continuing to advocate on behalf of students so they can have this option after finals. We want the grading option to at least be available after finals, when we know what our grade is, since most of our students don't know what their grade is until they see it on GET. That is the situation for many students and that's not fair. But we want the grading option to be available after finals so that we will at least know what our grade will look like, and we could look at the options. Our school isn't doing that currently and I voted yes because a lot of us would like to have that option so our school academic senate will look at that being that it was reported to our academic senate. So hopefully that will change in our school. A lot of students would like to have that option after finals. That's pretty much what the vote was about.

Ivan: Was it the same thing they were going to propose last spring? I know some schools are able to do pass/fail, but some students are concerned about their GPA. Is it pretty much the same as last semester or is it different?

Diana: It's a little bit different, the problem with last semester was that the decision happened so last minute that the impacts of the grading scale were not relayed effectively. We use credit or no credit and that will not impact your GPA, it does nothing. So if you are looking for a GPA bump you will not get it and that wasn't passed onto students. The only thing that it will help you with is that you can retake it in the future if you get no credit. ABCD is the best option, and that wasn't relayed to students last semester. So many students are realizing how will I explain this in my personal statement for grad school. What they did last semester is you would have to talk to advisors to figure out which grading scale was your best bet and that information wasn't available. So our administration doesn't want to go through this again, because it was very chaotic. I believe the option is still available, but the deadline to choose is coming up. It's not after finals so if a student is really failing a class and wants an opportunity to retake it and the best option is credit or no credit they won't know that until they talk to an advisor which is another barrier for students. So having that time after finals to discuss the best grading option is more accessible for our students. So the CSSA resolution will help out our students more so that's why I voted yes.

*Dena brings up an example to try to better understand the situation and the grading scale.*

*Diana explains how credit/no credit will impact prerequisites, and the ability to get into other classes.*

Diana: Yeah it'll still help you, but there are some courses that you still need like an ABCD. A lot of students are opting into credit/no credit because they don't want a D on their transcript. Credit/no credit won't help a student for certain reasons. Let's say there's a prerequisite where you need an A or a B, credit or no credit won't help depending on the professor or the department. Some professors because of their academic freedom may not accept the credit, because technically it also means you got a C or a D. So they won't accept the credit to get into the class. The administration still want to give students the opportunity to opt in so that's why it's been more chaotic. The administration didn't want to go through that again so I think this resolution will help a lot more because it will give us more time to see what option is better for us. After finals we would have a little bit more time to do that though. So that's the whole thing about credit and no credit. It doesn't bump up your GPA. Credit/no credit doesn't necessarily look good to grad school and that information is not relayed to students. We are also understaffed in advising, so everyone was meeting with advisors and it was very chaotic and administration didn't want to go through that again.

Ivan: Is there any conversation about the accessibility of advising? Because I know a lot of students have trouble finding an advisor who is available or struggle with scheduling in the student success portal. I'm thinking it's based on their schedules so I'm not too sure about that.

Diana: Yeah so I know advising is a problem and there was a question brought to our state of our campus webinar and the question was like what are we going to do about our advisors, being that they're understaffed. Our academic affairs is looking to hire more. Right now they are on training learning more about how to serve students during remote learning. Every department is a little different with their budgets and hiring. On the universal level they are aware of the problem. I believe there is a team working to hire more staff. I will ask the dean of undergraduate studies for an update on how that is going.

Analiz: So yeah bringing it back Diana was able to take that vote through our legislative CSSA committee for me, I was on the call but Diana made the vote for me. So this was our last CSSA meeting so it's going to be put up to the board and all of the Cal States will have something to work on so the grading option is available to the whole CSU system. That's pretty much for my report for now. Some of the ideas I have for next semester I am still working on, but that resolution specifically is something we want to have ready for January.

**Civic Engagement Officer:** I don't have too much to report, I followed up with Nithya Raman's team to see still if they'd still be interested in setting up an event for next semester. Basically the event that was postponed I'm moving to next semester, so I'm going to touch back in with them next year to set a date for that.

**Diversity and Inclusion Officer:** Hello, I don't have too much today. The art and activism event was a success so I'm going to plan a part 2 for that. I also spoke at the CSU Board of Trustees meeting earlier today to speak about AB1450 and there's a lot going on with that, so I'll know more about it and update you on that as far as AB1450. It's about the ethnic studies requirement for students. I'll also be working on a resource workshop event with Frangelo from Dean of Students. That's pretty much it.

Analiz: Can you elaborate about what you spoke on this morning? What did you speak about?

Jazz: I was invited to come to the meeting to talk about the revision of the AB1450 so I wrote a small statement stating that there should be more flexibility when it comes to the requirement. They focus on four major ethnic groups and I was kind of opposing it to open it more to four groups than the four groups in the requirement. It was kind of brief. They are still working on the revisions. I won't know more about it until I think the January meeting.

Diana: My question to you Jazz is are you going as an ASI member or a regular student at Cal state LA.

Jazz: I was invited by Dr. Kimberly in WGSS. I came as a student because the requirement if we are required to do it at a lower division would require us to extend the time it takes to get our degrees. So it was as a student, I just wanted to advocate on behalf of more flexibility.

Diana: I was just wondering if you were speaking as an ASI member or a regular student.

Jazz: I was speaking as a student. Each college, all 20 Cal States spoke, so I was the representative for Cal State LA.

Diana: Yeah I was wondering how you presented yourself. Being that you reported it as a student in an ASI meeting, I wanted to know will this be an ASI initiative that you will be working on.

Jazz: I am going to be working on it more and giving it more attention because I am an ASI member, and I do represent ASI, and I am in favor of the requirement that will effect CSULA students. So I will be looking more into it to see how ASI can be of support.

Diana: So when you have an opinion like that about what's going on in the university, always bring it to the committee first, we are a nonprofit so we have to go over that. You can make it a discussion item at our next Leg affairs meeting and we can decide as an ASI whether it should be supported or not. You can't say as an ASI member that you support this resolution, because not everyone in ASI thinks the same. Just include it on the next Leg Affairs meeting and add it as a discussion and we can discuss whether or not to support it.

Analiz: And really quickly just to add, that's actually really great that you went to the CSU board of trustees. We have a student trustee who comes to our meetings and this is something we've been

talking about. So if this is something you want to work in collaboration with I'd be more than willing to help with that. It wasn't brought up at the last meeting, so I'm not really sure where CSSA is standing in support of this but this is something I can look into.

Jazz: Next leg affairs we can have Jazz look into this and open it up since she brought it to the committee.

Analiz: Is that all for reports today?

Analiz: So that is all for our reports for today. I adjourn the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Adjournment: Analiz adjourns the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

DRAFT