



Legislative Affairs & Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

3:15pm-4:30pm USU Board Rm. 303

Attendees: Committee Members, General Public, and Lobby Corps

I. Organizational Items:

a. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:18pm PM

b. Roll Call

Marcos Montes	Vice President for External Affairs and Advancement	present
David Zitser	President	<u>present</u>
David Garcia	Vice President for Administration	Unexcused tardy 3:26pm
Neyda Umana	VP for Academic Governance	present
Joshua Salazar	Diversity and Inclusion Officer	Excused tardy
Yessenia Villacorta	Civic Engagement Officer	present
Jacquelyn Acosta	Academic Senator	Excused tardy 3:20pm
Deborah Ascencion	College of Natural and Social Science	Present
Krystal Rubio	Local Lobby Corps	Present
Jaime Arellano	Campus Lobby Cops Officer	Unexcused absent
Marcial Romero	State Lobby Corps Officer	Excused tardy 3:19pm
Cesar Dominguez	Legislative Member	Present
Marcus Rodriguez	Director of Government Affairs and Leadership Programs (non-voting)	Excused absent
Guests of the Gallery	Edgar Chavez	

c. Approval of Agenda (action):

Offered By:	Neyda Umana	Seconded by:	Yessenia Villacorta
Motion to approve the adoption of the agenda for the Legislative Affairs & Advocacy Committee meeting on Tuesday January 30 th , 2018. Motion received (6) votes and passed.			

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All in Favor	All (6)	Opposed	0	Abstained	0	Motion: passed

d. Approval of Minutes (action):

Offered By:	Neyda	Seconded by:	Cesar			
Motion to approve the adoption of the minutes for November 28, 2017. Motion received 6 votes and passed.						
All in Favor	6	Opposed	0	Abstained	0	Motion: passed failed

II. Public Forum/Announcement:

This time is allotted for members of the public to address the board

- ✦ Edgar- Hi!

III. Reports

3.1 Vice President for External Affairs & Advancement

- ✦ Marcos- Welcome back! Over the break, we have been very busy. We started working on the tuition increase proposal. We started working on the project list for the Spring semester. We have assignments, especially the reps at large and lobby corps members that you will hear throughout the semester.
- ✦ Marcos- Meeting time will be changed for the remaining of the semester. We wanted to accommodate to our senators, Yessenia, and Joshua who have other commitments. Yessenia is doing her internship and Joshua is doing student teaching. We want to make sure that they are here and to help meet our quorum. The meetings will still be on Tuesday, but the meeting time will be change to 4:30pm. We will change SPC and Legislative. I talked the SPC chair and she was okay with it.
- ✦ Marcos- Any Questions.?

3.2 Diversity and Inclusion Officer

- ✦ X
- ✦ X
- ✦ X
- ✦ X
- ✦ X
- ✦ x

3.3 Civic Engagement Officer

- ✦ Yessenia- The attendance tracker is going to be implemented, so make sure to excuse yourself if you are going to be absent or late.
- ✦ Yessenia- I am working on the speaker series, and we are trying to bring a speaker that will try to engage our students in civic engagement and civic learning. It will be mid-April.
- ✦ Yessenia- I am working with Marcos on a student innovation fund to provide grants/ scholarships for student projects. We are working on a proposal.
- ✦ Yessenia- I am also helping the Alternative Break program and working with staff to bring a civic learning project.
- ✦ Yessenia- Regarding voter registration, I am pushing Max for the tabling schedule. Right now, the idea is Tuesday from 11:00 am to 2:00pm, Wednesdays from 2:00pm-5:00pm, and Thursdays 6:00pm to 8:00pm. I will most likely be doing every other Thursdays, and I already have the registration paper to get the SOS forms. I will be incorporating the Ask Big Questions conversations in the tabling events. I am working on a DACA clinic and the is in the agenda.
- ✦ Marcos- Questions for the civic engagement officer?
- ✦ Marcial- Thanks for doing this for starters. For the voter registration time, do you have a time frame when it will be?
- ✦ Yessenia- I will be there every other Thursday when BOD doesn't meet from 6:00pm to 8:00 pm. I am just waiting for the tabling schedule to clear. Please be sure to add in your availability.
- ✦ David Z.- It was sent to you all in an email.
- ✦ Marcial- In the shared drive?
- ✦ Yessenia- Yes. I cannot work without his schedule, so it would really help.
- ✦ Marcos- Any more questions for the civic engagement officer? Any one else in the committee would like to report to the committee?

- ✦
- ✦ X

3.4 Lobby Corps Officers

- ✦ Marcial- Are we doing something regarding transportation?
- ✦ Marcos- we will talk about it in 5.2 because it has to do with PBI.
- ✦ X
- ✦ X
- ✦ X

IV. Old Business

4.1 Standing Action Item- The committee will consider and appoint candidates for the ASI Lobby Corps.

- ✦ Marcos- We are now recruiting for members of the lobby corps.
- ✦ X
- ✦ X

Offered By:		Seconded by:	
N/A			
All in Favor		Opposed	
		Abstained	
		Motion:	passed failed

4.2 CE Plan Implementation (Discussion Item)- The committee will discuss on the implementation of the ASI Civic Engagement Plan 2018.

- ✦ Marcos- The civic engagement plan was submitted to All in Challenge. We got a bronze metal. Congratulations to everyone who worked on it.
- ✦ Yessenia- I send the info to Max for the press release.
- ✦ Marcos- The civic engagement plan was a robust document, and we want to start focusing on the strategies and goals. Go to the ASI website, search the civic engagement plan to look at the plan. We want to start talking in this committee on how we are going to accomplish these goals? Keep in mind that we are going to implemented for half a year and it will then be handed over to the next administration.
- ✦ Marcos- In our meeting with Dr. Willard, we hear that the university staff and offices around campuses has agreed to take part in the voter registration. It will be our job to go in and train the offices on board and take them the voter registration forms. We were thinking of doing a video to send to all of them to cover more ground and to train them about voter registration. Yessenia will help us on the rules after the voter registration process.
- ✦ Marcos- In addition, do you guys remember talking about doing a forum every semester? We have to do a forum because that it what we said we were going to do.
- ✦ Marcial- Did we specify what it will be about?
- ✦ Marcos- No we only said forum that would engage students in a dialogue.
- ✦ Cesar- What about bringing speakers?
- ✦ Marcos- It is part of it, but the speaker series is not really a forum. The forum has more dialogue between students.
- ✦ Marcos- We had an idea. Have you guys heard or know who Edward Royball is? He was a politician in the 1950's who was very prominent in increasing civic engagement of the Latino Latina community. Very influential, and pretty much fought for minority politics. He was a council member and then finished his career in the states legislator. His daughter is alumni from here and now she is in congress. We are thinking of bringing her to campus to talk about the importance of her father's legacy and about how students can be more engaged. I think we have a good link since

she is an alumni. There are buildings and street names in the east la and surrounding area. That is one idea for the forum. What do you guys think about that?

- ✦ Cesar- So she will be coming out and speaking to students and asking questions?
- ✦ Marcos- I think that is part of it or she can make a presentation. Maybe a coffee talk? I am sure we can talk about other issues. We can frame it as a conversation with her and a student and an audience. We will then have to let the audience engage and have an open discussion.
- ✦ Neyda- I think that is a great idea and I think we can tie it to, or center it to encourage students to get civically engaged. I think tying it to local issues is key and to get people to go to secure attendance.
- ✦ Marcos- Anyone interested in spear heading this effort? It will require reaching out to her and coordinating with campus and Marcus.
- ✦ Cesar- Do we know her, or would it be just cold calling? Do we have a connection?
- ✦ Marcos- I think that it will be easy to establish a contact with her office.
- ✦ Neyda- In my opinion, I think that we can do a working group because I can support but I can't spear head. In my experience if someone feels comfortable, or maybe two people can be spear heading. I think it will be a good experience for any one at this table and to put in your resume. I will encourage for the members of this committee.
- ✦ Marcial- You have people who are experience, Marcos, Neyda, me included, we just can't take it on right now. We will be with you guys all the way and assist you. Don't be afraid to step up!
- ✦ Marcial- We will talk about it. We are missing Jaime right now and I will talk to the lobby corps members. The forum is something that is up for grabs. We must talk about our annual communication plans, it also talks about NVRD, open deliberation, toy and food drive, political debates, mind matters town halls, and we have post-graduation opportunities. We will try to work with our career center to promote internships specially in the summer and promote it through our social media. Anything else for the first agenda item?
- ✦
- ✦
- ✦ X
- ✦ X
- ✦ X
- ✦ X
- ✦ X
- ✦ X
- ✦ X

V. New Business

5.1. CHESS 2018 (Discussion Item)- The committee will receive an update of CHESS and outline a strategy to bring forward state legislation to the LAAC.

- ✦ Marcos- I'm in CHESS mode and it is coming up. We have to work on scheduling our visits for chess. We have identified 21 potential meetings. Last year we did 13, or 12 meetings. It is 10 more but we are thinking of doing it differently this time. We looked at the important committees, such as the Assembly Higher Ed Committee, the Senate Ed Committee, the Senate Subcommittee on Budget, the Budget Subcommittee on Education, and the Assembly Sub Budget Committee on Education. We look at who is in those committees since those are very important members. Some and them are in our area and some we share with the universities. Seven or eight of those, we are probably going to coordinate with the other universities so that we can join visits. We are going to send allegations, two students from LA, two students from Pomona, San Jose, San Bernardino, Long Beach, Dominguez Hills and Northridge. Those are the campuses that are concentrated in the LA area. We will send our two most prepared students for CHESS. We will find a way to schedule it out.
- ✦ Marcos- Any questions? Application are probably going to be due February 12th. Application will be sent next week.
- ✦ Neyda- Is CHESS Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and return Monday?
- ✦ Marcos- Yes
- ✦ Neyda- Is there any way if someone needed to be here by Monday to come back early?
- ✦ Marcos- Saturday will be your reception with a CSSA preliminary meeting. Sunday will be the main summit with 16 breakout sessions. Monday is when we get to schedule our own meetings. The flights back are scheduled for a late flight since last year we had to rush to the airport. We are trying to avoid that and schedule a late fly. If you need special accommodations we can look into that.
- ✦ Marcos- We need to start bringing state bills to ensure that we have a position by CHESS. We need a discussion item here, then an action item, then another action item at the board.
- ✦ Marcial- Do the bills have to be student and education focused?
- ✦ Marcos- Yes and No. We have a provision in our bylaws that we should focus on educational legislation, but we are able to talk about social stuff if we find it appropriate.
- ✦ Neyda- Can we do a thing were next meeting we can start bringing a bill?
- ✦ Marcos- Everyone will bring one bill next meeting. Everyone will need to research a bill and write us a synopsis. I can send an example from last year and I will include the website where to find bills.

- ✦ Marcos- You can also look at the CSSA agenda and look at the positions that they take. Use them as a resource. You need to look at the agenda at least and go through the agendas. Everyone should submit a bill, especially those who want to attend CHESS.
- ✦ Marcos- Intef asked me today who is interested in attending CHESS?
- ✦ Marcos- I have 5 people. Ill start talking to Intef to providing teacher letters.
- ✦ Neyda- Can we invite other students at large?
- ✦ Marcos- Yes, if they are in good standing. I'll talk to Dena to send the application soon.
- ✦ Marcos- Any questions? I'll send the email to you guys.
- ✦ x
- ✦ x
- ✦ x
- ✦ x

5.2 Judicial Candidate Forum (Discussion Item)- The committee will review a request by PBI and League of Women Voters for us to host a potential forum of judicial candidates.

- ✦ Marcos- We will talk about the transportation also. PBI sent an email last week that the League of Women Voters, that promote civic engagement, asking to do a forum. Since in this county we vote for judges, they want to hold a forum with judicial candidates. In the past, high school students have done it. The catch is that it is in June. Some of us will not be here in June, since our term ends in May. Some of us will be here in June but because of CLDE, a transitional period.
- ✦ Marcial- They will not change the date?
- ✦ David- We can ask if they can do it in May.
- ✦ Marcos- I will ask on their date.
- ✦ Marcos- For the town hall about transportation, Metro Link doesn't want to do it until Fall. It is all up to you Krystal. Are you sticking around?
- ✦ Krystal- I will be here in Fall.
- ✦ Marcos- We will talk about it later, and we can still plan for it. It will require a lot of data gathering before and we can still engage students. The execution will not happen until the Fall.

- ✦ Neyda- It is important to capture the conversations and record that so that whoever is working on this next semester they know what direction they will work on.

- ✦ Marcos- We can talk about it and stretch it to fall.

- ✦ Marcos- Last comments?

- ✦ X

- ✦ X

5.3 Federal Update (Discussion Item)- The committee will receive a federal update of education related legislation at the federal level.

- ✦ Marcos- I want to focus on three federal issues affecting education, we have DACA, the tax bill, and the Higher Education Reauthorization Act also known as Prosper Act.

- ✦ Marcos- Where we are with DACA and the Dream Act? We all know we got a government shutdown that only lasted for about 3 days. They were trying to push to include a Dream Act bill on it, but unfortunately it is not going to be a clean dream act. I think at first, we were trying to be naïve. Congress is controlled by the republican party and the white house is controlled by the republican party. What I mean is that there will be a negotiation. I think that we need to engage in a conversation of what we are willing to give and what are we willing to take. There's been so many bills gotten introduced, like including the wall, getting rid of chain migration, and the visa lottery system. There has a been a continued resolution that will continue until February 8th, and that's when we might hear again about the Dream Act. The pressure and momentum are increasing, and I think that we are on track for a victory. What we know is that the senate leadership, Judge MC Cornell, promised that he was going to bring the Dream Act up to a vote. I think that it is the hardest to get it to a vote because they are keeping it from going to a vote. There is more than one version, and we don't know the specifics.

- ✦ Marcos- Neyda?

- ✦ Neyda- Is there anything we can do?

- ✦ Marcos- Well you are going to DC.

✦ Neyda- It sucks to be on this side and watch them play football with this and it is ridiculous. Just the fact that many students waiting to see how their life will be determined. I think the best we can do is to stay informed and educate other students. Should we be writing letters to congress? Is there anything else that will be affected? Something that was brought up to me from students is the clarification between calling students, DACA versus dreamers. We need to be conscious, the Dream Act is from California versus DACA is federal. I know in the news what we hear it gets messed up.

✦ Marcos-We need to be sensitive over the labels and it can offend people. The immigration forum is on Thursday and I will be in the panel. I will be speaking about advocacy and how to get involved. Once I have the information, I will compile it and get it into a paper document for people who are interested in getting involved. We can try to do a banking session, but I think right now there is a lot of friction. We will join the wheel once organizations get the wheel.

Cesar- I liked what you said about partnering with organizations. The Mexican American Opportunity Foundation in Montebello have a section on immigration. The person of contact is Susy Contreras (323) 313-1665, and her email is scontreras@mof.org. They hold community forums once every month and have individuals who help people review over applications.

Marcos- It is important and know that they are taking DACA applications due to a Judicial injunction which is probably going to overturn soon. The university is paying for renewal fees. We have an agenda item also.

✦ Marcos- The Federal Tax reform is the only legislation that has come out of congress since forty-five took office. There were many colleges harmed in the tax reform. The good thing is that many of those did not pass. There are issues that happened that affect higher education institutions, for example reduction on tax and reduction of charitable giving. Donations will not be tax deductible no more for the people willing to donate. There is a new tax of college endowments, but I think that might affect private universities.

✦ David Z- Will it be taxed for new endowments or what is already there?

- ✦ Marcos- For what is already there. It won't affect us though because we don't have college endowments.
- ✦ Cesar- I wanted to inform everyone that there is free tax preparation in the college of business and economics. VITA is here, please share with the community. College of business is partnering with them.
- ✦ Marco- Pass it to our PR commissioner so that he can put it in our social media.
- ✦ Marcos- The Higher Education Reauthorization Act allows for the federal government to keep it being involved and validating higher education. The last one was in 2003. They are trying to pass it, but we have only seen it in the house, and we have not seen the senates. It is all partisan and doesn't allow for democratic feedback.
- ✦ Marcos- The Pell Grant is going to be a hard bill to make decision on. For the Pell Grant it would add an incentive Pell Grant for time to decrease. Trying to promote students to get sooner. It will restrict federal work study only to undergrads. For the federal subsidize loans, right now there are eight payment plans, and it will reduce them to two. It is trying to stream line the process. The biggest worry is that it would affect low income because it will eliminate the options. It would eliminate some teacher loan forgiveness for some federal loans. It includes additional provision for sexual assault and campus freedom of speech. It is trying to take more snaps at title VIII and make it harder for college and universities to sensor speakers. We are waiting for CSSA to take a position on it. What we know, is that they are trying to pass it by May.
- ✦ Marcos- Any questions?
- ✦ x
- ✦ x

5.4 DACA Legal Clinic (Info Item)- The committee will receive information about a legal clinic for the undocumented community.

- ✦ Yessenia- Organizations have been busy trying to help people renew their DACA application since it reopened.

- ✦ Yessenia- I have partner with two professors and we are trying to do a DACA clinic for Cal State LA students and for the community. We are reaching out to nearby organizations to do pro bono work and lawyers. We are also trying to reach to the DRC office. We were pushing for Feb 3rd, but we are now changing it to February 10th. If you know any organizations or want to help with the clinic please reach out to me. Right now, we have three people available to come and help. We are trying to partner with the VP of Student Life because they are also providing DACA renewal fee application waivers.
- ✦ Marcos- ASI will help with marketing and with flyers.
- ✦ Cesar- Where exactly is it going to be?
- ✦ Yessenia- The AGI C-98. I will send you guys a confirmation by Friday. Organizations have been extremely busy with the application.
- ✦ Marcial- You should contact pre-law society and they have contacts with lawyers.
- ✦ Marcos- Have you been able to contact someone from student life or not yet?
- ✦ Yessenia- Not yet, but we first wanted to make sure someone was available to come help with the applications.
- ✦ Marcos- It will be proponed to February 8th?
- ✦ Yessenia- February 10th.
- ✦ Marcos- We might be able to make a connection at the immigration forum.
- ✦ Yessenia- Yes, I am happy to attend.
- ✦ Marcos- Any questions? Be in the look out for an email.
- ✦ Yessenia- I just wanted to say to be careful about advertisement because we also want to protect them and not announce it a lot on social media.
- ✦ X
- ✦ X

5.5 TPS Resolution (Discussion Item)- The committee will review a draft of a possible resolution regarding TPS beneficiaries.

- ✦ Marcos- I will pass it over to Neyda because she is the author of the resolution.
- ✦ Neyda- Thank you for Marcos and Marcus. I wanted to grab attention to TPS because it is less talked underneath Dream Act and DACA. It has personally affected me and within my community. We have students on campus who are also affected by the same reasons. My resolution is to keep TPS and providing a path to citizenship. I hope this community stands in support. It is an early draft for the next presentation next meeting.
- ✦ Marcos- You have two weeks to review. We will talk about the resolves. It talks about our organizational commitment and where you want us to stand.
- ✦ Neyda- Where I want us to stand is in support of the Trump Administration not canceling TPS. They have canceled for three countries, El Salvador, Honduras and Haiti. This resolution is opposing that decision, as well as recommending for extending the TPS status and finding a resolution for a path to citizenship. In this specific draft I mentioned the ESPERER Act, but upon further research there are different acts to help TPS recipients. Marcos and I discussed that we will be supporting it as an organization rather than a piece of legislation. Disregard the ESPERER Act. We will stand behind our students and I don't think it is different as the DACA resolution, I think we already stated that as an organization it is something we support.
- ✦ Marcos- Some of our students are TPS, DACA, or dreamers but some of our students are mixed status families. I am glad that there is no data for the federal government. Look for changes before it comes back as an action item.
- ✦ Marcial- Did the DACA resolution pass the Academic Senate?
- ✦ Marcos- No, they asked us to present it and they passed a resolution to support our resolution.

- David Z- If this were to be passed by the ASI BOD, can it be used with any legislation in favor of TPS as a reference?
- Marcos- We will go back and discuss. We would want a piece of legislation that does these things, and we would create a laundry list for us since we don't have a common legislation regarding TPS members to include.
- Marcos- Any questions? It will be back as an action item next meeting. Come prepare with amendments. Last comment Rene.
- Marcial- I agree with it but do you think the language is partisan, but it is supposed to be nonpartisan? I can't remember. The fifth whereas, as much as I agree with it, is the language partisan?
- Neyda- It is factual.
- Marcos- I would ask, is it supporting a candidate or political party? I don't think it is so, I think we are fine. I think you are talking about philosophy and political ideology, and I think that is okay. I don't think we are talking about specific candidates. If you find another way to do it in a neutral way, let us know.
- Neyda- I had the same hesitations as well.
- Marcial- I like the parties' question.
- Marcos- Closing comments?
- Neyda- I want to empower this committee, and I know it is the half of the year, but a lot of stuff is going on and I think we have a lot of potential and influence to encourage people on campus to get more involved. I would encourage outreach in political science clubs, inviting them and letting them know what is going on. It is important to use these tools to advocate for our students. Our community is hurting, and I just want to make sure we are all doing something about it, whether it is a little bit here or a little bit there. Talking to students really teaches me what I must do. If you need help with outreach or how to reach students, feel free to reach out to me.

- ✦ Marcial- CSSA is an opportunity for us to go up there with student's fee, and we should all look at the opportunities. It is an opportunity you might never get again, so take advantage of it. Second, just looking around most of us will be gone for next semester, so find students to replace you or others in this committee.
- ✦ Cesar- We can reach out to community colleges like East LA college and Pasadena college. I'll touch bases for free services for DACA and tax services. There is another non-profit that helps for citizenship and they put you in payments. They also report to the credit bureau. We can start putting it in our social media to start seeing a larger impact.
- ✦ Marcos- Any final comments?
- ✦ Marcos- Thank you for showing up today.

V. Information Items

Adjournment

Offered By:		Seconded by:				
Adjourned by Marcos. 4:26pm						
All in Favor		Opposed	None	Abstained	None	Motion: passed failed

Associated Students, Inc.
 Legislative and Advocacy Committee Meeting
Summary of Actions Taken
Tuesday, January 30, 2018.

VIII. CERTIFICATION

Official Minutes taken for the **Legislative Affairs and Advancement Committee** of the Associated Students, Inc., Cal State L.A. held on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 in the ADM 313. Approved by the A.S.I. Legislative Affairs and Advancement Committee on:_____.

Prepared by:

Yessenia Villacorta
Vice Chair

Confirmed by:

Secretary/Treasurer

DRAFT