

Associated Students Inc.
Legislative Affairs Committee

MINUTES

August 31st, 2011

5:00pm, Henry Madden Library Room 2136

1. Call to Order – 5:00pm
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Agenda

Motioned by Senator Nava
Seconded by Senator Kiernan
Motion Passed
Yes:2
No: 0

4. Approval of the Minutes
There were none.

5. New Buisness

- a. CSSA Update
 - i. Bills of Interest

Senator Moncayo discussed CSSA's goals and went over the bills that it supported. He suggested that members of the committee look over the CSSA endorsed bills and select which ones to make resolutions for.

- ii. Actions

Senator Moncayo discussed Prop 1481 Oil Initiative. He explained how if the Senate passed a resolution in favor of it, we could help gather signatures to put it on the ballot for the November election in 2012. He went over arguments for and against it, and all members of the committee expressed support.

Senator Moncayo stated that he will not be writing every resolution on his own this year, and will be relying on other members of the committee to fulfill that role as well.

Senator Moncayo said that the committee may write a resolution for AB970, but that he personally didn't agree with it, while Senator Nava expressed support for it.

Senator Moncayo said that AB970 limits the CSU Board of Trustees ability to raise tuition to only once a year.

Senator Kiernan summarized what Senator Moncayo had previously said, asking if he understood it correctly.

Senator Moncayo stated that Senator Kiernan did understand AB970 correctly, and added that the bill also puts a maximum percentage increase in place. He said that this may cause the Board of Trustees to raise fees by the maximum percent every year. He said that he may be willing to support it because CSSA does.

b. Resolutions

Senator Moncayo explained the process of writing and passing resolutions.

c. Items of Interests

Senator Moncayo stated that last year, he and then-President Ramirez talked about having the university offer credit for students participating in voter registration drives, and perhaps implementing that this year. Senator Kiernan and Senator Nava both expressed support for the idea.

d. Maddy Institute Partnership

Senator Moncayo stated that last year, the Legislative Affairs Committee gave \$5,000 to the Maddy Institute.

Senator Kiernan asked if the committee had already given the Maddy Institute that \$5,000, or if it was still a proposal.

Senator Moncayo said that last year, the committee proposed giving the Maddy Institute \$10,000, but that was reduced to \$5,000, and the donation had already been made.

Senator Kiernan asked what more the committee could do with a Maddy Institute partnership if we had already made the donation.

Senator Moncayo responded, suggesting having interns participate in our voter registration drives and other legislative affairs.

e. Distribution of Information

Senator Moncayo explained how as chair, he was utilizing social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, to reach out to students and asked the committee what else it could do.

Senator Nava responded, suggesting going to student clubs and organizations events.

Senator Moncayo agreed, and added that that should be done with clubs and organizations that were already political in nature, such as the Young Republicans and Young Democrats.

The committee composed a list of students clubs and organizations that it could reach out to, including the Young Republicans, Young Democrats, Mecha, and Students for Quality Education.

Senator Moncayo stated that last year, working with Students for Quality education and Hector, an SQE intern at the time, was very beneficial.

Senator Kiernan agreed, saying that although Hector is extremely critical of ASI, he is very knowledgeable and experienced regarding lobbying, and working with SQE would be very helpful.

f. Postcard Initiative

Senator Moncayo talked about photographing students wearing pro-education shirts and holding pro-education shirts to be printed on a postcard at \$0.99 each and sent to elected officials.

Senator Kiernan stated that this would probably not accomplish much, but may help raise student awareness of higher education issues.

Senator Moncayo agreed, saying that it will not help stop education funding cuts, but will raise awareness among students who normally wouldn't be aware or involved in higher education issues, and may help make elected officials more familiar with the goals of the committee.

Senator Kiernan and Senator Nava expressed approval of the idea.

6. Announcements

Senator Moncayo asked which bills, if any, the committee wanted to write resolutions for. The committee agreed on writing a resolution for Proposition 1481, but agreed on researching AB970 more before deciding to support it.

Senator Moncayo said that the committee needed to establish a consistent voter registration system, involving clubs and organizations, and perhaps having them compete for most voters registered.

Senator Kiernan mentioned that the committee's goals for this year are excellent, and that it was on the right track for building lobby core and reaching out to more students. He stated that if the battle against tuition increases is going to be more effective, it needs to involve

administration and faculty as well. He explained how the university will not win the fight in budget negotiations unless administration, faculty, and students work together to oppose cuts, and that kind of coalition has not existed in the past.

Senator Moncayo agreed, mentioning that the facilities employees he sat with at Speed Networking strongly disapproved of and were upset by recent cuts.

Senator Kiernan added that an effort made by administration, faculty, and students to fight funding cuts was crucial, but too many faculty members were too apathetic, and members of the administration, such as President Welty, were “fat and happy,” meaning paid very high salaries, such as \$300,000 plus a free house and car in President Welty’s case, and were so well off they may not have as strong of an interest in fighting with students and faculty members as Senator Kiernan believes is necessary to make such a coalition work.

Senator Kiernan mentioned he may be wrong, and hopes that he’s wrong, and that administration members being so well off may not necessarily make them unwilling to join the committee in this effort to stop funding cuts.

Senator Moncayo stated that the redistricting in the near future may make elected officials more accountable. He added that he agreed with Student Trustee Steven Dixon’s statement at a recent CSSA meeting, that however much funding is reduced to the CSU, that’s how many less students should be admitted, and that that would cause parents (who actually vote) to become frustrated with the situation.

Senator Moncayo said that we’re in tough times, and everything is being cut. He said that there’s only so much we can do, but we need to make students aware of the situation. Maybe if we occupied that state capitol, something will change.

Senator Nava said that some elected officials care about higher education, but not very many.

Senator Moncayo said that the CSU is losing money because student’s don’t vote. He reviewed which members of the committee would be reaching out to which clubs and organizations, and reminded that committee of which bills for resolutions they will be focusing on next meeting.

Senator Moncayo briefly discussed bringing students to upcoming CSSA meetings.

7. Adjournment- 5:48pm

Motioned by Senator Kiernan

Seconded by Senator Nava

Motioned Passed

Yes: 2

No: 0

1. Call to order: 5:00pm

2. Public Comment:
None

3. Approval of Agenda

Motioned by Senator Nava

Seconded by Senator Kiernan

Motion passed

Yes:2

No:0

4. Approval of Minutes

Motioned by Senator Kiernan

Seconded by Senator Nava

Motion passed

Yes:2

No:0

5. New Business

a. Resolutions

Senator Moncayo asked the committee to review the resolution he wrote in support of the Oil Extraction Fee to Rescue Education. He stated that it was very basic, and should be revised to be more informative, but covers the major parts of the initiative.

Senator Kiernan asked Senator Moncayo to make it clear that the Oil Extraction fee to Rescue Education is a ballot initiative that is in the process of gathering signatures to be put on the ballot, include the proposition number (1481), and mention that oil extraction is currently not taxed at all.

Senator Moncayo made the changes suggested by Senator Kiernan.

Senator Kiernan and Senator Moncayo agreed that the resolution was fine as amended.

Approval of the resolution as amended

Motioned by Senator Kiernan

Seconded by Senator Nava

Motion passed

Yes:2

No:0

b. Items of Interest

Senator Moncayo talked about creating an introduction to advocacy class that would teach students lobbying skills. He stated that we needed to find a teacher for it, and figure out what it would count for regarding credits.

The Committee agreed that it was a good idea, but that they needed to talk to Dean Gonzalez and Dr. Schecter about it first.

c. Voter Registration

Senator Moncayo said that he spoke with College Republicans, and they were not interested in working with the committee, although College Democrats showed an interest.

Senator Nava said that MeChA was willing to participate in voter registration, and that he had not heard back from Students for Quality Education.

d. Credit for Volunteer Work

Senator Moncayo said that offering credit for registering voters and lobbying was a "long shot," but that he would be meeting with Dr. Schecter about it.

6. Announcements

Senator Moncayo talked about the CSSA trip this upcoming weekend.

7. Adjournment

Motioned by Senator Nava

Seconded by Senator Kiernan

Motion Passed

Yes: 2

No:1

Associated Students, Inc.
Legislative Affairs Committee

MINUTES

September 28, 2011

4:00PM, Henry Madden Library Room 3131

1.Call to Order: 4:02

2.Public Comment

There was none.

3.Approval of the Agenda

Motioned by Senator Kiernan

Seconded by Senator Nava

Motion Passed

Y: 4

N:0

4.Approval of the Minutes

Senator Nava stated that the minutes were incorrect. He never said that Mecha was willing to help the committee, but rather that it was likely that they would.

Minutes were friendly amended accordingly.

Motioned by Senator Kiernan

Seconded by Senator Nava

Motion Passed

Y:4

N:0

5.Reports

a. Sean Kiernan

Senator Kiernan suggested that the committee pass a resolution opposing cuts to higher education made by the Congressional "Super Committee" established in the debt ceiling negotiations.

b. Jose Luis Nava

There was none.

6. Old Buisness

a. Post Card initiative

The committee explained the post card initiative to _____. Senator Moncayo said that we need make post cards with students and send them to elected officials multiple times.

Senator Nava dissented, saying that it would be more effective to set up lobbying trips to local government offices.

Senator Moncayo said that Senator Nava's idea was good, but impractical. It's very hard to have students sign up for that, and most of those that do won't show up anyway.

Senator Nava said that we need to keep students informed and involved, and the best way to do that is with lobbying trips. He then complained that ASI does not try hard enough to reach out to students.

Senator Moncayo said that he has been a student here and a part of ASI longer, and knows that what we have tried in the past hasn't worked, and that local lobbying efforts isn't practical.

b. Voter Registration

Senator Moncayo asked the committee what they would like to do for voter registration.

Senator Kiernan responded, saying that tabling in shifts would be the best way.

6. New Business

a. Tax Prop Signatures

Senator Moncayo said that because the senate passed a resolution supporting Prop 1481, and that we could now help gather signatures.

Senator Kiernan said that we could collect signatures while tabling for voter registration.

b. Resolutions

Senator Moncayo suggested making a resolution in support of or opposed to Senator Bill 185, which allowed campuses' admissions committees to take ethnicity into account only to the extent that the 14th amendment of the United States Constitution allowed. However, Governor Brown has until October 8th to sign or veto it, so we wouldn't have much time to act on it.

c. Items of Interest

All items of interest were previously covered during resolution, Tax Prop Signatures, and Voter Registration.

d. CSSA Briefing

Senator Moncayo aside how the committee felt about CSSA.

Senator Kiernan said that their intentions are good, and it's great that all of the CSUs are coming together to fight for education. At the same time, they should be more aggressive, and they need to stop postpone business as they do, since they only meet once a month.

Senator Moncayo said that CSSA's "heart is in the right place, but they don't do anything."

8. Announcements

Senator Moncayo reminded the committee about the shared governance meeting and CSSA meeting in October.

Senator Kiernan said that we needed to figure out times and location for voter registration and tax prop signatures now.

Senator Moncayo said that he will send Senator Kiernan an e-mail list of all committee members.

Senator Kiernan said that he will schedule shifts and e-mail everyone to figure out who can work which shifts.

9. Adjournment: 4:36pm

Motioned by Senator Nava

Seconded by Senator Moncayo

Motioned Passed

Y: 4

N: 0