

Elections Committee Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2021

- I. CALL TO ORDER at **12:03 PM**
- II. ROLL CALL
Present: Abhay Bilapatte, Julia Nkansah, Kenneth Lefin, Miriam Okekenta, Erik Pinlac, Marguerite Hinrichs, James Carroll, Angelica Gurrola

Absent: Mary Katreeb
- III. ACTION ITEM – **Approval of the Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda by **K. Lefin**, second by **J. Nkansah**.
- IV. ACTION ITEM – **Approval of minutes May 29th, 2020 and Approval of minutes January 28th, 2021**
Motion to approve the minutes of May 29th, 2020 and January 28th, 2021 by **K. Lefin**, second **M. Okekenta**.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT – **Public Comment is intended as a time for any member of the public to address the committee on any issues affecting ASI and/or the California State University, East Bay.**
No public comment.
- VI. UNFINISHED ITEMS
No unfinished items.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:
 - A. DISCUSSION ITEM – **Elections Marketing updates**
The ASI elections committee will discuss the marketing update based on the theme which was finalized.
K. Lefin states that the committee decided on #Virtual Vote and sent in a virtual request that E. Pinlac sent. It is in the process right now and I inform everyone of any updates. **M. Hinrichs**

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states that **K. Lefin** led them in a meeting for the Marketing committee. In the meeting, there was a brainstorming session. Did we set preliminary dates? **K. Lefin** states that they were set depending on the approval of dates and time.

11:36

B. DISCUSSION ITEM – **Review of the Task List**

The ASI elections committee will be reviewing the committee task lists.

A. Bilapatte states that in a meeting with himself, J. Nkansah, and E. Pinlac, the task list was updated. **J. Carroll** states that he would like to receive feedback from everyone's initial response to the campaigning guidelines in a virtual environment. The elections codes will not be updated this year; however, we want to provide clarity for the candidates and for all students. For Zoom lectures and classes, in regards to pictures and backgrounds, are there any limitations that should be imposed? If it is a class, faculty can determine any restrictions on Zoom backgrounds. For candidates, would we want to clarify what is and is not allowed in regards to backgrounds?

A. Bilapatte states that last year, candidates could not use any picture that was submitted to ASI for the elections. We can use the same method this year. I would like to have other thoughts on this as well. **K. Lefin** states that they should follow the guidelines from last year. **M. Hinrichs** asks if the candidates will have the opportunity to have social media events outside what the Elections committee will be hosting. There is Instagram live and other examples of social media that can be used. **K. Lefin** states that it will be different in an academic setting. Marketing on their social media pages would be separate. **J. Carroll** states the policy in the campaigning is that no candidate can use ASI logos on their publicity of campaigning. Do we want to restrict candidates to use the pictures they send or can they have their publicity as their Zoom pictures and background?

A. Bilapatte states that the committee can ask candidates what their choice of background would be. I am still unsure of this. **K. Lefin** states that last year, the committee agreed on the candidates' picture without any ASI logos or merchandise. On Instagram it was not allowed correct? **J. Carroll** states that in the elections codes, it states that candidates cannot use ASI name or logo on their campaigning flyers and information. This rule is stated and is not new. With candidates, for their Zoom background, some candidates may want to use their flyer photo and name with the position they are running for. I would like to have some clarity on that. **E. Pinlac** states that everything is on Zoom and I understand what J. Carroll stated. Using a campaign photo on Zoom is loosely covered, but candidates should not disturb classroom activities. I am not sure of what clarification should be included. In my opinion, it is considered campaigning in the classroom. It would be best to mention to candidates that when in a class, do not post anything affiliated with the ASI campaign and it can be a distraction. **A. Bilapatte** states that candidates should not post anything involving the campaign on Zoom. If candidates are in a meeting with the committee or attend an event does

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it apply? **E. Pinlac** states that ASI resources can not be used. **A. Bilapatte** is correct and it should be clarified because we have not used Zoom to this extent. **A. Bilapatte** states that candidates do need a platform to campaign, since everything is currently virtual. I need some ideas on how candidates can promote. **K. Lefin** states that candidates can use their own personal Instagram to promote without using ASI's logo. **J. Carroll** states that himself, A. Gurrola and M. Katreeb can add information about this topic, particularly on Zoom. I heard the piece that E. Pinlac mentioned about attending ASI event. We will edit the language and present it at the next meeting. While there is no campaigning allowed in the classroom, I can be a candidate and wear a t-shirt or wear an item that states "vote for me". While some may think it is campaigning in the classroom, it may not cause a disturbance. We need to focus on the specifics on what is allowed in order to set candidates up for success. It is mentioned that candidates are prohibited from sending messages through a professor's class list. One of the questions asked is about being in group chats on GroupMe. Some candidates ask about promoting their campaign if they are in a small group chat for a course. We need to further define this. **A. Bilapatte** states that there was a similar situation last year. A few candidates had done something and some students received messages. As long as it is accepted by the person receiving the text messages, there should be no issue. We will need to think about group chats and class lists and the use of them as J. Carrol mentioned. **K. Lefin** states that taking people's contact information from a class setting should not be accepted. **J. Carroll** states that he will work to clarify that if someone obtains information through any means, it would be a violation of policy or code. If there is evidence to prove that a candidate received numbers from a class list and sent messages, it will be a violation. There was no consent given to take information from a class list. We have all received spammed messages. If people ask candidates to remove them from their list and the candidate continues to send messages, it would be a potential violation. A random student receiving a message from a candidate, is not considered a violation unless there it can be confirmed that it was obtained in an inappropriate manner. Does this seem like an initial though that can be worked on? **A. Bilapatte** states that it works. **E. Pinlac** states that last year, there complaints of where their information was obtained. There are certain clubs and organizations that have communication channels. One group contacted other and was sending messages. It is difficult to police how candidates receive contact information. We are going to have to go by grievances. If there is a grievance, the case will need to be built up. It is difficult to prove where people receive information. We are not in every class or Zoom meeting. It is something to be aware of, but there is no answer for it. **J. Carroll** states that all of the information will be typed up and presented for final feedback. Some things can not be addressed unless it can be proven. While very few people on campus, some people have asked if candidates can post campaign information on the lawns. It is stated in the codes that campus posting is allowed, but students must follow campus COVID guidelines. If students would like to use their own resources to create posters, there is no policy

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restricting this, but the COVID policies must be followed. I do not anticipate candidates wanting to post flyers around campus. It would be an expense that is unnecessary. **E. Pinlac** states that it was good that J. Carroll mentioned posting flyers on campus. This morning, I saw on the LED sign that the campus discourages groups meeting on campus. Generally, for the elections, people would meet to take pictures and I am not aware if it is mentioned in the policy. Does that need to be clarified so that candidates are aware? Candidates can take pictures separately and later, they can be photoshopped together. **J. Carroll** states that if a candidate wanted to take a picture on campus in front of the campus letters, it is allowed. If members of a slate wanted to take a photo together, it would violate campus restrictions. We want to ensure that people are following campus restrictions. As a member of Student Conduct, these situations could violate campus restrictions, although it is not in the code. COVID restrictions would apply to students similar to a conduct manner. People should not be close together. Technology allows people to be creative with photos. **A. Bilapatte** states that J. Carroll, A. Gurrola, and M. Katreeb can meet to discuss the wording of this information and it can be discussed at the next meeting.

35:17

C. DISCUSSION ITEM – **Candidacy Application**

The ASI elections committee will be discussing the ASI Elections candidacy application.

M. Hinrichs states that some applications have been submitted on Bay Sync. **E. Pinlac** states that two applications have been submitted. Most people running for election submit their applications last minute because they would like to limit the amount of information out there. I had a former ASI Board member talk to me and I was blindsided with elections questions. There will be more people applying. **M. Hinrichs** states that two emails were sent out to students to remind them about the applications. In the email it says, “It’s time to run for ASI elections” and a link to the Election website is provided. **K. Lefin** asks when the deadline for the application is. **E. Pinlac** states that he believes it is next Friday. **M. Hinrichs** states that the deadline is February 15th at 11:59 p.m.

37:27

D. DISCUSSION ITEM – **Elections Timeline**

The ASI elections committee will be discussing and reviewing the Elections timeline.

A. Bilapatte states that as of now, the committee has been following the timeline. **E. Pinlac** states that the first event was on Tuesday and one person attended. The person learned about the elections and addressed some concerns. I forwarded the person to current Board members. The timeline needs to be changed because it mentions voting on Bay Sync. As you may know,

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we are voting on a new platform and I am working with IT on it. It is difficult to work since everything is virtual. I do need to change Bay Sync to ballot on the website.

39:03

VIII. **ROUNDTABLE REMARKS:**

A. Bilapatte states that the committee is on the right track and ahead of schedule. There will be more updates in the upcoming weeks.

E. Pinlac states that the portal that will be used will be updated. Thirteen of the twenty-three CSU campuses use the same software. It will be slow because the company is based in Australia and the sales representative I am working with is based in Hayward. The portal passed the VPAT and internet security. This was started in October and we have been working on it for a while. I duplicated the grievance form from last year and it is located on Bay Sync. There are no submissions, but it can be linked to other places.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT at 12:44 PM**

Minutes Reviewed by:

Committee Chair

Name: Abhay Bilapatte



Abhay Bilapatte (Mar 4, 2021 14:47 PST)

Minutes approved on:

3-4-2021

Date:

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Final Audit Report

2021-03-04

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