

Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes of February 25th, 2021

- I. CALL TO ORDER at **12:02 PM**
- II. ROLL CALL
Present: Jessica Iheaso, Arazeli Barragan, Noor Kaur, Jilian Manlapaz, Aa'ishah Riaz
Absent: Anjelica de Leon
- III. ACTION ITEM - **Approval of the Agenda for February 25, 2021**
Move to approve the agenda for February 25th, 2021 by **J. Manlapaz**, second by **A. Riaz**, agenda **APPROVED**.
- IV. ACTION ITEM - **Approval of [Minutes from February 11, 2021](#)**
Move to approve the minutes from February 11, 2021 by **N. Kaur**, second by **J. Manlapaz**.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT – **Public Comment is intended as a time for any member of the public to address the Board on any issues affecting ASI and/or the California State University, East Bay.** **Lilian Mworia** states that she is HOPE's liaison for the HOPE club and ASI. My purpose of being here today is to speak on a group of students who have been assessed and are not well represented, in terms of their struggles. Those would be international students and most of their issues are not looked into. I would like to present some of the grievances from international students so that you all may see ways to go about it to bring change. I spoke to Noor Kaur about placing a suggestion box next to CIE and having aggressive marketing for it in order for international students to express their struggles in this country from sexual assault, physical assault, hunger, homelessness, joblessness, and to issues with finding jobs after graduation with no assistance from the school. There are so many things that come with being an immigrant in this country without being under DACA or having permanent residency. This year, Americans have had a few ways to receive assistance in terms of the COVID pandemic and international students have not had any form of assistance, especially those coming from countries experiencing recession. We have been present and contribute to school fees and yet, we receive nothing in return and our parents do not have the facilities to support us when we are here. We do not receive assistance in part-time CPE or opportunities to find jobs to help ourselves because our countries are in a desolate state right now. The available scholarships published by the school do not align with international students in any way and most of them are centered towards Americans. There was no regard to what might be happening to international students economically. In terms of psychological



care, the school only offers ten sessions per academic year and Americans are able to access care outside of school. International students have to wallow with their pain and misery after the ten sessions. Another thing is advocacy for international students in terms of assistance in paying for some of the immigration processes. Some students have to pay close to \$500.00 and will have to find a way to pay. There are some institutions that will help students pay. International students have not seen anything given back to them from the institution. I would like to suggest a workshop between colleges, professors, and international students for them to express what they go through. Some professors may think that international students are being dramatic and professors do not understand the legality behind it. Professors need to be aware of the legalities and find ways to help, rather than being difficult. It is mostly about international students and having more legislation grounded towards assisting them and pushing for policies. If you would like for me to come back and go further in depth, I will be willing to do that. **J. Iheaso** states that she will have further discussion with Lilian Mworira regarding action that can be taken in the future. Thank you so much for your public comment.

8:47

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS ITEMS

A. INFORMATION ITEM - **CHESS**

The Chair will discuss the upcoming California Higher Education Student Summit and discuss the topics for lobbying

J. Iheaso states that she has been sending invitations for the offices that have responded and have scheduled meetings. CHESS will be on a Saturday or Sunday and it is a one-day conference. On that day, we will be receiving all the information to lobby. Essentially, the conference will be us advocating for more funding for the CSUs and financial aid reform. There is a budget request that we will be advocating for. There is a financial aid coalition that has been going on for the last couple of years. With that, we are advocating for more accessibility for the aid for all students, including international and undocumented students. Bills will be introduced and we can discuss more when we have our meeting specifically towards lobbying and CHESS. Once that begins, we will be able to determine who will discuss each part within the meetings. There is a structure for the meetings. It starts off with an introduction, then a story by someone, someone will talk about some facts and asks, and someone will close it off with experiences and why it is beneficial. CHESS is happening the week of the 8th through the 10th or 11th, which is the second week of March. It is in two weeks and I hope for you all to attend as many conferences as possible. If any of you know someone that is interested in lobbying, they need to register today and the latest is tomorrow. The registration is for the conference that is happening on the Sunday before the week of lobbying. Make sure the date remains open. If you know anyone that would be interested, please provide their information and I will reach out



to them to see if they are interested and they can be registered. That is all I had to say about chess in regards to basic information.

12:30

VII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. INFORMATION ITEM- CHESS Conference Availability

The Chair will discuss the upcoming CHESS conference and seek availability from the committee to attend

J. Iheaso states that she wants to see what everyone's availability looks like within the Sunday before the week of lobbying along with specific days people are available. Once I receive confirmations for meetings, I can tailor those times to who is available. Are there specific dates or times that anyone is busy? **J. Manlapaz** states that as for now, she is available Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mondays and Wednesdays, I have conflicts with my schedule, but any time on Tuesdays and Thursdays I am available. **N. Kaur** asks if J. Iheaso is asking for availability before the conference. **J. Iheaso** states that the conference will be the Sunday before the week of lobbying. We are trying to meet with legislators of the week of the 8th through the 10th or the 12th. The actual conference will be on the 7th. I want to make sure that you are all available on the 7th so I can register everyone for the CHESS conference. I will be sure to put everyone down. **A. Barragan** states that she cannot do Mondays and on Fridays, she is not available before 1:00 p.m. Other than that, I am usually free during the day. **J. Iheaso** states that most of the meeting scheduled are from Monday to Wednesday. There should be no meetings on Thursday or Friday, but there may be if those are the only days legislators are available. So far, we have confirmed four meetings, but there is one on Monday. It is for Legislative aid from the Office of Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan. I know that the meeting is on a Monday, but is there a specific time that you all would like to meet? I was thinking about 11:00 a.m. and a lot of the meetings happen early in the day. For Monday, March 8th, would 11:00 a.m. work for anyone? **J. Manlapaz** states that she will not be able attend the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

A. Barragan states that if the meeting was a 12:30 p.m. or 1:00 p.m., it would be better since she has a class at 11:00 a.m. **N. Kaur** states that Mondays, she has classes, but is free from noon to 2:00 p.m. **J. Iheaso** states that 12:30 p.m. is a good time. The meetings are thirty-minutes long and the meeting can be from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. **N. Kaur** and **A. Barragan** will be available. **A. Riaz**, do you have any time conflicts on Mondays or any days in general? **A. Riaz** states that she has class on Mondays from 12:00 p.m. to 1:40 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. On Tuesdays, I am completely free and Thursdays are difficult for me. **N. Kaur** states that she was recently hired at a new job and her schedule has not been determined yet. Tuesdays, I am available in the morning before 1:00 p.m. and after, I have class and work, potentially.



J. Iheaso states that once she hears back from the legislators, if someone cannot attend a meeting, that is okay, but make sure to decline the invitation. Once we receive more responses, we can determine the layout of the meetings. It is important to get as many people that are interested as possible because if someone is not there, they can fill in that spot. We will still have enough student representatives that can relay the message that we are trying to provide to the legislators.

18:57

B. INFORMATION ITEM - Lobbying Documents

The chair will go through some of the documents that will be helpful in guiding committee members when lobbying

J. Iheaso states that she would like to make a motion to postpone this item to the next meeting because the data and fact sheets have not been provided by CSSA.

Motion to table information item B until the next meeting by **J. Manlapaz**, second by **N. Kaur**.

20:01

VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS:

A. Director of Legislative Affairs Updates

J. Iheaso states that CSSA is the voice for all of the CSU student bodies, but there is one for UCs called, UCSA. They are having a coalition along with CSSA and community colleges. We are lobbying to congress members on doubling the program. We have discussing how the Pell grant needs to be doubled to provide more aid to students. We are advocating for COVID relief funds for all students, regardless of citizenship status and their dependency. All students are struggling and need financial help. We are also advocating for basic needs for mental health and more money to go towards mental health resources. These are some things I have been working on with Euridice Pamela Sanchez, UCSA, and community college student association. I have been working on scheduling our meeting with the legislators and we have a total of eight. So far, we have confirmed four meetings. One of the meetings will be attended by Cal Maritime and they are a school in Vallejo. We have CHESS and I will be working on getting more representatives. Zaira Perez and I will be collaborating on an event, Undocu-Ally training, and it should be a great event for the students. I attended the SPACE advisory committee meeting. The committee is about allocating space on campus to different divisions. There is a process to go through when someone wants space of campus. President Sandeen has committed to creating an undocumented student resource center, a DACA resource center, and an African-American resource center. These are exciting and will be happening in the fall.

24:30



IX. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

N. Kaur states that Lilian Mworia talked about many things during public comment and I want to emphasize a few things. I had conversations with female international students and they have been abused whether it be physical, sexual or emotional. International students are offered jobs on campus through work study and cannot work outside of campus. Female international students are vulnerable to people who may take advantage of them because they need money, food, and shelter. This is an important issue and it should be moved forward.

J. Manlapaz states that with the committee needing people to help with lobbying, Lilian Mworia would be a great addition for one of the meetings.

J. Iheaso states that there is an ASI scholarship that will be going out and it will offer one-hundred scholarships to students. This scholarship is specifically tailored towards the need for the money not based on grades. It is a great opportunity for international students and they are heavily considered for this award. I encourage everyone to inform their international friends that are in need to apply for the financial aid scholarships.

N. Kaur asks where the information for the scholarship can be found.

J. Iheaso states that it should be on the ASI website, but can send a link to everyone after the meeting. It should be on the ASI Instagram page, as well.

X. ADJOURNMENT at **12:30 PM**

Minutes reviewed by:

Director of Legislative Affairs & Chair

Name: Jessica Iheaso


Jessica Iheaso (Apr 21, 2021 18:22 PDT)

Minutes approved on:

3-11-2021

Date

