



**Associated Students Inc.  
San Francisco State University  
External Affairs Council  
Minutes  
February 14th, 2019**

Chair, **Garrick Wilhelm**, has called a meeting of the **External Affairs Council** on **Thursday, February 14th, 2019** at **2:00 pm - 4:00 pm** in **Delmy Rodriguez (T-152)** in the **Cesar Chavez Student Center**.

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 2:09pm.

**II. Roll Call**

**President - Unexcused.**

**VP of External Affairs - Present.**

**VP of Facilities & Services - Present.**

**Sophomore Representative - Present.**

**Science & Engineering Representative - Present.**

**RHA Representative - Present.**

**LCA Representative - Present.**

*VP of Facilities & Services left room at 2:13pm.*

**III. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to approve the agenda for February 14th, 2019**

**Moved by Science & Engineering Representative, seconded by RHA Representative.**

**No opposed. No abstentions. Motion passed.**

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

**No minutes to approve.**

**V. Announcements (2 minutes each).** Please submit literature to Chair when meeting begins.

**Sophomore Representative** announced that Student Trustees Interviews are tomorrow along with a jam packed weekend of CSSA. She is excited for Board members to network and meet with other school representatives.

**VI. Public Comment (2 minutes each).** Must pertain to jurisdiction of Board. Please observe proper decorum. The board is not required to respond.

**VII. Closed Session Pursuant to Education Code 89307 of the California Code for the purpose of to consider the appointment, employment, and evaluation of performance, discipline, or dismissal of an employee.**

**No Closed Session**

**VIII. Old Business**

**a. NSLDC (Discussion Item) – VP External Affairs**

*Debrief and next steps for NSLDC conference.*

**VP of External Affairs** stated that we had groups attending the conference here from all over the place, including Maine, Minnesota, Bermuda, Texas A&M, and Washington State. Though not very many local students went at all, the information presented was basic for people in the SFSU community, as they explained things like gender identity and diversity without much depth. Most students that attended benefitted from this, but our students would not have benefitted as much, so it wasn't a big deal we didn't attend in large numbers. Suggested that it did however raise the stature of the University for a broad number of students, especially as the home of Ethnic Studies. Suggested that 50% of the groups attending were from community colleges that would easily transfer here, with a wide array from American River College, to San Joaquin Delta College, to Skyline Community College. One of the main keynote speakers

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was very interesting, as he talked on different identities and of his experiences as a gay top star athlete in a college atmosphere that required him to be closeted. Keynote speaker also told a story of his best friend being a transgender individual and the idea of acceptance in a college community. **VP of External Affairs** stated that the reason this is an agenda item is because NSLDC would like to come back next year, with a dual conference of two focus tracks, one on latinx leadership and another on women's issues. Suggested the council consider doing it. Although it is not a no-cost event, the primary cost was for staff and facilities, which were low and not anything out of the ordinary. The benefits to campus outweigh the cost, and there is room for AS to develop a similar conference that is more in depth for the local community. Suggested the idea of a Pride-Justice Conference with focus specifically on LGBTQ issues.

*VP of Facilities & Service returned at 2:19pm.*

**VP of External Affairs** continued that this sets the tone for SFSU as a sanctuary for trans and queer students, and reinforce our support to them. Suggested that once full-time staff work in QRTC, EROS, and other AS programs that they could take this on. There can be further discussion on details if the idea is popular, but the Board needs to take action on this by July so we can carefully lay groundwork without throwing something on a future board that they may not want to do. **VP of External Affairs** suggested weighing the idea of having this type of conference in June during pride month, as we could get a large number of students to collaborate on LGBTQ issues, and potentially get better quality speakers with the increased number of attendees. We also benefit from more access to facilities during the summer months. The pride part of last conference was taken away when only 50 were registered, but 113+ actually came and many were thinking this was a pride conference. Each of those students paid \$200-\$300 each to be here. This conference seemed to make a decent profit from our facilities. **LCA Representative** asked how many SFSU students attended? **VP of External Affairs** responded that 24 SFSU students were registered, but only around 14 showed up, including board members and one unregistered member of productions who attended last minute. **VP of External Affairs** asked if the council believes it is worth hosting this again, with the same group but two new leads for their breakout sections, featuring latinx and women tracks? They have offered 40 free slots to our students in exchange for the use of our facilities and staff. They provide all food and costs and we paid them nothing. **Sophomore Representative** stated that she wants them back, as we can get a lot more involvement with them if we do more outreach, as this year it was planned a bit last minute. **VP of External Affairs** suggested we push it back in February so we have time to get students registered and participating. **Science & Engineering Representative** stated concern, since the Women's Center on campus puts on a conference every February as well, and we already don't put enough effort into outreach for that one already. **LCA Representative** suggested that the idea of hosting special conferences here are a good start, but they need to avoid being as basic as this previous one was, and suggested that the two tracks may bring more depth. He was also unaware of this Women's conference in February. **Science & Engineering Representative** stated that they pushed back their conference this year but it's usually every in February every year, as they ask prominent and empowered women to speak at these. **Sophomore Representative** stated that it will occur in April this year. **LCA Representative** asked for a time frame of this with our student body, as it's hard to pick a good time considering only 14 showed up this time. **VP of External Affairs** stated that outreach went to all of Ethnic Studies and various programs on campus, but not everyone. **LCA Representative** asked how good AS marketing is? **Science & Engineering Representative** responded that it's complicated to explain. **VP of External Affairs** suggested that this is why the Marketing & Communications Committee is reconvening this semester, as this organization should have a cohesive social media presence and someone to manage that.

**b. February Plenary (Discussion/Action Item) – VP External Affairs**

*Final roundup for CSSA Plenary and discussion of items on the agenda of the plenary.*

**VP of External Affairs** stated that this starts tomorrow. **Sophomore Representative** stated that Mayor London Breed cannot make it but is sending 2 representatives; one of them being the Police Commissioner of San Francisco. **VP of External Affairs** suggested that Representative Scott Weiner wanted to talk to or address students, and though it is last minute, he could be here during the 11am-12pm Civic Engagement Conference. **Sophomore Representative** stated that he would be here at 12pm for lunch to meet with students. **VP of External Affairs** stated he will be there early to set up will start today when the farmers market is over. **LCA Representative** stated that there is no farmer's market today due to the rainy weather. **VP of External Affairs** stated he is meeting people tonight at the Powell Street cable car turnaround to

welcome them at 8pm, as they will continue to Fisherman's Wharf to eat. **VP of Facilities & Services** suggested taking attendees to the DNA Lounge for entertainment after dinner. **VP of External Affairs** suggested that he is expecting people not to show up. **VP of Facilities & Services** stated that at least 2 people probably will be there. **VP of External Affairs** states that San Jose State and Sonoma State will be staying in town for this. Reminded the council that tomorrow from 9am-5pm will be trustee interviews with lunch from 12pm-1pm and an Analytics Workshop from 10am-12pm as listed in the welcome packet. **VP of Facilities & Services** wished **Sophomore Representative** good luck on her Student Trustee interview tomorrow. **VP of External Affairs** stated that marketing will be making name tags for everyone for this. **Sophomore Representative** suggested that they look excellent and really nice. **VP of External Affairs** stated that a welcome bag going with all attendees includes an AS Pen, Office Kits, and SFSU water bottles from the bookstore. Stated we ordered collapsible water bottles, yet they didn't have color we wanted and it would not be here in time so we had to cancel the order. **VP of External Affairs** described two rainbow SF stickers that will be in each bag as well. Stated that over 72 students were registered to attend including 2 campuses that were registered but are not coming. Mentioned 2 contentious things taking place at this plenary; a Transparency in President Searches/Open System Resolution which will be an interesting morning discussion, and a Social Justice and Equity presentation on the Experimental College in the afternoon. Suggested he must sit on the University Affairs committee to talk about the Experimental College item instead of **President** since he will not be here past lunch. Suggested Board members dress normal on Saturday if they are participating on a committee, but if not they should wear AS stuff on so people know who to ask for help. Asked council if there are any other questions about plenary? Stated there will be a full real breakfast spread from the taqueria, which does everything and anything. **RHA Representative** suggested keesh. **Sophomore Representative** suggested tons of students from SQE are coming here, so we should be careful if anything happens, since they care about funding a lot and will cause ruckus. **Science & Engineering Representative** clarified that SQE is the group Students for Quality Education. **VP of External Affairs** stated that SQE comes to every plenary, as they comment and advocate for increased student involvement in CSSA. They also advocate for a CSSA Alumni Liaison and other positions to get paid travel, since there's currently no reason CSSA can't do that now. Suggested it is not a financial issue now for this organization as there was politics around money that are not there anymore. **Science & Engineering Representative** suggested that we don't normally get a lot of public comment or students at large attending. **VP of External Affairs** stated that a colleague of his from Orange County known as Liz makes a career of making public comments at these meetings and will speak in every committee along with another gentleman in the Board of Trustees who also does this. **VP of Facilities & Services left the room at 2:47pm.**

**c. Action Regarding Response by Student Affairs to Trans Students (Discussion Item) – VP External Affairs**

*The Council will consider the value of responding to the way Student Affairs handled the Clery Timely Warning that created a hostile campus environment for Trans students.*

**VP of External Affairs** stated that this is a standing item. Informed the council that the new President on campus could formerly hire a whole new cabinet of Vice Presidents, yet this is no longer the case as it is too disruptive to the University to replace all former administrators. Generally they will still keep a couple of people in their positions, but may choose some new people to work with. AS taking action on our relationship with the administration and the VP of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management could be important in that decision of the new University President, so we need to further develop what the grievances are before they are taken and voiced to the Board. Most of our grievances are based in her indoctrinating us into being her voice instead of allowing us to be the independent voice of students. She will try to have us take her side of things, instead of respecting us as student representatives and so the students will recognize this and will not want us to represent them. Stated that this is a big problem, as it disrespects the mission of AS and our charter set out for us by the School. Stressed that this is a real problem and that we'll continue working on it. Rather than a quick action, we will look for a methodical step forward to take towards a meaningful change in our relationship with Administration. Asked council to solicit information and feelings on this from other board members, to begin a process of development. Stated this is bigger than Dr. Luoluo Hong, and that she is a symptom of the larger problem, that we as elected representative need to rededicate ourselves as the independent voice of students. **Science &**

**Engineering Representative** stated that previous boards did nothing but draft policy, and suggested we need to do more. **LCA Representative** asked when the President stopped getting an entirely new cabinet? **VP of External Affairs** responded that it was changed some time within last ten years. **LCA Representative** asked for insight on why they stopped that practice and how it was disruptive? **VP of External Affairs** stated that the University President still has the right to replace administrators, but the Chancellor now has oversight on that decision. While replacing the cabinet is a general and nationwide practice with new leadership, the Chancellor will discourage it due to too many changes too fast. **LCA Representative** continued his inquiry asking what the end goal of this will be and if it is to disavow the VP of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management? Also asked the council to consider that the current Board might consider this serious, but the next Board may not. **VP of External Affairs** stated the purpose is to stop the long term grievances the Board has with Dr. Hong. Stated that because she's on the Board, the things that matter to students get sidelined easily, so we want new University President to understand our position when they get here. **Science & Engineering Representative** stated that our hope in getting a new University President is that we should be able to fix our relations with both the campus and the student body, as it has a tumultuous history. Informed the council that now the practice is that the President can get away with replacing 2 or so administrators and that is usually the Provost and one other Vice President. **VP of External Affairs** stated that they are not trying to get rid of Dr. Luoluo Hong, but just want a better relationship with her and for the incoming University President to know what that relationship is. Suggested there's more we can do beyond this to dedicate ourselves to students. Suggested potentially even workshopping a new Mission statement since our current one is a bit dated. **LCA Representative** asked how dated it is? **Science & Engineering Representative** stated they are very dated and mentioned that all of the descriptions for the programs do not reflect the current organization. **VP of External Affairs** stated that much of it has not changed since before the AS merger with CCSC. **Science & Engineering Representative** stated that all of the programs mission statements were slapped together during the merger since they did not have much time during that to create one, and they all do different work now. **LCA Representative** suggested AS as an organization needs rebranding then. **VP of External Affairs** suggested the council discuss this with other Board members for more discovery on this. **Science & Engineering Representative** stated that they had passed resolutions on this during the last board meeting and that herself along with other Board members are currently drafting a letter. Stated it is up to AS **President** Nathan Jones whether he wants to sign it and post it himself, or include other board members in that decision. Stated if **President** signs it, then it doesn't need board approval and can be posted today. Asked the council if it is more powerful to let him do this or if it should be presented and approved by AS as a whole? **VP of External Affairs** suggests that it is totally appropriate either way because the Board has already passed a resolution in which it is their officially stated position anyway. **Science & Engineering Representative** asked if we would we wait till Wednesday to post it or if it should have been posted on Monday? Stated that it feels put off and late, and suggested to have **President** post it. Mentioned that he is afraid of putting his name on it. **VP of External Affairs** stated he has sought a lot of input on this.

*Sophomore Representative left the room at 3:00pm.*

**d. Higher Education Campaign for Financial Aid Reform (Discussion Item) – VP External Affairs**

*The Council will discuss updates on the CSSA/UCSA/SSCCC advocacy campaign.*

**VP of External Affairs** stated that they will be driving up to Sacramento, CA on the 20th for a campaign kickoff in support of Financial Aid Reform. Mentioned that they emailed the council an explanation of this financial aid reform campaign, although not in details of the legislation but an overview of the goal of it.

*LCA Representative left room at 3:01pm.*

**VP of External Affairs** mentioned that students are pushing to redefine the term "need" in the financial aid application process. The big surprise of this campaign is the discovery that community colleges have the least amount of aid due to low tuition costs, yet the highest cost of attending school is actually for housing and food for those students. Stated that 61% of CSU students have their tuition fully covered, yet their non-tuition cost is around \$22,000. Continued to explain that only 57% of UC students will have their tuition fully covered, yet their non-tuition cost is 18,500. Then mentioned that only 42% of community college students have tuition covered, yet their non-tuition cost of living is same as those of CSU students, so they have the least amount of their costs paid for. The difference between the UC and CSU is that in the UC system there is a portion of tuition that gets paid back out to students in need, so everyone paying into

that system contributes to benefit fellow students in need. That is why UC's have more aid available and also have the lowest non-tuition cost. Joked that if you told anyone the most expensive college to go to in California was a Community College, then you would be laughed at, but it is unfortunately true.

*LCA Representative returned at 3:03pm.*

**VP of External Affairs** stated that part of what the campaign is trying to do is to ask the legislature to fund all 368,000 students who qualify for the Cal Grant, because currently only around 25,750 students receive it. **LCA Representative** asked if there is a schedule of events taking place that day? **VP of External Affairs** responded that they will be standing on the west steps of the California State Capitol at 2:00pm and will have a press conference there. Stated that two legislators will be there speaking, one from the Senate and one from the House, who are sponsoring bills that we've endorsed and some that we have written. Stated that this campaign is not just for the CSU's, as we have partnered with both the UC's and CC's on this, meaning that students from all public education institutions in the state will be participating. Suggested we will work on campaigning this at CHES as well. If these bills hit committee and the occasions arise, though only having 2 weeks notice at that point, we will be going to testify on behalf of this campaign and discuss this issue in Sacramento. Since we are one of the few campuses that is close enough to the state capitol to be able to do so, we will make every effort to when possible.

## **IX. New Business**

### **a. Resolution to honor San Francisco minimum wage on campus (Discussion/Action Item) – VP External Affairs**

*The Council will consider a resolution to enforce the San Francisco minimum wage on campus for student employment.*

**VP of External Affairs** mentioned that Academic Senate passed a resolution to ask SFSU to recognize the San Francisco minimum wage on for on-campus jobs. Continued to explain that AS would like to make a similar appeal to campus, but that our resolution will focus on student on-campus employment, rather than just non-student on-campus employment, and will also focus on the actual financial figures of this change. Suggested that unfortunately the Academic Senate resolution on this was very weak in his opinion, and only stated the position from a social justice standpoint with no focus on details or numbers. **LCA Representative** asked how many non-student employees there are currently receiving the Federal or State minimum wage? **VP of External Affairs** informed the council that the campus currently pays the state minimum wage of \$12 per hour and stated that most non-student employees in that pay-bracket are custodial and maintenance staff, while student employees tend to do more clerical and office type jobs. Stated that asking for students to receive a fair and local minimum wage will cover all of campus employment as well since very few non-students have those low-paying positions. A draft of the resolution has been started and has been sent to the council. Mentioned that there is a paragraph in there that asks to find out: How many students are employed by campus? How many receive work-study? What the total budget is for student employment? As well as what the average wage on campus is? We will work on finding out the total numbers of student and non-student employment so that we can calculate exactly how much we're asking the school for. Whether it's \$250,000 or \$250 million, though he suggested it is likely to be an ask of much less than \$250,000. There is currently on-campus employment opportunities at \$15 per hour so there are real numbers to demonstrate this at the moment. **LCA Representative** stated that the averages would not help, since it would include the students paid adequately, rather than looking at those paid under \$15 per hour. **VP of External Affairs** stated that in the researching of this, we will look for every wage level and include Work Study, since some students don't accept that offer due to the potential of making more from an off-campus job. Asked the council to consider why we are not paying the students adequately with Work Study programs, especially if half of the amount paid by those are subsidized by the Federal Government anyway? Continued to mention that we need to get the proper numbers from campus HR and from the Financial Aid office about this, in order to present a strong argument in the resolution. Predicted and suggested that this might not to be an increase of more than 25k to the school's annual budget, which is not surprising and something they can definitely afford. Stated that we also need to ask for an increase in on-campus student employment in this resolution, as part of the problem with the lack of student engagement is the fact that students are working off-campus and not spending their time here. This creates the "commuter school" campus atmosphere that so many say is a descriptor of SFSU. The reason we need to ask for more jobs is so they don't try to cut campus jobs to make up the difference they are

losing while paying a fair minimum wage. **LCA Representative** asked how we can increase on-campus job opportunities for students? **VP of External Affairs** suggested that multiple departments have asked for more student staff to help them, as lots of campus functions would benefit from more student employment. In Academic Senate they discussed hiring a few student staff for an office that handles grievances between students and faculty. In the University going forward, the fact that they want to add 9,000 beds for student housing means that more RA's will be needed and hired as well. **Science & Engineering Representative** stated that these opportunities matter, since students working on-campus do not have to factor in commute times for work. Gave an example of students she has met who have to leave their classes early for work because they are scared of losing their jobs or facing a tough commute and traffic. **LCA Representative** asked if the University can set that standard? **VP of External Affairs** responded by suggesting that they do have full control over this and their budget. **LCA Representative** asked if the departments control what they pay their student staff? **VP of External Affairs** responded that that they do not, and currently that is a job of HR to determine what students get paid. Asked the council if anyone would like to help with this research. **RHA Representative** volunteers to help with this research.

*VP of Facilities & Services returned at 3:15pm.*

**VP of External Affairs** explains that another benefit of following the local minimum wage increases in San Francisco is that it currently follows the consumer price index. So rather than asking SFSU to raise their minimum wage to \$15 per hour, it asks them to honor the local minimum wage ordinance which opens a door for future increases to be possible. This is a resolution we want passed within this year as it likely won't be implemented until the next fiscal year, in July of 2020. Suggested that people have laughed at this idea in the past, but if it is done right it could make a serious change regardless of it's haters and opponents. This is why it is important to give a full and well thought out resolution. **VP of Facilities & Services** suggested that the money would also come back into SFSU, as students will spend more on campus if they are on campus more and can afford to be on campus more often via local and student housing. **VP of External Affairs** reads the Academic Senate Resolution to the council, and realized that it mainly does focus on student employees, yet is still weak in the arguments given, and only consists of a short page of text. **LCA Representative** asks if this issue has been brought up before with a response from the administration? **VP of External Affairs** states that individually this has been brought forward, but not from AS as a group, with no responses to previous attempts, especially since resolutions don't usually do much on their own. If this is the basis for press and student involvement, it could potentially lead to action and campus protest. **LCA Representative** asked the council to consider other stakeholders that aren't paid the local minimum wage. **RHA Representative** suggested that the University will probably push it off since the California minimum wage is already increasing in the year 2020. **VP of External Affairs** stated that with a resolution and proper push from the student body, they could do this now, especially since the CSU is fully funded now and gets their full budget request each year. **Science & Engineering Representative** suggested that there is no cons of this resolution to the administration, other than a little extra work and some budget allocation. **VP of External Affairs** suggested that it may not be more than \$40 a week per employee at most figures since most students do not work more than 20 hours per week anyway. Stated he will do more research on this with the **RHA Representative** in the three departments they need information from; Institutional Research, HR, and Financial Aid. **VP of External Affairs** asked the council for input on this resolution. **Science & Engineering Representative** stated that this resolution just makes sense, since we are located in San Francisco and should be offering the San Francisco minimum wage. **VP of External Affairs** stated that the campus has recently had similar issues with adhering to local regulations, and gave the example of when it bought part of Park Merced with their legacy tenants, did not recognize the local rent control measures, and attempted to raise rents on those individuals. **Science & Engineering Representative** also mentioned the instance when retired faculty were kicked out of their housing due to the lack of proper protections and terms in their rental contracts. **VP of External Affairs** asked if there are any more comments on this before adjourning the meeting?

## **X. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn meeting at 3:25pm.**

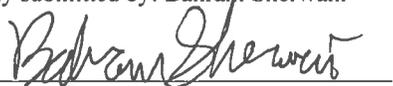
**No objections.**

**No opposed. No abstentions. Motion passed.**

Approved by: Garrick Wilhelm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Wilhelm", written over a horizontal line.

Respectfully submitted by: Bahram Sherwani

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bahram Sherwani", written over a horizontal line.