



ASSOCIATED
STUDENTS INC.
C H A N N E L
I S L A N D S

**Special Board Meeting
NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF CSU CHANNEL ISLANDS, INC.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, to the general public and to all of the Board of Directors of Associated Students of CSU Channel Islands, Inc., a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, that:

A meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, October 30, 2014 at 7:40 a.m., pursuant to Education Code Section 89921 et seq., at California State University Channel Islands, Student Union Conference Room, located at One University Drive, Camarillo, CA 93012, to consider and act upon the following matters:

- 1) Call to Order: 7:42am
 - a. Members Present: Sara Sanders, Damien Peña, Chelsea Viñas, Nsomah Apambire, Vanessa Bahena, Zachary Valladon, Alex Yopez, Cindy Derrico, Morgan Franklin, Monique Reyna, Cindy Wyels, and Missy Jarnagin.
 - b. Members of the Public: Genesis DeLong, John Butzer, Stephanie Chavez, Lundon Templeton, Toni Rice, Ben Blanchard, Diana Ballesteros and Christine Thompson on speaker phone.
- 2) Public Forum: No public discussion.
- 3) Outstanding Business:
 - a. ACTION ITEM: Personnel discussion (tabled from Oct. 23rd meeting) - The Board continues the previous discussion at the October 23rd meeting in regards to the current situation of the Student Government President. **Ms. Bahena was asked to step out of the conference room.**
 - b. Discussion:
 - The ASI Chair starts the discussion by recommending that this individual be removed from the ASI Board, which will uphold the ASI Board Bylaws and have Student Government decide on her position as Student Government President.
 - Ms. Thompson shares that she's had several conversations over the past week with Ms. Rice and this has prompted a lot of in-depth thinking. She gives Ms. Rice the opportunity to talk to the Board about the best possible solution for this matter.
 - Ms. Rice informed the Board that she, Dr. Sawyer and Ms. Thompson discussed what the scope of this decision is the Board's responsibility. They want this to be a fair process for any student going through this. She explained that there is no clear delineation of the board and their power to remove a member from their position. There is ambiguity in the Bylaws and when that is the case we need to give the student the benefit of the doubt. What was clear in the governing documents was that the Board is responsible and has the power to remove a student from the ASI Board. The decision the Board has to make is whether or not to uphold the documents. If the Board decides to accept Ms. Bahena's appeal then no further action is needed. On the other hand, if the Board decides to uphold the documents then they're deciding to remove the student from her Board position, however her Student Government position remains the same until Student Government makes a decision. Ms. Rice clarified that the unit requirement specified in the Election Code is also included in the Student Government Bylaws.
 - Ms. Reyna asked what will happen to the empty seat on the Board. Ms. Thompson clarified that the position would remain empty for the whole school year.
 - Ms. Derrico expressed her struggles with the action to uphold the Election Code when it doesn't specify the removal of the student. She believes that this action holds a lot of power and she struggles with the way it's phrased.
 - Dr. Wyels expressed confusion regarding the phrase "uphold the documents." She cares about the important decision they have to make in regards to this student. She would like clarification about what

exactly the Board is deciding on. Ms. Thompson clarified that we are using the Election Code as the document for the decision. This document was voted on by the board, which makes it a governing document. The ASI Board Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation are the main documents the ASI Board uses and then there is sub documents like the ASI Election Code.

- Ms. Apambire explains that this is an appeal of the governing documents since the Bylaws talk about the Election Code. Ms. Rice explained that the reference is in regard to the governing documents, which both documents are labeled under.
- Ms. Derrico finds it unattainable to not have the Student Government President not on the Board. She does not find this as a reasonable solution to her action.
- Ms. Reyna asked if there are other consequences the Board can decide on. Ms. Apambire answered that this is the only option available since its part of the governing documents.
- Mr. Valladon asks if it's in order to revisit the ambiguity in the governing documents. He believes that Board can do justice to the Election Code, however not to the position.
- Ms. Viñas emphasized that the members are not paid to sit on the ASI Board. In addition, she referenced a past student that did not get a Board position due to his/her GPA. She would like the Board to maintain a sense of equality when it comes to their Board members and the governing documents.
- Ms. Derrico referenced the ASI Board Bylaws that states that the Student Government President position has to be on the Board. How can there be a Board without the Student Government President?
- Ms. Thompson expresses the possibility to make a recommendation to Student Government about what action(s) they can take in this situation.
- Ms. Jarnagin believes that this should be handled in Student Government first and then the Board can make a decision. If Student Government decides to keep her in her position, the Board can deal with it after.
- Ms. Rice expressed that this is a problematic issue and there can be similar situations in the future. This is a good opportunity to learn. There are some areas that will need to be cleared up during this process. She suggested that a Board member table this until Student Government makes a decision. Ms. Rice and Ms. Thompson just wanted to clarify that after revising the governing documents, the ASI Board does not have the power to remove the Student Government President from her position, however they do in regards to her ASI Board position.
- Ms. Derrico would like to give a recommendation to Student Government. She believes that the Board would not be supporting Student Government if the Board does not make a recommendation. We have a responsibility to give guidance.
- Mr. Peña asks the Board and ASI to improve their process. We have to address this and plan how to never be in this position again. We are asking the Board members to make a decision in the eleventh week of the semester and that isn't fair. Ms. Rice agrees, however she expressed that we wouldn't be able to make a decision and improve the process at the same time. This wouldn't be an efficient practice.
- Mr. Peña wants to make sure that the integrity of the Board is protected. He would like the Board to acknowledge that there is ambiguity in the governing documents and revisit this in the near future. He used as an example the suspension of students. When he suspends someone he is able to rely on the policy and have that be his strong backup. He would like the Board to have the same ability with a stronger and clearer governing documents.
- Ms. Viñas asked if this is something the ASI Restructure Committee will be looking at. Ms. Apambire confirmed that they will.
- Ms. Derrico wanted to clarify that the Student Government President is on the ASI Board and the Board upholds the Election Code, which we have a Board member in violation of. This has no ambiguity, it's clear. The consequences of this action and the responsibility of the Board is ambiguous.
- Ms. Rice clarified that in regards to the consequences, eligibility is used in the documents. In addition, when talking about timing, this could have been a judicial issue which can happen at any moment. Ms. Jarnagin asked what would happen if a person in position had judicial problems. Mr. Peña explained that this person would be removed from their position. The Dean of Students would make this removal.

Moreover, she asked if the ASI Executive Director could make the decision of eligibility. Ms. Rice answered that the Executive Director could make eligibility decisions, however the student can still appeal to the ASI Board. Though it's a moot point since the documents are not clear, which means that the Board cannot remove said student from their position.

- Ms. Jarnagin reiterated that this is an elected position. She believes that the student body should decide on her position, since they're the ones who voted her in. She can't see it being our decision when it's an elected position.
- Ms. Derrico brought the conversation back to the timing issue. Based on the Election Code, the unit condition can only be violated within the first four weeks of the semester. We have done a disservice to the student if we come to them with this, especially since they can't drop their classes.
- Mr. Yepez asked clarification on whether Ms. Bahena can go back to Ms. Rice and discuss the decision the Student Government Internal Affairs committee made. Ms. Rice answered that according to the Student Government documents the committee has a whole process in place to make this decision. The ASI administration would just make sure that the process is being followed accordingly.
- Mr. Valladon expressed to the Board how they're unable to uphold the Bylaws since the clauses contradict themselves. In theory we have the ability to remove her due to her units, however the Bylaws states that we need the Student Government President on the Board. What is written is not what the Board can do.
- Ms. Rice explained that by virtue of the position a student holds they're granted a seat at the table, however it does not mean they can maintain it. There is a variety of reasons why someone can lose their Board position. For example, if a Board member has two unexcused absences they can be removed no matter what their position. This removal would come from the ASI Board Chair.
- Ms. Sanders shared with the Board that students have asked her what the Board thinks of this situation. They would like some guidance provided to them from the Board. She motions to move to discuss a recommendation to the Internal Affairs Committee, second by Mr. Yepez. Mr. Yepez has seen students not receive positions due to their GPA and would like to continue to uphold this.
- Ms. Sanders clarified that the consequence for this action is clearly outlined as impeachment in the Student Government Bylaws.
- A discussion on the timeline of the decision of the Internal Affairs committee was discussed. Ms. Sanders recommended to the chair of this committee to meet with Ms. Rice and Ms. Thompson. The committee is the one in charge of creating a timeline. As of now, they meet once a week. Mr. Peña suggested that they make a special meeting ASAP and have it done properly. Moreover, he added that it would be poor practice to do this during finals.
- Ms. Apambire moves to close the discussion, second by Mr. Valladon.
- Ms. Sanders motions that Vanessa Bahena receive censure from the ASI Board for her violation of the Election Code and recommends to Student Government that she be removed from office due to her violation of the Student Government Bylaws, while taking into consideration the academic calendar, second by Ms. Viñas. All in favor. Motion passes.
- Ms. Sanders will check if Ms. Bahena can appeal to the Internal Affairs Committee.
- Ms. Apambire reassured the board that the documents will be reviewed and revised.
- Ms. Rice clarified that at this level and at this time there is no consequence for her action from the Board.
- A point of order was made to bring back Ms. Bahena and inform her of the Board's decision.

4) Adjournment: 8:50 am

Next ASI Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 7:40 a.m. in the Student Union Conference Room.

Reviewed by the ASI Board Secretary and submitted by Diana Ballesteros.