**Merrill Student Government (MSG) Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, January 16th, 2014**

**1. Call to Order:** 7:05 PM

1. **Gabrielle** Burns (Current Merrill CUIP)
2. **Victor** Garcia (SCOC)
3. **Jacqueline** Grohs (Kinetic Poetic’s REP)
4. **Alexandra** Kasper – (SUA)
5. **Patricia** Gonzalez – Merrill Student
6. **Maria** Garcia – (SUA)
7. **Kristen** Weaver – (ACPC)
8. **Adrianna** Gonzales – (Merrill RA) Member at
9. **Vanessa** Esteli
10. **Michael** Liber – Member at Large
11. **Hannah** Tuong – (Academic Senate)
12. **Justin** McClendon – (Chair)

**Gabrielle:** Application closes february 13th, 40 spots, $8,200 for tuitions and fees for the year (automatically dispersed for you through portal). Trying to recruit creating field study program (her thing thing) Former UCSC Mayor teaching the program. Design own project through quarter working 150 hours. Meet the Chancellor (heads of the school). Meet friends of Merrill alums, heads, etc. etc. Lots of

**Kristen:** To be able to “helped in making field study program at college” is a wonderful thing to add to the resume.

**Gabrielle:** Prestigous program; there are many other positions with the same stipend and there are lots of other programs

**2. Funding Event**

**(a) Superbowl Event**

**Michael:** Run/Superbowl event and bbq. Watch superbowl in safe (not alcohol friendly) place. Have residents be safe. Superbowl is one of the biggest alcohol consumptions days. 8 RAs in on making the place a reality. Baobab Lounge is the theatre place were you actually watch; outside the cultural center. Enjoy company of peers.

**Adrianna**: Smooth preparing area; dissecting the commercials.

**Michael:** RAs doing that … passive educational events. Bingo. Alcohol safety. At Merrill College for Merrill students. Asking for full $200 spending. Wanting money to acquire as much food as possible. Last year (B-Dorm Basement), no longer have the same space, are predicting 100 people (last year at 75); also expecting Crownies.

**V:** How many people will be able to fit inside the Baobab?

M: realistically understand that 100 cannot fit in the Baobab, last year there were less than 30 actively watching the game, but it’s a more social (focusing more on outdoor BBQ than

S: Funding Bodies?

M: Crown (going to their Senate); as it is geared towards Merrill, assume they won’t fund as much. CRA discretionary fund. RA hall funds (each RA has $100 per quarter).

V: When is this event?

M: February 2nd, ending probably around 6PM’ish. reserved Baobab from noon to 9PM.

J: Bruno Mars is preforming during half time show.

M: and Red Hot Chili Peppers are playing in the room.

Jacqueline: Merrill Student; rep. for Kinetic Poets, small scale slam (open mic for poetry) expression with your bod. Held in Fireside lounge and also has workshops. Having poets come and have poets 11th annual; largest in the nation. 3 nights. Free. (donations appreciation). 16 student competing. Kresge’s food co-op coming. Professional coming.

Poetry is important: avenue for expression. Share untold narratives. Foster safe space. For the performers. (ethic/cultural background, sexuality, age, etc.)

February 3rd-5th (Monday – Wednesday) doors oopen 8:00, show opens 8:30PM. Top 5 of the 16 get to go to Colorado to reps. Trying to fund this event for the competing poets. Audience members select the competing poets.

Requesting $200; Poetry doesn’t buy plane tickets! Really inclusive. Everybody invited.

Philippe: Money is for UCSC team, is there any way for Merrill students to follow them (like tweeting).

J: hoping to fund a team manager? 2011, got best political poem.

Enter Miram.

Justin: is this most up-to-date budget.

J: got $150 from Steveson’s

Enter Chris Coon.

J: Where else?

J: Core council and porter … something fund?

M: PLANNING TO ASK ANYBODY ELSE?

J: Selling poetry downtown; set up downtown and sell haikus for

V: how many Merrill students actually competing?

J: in Competition: 3 students. Also have Merrill students in a dance performance, couple more are showcasing their work; Cantu is also setting up; have Merrill

J: ??????????

J: Colorado Trip is March 12- 16th (earlier this year); last week of instructions.

COON: primarily which age strata?

J: After 8 slams, there are There are freshmen. All classes.

J: Lodging for 5 nights … number doesn’t match up?

J: Number mix up!

J: Lessens budget by $1,000?

V: Are you in need of volunteers?

J: Have to wipe dining halls … they will love yooouuu! Also guarantees you a spot!

A: Do we have to come to every night?

J: it’s a come when you can!

K: Slam poetry is a transforming experience.

J: Also a \_\_\_\_ experience; lots of personal stories, etc.

K: Especially if you are a trauma surviver; be prepared.

Late Entries:
Marin G. (Treasurer)
Phil Garbrecht – Merrill Student
Chris Coon – Member at Large

DISCUSSION OF FUNDING REQUESTS:

**J:** RA Superbowl Event. Do we want to fund, if so, how much?

V: Should fund. Event is at Merrill; talked lots on the safety of the students (especially regarding high alcohol consumption day). Goes with our ethos. Will have other programs.

Alexandra motions to fund the Kinetic Poetic request

Seconded by Vanessa.

Chair puts the motion to vote.

6-0-2

Going to Fund!

J: Let’s talk numbers!

A: Let’s fully fund! Beneficial for Merrill students (safety and education and talks!)

M: How much are they asking?

J: $200, have 341.40.

K: It is a Crown/Merrill collaboration.

J: RAs have how much?

PH: $100 to spread across 5 events; there will be a superbowl event at the apartments (people watch in dorms). Also arguable a resident life event.

J: What is the apartment’s deal?

PH: Crown/Merrill … planning for 100.

A: Thinking $150.

J: Thinking $120.

K: 8 RAs total; there are some Crown RAs.

Motion to fund by Vanessa

Victor seconds

Chair puts to vote.

6 (YES) – 0 (NO) – (2 abstentions)

Funded them $120.

J: Kinetic Poetics. Asking for $200. Do we choose to fund, and, if so, how much?

A: Slam poetry is cool. And it’s the best!

V: Agree with funding the event, not necessarily the travel expenses.

Coon: Let’s keep in mind how much of our money will actually benefit the Merrill student

Victor motions to funds the Kinetic Poetry

Seconded by Alexandra.

6 – 0 – 2

J: Numbers. Agree that putting money towards travel isn’t optimal as it might not even benefit a Merrill student.

Coon: can ask to have our money go towards specific things.

J: We don’t know what has already been funded or not. (Reading Budget). Are unsure of what is already funded.

V: thinking range of $50 - $100 … not in favor of funding more than $100.

Victor motions to fund them $100 with conditions.

Seconded by Alexandra.

3, 0, 3

Motion didn’t pass.

J: Abstentions + No’s outweigh or equal the yes’s, then the motions doesn’t pass.

Coon: How many can vote?

J: we have quorum. A revote is being called.

3 – 1 – 3 (abstention)

Gillian: How about we motion to fund $50.

The chair would like to entertain a motion to fund the kinetics poetics $50.

So moved by Vanessa.

Seconded by Marin.

6 – 0 – 2

J: ISA, Indian Student Association

30 merrill student. Dance. Open to all student. Ethnic minority group. Wish to integrate culture and diversity. Ticketed event. Public. Estimated $5 per person. Wish to attract a number of persons from different backgrounds. Will be playing Hindu songs. Anticipating 100 Merrill Student. Stevenson Event Center or College Eight MPR. Are going to all colleges to request funding.

Coon: Yeah, it’s usually a ticketed event. (probably ) We’ve generally supported them before. We generally have a sizable Indian population

M: Is it for profit? A for profit event?

J: That is a question for if we choose to fund them? They connect to our ethos.

VA: Is this the winter formal?

J: This is their winter dance.

Coon: Probably thinking of their

Alexandra motions to hear the funding request for the ISO

Gillian Rooker Seconds the motion.

J: This is an event. Dancers will be dancing. Like a show. UCSC Students, and a dance troupe.

K: Bollywood, etc. etc.

Approval by consensus.

**Community Agreements**

J: Decided on community agreements. Rues of the house (guidelines). Ask that all respect and follow to best of ability. Mandated to have some rules: funding requests/formal kind of request will have to be voted upon, motions, approves, etc. chair and Chair designee is able to appoint. Anybody can add to it. Can arrange to anything.

J: Use gender neutral language. “all y’all” NO to “You guys” … use “you all”.

Coon: Not be penalized for not following community agreements

Just: Try out best to follow and respect rules/persons in space. Not a penalization… if you accidentally break rules, it’ll be an educational moment.

Kristen: Will have constructive reminders to follow community rules.

Justin: Chair will enforce community agreements.

Mich: It is important that rule violators won’t interrupt their train of thought, or

Kristen: Should we make a protocol to addressing?

Alex: If Chair notices, then make a “general” reminder to community rules.

Kristen: Assuming best intensions. Take into account that words weren’t deliberate in creating an uncomfortable environment

Just: Made posters for elections, misspelling was Kristen.

Kristen: Wrong version of the word. 1st place in 7th grade spelling bee.

Just: He wrote Council as in counseling?

Just: One Mic, One Speaker.

The secretary smiles upon

Coon: How are we going to educate new people to the space? Leave up poster?

Just: that conversation saved for after the agreements have been. Have a suggestion.

Kristen: Silence.

Just: Silent because they choose not to speak or silence because they are uncomfortable to say something. This space is open to all students in general. Merrill students

Kristen: This is our intention; we can “try” to make a happy environment.

Just: TIP HOTLINE for if you feel “Step UP, Step BACK” – no conversation hog.

Kristen: Also means not speaking on behalf of other people. If you “make a sweeping comment” that itself is in an act of silencing.

Maria: Using “I” statements. Distinction between personal voice and

Just: Challenge the idea, not the person. We should not challenge the person, but the idea.

Vane: Call out not the person, but what they were saying.

Just: Example: “Vanessa doesn’t agree with bubblegum project” Don’t say “Vanessa, I don’t agree with you” but “I don’t feel the bubblegum party … etc.”

Coon: You’re supposed to challenge the idea/backing. “Don’t shoot the messenger”

Just: Don’t call people out.

These community agreements are forever changing:

H: how can you change community agreements?

Just: will be back on agenda in about 3-4 weeks. Can ask to have it put on agenda.

Coon: Why waiting 3-4 weeks?

Just: To wait for enough folk to come back! Individuals have conflicts and everybody should be back by February.

Suggestions: print community agreements on back of each agenda and send out e-mails to each person who chooses to come speak at msg.

VANES: Make a reminder before they present.

Just: Going to print them on the back of the agendas.

**Elections**

J: Talked about tabling, dining halls do not allow drop in (must have specific times with prior week notice; have specific rules (no grabbing people, no approaching, etc.); have lots of restrictions). Merrill courtyard is free space. For Elections, will be tabling in the dining hall for 2 days, 2 hours each. Out reach event for us as well!

Kris: Tabling folks will have speaking instructions. Yay! (ex: how to deal with those who

Interest with tabling is still big! :DDD

ENTER KATIE.

Just: Applying for elections is going to have to be through word of mouth. Margret has been doing lots through social media!

Kristen: The more you interact with a specific post, the more is shows up on other’s newsfeed. It is in the best interest for MSG to interact with these posts and what not.

PH:

J: Thursday 30 January, last day to declare candidacy. February 3rd to the 7th: running.

Victor: Go onto website?

Just: Survey monkey link will be posted on the front page of the Merrill Student Government.

Kristen: Have high technology for ease of

Just: If you want to run for another position, please do so!

Coon: If you are running for an office, can you still table?

Kristen: Conflict of Interest.

Just: Say no. Let’s think of tabling as a way to get MSG out there! If you would like to table during elections in the courtyard, ask res life and they will show you to a table/chair. Will e-mail soon!

Victor: When do we start signing up for tabling?

Kristen: Google docs is updated!

Just: Need the time and date logistics with regards to when tabling is.

Kristen: Highest traffic is during lunch, noon – 2, or dinner 5 – 7pm.

Just: 5 – 7PM. Wednesday and Thursday night of election week: 5th and 6th February. Is two nights enough?

MAC was hosting Monty Python and the Holy Grail; ran through the dining hall with coconuts. Run through the halls!

Kristen: Part of tabling (during candidacy) will be inviting folks to vote! (Set up laptop/i-pad with survey monkey ready-to-go!)

Just: Reservations for dining hall will be made. Dining halls are actually strict. (Reading of draft e-mail).

**Merrill Pride Week**

J: Show MSG and Merrill Pride Week. Anybody have any

Kristen: Pride week is in May. Merrill Pride Week is coming up soon.

Victor: When do we have a date? What’s the weather like?

Just: Tuesday February 25th, Merrill College Night! We should run our Merrill Pride Week through that week.

Kristen: February 25th, Arabian Nights (like the book).

Just: Res Life, Merrill RAs, … we do a whole week, each night each individual unit has Programs Office, RA, MSG, something else, etc. etc. At the end, we do something fun.

Coon: do we have enough time? That’s a lot of moving parts.

Just: RAs are always looking for new programs.

Coon: RAs are looking for opportunities.

Phil: If we phrase it as “we are inviting RAs to invite their residents,” then all the RAs will be on board. If it’s ran by RAs then they will have restrictions, lot more work.

Kristen: all programs have to be educational (in one way or another).

Vanes: That’s around second midterms … week 6 or something?

Kristen: Events that happen on Monday nights aren’t effective (no college night ever happens on a Monday, that’s university wise). Contemplate what’s going on which days.

Coon: start the night with Tuesday? What’s the timeline?

Justin: Two things two be discussed: one thing is a collaborative Merrill event. Two: multi-night.

Coon: Do we reach out to pottery co-op and Cantu?

Michael: KZSC.

Just: we can do anything we want!

Hannah: Key Club spirit week.

Just: Cantu have nights booked throughout the night.

Kristen: Making awareness of what resources we have at Merrill. Might be able to have a balloon trail. To donuts at the resources! Scavenger Hunt.

Alexandra: extend it to the weekend.

Kristen: Put together teams.

Just: Tuesday, College Night. Thursday, MSG Meeting.

Coon: Town Hall?

Kristen: Let’s make it more festive! Let’s show the positives of Merrill college!

Justin: Academic advising?

Kristen: Let’s not put stresses or expectations on others. Still in brainstorming stage.

Coon: use funds from retreat towards funding this event.

Justin: Budget will be looked at when Seth returns in February. Retreat ideas are to come.

Alexandra: Make a Merrill Pride Week planning committee?

Kristen: Free Monday morning!

Hanna: Open to the public?

Just: It will be a sub-committee that brings back to the main group.

Alexandra: Can gather numbers and e-mails

Justin: Monday, 11am, Merrill Pride Week Meeting. Merrill Programs Office.

**Retreat**

Just: February 22nd (Saturday) @Women’s Center @11am-2pm (Luncheon). Purpose of retreat is to get to know one another ~ get comfy and facebook friends. GET YO MIND OUTTA DAH GUTTAH. We can invite other Merrill staff members as well. Choose to go over community agreements, play sports, hang out,

Coon: If we’re inviting them for lunch….

Kristen: They’re here just for lunch. OH LOLJK. Will be out of town 22nd to 25th  February; with potential

Coon: Logistic concerns….

Kristen: Non-mandatory MSG meeting; purpose is to build morale! It’s obvious that not everybody

Just: @11am-2pm @Women’s Center. Any requests?

Hannah: Chicken & Waffles!

Katie: Vegetarian/Vegan option should be available.

Just: Potluck style. Best way to make a non-existing cost.

Kristen: Will be “filling in the blanks.” They have a full kitchen, it is a house … waffle irons and a deep fryer!

Just: E-mail will go out! We will caravan down from Merrill! WHHOOOOOOO! Do we feel comfortable inviting Alex and Valerie.

Michael: Will run MSG Retreat by all other RAs.

**Officer Reports**

Hannah – Academic Senate

NONE

Victor –

Measure 16

VA: Fee the funds committees on committees; SCOC, fee re-write to use money in a more efficient way. Re-write to use money to benefit students. Fees will stay the same.

Victor: Just allow SCOC access to

Justin: USSA Leg. Con; SUA will pay for travel and most expenses. Due at the end of January. Committee. If you plan on applying, you cannot sit on the review committee. One representative from Merrill College is necessary.

VA: 100s apply; historically 9 went, trying to get 19 to go this year.

Justin: Need to be unbiased and not partisan. Selection Committee is meeting just the one weekend of February.

Vanessa: historically, took 4 hours. Only a one time deal. Grading applications.

Justin: Victor vs. Marin.

Michael: Upper campus College Night.

Marin motions to rock-paper-scissors to choose a person.

Victor seconds the motions.

SUA REPORTS: NO MEETING THIS WEEK!

Marin (Treasurer)

M: Spent some $$ today …. $170. $120 on Superbowl. $50 for Poetic Kinetics.

Coon: Remaining, $630.

Gillian (MAC):

G: Resigning, the position is now open for candidacy. Will still come to meetings (is still a voting member!)

Justin (Chair)

Just: As Merrill Chair, all the chairs will get together with SUA Chair. (1) Need to revisit Constitutions. (2) Collaborate on pulling out students to come to senate meetings. MSG is the lowest of the 10. ☹ Get Tips! (3) There is always a divide between SUA and Colleges; want to union the gap. Have back reports next week.

Coon: Council of Chairs have not been going on?

Just: There was drama last year …

Kristen: MLK(??) Competition; Priscila noted that we maybe should cancel the February 6th meeting because it conflicts with this big event.

M: Where is the event?

Just: There is shuttling for this event.

Kris: There is a big collaboration with the Santa cruz community and sc community

Chris: We shouldn’t cancel for this event if it isn’t going to affect a large number of our MSG members.

M: would be in favor of cancel meeting; there aren’t many Santa Cruz and UCSC collaborations.

Just: It is the meeting of our election (elections happening that week).

Gil: Not going to the meeting, would be okay with having a meeting.

Just: Will not have new officers yet.

STRAW POLL

Just: We will not be voting on anything, and everything will be relayed through meeting.

**Announcements**

Kris: College Night next Wednesday. Super Mario Brother’s Night. Pick up college night ticket. 5:30 – 7:30. SUPER KAWAII. Will be inviting Merrill students to play Melee or Brawl.

Just: UCSC Regents … talk with Justin!

Michael: Superbowl BBQ, February 2nd.

Motion to adjourned Vanessa.

Seconded by Marin.

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:31PM.