**Merrill Student Government Meeting May 22, 2014**

**Meeting called to order by 7:00pm**

**Roll call**

* Chole Sahati (Speak about the resolution)
* Katie Roth (member at large)
* Chris Coon (Vice Chair)
* Maria Garcia (SUA rep)
* Margret (Public Relations)
* Marin Gamboa (treasurer)
* August (crown student senate)
* Kinley (member at large)
* Alexandra Kasper (SUA reps)
* Kristen Weaver (advisor)
* Patricia Gonzalez (secretary)
* Justin McClendon (Chair)
* Victor Garcia (SCOC rep)
* Bria (Ethics Bowl)
* Michael (Ethics Bowl)

**Ethics Bowl**

**Justin:** They are going to come here and present about the impact the event had on them. Declaration for candidacy ends tomorrow at midnight. We need and want a MAC representative. It is a section of MSG that gets Merrill students and plans programs that are not funded by the programs office. MAC is important because it is when move in week gets people involved. May 27th to 30th the elections will be running. Tuesday through Friday online and then I’ve started making posters. Two tabling shift one Wednesday from 5-7pm and the other Thursday from 5-7pm. For voting booths if you are running you can’t be tabling at the MSG voting booth. Those who are not running for the positions will be tabling. For Wednesday I have Alexandra from 5-6pm, Chris from 6-7pm, Katie from 6:10-7pm and Kinley can do any time that day. On Thursday Katie 5-7pm, Maria 5-7pm and Chris 6-7pm. You are just going to ask people to vote you can’t approach anyone at the dining hall and you have to bring your own laptop. You can’t tell anyone who to vote for. I will not be there Wednesday and Thursday. Pick up the stuff from the office.

**Ethics Bowl**

**Bria and Michael:** We would like to thank for your support. We know it is an ambiguous group. It is an applied ethics debate club.

**Michael:** We go through cases and decided the proper way to discuss them. One of them was about an Irish company whether we are responsible for the goods that we buy. Urban outfitters (slaves). 10 min proper course of action. We have a personal responsibility to know where our clothes come from. Another case was about Indian mothers as surrogates for foreign investments. A lot of people pay women in India and put them in terrible conditions giving them abortion pills to allow them to continue giving birth that way the foreign investors can continue their investments. We just wanted to say thank you so much

**Bria:** We are questioning the value of cultural identity and local consciousness.

**Justin:** How did u do?

**Michael:** We got the spirit award.

**Bria:** Which means that you grabbled with the issues in a very respectful way.

**Michael:** Every coach votes on who best encapsulates the ethics bowl. We received 100% of the votes.

**Bria:** I encourage to get involved and you don’t have to compete.

**Michael:** but you should because it is fun!

**Officer Reports**

**Academic Senate**

**Justin:** It was the chair Joseph’s last meeting and we did a resolution celebration for him. Chancellor 2nd in the UC system for new campus and 11th in the country under 50 yrs. old. 700 are grad students programs. They are adding 100 new positions for the TAs. They plan to hire 16 additional faculty positions. Basically UC’s are paying own retirement plans they want the states to pay for it. They are going to complete draft of strategic plan and implement it next year. Jim Jones, Reda walker are retiring. 300 million was a goal but ended up raising 700miliion. Judy packer underrepresented in the stem field. Craig Hindy won an award for research of prisoners’ interaction and mentality around them. Then they went into resolutions. June Gorden CAFA they are changing some of their admission processes basically using GPA and SAT scores and comparing those. Increase in residential students. Start to going to UC states. Focus recruitment and want to bring some of those here. They were looking at transfer track program. 1000 to 12000 transfer rate increased. Online education the SUA report was given by Shaz the same thing as before. They mentioned the strike in the week of finals.

**Core Council**

**Chris:** We were supposed to meet up but we haven’t been able to for one thing or another. We’re trying to figure out what is going on but we are running out of time. We need to figure out how Core Council will proceed next year.

**Justin:** Email Seth about this issue because he has more knowledge.

**Public Relations**

**Margret:** Relay for life is next weekend. Also new like on Facebook Patty (ME).

**Justin:** Look into the tent I think Merrill has them. Sign-ups for track times. If you haven’t paid then figure out how to pay. You can pay there with cash.

**Chris:** Can we register there?

**Justin:** I am not sure about that but you can pay there.

**Kristen:** Use less resources and make a logo.

**Margret:** How are we getting outer pops?

**Kristen:** They don’t really stay frozen so it’s going to be a thing…

**Justin:** Margret also make set up and take down times.

**Margret:** I made it already just need to send it out.

**Chris:** When is Kresge pride?

**Justin:** The 30th on Saturday. Also if you are planning to spend the night on the field then bring A LOT of blankets. Also bring your own food because the food is expensive.

**Katie:** bring sunblock!

**Hannah:** hot?
**Katie:** Yes!

**Hannah:** Can we wear whatever we want?

**Justin:** Yes we will think of something then.

**Kristen:** I just want to have the tradition of Merrill being the most present.

**Student Committee On Committees**

**Victor:** This Friday from 9-12 at college 8 and Oakes they are going to have the event and C4 is next week Friday from 5pm at the Cervantes conference room and then election in our next meeting have nominations and then vote during C4

**Alexandra:** food?

**Victor:** I didn’t pay much attention. I only remembered that we are going to have a 3 tier Cake. The bottom is carrot cake with cream cheese, then red velvet, gluten free chocolate muse cake. It’s going to be delicious!

**Marin:** when?

**Victor:** Next Friday the 30th and the food sounded fancy but I forgot it. Free public event.

**SUA**

**Alexandra:** There was a presentation on the upper Cory amper theater and have like a red wood lounge a lot need supports. Resolution compassionate resolution it was just about making it safer place for students getting them more resources for mental health. Then budget discussion and then talk about amendments cut officer pay and for SSA change minimum to a dollar.

Compassionate culture in creating spaces learn and practice kindness and understanding. Resolution is to enhance education that caters to whole human experience through kindness and compassion. Build the skills necessary to thrive in UCSC. Benefit that provides opportunity to have personal and health relationships in the environment. Safe and welcoming for marginalized community race, sex etc. Educating community on how to be compassionate. One of the universities core values that facilitates growth and learning. Tools and practices to be compassionate. Meeting quarterly. UCSC titles compassionate university.

**Alexandra:** Pushing us to be the fourth to join the compassionate University. Keep the point of crisis at minimum.

**Justin:** acceptance of all identities

**Chris:** How do u become a compassionate university?

**Justin:** form a committee of 6 to 8 students

**Katie:** previous universities or implementation?

**Justin:** they had a mission to create this committee.

**Victor:** any sponsors?

**Justin:** running out of the kresge commons

**Kristen:** It’s a non-violent communication method that is used by therapist that doesn’t assume that someone is trying to offend or hurt you. Helps you to avoid stress.

**Justin:** Draw the line at mental and compassionate.

**Alexandra:** Students who are going to them aren’t seeing a mental health therapist it isn’t going to prevent them from seeking actual help.

**Hannah:** ?

**Justin:** Asking that SUA supports and collaborates to come up with a new resolution. SUA supports the title.

**Marin:** So is this just a title change? Program implication?

**Alexandra:** opinions?

**Marin**: I like the idea of being compassionate.

**Katie:** hold them accountable of doing something and producing results

**Alexandra:** If we pass it then neither of us are accountable.

**Victor:** They have been doing this before without the support and having that support will allow people to get more involved into it.

**Justin:** They need the student Unions approval in order to take the next steps.

**Alexandra:** I think we should make an opinion on what the SUA should vote on.

**Marin:** I think that the SUA should support.

**Justin:** Next resolution is divestment.

**Chris:** Any company can deal with Israel?

**Maria:** This is about the companies we are invested in corporation. Have investments go to other corporations that do not follow the three different categories they have. None of funds can go toward tobacco. Services to Israel military wise.

**Justin:** divested from companies that are not in the resolution

**Katie:** why is this specific to this conflict if it’s general idea divests from companies that are involved in oppression.

**Maria:** focus on something

**Marin**: Just a clarification: we are investing money that support violating human rights. So we are asking for divesting to happen?

**Maria:** yes

**Victor:** If we receive money from the companies who do we return them to it?

**Justin:** Our tuition money is given to UC regions and given globally and it pulls our money from these companies. We do profit from the investments

**Victor:** There is a lot of conflict with Israel and Palestine so I feel like the university getting involved would cause some friction because we have students from these backgrounds. I feel like more students should vote on this issue.

**Chloe**: One thing that I want to talk about regarding this resolution that is both a controversial and sensitive topic. Brought very late in the year. I think that it should be tabled because discussion during week 8 is hard. Discussion begins at midnight and ends at 4 am. Another thing is that it is close to midterms and studying therefore everyone who wants to vote will not be able to vote. SUA doesn’t have time to do this. My opinion is to vote no because the Middle Eastern conflict is huge and the bill would make this campus uncomfortable. The divestment when it speaks about human rights in Israel Arabs have right to vote.

**Alexandra:** They both touched on issues that I have on this. It is very divisive and SUA can’t make a decision on that very sensitive issue. I don’t want students to feel alienated.

**Katie:** So this proposal came to us last year and if it does get tabled it’s going to come up at this time next year.

**Justin:** It would have to be reintroduced or denied and someone would have to motion to bring it back up.

**Katie:** Last year I experienced the conflicts on this resolution watching two students one from either side of this issue debating and things were said to one another that were hurtful.

**Chloe:** As a Merrill student and a Jewish student it is scary to think about that. I just want to make it clear that it brings a weird tension. The reason I am here is because I just feel like Merrill community really knows how to listen.

**Marin:** We do not want to make a decision on this? Avoid uncomfortable feelings about this? It would be easier to vote no on it.

**Victor:** I agree with you. I don’t think that we are in any position to decide on this. Tabling will give time for students to voice their opinions but at the same time I feel like it wouldn’t make us a compassionate university if we are offending a person’s culture.

**Katie:** I feel conflicted because it’s going to make people uncomfortable. It seems like this group will keep pushing this issue it’s just going to come up next year. If we decide to vote no encourage broader dialog on both sides of this conflict.

**Alexandra:** I would like to see a resolution that states they will not support. We don’t want to take this side, the political side. We are on the side of humanity and not on the side of one place and their role on the conflict.

**Marin:** There is a lot of politics involved, if it didn’t have the loaded politics behind it people would be more willingly to make a decision. I suggest that we not support the resolution.

**Maria:** This is about the companies and I feel that the language is there because the group focusses on Community of Justice which is who drafted this. Personally it is our money we should have a say in what we invest in and to say that the regions don’t listen to us then we have to make sure that they do. A lot of students don’t realize that we invest in these companies and get something back. We shouldn’t think about the money it’s about the companies and their role.

**Chris:** How does it differ from last years?

**Justin:** different year different resolution

**Chloe:** One thing that I recommend doing is further research, looking into the companies themselves and seeing what they are doing but look online and see what they have done you’ll be surprised by what you see.

**Marin:** I agree with Maria, I think that we should have a say in our money but the resolution is politically charged and if we pass the resolution we are taking a political stand. I suggest we vote no on it.

**Katie:** I think that as much as we have an obligation to be socially responsible we also have the obligation to protect the student body. Human rights issues ascends politics and body trying to pass it they can make it about divesting from companies that invest in weapons of mass destruction and harm people that don’t have access to defend themselves. It should be reworded focusing on the human rights issue and all the things about Palestine should be taken out. Can I just say that I love how conscious and caring we are about the people that will be impacted by this issue before making a decision. I love you guys!

**Alexandra:** Another was USSA to amend the bylaw that SUA would pay minimum of $0.25 to USSA dues. Put between 50 cents and a dollar for maintain membership to the USSA min of $0.50 to a $1.

**Marin**: I think that we should keep it at a $1.

**Chris:** I don’t think we should.

**Victor:** We shouldn’t have the price ceiling there I feel like we should have that available to us at all times.

**Alexandra:** We have the option to withdraw even with the price ceiling.

**Justin:** We are trying to amend the bylaws and stay with the USSA set price. Next bylaw is the charge of the officer pay.

**Marin:** How many times do they get paid?

**Justin:** a month, $1000 per month.

**Katie:** How do the officers feel about this?

**Alexandra:** They were pretty divided.

**Marin**: lower the amount.

**Justin:** Lowering officer pay from $1000 to $750.

**Victor:** What happens if it goes down?

**Justin:** It goes back to the student body. The next amendment to have restrictions on how much can be pulled on it. Shaz will polish it out more.

**Chris:** Pile of money that SUA can draw from and draw restriction on it?

**Justin:** Yes.

**Treasurer**

**Marin**: The Ethics Bowl presented today. And we have no more funds left.

**Vice Chair**

**Chris:** No report.

**Chair**

**Justin:** No report.

**Advisor**

Kristen: Next week is our last official business meeting. El Palomar reservations, relay for life and elections. Merrill end of the year celebration free food.

**Announcements**

**Justin:** KCSC in the finals

**Adjournment**

**Chris:** I motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Alexandra:** I second.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:23pm**