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

**Thursday, January 16th, 2014**

**1. Call to Order:** 7:11 PM

a. **Kristen** Weaver – (ACPC)

b. **Patricia** Gonzales – Guest

c. **Katie** Roth – Member at Large

d. **Alexandra** – (SUA)

e. **Maria** Garcia – (SUA)

f. **Priscila** Rodriguez (SUA)

g. **Kayla** Oh – Chief of Staff IVC

h. **David** Picard – Director of Student Affairs

i. Chris **Sherman** – Outreach Intern (IVC)

j. Chris **Coon** – Former Merrill Core Council Rep.

k. **Hannah** Tuong – (Academic Senate)

k. **Justin** McClendon – (Chair)

**2. IVC Presentation**
**Sherman**: Working on music and art festival on east field. Currently reaching out for student body; two info sessions happening: Friday 17 January, 4-5 pm in McHenry 4360 (overflow will go to Media Center) – this even is for people interested in volunteering for or planning the event. Funding for the festival will be through ticket sales. Currently already have secured security; ROCKMED (volunteer medical group that specialize in working for concert events); have event fencing; planning a large stage. Currently, artists are still yet to be finalized and secured. Trying to parallel the music festivals held at UCSD and UCLA.

**Kristen:** When is the projected event date?
**Sherman:** In May.

**Kristen:** There are multiple large scale events in May (Glitter Ball, LGBT events, etc.)

**Sherman:** Are in contact with multiple orgs in order to avoid as much conflict as possible.

**Oh:** The second meeting is Monday 20 January (Martin Luther King Day), from 5-6pm in the Stevenson Silverman Conference Room. Even though it is a holiday, the meeting is held because the details are time sensitive. Monday is for persons who are interested in performing and showcasing their artwork at the day of the festival. It is also for those who are interested in setting up tables – there are currently organizations and vendors selling their merchandise.

**Sherman:** This is an opportunity for organizations to get information on what to do.

**Priscila**: is Monday the only day for interested organizations/performers? Have the orgs been informed about this?

**Sherman:** Updates are being made online, especially via their social media.

**Oh:** Once the word that the music festival would be a go, clubs made the initiative in contacting the group in asking for an opportunity to get involved. Monday is more of an informational meeting and it is not mandatory.

**Sherman**: Somebody has been contacted, but not all of the orgs have been contacted. The best way to get out the word is by their visiting of all of the student governments.

**Oh:** Have been working mainly through word of mouth – having people spread the word to their groups.

**Coon:** Is it involvement with the festival internally exclusive?

**Sherman:** It is mostly reserved for UCSC. This event is mainly to bring together the UCSC community, however there has been discussions about working with the SC community to foster a university-city unity.

**Oh:** Merchandizing tables are being provided by the artists themselves. It is mostly an opportunity to strength campus bonds – thinking about asking the on-campus food trucks to participate.

**Kristen**: Any items of actions to take from the presentation? What is being requested with presented information?

**Sherman:** Want to get into minutes and for MSG to get out the message.

**Victor** Garcia (SCOC) enters.

**Oh**: Are waiting for official dates to make the event more public and known.

**3. Funding Requests***(a) Crown/Merrill Semi-Formal Dance Committee – deciding to fund*

**Izzie** – Winter Ball Dance Committee
**Jackie** – Semi-Formal Co-Chair
**Claire** – Crown Semi-Formal Ball

**Jackie**: Hosting semi-formal event. Mainly hosted by crown, but has combined with Merrill within the last two years; more Merrill students come since it has become a joint project. Here to present budget/request funding.

**Jackie**: It is a joint event; personally enjoy that it promotes unity

**Vickie**: The price of ticket being asked is being donated back to a charity. Ticket sales will go to three preferred charities: Save Our Shores, the Homeless Garden Project, and SC Aids Project.

**Jackie**: Asking for a ticket price because it’s more than just a regular dance, but it isn’t prom. $2 ticket and it goes to charity of choice (one of the three). 100% goes to charity of choice. Last year Stats - $700 total donated; roughly 200 Merrill Students and 150 Crown students attended. If you are not affiliated with Crown/Merrill, the cost of ticket is $3.

**Justin:** How much funding are you asking for?

**Jackie:** Asking for $300.

**Priscila**: All fun set aside, what is the purpose of hosting this dance?

**Jackie**: To entertain a way to host a formal like back in high school. For it to be a nicer dance. There will be a professional DJ, food and beverages, and a photo booth. Rather than hosting the typical “show up to” dance, it’s a party on campus that you get to dress up for.

**Kristen:** Plus fun!

**Coon:** Have you asked funding from Crown?

**Jackie:** $200 has come from Merrill programs and $900 from Crown’s senate.

**Coon:** No request of the Crown Programs Office?

**Jackie:** Allocated into the $900 from Crown is money also from the Crown Program’s Office. Originally there were 2 Merrill Students on the Winter Ball planning committee this year, but there are currently none due to conflicting time commitments.

**Priscila:** Do folks have to choose charity right as they purchase their ticket?

**Jackie**: Yes, Information about each charity will be provided.

Enter **Marim** (Treasurer).

**Justin:** Where is it hosted?

**Jackie**: Hosted at the Merrill Cultural Center. Theme is ‘Emerald City’. There are three main areas: the photo booth backdrop is the scene where Dorthy’s house first lands in Oz; the next room is where the food and beverages are served in a brightly colored scene; the dance area is the ‘Emerald City’ where there are scattered props: shoes, cut outs of main characters, the hot air balloon on the ceiling.

**Alexandra:** What is the date for this event?

**Jackie:** To be hosted February 28th.

**Coon:** Where does the yellow brick start?

**Jackie:** The yellow brick road will be incorporated as part of the entrance where the steps are to be chalked yellow.

**Alexandra**: We should fund the event because it will be here at Merrill

**Alexandra** Motions to fund the ‘Crown/Merrill Semi-Formal Dance’.

**Victor** Seconds the Motion.

OBJECTION by **Marin**.

5 (Yes) – 1 (No) – 1 (Abstention)

**Katie**: Against fully funding the whole amount. Presentation said that only $200 away from goal. Should fund no more than $100; they haven’t gone to crown programs yet.

**Coon:** Merrill’s and Crown’s program offices run differently; Crown has already set aside x amount in to host the dance. In the past years, Merrill has dominated the planning committee which allowed access to Merrill’s budgets.

**Priscilla**: How much money do we even have?

**Justin**: $800 this quarter, $1800 total for winter and spring quarter.

**Priscila:** Even though very factual, the presentation was manipulative of funding with their reasons for Merrill’s funding being only because a large number of Merrill students participate.

Based off of their funding request, there was no good reason on paper; let’s stick with less than $100.

**Coon:** Joint college events are extremely successful. Crown is doing a lot; we should put out our part.

Enters **Gillian** (MAC).

**Katie**: We need to keep ethos of our college’s theme and we will have more future events to fund that are aligned with our goals.

The chair entertains a motions.

**Katie** motions to fund the ‘Crown/Merrill Semi-Formal Dance’ for $100.

Motion Seconded by **Alexandra**.

5 (Yes) – 1 (No) – 3 (Abstaining)

**Justin**: Motion passes, will be funding the ‘Crown/Merrill Semi-Formal’ for $100.

**4. Officer Reports**

**(a) (SUA):**

**Priscila**: Officer Reports were held. USSA legislative appilcation now out. The conference is great, in Washington D.C., from March 14 – 17th (the weekend before finals). If you get accepted, you only have to pay for some meals.

**Justin**: Quarterly reports are on website; heard from IC, USS Leg. Con.

**Priscila**: Reports *should be* on SUA website. If you want to apply for the conference, it’s on Facebook, so get in contact with Priscilla or Justin for more information.

**Justin:** Can submit a video application (2minutes less). Will need $150-200 for food spending; the SUA will help with working with professors to discuss finals. Looking to take 17 students.

**Coon:** Housing?

**Justin**: Through a hotel.

**Priscila**: Robert’s Rules presentation (have the presentation). Lengthy but educational. Selecting of new Election’s Commissioner: we all can apply! Each college selects an “Election Representative” to be chosen by February 14th. There is a $1000 stipend for elections commission; $500 for vice, and $100 for college reps.

**Justin:** It is a lot of work and you cannot have a conflict of interest of whatsoever.

**Alexandra**: Proposed change to voter threshold. The change being a lowering from a current 33% voter threshold to 25%. The change to 33% was made four years ago. Reasons for a lowering of the current threshold being that it’s very difficult to have 1/3 of student population come out; even with a majority plus for an amendment, it may not pass because a threshold was not reached.

**Priscila:** On one side: 33% is too high. When the initial decision was made, it was purposeful. The chair that initiated the change realized that too many fees were getting through and too many fees were getting put upon the student body.

**Justin**: Keeping in mind: there was a reason for 33%. Last three years showed a 30% turn out. We should keep it because we’re basically there.

**Priscila:** Agreed; as a very involved person with elections last year, was concerned for the lack of information/knowledge about issues being voted on. Too many students were unfamiliar with what they were asked to vote on.

**Maria:** Threshold should be raised. Not enough students were outreached to. 33% just needs a majority.

**Justin**: Keep in mind, not all voters are voting for all things on the ballot. Faculty can also vote.

**Q:** Why lowering the threshold?

**Priscila:** Proposed maybe because they want things passes and it’s difficult to get to the 33%.

**Katie**: Anybody feel qualified to speak about the anarchism of our campus? Distrust of government in general has it so that many are not going to want to champion a cause through voting. Was there any discussion about that? Was there any questions on why people don’t vote?

**Priscila:** Did not have that specific discussion within the space. A valid question to bring up

**Justin**: Voting has been done insecurely in past years. Fraudulent voting was a problem as only ID card numbers and birthdays were needed to vote. There are multiple persons on campus who can vote put in votes in place of others. There have been changes to the voting process. Now requires the Blue and Gold username and password to vote.

**Hannah**: Do we know what’s going to be on the ballot?

**Priscila:** Not yet.

**Marin**: Would not be in favor of this change if the discussion on voter apathy has not yet been discussed.

**Coon:** Has the Library and Bus ideas been worked with yet?

**Justin:** The chair and Exec board will send their things to the chancellor and he’ll go with whatever the SUA decides on the threshold.

 *Straw Poll* for how MSG feels about

**Priscila:** Internships tax resolution presentation: a UCLA and a UCSC student are advocating for a system where companies are given what is essentially a tax deductible in order to hire and pay interns. The tax is given at the state level.

**Justin**: Idea presented in the USA space however was picked apart as it did not really include graduate students. UCSC student said his district’s legislator is working on a bill to get this idea implemented.

**Marin**: what is this exactly?

**Priscila**: If our campus passes this resolution, then our campus will just be saying that we support it.

**Marin**: Companies are notorious for exploiting and making use of any and all loopholes; would like to see fair labor act, etc.

**Alexandra:** Spoke about a lot of limits: only 5 person tax creditable, maximum hours, maximum number to hire with tax credit 5 interns at 20 hours a week.

**Coon**: Companies are supposed to hire interns to provide and teach skills. Interns aren’t free secretaries, so to speak. They learn company skills. It’s weird to be involved with this issue because we are an institution of education.

**Justin**: Internships assume that we are not able to sustain our careers as is: the paid part being a way to continue to foster our career as students.

**Priscila**: (Reading of conditions) *Interns are to be paid the minimum wage of $8, (that will go up). Tax credit would not be a flat rate. 5 interns max. Businesses must have interns work under 3 conditions: paid at least minimum wage, only work 15-30 hours without classes (12-20 without classes), $1152 dollars per intern.*

**Kristin**: Within 18 months, minimum wage will go up to $10 per hour.

**Priscila**: Think of the idea as subsidizing work interns.

Strawpoll for the SUA reps … a roundtable of voiced opinions.

*SYNOPSIS*: it’s a split opinion; but the consensus is that more information on topic is needed.

**Priscila:** SUA administrative student positions are available. Paid $9.25/hour. 6 Interns to be accepted. The intent is to do busy work. The administrative building will now be open 7 days a week, 8am – 8pm (Monday – Friday) and 11am – 5pm (Saturday-Sunday). Chancellor visit to happen in January to the SUA meeting.

**Justin**: Bcause our meetings are ran by Robert’s Rules, wanting to get the “do’s and don’t’s” of how we should spend our meeting.

**Katie**: No Robert’s Rules, but we need conduct guidelines. Made readily available. People learn the fine points by watching, but would have been more comfortable with some kind of literature.

**Priscila**: Robert’s Rules are very silencing. But if we partially utilize the rules, we tend to pick-and-choose when it is implemented. We should have community agreements (either follow the rules completely or not at all).

**Coon:** we kind of already do that. Learning the rules is a valuable life skill to have in general. Guidelines are cool.

**Marin**: the system we have now is col. Not being silenced by technicalities.

**Justin**: Community standards list next week, the “do’s and do not’s.”

**Priscila**: Let’s call it ‘community agreement’ as “do’s and do not’s” send the wrong message.

**Coon**: Crown senate meetings are concise; make that visit; (or go to SUA).

**Justin**: each college does it their own way; we are our own space.

**Priscila** leaves.

**3. Funding Requests**

*(b) RA Superbowl Event – deciding to hear*

**Justin:** (Reading) 18 Merrill students involved. Not ticketed event, estimated $5 per person. To be a space to watch the Superbowl in the Baobob Lounge. (Sometime in February?) Primary purpose to be an education of alcohol and drugs and subliminal messaging of sexual and masculinity that is associated with the Superbowl. Asking for $200. Budget in flux.

Voting upon hearing them speak next week.

**Katie**: Enjoys how it relates to the Merrill ethos.

**Coon**: Similar to the events that are held on Halloween and 4/20, as an alternative activity to do.

The chair would like to entertain a motion.

**Victor** Motions to approve the hearing of the ‘RA Superbowl Event’ at the next meeting

**Katie** seconds the Motion.

No objections: approval by consensus.

***(****c) Kinetics Poetics – deciding to hear:*

**Justin:** (Reading) 1 Merrill student involved. 11th annual national competition of Kinetics Poetics; student poetics. Free event. Featuring Rainbow Theather, Professional poets. Come into a safe place. Ticketed event, but free. All Merrill students welcome to the event. “The untold can surface.” Spoken word event. Asking for $200. Wants to be heard next week. To be hosted at Porter Dining Hall, on Febrary 3rd. Spoken Word has been rapidly increasing within the years; it’s especially big at UCSC.

**Kristen:** It is used as a healing; they speak upon their personal experiences of adversity, struggles, etc. Kinetics Poetics has been around for quite a while.

**Alexandra** Motions to hear ‘Kinetics Poetics’ at the next meeting.

**Victor** seconds the motions.

No objects: approval by consensus.

5. Elections

**Justin:** Open positions include: Core council, Student Union Governance Board, Secretary, Vice-chair. Want to make an open election period. Due to Kristen (2 weeks from today). Week of elections is February 3 – 7th. Have to been in good judicial and academic setting. Kristen to facilitate the elections and then Seth will be informed of the newly elected officers.

**Coon**: Core council meets only Fall and Winter quarter; by the time we finish election, it would be untimely for the newly elected officer.

**Justin**: First meeting for newly elected officers would be Thursday, February 13th.

Enter **Michael** Liber, member at large.

**Justin:** Fall MSG elections yielded a small turnout. Margret is out of town until after next week; she can handle the social media. Looking for persons to help make posters.

**Katie** and **Chris** show interest in tabling in the dining hall and courtyard to help promote.

**Kristen**: But we have to be conscious that we need permission from particular people.

**Justin**: Should we do tabling during or before?

**Alexandra**: Can we start Tuesday and continue from there?

**Kristen**: Shouldn’t table for 3 week. Table for just elections or just for voting.

**Gillian**: Emphasis on starting as soon as possible.

**Marin**: We just need our (MSG) awareness.

**Justin**: Let the first week be just posters. Table the second week (as we’ll already know how many people have already signed up). Tabling 1 week for running, then 1 week for making sure people vote.

**Alexandra**: Worried about people not running. “I never look at posters.” Need to get the people to look at what we want!

**Kristen**: Be careful with tabling for too long because we do not want our efficacy to drop off.

**Gillian:** Tabling to let people know to run. We need to support those who want to run.

**Kristen**: Dining hall town crier, no coconuts required.

**Justin**: Tabling will be researched into (who to contact). People power as a concern. What is the logistics of how to run this?

**Kristen**: Need to be strategic about how to table. All be willing to stand in front a table and doing work (no sitting behind a table).

**Michael**: RA’s boxes and fliers are the best as many see that. Residents are good at checking their bulletin board.

**Kristen**: CRE need to approve

**Justin**: Want to reach out to all folks. Drafting an e-mail to be sent out the second week of the timeline. Especially for apartment and off campus students.

**Michael**: [The solution is simple] Bus Stop Fliers.

**Justin**: Both Justin and Kristen drives so fliers can be done each week. No sign-ups for the tabling, as in no having shifts.

**Marin**: Drop in shifts for tabling.

**Justin**: Making posters with Justin this weekend (Martin Luther King Day Weekend).

**Kristen**: An idea for a poster. “Your Face Here” cartoony mock up.

**Justin**: Voting is done electronically. To have voting stations.

6. Merrill Pride Week

**Justin**: Event projected for the last week of February. Discussions to be held next week.

**Kristen**: Think about low cost events, especially things that make people proud to be affiliated with Merrill, make MSG bigger, to get involved.

7. Retreat – let’s set a date and talk about a location

**Justin**: Usually do a retreat for MSG; we should have one to get buddy-buddy with one another. Seth usually hosted it at his house, but this year we’re going to see if the Cantu or the Women’s Center is available (especially because it’s on campus).

**Alexandra**: Garden of Eden hike! (1 hour hike).

**Kristen**: Vetoed. Cute and charming, but there quite a bit of problems inherent with the idea, namely liability reasons.

**Q:** Where is the Women’s Center?

**Justin**: We’re going to the women’s center.

**Kristen**: Worked with the Women’s Center. We just need a date to figure it all out. The women’s center is located near the base of campus. It was once the Cowell’s foreman’s ranch. It’s near the police station.

**Justin**: Thinking about a Friday night.

**Kristen**: Waiting for after the election.

**Justin**: February 15th (Saturday). A Lunch or mid-afternoon affair, 12 to 4 PM or 11am to 3pm. We should all be in the planning process.

**Coon**: Budget? Money? Funds?

**Kristen**: Assuming the space is available, venue (Women’s Center) is free. Will be bring drink, but plans this to be a potluck gathering.

8. Officer Reports:

**(b) (SCOC):**

**Victor:** (At meeting two weeks ago) Working on sister college events. We’re the first group to host. One person (from College nine) appointed to the SUACOC position.

(At Wednesday’s meeting) Sister colleges Crown/Merrill will be hosting a Movie night at the Merrill Cultural Center, Friday 31st January, 5-11pm. Movie TBA. Intended to be a study break as it’ll be during midterms. Looking for comedy movies.

* “This is the End”; “School of Rock”; “’Happy Gilmore’ movies”

**Justin**: There will be a UC student regent visit in the morning on the 31st. Movies should be appropriate. SCOC paying for rights?

**Victor**: Will be lots of food. And SCOC is paying for it all. Will also have prizes.

College 8/Oaks is doing a dance; Porter/Kresge is doing a carnival; Cowell/Stevenson is doing a BBQ; Nine/Ten doing a movie and a dinner.

This is a way to get the name of SCOC out as well.

**Kristen**: 90s movies (aka: Space Jam) are a current hit.

**(b) (Treasurer):**

**Justin**: We’re going to get budget transparency. Trying to get prior funds and see what we really have.

**(c) (MAC):**

**Gillian**: Classes are time consuming, so may step down. Conflict with not being able to hold meetings. Still wants to be involved with MSG, however.

**Kristen**: Talk with other MAC members and see if anybody is willing to step up.

**Justin**: Resignation entails just a written e-mail.

**(d) (Chair):**

**Justin**: MSG needs to participate in FO’SHO.

**Kristen**: It’s like a drag show. A FO’Queen is a female who goes into drag. It was started by the women’s center. This is their 5th or 6th year. MC’d by the women’s center director, in her drag persona. Also co-hosted by Seth (also in drag). 300 people usually show up. Primarily frosh and Sophs who come up; typically the student’s first experience with drag. This is a free event. It’s at the women’s center. Look up ‘Bird Cage’, Fo Wong Foo. Drag performances is typically lip syncing, but are not limited to other ideas such as dance numbers. Everybody is supportive. Participation by MSG would be great. Have recordings of prior years.

**Justin**: We should participate. With at least one performance. It’s not going to be a formal requirement (out of respect for those with their own opinions), but we should think about coming. It’s in May.

**Kristen:** Usually a Thursday. Trying to make it super non-conflicting with any other events.

**Justin**: Office hours are 6 – 7 pm as well as by appointment. Please e-mail him for questions about agenda items; phone usage for emergencies and day-of concerns.

**(e) (Advisor):**

**Kristen**: Staying on for the remainder of January. Seth coming back as CPC in February. Will be available here at Crown/Merrill (50% at Crown, 50% at Merrill) as an assistant CPC for both colleges. Super Brother Mario college night, January 29th from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Will include actual playing of brawl/melee in the dining hall. February 25th is the second night. ‘Arabian nights’.

9. Announcements

*(a) CUIP internships are available*

**Justin**: Undergraduate internship program. It’s a class and you’ll get an internship. It is an INTENSE class. A class with the chancellor. Great mentor-mentee program. Portion of tuition paid for. Find it online at UCSC website. There is one for the Merrill Provost.

*(b) Commencement dates are set, Merrill registration site is live*

**Justin:** June 14th. Saturday Morning, 9:30am. Merrill College is the first one to go. Elected members of MSG are required to go, as well as RAs, etc.

**Kristen**: Expect to arrive early and help set up on the field. Many people needed to do the job.

**Justin**: Help to set up and whatnot. Bonding activity. Get breakfast/lunch/cake. Cake was good.

*(c) Academic Assessment of Grievances Committee*

**Kristen**: An e-mail from the provost. (Reading) Looking for students to sit in the academic assessment committee; receives and evaluates grade grievances. Emphasis on learning how academic government works. Only needed to be available as needed.

**Other Announcements & Other comments**

**Justin**: Student regents coming for a visit. (January)

**Kristen**: Hiring student staff is currently underway. Check the ER. Join student programs. If you have work study, do think about it!

**Marin** motions to adjourn the meeting.

**Victor** seconds the motion.

Meeting adjourned: 9:34PM