

Merrill Student Government
Meeting: 23 October 2014
Minutes

Call to Order: 7:10PM

Funding Request

(1) HACK UCSC 2015

Gillian: Annual hack-a-thon: invent network and learn, for UCSC Students and Area; connect with large tech companies; explore regions of their field. Ticketed event: \$10 early; \$20 at the door. Accessible to everyone.

Chandler: So it's November 7th?

Kristen: in the Merrill Cultural Center.

Kenley: is it supposed to be this year or next year? Because they say 2015 ...

Kristen: ahh ... you're right

Itai: It's in January.

Alexandra motion to hear them November 6th.

Bianca seconds the motion

No objections by consensus.

It passes.

Election Results

Alexandra:

SFAC- Student Financial Advisory Council - review student fees and seeing how they work. Want to come in this quarter and give a presentation on where our fees are going to.

SUA – go to meetings; discuss; bring back topics to this space; get MSG's opinions on the issues; and keep review.

Bianca:

SUA – liaison between Merrill and SUA.

Kimberly:

PR – Spreading word of Merrill events to Merrill students

Chandler:

SUA – have lots of fun and talk with everybody.

Emma:

SCOC – choosing members of all of the events and what

Mario:

ACADEMIC SENATE – Liaison between the academic space and MSG

Kartik:

SUA – transfer information in between

Gillian:

TREASURER – doing that money thing

Open positions:

Core Council

Community Service

SUGB

Designated Alternate

Core Council: represents MSG with regards to being apart of a funding body. 1 vote in all

SUGB: attends both MSG and SUGB meetings. Student-run governing board; they deal with facilities for students.

Community Service Representative: new position... working with setting up community service events.

Kenly: I would like to be a core council rep

Gillian: by default, with no further objections ... congratulations Kenly!

Fariha: I would like to run for SUGB.

Gillian: by default, with no further objections ... congratulations Fariha!

Ikey: SUGB held a lot of events to know more about it. Deals with the student union space; takes care of all of the organizations affiliated with the redwood building. Up-and-coming; like planning events for everyone. Whoo!

Officer Reports:

Academic Senate: NOTHING

Community Service: [not here]

Core Council: Nothing

PR: nothing

SCOC:

Kresge having a haunted house; this Saturday. (10/25)

Crown: c/m, every Saturday, table top games

Cowell: sex education carnival on Halloween

SUGB:

SUA:

Chandler: Announcement, Halloween movie night and Halloween costume contest (Halloween night at college 9/10).

Mark Stone presented. Addressing tuition increases; and lower out-of-state tuition.

Groundwater policy – 60% of water is ground water.

State-wide plastic bag ban. Buying bags in general is going to cost you money (\$.025).

Prison reform (three strike law). 7/10 inmates will be back in prison within a year of getting out.

UCSA – state-wide collision. Sexual violence opinion. Want to make individuals more comfortable about stepping up about violence and sexual abuse. Third campaign: fund the UC... lost money via recession and budget cuts. Plan to get money back by plan prop. 13 (closes property tax loop-hole) bring money back into the UC system.

Alexandra: was at the UCSA conference... (1) IGNITE, fighting mass incarceration. (2) Fund the UC (getting us more money); (3) sexual assault campaign, was a big part of it, this summer. If you want to get more involved, contact (Alexandra) and will definitely get you connected with the right people.

Chandler: USSA, largest and oldest led student organization. Ending sexual violence on campus. State of emergency: low percentage of minorities in colleges. Working on access and affordability: 1965 higher education act with pell grants.

Katrik: We are in debt a bunch of money....

Alexandra: \$37,000; to clarify, the SUA itself is in debt. Having a meeting this Friday to talk about what to do with the budget; contact her and we will get more about how that is.

Bianca: Creating an ad hoc committee, for the deficit

Kartik: state of emergency need be declared?

Alexandra: We have reserves; each year, we are required to put away 10% of our budget as a safety measure in case we need extra fund. By declaring a state of emergency, can dip into these funds. Will need to have the space's opinions. Or we can make a bunch of cuts. Next week, will have more information. Opinions???

Bianca: what you decide, is how we vote.

Chandler: ad hoc committee; 6-8pm Friday 24 October (tomorrow). SUA office.

Alexandra: 10% of each budget has to go into reserve, but we got TONS.

Chandler: Moving on.... money from the foundation, using that money towards a scholarship.

Alexandra: apart of the budget discussions last year; that \$10,000 was not accounted for in the excess funds. There was a lot of miscommunication

Chandler: worrisome...

Morgan: where is the meeting?

Aykezar: above the SUA building?

Itai: what happens after the voting?

Alexandra: voting in two meetings from now. The ad hoc committee will present what they have decided upon Friday. That following Tuesday, will discuss and then make a voting decision the next meeting.

Itai: would be risky to declare "state of emergency"

Bianca: don't think we should vote either. Heard bunch of words, so would not be comfortable to vote yet.

Itai: figure out how they actually have in reserve.

SUA: -- yeeaaahhhh –

Morgan: personal opinion, no dipping. Let's look at other options. There is always spots where money isn't needed. Declaring state of emergency, is similar to declaring bankruptcy in the real world; that's too much of a co-op

Itai: meeting opening to anyone?

Alexandra: YAH. The budget is already super tight; was a part of that conversation last year. Had to already cut \$20,000. Anywhere we weren't spending, we already got rid of that money.

Chandler: the SUA budget is available to everyone to see.

Alexandra: definitely able to be google'd.

Kartik: take back the tap

Bianca: wanted to stop selling plastic water bottles.

Chandler: Moving on: Max spoke; thinking about implementing C+ grade. Chair Justin spoke: made note about the increased number of freshmen. Buses crazy more packed. SUA is aware. The metro was not aware. But (hopefully) now aware. Smoking ban; cigarette butts are in the forest. Might make "smoking spots." He attended a CSO Training; get reformation?

Kristen: they are great! Cso's!

Chandler: Ban on plastic water bottles. Just regular water. Single-use water bottles.

Alexandra: because of impact on environment. And unsafe to yo health. Release chemicals into that water. A part of the take back the tap. Everybody should have equal access to this. Yee. Making that water FURREEEEE.

Chandler: we would be the first UC to make this happen. 80 other universities; 2009, Washington University in St. Louis was the first.

Bianca: resolution, something we are working towards. Tap is cleaner than bottled. I feel there are plenty of drinking fountains. Plenty of water dispensers. No soda bottles; just the things that you can get from the tap.

Kimberly: Is there anywhere we sell cases of water bottle?

Alexandra: What it means, a resolution; SUA bring it to all of us, as students, then passing the resolution in the SUA space means passing it further up the chain and then goes to the chancellor. Historically, chancellor has voted with the same way that the SUA.

Kartik: don't support the ban. Hegemony of the 4 big companies that figure it out; I personally like, and I know other persons do too, but I don't support to eliminate it entirely.

Kenly: how do they make the distinction between water bottles... there's that loophole.

Alexandra: it is just the simple, pure water bottle. The exact kind of water that you can get from the tap

Itai: the issue of just going to glass. Isn't any better for glass.

Alexandra: plastic vs. glass.... Plastic bottles are generally used only once.

Itai: doesn't

Morgan: economics: raising prices on the water bottle prices, instead of banning entirely.

Alexandra: this resolution is the way it is right now; generally, it came to us the way it is, and thus we can't really do much else. We can try to amend it though. I will bring it up in the space.

STRAW POLL TAKEN.

Morgan: as Merrill, we hike the most, therefore consuming the most water... just saying...

[SFAC]

Alexandra: let us add this to the agenda!

Already had 3 meetings this year. Biggest topic: the quarry amphitheater (they have the signs that says “stay out” ... walkways don’t have railings, seismically unsafe; group of faculty and a student representative; trying to fix it up and make it function again. We got a tour and get the plan for how it is supposed to proceed. Two different phase: make it safe for use (railing, rearranging seating, add Wi-Fi, more seating available, cut down only 1 tree); open up view for 200+ seats).

Aykezar: Make the stage safe and usable.

After phase one, possibility of holding small concerts and graduations here.

Alexandra: make it available for a variety of events. Add backstage area. Also buy the quarry area; add a redwood building to be used a hub; meeting spot. Making a bridge from amphitheater to crown/Merrill bus stop; making another bus stop for crown/Merrill. Cost us \$7.4 million for phase one. Phase two, \$11 million more? Student services fees has a fund that they can dip into these; they also want to dip into the pool that contains seismic fees (this is newer though); SFAC is trying to create conversation about this. Asking for 4-8 million; rest of the money will be coming from donors.

Chandler: time frame on these phase?

Alexandra: as soon as we get the funds.... Maybe a year or so?

Aykezar: projected to be finished 2017 if they get the money for this today.

Alexandra: phase two would be ongoing.

ALEXANDRA Office Hours: Tuesday 2:45 – 4:45, SUA 4:45 – 5:45 outsides by Banana Joes (or inside the Crown Fireside lounge).

Council on Student fees for all of the UCs; student fee convention; going as a representative. Held in riverside!

Advisor:

Halloween dance; 10pm – 1am. Jeremy is asking for volunteers; starting set up at 10am. Setting up until it’s done. jrparker@ucsc.edu : contact him if you’re interested!

Series of events where you get to meet your academic advisor... and decorate cookies! Check your halls for when its happening!

Gillian: Alright; so that concludes our meeting....

Alexandra motions to adjourn.

Bianca seconds the motion.

Adjourned 8:40pm.

