

## Merrill Student Government Meeting Minutes June 1, 2017

Meeting Called to Order by Chair Kimberly Runyan at 7:33 PM

### Roll Call

- Karina (Treasurer)
- Maurice
- Erin (MAC)
- Amber
- Hannah
- Lily Green (SUA)
- Andrea
- Hector (SCOC)
- Vero (Advisor)
- Itai (Parliamentarian)
- Rebecca (Academic Senate)
- Nicolas
- Thomas (Elections Commissioner)
- Brain (Community Service)
- Jay
- Amanda (Core Council)
- Eric (SUGB)
- Regina (SFAC)
- Kimberly (Chair)
- Patricia (Secretary)
- Angel

### Presentations

#### Tom

- Environmental and social change
- Defend environment from attacks from Trump and allies in Congress
- Trump pulled out of Paris Climate and he is cutting EPA budget by ½
- Rollback for environmental protection, which needs approval in Congress
- 51 senators to sign defense for environmental protection
- Do more than vote, lead opposition against rollbacks
- Hiring college students to work in 36 cities across the country
- Paid position, allow students to experience political power, need to be interested in social change
- Informational interviews (tomorrow at 6:30 PM)

**Rebecca:** What cities in California do your interns work in?

**Tom:** In Santa Cruz, Berkeley, Santa Barbara, Koreatown in Los Angeles, etc.

**Vero:** Do they have to go door to door? What does the job entail?

**Tom:** Interns have to go door to door, but there is also an office. The job entails meeting people in public. It is mostly grassroots campaign work, involving a petition going to senators to ask them to lead opposition against the rollbacks because no phone calls can make a big impact. There are fundraisers, but they are citizen-funded. They are not funded by big donors or corporations. The

incentive is based on how much you raised, usually \$4,500-\$6,000 for the entire summer. It also depends on city; the average in Santa Cruz is \$11-16 per hour. Interns will be generating political product.

### Discussion:

**Kimberly:** Elizabeth wants feedback on core classes. There is already change to the core classes, but feedback will not go back into classes. How did the Merrill class affect you?

**Rebecca:** I liked core. I came from conservative town and things discussed in core allowed me to embrace new ideas. It was a space for everyone to share ideas.

**Brian:** Core was great and it was the first way to introduce yourself to the school. The huge assemblies were not necessary. I skipped them and they were a waste of time.

**Regina:** I liked my core class and it was a good way to start off class

**Itai:** It was alright. The books were ok and I liked that it fulfilled a writing requirement. Going to the Cultural Center makes more sense than going to Classroom Unit 2.

**Maurice:** I did not enjoy the classroom unit walks. Core was an 8 A.M. class and the professor was amazing, but there was not much participation.

**Jay:** The movie about Hmong people is outdated if it is trying to give us another perspective into another culture.

**Eric:** It depends on the professor. My roommate has a different experience - if you didn't write what the professor thought or believed in, they would mark you down.

**Nicolas:** Alright with going to Unit 2 because my class was before it. I was alright with subscribing to New York Times, but I didn't see a benefit to it.

**Lily:** The New York Times subscription depends on your professor because I had to write a research paper. There should be an assignment that involves writing about The New York Times because some only used it for the summer assignment. Classroom Unit 2 was fine, but there was not much value.

**Kimberly:** Elizabeth describes that core class is unique due to class size, units given, and level of difficulty. Did you feel you were prepared? Was it too much or too little work for a five unit class?

**Karina:** Class didn't help me prepare for writing until I reached upper divs.

**Maurice:** Professor assigned busywork, but it was not difficult, such as journal entries, but the amount of rough drafts was unnecessary.

**Amber:** My professor was a difficult grader, but AP English prepared me for it. The professor was bad at facilitating class size for participation because there were more arguments than discussions. People attacked others' views.

**Lily:** I liked smaller class size. It helped me establish a community and helped me discuss current issues with controversial views.

**Eric:** I like the small class size, but it depends on the professor. Mine was able to facilitate class discussion and he got to know us. Good amount of work for a five unit class.

**Regina:** It depends on the professor. Made it a requirement that he would see us outside of class.

**Rebecca:** Core was similar to high school and it wasn't the best transition. I didn't like New York Times and would prefer more neutral news source, like BBC. Classroom Unit 2 didn't matter and professors didn't care about core night.

**Nicolas:** I don't have classes like that. Professors are actually listening to your views and it was a good amount of work.

**Jay:** Didn't really help, but good way to ease in. Different from classes now. Liked subscribing to the New York Times. Discussions were facilitated well.

**Kimberly:** Would you prefer if the course was focused more on reading or writing? Did you feel like the course was related to our ethos?

**Itai:** Not much they can do to help you with your reading. Better to have major specific core class. Beneficial to learn how to read and write in your major.

**Thomas:** Core class was an Intro to College class. Reading and writing is more to the side. Better to focus more on reading because it is better to facilitate that discussion. Goes with our ethos.

**Rebecca:** Did a good job with college ethos. More aware of my cultural identity. Better if stuck to writing. Depends on how professor views your writing

**Amanda:** I think core class related to our ethos because my professor would always ask what was happening in the world when class started and we talked about current events. I feel like you can't have one without the other, but writing is more important because it is a skill that all students need.

**Erin:** Important to focus on strengthening writing skills. Jump from high school writing to college writing. In college, there is more freedom to structure essays, but also more room for error.

**Andrea:** Core shifted to a more reading based class. Some students need more help in passing ELWR requirement. Helps students succeed in writing.

**Hector:** Important for students to have writing skills. For New York Times, you can go to McHenry and get it for free.

**Lily:** 80A students need to do Writing 2, which focuses more on reading. Focus on writing because it is a necessary skill. Discussions were a big part of what made my core experience memorable.

**Eric:** Writing response to an essay or book is different than scientific paper. If they were to offer major core classes, that would help. ELWR determines first class you can take. Focusing on writing would be more beneficial

**Regina:** More into writing. One cannot exist without the other. Writing comes from what we read, such as analysis. If we were to write on texts that don't require long readings, it would be better.

**Brian:** Ethos should have less emphasis to give more leeway for reading and writing. Able to write

an essay an hour before class and get a good grade. Not everyone was taught the same way in high school. Overall, there must be a basis where everyone gets to same type of help in writing.

**Maurice:** Writing should be the most important factor. Math and physics major, so I thought I didn't need to write. Math is a language, so I didn't write the way I was supposed to; I didn't know how to analyze.

**Karina:** Every major has a different style of writing. Reading is the same in every area. Reading should have a larger emphasis than writing. Comprehending reading will make you a better writer.

## Officer Reports

Student Union Assembly (Lily)

Cultural Event (Friday)

Measure 67 didn't pass

Funding request from Society of National Engineers – Conference allows people from underrepresented backgrounds, get people into a community that lacks diversity

Resolution about graffiti

Brief discussion about elections – If they spent money, it is reimbursed

Funding deliberation for Transit – fully funded

New budget will be decided on next week

Presentations from different identity orgs – make a case on why they should have a representative in SUA

Students for Sensible Drug Policy, CALPIRG, Sigma Alpha Phi

Elections Commissioner (Thomas)

Email from Dean of Students

SFAC (Regina)

Nothing to report

Academic Senate (Rebecca)

Map of study spaces for finals in public spaces

Core Council (Amanda)

Nothing to report

SCOC (Hector)

Appointed new chair for SBAC for Cowell

SUGB (Eric)

Finals breakfast from 10 AM to 12 PM in SUA Office

Study Jam from 10-12 PM

Community Service (Brian)

Nothing to report

RA Liaison (Yessi)

Not here

Passing the Torch happening this Sunday 12-1 @ Charlies E. Merrill Lounge

Give, Grab, Grub – Things not needed can be given away

Public Relations (Diana)

Not here

MAC (Erin)

Nothing to report

Secretary (Patricia)

Minutes will be posted

Treasurer (Karina)

Nothing to report

Vice Chair (Lily)

Not here

Chair (Kimberly)

Still meeting next week in the Crown Senior Commons, dinner and awards, retreat there

Saturday – Senate Mixer @ 1 PM, food served, pool, games, parachute

MAG (Merrill Action Group) – Subcommittee like MAC, but instead of fun events, they raise awareness, like town hall

MIC – Merrill Initiatives Committee

Advisor (Vero)

Queereoke on Tuesday at 7 in Cantu

Merrill Commencement Volunteer finished at noon, no reception

Campaign banners must be taken down and stakes must be brought back

## Announcements

College Eight making baseball hats

**Itai:** Senate Mixers not useful – what affects one college may not affect the other. Better to have Crown and Merrill Senate Mixers

**Angel:** Southwestern Asian Cultural Night for Filipino Student Association this Friday 6-10

P.M.

## Adjournment

Motion: Karina

Second: Maurice

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.