

Associated Students, Inc.  
California State University, Long Beach

**LOBBY CORPS Minutes**  
**Meeting #9**  
October 20, 2016

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dale Lendrum called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Voting Members Present

Dale Lendrum (Chair/Secretary for System-Wide Affairs)  
Logan Vournas (ASI Vice President)  
Daniel Gomez (Senate Rep)  
Hilda Jurado (Senate Rep) (**AR @12:40pm**)  
Robert Espinoza (Student-at-Large)  
Danielle Carancho (Student-at-Large)  
Autumn Farmer (AVP Legislative & External Relations Designee)

Voting Members Absent

Alex Bellenger (Secretary for City Affairs)  
Ashutosh Pandey (Senate Rep)  
Vacant (Student-at-Large)  
Vacant (Student-at-Large)

Non-voting Members Present

Ms. Lindsay San Miguel (Asst. Director of Government Affairs & Initiatives)

Non-voting Members Absent

**3. ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**(M) Vournas (S) Carancho to approve the Lobby Corps Agenda, Meeting #9, October 20, 2016**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

**PASSES 7-0-0**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Action Item: Lobby Corps, Meeting #6, September 29, 2016

**(M) Espinoza (S) Jurado to approve the Lobby Corps Minutes, Meeting #6, September 29, 2016**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

**PASSES 7-0-0**

B. Action Item: Lobby Corps, Meeting #7, October 6, 2016

**(M) Vournas (S) Jurado to approve the Lobby Corps Minutes, Meeting #7, October 6, 2016**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

**PASSES 7-0-0**

C. Action Item: Lobby Corps, Meeting #8, October 13, 2016

**(M) Jurado (S) Espinoza to approve the Lobby Corps Minutes, Meeting #8, October 13, 2016**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

**PASSES 7-0-0**

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**6. REPORTS**

A. Chair/Secretary for System wide Affairs

Chair Lendrum reported the following:

- No Report

B. Vice Chair

Vice Chair Gomez reported the following:

- No Report

C. Secretary for City Affairs

Secretary Bellenger reported the following via email to Chair Lendrum:

- Did not attend the City Council meeting and does not know the number of people registered to vote. Chair Lendrum reported that 100 total students were registered.
- Students should be able to have an excused absence from class to vote because it is started so early. She was told that because voting starts at 7am, it is not considered an excused absence. Secretary Bellenger noted that this does not take into consideration students who commute to campus at 7am to get to school at 9am, and believes that it can be a hindrance for students being able to vote. Secretary Bellenger shared that we should speak to President Conoley and Academic Senate to make an exception to this rule because although many students vote by mail, not all do.
- In regards to the CHESS questions, Secretary Bellenger would like us to keep in mind the students that are being targeted. Questions should be inclusive and should not be worded in a way that discriminates students with a protected status such as undocumented, previously incarcerated, racial or ethnic minorities, women etc. She would prefer a question that would touch on issues that are important to the students and wants more people focused on women-related issues and past advocacy experience.
- Against the potential tuition increase and is awaiting the plan from President Flores so that it can be read to the City Council.
- She has not received a response from Janet Nguyen or Allen Lowenthal, but will continue to try to reach out.

D. AVP Legislative & External Relations

Ms. Farmer reported the following:

- No Report

E. Senate

Senator Jurado reported the following:

- Senate passed the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading of the Resolution in Support for increased Financial Resources to International Students
- Confirmed two ASI Media Board of Trustees, Naomi Howansky and Kimberly Collantes
- Discussed the potential tuition increase

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Action Item: Approval of CHESS 2017 Application

**(M) Jurado (S) Carancho to approve the CHESS 2017 Application**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

**PASSES 7-0-0**

B. Discussion Item: Voter Registration Efforts for November Election

Chair Lendrum updated the Committee on the voter registration efforts; registered 29 voters on Tuesday, but also had students looking through the information on the propositions and answered questions.

New Voters Project out today registering people to vote by the Library and are passing out burritos for the first 25 students who register to vote. Combined with New Voters Project, over 500 students have been registered to vote.

C. Discussion Item: District Visit Assignments

Chair Lendrum read off list of representatives and their districts. Once the list is complete Chair Lendrum will be assigning representatives in pairs. He asked that the members start taking some time to look through the CSSA Advocacy Binder to see how to connect with a legislator and making an appointment.

D. Discussion Item: Elected Representative Visits to Lobby Corps

Secretary Bellenger is waiting on a response from Nguyen and Lowenthal.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Discussion/Action Item: CHESS Interview Questions

Chair Lendrum read the 5 questions that were asked last year:

- What made you interested in applying to CHESS and what do you expect to gain from this experience?
- What campus specific or other student-related issues are you passionate about?
- What communication skills do you excel at and in what area do you need improvement?
- Give an example of a time when you have dealt with a person with an opposing view.
- What type of role do you play on a team or in a group?

Student-at-Large Carancho proposed 2 questions:

- If chosen, what do you look forward to learning the most out of going to this conference?
- What higher education issues are you most concerned with that you would like to address?

Senator Jurado proposed:

- Do you have any experience working or volunteering for your city?
- Do you know your local legislative representatives?

Secretary Bellenger proposed:

- What issues are relevant to you?
- Do you have any advocacy experience?

Chair Lendrum noted that some of these questions are similar to the original 5 questions from last year. The Committee voted on each question.

- What made you interested in applying to CHESS and what do you expect to gain from this experience? - Move forward with the question: 8-0-0
- What campus specific or other student-related issues are you passionate about? - Move forward with the question: 8-0-0
- What communication skills do you excel at and in what area do you need improvement? - Move forward with the question: 8-0-0
- Give an example of a time when you have dealt with a person with an opposing view. – Move forward with the question and addition: 8-0-0

Student-at-Large Carancho would like to add: and how did you handle the situation?

- What type of role do you play on a team or in a group? - Move forward with the question: 8-0-0

**(M) Vournas (S) Espinoza to approve CHESS Interview Questions with corrections.**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

**PASSES 7-0-0**

### B. Discussion Item: Proposed Tuition Increase

Vice President Vournas presented on the potential tuition increase. With the money that will possibly be allocated to the budget for the CSU system compared to the money needed for the proposal from the CSU Board of Trustees, there is a deficit of approximately \$169 million dollars. They mentioned that it was about a month ago that the CSU BOT had their meeting where they discussed for the first time the potential tuition increase. They also mentioned that the only reason CSSA was informed about the increase was because the CSU BOT is legally obligated to inform CSSA of any potential tuition increases.

Vice President Vournas reviewed the presentation that was provided by CSSA. They spoke about the slides that pertained to how much money is usually allocated vs. the amount of money being proposed. They also presented on the slides that spoke about the different areas that pertain to the increase the cost of tuition that totaled out to \$346 million. This includes the costs that the CSU BOT is proposing with their budget proposal. The Governor has promised to give the CSU system \$157.2 million from the

enrollment growth and from the General fund. \$177.2 million is what the potential allocation will come out to if enrollment goes up and the money coming from the general fund, if given the full amount, which puts the CSU system \$168.8 million short of what the CSU BOT says is needed. Vice President Vournas explained that where the CSU BOT wants to compensate for the deficit is tuition increases. They give the breakdown of the how much tuition would increase. They also explained how it would affect financial aid for students. Financial aid would still be given out but have not specified if it will be increased.

Student-at-Large Espinoza asked if this will be happening for sure or when the CSU BOT will vote on it. Vice President Vournas said that it will be a discussion item at their November meeting and will vote on it in February.

Vice Chair Gomez noted that though it does not seem like it is a big increase for undergraduate students, international students and out of state students will be heavily affected by the increase.

Vice President Vournas suggested that Lobby Corps re-focus our energy into phone banking the same way we have given energy to voter registration. They also mentioned that President Flores reached out to President Conoley who did express to be in support of ASI's efforts and who is against any tuition increases.

Chair Lendrum gave a 10-year fee history in the CSU system and added context to how much tuition has gone up since the 1960's. Vice President Vournas highlighted the idea of increasing tuition costs would lead to an increase in graduation rates, which is one of goals that all CSU's need to meet by 2025, per CSU BOT request. They also explained how much tuition really costs and an increase in tuition means that tuition would be subsidized less. They also explained that the true cost is the amount that students pay for summer and winter tuition.

Chair Lendrum stated that the ASI executives are not happy in the approach that CSSA has decided to take with this situation. He suggested that CSULB will be giving a "spring to our step" and standing up. Chair Lendrum also expressed that while Prop 30 was in effect that the State Legislator and the CSU BOT should have been working to make sure that when it expired that the money needed would not fall on the backs of the students. He feels that Lobby Corps has one of the best lobbying points that we can share with the legislators.

## **9. VOLUNTARY CLOSING COMMENTS**

Vice Chair Gomez passed out gifts to the Lobby Corps and thanked them for their patience with him the last three weeks.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Without objection** Chair Lendrum adjourned the meeting at 1:32pm.