

Associated Students, Inc.  
California State University, Long Beach

**LOBBY CORPS MINUTES**  
**Meeting #12**  
**November 18, 2021**  
**(APPROVED)**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Sierra Darwin called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Voting Members Present

Carson Aceves, ASI Student At-Large  
Isaac Julian, ASI Senate Representative  
Sierra Darwin, ASI Chief Government Relations Officer  
Jesus Gonzalez, ASI President

Voting Members Absent

Isabel Cameron, ASI Student At-Large  
Karen Galindo, ASI Senate Representative  
Ricki Burgener, Associate Vice President University Relations Designee  
VACANT, Student At-Large  
VACANT, ASI Senate Representative

Non-voting Members Present

Joe Nino, ASI Assistant Director, Government Affairs and Initiatives

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Julian (MOVE) Gonzalez (SECOND) to approve Lobby Corps Agenda, Meeting #12, November 18, 2021**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

**PASSES 4-0-0**

**Approve-Oppose-Abstain**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Action Item: Lobby Corps Minutes Meeting #10, October 28, 2021

B. Action Item: Lobby Corps Minutes Meeting #11, November 4, 2021

**Gonzalez (MOVE) Julian (SECOND) to approve Lobby Corps Minutes, Meeting #10, October 28, 2021, and  
Lobby Corps Minutes, Meeting #11, November 4, 2021**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

**PASSES 4-0-0**

**Approve-Oppose-Abstain**

**6. REPORTS**

A. Information Item: ASI Chief Government Relations Officer

- Working on IG Live event Aceves issue
- Planning spring events which will partner with university and League of Women Voters
- Lobby training program
- Burgener, Conoley met with Norris for first legislative visit to discuss goals

B. Information Item: ASI Lobby Corps Vice Chair

- BeachFront article: has been submitted to Taylor Buhler-Scott for review, to be published soon
- Will be meeting with Darwin to discuss organization outreach and coalition

C. Information Item: ASI Lobby Corps Students At-Large

- CSU Board of Trustees meeting
  - Chancellor Castro announced an action plan with the expressed goal to support students most in need, including students of color, first-generation and Pell Grant recipients.
  - The plan's five priorities are: based on the Graduation Initiative 2025 Advisory Committee
    - ✓ Advance system wide campus campaigns to re-engage and re-enroll underserved students;
    - ✓ Expand credit earning opportunities with summer and intercession sessions funding;
    - ✓ Ensure equitable access to digital degree planners/roadmaps;
    - ✓ Eliminate administrative barriers to graduation; and
    - ✓ Promote equitable learning practices and reduce DFW (D, F, Withdrawal) rates.
  - To make sustainable expansions towards these initiative they are requesting 20 million
  - CSU spent a total of 140.5 million in 2021 an increase of 48.5 from the previous year

D. Information Item: ASI Senate

Last meeting

- Invocation: Council woman Suzie Price, City of Long Beach
- Approved: Consent Calendar
- Elected: (1) Senator At-Large
- Reports: ASI At-Large Senators; CSULB Dean of Students; ASI Interim Assistant Director, Government Affairs and Initiatives

E. Information Item: CSULB Associate Vice President University Relations

There was none, as Burgener was absent.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Discussion Item: Policy Agenda

Basic Needs

Basic needs essentially assist and serve students who have experienced homelessness, food insecurity, or an emergency crisis. It provides services to remove these barriers, which allow students to continue their academic journey without facing these difficulties. It overall offers that extra support that students need. Adding this to our policy agenda will definitely benefit our students because, given the current pandemic, a lot of students require these resources. Many college students were faced with financial problems due to job loss, which many relied on for transportation costs, housing, and school fees, as well as food budgets. According to the data published by the CSULB website, 71%, a majority of our students receive financial aid, but there is still 30% that don't. As of 2019, 12.5% of students at CSULB had reported experiencing homelessness in the last 12 months. Due to financial uncertainty for many during the COVID-19 pandemic, this statistic would likely be higher now. Resources like, basic needs, may heavily support them and the rest of the students that still need them. The need for food and housing will continue to increase among students, especially this upcoming semester considering that most classes will be in-person so the demand for these basic needs will also continue to increase as well. It also aligns with most of our goals for this policy agenda

Plan of Action/Goals

- Continue to support basic needs programs provided by the university, such as Beach Pantry/Cal Fresh

Mental Health

- Mental health is something that is very important but is often overlooked.
- Approximately 1 in 5 adults or approximately 43.8 million Americans\*, experience mental illness in a

given year. For youth ages 13-17, that number is 21%. In fact, in Long Beach, 7.4 to 15.2% of local residents reported thoughts of committing suicide. Cited from the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center here in Long Beach

- More than 50% will be diagnosed with a mental illness or disorder at some point in their lifetime.<sup>3</sup>
- 1 in 5 Americans will experience a mental illness in a given year.<sup>4</sup>
- 1 in 5 children, either currently or at some point during their life, have had a seriously debilitating mental illness
- Mental Health Awareness Week started on October 3rd, and ends on October 9th
  - There are different events on campus that are available year-round for students to have access. These resources are primarily found in the counseling and psychological department
- LA County also created a hotline for individuals to call if they need help or someone to talk to. However, the thing about this specific hotline is that it is only for COVID-19 related-stress.
  - LA County COVID-19 Mental Health line:
- CAPS: how many people use these services? Is there a racial difference?

#### Plan of Action/Goals

Support university and ASI initiatives for wellness

#### Educational Equity

According to a report published by the City of Long Beach, the city population of Long Beach has an ethnic composition of 12.6% African American/Pan-African, 51.2% White, 11.9%Asian, 1.05% Native American and 16.53% Latinx. When these statistics are compared to the ethnic demographics of Long Beach State University, it is obvious that equity gaps exist in terms of enrollment of specific minority groups. Information from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System reports that the ethnic composition of Long Beach State students is as follows: 3% African American/Pan-African, 18% White, 18% Asian, .1% Native American, and 43.4% Latinx. This data demonstrates that there is an obvious lack of enrollment for Black/Pan African students as well as Native American students on campus. Along with enrollment, there is a statistically significant gap among graduation rates for students of color on campus. The graduation rate for Black/Pan African students is 73.9% compared to the graduation rates of white, Asian, and Latinx students, which are 83.1%, 88.6% and 89.3% respectively. This data demonstrates that not only is enrollment of Black/Pan African students low, but these students are far less likely to graduate than their peers. The data published by the University also demonstrates that men in general are more likely to drop out of Long Beach State compared to women. It is also important to note that according to the University, 71% of CSULB undergrads receive some form of financial aid. CSULB estimates that over 3,000 students on campus are currently enrolled without access to a stable wireless connection and or technological device like a laptop or computer.

#### Plan of Action/Goals

- Support Legislation that increases access to financial aid for students
- Support legislation that expands technology access for students
- Support the continuation of the University technology loan program
- Support initiatives that increase retention of students of color
- Support initiatives to increase enrollment of Black/Pan African and Native American students
- Educate students on social justice issues and create cultural awareness on campus

#### B. Discussion Item: Local Politics Series

Galindo submitted BeachFront article, which has been reviewed and cleared for publication.

Aceves:

- Unable to find professor/lecturer, so
- Event will now feature Aceves interviewing Darwin regarding gerrymandering; currently compiling interview questions

Darwin

- Working with Cameron on February event which will feature local politicians, followed by Q&A session

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Discussion Item: Spring Semester Planning

- Meetings will be in-person

## **9. CLOSING COMMENTS**

Nino: ASI Government Retreat, January 14, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., USU Ballrooms

Gonzalez

- CSSA spring meetings will be in-person, with Darwin and Gonzalez attending
- Will meet with CSU Trustee today, 4:30 p.m.
- ASI Government Retreat, January 14
- Thanked the board for their dedicated efforts and wished a restful fall break

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Without objection**, Chair Sierra Darwin adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.