

Associated Students, Inc.
California State University, Long Beach

LOBBY CORPS MINUTES
Meeting #13
December 2, 2021
(APPROVED)

Chair Sierra Darwin notified the board that today would be a working meeting with no action items.

Voting Members Present

Carson Aceves, ASI Student At-Large
Karen Galindo, ASI Senate Representative
Sierra Darwin, ASI Chief Government Relations Officer
Jesus Gonzalez, ASI President
Ricki Burgener, Associate Vice President University Relations Designee

Voting Members Absent

Isabel Cameron, ASI Student At-Large
Isaac Julian, ASI Senate Representative
VACANT, Student At-Large
VACANT, ASI Senate Representative

Non-voting Members Present

Joe Nino, ASI Assistant Director, Government Affairs and Initiatives

Local Politics Series Project Updates

Mental Health

Plan of Action additions to Mental Health

- Support legislation that increases funding for mental health initiatives
- Support initiatives to increase the number of full-time and tenure mental health professionals on campus
- Advocate for long-term mental health care provided through the University
- Support expansion of the Beach Balance program and other holistic wellness initiatives

Basic Needs

Basic needs are resources that 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. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, 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. In the State of California over 59,000 permanent jobs were lost during the pandemic, with those losses affecting young people and college students disproportionately. At CSULB 71% of students receive financial aid, but there are still 29% that do not receive any form of aid. As of 2019, 12.5% of students at CSULB had reported experiencing homelessness in the last 12 months. As of 2020, 41.6% of California State University students reported experiencing food insecurity or hunger, with these issues disproportionately affecting First Generation students. CSULB currently offers basic needs resources like the Beach Pantry located on the first floor of the USU, which offers students with food resources and groceries. Located next to the Beach Pantry is the CSULB CalFresh Office which can assist students in signing up for CalFresh services. CSULB also currently offers emergency housing resources through the Jovenes program, which helps to house homeless students on campus. According to the Jovenes website, 50% of children who age out of foster care will enroll in college courses, but only 10% of those students will graduate simply because of issues regarding homelessness and housing insecurity. Basic needs resources heavily support student success and ensure their continued enrollment on campus. 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 continue to increase.

Plan of Action

- Support Legislation that increases funding for Basic Needs Initiatives.
- Advocate for the expansion of the Beach Pantry and the resources needed to provide sustainable fresh produce resources.
- Advocate for the expansion of affordable housing on campus and increase in emergency housing resources.
- Advocate for and promote initiatives that provide food resources to undocumented and international students

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% Latine. 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 aid⁷. 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.

This data represents the need for expansion of tools that bridge technology equity gaps among students. As of July 2020, 11,400 CSULB graduates have used resources and support provided by the Bob Murphy Access Center (BMAC). The Lobby Corps finds it imperative to support students to use BMAC and their services in ensuring educational equity for students of all abilities, especially in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the challenges of remote learning.

Plan of Action

- Support legislation that increases technology resources for students.
- Support legislation that equips the university with tools to address racial/ethnic equity gaps.
- Support campus initiatives that increase enrollment for Black/Pan-African and Native American students.
- Advocate for the expansion of the University Technology Loan Program.
- Support graduation initiatives that increase retention for at risk groups

Closing Comments

Nino: recommended Lobby Corps and Senate assess and take a stance on state legislator bills.

Gonzalez

- Centralized programming calendar
- Spring Retreat: January 14, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Darwin: Beach Team Winter Mingle: next Friday, 5-8 p.m.