A.S.O. Senate Minutes

1st Meeting

March 10th 2010

Los Angeles Harbor College ASO Senate Room

(Seahawk Center, 2nd Floor)

*Disclaimer: The Los Angeles Harbor College Associated Student Organization Student Senate Meeting is a Brown Act meeting where audio and video taping is allowed without prior permission.

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Steven Delgado called the meeting to order at 1:10pm and led us in the pledge of allegiance.

II. INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRESIDENT AND ADVISOR

President Delgado—“My name is Steven Delgado. I’m here because I care for you students and I want to be that leader who will hear out the students and provide campus activities. I think it’s critical that Harbor College have a student government because students pay that ten dollar fee. That ten dollar fee goes into an account and that money, if the students don’t use it, then what’s the point of having that account? Or if there are clubs and they need council and there’s no student body government then where’s the order? So I’m here today to establish that order and keep Harbor College moving forward.”

Leige Doffany—“Thank you Steve. As you said my name is Leige Doffany. I’m the director of the transfer center, but more importantly to this position today, I was an advisor to the ASO for two years back at L.A. City College and so I do know something about associated student government. One thing that is key is that the first reason you are here is to take care of your education and secondary is to establish leadership skills because that’s great when you’re trying to get your AA degree, get a job, or trying to transfer. Since Mercy couldn’t be here today and neither could the Vice President, Abbie Patterson, who is in Sacramento they asked if I would just sit in for today and I’m honored to do so. I visited this group last year and asked for money for our transfer day and I was so impressed by the professionalism of the group and their care and concern and we did receive two hundred dollars to help students at our transfer day so this is me giving back. I’m honored to be here today and thank you for the opportunity.”

IV. ADVISOR INDUCTION OF TEMPORARY SENATORS

Leige Doffany inducted the following appointees as temporary senators: Jamarlyn Arellano, Genesis Delacruz, Alexis Melgoza, Stephanee Vedder, Alaina Howard, Julio Manson, Gregory Miranda, Brandon Purnell, April Abercrombie, and Derek Hanna.

V. ROLL CALL

Present: Leige Doffany, Steven Delgado, Dawn Castillo, Jamarlyn Arellano, Genesis Delacruz, Alexis Melgoza, Stephanee Vedder, Alaina Howard, Julio Manson, Gregory Miranda, Brandon Purnell, April Abercrombie, and Derek Hanna.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1 MINUTE)
Sen. Abercrombie moved to approve the minutes, Sen. Manson 2nd.

VII. PUBLIC FORUM (2 MINUTES PER PERSON)

Matt Rodriguez-“We’re part of the campus ministry that’s here at Harbor College. We’re trying to get it started. What we’re here to do, the whole goal, we’re trying to make an impact for Jesus Christ. We have bible discussions on campus every Monday at 11:30am. We also invite people to do personal bible studies. We also invite them out to church and really build family, build friendships, and teach them from the bible and help them to improve their lives. I appreciate the opportunity to come here and share.”

Sen. Howard-“What are your expectations of the ASO?”

Matt Rodriguez-“I’m not really sure to be honest. I was invited by Gregory and he thought it would be a good idea for us, we want to become a club, maybe have an event here one day.”

Rachael Richards-“I’m a former ASO President of Harbor College and this gentlemen submitted his resignation letter as ASO Vice President. He submitted it to all levels, including the Daily Breeze, myself at the state level, to his cabinet members and to the advisor at the time. Now according to your governing documents, if you are aware of your governing documents, if you are an ASO senator you must abide by those. There were ten senators that were appointed on this campus that was in accordance with your constitution and bylaws and are the only recognized body on this campus. Since Mr. Robledo is in a contested status the administration appointed your resigned Vice President due to the fact that he thought there was too much undo influence from the advisor. With that stated, I want to question these proceedings. I’m going to make sure that each and every one of you understand your constitution and bylaws and understand that these proceedings are illegal. Administration appointing and elected officer, that’s not according to your constitution and bylaws. So I would like for each and every one of you to understand and know because it will be your duty to uphold them. So if you’ve been appointed today I’m going to encourage you to very carefully read your constitution and bylaws and you will know that this action today and actions prior to is all illegal, every single bit of it. I support your civic engagement. I encourage your civic engagement, but I ask you to get involved in the proper way.”

Sen. Howard-“Do you have a remedy of action?”

Rachael Richards-“The ten original parties that were appointed by your contested president, those are your legal body right now. Those are the body that has to elect a protempore or the protempore has to step up to the legal spot and then they have to get more senate members and then they have to have a special election.”

Sen. Howard-“Providing a special election was to occur and I’m assuming there’s an attendance factor in the bylaws are any of those individuals here today?”

Rachael Richards-“I don’t believe that there are any because of the simple fact...”

Sen. Howard-“Yes or no.”

Rachael Richards-“They are not here today because of the simple fact..”

President Delgado-“Out of order.”

Sen. Howard-“I just needed to clarify that. Thank you.”

Rachael Richards-“They are not attending any illegal meetings and this is not a proper meeting.”
Sen. Abercrombie: “I am one of the senators that was appointed by Mr. Robledo last semester so yes there is one among you.”

President Delgado: “I have one question. How did that process go? Did it ever get announced to the senate?”

Sen. Abercrombie: “No it was just a phone call.”

President Delgado: “Nothing to the senate?”

Sen. Abercrombie: “Nothing presented to the senate at all. It was just a phone call.”

President Delgado: “That’s its own problem right there. Those are not senators.”

Sen. Melgoza: “I know you’ve been coming in here and asking a lot of questions. Is that because you think you’re supposed to be president?”

Esteban Robledo: “To answer your question, under your constitution and bylaws, when someone resigns from a position they have to be reinstated by the students. The way that happens is through a special election. Steven Delgado resigned to prevent being recalled by the students. The meeting that’s posted online, it’s on youtube, you can go online and listen to it. To avoid getting impeached or removed by the students he resigned. So you can see the problem with the administration reinstating him rather than the students reinstating him. That’s what the issue is here. Now as far as my position, the reason that I am not ASO president is because I’m actually presenting the issue of ASO student funds being used illegally being allocated by the administration. As far as that goes, as I’m presenting these issues I took a course with the then ASO advisor, Nina Malone, and Dean of Student Life. I took one of her courses, a participatory course. I’m the ASO president, I’m the region seven secretary, I’m a senator at large for the Student Senate of California Community Colleges, and I’m present at almost every SAC meeting so if you look at the catalog it says to be active at the local level, state level, and district level. I’ve fulfilled all of those, but instead of getting a grade I received an incomplete which put me in a position of ineligibility which is a conflict of interests that the administration, all the chairs of the departments, and a lot of the faculty see as a problem. When you have a student advocate trying to defend students history has shown that myself, Rachael Richards, and other ASO presidents who have presented concerns about how student funds are being used they are removed. That’s what’s going on there.”

Leige Doffany: “I just wanted to clarify. Rachael was accurate as appointed temporary senators you are obligated to read and know your constitution and bylaws. These are located on the internet. You can find them. If you need assistance I will help you with them. In your constitution and bylaws there is no process that speaks to how a person, once they rescind, to come back into office. It’s silent on this issue. So if you’re reading this, I just want to clarify, it is not improper for Mr. Delgado to return to his position because there is no process indicated in the constitution and you are free to read them yourself. I also want to clarify that we did ask that all questions, so that we can honor the time schedule of the meeting be limited to five minutes for all guests that we have here today. Everyone was given two minutes to speak and then totally we have five minutes to address any and all questions. I’m not sure if that’s up yet or not. If in fact you want to extend it for one minute or two minutes or whatever then you have to make a motion to do so because I think we’ve exhausted that.”

Esteban Robledo: “Just to clarify when there is no process in place it reverts back to the last process that is given which is election. So the statement that was just made it doesn’t stand. I’ve actually spoken to legal council, a representative with the ACLU, and a certified
parliamentarian that will back that up. What’s going on right now is an illegal meeting. By Brown Act an agenda has to be posted up 72 hours before hand. We came Monday and it wasn’t posted. That’s just one issue. Another thing, if you look at the last meeting, you guys are missing minutes. You haven’t been given all the minutes of what’s been going on. You guys are missing one from the first week and a second one which they claim was invalid. There’s an issue with transparency on this campus where they don’t give you all the information. This has been a pattern in which students raise concerns about the use of funds that you guys donate to the ASO being misused by the administration without the consent of the students. Go online to the Harbor Tides and you’ll see it there.”

President Delgado-“Just a point of clarification. Our secretary, Dawn Castillo, did post up the agenda before the 72 hours way in advance. I was present. It was on Thursday. She posted it where we always post it on the door of the Seahawk Center. Also we also post the minutes on time. We did what we had to do.”

Sen. Manson-“Can you give me an example of the misappropriation of funds that you were referring to.”

Sen. Mason moved to allow two more minutes, Sen. Vedder 2nd.

Esteban Robledo-“I’ll give you an example. Last year Ms. Malone, the then ASO advisor, came to us to hire one of her old friends from the ASO as a personal assistant under the guise of Activities Coordinator. This individual was paid twenty dollars an hour for twenty hours a week. This person was not even a student worker, has two bachelors, and is working on a doctorate, and was getting paid from student money. We said no. We don’t stand for that. We were told that regardless of what you guys say I’m going to do it anyway which is a violation of Title V, district regulations, and that’s $16,000 out of our $20,000 budget for students specifically. The administration going into our pockets, that’s not right. Steven Delgado has attested to this. We have him on record. Now that he’s getting the ASO President position given to him he’s supporting them whole-heartedly which shows you the influence there. Then you see what we’re trying to do, not only myself, but past ASO presidents, all ASO presidents throughout the district, administrators, faculty, staff, etc.”

Sen. Melgoza-“Where are they? The other people that you’re talking about?”

Esteban Robledo-“The other people I mentioned they have their senate meetings today, well some of them. I invite you all to the region meeting. I invite you all to the next SAC meeting this month on the 26th and we also have the region meeting on that same day. Also we have the statewide senate meeting. If you want more information I’ll bring to the next meeting.”

Sen. Howard-“Do you propose that a temporary body facilitate the business of this organization?”

Rachael Richards-“Considering your constitution and bylaws, no. Your constitution and bylaws are very specific. You must follow this. The original ten legislators that were appointed.”

President Delgado-“Your extended minutes are up.”

Leige Doffany-“The rule was for five minutes in reference to the amount of time we have to conduct the business of the meeting and we have extended it beyond the five minutes, beyond the two minutes in order to give everyone the opportunity to speak. Two minutes are up. Thank you very much.”
NEW BUSINESS LEGISLATION BILL (PRO/CON)

A. Nomination of Protempore.
   Sen. Abercrombie nominated herself.
   Sen. Delacruz nominated herself.

B. Nomination of Executive Finance Committee Representative.
   Sen. Hanna nominated herself.

C. Campaign Speeches.
   Sen. Abercrombie—“My name is April Abercrombie. As a seasoned senator here from last semester. I feel I also understand what is happening with our senate. And I feel that I have some business sense and experience that I feel could really help get our senate here on the right track. Since I’ve been here since the beginning of this semester I’ve been down in the trenches to help our student governing body come together and it has become a great passion of mine and I want to do everything I can not only in service to you, but in service to our students which is first and foremost. It’s my goal and desire to raise awareness of all the issues that are coming our way. We’re concerned about budget. We’re concerned about what’s happening on campus and a number of things, just minor things all the way up to the big things. I feel I could really add a lot to this so let me help you lead us to a student oriented organization. Thank you.”

   Sen. Delacruz—“Hi everyone, my name is Genesis Delacruz. This is my first time joining ASO senate, but I’ve been developing some leadership skills and fundraising for scholarship money because I’m the former president of the EOPS club. I’d love to work for you guys. I’d love to work with Mr. Steven. I have worked with him before in the club and I think I am great at communicating problems. I would love to work with you guys.”

   Sen. Howard—“Can you both of you speak to how versed you are in parliamentary procedure because ultimately protemp is required to know parliamentary procedure.”

   Sen. Abercrombie—“I have served as a board member for Nordstrom and also I was the chairperson for the Head Start Organization. I’m a very well versed on what it takes to be a chairperson here and what I don’t know I will learn very quickly.”

   Sen. Delacruz—“I haven’t worked before in that type of field, but I’m a really fast learner. And I have a lot of free time so I’ll do my best.”

   President Delgado—“How do you feel about running a meeting? Do you feel comfortable running a meeting and keeping order and making sure that everyone gets their fair share?”

   Sen. Delacruz—“I think I’m pretty fair with the minutes and how to control a meeting because I’ve had experience with EOPS club because that’s kind of how we conduct our meetings, trying to follow the ASO agenda.”

   Sen. Abercrombie—“I understand because this is the group that makes all of the major decisions for the rest of our students that there’s going to be, possibly, a difference of opinions and being aware of that business sense that sometimes we’re going to have to agree to disagree I feel I could be very good at making things fair and amiable in our environment.”
IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Election of Protempore.
   Sen. Abercrombie received 7 yes votes and 3 no votes. Sen. Delacruz received 3 yes votes, 5 no votes, and 2 abstentions. Sen. Abercrombie was elected as our new Protempore.
   Sen. Manson moved to recess in order to attend to the video camera, Sen. Abercrombie 2nd.
   Sen. Manson moved to resume the orders of the day, Sen. Howard 2nd.
   Sen. Purnell moved to delay voting on the election of Executive Finance Committee in order to allow Sen. Hanna to make his campaign speech.
   Sen. Hanna-“My name is Derek Hanna. I’m glad to be here and I’m glad to take a position here. I have seen a few of you around campus. I have been an air traffic controller for fifteen years. Also, I’ve been a senior quality engineer at Boeing for seventeen years. What I bring to this table is coordination and expansion of ideas and how to promote and to save money. I ran a program at Boeing a small department of radar satellites inventory and I gave an accountability of nutrition rates of incoming vendors, supplies, and outgoing supplies to our prime contractors. I kept a record of what we put out and what our budget was for the following month so we could address it to the administration were we completing our resources or whether we were reaching a timely schedule. There you have. Thank you and I look forward to helping you in the future.”

B. Election of Executive Finance Committee Representative.
   Sen. Hanna received 9 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention. Sen. Hanna was elected as our new Executive Finance Committee Representative.
   Sen. Abercrombie moved to adjourn the meeting, Sen. Hanna 2nd.

X. DISCUSSION ITEMS
XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS (4 MINUTES PER PERSON)
XII. EXECUTIVE CABINET REPORTS (5 MINUTES PER PERSON)
XIII. SHARED GOVERNANCE REPORTS (3 MINUTES PER PERSON)
XIV. INFORMATION ITEMS (4 MINUTES PER PERSON)
XV. ADVISOR’S COMMENTS (10 MINUTES)
XVI. ADJOURNMENT