A.S.O. Senate Minutes

2nd Meeting

March 17th 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

Vice President April Abercrombie called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and led us in the pledge of allegiance.

IV. ADVISOR INDUCTION OF TEMPORARY SENATORS

Sen. Howard moved to recess for 2 minutes, Sen. Purnell2nd. Sen. Howard moved to resume the orders of the day, Sen. Manson 2nd. The following appointees were inducted as temporary senators: Albert Wright, Antonio Meza, Martin Caracoza, and Brendan Binns.

V. ROLL CALL


VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1 MINUTE)

Sen. Hanna moved to approve the minutes, Sen. Manson 2nd.

VII. PUBLIC FORUM (2 MINUTES PER PERSON)

Brandy Ruiz—“Hi, my name is Brandy Ruiz. I’m an ASO president from a sister college. I’m here in support of the original appointed and elected ASO officers by president Robledo and I encourage you all to read your constitution and bylaws and your governing documents above that. Make sure you follow them because I’m observing the meeting and you’ve already violated the Brown Act twice. So I encourage you guys to please look into those documents and follow them. I also wanted to tell you that the region that represents fourteen community colleges support Mr. Robledo. If you want more information I’m here to support you guys. My name is Brandy Ruiz and I’m from West LA College.”

Rachael Richards—“I’m an at-large senator at the state level and former ASO president of Los Angeles Harbor College, administratively removed due to some bogus stuff. We all asked about our funds and where they’re at and you all should ask about your funds and where they are at. Yes, you have already violated several Brown Act issues including requesting people to sign in to speak. They don’t have to give their names. Another thing is too, Ian from Los Angeles Valley College and others are willing to work with you and help you understand your constitution and bylaws and help you observe what a real ASO meeting is like and how to abide by the rules set forth at all levels. So I would urge you to get in contact with you sister colleges
and understand the hierarchy within the system, understand what your organization is really about, and understand how to run a truly legal meeting. So I’m going to encourage you to reach out to your sister colleges of the LA nine and I would also encourage you to reach out to the region and contact them. I just want to let you know you guys keep violating constitution, bylaws and Brown Act. The last meeting was an illegal meeting. This meeting is an illegal meeting. I see several appointed senators back here that are supposed to be sitting on this body, but this gentlemen appointed people in his class instead of the normal. Your bylaws talk about how you get senators. You’re supposed to follow that. You can’t keep doing things the way you want to do it just to seek favor. It’s got to be opened up to this whole campus. You have to respect the appointed senators from before and until you do that you’re not a legal body. So I’m not going to support this. I’m not going to support anything illegal.”

President Delgado-“Point of clarification, we do not require that members of the public sign up it is voluntary as Brown Act states. You do not have to. If they would like to provide their name they may do so. That’s one point I would like to address. As far as the appointed senators from last semester Mr. Robledo our ex-president never informed the senate of who those individuals were and therefore did not get ratified, were never recognized by the senate. Therefore their status is invalid. The way we’re trying to doing it today, as well as the last couple of weeks, we did inform each and every individual by saying this is the new senate. And as far as going to classrooms and taking selected individuals, false, any senator here today can testify to that. I went to every single classroom and voluntarily out of my own time went and addressed the students if you would like to be a senator feel free to be interviewed. That’s all I have to say. Thank you.”

Staff member-“I’ve been on this campus for quite a few years and I’ve heard about and seen things that happen in ASO and it seems like in the past two years there’s been a lot of controversy going on between faculty and ASO presidents. I’d like you all to think about this and I encourage you to look into the past, it is an indicator of future actions. I encourage you to think and stop and be calm about what’s going on and really look into the history of what’s happened and make up your own mind. You can listen to other people, but look at the facts. Make sure you have the true facts before you make decisions on things.”

Member of the public-“I have a question. Can you review with us how you became appointed president?”

President Delgado-“It’s quite simple actually. Our last president had to forfeit office due to a qualification, I don’t want to state that qualification out of respect for that individual and his privacy rights, so that president was no longer president and that process went through the Dean of Student Life and Vice President of Student Services so I as Vice President from last semester moved to the president position through succession as stated in our constitution and bylaws. That is how.”

Member of the public-“Because what I remember from last semester was you told my friend and I that you were going to resign, that you wanted to resign because ASO was becoming hard for you and I have a friend that you told me you said you didn’t want anything to do with the ASO.”

President Delgado-“All I can say in response is that I reconsidered. That’s all I have to say. No comment.”
Meaghan Binns—“My name is Meaghan Binns. I was a senator last semester. One quick thing I do want to say is we did have a body of about over thirty people meeting and there is a reason why a lot of us aren’t on the senate now. In fact supporters of Esteban, there’s no one on the senate that supported Esteban from last semester and there’s a reason for that. It’s because we don’t think that what’s going on is right. We didn’t step down from our positions because of the drama. I’m not sitting on that table right now because I don’t think what’s going on is right and I just wanted you guys to know that there’s a lot of us who aren’t at that table and you’re taking our spots and you need to respect that and learn from us and question why we’re no longer sitting where you are.”

Sen. Manson—“I didn’t realize this was a union.”

Esteban Robledo—“Well you guys have already been told what’s happening. Some of you are going to sit at this table and go you offered me a really nice position, it goes on my transcript, and you’re not going to question it. Some of you are going to look at the history, see what’s been going on for the past two years, question what’s been happening in regards to the student funds, and you’ll also learn that Steven Delgado just yawns whenever someone speaks, the other thing is you guys need to realize that once you start looking into these issues that what we’re presenting to you are valid points. If you want a perspective, not only from myself, but from every single other ASO delegate, ASO elected president, from the district and the region go to the SAC meeting on the 26th and you will see the adamant support that they give to my self and to the appointed ASO senators from last semester. Steven Delgado resigned last semester because he was going to be impeached for violating the constitution and bylaws and as soon as he resigned and was appointed by the administration, which they had no right to do so. It’s ridiculous. I do not question your civic engagement or your desire to serve your constituents however this isn’t a legal meeting and you are all acting as an illegal entity under the district as the ASO. It’s not a club. You’re acting a living, legal entity under the district. We have evidence. We have support. Life I said some of you are going to make the effort to look into the issues, ask questions, it’s up to you.”

Sen. Binns—“So do you propose that the senate disband and no longer exists on campus? What is it that you’re trying to accomplish?”

Esteban Robledo—“Now another thing, which is a contradiction, that has been presented to you guys when Mr. Delgado mentioned that he went into classrooms and told people about my eligibility, my gpa, about E-reg 22 and my grade point being under that which is a violation of my FERPA rights so all the statements he makes about respecting are completely contradictory to his actions. Now you’re asking what my goal is. The only issue that’s being presented about my eligibility is because the exact same individuals who I’m bringing allegations against, supported by evidence, certified parliamentarians, and legal council regarding misappropriation of funds (timer rings) I’m addressing a question so I can continue.”

Sen. Binns moved to extend the time for 5 more minutes, Sen. Manson 2nd.

Esteban Robledo—“My objective is not to hinder your ability to represent your students. Under what’s been happening regarding my position as student body president it’s not that I did not do my duties as ASO president, it’s not that I did not have the qualifications to do so. The individuals that I brought up the allegations against of expending student funds without the approval of the ASO which is student money that was raised by you guys for you guys, what I’ve been telling you which is illegal according to Title V as I can interpret or anyone can interpret.
The reason I’m not sitting as your ASO president right now is because of a grade that was given to me by the past ASO advisor. Instead of giving me an A in a participatory shared governance, in participating in shared governance at the local campus level, at the district level, and the state level she gave me an incomplete which places me in an ineligible position. The course I took was Poli Sci 285. At no point whatsoever throughout the entire history of that course has there been any type of requirements, any type of thing like that. I get informed after the class is over to turn in an assignment and was told that I didn’t fulfill my roles at the campus level, the district, and the statewide level. I, as the ASO president, went to all the shared governance meetings, to all the district SAC meetings, went to committee meetings, I am also the regional representative, I also represent Harbor College and the region at the state level. I go to Sacramento every month. It’s ridiculous to say that I did not fulfill my roles as the ASO president in regards to the local and the district level. Everyone here, speak to any of the chairs who go to the Academic Senate meetings and ask them about this and they’ll back that up and say that the grade I was given to me and the attempt to remove me from office because of eligibility is blatant retaliation, and she’s rolling her eyes thank you Mercy. My goal is to inform you guys. If you like I can refer the question.”

Rachael Richards-“All that’s being requested at the region level is that the Associated Student Organization would function within the confines of its constitution and bylaws. Now regardless of the fact that he’s contested, that’s his fight, the fact still remains that you have ten appointed senators from the previous semester that doesn’t mean that you cannot be senators. It means that the ten senators are the ones who are supposed to be inducting new senators. They’re the body that’s supposed to be the legislating body on this campus right now. Mr. Delgado cannot be appointed by administration to be your ASO president when he resigned clearly. He sent this message to my self at the state level, he sent it to the media, he sent it to the region, he sent it to everybody with full intentions of resignation. The fact that you’re civicly engaged is very important. I commend that, I support it, and I urge it. But I also urge you that if you’re going to be senators, according to your governing documents, is to please respect that there are ten senators from the previous senators. There are documents to prove that they were appointed."

Mercy Yanez-“They’re not valid senators.”

Rachael Richards-“They are valid senators according to the constitution and bylaws and it would be important for you to communicate that as a legislative body. I would urge you to communicate with those ten appointed senators that serve all year. They serve all year. It’s not a class. They serve all year. Your constitution and bylaws are very clear. I would be happy to sit down in open sessions with you, review them, and try to assist you. But the most important thing is your civic engagement. That’s the most important thing.”

President Delgado-“I would like to comment on that because I keep hearing about the supposed ten senators that our last president supposedly appointed. There’s a process stated in our constitution and bylaws how an appointed senators becomes a permanent senator and that states the president has the right to appoint, which I myself have done and that’s the reason you’re here today, however that president has to inform the senate as well as the advisor of who those temporary appointed senators are and they have to get ratified. That never took place and the senators from last semester can testify to that, but they don’t have to. This is not a courtroom. This is a student senate meeting. We’re here to get business done.
We’re here for the students not because of he said, she said, here say. Go through the proper channels. You’re here straight up bashing our meetings and we would like to collaborate and work with you, but so far it’s offensive and the senators here today we’re still gonna work with you because we’re here for the students and I respect anyone who’s here for the students. Going back to another thing, first off as far as my resignation letter, I sent one to you. I sent one to Santa Claus. I sent one to Mickey Mouse. It doesn’t matter. I simply reconsidered and went through the proper channels.”

Claire Bakar-“My name is Claire Bakar. I just wanted to say regardless if anything that’s happening is offensive or not it should be cleared up and I believe we’re all adults here and can we just stop being stubborn and lets look at the facts and look at pieces of paper instead of word to word because I could easily just say you’re not president, but it makes a difference to just check it out and that’s what they’ve been doing and it’s on paper. I don’t understand why it’s not being fixed.”

Sen. Wright-“I’m just wondering, is it true that this is a personal issue that’s causing all this havoc in the senate? That you have an issue with a grade or something like that which makes you ineligible for the presidential position and that you want to stop the whole regime because you have an issue when you still have a student body here that needs governing. I’ve seen you in the last three meetings telling these people here that want to help that they’re not legit. You’re not showing me too much of anything. This is my opinion. You’ve been disruptive at each meeting trying to make a point of what you feel should’ve been your case. You should take your case to where it began and try to rectify it then come back. Meanwhile you’ve got senators sitting on the sidelines talking about they were here last semester well they nominated new senators. Nobody said they couldn’t be senators. I haven’t seen any of them at the meetings. It just looks to me like you’re being disruptive.”

Esteban Robledo-“Let me tell you what the context of all this is. Now Steven Delgado he resigned from his position. You can’t quit your job and say oh I changed my mind.”

Sen. Wright-“I’m sure within a certain time frame you can.”

Esteban Robledo-“According to the constitution and bylaws you can’t, even at the district level, there’s no process of reinstating. Now in addressing my concerns, my concerns are here that Steven Delgado has a history of being manipulated by the administration. I have him on record stating this. My concern is that Steven Delgado is being used to allocate funds that legally belongs to the students.”

Sen. Howard moved to continue with the agenda, Sen. Manson 2nd.

Sen. Melgoza-“I’m trying to understand. I can see why it’s hard for everybody to get along and I do think it’s important that we concentrate on what we’re supposed to be doing which is the betterment of the school. You have to understand I just came in so I’m not against anybody. The thing about somebody stepping down, it seems so not trivial, but you keep asking questions about what you think we should do. Regardless of what happened, it happened. So what is it that you’re trying to do here because it does seem like disruptive to us moving forward. We get what happened, but what do you really want us to do about it? Your
talking about other senators? I know they think it’s illegal, but why haven’t they been here? You’re saying he quit, but you guys are quitting by not coming too. What do you want?”

Sen. Caracoza—“I’d like to suggest something if I may, a point of advice I’d like to begin with and then I’d like to follow up with a question. Being new here and never having made your acquaintance I cannot make any judgments as to your character. What I would like to say is this. Some of the statements that have been going on from you yourself as well the people who have accompanied you here today have been in a sense a little out of line. Let’s be frank. I feel as though you wish to say we don’t have a genuine interest in carrying on with the business of the campus and governing the student body. I’d like to set you straight on that. The statements you have made have come off a little derogatory. They have been slightly offensive. Now as a point of advice if your objective is to convince new members of the senate of addressing what has gone on in the past I think there is a way in which you can do so that would come off as both polite as well as a little more accommodating and effective to us conducting business and I would appreciate it if at all possible if we could stray from pointing out body movements and gestures. Body language doesn’t have a place on the table nor does it in a forum. We’re here to discuss business. You have an issue. You’re here to relate it to us. You make your peace with us and that is how we proceed. We’re not here to discuss oh he rolled his eyes at a person. That is not what I am here for. I want to know facts and evidentiary support so that I base my judgment on the situation and see what I can do both to help you and to help the student body as a senator on this board. The question is, do you feel that it would be at all possible for all of you to reconsider your approach to us and perhaps put together your questions so that they may be formulated a little more effectively, respectfully, and so that we can get on with our business and get on with what we’re doing?”

Esteban Robledo—“The things we’re bringing up, we’re not questioning your civic engagement. We’re not your ability to represent the students.”

Sen. Caracoza—“Let me interrupt you just one second. I’d like to bring up something that you said earlier and I do quote you regarding distinction on transcripts. I’m not here just distinction on my transcripts. We have clubs and I could very easily do that and volunteer my time there. I am currently looking into joining AGS. That’s one mark of distinction. I don’t really need another. I mean my gpa is not that bad. That really comes across as a little slander.”

Esteban Robledo—“And that’s why I said some of you are here just for the position and some of you are going to question. That statement was based upon the comments I’ve had from previous individuals in here.”

Sen. Caracoza—“Have you heard from everyone at the table?”

Esteban Robledo—“I said previous individuals.”

Sen. Caracoza—“But have you heard from everyone at the table? Don’t generalize your opinions.”

Esteban Robledo—“I’m not generalizing. What we’re presenting here, we’re asking that you follow constitution and bylaws, observe them, and look at the history of what’s been happening. What’s been happening here, we have evidence that’s been presented to the Board of Trustees, the Student Affairs Committee, everyone.”

Sen. Caracoza—“Where do you feel would be most effective to address that evidence?”
Esteban Robledo—“We have presented it to the chain of command, if you would like to know the details of the information which is really important fully what is being presented to you because it’s gone through the Dean of Student Life, it’s gone to the Vice President of Student Services, it’s gone to the President of the campus, it’s gone to the Student Affairs Committee, it’s gone to the State Chancellor’s office, it’s gone to the Statewide Student Senate, and you were here when the sheriffs came in and removed me for absolutely no reason by the desire of the VP of Student Services. There’s blatant violations of people’s civil rights, of Title V, and also violation of Brown Act, violation of the California Public Records Act, and Freedom of Information violations. These have all been presented. Like I said I can present this information give you guys an opportunity to address it, but I can’t really do anymore than that.”

Sen. Caracoza—“You didn’t really answer the question that I asked. First of all I asked if it would be at all possible for you to change your approach to the body. Do you think that would be possible?”

Esteban Robledo—“Yeah, definitely.”

Sen. Caracoza—“Secondly, the question is who out of all the people, you’ve presented quite an impressive list that you’ve presented you evidence to, is the best person for you to be directing your issues to?”

Esteban Robledo—“We presented it to the Board of Trustees and actually the State Chancellor’s office has done an investigation and at this point according to the legal council of the state the only step now is to take legal action.”

Sen. Caracoza—“So do you think it would be more effective to your cause to take those precautionary measures in that capacity instead of wasting your time here?”

Esteban Robledo—“I’m not wasting my time. I swore to protect and uphold the constitution and bylaws of Harbor College and I swore to represent my students. I have fulfilled and am fulfilling my role as ASO president in attempting to protect the students of Harbor College and also protect the district because this is something that has been going on all over the district. What’s happening here today, we have the opportunity to make history for the students of the California Community Colleges.”

Sen. Caracoza—“You need to stick to the relevant answer to my question. Keep it short and simple. Do you think this is more conducive to your cause? Is it more beneficial for you to be here or for you to pursue your legal action?”

Esteban Robledo—“It doesn’t really make much of a difference to me. I have the opportunity to be here and do my legal action.”

Sen. Caracoza—“So then I suggest that you follow through with what you feel is the best path for you.”

Esteban Robledo—“Like I said, the ASO is not a club. I know that most, if not all of you, understand this and if there’s expenditures of funds going when Mr. Delgado, go to the Student Affairs Committee. The district didn’t even recognize him. If he is not the ASO president.”

Vice President Abercrombie—“Point of clarification, he has been recognized by the administration and John Clerks as the president here at Harbor College. That’s what we know as of this moment.”

Esteban Robledo—“Go to the Student Affairs Committee at the district meeting and you will see. Now if there’s these things going on and also the violation education code, constitution and bylaws I mean that’s a problem. That’s why I’m here.”
Rachael Richards—“Yes I do think there’s a way to resolve this. This college used to make, until I fought hard to remove it, used to make it’s senators enroll in a class in order to participate in student government which is a violation on all levels and thank goodness that there was intervention to remove it. I’m happy that’s happened. I honestly do think that you as a senate body, instead of closing out certain individuals and instead of closing out evidence, should hold a hearing to hear the evidence. Do you know how much your budget is here at this college? Do you know how much your student representation fee fund has in it? Do you know what the student representation fund is for? Do you know what your line items are on your budget? Do you have any history of those expenditures at this college?”

Vice President April Abercrombie—“How is this relevant to the question?”

Sen. Caracoza—“She’s answering a question of mine and I’d like to hear it, but can you stick to the original question please?”

Rachael Richards—“When you become a senator and you learn all of this stuff you realize that there’s a lot of wholes. There’s a lot of problems. There are major problems. There’s major misappropriation of funds. Senators, if you read your constitution and bylaws, guess who’s the trustee of those funds? You are. So don’t you think if you’re going to be a senator that you should look into these facts?”

Sen. Caracoza—“I’m sure I can speak for everyone here, I’m sure we have every intention to do so, but we need to do so within the appropriate time and while conducting proper business.”

Rachael Richards—“Then you need to put it on your agenda because this gentleman and the new Protempore refuse to listen to anybody so I’m asking you as a student body that you do put it on the agenda. That you do recognize your other ten senators. That you come together and you analyze it.”

Sen. Howard—“You can call me out of order, but ultimately this is the agenda.”

Rachael Richards—“But I’m asking you to put it on a future agenda. He’s asked a question so I’m proposing that you as a student body.”

Sen. Howard—“I understand that, I’m going to continue to be out of order, but ultimately what you’re proposing that this particular board hold a public hearing. That’s basically what we’ve heard. So I’m going to ask you again what is your remedy of action that you are proposing because ultimately this is what has occurred in the last two meetings is that basically this board should table its meeting until you guys resolve your issue? Because ultimately as volunteer senators we’re unable to conduct any business or continue until this issue is resolved.”

Rachael Richards—“That’s actually not what I’m proposing.”

Sen. Howard—“I understand what you’re saying, but I’m also telling you what’s actually occurring.”

Rachael Richards—“Well being that this is public comment, you’re in public comment. You haven’t moved forward. He’s asked questions. You have that right to ask the public questions and the public has a right to respond.”

Sen. Howard—“I’m also going back on your comment. You clearly stated that this body, your remedy of action today, you stated that this body should hold a public hearing. First was the hearing, secondary.”

President Delgado—“She is asking a question. Please wait for her to finish her question.”
Sen. Howard—“So again Rachael, I clearly heard you recommend that this body hold a public hearing, secondly I heard you say that this body put in on the agenda as an agenda item to additionally hear the issues that are coming forth. Is that correct?

Rachael Richards—“Clarification, that this body consider putting it on their agenda to hear this information as you see fit based off of the complaints. What you decide and how you do your agenda is your business. I urge you because there is concerns.”

Sen. Howard—“So again, this is for clarification now, you did state that this body should hear this in a public hearing forum correct?”

Rachael Richards—“With your other legislators.”

Sen. Howard—“And in addition to that you’re recommending to this body that we put it as an agenda item on one of our meetings.”

Rachael Richards—“I’m requesting it.”

Sen. Howard—“If this body considers those recommendations do you have a time and a place.”

Rachael Richards—“No because the ten senators from last semester and you, however you deem is appropriate in your constitution and bylaws, it doesn’t seem appropriate.”

Sen. Howard—“So you have no timeline.”

Rachael Richards—“That’s not for me to determine.”

Sen. Howard—“So until then we’re to continue to deal with this issue until it resolves itself?”

Sen. Binns—“As far as I’ve hear from the past senators, the ten senators, they don’t want anything to do with ASO because of the way that things are being run, because of what’s going on.”

Rachael Richards—“That should be a strong indication to you.”

Sen. Binns—“So what do you propose? You’re not making any sense.”

Rachael Richards—“It’s not what I want. The indication from the students is that they would like to be heard. You have a senator back here that has clearly stated that she’s not even being included in these proceedings.”

Sen. Binns—“Well I know her. She was included. She didn’t sign up.”

Rachael Richards—“You’re not supposed to sign up. That’s not what’s indicated in your constitution and bylaws.”

Sen. Binns—“She didn’t show up. She’s not expressing interest in being a part of the senate because of the way things are going, because of what’s going on right now.”

Sen. Manson—“Are the senators from last semester still eligible to be senators now?”

Rachael Richards—“Your senators are elected in the spring.”

Sen. Manson—“So they’re still senators?”

Rachael Richards—“They are senators for a whole year. Now in the event the elections are not held because they haven’t been holding them for the last several years then the president appoints them. You don’t enroll in a class. It doesn’t say you have to enroll in a class. It says the president appoints them and he did that.”

Sen. Manson—“It was actually a two-part question. The second part is if they are still eligible then why aren’t they sitting here?”
Rachael Richards-“Because several of them are in class right now. These meetings are scheduled during their class time. I don’t think that this gentleman when he was appointed as president consulted with that body.”

VIII. NEW BUSINESS LEGISLATION BILL (PRO/CON)
None.

IX. ACTION ITEMS
None.

X. DISCUSSION ITEMS
A. Parliamentary Procedure Workshop
   — Sen. Arellano—“I’ve seen this girl with her hand up the whole entire meeting and no one has answered her.”
   — President Delgado—“Point of clarification, she spoke in public comment and if a member of the senate has a question directed to her she can answer it, but she had her time. We gave her two minutes.”
   — Sen. Caracoza move to allow 3 more minutes for a member of the public to speak,
   — Sen. Melgoza 2nd.
   — Member of the public—“I just want to say that I am a student here. I don’t belong to any group, but I am one of the concerned students and this meeting is very important to us and we want to know who’s legal, who sets the meetings, and who’s supposed to be a senator or appointed senator and who’s not because we are counting on you to do the proper thing for us and for the students who know that this is not a legal meeting and the senators are not appointed in the right way, it is an embarrassment for us. To be honest with you if this meeting is being held illegally and the senators are not appointed in the right way then it is our concern. They’re fighting for it. You guys should be aware of it. It hurts me to see that you guys are all not doing the right thing. We want to encourage people to be involved in the senate and the ASO, but for us you’re giving us a bad name. What will happen in the future? It will be just a huge circus with everybody running around. I hope you all understand that.”
   — President Delgado—“For the parliamentary procedure workshop, many of us have been curious to know as far the Robert’s Rules of orders, constitution and bylaws so I want to produce a workshop so we can educate ourselves about those rules and procedures. It is evident today that some of us may not know everything. Even top legislators don’t know everything, but we will strive toward that. So it is important that we know the constitution and bylaws and by reading them we will learn of how the process we took is totally legit. We did seek council. We’re going to learn about the student ed codes, about our constitution and bylaws as well as parliamentary procedure: how to state a motion, how to allow the public access. I do want to educate everyone as well as myself. You can always better yourself and learn more and become a better person. And as a student leader it is vital that we know this so that we can carry out business. We have the potential here to be that student mobilization and just the fact that today going to the club rush we had. Many of those clubs were happy. They were like whoa I thought we weren’t going to have a student body government. They appreciate that deeply. We’re here today for the
students as stated in our constitution and bylaws. We’re here to legislate for their concerns. We’re here to produce those fiduciary bills which we can enact. We can make law and go into those accounts. It is important to know those numbers. We have thousands of dollars. That students paid out of their own pocket in these economic times, ten dollar ASO fee, 1 student rep fee. That money doesn’t just go in a pot and no one ever sees it. That money is for the students. That is what this governing body is for and we do work with the administration. We make our own decisions, but just like in any organization we work under auspices. It’s politics. We govern, we debate, and we vote. If something doesn’t pass, if it gets shut down it gets shut down. It’s over. So we’re going to learn about that.”

Sen. Purnell-“When do you suggest this workshop be conducted?”
Sen. Arellano-“I need to switch the tapes so can I have some time to switch them?”
Sen. Caracoza moved to recess for 5 minutes, Sen. Manson 2nd.
Sen. Wright moved to resume the orders of the day, Sen. Caracoza 2nd.

President Delgado-“Going back to what we were talking about. Today I brought this up for the purpose of bringing it to the senate. What I would like to do is have a senator propose it in a bill format. The duties of a senator are to produce bills and earn those service points. I as president am willing to work with the senator who would like to take this into consideration and form a judiciary bill. It’s an opportunity to do your bill, get your points. So it’s up to the senator to choose the time and date of the event.”

Sen. Meza-“This is my first meeting here so senators can just jump at the chance to write the bill or does everybody write the bill?”
President Delgado-“A senator alone can create a bill or they can have up to three senators for one bill. And you can consult your executive cabinet and we can help you.”

Charmagne Jenkins-“Will you be allowing the clubs to also take part in this workshop so they can be versed in the parliamentary rules as well?”
President Delgado-“Yes most definitely. That’s the purpose of a bill is to open it up to the students as a whole.”

Sen. Howard-“Who will facilitate the training? Did you have a specific person in mind?”
President Delgado-“Well actually yes, I have two individuals in mind. One is the Vice Chancellor of the district and the other one I’m not familiar with the name, but I can get back to that, but he is a well trained parliamentarian. The way we can do that is contact either one of those individuals, tell them that we’re from the Associated Student Organization of Harbor College and we would like them to do a workshop for us. We could pick the day, the time, and the location.”

Sen. Howard-“May I also propose that since this body is new I would hope that you guys don’t get discouraged. Basically, when you hear a lot of the terminology it can be a bit intimidating so I would hope that if you guys commit and I would like to see this body move forward to a mediation status. I would like to see us make the difference between the last ASO’s and ASO’s to come by being properly trained. I think it would look as a good faith effort on the part of this board to initiate that
remediation process. I think that ongoing parliamentary procedure is a normal protocol for newly elected boards, but I think that we need to take that a step further and continue to have a series of workshops, not only with regards to parliamentary procedure but with regards to grievances and appeals where we can consider those hot topics and be educated on that.”

Sen. Binns-“How long do you plan on this workshop being? What is the time period?”

President Delgado-“It’s decided in the bill and if you want to have a guest speaker most of the time it’s up to them because usually they only have a certain amount of time. That’s if we get a guest speaker. Say if our executive cabinet, if myself as president leads a workshop. I think that’s the best way. It could be up to any amount of time that the bill makers decide.”

Vice President Abercrombie-“I would like to add that this is the learning environment that we’re looking to in order to learn how to run business meetings that will help us in the future. This is something that’s going to prove invaluable to us when we get that corporate level when you move out of here.”

President Delgado-“Going back to that, many of you have become senators to learn those leadership skills. One of the best leadership skills to obtain is knowledge of how to be in a business meeting. Whether you work for the PTA or Exxon Mobile, these meetings are everyday and it’s excellent for you to learn the vocabulary or at least the etiquette which we’ll learn and we are students, this is a learning process. This is free. Take advantage.”

B. Lobbying Trip to Sacramento

Mercy Yanez-“So there will five students leaving to Sacramento. We will meet bright and early at 6:15 in the morning. We will not only be participating in the rally we will also have legislative visits. I don’t know how many legislative visits we will be having yet, but it will be a long day. I have some packets for those of you who are going with me. After this meeting I will prep you guys. It will be a very intense day. I’m looking forward to it. Wear comfortable shoes, business attire. I attended last year with a group of students and I look forward to going again. It will be a great learning experience for you.”

President Delgado-“I would like to comment on that as well. So the lobbying trip to Sacramento, not only is it going to be visiting state legislators which is a very cool opportunity paid for by the student rep fee. I believe a member of the public asked do you know what the student rep fee is used for? Well this is one example of what that is used for. The student rep fee is used for advocacy and lobbying for the students. Not only can the senate use that, any student can as long as they go through the proper channels and procedures. The Sacramento trip which is the March in March. It’s really, really well known to students. There’s an actual march in California that took place just this year. Thousands of people took their own time to protest for this. They marched from southern California all the way to Sacramento and this event is part of that march. This is the day that they reach Sacramento. There’s going to be CSU students, UC students, Community College students in front of the capitol building in beautiful Sacramento. It’s a collaboration
of the UC’s, CSU’s, and all Community Colleges to protest the issues at hand. Categorical programs are being cut. Tuition is being raised. Students can’t afford college anymore. Luckily I thank Governor Schwarzeneger, this year in his proposal he didn’t touch community colleges. He himself graduated from a community college, SMC. He came here as an immigrant, advanced, became a movie star. We could do that. Just don’t take steroids. He understands the importance of community college education. On the other tip for the legislators who don’t give a damn. They need us for their work force. The state, the world, the nation needs us. We’re the new leaders. This is a day in history where thousands of people marched up to Sacramento and we’re there to pay our dues and respect to that. And I think it’s wonderful. I won’t be there. I have classes. I was there a couple of weeks ago with the FACCC, the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges. I went with my internship program. I sacrificed a test which I usually would not do, but I saw the importance in this and went out to Sacramento. As an opportunity for others to do so we selected five individuals to go. It was a hard decision to make. I wish everybody could go.”

Mercy Yanez—“I have to add one more thing. It doesn’t end with the rally. This is just the beginning. There will be hearings. There will be a series of hearings on higher education so I may be calling on you at a moment’s notice to go up to a hearing. Those run all the way up through June because I’m also a part of the EOPS Association. I’m also a member of FACCC. So they call us on a moment’s notice to take students up to senate floor, the assembly floor to lobby on our behalf. So I may be calling on you. So there will be more opportunities.”

C. I-Tap Program

President Delgado—“Sorry you have to hear from me so much. The I-tap program, basically, for those of us who are enrolled in twelve or more units at this campus have been given an opportunity from the Metro corporation, the buses, to ride the metro for an entire semester for the cheap price of $15. It’s a simple little card. I have one in fact. This card, for $15, I can ride the metro rails and metro buses. And instead of pulling out my change I just tap and I’m on. That saves me hundreds. This is a program that Metro has launched for us. Many other colleges within the LACCD are using this. They have a high percentage of their students taking advantage of this. Harbor College, unfortunately, has a low percentage and I still see a lot of students out there pulling out their change. That’s great for Metro, but it’s not great for them. We as a student body government need to inform them of that. It can be a bill. That was the first and only bill I ever did and I won the Vice Presidency.”

Charmagne Jenkins—“I work in the counseling office. We have the forms there, but no one really knows. We have it displayed for them, but most students don’t know what it’s about. I had an actual representative grill me on what it was about and then she came back and asked me are you telling the students? So I try to inform them, but one person telling 30 or 40 students is not going to get the word out.”

Sen. Miranda—“I think maybe we should set up a booth next to the bus stop.”

Vice President Abercrombie—“That’s a great idea. I don’t know if you’ve noticed, but I think we do need to acknowledge the fact that everything may be written on
posters and flyers everywhere, but I seriously doubt everybody reads all the flyers and posters. So we need to organize something to get the word out that's not just written on a flyer. That's not getting the word out. There's also some other places we could get this out to. The CARE and GAIN programs, that's a place we can go to in order to advocate for that and even let them know that we are their senators because I think when you're on the outskirts of campus people tend to stay on the outskirts. They don't hear what's happening. There's also the child care center where we need to get the word out because the demographics there are single mothers who desperately need and don't even know about it.”

Sen. Manson—“Perhaps we can make out a schedule and organize it so one of us attacks a certain number of classrooms and speaks for five minutes that way we hit as many classes as we can. That may be more effective than posters and flyers.”

Sen. Miranda—“I wanted to say that maybe less advertising instead we should get a vendor out there from Metro who can sign people up and then it will be done on the spot.”

President Delgado—“The only reason why we cannot do that, is because the way students pay is through the business office. What we can do is only promote.”

Vice President Abercrombie—“It’s like a deal the transit system makes with the college. The college gives them a certain amount of money and they in turn give them a whole bunch of cards for that certain amount of money that they agreed on. Then you in turn go down to the cashier’s office and buy the card for the amount that was done for the students.”

Sen. Manson—“Are these cards prepaid for by the college?”

President Delgado—“Yes.”

Sen. Manson—“So the money is going to waste if they’re not being used? Then we've got to get the word out.”

Sen. Arellano—“We should have at least three vendors around the school in spots where students are.”

President Delgado—“We in fact can get those vendors. I know the vendor on a first name basis. Use my resources. That vendor in fact has come here, one of their representatives. We can in fact get them to come on this campus. They asked us to, but we didn’t have a senate. Now that we have that senate, they’d love to come.”

Sen. Howard—“Are the cards only for students?”

President Delgado—“Only for students enrolled in twelve or more units.”

Vice President Abercrombie—“It was interesting, we found out more about this program when we went to the SAC meeting a couple of weeks ago. What was great about this is we felt frustrated and helpless because we had so much information and they are actively wanting to help us in any way possible to get that word out and let people know about this.”

Sen. Manson—“How many are remaining? How many have been sold and how many are remaining?”

President Delgado—“I should know that, but you can obtain that information at the business office and they would love for you to actually go down and ask for that information. I can’t provide you with that information, perhaps next time.”
Sen. Wright—“You said the reason they haven’t been promoting this is because we didn’t have a senate? But now that we have a senate they will bring their own promotional people in.”
President Delgado—“They have come regardless of us not having a senate, but they would like to have done it with the senate. Now that the senate is here it’s much better.”
Mercy Yanez—“There’s also a process that has to take place in order to coordinate vendors coming on campus and we’ve been in transition in Student Activities with a new person coming on board to coordinate activities. That needs to happen, but now that we’re formed that will make it much easier.”
Sen. Wright—“Since we know each other hear, students word of mouth is a good way to promote the tap card.”
Sen. Arellano—“I have a tap card. I think we should promote to the students that they should copy the number on the tap card because I lost mine and now I have this replacement. I had to call Metro and have it deactivated and they issued me a new one. We should inform students to write down the number in case the card gets lost or stolen because to replace it they charge you $15, but for me they only charged $5.”
President Delgado—“Would anyone like to propose this possible piece of legislation?”
Sen. Miranda—“I would like to propose the bill for the I-tap program.”
President Delgado—“You can meet with me after the meeting or perhaps tomorrow and we can get that in the works.”

D. Campus Issues
Vice President Abercrombie informed the senate that there are talks of possibly banning smoking on campus. Sen. Purnell asked why the Grab N’ Go kitchen in the Seahawk Center was closed and when it will be reopened. President Delgado answered that due to a change in personnel the Grab N’ Go will be closed for the semester while the office adjusts to the change. In the meantime the ASO will be hosting BBQ’s every Wednesday in the quad. The removal of the campus ATM was brought up as well. It was explained that the reason for its removal was due to the fact that the college is searching for a new contractor. This has been further delayed due to the debit cards that will be used to distribute student’s financial aid awards. Senators were advised to attend Shared Governance meetings in order to voice their opinions on these matters. Mercy Yanez recommended that we invite Dr. Anne Tomlinson to come and speak with us regarding a timeline for when we will be getting our ATM back as well as what kind of fees students will be charged. Senator Hanna posed a question regarding ethics and the use of profanity by students on campus. Senator Howard suggested perhaps writing a bill for a profanity free zone. Senator Caracoza advised Senator Hanna to perhaps form a club to promote ethics on campus in response to his concerns. President Delgado pointed out that there are provisions in the student educational code in regards to code of conduct, but to remember that we have free speech areas on campus. It was announced that we will have a small summer session this year. Charmayne Jenkins clarified that EOPS students will have priority registration for summer session and after that it is first
come first serve for returning students. Mercy Yanez gave the specific enrollment dates for EOPS which were June 26th to August 22nd and stated that the priority date for EOPS students is stated in Title V.

E. Club Rush
President Delgado announced that the clubs who participated in Club Rush were very appreciative. Charmayne Jenkins stated that next Club Rush it would be helpful to have a better timeline. Senator Howard suggested that it be mandatory for clubs who are re-chartering to participate in Club Rush and expressed her interest in making that a piece of legislation.

XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS (4 MINUTES PER PERSON)
A. Campus Safety Task Force
President Delgado informed the senate that this committee is responsible for working with the sheriff’s department on campus in regards to issues of campus safety. President Delgado also asked for volunteers to either chair or sit on this committee. Senator Arellano volunteered to sit on the committee. Senator Manson informed the senate that last year a bill was passed for extra security and asked if that additional security personnel still exists on campus. Vice President Abercrombie answered that they indeed were still on campus and doing a great job. Senator Binns volunteered to chair the committee.

B. Events/Activities Committee
Senator Caracoza nominated himself as the Events/Activities Committee chair and Senator Howard seconded his nomination. Senator Meza expressed his desire to sit on this committee. Senator Miranda nominated himself as committee chair. President Delgado explained the duties of the committee chair. Vice President Abercrombie suggested that the election of the Events/Activities Committee chair until the next meeting. President Delgado requested that this be put on the agenda for next week. Senator Arellano nominated himself as chair.

XII. EXECUTIVE CABINET REPORTS (5 MINUTES PER PERSON)
A. President: Steven Delgado thanked everyone for being patient during the day’s proceedings as well as being open minded. He strongly encouraged everyone to attend the parliamentary procedure workshop when it does take place. He also strongly encouraged everyone to do a bill and offered his assistance to those who would like to produce a bill.

B. Vice President: April Abercrombie thanked everyone for bearing with her during her first time chairing a meeting. She also encouraged everyone to get out there and advocate as well keep their minds open to any way in which we can improve the sense of community on campus.

C. V.P. of Finance: Derek Hanna stated that he listened carefully to everything that was said during the meeting and that he thinks we are all moving in the right direction. He went on to say that hopefully we can let our character shine through and be more respectful towards each other. He also suggested opening our meeting with some moment of silence.
D. Secretary: Dawn Castillo asked everyone who has not given their contact information to please provide that. She also invited anyone who has not received their senator contracts or blue folders to see her after the meeting.

XIII. SHARED GOVERNANCE REPORTS (3 MINUTES PER PERSON)
President Delgado informed the senate that the students have voting power on some of the shared governance committees. Therefore it is very important that the senate have representation in these meeting. He also informed the senate that according to our constitution they are required to attend one meeting.

Vice President Abercrombie reported that in addition to a possible ban on smoking, Work Environment Committee discussed emergency packs in the event that we experience a disaster.

XIV. INFORMATION ITEMS (4 MINUTES PER PERSON)
President Delgado informed the senate that Alice in Wonderland is excellent and there is a reasonably priced café across the street at the golf course for those who are looking for good food that’s close to campus.

XV. ADVISOR’S COMMENTS (10 MINUTES)
Please refer to the attached hand out.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT