A.S.O. Senate Minutes

6th Meeting

April 21th 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 1:04pm and led us in the pledge of allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1 MINUTE)
Sen. Howard moved to approve the minutes, Sen. Wright 2nd.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM (2 MINUTES PER PERSON)
Kara Flinken - Informed the senate that she is facilitating a sustainability workshop on campus that lasts eight weeks. Those participating need three hours of community service to complete the workshop. They are organizing a campus clean-up. They hope to have it on May 3rd at 1:00pm out of the science building. The clean-up will last an hour. Then they will host an hour long discussion about environmental issues on campus and pass out prizes. She asked if it was possible to obtain funding for prizes and refreshments.

Brian Swilley - He proposed the environmental cleanup at the Work Environment Committee and they were receptive to the idea. The Work Environment Committee also suggested that each month one of the departments pick up the responsibility of doing a clean-up.

Britney Savage - She stated that they were also considering getting petitions signed at this during this event if they pertain to environmental issues.

Sen. Howard - She asked what the name of the workshop on campus is.
Kara Flinken - The workshop is called Students Sustainability Workshop and the organization I work for is called Sustainable Works and it is a non-profit group.
Sen. Howard - Asked if this group represents all nine campuses.
Kara Flinken - Yes.
Sen. Howard- May I request a write up of what your organization does just to clarify for this board?

Kara Flinken - Yes.

Sen. Howard- Do you know what board member suggested the monthly clean-up?

Brian Swilley- Dr. Tomlinson.

Esteban Robledo- He asked if there was an election committee meeting today. He also asked if the senators would agree to back to public forum at a later point in the meeting so he can speak on a particular issue.

Sen. Purnell- He asked what amount the Sustainable Works group is asking for. He also asked how many volunteers they are hoping to attract and if they would like to offer lunch to those participating.

Kara Flinken - She stated that she believes they will get about 50 people and that she prefers light refreshments or possibly pizza.

V. NEW BUSINESS LEGISLATION BILL (PRO/CON)

A. LAHC President’s Retirement Luncheon- Sen. Manson ($500.00).

Sen. Manson- Stated that he introduced the bill to the Executive Finance Committee. He said that the original discussion called for $400.00, but he wrote the bill to include up to $500.00 for incidentals and it was approved by the committee. The Finance Committee also discussed the process for selecting individuals who will be attending.

Sen. Meza- Senator Meza proposed selecting the names of the seven people in addition to the cabinet out of a hat.

President Delgado- He rose to a point of clarification. During the Finance Committee they did in fact amend the bill to include the process of selecting those who will go.

Sen. Wright- Stated asked if we ever got the approval to take the entire senate. If he was also under the impression that if the whole senate could not go then only the cabinet would go.

Vice President Abercrombie- Stated that we were given one table for ten people and we are unable to include everyone. The cabinet automatically goes. The bill already passed the Finance Committee and now it is up to the senate to approve the funds.

Sen. Purnell- Asked why the cabinet gets to go automatically.

President Delgado- Stated that this is the way Abbie Patterson made her request. He also stated that he will be going because he is speaking. There are also a limited number of seats available.

Sen. Wright- Asked if we were the organization that is throwing the event.

Vice President Abercrombie- No we are just paying for the senators who are going. Also, this is normal protocol when there is a formal event in question.

Mercy Yanez- Pointed out that we are one of many groups that will be attending this event.

President Delgado- Rose to a point of clarification. He asked that Senator Manson and Senator Meza be allowed to finish presenting his bill.
Sen. Manson- Clarified that he introduced the fiduciary component of the bill which includes the $500.00 for expenses and that it was Senator Meza who proposed the amendment.
Sen. Meza- He stated that he doesn’t plan on putting his name in the hat and that he simply felt this method was the fairest way of resolving the issue of who goes.
Sen. Jenkins- Asked if anyone considered inviting the club presidents to this event?
President Delgado- Stated that Abbie Patterson specifically requested the senate.
Sen. Jenkins- Stated that the issue was presented differently at the last meeting in which it was discussed. She stated that it was presented as ten members of the student body not specifically the senate.
President Delgado- Stated he has the original email again and that if anyone has a problem with the bill as it has been presented they don’t have to vote on it or they could propose an amendment.
Sen. Caracoza- Rose to a question of privilege and closed the door to reduce noise.
Sen. Wright- Pointed out that the date submitted on the bill read April 14th.
Mercy Yanez- Stated that the fourteenth of April was the date the bill was drafted because she assisted the senator in drafting the bill before she left for her trip to Sacramento.
Senator Wright- Stated that the senate should be informed ahead of time when a bill like this comes to the floor because the bill as it is presented is different from the earlier discussion.
President Delgado- Stated that this is the purpose of posting the agenda 72 hours in advance so that the senators as well as the public have the opportunity to review what is going to be on the agenda. He also stated that the bill is attached to the agenda.
Sen. Wright- Stated that the senate should always be informed. He pointed out that there was a meeting right before this meeting in which the bill was formed and now the senate is being asked to vote on the bill without being informed ahead of time.
President Delgado- Rose to a point of clarification and stated that every fiduciary bill is presented to the Finance Committee before hitting the senate floor. He stated that senators could get together before hand and discuss upcoming bills, but he cautioned that more than five senators meeting and discussing a bill on the agenda is subject to the Brown Act.
Sen. Meza- Stated that it was mentioned that the agenda had to be posted 72 hours in advance and said that he has never seen an agenda on the Senate Room door.
Vice President Abercrombie- Answered that the agenda is posted on the glass door entering the Seahawk Center.
Sen. Meza- He then asked if the agenda could be posted in additional areas so that more people can view it.

Sen. Purnell- Asked if the senators could get an email when a new bill is coming up or if we could have a facebook page where they will get notices.

President Delgado- Pointed out that online discussion is a violation of the Brown Act.

Vice President Abercrombie- Stated that it is our responsibility review the agenda on our own 72 hours in advance.

Sen. Caracoza- Pointed out that this is why we have discussion items so that we may entertain discourse before we put an item on the agenda as an action item.

Mercy Yanez- Clarified that if there are more than five senators together talking about an agenda item than the meeting is subject to Brown Act and the public has a right to be present.

Sen. Caracoza moved that we postpone pro and con arguments as well as voting on this matter until next week, Sen. Sanchez 2nd.

VI. ACTION ITEMS
A. LAHC President’s Retirement Luncheon- Sen. Manson ($500.00).
   No Vote.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS
A. Allocation of Funds for Meeting Refreshments.
   V.P. of Finance Hanna- Stated that he thinks it would be nice to have food here for the meeting since the meeting tends to run a few hours and it is during lunch time. He also stated that he wants this issue put on the agenda as a bill or just a vote by the senate.
   President Delgado- Asked the senate to think carefully on this issue because essentially we are talking about using student money to provide ourselves with food. He also pointed out that changing the budget requires a three fourths vote of the senate.
   Sen. Wright- Stated asked why we could allocate hundreds of dollars for clubs, but can’t take care of the senate that is running everything. He stated that we have passed bills that require spending $500 and we are just talking about spending a small amount to feed ourselves.
   Sen. Howard- Stated that she has never served on a board where finger foods were not made available and that the three hour length of the meeting justifies the need for providing food. She also stated that the V.P. of Finance requested last week that this be on the agenda and was told today that the issue will be addressed at the next meeting. She asked that this issue be finalized today at this meeting. She expressed her frustration at our inability to get work done more efficiently by this point in the semester. She stated that we need to do more planning and that we need to establish a calendar. She also stated that she feels the way in which our public forum and discussion items are setup are limiting and intimidating. She recommended that we allocate at least fifteen minutes out of each meeting for training. Finally she asked that we go back and figure out how to address V.P. of Finance Hanna’s issue.
Sen. Caracoza- Rose to a point of clarification. He stated that it is our responsibility to make sure that we are sufficiently fed. He stated, however, that he is not opposed to the possibility of having food at our meetings. In addition he stated that food should be limited to light refreshments that will be conducive to moving along with the business at hand. He suggested that if we move forward with providing food monies allocated should be a weekly item within reason and with little expense. He also clarified that he believes light refreshments do not constitute an entire lunch. Finally, he stated that it is our individual duty as senators to review the constitution and bylaws and research our procedures and responsibilities.

President Delgado- Reiterated that his comments earlier regarding food were simply meant to encourage everyone to be thorough when considering the issue at hand and take into consideration more than one perspective. He stated that he approved of Senator Caracoza’s recommendation for light refreshments. He pointed out that punch and cookies are made available at the Student Affairs Committee meetings. Finally, he reminded the senate that he, as president, can only make suggestions. It is up to the senate to vote.

Sen. Binns- Stated that he believes it is the senate’s duty to teach the legislative members of the processes involved with conducting business and what their duties are.

Sen. Howard- Stated that she has never been on a board where it’s members have not received training. She also stated in regards to light refreshments that cookies and punch are not going to be sufficient. She asked that there be some collaboration with the culinary arts department so that we may have an account or possibly credit with them so that this body can be fed.

Mercy Yanez- Gave the senate some of the history regarding the issue of training. She stated that there is a Political Science 41 class that is offered on campus. It was taught by our former ASO advisor. Unfortunately, due to our past ASO president, the district ruled that we separate the senate and the class. So the class is available, but it is voluntary. Also, she stated that with meetings running three hours and the time constraints we have faced this semester, unfortunately, there has been little time for training sessions. Circumstances have risen that have required us to employ on-the-job-training. In regards to food, she stated that pizza has been paid for by herself for the last two meetings and it will be today as well. She stated that she doesn’t disagree with the discussion of food, however, she does disagree with the tension in the room.

President Delgado- Entertained a motion that we have pizza at every meeting or a motion to talk to the culinary arts department.

Sen. Melgoza- I was thinking there has to be a way to have food such as working with culinary arts so that food won’t be really expensive.

Sen. Manson moved to vote on having pizza at every meeting. 

There was no second to this motion.

Sen. Delacruz rose to point of personal privilege.
Sen. Jenkins-Asked Mercy Yanez how much she has spent on food for our meetings.
Mercy Yanez- Stated that the amount was approximately $70.00.
Sen. Jenkins moved to spend no more than $70.00, Sen. Manson 2nd.
Sen. Howard moved to amend that motion to include the immediate consultation with the culinary arts program for other options, Sen. Manson.
Sen. Caracoza moved to amend the motion further to include the consultation with the culinary arts program and that the amount should be no more than $60.00 a week per month along with a piece of paper that has options for the senate to check off every week so that it can be take care of discreetly. In the event that an agreement cannot be made with culinary arts the senate should be able to proceed with said amount of money and procure food offsite, Sen. Meza 2nd.
Sen. Manson moved to amend the amount back to $70.00, Sen. Melgoza 2nd.
Sen. Jenkins moved to reimburse Mercy and establish a contract with the culinary arts program, Sen. Caracoza 2nd.
Sen. Jenkins restated the entire as follows: The motion in its entirety is that each week the senate is able to have a lunch of their choosing from a take-out place in the amount of no more than $70.00 or that we reach an agreement with the culinary arts department to provide food for the same amount and that we have a contract with them so they may not change the price and that Mercy Yanez is reimbursed for the money she has spent on food so far.
*Vote on amendment- 12 people voted in favor of the amendment by a show of hands. The motion carried as amended.*
Sen. Manson move to let Esteban Robledo speak for another minute, Sen. Binns 2nd.
Esteban Robledo- Stated that he shares the senate’s frustration with not being able to speak and that the senate was unfairly blamed for not doing their job. He also stated that it was the cabinet’s responsibility to instruct the senate on parliamentary procedure. He also stated that when new information is brought up the public has the right to speak and that a senator just stated that new information was brought up even before the senate was informed.
Sen. Caracoza moved to Esteban Robledo one additional minute, Sen. Manson 2nd.
Esteban Robledo- In regards to the bill for the president’s retirement luncheon, he stated that the ASO is the umbrella organization of the clubs and that as club presidents and executive cabinet members of the clubs are required to attend the Inter-Club Council they fall under the prevue of the ASO and therefore fall under the bill Senator Manson’s bill. He also stated that bills can amended without going through the Finance Committee. He also stated that there cannot be friendly motions.
Sen. Howard- She asked Mr. Robledo where he has been trained.
Esteban Robledo- He indicated that he has been very active at the state level.
Sen. Howard- Asked if he felt the class was effective in training the senators.
Esteban Robledo- He stated that the class did not assist in training him in parliamentary procedure.
Sen. Howard- Stated that in that case perhaps the separation of the class and the senate was justified and that strategic planning should be implemented in regards to the training of this body.
Sen. Caracoza- Suggested that this be done as a bill so that the senate can be trained by the end of this semester and that perhaps this is something that can be picked up every semester.
Sen. Jenkins moved to resume the orders of the day, Sen. Meza 2nd.
Sen. Purnell moved to allocate 15 minutes for a parliamentary procedure tutorial after roll call, Sen. Meza 2nd.
Sen. Meza moved to amend the motion to place the tutorial directly after public forum, Sen. Purnell 2nd.

Vote on amendment - 12 voted in favor of the amendment by a show of hands. The motion carried as amended.
Sen. Howard- Recommended that we incorporate the faculty and club advisors to assist in the training.
President Delgado- Reminded the senate that the issue of having a workshop training, however a bill was never drafted.

B. Student Concerns: Cafeteria Food, Public Phones, ATM.
Sen. Meza- Stated that this issue was brought up to him by some students in the cafeteria. They wanted healthier, cheaper, and better tasting in the cafeteria. The students he spoke with pointed out that other students were obtaining unhealthy foods such as French fries for breakfast and that there should be healthier options.
Vice President Abercrombie- Rose to a point of clarification and pointed out that students are able to eat whatever they want. They cannot be forced to eat one thing in particular.
Sen. Purnell- Reminded the senate that the culinary art department consists of students that are required to make certain foods for a grade so that they may learn.
President Delgado- Those students who raised the issue to Senator Meza were not asking that unhealthy foods be eliminated they were simply wondering if there was anything that the senate could do about requesting some healthier food options.
Sen. Delacruz- Stated that she has eaten in the cafeteria and that when she doesn’t like the food they have offered something else to eat.
Sen. Jenkins- Stated that students are only able to eat French fries in the morning because it is being made available to them. She also stated that they don’t have a lot of vegetarian options.
Sen. Wright- Stated the meal plans that are being prepared are part of their program and who are we to change that?
Sen. Jenkins- Reiterated that her issue was not with the food, but with the time that certain foods are being made available.

Sen. Howard- Stated that we should have a committee to investigate the concerns of these students. She also stated that she believes we have the power to ask the administration and see if students can have an account so that they may reserve a certain amount of financial aid money to be spent in the cafeteria if they wish.

President Delgado- Rose to a point of information. He asked what committee to address in order to speak with someone about this.

Sen. Caracoza- Rose to a point of clarity. He stated that the issue of what is being served by the culinary arts program does constitute a question curriculum and amended that we carry our message to a departmental head in the hopes that it is addressed to the appropriate legislative body.

V.P. of Finance Hanna- Rose to a point of personal privilege.

President Delgado- Asked definitively who the department heads overseeing the culinary arts department.

Sen. Caracoza- He answered that there are two, but that he doesn’t know their names.

Mercy Yanez- She answered that the two department heads are Lauren McKenzie and Joyce Parker.

Sen. Howard- Perhaps a representative of this body speak with Lauren McKenzie regarding the best way to go about doing this.

Sen. Caracoza- Pointed out that we have a senator, Gregory Miranda, who is active in the culinary arts department and perhaps he is the best person to address Professor McKenzie.

President Delgado- Asked if anyone knows when the new ATM will come.

Sen. Caracoza- Stated that he believes that will coincide with the release of financial aid rewards next semester.

Mercy Yanez- Pointed out that the senate has discussed requesting Sheila Millman, the director of the financial aid department, to visit our meeting.

Vice President Abercrombie- Stated that she has been in contact with Sheila Millman and that unfortunately she has not been able to attend. However, it has been decided that they will be issuing debit cards to students next semester instead of releasing checks. If you do not have a bank account you will be receiving your financial aid rewards on a debit card.

Sen. Howard- Proposed that we invite Sheila Millman to our meeting in order to confirm this.

Vice President Abercrombie- Stated that she speaks Sheila Millman on a weekly basis and has received her apologies that she has not been able to attend. They have also entertained the idea of sending an assistant in her stead to speak with us.

Sen. Howard- Suggested that we send a written invitation rather than a personal invitation. Perhaps that may be more effective. She stated that when the
senate requests such information from faculty and especially administration it should be delivered.
President Delgado- President Delgado agreed and stated that we should draft such a proposal now so that Sheila Millman may block off time in the near future to visit us.
Sen. Caracoza- Rose to a point of information and asked that should we take this course of action what form should we make our request? Should it be drafted as a formal invitation?
Sen. Howard- Stated that she feels it should be an informal inter-office memo from the senate email and that the tone should be friendly and inviting.
Sen. Caracoza- Rose to a point of order and asked if Senator Howard was then suggesting that we send an open-ended memo pending request.
Sen. Howard- Stated that it should be very simply stating that request advice on how to disseminate information regarding information pertinent to financial aid to students. She also suggested that we give a time frame of perhaps the next four working meetings.
Sen. Caracoza- He suggested that the request starts off with, “On behalf of the LAHC student body at large and the ASO we request...”
President Delgado- Suggested that we do add some formal diction, but remain somewhat informal and friendly at the same time.
Sen. Caracoza- Wished to point out that he is results oriented and believes that the way in which he writes and formulates letters gets results which is evident by the number of people who attended public forum. He also stated that it would be possible to draft something that is along with both Senator Howard’s and President Delgado’s suggestions.
Sen. Purnell- Regarding the issue of pay phones, he stated that he has actually seen the custodians come in the morning and turn the phones on. He wanted to know why the pay phones are turned off when campus is closed.
Sen. Binns- Stated that he will ask that question at the next Work Environment meeting.

VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS (4 MINUTES PER PERSON)
A. Campus Safety Task Force: Sen. Binns- Reported that the new construction is up to code with the state standards, but not the federal standards to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. They are working on bringing construction up to code. They are proposing a new stop sign heading eastbound on Lagoon Drive. He stated that a student is raising awareness that she was being stalked by another student. The sheriff’s department stated that they absolutely recommend raising awareness of a problem, however that will most likely result in an informal investigation and may not result in any official action. They also pointed out that the sheriff’s department has a flyer in their office about community oriented policing. He went on to explain that if students have issues or concerns regarding the way the sheriff’s department is run on campus they can fill out this survey. He also stated that the campus will be under construction until 2014.
Sen. Manson- Asked what the difference between the officers wearing white shirts with the sheriff’s decal and those wearing a sheriff’s uniform.
Sen. Binns- Stated that the difference is that one is a sheriff and the other is a sheriff’s security guard.
Sen. Manson- Asked if we have a satellite sheriff’s office on campus.
Sen. Binns- Answered that the office is located next to the new Health and Wellness center that is being constructed.
Sen. Manson- Pointed out that he was a victim a hit and run on the intersection of Figueroa and L Street. He asked if that would fall under the jurisdiction of the campus sheriff’s.
Sen. Binns- Answered no and stated that the area in question is an incorporated area and it falls under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Police Department, but the sheriff’s can assist you. In addition he noticed that female students are afraid to walk to their cars at night because the parking lot by the golf course is poorly lit. The sheriff’s department has a policy that if you are afraid to walk to your car the sheriff’s office will escort you.
Sen. Howard- Added to that comment that there is now a shortage of sheriff’s call boxes due to construction and there should be more.
Sen. Binns- Stated that he would inquire about that issue at the next Work Environment meeting.

B. Events/Activities Committee: Sen. Caracoza- no report.

IX. EXECUTIVE CABINET REPORTS (4 MINUTES PER PERSON)
A. President: Steven Delgado- no report.
B. Vice President: April Abercrombie- no report.
C. V.P. of Finance: Derek Hanna- no report.
D. Secretary: Dawn Castillo- no report.

X. SHARED GOVERNANCE REPORTS (3 MINUTES PER PERSON)
No Reports.

XI. INFORMATION ITEMS (4 MINUTES PER PERSON)
None.

XII. ADVISOR’S COMMENTS (10 MINUTES)
No Report.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT
Sen. Manson moved to adjourn, Sen. Meza 2nd.