A.S.O. Senate Minutes

1st Meeting

February 17, 2010

Los Angeles Harbor College ASO Senate Room

(Seahawk Center, 2nd Floor)

Invalidated Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Steven Delgado called the meeting to order at 1:20pm and led us in the pledge of allegiance.

II. INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRESIDENT AND ADVISOR

Steven Delgado-“Thank you for coming to today’s meeting. My name is Steven Delgado. I’m the new ASO President. I look forward to a great semester. I am really concerned and passionate for students, but don’t mistake kindness for weakness. I am a leader. So I am Steven Delgado, ASO President.”

Mercy Yanez-“I’ll stand because my voice is low. Good afternoon. I’m Mercy Yanez, the Associate Dean of the EOPS and CARE program at Los Angeles Harbor College so you may know me. I am serving as the ASO advisor and representing you as a resource at the table this semester so I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you. Please feel free to come and visit me. I’m here on Wednesdays. I’m available if you have questions. If you have additional questions I can give you my phone number and my email and I’d be happy to chat with you. Welcome to the senate.”

III. PRESIDENT DELGADO APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY SENATORS

President Delgado-“May the six temporary senators stand up once more. These individuals I have interviewed on a one to one basis the previous week and earlier today. These are individuals I have personally approached regarding student involvement and what they would like to bring to campus as student leaders. So these are the appointees. Remain standing for the next item of business.”

IV. ADVISOR INDUCTION OF TEMPORARY SENATORS

Mercy Yanez inducted the appointed senators by leading each appointee in the loyalty oath.

V. ROLL CALL

Present: Mercy Yanez, Steven Delgado, Dawn Castillo, April Abercrombie, John Lim, Gregory Moranda, Theresa Kennedy, Michael Draper, and Kimberly Del Mundo.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1 MINUTE)

Sen. Abercrombie moved to approve the agenda, Sen. Lim 2nd.

VII. PUBLIC FORUM (2 MINUTES PER PERSON)

Esteban Robledo-“My name is Esteban Robledo. In regards to your minutes, what happened to the meeting last week?”

Steven Delgado-“We invalidated the meeting.”

Esteban Robledo-“You invalidated the meeting?”
Steven Delgado—“Yes, we didn’t have a quorum.”
Esteban Robledo—“Shouldn’t that still be listed since it was posted up as a Brown Act meeting? Shouldn’t there be minutes?”
Steven Delgado—“We posted up an invalidation.”
Esteban Robledo—“Now as far as the minutes, these are not actually accurate. You can see on the second page it cuts me off which is a violation of public records. Now when you say you didn’t have quorum can you clarify?”
President Delgado—“According to our constitution quorum requires ten. According to our bylaws that constitutes a minimum of six, but we can meet with fewer provided with our constitution and bylaws when there are fewer than ten senators we can operate and conduct business that is necessary to keep our government functioning. We could have validated it, but as president and as a cabinet decision we chose not to. We wanted to provide more persons to do voting because we did nominate a senator Pro Tempore and an Executive Finance Representative. As far as the minutes I advise you to go to the legal consul and go to the district and figure that out. That is something in the past administration. This is the new administration.”
Esteban Robledo—“You just stated right now that your term expired with last year’s term? So are you saying that your term expired as well?”
President Delgado—“No sir.”
Esteban Robledo—“But you just said that last year’s term expired.”
President Delgado—“The past administration, I moved up in succession as president from vice president.”
Esteban Robledo—“Is it not true that you resigned?”
President Delgado—“I don’t really have to answer that, but I will out of courtesy. I reconsidered my resignation. No further comment.”
Esteban Robledo—“As far as your resignation, when you gave me your signed resignation you informed the ASO advisor of your resignation, and you informed the Harbor Tides of your resignation. Does that not constitute informing the organization?”
President Delgado—“It constitutes informing the organization. I informed you of my reconsideration. I went to the proper channels to so. I spoke with the Dean of Student Life, the Student Services, Vice President, and the President to further talk about the issue. According to our bylaws any issue any actions shall be overlooked by the ASO advisor and that is something I felt I needed to do due to the political climate and the need of the students to have a student body government. I did so and did inform you. I sent emails as well as a couple of phone calls. So I did address the issue. Thank you, your two minutes are up.”
Magali Sanchez—“I just want to make a point here. I don’t know if you two remember how hard both of you worked in a campaign to be in the positions that you are. We as students supported you, both of you. You are allowing this to get in the middle of your friendship. This is something that you guys worked together and I think with diplomacy you two can come to an agreement one way or the other. This is for the students. This is for the school. This is our time to take action and work together not separate.”
VIII. NEW BUSINESS LEGISLATION BILL (PRO/CON)
A. Nomination of Pro Tempore.
   Sen. Lim nominated himself for Pro Tempore.
   Sen. Kennedy nominated April Abercrombie.
B. Nomination of Executive Finance Representative.
   Sen. Moranda nominated himself for Executive Finance Representative.
C. Campaign Speeches.
   Sen. Abercrombie—“I am here to bring a positive energy to our senate. I don’t know if you’ve heard, but we’ve had some bumps in the road. Now I think we can make this a place where we help and support our students. I think I can help make that difference for our students.”
   Sen. Lim—“My name is Senator John Lim and the reason why I think I should be ProTempore is because in the past I have helped out other senators with their bills, created my own bill that was a combination of art, music, and talent. What I feel I can bring to the student body is I see from different views whether you’re a gang banger or you’ve always been in the house all your life don’t really know how to interact with other people because of what my own personal knowledge and experience has been. Other things I can bring are new ideas and I can think inside the box and outside the box because if everyone is the same then we almost have like a zombie nation and we’re in the United States of America where people have different minds and bring things together as a whole.”
   Sen. Kennedy—“Hello my name is Theresa Kennedy. The reason why I would like to be the vice president of executive finance is when I was in high school I was involved with the student body as a treasurer and I believe that helping with the finances is something I would have a little experience with.”
   Sen. Moranda—“I Gregory Moranda believe and know that I would bring forth a lot of good things to the school, the campus, and the students. I have a lot of resources in the media. I know a lot of other resources, just things that I know our students could benefit from. Things like housing. I know people that help students. I’m easy going. I’m good with people. I like to help people a lot. I take passion in that. I know the school could definitely benefit from what I have to offer.”
IX. ACTION ITEMS (NO DISCUSSION, VOTING ONLY)
A. Election of Pro Tempore.
   Sen. Abercrombie received 3 yes votes, 2 no votes, and 1 abstention.
   Sen. Lim received 3 yes votes, 3 no votes, and 0 abstentions.
   President Delgado cast the deciding vote in favor of Sen. Abercrombie.
B. Election of Executive Finance Representation.
   Sen. Kennedy received 2 yes votes, 3 no votes, and 1 abstention.
   Sen. Moranda received 2 yes votes, 3 no votes, and 1 abstention.
President Delgado cast the deciding vote in favor of Sen. Kennedy.

X. DISCUSSION ITEMS
A. Lobbying/Advocacy.
   President Delgado—“As student body leaders we advocate for students on campus. That means whatever issue students are facing on campus or whatever concerns like a parking problem or what’s up with more greenery on campus or what’s up with more recycling on campus. I would like to see more programs like that on campus. It could be how come there’s not more ashtrays on campus? We have a lot of smokers on campus and they have rights too. So we’re a government. We legislate for things like that. We debate on the item. We seek consul from the administration on these items. Most of the time everything works out pretty well. One of the biggest programs that is being cut is the EOPS program. That assists educationally and financially disadvantaged students in attaining their educational goals. They provide book grants and different cash grants. They provide services. They provide workshops. That program is being cut by 60%?”

Mercy Yanez—“It was 40% this year and the governor has slated us for a 60% cut this year, 2010.”

President Delgado—“So in addition to the 40% cut it got hit this year they’re looking to cut it by another ten million dollars, that’s statewide.”

Sen. Kennedy—point of personal privilege.

President Delgado—“So programs like. Another big issue on campus right now is tuition fees. I understand there are those of us on financial aid. Whatever the case and however we fund our education we’re all still in the same boat. Community college was meant to be a cheap, economic place for members of the community to take classes. We’re going to be heading up to Sacramento in March. We’re going to March on March. I believe March 22nd is our big day. We’re going to protest the budget cuts. We’re going to visit legislators on a one to one level and let them know how this is affecting us and ask them to vote in our favor. We do a lot of that. That goes as far as lobbying and advocacy.”

B. Call for a Special Election of Senators.
   President Delgado—“Today I spoke in a classroom of Professor Loiterman as well as Professor Vega. I tried to hit the Poli- Sci classes first and I’m trying to open up to other students as well and inform them that the ASO is looking for new senators. I want interested students who have a passion and are leaders. We’re not looking for numbers. We’re looking for leaders. One thing we had in mind was having a special election to allow the students of Harbor College campus wide to receive the 25 signatures to become elected senators. That’s two ways of becoming a senator whether it be elected or appointed. Provided with the constitution and bylaws we can call for a special election, you as senators, or as president I can also interview and appoint senators so that’s a discussion item I would like brought to the table today.”

Sen. Abercrombie—“I think because we’re small but mighty we’re attempting to establish a good face of everyone here on campus. What did you mention about signatures and that sort of thing? Can you clarify?”
President Delgado—“First off this is how it’s supposed to happen. In order for a person to become an elected senator in the Spring, in the Fall they would have to collect 25 student signatures. Our past advisor and our past executive cabinet didn’t address that so we did not follow that. The allegation was made in one of the last meetings last semester, pretty late if you ask me, and the allegation was not that correct. As vice president and now as president with our new advisor, we addressed that issue to John Clerks. In this case he read our constitution and bylaws and said well there’s something that provides for that. In the event that the senate cannot or will not ratify appointed senators they will become temporary senators until that time that they will become permanent senators so we took that in and that’s how you became permanent through induction and calling for a special election will allow more students on campus to become senators without appointing. So you have that option as senators.”

XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS (4 MINUTES PER PERSON)

A. Campus Safety Task Force:

President Delgado—“Last semester that committee worked with sheriffs on certain issues, robberies, video surveillance, that sort of stuff. Would anyone like to volunteer to chair that committee?”

Sen. Abercrombie—“That one is my personal baby.”

President Delgado—“The only issue with that is you are now the Pro Tempore and you are going to be the Vice President so you cannot be that committee chair.”

Sen. Moranda—“I have a brother in the Carson sheriff so if you want me to do that I would like to do that.”

President Delgado—“What I would advise you to do is speak with the former chair of that committee which is Senator Abercrombie and kinda collaborate. The sheriff’s on campus are pretty cool. So you can speak with her and perhaps next meeting see if you would like to do that. That is what I would advise you to do.”

B. Events/Activities Committee:

President Delgado—“This is a committee that I have formed. This committee would be in charge of, say for example, a senator wants to make t-shirts for the legislative cabinet, they wanna come up with a design, this committee would do that. That committee does the homework. They would present it to the senate. That’s one example as well as activities whether it be town hall meetings or BBQ’s we could do so. Would anyone like to nominate themselves to chair the committee?”


Sen. Draper declined the nomination.

Sen. Moranda nominated himself.

President Delgado named Sen. Moranda as the new chair of the Events/Activities Committee.

XII. EXECUTIVE CABINET REPORTS (5 MINUTES PER PERSON)

A. President: Steven Delgado—“This semester the president’s focus will be to advocate for the students of Los Angeles Harbor College, provide them with clubs, activities, and bring to their awareness services that are available to them on campus. Today the
B. Vice President: - Vacant.
C. V.P. of Finance: - Vacant.
D. Secretary: Dawn Castillo- No Report.

XIII. SHARED GOVERNANCE REPORTS (3 MINUTES PER PERSON)
A. CPC- No Report.
B. Academic Affairs- No Report.
C. Student Services Cluster Meeting- No Report.
D. Work Environment- No Report.
E. Academic Senate- No Report.

XIV. INFORMATION ITEMS (4 MINUTES PER PERSON)
XV. President Delgado—“I would like to bring up something. Taco Bell has a five dollar box. Also IHOP has $4.99 all-you-can-eat pancakes.”
Sen. Abercrombie—“The Child Development Center still has openings. They are still accepting children.”

XVI. ADVISOR’S COMMENTS (10 MINUTES)
Mercy Yanez—“Advocacy and lobbying are par for the course this semester with the challenging budget, state of affairs for California and the nation. A new update this week, Cal Grants are back on the chopping block for the governor. We’re seeing the hearings take place up in Sacramento and we are participating in the March in March on March 22nd. I’m also going up for the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges and then we’ll have a lobbying opportunity after the congress which is Monday, March 1st. We’re heavily out there as a district and as constituents impacted by the cuts the governor is proposing. I’ve put a link to the student services workshop calendar which is being updated. There are a lot of opportunities because we put up all events and workshop opportunities on the campus. For example if you are transferring I believe it’s Mount St. Mary’s college this Friday and there are representatives from different colleges that visit and we have the new center director Leige Doffoney to assist you. The transfer center is located in SSA 105 which is in the Student Services and Administration building. Again I always want to bring in scholarship opportunities because it’s free money for you guys. The college at large has a spring scholarship drive every year for students with a 3.0 GPA that have completed 30 units. This is free money for you. Take advantage of it. I sit on the screening committee so it’s not a difficult process if you are a well-rounded student. There’s also the Leon Owens Scholarship and the deadline for that is February 25th. I’ve written a lot of letters of recommendation to date and continue to do so. You need a minimum of 2.5 GPA for that scholarship and just to be enrolled in six units and the minimum award is $500. So take advantage of that.”
Sen. Abercrombie—“Quick question about this right here. It says at least 30 units at LAHC. Now is that 30 units that are transferable? Sometimes they say you only have so many units that are eligible.”
Mercy Yanez—“It’s 30 units completely for this college.”
President Delgado—“Also I have a question for the LAHC scholarship. They would have at least 30 units with the 3.0 GPA. Do the applicants submit one application?”
Mercy Yanez—“Yes, it’s one application and the scholarships come to the college from our LA Harbor College Foundation and a again a large range. The nursing program scholarships are provided by private donors in the community, a lot of private donors. For example when I came to this college I established a scholarship in memory of my father. So there’s a large range of opportunities. If you are in engineering there are major targeted scholarships.”
Sen. Abercrombie—“When you get a scholarship if you’re on full financial aid does that affect your financial aid? Does it drop it down or is that in addition to what you already get?”
Mercy Yanez—“It’s in addition to what you already get.”
President Delgado—“I’m on financial aid. There’s still an additional unmet need. If the unmet need is still there and you get a scholarship that doesn’t go above that you pretty much keep it, but say if it affects it they fix it.”
Mercy Yanez—“I sit on the committee so let’s say typically the awards range from $350 minimum probably. So let’s say that a student only has $400 left on their unmet need so it wouldn’t affect your financial aid. And that’s my report. Thank you.”

XVII. ADJOURNMENT
Sen. Draper moved to adjourn the meeting, Sen. Abercrombie 2nd.
The meeting was adjourned at 2:32pm.