



**Executive Committee**

**September 4th, 2024**

**2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**T-152**

**Zoom Call:**

**<https://sfsu.zoom.us/j/91666786157?pwd=YIEGZHYzbGoySThwT25aU3dVay9VQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 916 6678 6157**

**Passcode: Exec**

**Minutes**

**I. Call to order**

**Meeting called to order at 2:04pm.**

**II. Roll Call**

**Brandon Foley, President (chair) - Present**  
**Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice - Present**  
**Bella Martinez-Bernal, VP Internal Affairs - Present**  
**Andrea Soto, VP External Affairs - Present**  
**Lorena Mejia, VP Finance - Excused**  
**Maya Bal, VP Academic Affairs - Present**  
**Dr. Jamillah Moore, VP SAEM - Present (Dean Miguel)(2:08pm)**  
**Alejandro Rios, Executive Director - Present**

**III. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to approve the agenda for September 4th, 2024.**

**Moved by Bella Martinez-Bernal, VP Internal Affairs. Seconded by Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice.**

**No discussion**

**Yes: Fayeeza, Bella, Andrea, Maya (4)**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0.**

**Motion passes.**

IV. Approval of Minutes

**Motion to approve the minutes from June 26th, 2024.**

**Moved by Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice. Seconded by Maya Bal, VP Academic Affairs**

**No discussion**

**Yes: Fayeeza, Bella, Andrea, Maya (4)**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0.**

**Motion passes.**

V. Open Forum

**None.**

VI. Discussion Item

**a. Introduction to Staff Council (Brandon Foley - President )**

*The committee will talk with Dylan Mooney, Chair of the Staff Council.*

**Dylan Mooney, the Staff Council Representative**, introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the workings of the Staff Council. He mentioned that it has been three years since the council was reinstated. He also noted that there had been a Staff Council as far back as the 1950s or 1960s, which was disbanded in the 1990s, along with several other Staff Councils across CSUs. After the reformation of the current council, they established three standing committees: Equity and Inclusion, Policy and Procedure Review, and Staff Enrichment. Additionally, they have two student seats on the council.

*Dean Miguel recognized at 2:08 pm for Dr. Moore.*

**Brandon Foley, the President**, inquired about the Crafts Fair event and asked when it would take place. **Dylan** responded that it would happen sometime between the end of November and the beginning of December, and they are hoping to hold the event in the new Science building, with the goal of involving more students. **Dylan** also informed the members that they will be having their first meeting of the semester this week. **Brandon** expressed his excitement for the Crafts Fair and added that once the date is confirmed, they would love to have some board members attend.

**b. Governing Gators Internship (Brandon Foley - President)**

*New shared governance internship to increase student-at-large representation on university committees and enhance AS/AS BOD name recognition*

**Brandon Foley, the President**, explained that the primary purpose of the Governing Gators Internship is to help fill empty University Committee seats. He emphasized that many seats remain vacant, which means student voices are not being fully represented. This internship is designed to incentivize students at large, through AS, by offering a fun and interactive experience while giving them the opportunity to represent the 20,000 students on campus. He then asked if anyone had any questions. **Bella Martinez-Bernal, VP Internal Affairs**, informed that they previously had a similar internship and how it is different from that and what this internship will be able to do differently. **Brandon** replied that a similar program existed in the late 90s, but they do not currently have a charter for it. He mentioned that a

charter is needed to make it official and outline its purpose, though he noted there are many similarities between the current program and the previous one. **Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice**, inquired if it is a paid internship to which **Brandon** replied that this internship is not paid and is just volunteer work and similar to the one that the AS Programs department runs. **Brandon** asked about the number of hours interns are expected to work during these internships. **Bella** replied that it depends on the specific program they are participating in, but interns are generally expected to work a minimum of 4 hours per week.

**Maya Bal, VP of Academic Affairs**, asked why the previous internship program was discontinued. **Alejandro Rios, Executive Director**, responded by emphasizing that unless someone brings forward a specific document or request, the focus should be on creating new initiatives. He explained that retention and recruitment for AS have always been ongoing challenges, with difficulties in sustaining interest in past programs. For example, there was once a requirement to take a class to run for the Board of Directors (BOD), but it was quickly discontinued. To address recruitment challenges, an internship program was introduced as an optional alternative to the class. Shared governance also became a focus in the late 90s or early 2000s, but interest in the program dwindled after about three years. **Alejandro** highlighted that the responsibility of filling university committee seats should primarily fall on board members, with the chair taking the lead in recruitment. The current internship is aimed at filling vacant university committee seats, allowing students to represent their peers without needing to be on the board, while potentially increasing engagement with AS. **Brandon Foley, the President**, explained that the internship program has two main goals. In the immediate term, it aims to fill university committee seats, which is proposed as a requirement for the internship. In the longer term, it seeks to engage more students with AS. **Brandon** shared that, prior to joining AS, neither he nor his friends were very familiar with its activities. He believes that by raising awareness of AS programs and how they represent students, this internship can help increase student involvement. **Alejandro** suggested that if someone is interested in working for students but not necessarily in being part of the board, the internship should still target university committees through shared governance. However, he recommended that in addition to attending meetings, the internship should include lessons or information about AS history, programs, and the board's functions. He emphasized the importance of not only attending meetings but also learning about what AS does and how it represents students. This, he said, would be a valuable addition to the structure of the internship.

**Andrea Soto, VP of External Affairs**, asked about the key difference between the Governing Gators Internship and Lobby Corps. She mentioned that Lobby Corps also aims to get students involved in university committees and functions somewhat like a mini-internship, with members attending various meetings. She wanted to know what distinguishes the two programs. **Brandon** explained that the main difference between the Governing Gators Internship and Lobby Corps is their focus. He noted that Lobby Corps, particularly after its recent reboot, is primarily oriented toward external advocacy, including outreach to local elected officials like state assembly members and senators. In contrast, the Governing Gators Internship is solely focused on filling university committee seats. Additionally, the internship aims to be engaging and interactive, allowing participants to learn more about AS programs and other valuable campus resources. **Maya** asked what is the target audience for this internship and what can we do so that this internship doesn't fail like the previous one that AS had, to which **Brandon** replied that based on the response that he has received and informed that the people seemed very interested in the initial survey that he conducted.

**Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice** had several questions about the new internship charter and its comparison to the Board of Directors:

1. **Why isn't the internship paid?** **Fayeeza** asked why board members aren't paid and why the new internship isn't paid if it's seen as important work. **Brandon** explained that the internship is not

paid due to budget constraints, and the commitment is significantly less than the Board of Directors, who have a much higher level of responsibility. The internship involves approximately 9 hours a semester, which is minimal compared to the Board's duties.

2. **Why can't the internship be attached to Lobby Corp?** **Fayeeza** inquired why the new internship couldn't be linked with Lobby Corp. **Brandon** responded that the unpaid nature of both makes it challenging to merge them without increasing volunteer commitments. **Christine Amador, AED Governance**, added that the goals of the internship and Lobby Corp are different: Lobby Corp focuses on grassroots organizing and advocacy, while the new internship is about university committee representation and social justice, serving different interests and purposes.

**Christine** further clarified that combining these roles might dilute the focus and effectiveness of each, as they cater to distinct types of student engagement and advocacy.

**Miguel Á. Hernández, the Dean of Students**, shared his thoughts on documenting community service hours from an economic impact perspective. He highlighted the value of showcasing volunteer work not just as a contribution to the community, but also in terms of its economic impact. **Dean Miguel** mentioned that while he initially had reservations about focusing on economic impact due to concerns about consumerism and capitalism, he has come to see the value in it. He believes documenting volunteer hours can be empowering for students and can help with scholarships, paid internships, and resume building. He noted that in California, one hour of volunteerism is valued at \$37.32, and this could be a powerful tool for students to advance their opportunities. **Brandon Foley, the President**, discussed various aspects of structuring the new internship program. He noted that while the charter might not include specific details, there are key incentives that could be considered, such as providing letters of recommendation, which are highly valued by students. He mentioned that other AS programs, like Project Connect, offer such letters, and it could be beneficial for this internship program as well. **Brandon** also suggested that funding for snacks and creating a structured, straightforward approach to the internship could make it more appealing and less intimidating for students. He emphasized the importance of making the program easy to explain and engaging, which could encourage more students to participate. **Dean Miguel** suggested that as the internship program is developed, it would be beneficial to include an orientation for committee members. He recommended outlining standard topics for discussion and potentially scheduling regular meetings with specific topics in mind. This approach would help provide structure and ensure that students gain valuable insights from speakers on relevant subjects. He also offered his assistance in finding speakers and contributing to the program's content. **Maya Bal, VP Academic Affairs** asked if there are specific requirements for students to serve, such as taking a minimum number of units or maintaining a minimum GPA, and if there is a protocol for such requirements. **Christine Amador, AED Governance** clarified that, to her knowledge, the CSU doesn't impose any specific restrictions on students serving in an internship role, other than needing to be a student, as that's the basis for representing the student body. She noted that while AS does have some enrollment-based requirements for student employment, such as needing to be registered in a certain number of units, these do not seem to apply to internships. However, she added that this would need to be double-checked to confirm, as the policy might differ for internships.

**Brandon Foley, the President**, went through the Governing Gators Internship charter and talked about some of the key responsibilities mentioned in the charter and also talked about the composition which included the President as the Chair, Dir. Of Social Justice and Equity as Vice Chair, and AS AED of Governance as the advisor, and finally the Interns (up to 12 Interns). **Brandon** explained that the internship is structured to meet biweekly for a minimum of six times per semester, with meetings hosted in person to ensure engagement, especially when moving around campus. He emphasized that the internship will not involve policy decisions or direct recommendations to the AS board, setting it apart from the lobby corp, which is governed by open meeting laws (though this could change). Many meetings will be informal, with field trip-style outings to collaborate with AS programs or university departments

like Gator Groceries and Health Promotion and Wellness. Additionally, the program will offer informal tours of lesser-known campus areas if needed. The internship is designed to last a semester, with interns encouraged to stay for two consecutive semesters, particularly if they start in the fall, since university committees typically run for the full academic year with the same members. This continuity aims to ensure consistent representation throughout the year. He further discussed roles and responsibilities of the members who will be overseeing the internship program. **Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice** raised a question about ensuring continuity in university committees, which last the whole academic year, and asked whether there should be limits on who can participate, particularly for graduating seniors. She also mentioned the possibility that participants might get interested in AS and run for the board. **Brandon** clarified that the primary goal is to fill university committees, focusing on areas where the participation of specific student groups is required. He mentioned that some committees, like those dealing with bachelor's degree requirements for upper-division students, would limit participation to sophomores or seniors. Additionally, for committees like the Graduate Council, which is tied to the Academic Senate, only graduate students can participate. Therefore, specific restrictions will be in place based on the requirements of each committee. **Christine Amador, AED Governance** added to the discussion by clarifying that if students get involved in shared governance, they might discover they enjoy it and decide to run for an AS position. She emphasized that the elections for AS positions happen in the spring, with terms starting in the summer. By that time, the academic year for the internship would have already concluded. Therefore, there is no restriction preventing a student from serving on a university committee while simultaneously running for an AS position during the election cycle. **Fayeeza** raised a point about whether students applying for the board of directors should ideally have more time before graduation to serve in that role. She questioned if, for those interested in applying for the board, they should have a year before graduating to be able to fully commit. **Brandon** responded by clarifying that it's not uncommon for board members to join even as graduating seniors. Many board members come on during their final year, so there isn't necessarily a limitation or issue with seniors applying to the board right before graduation. **Maya Bal, VP Academic Affairs** agreed with **Fayeeza** on her point, with the idea that the internship offers an opportunity for participants to potentially transition into board roles if they choose. However, her main question was about why there should be any limitations, particularly regarding seniors or those closer to graduation. She emphasized that the real question to focus on is the pitch to students—why should they participate in this internship? Essentially, she wanted clarity on the benefits and motivation for students to join the program, ensuring that the opportunity is appealing and accessible to all, regardless of their year or proximity to graduation. **Alejandro Rios, Executive Director** responded, acknowledging **Maya's** point but emphasizing the main pitch of the internship: to sit on a university committee and help represent the student constituency. He explained that the primary goal is for students to be involved in committees where they can have a say and represent their peers. **Alejandro** also highlighted that the program isn't necessarily designed as a pipeline to the AS board but noted that if a student gets interested through this experience and wants to run for a position, that would be great. He reiterated that there shouldn't be a strict requirement or threshold for who can apply, aligning with **Brandon's** point that both freshmen and graduating seniors should have the chance to run for the board. **Alejandro** believes it's important not to limit the opportunity for students, regardless of their academic standing, allowing flexibility for anyone who shows interest in becoming involved. **Bella Martinez-Bernal, VP Internal Affairs** added that even if a student is a graduating senior, their participation in a university committee is still incredibly valuable. She explained that having spent at least two years on campus, transfer students or those who spent more time, like herself, who took five years to complete her undergraduate degree, still offer a significant student voice. **Bella** emphasized that even in their final year, students can make meaningful contributions up until they graduate. She pointed out that because this program is unpaid, the students who apply will likely be those who genuinely care about these positions and want to build their resumes. She expressed confidence that this program, depending on how it is marketed, will attract dedicated individuals. **Bella** also viewed the internship as a subtle way to market AS Board of Directors (BOD) positions. By participating in this program and sitting on committees, students will naturally be exposed to what the BOD does, potentially inspiring them to get

involved. She noted that the program doesn't need to explicitly lead to running for the board, as doing the work itself will serve as an advertisement for AS. Finally, she emphasized that active recruitment and fulfilling their duties will, in itself, serve as the best form of promotion. **Andrea Soto, VP External Affairs** expressed her agreement with **Bella**, emphasizing the value of this internship in addressing misconceptions about the Associated Students (AS) and the Board of Directors (BOD). She pointed out that many students either have the wrong idea about what AS stands for or are simply unaware of what it does. According to **Andrea**, the internship would be an excellent way for students—especially those who have concerns or complaints about different issues on campus—to gain a firsthand understanding of AS and BOD activities. **Andrea** believes that by getting involved in this internship, students can directly experience how AS works and address their concerns constructively. She sees it as a pathway for them to resolve their issues while gaining insight into how the organization operates. This could potentially lead to students becoming more interested in joining AS for a job or even running for the BOD, which would, in turn, improve retention rates and boost participation in elections. The committee also decided on adding a point to the charter where it is mentioned that the students who apply for internship are also required to be in good academic standing and good conduct standing based on **Dean Miguel's** suggestion. The committee further moved on to discussing the roles and responsibilities of the advisor. **Brandon** further talked about the governing gators membership and what requirements they had to satisfy. **Brandon** explained the process for Gators membership, emphasizing simplicity. To become an official member, students need to complete the internship Google form. Membership is open to both undergraduate and graduate students from all majors. He suggested adding this requirement under the "Governing Gators Membership" section.

**Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice** raised a question about the membership limit, referencing the recommended number of 12 members. She asked what would happen if more people wanted to join. **Brandon Foley, the President** responded, saying that more members would be better, as it would mean fewer empty university committee seats. He clarified that the number 12 was more of a guideline to keep the group manageable, especially when taking tours with the chair, vice chair, and possibly an advisor, but it wasn't a strict limit. **Christine Amador, AED Governance** suggested rephrasing the document, as the current wording implied a hard cap of 12 members. She proposed changing the phrasing to "recommended cap of 12" to clarify that it's a guideline rather than a strict maximum. **Brandon** agreed with her suggestion and indicated that the phrasing would be adjusted accordingly. **Christine** posed a question regarding the role of the **Director of Social Justice and Equity** if the internship program gets implemented, particularly since one of the responsibilities of that role includes managing university committee representation. **Brandon** responded by acknowledging that while the Director of Social Justice and Equity still has other responsibilities, there may be individuals interested in representing university committees outside of the internship format. He asked if a sentence should be added to clarify this. **Christine** pointed out that adding such a clause might defeat the purpose of the internship program, as it's designed to provide recognition and structure for university committee involvement. She expressed that the internship framework solves the issue of getting regular reports from students who sit on university committees, and that, ideally, all students involved in university committees should be part of this internship program to ensure consistent engagement and accountability. **Brandon** raised a concern, suggesting that if **Christine** (the current AED of Governance) is unavailable or moves to a different position, it might be necessary to revise the language to say "appointed AS staff" or "recommended AS AED of Governance." **Christine** responded by saying no, the position would remain titled "AED of Governance" regardless of who holds it, emphasizing that the role would always exist. **Brandon** then questioned what would happen if the new AED of Governance wasn't effective in their role. **Christine** reassured him by stating that **Alejandro, the Executive Director**, would ensure that only qualified individuals are hired for the position, implying confidence in the hiring process. Furthermore, it was also decided that the Director of Social Justice and Equity would be serving as the Vice Chair for the internship program and the AS AED of Governance would be the Advisor for the program. **Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice** asked **Brandon Foley, the President** how many students might be

interested in the internship, and **Brandon** responded that after two hours of outreach, he had a list of about 45 people. **Fayeeza** then raised a concern: what if 35 out of the 45 were genuinely interested? Would they accept all 35 or set a selection criterion, possibly on a first-come, first-served basis? **Bella Martinez-Bernal, VP Internal Affairs** weighed in, noting that it's perfectly fine for an internship program to be selective. Not everyone who applies needs to be accepted, which would allow for a structured and competitive process. Those not accepted could always reapply in the future, and knowing about the program might encourage them to try again. **Brandon** also asked whether they should add a line in the "Governing Gators" membership section, specifying that students need to fill out the internship interest form and be accepted into the program, indicating that acceptance isn't guaranteed. **Fayeeza** asked how they would go about denying applicants and whether it would be on a first-come, first-served basis for the first 12 or 20 people. **Brandon** suggested they consider factors like diversity in majors, representation from different colleges, ensuring a mix of undergraduates and graduates, and making sure participants can commit to the meeting times. He clarified that they wouldn't have a formal working group to determine this, but those factors would play a role in selection. **Bella** added that some candidates might be strong, but if they can't align with the meeting times, it won't work out. **Brandon** agreed, emphasizing that even if half of the 45 interested students were truly committed, availability would naturally narrow down the group. This is why they plan to continue informal outreach until the program is officially approved. **Christine** raised a concern about the sentence regarding board approval for internship assignments. She pointed out that if a student is accepted into the internship and told they'll sit on a university committee (like SFAC), but the board doesn't approve it, there could be a conflict. She asked if that would mean the student is effectively rejected from the internship. **Brandon** acknowledged the point and agreed that this could cause issues if university committee assignments don't align with the start of the internship. He explained that delays in board approval for committee seats could make it difficult to get everyone placed on time, noting that some items have appeared on the board agenda repeatedly. He suggested that interns could start without immediate committee placements, but **Christine** clarified that students cannot be part of the internship without sitting on a university committee, reinforcing that board approval must come first. Ultimately, **Brandon** agreed to keep the university committee assignments subject to board approval, ensuring that interns would only officially join once they've been placed on a committee.

## VII. Action Items

### a. Governing Gators Internship (Brandon Foley - President)

*New shared governance internship to increase student-at-large representation on university committees and enhance AS/AS BOD name recognition*

**Motion to approve the Governing Gators Internship Charter.**

**Moved by Maya Bal, VP Academic Affairs. Seconded by Bella Martinez-Bernal, VP Internal Affairs**

**Alejandro, the Executive Director** asked when the internship is planned for implementation, and **Brandon Foley, the President** replied that they hope to start it this semester, with an information session scheduled for September 12th.

**Yes: Fayeeza, Bella, Andrea, Maya, Dean Miguel (5)**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0.**

**Motion passes.**

VIII. Announcements

**Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice** informed the group about the first Rules Committee meeting, which took place before this meeting. She mentioned that they discussed the grievance policy and elections code in detail, with many sharing personal experiences. Fayeeza also asked if anyone had specific feedback regarding flyering, social media content, and sticker stamps, expressing the hope to receive comments and suggestions by the next Rules meeting so they could begin working on those changes.

IX. Adjournment

**Meeting adjourned at 3:29pm.**

Approved by: **Brandon Foley, the President**

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Respectfully submitted by: **Tushin Kulshreshtha, Head VP Assistant**

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