



Executive Committee

February 19th, 2025

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

T-152

Zoom

Call: <https://sfsu.zoom.us/j/91666786157?pwd=YlFGZHYzbGoySThwT25aU3dVay9VOT09>

Meeting ID: 916 6678 6157

Passcode: Exec

Minutes

I. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 2:02 PM.

II. Roll Call

Brandon Foley - President (chair) - Present
Bella Martinez-Bernal - VP Internal Affairs - Excused
Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs - Present
Lorena Mejia - VP Finance - Present
Maya Bal - VP Academic Affairs - Present
Dylan James Beck Gillespie - Chief of Staff - Present
Dr. Jamillah Moore - VP SAEM - Present (Dean Miguel) (2:07 PM)
Alejandro Rios - Executive Director - Present

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda for February 19th, 2025.

Moved by Dylan James Beck Gillespie - Chief of Staff. Seconded by Maya Bal - VP Academic Affairs.

Motion to amend the agenda to add discussion item (c) Review statement on undocumented students.

Moved by Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs. Seconded by Lorena Mejia - VP Finance.

No Discussion.

Yes: Andrea, Lorena, Maya, Dylan (4)

No: 0, Abstain: 0.

Motion passes.

Yes: Andrea, Lorena, Maya, Dylan (4)

No: 0, Abstain: 0.

Motion passes.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from October 16th, 2024 and November 6th, 2024.

Moved by Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs. Seconded by Lorena Mejia - VP Finance.

No discussion

Yes: Andrea, Lorena, Maya, Dylan (4)

No: 0, Abstain: 0.

Motion passes.

V. Open Forum

None.

VI. Discussion Items

a. Team Bonding/Hospitality Fund (Dylan James Beck Gillespie - Chief of Staff)

The Committee will discuss possibly a team bonding trip to support and upkeep the socio-emotional standards for our board.

Dylan James Beck Gillespie - Chief of Staff proposed the idea of using the \$8,000 available in the hospitality fund for an end-of-term team bonding event, suggesting Topgolf as a venue. He noted that pre-COVID, similar events were a tradition, but they had not taken place since the pandemic. He emphasized that such an event could serve as a way to refresh and re-center the board, especially given the stressful climate. **Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs** supported the idea and suggested a mid-semester bonding event instead of waiting until the very end of the term. She noted that if the funds were available and not allocated for another purpose, it would be beneficial to do something fun rather than another meeting-style retreat. **Lorena Mejia - VP Finance** agreed, especially given the current political climate, and asked about past team bonding events. **Christine Amador - AED of Governance**, mentioned that in the past, the board had done winter team bonding activities like mini-golf and dinners. **Dylan** advocated for Topgolf because of its capacity to accommodate over 13 people in one area with scenic views of the bay. **Lorena** raised concerns about accessibility for those relying on public transportation. **Dylan** mentioned possible options like SamTrans, Caltrain, or Uber. **Andrea** suggested the possibility of renting a bus for the day, to which **Brandon Foley - President** said that the costs would be much higher if they took the bus, while **Christine** clarified that transportation costs could be covered by the board if there was a designated meeting and return point. **Brandon** pointed out that since student dollars were funding the event, it should be scheduled early enough in the semester to ensure maximum participation before members become too busy or leave for summer break. He also raised accessibility concerns, recalling issues from a previous ropes course retreat. **Alejandro Rios - Executive Director**, suggested hosting the event in early March to avoid conflicts with election season and budget planning, ensuring it serves as bonding rather than just a celebration at the end of the term. **Brandon** also confirmed that there would still be a student-staff appreciation event at the end of the semester, which **Alejandro** affirmed.

Dean Miguel recognized at 2:07 PM

b. Transparency and Lucidity Doc. (Dylan James Beck Gillespie - Chief of Staff)

The Committee will discuss next steps and future implications with the transparency statement.

Dylan James Beck Gillespie - Chief of Staff opened the discussion by acknowledging the lack of a clear definition of transparency in administrative relations. He suggested extending transparency efforts across academic, external, and internal affairs and compiling a statement on behalf of Associated Students, its committees, and the students they represent. **Brandon Foley - President** then shared his disappointment with the Academic Senate plenary, where the process of approving student representation on the IRC (Institutional Review Committee) changed unexpectedly. Initially, there was discussion about either six student seats (one per college) or three at-large seats. However, by the second reading, it was reduced to only one student seat, restricted to the AS President, who would also be a non-voting member. **Brandon** expressed concern that this undermines student representation and shared governance. He suggested finding alternative ways to ensure student voices are included in major academic decisions, including working with **Christine Amador - AED of Governance**, and **Karina Zamora - Governance Assistant**. **Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs**, asked if this was documented, and **Brandon** confirmed he had written a short definition of transparency. He emphasized that transparency should mean more than just informing students of decisions—it should involve students in the decision-making process from the beginning. **Andrea** then proposed the idea of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize expectations around transparency and ensure follow-through from administrators, rather than having the issue resurface each year without enforcement. **Alejandro Rios - Executive Director**, recalled that shared governance policies were formalized in the late 1990s and strengthened in the early 2000s, leading to more student inclusion in university committees. He suggested revisiting these policies and using them as leverage in discussions with administration. He also emphasized that the goal is not to attack administrators but to ensure students have a seat at the table, even if they don't always agree with the decisions made. **Andrea** supported the idea, pointing out that transparency statements alone have not been effective over the years. She agreed that revisiting existing shared governance agreements could help reinforce student involvement and make the process more permanent. **Alejandro** concluded by acknowledging that some conversations, like **Brandon's** negotiations with the Academic Senate on student representation, may take time. However, he stressed the importance of being prepared for those discussions and ensuring student perspectives are consistently included in university decision-making.

Miguel Á. Hernández, Associate Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students, asked for clarification on whether shared governance applied only to the Academic Senate or the entire university. **Alejandro Rios - Executive Director**, confirmed it applied to the whole university and emphasized its purpose: ensuring student voices are considered in decision-making. **Lorena Mejia - VP Finance**, inquired about the existence of a shared governance document, and **Alejandro** suggested looking for it or drafting a new one if necessary. **Dean Miguel** appreciated the idea of using shared governance language, as it aligns with terminology the university already recognizes. He acknowledged the commitment of the current AS Board to attending university committees and holding the administration accountable, which was not as strong in the previous year. He encouraged AS leaders to think about how they can ensure future boards maintain this momentum. Using the example of the Gator Creed, he highlighted how involving students early in discussions allows them to shape policies before they are finalized. He also urged the board to inspire future leaders to stay engaged after elections. **Dylan James Beck Gillespie - Chief of Staff** agreed, linking this to **Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs'** point that shared governance policies must be continually updated and reaffirmed to ensure lasting impact. **Andrea** supported the idea of revising outdated policies to modernize them while also providing a framework for future boards to follow and improve upon. **Brandon Foley - President** pointed out that while policies for student board members (such as attendance and committee participation) already exist, his main concern is not student accountability but rather the lack of student representation in major university decisions. He stressed that

significant changes are happening rapidly, and students need to have a voice in these discussions. **Andrea** asked about next steps, proposing that the board discuss shared governance in the next meeting. **Lorena** suggested obtaining the document beforehand so members could review and provide comments in advance. **Brandon**, expressed his hope that by the next Executive Meeting, a well-developed document would be nearly finalized as an action item rather than waiting until the end of the semester.

c. Statement on Undocumented Students (Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs)

The Committee will discuss and take action on the statement on undocumented students.

Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs introduced a statement written by the External Affairs Committee, highlighting their careful articulation of solidarity, encouragement, and support for the undocumented student community. She noted that the statement had already passed through External Affairs and was now being reviewed for discussion before being presented as a final action item to the board. She then read the statement aloud. **Jannet Martinez Reyes - Ethnic Studies Rep**, provided a DREAM resource pamphlet that includes information on designated university contacts, University Police Department (UPD) policies, and additional resources. Updates were made to include more resource contacts, such as free legal services from the CSU system. **Miguel Á. Hernández, Associate Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students**, inquired whether the pamphlet explicitly named the designated university officials, **Dr. Jamillah Moore - VP SAEM** and **Dr. Fredrick Smith, Associate Vice President, Equity and Community Inclusion**. **Andrea** confirmed that their names, phone numbers, and emails were listed on the second page. **Dr. Moore** suggested verifying Dr. Williams' listed email address, as she is a singular VP or AVP for HR. She emphasized ensuring that any inquiries sent to that email are consistently monitored. She explained that the VP of SAEM's email is a group address, ensuring a response, whereas **Dr. Ingrid Williams, Senior Associate Vice President, Human Resources**' email may not have the same oversight. **Brandon** expressed his full support for the statement and confirmed that he would vote in favor of it at the next board meeting.

[The statement is attached as appendix a.]

VII. Action Items

None.

VIII. Announcements

None.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:34 PM.

Approved by: **Brandon Foley - President**

Signed by:

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

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Tushin Kulshreshtha
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