



Executive Committee

November 6th, 2024

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Jack Adams Hall

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 12:04pm.

II. Roll Call

Brandon Foley, President (chair) - Present
Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice - Present (12:22pm)
Bella Martinez-Bernal, VP Internal Affairs - Present
Andrea Soto, VP External Affairs - Present
Lorena Mejia, VP Finance - Present
Maya Bal, VP Academic Affairs - Present
Dr. Jamillah Moore, VP SAEM - Excused
Alejandro Rios, Executive Director - Present

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda for November 6th, 2024

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

No discussion

Yes: Fayeeza, Bella, Andrea, Lorena, Maya (5)

No: 0

Abstain: 0.

Motion passes.

IV. Approval of Minutes

None.

V. Open Forum

None.

VI. Discussion Item

a. Chief of Staff Nomination (Brandon Foley - President)

The committee will discuss selecting a Chief of Staff nominee.

Brandon Foley - President shared that, after revisiting the notes from the interviews over the past three weeks, his opinion had shifted slightly regarding how the interviews went. Despite this change, he maintained his support for **Elsy Hernandez-Monroy - Dir. Social Justice & Equity** as the candidate for the Chief of Staff position. He highlighted **Elsy's** well-rounded background and relevant experience, particularly her work with CFA, YBSA, and the student union. **Brandon** emphasized the importance of supporting both faculty and students and noted that **Elsy's** background aligned well with the requirements of the role, making her a strong candidate for the position.

Lorena Mejia, VP Finance expressed her continued support for **Dylan James Beck Gillespie - Education Rep** as the Chief of Staff candidate, emphasizing his strong performance during the interview and his valuable experience. She noted **Dylan's** established relationships with faculty, his ability to manage groups, and his skills in initiating and steering important conversations—qualities she deemed crucial for the role. **Lorena** highlighted his experience and capability as a strong foundation for her recommendation. **Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs** added her agreement with **Lorena's** points, reiterating her support for **Dylan** as the preferred candidate. She praised **Dylan's** clear work ethic, ability to effectively collaborate with staff, faculty, and students, and his proactive contributions to the board. **Andrea** emphasized **Dylan's** resilience in navigating challenges, holding the board accountable, and his capacity for conflict resolution. She concluded that **Dylan's** qualities and dedication make him the best fit for the Chief of Staff position.

Bella Martinez-Bernal - VP Internal Affairs shared her continued support for **Elsy Hernandez-Monroy - Dir. Social Justice & Equity** as the nominee for Chief of Staff. She reaffirmed her stance from the previous meeting, stating that she believed **Elsy** delivered a stronger interview performance. Reflecting on her notes, **Bella** mentioned some concerns she had with **Dylan James Beck Gillespie - Education Rep's** responses during the interview. She emphasized the importance of **Elsy's** background, which she felt brought a refreshing and needed perspective, particularly in light of the context and positionality at SF State.

Maya Bal, VP Academic Affairs clarified her position regarding the Chief of Staff decision. She explained that, although she was unwell during the last discussion and didn't endorse a candidate at that time, she has since taken three weeks to carefully consider who would be the best fit. After much thought and reflection, **Maya** decided to endorse **Dylan James Beck Gillespie - Education Rep** for the role. She shared her experience working closely with **Dylan** over the past year and a half, including their collaboration on the Academic Affairs Committee last year and his current role on her committee. **Maya** highlighted **Dylan's** ability to de-escalate tense situations and effectively communicate with different parties to find solutions, which she greatly values. While acknowledging that **Elsy Hernandez-Monroy - Dir. Social Justice & Equity** may also possess these qualities, **Maya** stated that she hasn't had the

opportunity to witness them firsthand, unlike with **Dylan**. This experience ultimately led her to support **Dylan** for the position.

Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs raised the question of whether the discussion should proceed without **Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice** or if they should wait for her arrival. **Brandon Foley - President** responded, informing the group that **Fayeeza** had indicated she would be 15 to 20 minutes late and sought clarification from **Christine Amador - AED Governance**, on how to handle the situation. **Christine** suggested calling a five-minute recess as an option and extending the time if needed. **Brandon** agreed with the suggestion and announced that a recess would be called, with the meeting resuming at 12:20 PM.

Motion to recess until 12:20 pm.

Moved by Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs. Seconded by Bella Martinez-Bernal, VP Internal Affairs

No discussion

Yes: Fayeeza, Bella, Andrea, Lorena, Maya (5)

No: 0

Abstain: 0.

Motion passes.

Recess ended at 12:22pm

Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice recognized at 12:22pm

Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice shared her perspective, reiterating her support for **Dylan James Beck Gillespie - Education Rep** as Chief of Staff. She mentioned that she had previously expressed this opinion and continues to stand by it. Drawing from her observations last year and **Dylan's** participation in her Rules Committee discussions, she highlighted his ability to remain a neutral and assertive figure who can take charge effectively. **Fayeeza** appreciated **Dylan's** emphasis during the interview on checking in with students in Associated Students (AS) and maintaining accountability across different committees. She emphasized the importance of these traits for the Chief of Staff role and expressed confidence in **Dylan's** ability to fulfill these responsibilities admirably. Ultimately, **Fayeeza** affirmed her continued support for **Dylan** as the ideal candidate for Chief of Staff.

Brandon Foley - President expressed his view that reaching a consensus on a single recommendation during the current meeting might not be feasible. He noted that the matter would still proceed for discussion and action. He highlighted that the Chief of Staff appointment is ultimately a presidential appointment, but acknowledged the divide within the executive committee regarding a unanimous recommendation. **Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice** inquired whether the board would be informed that the executive committee could not reach a unanimous nomination. She observed that there seemed to be a majority opinion within the committee and sought clarification on how this would be presented to the board. **Lorena Mejia, VP Finance** echoed the question, emphasizing the need for clarity about the message they would convey—whether it was that no decision could be made or that there was a majority consensus. **Brandon** clarified the situation, stating that while the majority of the committee supported a particular candidate, the president, as the nominator, did not align with the majority. As a result, there would be no formal recommendation from the executive committee, despite the majority's agreement.

Brandon Foley - President clarified that he had a nominee, **Elsy Hernandez-Monroy - Dir. Social Justice & Equity**, for the Chief of Staff position. **Brandon** acknowledged the situation, noting that while a majority was clear on their preference, the Chief of Staff position remains a presidential appointment. He stated that his presidential appointment did not align with the majority's preference for the nomination.

Brandon proposed bringing the matter to the Board of Directors (BOD) for further discussion, allowing everyone to reiterate their views there. **Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs** sought clarification, asking if this meant no nomination would be sent to the board. **Brandon** confirmed that no formal nomination would be made at this time, and the discussion would continue at the BOD meeting.

Bella Martinez-Bernal - VP Internal Affairs clarified that the nomination process for these positions remains a presidential nomination, and the board is expected to agree and move it forward. She pointed out that, due to the split in the board's support, the nomination will go to the rest of the board without a unified endorsement from the Executive Committee. **Brandon Foley - President** expanded on this by stating that while it is a presidential nomination, it is accompanied by an Executive Committee recommendation, and then a full board confirmation. However, in this case, there will be no Executive Committee recommendation due to the lack of consensus.

Motion to let the record reflect the overwhelming majority selects Dylan James Beck Gillespie - Education Rep to serve as the Chief Of Staff for the academic year.
Moved By Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs. Seconded by Fayeza Shaikh - Chief Justice.

No Discussion.

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

No: Bella (1)

Abstain: 0.

Motion passes.

Fayeza Shaikh - Chief Justice expressed her concerns about the situation, noting that while the presidential nomination is valid, the Executive Committee is divided on the Chief of Staff candidate. She questioned how the nomination process would unfold in the board meeting, especially since the Executive Committee does not have a unified recommendation. She sought clarification on how the board would perceive the situation and how the process might unfold in terms of decision-making. **Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs** added by emphasizing that if the board only sees one candidate from the Executive Committee, it would reflect a more united stance, even though the Executive Committee is divided. She noted that presenting no clear recommendation might take longer and complicate the decision-making process, potentially leading to a more drawn-out discussion. **Brandon** emphasized that the Chair of the Board is a position meant to represent the entire board, not just the Executive Committee. While he understood the nomination process goes through the Executive Committee due to its leadership role, the final decision should reflect the broader will of the full board.

Christine Amador - AED Governance sought clarification, asking if no nomination would be brought to the board and whether the board would decide through discussion. **Brandon Foley - President** confirmed that he would open it up for discussion and let the board decide. **Lorena Mejia, VP Finance** highlighted the extensive review of materials, including hours of video and documents from interviews, while **Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs** expressed concern about the lengthy process and the need for a decision today. She emphasized that bringing a name to the board would prevent a prolonged debate, which she felt had already gone on too long. **Brandon** suggested that if there was no agreement, it might be better to bring the decision to the full board, where they could review the videos and other materials. **Lorena**, however, expressed concern that doing so would be an invasion of privacy. She pointed out that the resumes were received at the last minute and felt that bringing up additional materials might conflict with previous decisions and processes. She argued that it wouldn't be relevant to the current situation. **Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs** asked if the process would reach a resolution today. **Brandon** expressed optimism, believing that the board would come to a decision. **Maya Bal, VP Academic**

Affairs then asked if they could show the interview recordings during the meeting, since the candidates had been informed they would be recorded. **Christine** responded by pointing out that it is poor practice to show resumes or recordings in a public meeting during a hiring process. She emphasized that while sharing internal documents with proper notice is appropriate, presenting personal materials like resumes and interview notes in a public setting is not advisable. **Brandon** then suggested adding a closed session item to the agenda, but **Christine** clarified that closed session items cannot be added to regular meetings without at least 24 hours' notice, and this situation did not meet the criteria for an emergency closed session.

Fayeeza Shaikh - Chief Justice expressed concern about how to present the situation to the board, asking if they would communicate that while the president has made a nomination, the executive committee is not in agreement with that choice. She emphasized the importance of making the board aware of this disagreement and ensuring proper notice is given. **Fayeeza** also noted that if the board members had not been adequately informed or prepared for the discussion, it could cause confusion and disrupt the process. She then asked for clarity on the next steps.

Alejandro Rios, Executive Director, emphasized the importance of staying focused on the larger mission of the Associated Students, rather than personal disagreements. He explained that the role of the executive committee is to do the groundwork and bring recommendations to the board, which is then responsible for approving them. If the committee can't reach a decision, the board will step in. He acknowledged the difficulty of disagreements but urged the group to follow the structure and rules of the meeting to avoid prolonging the process unnecessarily. He also mentioned that if no decision is made in the executive committee, it would send a message to the board that the committee couldn't agree, which could lead to further delays. **Alejandro** suggested that they either continue discussing or move forward with the action item to avoid being stuck in prolonged deliberation. He reiterated that the executive committee's role is to make a recommendation to the board, and without that, the process would be more chaotic.

Maya Bal, VP Academic Affairs laid out two potential solutions to resolve the situation. The first option was for **Brandon Foley - President** to bring his nomination of **Elsy Hernandez-Monroy - Dir. Social Justice & Equity** to the board, provide his reasoning, and move forward with that. In this case, she noted that the first name brought up is often the one that passes, but she cautioned that this might leave the VPs feeling unheard and devalued. The second option was for **Brandon** to listen to the four VPs, move forward with **Dylan James Beck Gillespie - Education Rep's** name first, and in doing so, show that the VPs' opinions are valued—even if it meant not getting the chief of staff that Brandon wanted. **Maya** urged **Brandon** to think about the options and decide on the best way forward, so the group could move on and end the meeting.

Bella Martinez-Bernal - VP Internal Affairs expressed her view that the situation should be seen through the lens of the rules and the circumstances, where the executive committee does not have a single unified nomination due to disagreements among its members. She emphasized that this isn't a personal issue but rather a procedural one, and if she were on the other side, she would understand the situation as it stands. **Bella** supported moving forward with the discussion and a vote, sticking to the agenda as planned, and hoped that the board members had reviewed the agenda in advance, as that would ensure a smoother process. She also expressed concern about the potential consequences if members were unprepared.

Brandon Foley - President clarified that **Elsy Hernandez-Monroy - Dir. Social Justice & Equity** is his presidential nominee and that he intends to move forward with her nomination, despite the overwhelming support for **Dylan James Beck Gillespie - Education Rep** from the executive committee. He acknowledged that the committee has expressed its position but reiterated that as the president, the nomination is ultimately his decision. He responded to **Andrea Soto - VP External Affairs's** question by

confirming that he will take **Elsy's** name forward to the board of directors at 2 p.m., aligning with his presidential prerogative.

Christine Amador - AED Governance outlined three options for handling the nomination situation:

1. **Bringing Elsie's Name Forward: Brandon Foley - President** moves forward with his presidential nomination of **Elsy Hernandez-Monroy - Dir. Social Justice & Equity**, and the executive committee can speak to their positions before the board decides.
2. **Bringing Nothing Forward:** If no nomination or recommendation comes from the executive committee, the board would then discuss the situation and decide.
3. **Straw Poll:** If no recommendation is made from exec, the discussion can continue, with a straw poll to determine which candidate the board prefers, and the majority opinion would become the action item.

Maya Bal, VP Academic Affairs asked which option the group preferred and if they wanted to take a recess to consider the options. **Brandon** said that he decided to bring **Elsy's** name forward as his nominee, regardless of the discussions and motions made by the executive committee. **Bella Martinez-Bernal - VP Internal Affairs** clarified that the discussion and action item will move forward as a presidential nomination, but without the endorsement of the executive committee.

It was decided that there will be no recommendation from the executive committee for the Chief of Staff Nomination.

Motion to table action item (a) Chief Of Staff Nomination.

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

No Discussion.

Yes: Fayeeza, Bella, Andrea, Lorena, Maya (5)

No: 0

Abstain: 0.

Motion passes.

VII. Action Items

None.

VIII. Announcements

None.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:52pm.

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

Signed by:

Brandon Foley

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

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Tushin Kulshreshtha

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