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Minutes
Elections Commission
Friday, September 18, 2020 9:30 A.M.
See Zoom Meeting Details

This meeting is being facilitated through an online zoom format, consistent with the Governor's Executive Order N25-20, suspending certain open meeting law restrictions.

- I. Called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Cindy Romero, Chairperson.
- II. Roll Call
Voting Members Present: Cindy Romero, Ahmilliyon Marin, Jocelyn Molina, Lola White, Rihab Shuaib
Voting Members Absent: None
Non-Voting Members Present: None
Advisors Present: Stephen Janes and Adam Kasarda
- III. Approval of Agenda – Action Item
M/Shuaib, S/Marin to approve the agenda as submitted.
VOTE: UNANIMOUS
- IV. Approval of Minutes (September 4, 2020) – Action Item
M/White, S/Marin to approve the minutes with amendment to correct the date to September 4, 2020. **VOTE: UNANIMOUS**
- V. Open Forum – Agenda Items Only
Time for the members of the audience to address the Commission on specific agenda Items only. None
- VI. Unfinished Business
 - A. Election Goals – Discussion Item
The Commission will discuss and begin setting Goals for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.
Romero noted that last year's number of votes received increased from the year prior; because of this, Romero suggested that the goal be raised again. Marin suggested keeping the goal the same, considering the challenges presented by the alternative school format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Janes stated that last year's goal was 1,500 votes, and over 2,000 were received. Marin and Shuaib shared that they feel that striving for 1,800 is a healthy goal, considering the virtual format. It was noted by the Commission that during last year's ASI election season, there was an added potential benefit of the My ASI, My Fee campaign. Kasarda agreed that a more conservative goal would be realistic considering the virtual format. The Commission discussed the issue of Zoom fatigue in recruiting student participation/engagement in outreach events. Janes

shared that persistence in sending email messages until voter engagement is reached has been a helpful tactic. Kasarda suggested that the Commission partner with different campus departments to work on reaching out to students. Shuaib suggested paying extra attention to marketing for the campaign, and Romero suggested heavily utilizing social media. Janes shared that, thus far in the virtual format, the highly interactive Zoom events have had the greatest attendance. Molina suggested staying persistent with sending emails, to be sure those students who do not use social media to follow ASI. The Commission discussed having each candidate record a video to share their platform.

B. Applications – Discussion Item

The Commission will discuss how to handle distribution and receiving of Elections Applications in the Virtual setting.

Janes shared that Google Forms or Jot Form can be used to collect signatures. A drop box link could be used for Kasarda to receive the applications as a non-ASI member. It was noted that only the original author of the Google Form would have access to the signatures – this addressed the issue of FERPA maintenance. Currently, the requirement is 50 signatures for current executive members and 100 for non-executive members. The Commission discussed the possibility of amending the elections code to reduce the requirements by half; Molina supported this proposed reduction. It was noted by the Commission that some ASI members bypass the campaign process, including the signatures, by waiting to get appointed to a vacant position.

C. Elections Code – Discussion Item

The Commission will discuss potential amendments to the Elections Code to prepare for the Virtual setting.

Janes stated that any changes made to the elections code would need to be approved by BOD; a timeline and marketing campaign will also need to be developed and approved. Molina suggested adding a contingency referring to the current virtual requirement, rather than rewriting the entire code.

White and Janes noted that obtaining signatures and navigating confusion around the language of the application are issues frequently heard when ASI conducts follow-up cold calls to those who have taken applications. The current Elections Code is posted on the ASI website. The Committee will read through the current code and will vote on amendments at a later time.

VII. New Business – None

VIII. Reports

Program Coordinator – Before the spring semester, the elections goals, timeline, and marketing will need to be presented and voted on by the BOD.

IX. Open Forum – Discussion Item

Time for members of the audience to address the Commission. None

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m. by Cindy Romero, Chairperson.

Chair's Signature:

“ASI REPRESENTS THE STUDENTS”