

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: September 8, 2009**  
**Student Union Building, Meeting Room C – 211**

**ASG BOD Members**

***Present:*** President Joseph Root, VP of Equity and Pluralism Luis Sanchez, Club and Programs Representative Andres Munt, Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurial Representative Jean-Claude Kameni, Environmental and Social Responsibility Representative Carolyn Dewitt, Chief Justice Bernard Ellouk, Associate Justice of Internal Affairs Stéphanie Baghoumina

***Absent:*** Marketing and Public Relations Representative Janet Bai (excused), VP of Finance and Communication Chapman Chung (excused), Associate Justice of External Affairs Jessica Yip

***Advisor:*** Candy Stewart

***Others Present:*** Marcus Sweetser, Nora Lance

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**Proceedings**

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:29 pm by Joseph Root
2. Roll Call
  - Members of the Board of Directors and the Judicial Board introduced themselves
  - Guests introduced themselves
3. Approval of minutes
  - Two objections
    - Approval of the minutes from the August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Munt pointed out that two visitors' names were misspelled "Alex Simas" and "Tim Abramson". Root suggested to not using commas but period for the budget report.
4. VPFC Budget Report –Luis Sanchez– VP of Equity and Pluralism

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Account #</b>	<b>Available Funds</b>
ASG	1900	\$ 170,914
Reserve	1984	\$ 105,091.50
Cultural	1903	\$ 12,799
Club	1910	\$ 15,000

## 5. By-Law Review Committee Recommendations. Executive Session

- Root began the meeting by an executive session to debate the changes made in the by-laws.
- Sweetser required some clarifications about how S&A funds are allocated to the Office Student of Legislative Affairs. He also mentioned that the process of limiting the number of volunteers is a waste of time and would exclude people. He asked his program to be treated like the other program regarding the fact that every hired should come to the BOD after three paid positions.
- Ellouk replied that the purpose of this process would be to create an oversight.
- Ellouk and Munt argued that only Sweetser has the authority to pick somebody in the current process.
- Sweetser said that ASG has already an incredible amount of power approving any message in Olympia on behalf of the students. To him, more power would be micromanagement and bureaucracy which is inefficient and would kill the program. He would like to have the flexibility to decide how to operate and manage his program.
- Sanchez asked what would be the ideal number of volunteers.
- Sweetser answered 5 to 6 in order to create a team.
- Sanchez brought to attention the fact that we cannot call volunteers people who are paid.

- Root encouraged the by-law review committee to look at the paid volunteers section.
- Root opened up the meeting to the public.
- Ellouk made some comments about the changes made by the by-law review committee.

6. Sanchez motioned to approve the by-law review committee recommendations  
Munt seconded

- Sanchez agreed with the fact that it would take a long time to hire somebody. He suggested having the 5 or 6 volunteers instead of 3, and the rest would be approved by the BOD.
- Munt stated that the process of bringing the volunteers to the BOD would let us know why Sweetser needs more volunteers.
- Sweetser explained that we should not have in the by-laws a stipulation to limit the number of volunteers. The current process already gets approval from Faisal Jaswal and Tom Pritchard. Secondly, the power of the Judicial Board to cease the hiring process is unnecessary because the Judicial Board has always held this process so far. The fact that any removal of a volunteer position needs to be approved by the BOD undermines the director authority to direct the program. It should be done by the Director of Student Program.
- Sanchez asked what would be the process used by the BOD to reject the hiring of somebody without having this long process.
- Ellouk declared that we would have to look at the qualifications and resume. He also mentioned that he had no problem to table this item because of the current conflicts.
- Baghoumina added that it should be an easy process to hire somebody, and the decision to limit the number of volunteers would be too long and complicated.

- Sanchez agreed with the fact the fact that we should have some oversight on the entire process. However, he maintained that 3volunteers is not enough, and Sweetser, due to his experience, know how many volunteers he needs.
- Munt asserted that if we give such a responsibility to the director it can be risky in the future if we have somebody not responsible.
- Sweetser said that a compromise could be to have the director and the president making join decisions during the interviews.
- Root specified that Faisal is also a good check, and it does not mean that he would be the hiring authority.
- Ellouk communicated the changes made in the election section.
- Sweetser asked for some clarifications regarding the section 1.6.4.1.12, the fact that we need to define what a group is, and whether or not a candidate would be elected in the case we cannot find any facts about what he was doing.
- Root recommended when writing the by-laws, to put the ASBC Election Committee prior to the ASBC Judicial Board, which is a review of what the ASBC Election Committee does.
- Munt moved to table the by-law review committee recommendations indefinitely.

**Vote: 6-0-0**

***Amendment Passes***

- Sanchez enquired what where the reasons the last BOD did not hire Marcus and Jessica as Director and Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs?

- Vanessa Pantley explained the 2<sup>nd</sup> committee was formed because the 1<sup>st</sup> committee was biased. Then the 2<sup>nd</sup> committee made a recommendation to the BOD, she goes on to say that due to one member not being happy from the first committee For this reason, Alva held a BOD on the last day of the ASG to make sure there would be input from her about Marcus. At this meeting she made comments that supposedly attacked Marcus's character. (See Board of Directors Minutes June 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting)
- Board Root recommended Sanchez to look at the minutes to know what officially was said.
- Sanchez replied that he wanted to hear from somebody else because he believed that the accusations were not about Marcus' qualifications but personal statements.
- Root asked the members of the BOD and Marcus if they wanted to move to an executive session.
- Munt specified that it is not about personal character, but the focus is on the recommendations and what happened.
- Root advised everybody to be careful and to avoid personal conversation.
- Chung asked what would happen to the legislative committee if only one of the two candidates, were hired.
- Vanessa Pantley answered that it could still be fine because they could develop a volunteer raise, or they could work much more hours mostly unpaid.
- Sanchez asked the Judicial Board if Marcus due process was violated because he was not present to the BOD.
- Ellouk replied that Marcus did not receive his due process because Amanda or any individual involved in organizing the BOD Meeting did not inform him about what was going to be said in regards to him.

- Munt brought to attention the fact that Jessica Darmawan was not present to defend herself because she was doing an internship in Washington DC.
- Root moved to a vote

**Vote: 5-0-1**

***Hiring of Jessica Darmawan as an Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs approved.***

- Munt declared that Marcus Sweetser had provided a really hard work for the college, and that he was extremely qualified for this position. However, Munt's point of view is to give other students a chance to be leaders on campus and not keeping the same people around constantly.
- Some visitors talked in favor of Marcus. They affirmed that this position requires somebody who has a lot of experience otherwise it would be difficult for the new director to adapt to his new responsibilities.
- Vanessa Pantley agreed, and also said that the 2<sup>nd</sup> committee came out with the same conclusion.
- John Daniel Peppe covered the fact the position has been empty for a few months so far, so he urged the BOD to hire Marcus.
- Chung asked Marcus Sweetser if he had any comments.
- Marcus responded that he was really passionate about what he was doing and that he had been voted in as a representative to national student organizations.
- Munt argued that Marucs Sweetser could be used as a different resource on campus because of his knowledge.
- Marcus Sweetser asserted that working in the Legislative Affairs helped him serve in other positions. Therefore, it would be a great opportunity as a director to do things around.

- Root moved to a vote

**Vote: 4-0-2**

***Hiring of Marcus Sweetster as a Director of Legislative Affairs approved.***

**7. Advisor comments**

- Candy pointed the fact that not all the voting members talked during the discussion.

**8. Public comments**

- Ellouk made a recommendation for future hires. He said that the hiring process was unorganized and that this original problem occurred due to a lack of regulation and documentation. Ellouk suggested that the board adopt a strict set standard for all S&A hiring's.

**9. Sanchez motioned to adjourn the meeting**

Munt seconded

**Vote: 5-0-1**

***President Root adjourned the meeting at 5:14.***