



University Student Union  
California State University, Northridge

**Diversity and Inclusion Committee Agenda**  
**Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**  
**Executive Board Room**  
**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the USU Board of Directors – Diversity and Inclusion Committee was called to order at 4:02 pm by Chair Benkovic.

**II. Roll Call**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Frankie Benkovic (Committee Chair)	Jessica Aceves	Freddie Sanchez	
Tyrone Carter	Jaleesa Herrington	Augie Garibay	
Melanie Alvarez Rojas	Dawn Joves		
Kelly de Leon	Ruben Ramos		
Stephanie Flores Temix (USU BOD Vice Chair)			
Bhernard Tila (USU BOD Chair)			

**III. Approval of Agenda**

M/S/P (S. Flores Temix/M. Alvarez Rojas) Motion to approve the agenda for April 8, 2019.

*Motion passed 5-0-0*

**IV. Approval of Minutes – 02/25/19**

M/S/P (K. de Leon/ M. Alvarez Rojas) Motion to approve the minutes for February 25, 2019.

*Motion passed 4-0-1*

**V. Open Forum**

K. de Leon invited the committee to Queer Maya K'iche' Artist from Guatemala, Manuel Tzoc Bucup and passed around copies of the flyer.

**VI. Chair's Report**

Chair Benkovic acknowledged that it's getting closer to the end of semester. He reminded the committee of the upcoming meeting dates and reiterated the importance of attendance. There will not be a Co-Chair for this committee owing to a class schedule conflict. Chair Benkovic provided an update regarding the Sol Center 2<sup>nd</sup> floor men's restroom being offline as it's being redesigned as a gender inclusive restroom. He offered congratulations to Melanie for winning a seat on the USU Board of Directors (BOD) during the spring 2019 elections. He reminded those who ran but didn't win that there are other ways to get involved. He invited them to apply and interview for three potential vacancies on the BOD.

Chair Benkovic met with Revolutionary Scholars, stating that there are no background checks required for student assistant positions in the USU, except for Sunny Days positions. Revolutionary Scholars stated that a stigma exists and would like the USU to be explicit in stating that we are "formerly incarcerated friendly." Creating inclusive trainings for staff working with students who are formerly incarcerated was also recommended.

Discussion began regarding the USU Gift process from unallocated reserves. Revolutionary Scholars, Latinas Rising, and CSUN Food Pantry received funds from USU for the 2018-2019. There are parameters to how the funding can be used. For example, funds cannot be used for travel and salary/wages. Revolutionary Scholars' wages come from Campus Quality Fee (CQF) funds. Revolutionary Scholars has approximately \$10,000 remaining from USU Gift funds. The remaining funds will rollover to next fiscal year. Chair Benkovic asked the committee if there is a way we could look at the policy and provide an informal recommendation. BOD Chair Tila stated that the BOD will be voting next meeting to provide more structure.

M. Alvarez Rojas asked which organizations are eligible for the funding from the USU and how that is determined. Chair Benkovic read from the policy. M. Alvarez Rojas asked if there is an application process. Chair Benkovic clarified that there isn't a formal application process.

Revolutionary Scholars and the process for them to be institutionalized through the USU was discussed. They submitted a request for their third year of CQF funding. They anticipated that they would not be eligible for a fourth year and have approached the USU. Other organizations are also asking and may be coming into their third year of CQF funding. Discussion regarding CQF funding took place (student fees).

Chair Benkovic discussed the USU Referendum, the formation of an outreach team, and the U-RISE Justice Center process.

## **VII. Action Items**

## **VIII. Discussion Items**

### **A. Housing and Food Insecurity Brainstorm**

CSUN with A HEART website was reviewed.

T. Carter stated that the website cannot be found without knowing the URL. It was not found on the CSUN homepage or in the myCSUN portal. Students are not aware of CSUN with A HEART or its services. F. Sanchez clarified that this was an initiative through the Office of Student Involvement and Development (OSID) and the Matador Involvement Center (MIC) through the campus-wide Basic Needs Committee.

T. Carter asked "How can we provide access to the information without stigmatizing students?"

M. Alvarez Rojas stated that many students cannot self-identify that they are experiencing housing insecurity, citing a project she recently completed.

It was suggested that the campus set up a hotline for students to anonymously call and get access to resources, putting the website on faculty's Canvas page or on their syllabus, and having the USU service hours extended for students experiencing housing insecurity. Having a link back to CSUN with A HEART from the USU website was suggested.

### **B. Undocumented Student Leadership Position Review\***

The committee reviewed the Cal Poly Pomona proposal and the Associated Students at CSU Long Beach undocumented scholarship. Chair Benkovic asked the committee to come up with a set of questions to ask the Dream Center as we

continue to work on this item. Cal Poly Pomona has a partnership with their Career Center with one staff member who is knowledgeable of the undocumented student experience. Discussion regarding the Cal Poly Pomona program and how it may work to support student success, long-term.

A question was posed, "How many students would be left out if they are not AB 540 (paying out-of-state tuition)?"

CSU Long Beach's scholarship offered on a semester basis and has vague criteria. The criteria does not explicitly state it is for Dreamers. Selection process and scoring is also vague. Adding barriers may discourage applicants. When compared to the CSUN Dreamers scholarship (AB 540, DACA, or other undocumented status).

We do not want to create an application process that is trauma based (e.g. having applicants share traumatic experiences to qualify for funding).

Other questions posed included: Are we looking at the employment policy? Are we looking to create a program? If the program was offered to students who are full-time versus half-time, are we excluding people?

Using the three examples is a good basis for looking to create our own (scholarship, program, position) through the USU.

Understanding where the funds are coming from. Cal Poly Pomona is flexible based on their funding source. Is CSULB able to provide scholarships without the FAFSA or California DREAM Application?

The eligibility criteria will be discussed in three parts: (1) Enrollment Status, (2) Financial Aid Eligibility, and (3) Academic Standing.

We are not asking for special treatment. We're just asking for an opportunity that everyone else has.

BOD Chair Tila requested a formal report and recommendation for following year. The USU could benefit from creating a unique program using the findings from the three different examples (CPP, CSULB, & CSUN).

## **IX. Announcements**

Applications are open. Close on the 17<sup>th</sup>. BOD 1-Year appointments.

Chair will figure out a way to get the nominations for committee member of the year

## **X. Adjournment**

Chair Benkovic adjourned the meeting at 6:01 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Augie Garibay

Executive Secretary

Assistant Director, Diversity Initiatives

*\*denotes attachment*

*\*\*denotes hand-outs at meeting*