

Associated Students of Santa Monica College
A.S Elections Committee Special Meeting
November 21, 2014 12:00 PM
Cayton #206
Minutes



I. Call to Order 12:11 PM

II. Roll Call

1. Maya Kaitel (Chair) **P**
2. Ali Khan **P**
3. Rizwan Rashid **P**
4. Julio Santizo **A**
5. Isaac Medeiros **P**
6. Courtney King **A**
7. Benny Blaydes (Advisor) **P**

III. Approval of the Minutes Motion by Ali Khan. Second by Rizwan Rashid. Approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of the Agenda Motion by Rizwan Rashid. Second by Isaac Medeiros. Approved unanimously.

V. Public Comments (2 minutes per person) No public comments were given.

VI. Action Items

1. Discuss and possibly amend the Election Code language
Robert Myers presents language that he has drafted to reflect the changes made in the previous meeting. Dean Bridges brings up that the 72 hours period is necessary for a regular meeting, but since the election span is so short, would it be possible in any way to shorten that period? Robert Myers says that the 72 hour period is necessary because it isn't fair to the Elections Committee or to the public to meet on short notice, and that all the Elections Committee can do is refer people to the disciplinarian, so it shouldn't be an issue. Ali Khan brings up the grammatical point that the Code should say Judicial Board rather than Judicial Council in Section IX: Enforcement. He then asks how long the elections run for. Dean Bridges informs him that the elections run for one week. Ali questions if within that week, we will have time for that 72 hour period. Dean Bridges answers that this is a four pronged process, and it will take time, but action may be taken after the elections have already happened. Robert Myers makes the point that elections are longer than just the week of polling, because of campaigning. Dean Bridges inquires as to how the process might work.. Robert Myers explains that Maya can issue a letter to the candidate that is causing a problem or may refer the situation to the Elections Committee. If the complainant is upset, they may come before the committee. From there, the matter may be referred to the Judicial Board, and from the Judicial Board, it may be referred to the campus disciplinarian. Rizwan Rashid seconded Ali Khan's grammatical amendment. Ali Khan questions where the line is drawn between a major and a minor violation. Robert Myers responds that this would be left to the committee to decide, and that it is best to have flexibility there. Benny Blaydes asks for clarification and specifies that the campus disciplinarian will make disqualifications instead of the committee. Robert Myers confirms that this will be the new process, and that it makes disqualifications less political. Benny Blaydes expressed that he is satisfied with this solution as this is a part of the campus disciplinarian's job. Robert Myers says that for the next meeting, he will be able to get together language to reflect changes made in the last meeting. Maya Kaitel asks if there is anything else on this matter that the committee would like

to discuss. Ali Khan brings up the topic of violations of the posting policy. Rizwan Rashid inquires as to whether there is a workshop on this topic that the candidates can attend. Benny Blaydes informs him that the posting policy is explained in the mandatory candidates meeting. Ali Khan notes that the Board of Directors must be notified that they will not be able to assist any candidate. Robert Myers says that the code must be changed from saying that the "Board of Directors" cannot endorse any candidates to "Any member of the Board of Directors" cannot endorse any candidate. Ali Khan points out that the Student Trustee must be included in this. Dean Bridges adds that this needs to include faculty and staff as well. She then points out that this should be called the 2015 Election Code. Maya Kaitel inquires as to whether the committee can meet over the winter semester. The committee agrees unanimously that they would be open to meetings in the winter semester. Rizwan Rashid inquires as to whether the committee can change the dates listed in the current Election Code. Benny Blaydes and Maya Kaitel agree to do so, and to bring the revised dates to the next meeting for the committee to consider. Benny Blaydes points out that the Code must be ready by the first meeting of the Spring semester. Dean Bridges inquires as to whether the application to run needs to be changed. Ali Khan expresses that he thinks it is fine as it is. Dean Bridges then asks if 50 signatures are enough. Maya Kaitel expresses that she thinks so. Robert Myers asks how long applicants have to collect the 50 signatures. Ali Khan informs him that they have from the day that the application opens. He then expresses that collecting the signatures forces applicants to talk to people and understand what they are going to be doing. Robert Myers inquires as to when the petition is due. Maya Kaitel informs him that the petition is due before the mandatory candidates meeting. Dean Bridges asks if the committee would be in favor of doing a Question and Answers workshop for potential candidates before the petition and the mandatory meetings take place. The committee agrees unanimously that this would be a good idea. Ali Khan suggests that the current Directors should make presentations at this workshop explaining their roles in A.S.. Isaac Medeiros expresses that he would come to such a meeting if he were a potential candidate. He then inquires as to how the I.C.C. elections are conducted, and Maya Kaitel explains the process to him. Ali Khan asks who works the polls for the general election. Maya Kaitel explains that it is non-S.M.C. students that work the polls.

2. Further discussion on how to get students to vote
Maya Kaitel suggests putting packets at each poll that contain information about each candidate so that students can learn about the candidate before they vote. Rizwan Rashid and Ali Khan express that they like the idea. Isaac Medeiros expresses that the election needs more publicity. Ali Khan and Benny Blaydes stress the importance of classroom presentations. Isaac Medeiros suggests that commissioners should also make these presentations. Ali Khan suggests serving pizza at the Question and Answers workshop that Dean Bridges suggested.

VII. Adjournment *Motion by Ali Khan. Second by Isaac Medeiros. Meeting adjourned at 12:58 PM.*