Associated Students of Claremont McKenna College

Executive Board Meeting

November 15th, 2015

Highlights: (Find the matching color within the minutes for more information)

- Campus Climate Discussion
- Diversity and Inclusion Chair

Members Present: Nicky Blumm, Cristina Lee, Kathryn Chakmak, Joey Yamada, Ben Turner, Christine Horne, Michael Irvine, Melissa Muller, Caroline Peck, Will Su, Cole Mora, Russell Salazar, Iris Liu, Makari Krause, Eliana Keinan

Guests: Aaron McKenney ’18, Malia ‘18, Jess ’19, Sam ‘19

Call to order 7:05 pm

Minutes approved from last week

Nicky: met with dorm presidents Sunday – firming up AOD stuff – no meeting this week as he is concussed – working with RAs about funding dorm discussions with their dorms – will continue to do that

Cristina: no update

Kathryn: no thesis tanks as she was misquoted for 120 tanks – were on sale at that time so when she went to order she couldn’t

Joey: no update

Ben: rules still exist

Steen: no update

Michael: D&I stuff, no update for other changes

Melissa: clubs have been active this week – chartered Radius (republicans, of the US): Claremont’s first political current events newspaper

Caroline: in charge of TNC this week and wants acapella groups to perform

Will: welcome Joey Yamada as third presidential advisor and Dean as new EC, will have more updates – Trustee meetings on Dec. 3rd in LA

Cole: no updates
Russell: Email out to class about this week, his thoughts, and that he’s open to communications from class – he’s open to input on Center and other things – planning event for pre-thanksgiving for underclassman

Iris: lots happened at Senate, first opening of everything that’s happened this week, D&I, not sure what Senate will look like tomorrow night – might have Michael lead to make sure that my closeness to the issue isn’t a problem

Makari: no update

Eliana: It’s On Us week of action went reasonably well I think – a lot of support and good to see support with the shirts

Sam (Timmy): discussed class shirts and sent out email to finalize design for before thanksgiving

Event debrief: TNC – Beyonce at Crown, pizza came – Ben helped us unscrew and screw back all lightbulbs - considered changing event in light of campus events but were restricted to due spacing and due to funding for alcohol

Pre-football game tailgate: all class presidents were a part of this and Russell’s dad is an MVP for carrying things – over-bought things

**Campus Climate Discussion:**

Dinner on Friday hosted by Dean Uvin and PSR

Special faculty meeting tomorrow at lunch to decide to cancel classes on Thursday morning for a school-wide conversation. It will be a constructive conversation. What do students want? What do students not want? Specifically for a resource center. A special candidate for the position of D&I in the admin (not sure faculty or student affairs) will be there and she will essentially be “interviewed” for the job, with an immediate hire possible.

Will’s focus: bringing community back together despite some opposing views

Ben: went to demonstration and we can be allies to those who have organized all of this to focus on their health and wellness – no matter what you think it’s important to expect one another

Kat: that was the feeling many seniors had and were glad to have the letter sent to the student body by Dean Uvin – good to have that viewpoint out there

Joey: conversations about how letter misrepresents the movement in a lot of ways, grievances are targeted toward certain events and not the message of the movement itself – worried that people will attribute what has happened to the message of the movement itself – don’t want what has happened to be representative of the movement itself

Kat: vast majority of dissenters support the movement itself, but the actions that they associate with the movement are what they’re worried about/disagree with
Nicky: curious about last email – ask whether we have or haven’t been good representatives as an executive board – how do we get better going forward representing our whole student body

Will: there were students disenfranchised by this movement, we supported it at the forefront because we felt that the message had merits – we could have done a lot more to help recognize and represent the suppressed voices that may have not agreed

Iris: push back?

Christine: all of the things the movement was a catalyst for might be what people are against. No one thinks that the movement itself is a bad thing but that the methods could have been better.

Nicky: maybe should consider going forward with polling dorms and resident opinions

Iris: in light of this week, it’s been a test of what we individually think leadership is and what we think our jobs are as student leaders – times to represent all voices and pick majority to go with that and times when you need to take what you think is right and go with that – there are moments that you have to take a stand for what you believe and to pull the school with you in this way – I feel strongly and conviction for this movement – it is an injustice that it took this long for things to be addressed – we can talk about whether I’m fit to be VP or whether my actions make me unfit to be VP but I think part of our role is not necessarily to represent all/majority of students in every movement – the statement of dissent is an affirmation that students have felt marginalized, students have gotten together anonymously no share that they feel un-represented in the same way that students behind the movement have done with their names. I feel that it’s our job to stand up for something – it’ll marginalize some voices because we can’t always agree on everything, and I feel that’s what leadership is

Ben: good government means sometimes standing up for those people who might not always be represented – it’s our job to commit to causes we believe in as leaders. Unfortunately people haven’t quite understood that there is a distinct divide between “safe spaces”. Iris has the right to say whatever she wants so long as she’s representing the concerns of students who feel as though their voices have not been heard or have been failed by the system – we’re all here to be leaders and I think Iris and Will have been good leaders – we need now to best represent those students who haven’t felt like a part of the conversation

Russell: pull everybody up to same level of communication – that it takes so much to bring these student’s voices up is indicative of how underrepresented they were – put all voices up on the same platform so that a meaningful discussion can be had

Iris: there are a lot of closed off, not honest discussions because I feel that people are afraid of being attacked, or hurt, or judged – we need to represent all perspectives even if that’s unpopular – our responsibility to engage with these conversations and then represent them and we need to access that information and perspective

The next step is bringing all voices to the forefront of this conversation without hostility

Kathryn: recognize who’s speaking to whom – understand that we’re all getting different sides of the same conversation, and that all sides must be equally heard and emphasized or else no progress will be made
**Diversity and Inclusion Chair**

Michael: Idea of position is that they’ll be the ones responsible, and not solely responsible, for considering matters of diversity and inclusion on board in ways including but not limited to: programming, liaison between Council/DOS/admin and board – should this person be voting or non-voting member on elections committee?

Alongside Chair position we want to have a chair position as well – a body that exists within and alongside ASCMC – idea is that committee would be composed of representatives from 5 student affinity groups as well as at-large chairs

Nicky: who are they applying to?

Michael: applications would go to old members of committee around spring break and they would switch out at this time annually

Kathryn: potential issue of people applying and then selecting themselves?

Michael: if you’re on committee and re-applying then you’re not on the selection committee for next time as a common sense procedural practice – should CLSA have a seat given that they’re not a CMC-specific group? Potential solution is to have 2/3 vote to add a permanent membership to groups

Kathryn: make it so that only CMCers can be representatives on this committee?

Michael: only CMC students can be on this committee. Left roles and powers intentionally vague as it was left vague and it makes sense to be creative and open to position so that it can determine its role – Committee might do semi-regular review process of ASCMC and its entities to make sure that they’re putting as much attention to diversity and inclusion as they should – out of AAA committee: D&I committee should have a budget, wanted to set a minimum dollar amount of budget for funding – minimum of $2000 and from there it would be up to the committee to determine additional funding

Caroline: stipend for position and for committee?

Michael: forgot about that

Iris: similar to DAC? Have a council and create community

Nicky: I think it’s more hands-on, with events and programming demands, so it might be more comparable to a VP

Christine: it’s important to understand their role in relation to the Events arm of ASCMC

Will: should they collaborate with Events team?

Steen: they shouldn’t another EC team as it might cause some organizational confusion

Michael: maybe just an additional resource for events related to diversity and inclusion, not that any event should omit considerations of these things
Kathryn: might just have to use some imagination for this because it might not be similar to anything we currently have

Iris: back to Michael’s question about adding or removing groups. How does committee make decisions on this? I’m thinking that in light of this week if these eight individuals decide if a group needs to have a standing spot it may be difficult for a group to make the decision.

Michael: These people will understand what groups need representation. Giving them the say.

Will: look at USC’s model – I’m concerned that not all viewpoints and aspects of diversity are included – include women? International students? Other groups as USC’s assemblies have them

Iris: it seems that these identity groups may not consider these things actionable problems – but everyone was invited and only certain groups showed up to be a part of the discussion. So there may not be such a demand from religious or political groups to be a part of this.

Ben: we should see how individuals might transcend various identities – make sure that we’re representing voices that may have not been heard because we don’t necessarily have people who represent their perspectives

Iris: there are the three at-large spots that aren’t necessarily tethered to any one identity or kind of marginalization. People will be privy to these considerations.

Ben: I represent very few groups that are marginalized but I think part of the things people brought up in terms of ASCMC’s miscues was representing views that we don’t necessarily have insights into

Nicky: hard to say “let’s just put club leaders in charge” as it might not cover exactly what we’re looking to represent or consider with this position. Students aren’t necessarily aware of the roles they play in this, nor should they be required to represent views they may have but there shouldn’t be a burden

Will: shouldn’t fall on the I-connect president to speak to the issues and perspectives of the entirety of their group

Ben: should committee proceedings be public or not? Public might be a really good call as then people who are being represented by the groups/people on the committee can look to and correct for times when they feel that their specific identities or perspectives aren’t being represented accurately and then join in.

Caroline: no permanent seats, preferential applications to groups and then rest of seats given out to whole student body

Joey: more productive to have open avenues by which to become more involved and informed

Ben: people aren’t always informed, and it needs to be the kind of group that is highly-visible and considers aspects of intersectionality – focus on individuals and not roles that they may fit into so that we can consider a “truer” form of diversity

Michael: should be group for more than just coming to talk about things and their identities – instead a group of people who see it as their job to hold ASCMC accountable and to promote those aspects in
our institution – about action more than discussion and for that reason we need it to be a smaller group of students

Will: worried about ties to campus organizations because they 1) are ever-changing and can be inconsistent 2) you don’t necessarily have to go through a specific channel

Melissa: I was similarly concerned and then less so because 1) ease of chartering a club, we charter almost every single one – relatively easy to charter a club that more accurately represents your identity – better to have/use existing structures. We need groups to be chartered

Nicky: how do we know that a large club will select properly? This plays into concerns about who is represented in committee

Michael: wanted to leave flexibility to the clubs in determining how they select members

Aaron: we have to keep in mind that whoever represents the group won’t represent how every member in group thinks – it won’t be perfect and there are flaws to have clubs decide who’s in these positions (won’t represent all views) – be mindful that a lot of people are hurting and that any action or help might be better than nothing

Ben: we need to be careful about what we’re doing so that our actions are thoughtful and effective

Kathryn: input of those who disagree with position at all important to have at Senate

Straw poll of committee club composition structure: about 50/50

Motion to table committee structure discussion passes

Michael: committee will be talked about further, but it seems that only point of disagreement/discussion for chair itself is the stipend, so let’s move to that

Melissa: similar to DAC, yes, but it’s more like more role in working with units like this group will with a programming element

Will: I support pegging it to the CO chair - $700

Kathryn motions to pass stipend of $700 with voting powers on Budget Committee

Michael: good for person who is representing concerns of students and voices not typically represented on board/at CMC to have a strong and legitimate say in where our money goes

11 for, 0 against, 0 abstain

Motion to approve Diversity and Inclusion Chair, with voting powers on Budget Committee and $700 stipend, passes

Open Forum:
Melissa: we offer space, why doesn’t administration offer funds?

Michael: whatever improvements are made to space shouldn’t delay giving students access

Iris: should Michael lead Senate tomorrow? I’d be there, but I’d be off to the side

Michael: I’m so not impartial

Kathryn: good for Michael to do so as he doesn’t have as close a connection to the movement

Nikcy: I don’t see you making the space less safe

Michael: might have concern with me not being a marginalized

Kathryn: say that you’re taking a step back to be a part of conversation, just not necessarily as the leading voice of it

Iris: I would try to just listen

Ben: it’s your Senate, you can make the call

Random Acts of Kindness:

Will: howkindofyou.com – our campus needs kindness so this is for the website

Meeting adjourned 8:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Cole Mora

Event Commissioner