Associated Students of Claremont McKenna College

Executive Board Meeting
January 24\textsuperscript{th}, 2016

Highlights: (Find the matching color within the minutes for more information)
- Spring Board Projects
- Diversity & Inclusion Chair Confirmation

Members Present: Mica Laber, Russell Salazar, Makari Krause, Eliana Keinan, Iris Liu, Dean Sagafi, Caroline Peck, Melissa Muller, Cristina Lee, Christine Horne, Joey Yamada, Timmy Song, Nicky Blumm, Sharan Seth, Kathryn Chakmak, Cole Mora, Michael Irvine, Will Su


Call to Order: 7:00pm
1. Welcome & Minutes
2. Introductions & Board Updates
   A. Mica – finishing up inventory in the offices
   B. Russell – nothing has happened this past week, talking about doing an underclassmen mixer as Sunday brunch
   C. Makari – no update
   D. Eliana – worked with alumni office to plan junior class dinner in spring, working on some sort of meeting for those who came back from abroad about the new alcohol policy
   E. Iris – got a new committee chair in senate for tech, cabinet will be meeting again, working on executive board diversity training – we’re supposed to do it every year, funded by President's Changemaker fund.
   F. Dean – finally got access to the offices
   G. Caroline – no update
   H. Melissa – three big events coming up, spring club fair, club leader workshop, 5C club leader mixer
   I. Cristina – just launched apparel, hoping people ordered both items
   J. Christine – no update
   K. Joey – no update
   L. Timmy – planning joint brunch event with sophomores, Sunday snack soon
   M. Nicky – no update
   N. Sharan – no update
   O. Kathryn – senior class wine tasting is next Friday, working on senior class gift, 100 days is in 10 days. Vegas is coming together, that will be the weekend after spring break.
   P. Cole – no update
   Q. Michael – because there's no CFO, Will and I are dealing with check signing/reimbursements.
R. Will – took a tour of Robert's Pavilion. We do not know if it'll be open for soft opening this semester. We will know in 2-3 weeks about that. Budget committee met today about Spring re-budgeting, we will not be touching the budget for now. Election committee will meet this week. Some students submitted applications to host a Climate Summit this semester. Put out applications for mental health task force. DOS is doing focus groups for student positions regarding the multicultural space. We have some DOS vacancies. The administration said they will use the search firm, and once there are finalists they will come to campus and students will get to meet/interview them.

3. Event Debrief & Spring Social Calendar Preview
   A. TNC
      i. Cristina – TNC was in Marks, pretty empty. Marks TNCs are trickier.
      ii. Christine – inside spaces are difficult, rack up dorm damages.
   B. Club Claremont
      i. Dean – minimal problems, no guest list issues. Clean up went pretty smoothly.
   C. Spring Calendar
      i. Christine – we only have 3 Saturday parties. Wedding Party is last weekend in February, Daisy Dukes is last before break, Ski-Beach Day March 5th

4. Spring Board Projects
   A. Will – want to explore diversity & inclusion GE requirement
   B. Nicky – started looking at the program in George Washington, where it's an overlapping requirement that fits into other fields (i.e. religious study). Looked into CMC catalog to see if there was room for overlap. I started with 5C and went back to CMC. I don't think there are enough options at CMC. We could propose to registrar that the 2 classes can be one on- and one off- campus, provides diverse perspective. Other campuses have really cool options.
   C. Joey – I went through the CMC classes offered this semester. I came up with a healthy list that would probably satisfy the requirement.
   D. Will – we're going to try to come up with a concrete proposal and get student buy-in before moving to administration level

5. Diversity & Inclusion Chair Confirmation
   A. Will – Patrick Elliott, in the room, is our nominee. Period for questions & answers, discussions, debate, vote.
   B. Patrick – done a lot of social justice work in my high school, it was very similar racially & financially to CMC
   C. Melia (guest) – could you tell us more specifically about experience?
   D. Patrick – co-founder of diversity committee at school, participated in various conferences, sensitivity training, inclusion conflict-resolution. Created social justice YouTube channel as part of senior project
   E. Melissa – how familiar are you about the conversations that happened last year?
   F. Patrick – I have been in contact with Jeremy Porter (alum '15) who went to same high school regarding what happened, been talking with students & ASCMC about safe spaces, keeping in the loop
   G. Denys (guest) – what's your vision for D&I chair?
   H. Patrick – legitimize the students of color and various other groups and movements on campus, show these students that they have a representative with passionate, ASCMC supports them.
I. Iris – one of the reasons this position came to be was that CMCErs of Color came to administration and ASCMC because we were complicit with what was historically happening on our campus. How to you plan to address the institutional history?

J. Patrick – a lot of students came to CMC and were shocked by the culture, it was different from their high school. My high school prepared me for that culture shock. I dealt with a lot of racism and other issues for about 7 years, I don't have to deal with getting through a new culture because I'm adjusted to it. The entire community needs to be in the loop. While meeting with administration is good, the entire student body needs to know what's happening. I will send bi-weekly emails so everyone sees what's going on and the past and why things happen.

K. Christine – besides emails and behind-the-scenes, do you have specific plans for the short term that engages student body?

L. Patrick – want at least 3 events. Black History Month, want CMC to celebrate culture, educate people while having fun. D&I shouldn't be a chore. Want to propose that a Jewish & Muslim seat get added to the committee because those spots are often overlooked.

M. Kevin (guest) – historically and institutionally, trust, community, communication problems

N. Patrick – increasing trust can only be done with communication. We have to have these conversations, create a forum where we're allowed to do that. Have office hours so people can come and discuss and disagree with peers, so we can show how we feel about these situations. You lose a lot of validity if you're not transparent and can't support your points

O. Michael – one big reason for this position was so the chair can act as a check on board and keep us honest and doing better. How do you see yourself doing that, engaging board?

P. Patrick – having the D&I board will help with that will also help. We will be able to debrief the ASCMC meeting right after it occurs, and then we can talk with Will or Iris or other board members about things that need to change

Q. Denys (guest) – it seems like a lot of your focus is about educating. It doesn't sound very targeted to the marginalized community. Are there any healing events, for example, because of what went on last semester?

R. Patrick – from what I saw during demonstrations it wasn't just that people were hurt, they wanted to educate the community about what goes on. I want to sit down with all affinity groups, and they've never had the endorsement of ASCMC. Get their recommendations for their representation on the D&I committee.

S. Iris – a lot of people have different expectations for what ASCMC's responsibility is toward students. Personally, I think ASCMC has a responsibility toward its students, but you can never at once serve the needs of every single student on campus. Every decision individual board members make decisions in and outside of board. What's your responsibility as D&I chair?

T. Patrick – be approachable, able to have dialogues with all regarding last semester or things that happen this semester. Huge issue is lack of communication, love this position because now the purpose of this position makes sure everyone feels included. Make people know that you care, you're hearing their voice. That's what I see myself doing, not just on board or on this position. That's what I want to steer my CMC career after.

U. Kevin – if you could summarize this position in one trait would you use for this position?

V. Patrick – humility. ASCMC gives you the idea that you're a leader, but at the end of the day you need to step back and realize that your experiences are not the same of someone else. We should be able to have a conversation, realize that my mindset of the world is not the
only one that exist.

W. Michael – There are 2 things at issue here. This is what we talked about at the open forum before break. Whether the procedures for selecting the chair were followed correctly, if the elections committee acted wrong for not choosing one of the top 3 recommendations from the subcommittee, or if the elections committee really has its final say. The second is whether Patrick is the best nominee for this position.

X. Nicky – I don't have much to say about topic 2, but we have to be careful regarding the procedure about what elections committee did.

Y. Iris – this isn't about constitutionality, it's about intent. Did elections committee fit in that vision, or was this a failure.

Z. Michael – D&I roundtable will recommend candidates, but elections committee gets final authority (from official language).

AA. Iris – this result of going outside the recommendations of the drafting committee does not fit in the way we discussed the positions.

AB. Thomas (guest) – in Senate, it was clear when we voted that while there were recommendations, elections committee did have the final say if it wanted to choose a different candidate.

AC. Michael – my understanding was similar. As the person who presented at Senate and exec board, if there was miscommunication the fault is mine. Is that what others in senate thought? I don't really know, and that has bearing on the issue.

AD. David (guest) – recommendation means you recommend something. The elections committee seriously considered what it'd be saying by going against the recommendations. Most of elections committee are students of color, and Patrick seemed to be the person who best represented for all groups on campus. In my experience, as a person of color, I think Patrick would do a great job representing marginalized communities.

AE. Nicky – from my understanding, when we were discussing in exec board, I understood that the recommendation was going to be a firm recommendation, like committee would be choosing between 3 candidates.

AF. Denys (guest) – the problem isn't that Patrick is under-qualified. As someone who spent hours in meetings and drafting the position, I think the elections committee doesn't realize that there's a history of ASCMC not listening to marginalized students, and when they don't listen to the recommendations it's a really destabilizing message. We're all in an uncomfortable position, and I've spoken to leaders of various affinity groups, and we have all these people who are likely to be on subcommittee who are in uncomfortable positions.

AG. Christine – this sets a bad precedent as first nomination.

AH. Patrick – Important to recognize that recommendations make sense, they want people they're familiar with and have been with them for this entire process. Have to keep in mind that this position is not the entire position, it comes with D&I committee that give voices to all of these different groups, it's not like me having this position will shut them down because the others could still be on the committee.

AI. David (guest) – elections committee listened to recommendations, interviewed every recommended candidate and discussed them, but the job you wanted done is more important than the person there, and felt as a whole that Patrick could provide that help better than the others. Everyone was adequate and could do the job, and Patrick as a whole was superior in this position.

AJ. Kathryn – can we hear from other elections committee members? The rest of us don't
know who was nominated.

AK. Melia (guest) – to issue of constitutionality: it seems unclear from the language of document what the intent was, it's all very hazy. Important issue is accountability. Considered that the subcommittee is self-selected from these groups, and anonymous, should be taken with a grain of salt. You know who is on elections committee, know names and faces and there are 2 senators. The recommendations from the subcommittee are important, but shouldn't disregard elections committee

AL. Iris – question of if ASCMC has demonstrated dedication to students of marginalized communities, and ASCMC hasn't. That is why we wanted a subcommittee to work on these projects and have been working on it forever. These students understand their communities well, have met with administration and other students and organizations. That's why it's important to hold up those recommendations and weigh them in a way that wasn't weighed. I'm only one vote.

AM. Melissa – the implicit logic is that elections committee somehow knows better than the subcommittee full of students of marginalized communities, Patrick is clearly very qualified. And elections committee is supposed to find the most qualified candidate, and general executive board reviews the candidate.

AN. David (guest) – if people think that elections committee shouldn't have chosen Patrick – clearly qualified – also brings up topic 2 saying he's not qualified. I was involved in the movement in the fall, I did what I could, and I'm also just one voice, and from my experience, the members that make up the subcommittee that I know of do not represent me as a student of color and a queer student, and saying that only they know how to represent all students of color. I'd like to think that my voice is also important, and that I was chosen to elections committee for a reason.

AO. Ben – these processes are supposed to be happening in a kind of vacuum, supposed to remove charge from situation. There's a huge charge in these discussions, and matters so much to students. Most recommendations I've seen seem pretty clear-cut. The legislative language of this does matter. If we're not going by the practice of what exec board normally does, there's a practical element that usually if a recommendation is made, we hold pretty high. Could be worth revisiting.

AP. Denys (guest) – I'm on the subcommittee, and have been thinking about what David has been saying. There were recommendations that we felt were qualified who were not CMCers of Color and not part of the movement, but were still active in the discussions. I've spoken to affinity group leadership, and they don't feel comfortable with this decision because of how elections committee handled it. Part of this decision is supporting the marginalized groups. It makes it so that your committee is going in tense no matter what.

AQ. Will – Patrick is the final nominee chosen by executive board after reviewing all applicants.

AR. Eric (guest) – it might be worthwhile looking at the nominations?

AS. Kathryn – that's what elections committee is in charge of. In drafting this, we struggled with how the chair would be chosen. Elections committee in the past has always gone through and done the confirmations, and there's no perfect solution, and this was the best we came up with.

AT. Alec (guest) – I spent the first FWS class with Patrick, talked a lot about marginalized groups, and in that class, he was always someone we could turn to to speak with a level of calm, as an example, and a leader we looked to in many of these discussion. During the Q&A session, he was incredibly modest and didn't mention that he also has a fellowship
from Princeton for his work.

AU. Kevin (guest) – we're not thinking of actually supporting the groups. I understand that there were people of color on the elections committee, but the bigger issue was that there was a lack of transparency on all sides. There ought to be reconsideration of this process at the end of the day. Since there's a history of broken trust. A lot of back and forth, and seems like certain voices are not being heard, bad vibes all around.

AV. Thomas (guest) – was there a disconnect between the language, intent, and what happened. There was one paragraph given to elections committee to this process.

AW. Iris – it's great that Patrick is eloquent and intelligent, but this committee will not be like your FWS class. There will be people of different years with their own opinions and experiences. What we need from a D&I chair is someone who can center a lot of those discussions and be respected in the room. It's a really difficult place to start where these fundamental views about what's happened this year and previous years, and it's going to be very personally loaded and difficult, and it requires someone who can be respected and level with the students.

AX. David (guest) – we're not allowed to release the subcommittee email or the people that were recommended, can't contend that some nominees were not of CMCers of Color, or that there was or wasn't a paragraph talking about how qualified he was.

AY. Kevin (guest) – this is bigger than protocol. The mentality we're bringing into this discussion is that “we know better than others” and I know your experience is different than mine, and I'm not feeling humility out of this conversation. It comes down to how the process was conducted.

AZ. Denys (guest) – for months, it was decided that elections committee wouldn't decide because we were worried of this outcome. Logistically, we couldn't do that, but the reason the subcommittee was there.

BA. Melissa – did elections committee know that it wasn't originally going to be them

BB. Will – the language was passed by the subcommittee

BC. Nicky – we designed a check and a balance and we circumvented the check we designed, which is what makes me uncomfortable

BD. Christine – they approved the language, but this wasn't the intent.

BE. Michael – executive board needs to approve nomination by simple vote. If we do not approve, it goes to senate, who discusses and approves by 2/3rds vote. When we make tough decisions as a board, many tend to abstain. When people do that when they have an opinion, they're letting a small group of people make a large decision that everyone on board should have a say in

BF. Will – I do think that the constitutional language is written as intended to make the elections committee be the final check and decision. I don't think a non-ASCMC position should be electing an ASCMC position to represent the students.

BG. Michael – the way it was written, the subcommittee only recommends in this first round while there isn't much experience, and in the future the D&I committee would recommend instead of subcommittee

BH. Will – as a member of elections committee, I did vote for this nominee, thought he was superior to other candidates

BI. yes 6, no 5, abstain 1

BJ. Patrick is confirmed as the new Diversity & Inclusion Chair

6. Open Forum
A. Michael – I wrote a check yesterday for Club Claremont, according to constitution, expenditures above $2000 need to be approved two weeks ahead by executive board. The contract from this company said we would have to pay significantly more if we didn’t pay yesterday, so wanted board to approve.
   i.  Motion to approve passes

B. Melissa – Women's Forum has an allocation from Devon, request $750 for mentor/mentee programs, similar to APAM (which has over $2000).
   i.  Motion to approve passes

C. Michael – want discussion about timeline for CFO and junior class president. Do we want to try and fill them now before spring break and have someone around until we transition, or just leave them vacant until transition. The timeline required: for junior class president, if we had interest meeting Tuesday we could get elections Wed/Thur and have someone elected in 2 weeks. They'd have 5ish weeks until spring break, and less time than that before new elections were held

D. Christine – I think it’s unnecessary. We have 4 juniors on board that have discussed ruling as a committee amongst us in lieu of a president. We already have an event for Saturday, dealing with partial stipend and all the logistics is unnecessary as a crucial position with the amount of work involved for such a short time

E. Will – I agree, Eliana has been doing a great job as a presidential advisor

F. Michael – for CFO, we could probably have a decision sometime next week, appointed 2 weeks from now. Do we want to do that and have them trained for only a month's long term.

G. Caroline – what’s the burden on Michael & Will?

H. Will – I don’t like it, but on-boarding someone else would take a lot of my time in the next weeks anyway, it's almost easier to just split it with Michael for right now, and we'd have to deal with password changes and bank turnover and training someone is a lot of work.

I. Michael – I don't have a lot of sense about how much work it will be, but hopefully it's not awful

J. Will – I also think in these first weeks back the volume of requests won’t be as high

K. Makari – if you're alright doing it that's fine, but can you appoint now and have it continue into the next term

L. Caroline – could you do something where next elections committee re-approved?

M. Michael – whoever would get chosen now would presumably be a strong candidate for next term. It could also have the effect of having other qualified people not want to apply right before spring break

N. Will – I would like to explore the financial reform amendment from last semester

O. Christine – as long as you two are comfortable with the burden I'm okay with this

P. Michael – I learned at the bank that it's good practice for nonprofits to vote to give signing power
   i.  Motion to give Michael signing power passes

Adjourn: 8:24pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Mica Laber
Executive Secretary