

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

1801 Panorama Drive, Campus Center, Room 4 | Bakersfield, California 93305

SENATE BODY

Wednesday, August 26,
2015

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Executive Board Room

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER*

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Orozco at 6:06 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE*

The Senate conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL*

A two-thirds quorum must be established to hold a bonafide meeting

The following members were present: Vice President Orozco, Senator Roel, Senator Herndon, Senator Graves, Senator Chavez, Senator Galvez, Senator Zavala, Senator Nicholson, and Senator Sanchez

The following members were absent: Senator Partovi

The following members were excused:

2/3 quorum was established, thus a bonafide meeting was held.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Senate will discuss this agenda and may choose to amend or edit the agenda. Upon conclusion of the discussion the Senate may choose to adopt the agenda.

- a. It was moved by Senator Nicholson and seconded by Senator Galvez to amend the agenda by striking out under Adoption of Minutes, item 5a. "August 5th" and inserting "August 12th".

Discussion: There was no further discussion.

There were no objections to the motion, thus the agenda was amended.

- i. Vice President Orozco sought any objections to adopting the agenda.

Discussion: There was no further discussion.

There were no objections to adopting the agenda, thus the agenda was adopted.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Senate will discuss those minutes and may choose to amend or edit the minutes. Upon conclusion of the discussion the Senate may choose to adopt the minutes.

- a. Vice President Orozco sought any objections to adopting the minutes from August 12th.

Discussion: There was no further discussion.

There were no objections to adopting the minutes, thus the minutes were adopted.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT*

The Chair may elect to take public comment on any action items on this agenda. The Chair may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak which is stated before comment commence.

- a. Nicky Damania, Ph.D.: Thanks to all who assisted with events this week. Another side note is as the members of BCSGA begin to associate, groups begin to form and to please avoid from spreading rumors to ensure the integrity of the association. This insures the strong foundation of the government, and you all have been very well this far. Additionally, if you have not received your parking pass yet, then please see Arisve. A huge emphasis to all officers that you do not abuse your powers or authority, and to be humble in the positions that you are privileged enough to have.
- b. Peter Rodriguez: Hello! My name is Peter Rodriguez and this is my second year here at BC.
- c. Geena Olague: Hello! I really enjoyed the New Student Convocation.

7. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE SENATE AND REFERRAL

The Senate will receive communications addressed to the Senate and refer each to the appropriate committee. No action will be taken on communications other than referring them to committee.

- a. BCSGA Committee Changes

The Senate may make changes to committee assignments by resolution.

Notes:

Unless otherwise marked by an asterisk, all agenzied items are action items upon which the Senate may take action. Action items may be taken out of the order to be presented at the discretion of the Chair. BCSGA supports providing equal access to all programs for people with disabilities. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide accommodations to people with disabilities attending the meeting. Please call the Office of Student Life at (661) 395-4614 as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodation.

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- i. Senator Graves moved to be appointed to the Committee on Finance
Discussion: There was no further discussion.
The motion passed by majority vote of signifying a vocal vote of “Aye”.
- j. Senator Chavez moved to be appointed to the Committee on Finance.
Discussion: There was no further discussion.
The motion passed by majority vote of signifying a vocal vote of “Aye”.
- k. Senator Graves moved to be removed from the Department on Student Activities
Discussion: There was no further discussion.
The motion had a split vote through the vocal votes of “Aye” and “Nay”. Thus, there was
- l. Senator Nichelson moved to be removed from the Department on Student Organizations and placed on the Committee on Government Operations.
Discussion: There was no further discussion.
The motion passed by majority vote of signifying a vocal vote of “Aye”.
- m. Senator Graves, Senator Herndon, and Senator Zavala moved to be appointed to the Committee on Academic Affairs.
Discussion: There was no further discussion.
The motion passed by majority vote of signifying a vocal vote of “Aye”.
- n. Senator Galvez and Senator Zavala moved to be appointed to the Committee on Finance.
Discussion: There was no further discussion.
The motion passed by majority vote of signifying a vocal cote of “Aye”.

8. REPORTS OF BCSGA OFFICERS

The Chair shall recognize any officer of the Association, including the BCSGA Advisor, to offer a report on official activities since the previous meeting and make any summary announcements deemed necessary for no longer than five minutes.

- a. President, *Clayton Fowler*: Today is Director Strickland’s last day as the Director of Student Organizations position. As Director Espinoza is not here today, she wanted us to mention that tomorrow is tie-dye day. Please respond to her email about availability in volunteering for that day. On a separate note, I heard great things about the strong presence of BCSGA at the New Student Convocation and Renegade Day & Knight.
- b. Vice President, *Janell Orozco*: No report.
- c. BCSGA Advisor, *Dr. Damania*: Thanks to all who helped facilitate and plan the Renegade Day & Knight portion of the New Student Convocation, as well as the rest of our recent events. There has been a large difference in how BCSGA is known for this year. As President Fowler said before, I will be the interim Director of Student Organizations as there has been a large influx in the position, and I will be the interim for about a month.

9. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES*

The Chair shall recognize the chairperson of each standing committee, in alphabetical order, and then each special committee, in alphabetical order, to report for no longer than five minutes on the committee’s activities since the previous meeting.

- a. Report from the Chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs, *Senator Roel*: I just announced the meeting times when we were appointing Senators to this committee, and the meetings will be biweekly which will start on September 1st.
- b. Report from the Chair of the Committee on Advancement of Bakersfield College, *Open*
- c. Report from the Chair of the Committee on Finance, *Senator Sanchez*: The committee went over 2 CCA grants in the last meeting and granted \$1,000 to the Department of Social Justice to a play by Gary Soto. Tomorrow the committee will be going over a grant for the EOP&S Holiday Event, and be reviewing the rest of the application as it was left pending. There is also a need for volunteers to help with ushering at an event that is taking place here on campus on the 25th, so please sign up.
- d. Report from the Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, *Senator Herndon*: The next meeting for our committee will be on September 8th. In this meeting, we are looking to revise a bill that will include how many senators need to be on the Committee on Academic Affairs.

10. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS*

The Chair shall recognize in turn BCSGA Senators requesting the floor for a period not to exceed three minutes. The total time for Comments and Announcements before the first reading of legislation shall not exceed fifteen minutes.

- a. There were no further comments and announcements made.

11. APPOINTMENTS OF BCSGA OFFICERS

The Senate will consider the following nominations for an Association office. When the Senate has concluded its deliberations, the Senate may approve the nomination, reject the nomination, or take no action upon the nomination. The Senate will consider the names nominated to the Association office. The Senate may consider the character, professional competence, physical or mental health, or other matters permissible under BROWNACT during consideration of this item. Under BROWNACT, the meeting may not be closed.

- a. It was opened by Vice President Orozco for the elections process of Geena Olague for the position of a BCSGA senator.

i. *Introduction:*

Geena Olague- I have a letter of recommendation from a public speaking professor that I took over this past summer, so that the Board may read it. I am an incoming freshman. I am really interested in the student government here, participated in ASB in high school, was heavily involved in extracurricular activities regarding politics, am a political science major and want to become a lawyer, completed the “We the People” program, and am heavily involved in music organizations.

ii. *Interview:*

How available are you during the week, as this position asks for a lot of time and dedication?

-G/O: I am pretty available on Mondays and Wednesdays. I do not really stay late on campus on the other days of the week. I am not as heavily involved in music organizations this year, so I essentially have a lot of time this year.

Being on the SGA requires that you work with any and all departments and committees both within BCSGA and on campus, how do you feel about that?

-G/O: I love being involved, and especially being exposed to new things. I really do love working with people, and am very interested in it as I am a “people’s person”.

What does this position mean to you?

-G/O: I was very interested in this senator position as I really love politics. In last year’s We the People program, we studied the constitution a lot, and my favorite aspect was Congress, such that I preferred the Senate over the House of Representatives. When I talked to Vice President Orozco, she mentioned the layout of the Senate, and I already knew that I was interested in this position.

Sometimes these positions can be very stressful. May you name a time under which the ball was dropped for a project and you were the leader of that project?

-G/O: I have been in several leaderships roles throughout high school. I am very responsible, and I do not mind taking the fall, or stepping into the leadership role, for someone else who could not handle a certain project given to them. In the instances where the ball was dropped, I just took a breather, explained what the situation was to the person I needed to report to, and find the most responsible/efficient way to handle the situation.

If you were an animal, what kind of animal would you be?

-G/O: I would be a polar bear.

As you mentioned that you would be a polar bear, are there any specific attributes of that animal that apply to why you chose that animal?

-G/O: Polar bears are independent, are very protective of their cubs, and they take to the cold, extreme environment.

You indicated that you are very into politics, do you know any current political movements or legislation that is underway that applies to the academic realm for colleges?

-G/O: I am currently not as up-to-date with politics. But legislation that I am aware of that pertains to the college community right now is that Hilary Clinton and President Obama want junior colleges to be a sort-of debt free option for students.

What is your greatest while participating in ASB in high school?

-G/O: I was glad that I could always spread positivity when there were some very negative people within ASB, or those who would start rumors and whatnot, and amongst the student body.

For example, someone snaps at you one day very rudely for having a difficult day or several things to take care of, how do you handle that situation?

-G/O: I can understand as I have 5 siblings. I know how to stay a neutral person, how to address a person who may be feeling that way such that we address their problems, and really to just step back and acknowledge that it may not be my fault. It’s really to talk to them and understand what is going on.

iii. *General Debate:*

It was expressed that it was beneficial that the candidate already has previous experience in student government, she had a good attitude, was friendly, and not afraid to talk. She handled the questions well, and even the questions that were confusing in the several ways that the questions was asked. The candidate seemed capable and knows how to approach problems. The con that was presented was that she seemed to have other obligations, and could be very busy with other extracurricular music activities and college classes. Being a freshman, she may not necessarily know what a college course load comprises of, but it was countered that she did seem very politically ambitious and willing to allocate her time as necessary.

- iv. It was moved by Senator Graves and seconded by Senator Galvez to approve the appointment of Geena Olague for the position of BCSGA Senator.

Discussion: There was no further discussion.

The Senators voted as follows-

Senator Roel: Yes

Senator Herndon: Yes

Senator Graves: Yes

Senator Chavez: Yes

Senator Galvez: Yes

Senator Zavala: Yes

Senator Nichelson: Yes

Senator Sanchez: Yes

The voting was tallied as follows: 8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain.

The motion carried by majority vote, and Geena Olague is elected to the position of BCSGA Senator.

12. FAST-TRACK APPOINTMENTS

The motion to fast track an appointment confirmation shall be in order if recommended by the committee of relevant jurisdiction. The Senate shall consider the following nominations to fast-track into an Association office.

- a. It was moved by Senator Graves and seconded by Senator Herndon to fast-track the election of Geena Olague for the position of a BCSGA Senator.

Discussion: There was no further discussion.

President Orozco sought any objections to fast-tracking the election for Geena Olague. As there were no objections, the motion carried.

13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Senate of the Association may elect association officers at this time.

- a. Vice President Orozco opened up the table for nominations for the election of Chair for the Committee on Advancement of Bakersfield College

i. **Discussion:**

1. Senator Chavez nominated Senator Zavala.

Discussion: Senator Zavala declined the nomination.

2. Senator Herndon nominated Senator Graves.

Discussion: Senator Graves accepted the nomination.

3. Senator Chavez nominated Senator Galvez.

Discussion: Senator Galvez declined the nomination.

ii. **Introductions:**

-Senator Graves: Thank you for the nomination. I believe in this great college, and it is a place where you grow, find yourself, and help others do the same. I am motivated, dedicated, and definitely committed to growth and progression of Bakersfield College, as well as in growing the student body. Thank you again for the nomination.

iii. **Interview:**

Do you know what this committee encompasses, and what is the objective of this committee?

-F/G: I have a general idea for the mission statement of this committee. Regarding what this position carries, I believe it is to address issues with curriculum for the student body, to review to have the best professors and instructors, and that the campus itself is pushing student engagement, such that they feel welcomed on the campus.

Let's say that something happens, the "ball is dropped", and people start pointing fingers, how do you handle the situation.

-F/G: I would first review the scenario and take in all the facts, only focusing on how to resolve the issue and not taking away the talents of the person(s) being blamed, and make sure to encourage them while solving the issue.

If you could be any compound of elements on the periodic table, what would you be and why?

-F/G: I would be salt as it is in essentially everything of the earth, naturally in all of us, and it takes all of us for any program or organization to succeed.

Does this position work for your schedule?

-F/G: Considering that I have not looked at my schedule in depth, I am quite sure that I do have time to take on this position in conjunction with my Senator duties.

iv. **General Debate:**

It was expressed that Senator Graves is very dedicated, and willing to help students. Additionally, this position seems to suit him as it relates to what he wants to accomplish with his long term career goals that he indicated about when he first joined BCSGA. The candidate is very helpful, kind, and is regarded in a positive light by several faculty and administration members on campus, such that he would be beneficial to the committee as he is invested in the advancement of Bakersfield College. It was however suggested that Senator Graves does have a lot of time constraints since he involved heavily in other aspects on campus.

- v. It was moved by Senator Roel and seconded by Senator Galvez to approve the nomination for the election of Senator Graves for the position of Chair on the Committee on Advancement of Bakersfield College.

Discussion: There was no further discussion.

The Senators voted as follows:

Senator Roel: Yes

Senator Herndon: Yes

Senator Graves: Yes

Senator Chavez: Yes

Senator Galvez: Yes

Senator Zavala: Yes

Senator Nichelson: Yes

Senator Sanchez: Yes

Senator Olague: Yes

The votes were tallied as follows: 9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain.

The motion carried by majority vote.

- b. Vice President Orozco administered the Oath of Office to Geena Olague who was elected for the position of a BCSGA senator:
- "I, Geena Olague, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the Bakersfield College Student Government Association; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office into which I am about to enter."

14. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS*

The Chair shall recognize in turn BCSGA Senators requesting the floor for a period not to exceed three minutes. The total time for Comments and Announcements before the first reading of legislation shall not exceed fifteen minutes.

- Senator Graves: I just want to know who is interested on being on the Committee on Advancement of Bakersfield College. (Senator Sanchez and Senator Olague expressed interest in being on the committee).
- President Fowler: I am looking to have Political Science classes allow students to fulfill their requirement for attending a municipal meeting, or for fulfilling their municipal report, by attending Student Government meetings.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT*

The Chair may elect to take public comment on any action items on this agenda. The Chair may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak which is stated before comment commence.

- There was no further comments made by the public.

16. ADJOURNMENT

- a. It was moved by Senator Galvez and seconded by Senator Roel to adjourn the meeting.
Discussion: There was no further discussion. Next meeting is planned for September 9th.
Vice President Orozco sought any objections to adjourning the meeting. As there were no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.