



ASUSF General Senate Minutes

Wednesday, September 4, 2024 | McLaren 250 | 5 - 7pm PT

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** [5:00pm - 5:10 pm]
 - a. Kiannah-Nicole, Metzli, Mar, Aderet, Edgar, NyAshia, Emiko, Jeslyn, Autumn, Klarenz, Drew, Aarav, Christian, Litzell, Corina, Sarah, Natalie, Elena, Damien, Kettric, Kenny, Nadine
2. **Land Recognition Statement**
3. **Approval of Agenda & Minutes** [5:10 pm - 5:15 pm]
 - *Check in:* what is one thing that made you smile today?
 1. Emiko motions to approve the agenda.
 - a. Autumn seconds
 - Agenda is approved.
 2. Emiko motions to approve the minutes.
 - a. Olivia seconds
 - Agenda is approved.
4. **Guest Speaker** [5:15 pm - 6:15 pm]
 - a. Shannon Gary, Associate Vice President/Dean of Students

Q and A:

1. How do the current guidelines for students that wish to protest align with the mission and values of the student body?
 - The values and mission of this division is to protect and represent the needs of the entire student body regardless of their political stance. The department needs to ensure that they are not letting their personal stances or opinions interfere with the decisions of the university.
2. What is the role of student life regarding statements on movements?



- The responsibility of Student Life is to represent the needs and opinions of all students so they cannot take an official stance on either side.
3. How is your department working on increasing student retention and how can Senate work to assist with that process?
 - Their focus is creating a sense of belonging and community for students to find on campus. They also collaborate with departments like SLE that create events and spaces for students who may not have found that yet. Promoting engagement as Senate and creating events like Town Halls increases awareness that will help promote retention.
 4. Does your department put out any surveys to receive feedback from students besides the annual one?
 - Yes, there is another form that goes out to determine where there are areas of improvement as well as connecting students to necessary resources.
 5. What is the biggest problem that you have observed within Student Life?
 - Affordability is the biggest factor and although Student Life doesn't personally have a hand in the finances, they have noticed that this impacts retention the most.
 6. In terms of internship opportunities, particularly with big firms, what has your team been doing to ensure that you are giving students the best chance of success post graduation?
 - The department recommends that students take advantage of all positions regardless of size of firm since that can build connections. (Suggested to bring in Alex Hochman from Career Services who has more insight)
 7. Do you have data from surveys that provide insight into students' sense of belonging?



- There are not many other forms put out besides the form from CASA however that primarily focuses on first year students. There is a lot more data that could be collected from second and third year students.
 - Follow up: Would you be interested in putting out more forms to collect more data?
 - It is something to consider however it is hard to get participation from these student demographics.
8. As a socially responsible Jesuit institution with its values and missions, do you believe that there is an obligation to take a stance on social issues that are impacting your student body?
- There needs to be space for all students to express their opinions and regardless of their stance there needs to be spaces for them. The university has an obligation to listen to both sides and help whoever they can. The department keeps the cases private and details cannot be shared. Listening is a part of the process towards fighting for social justice.
9. What can your department do to repair the relationship between students that have been participating in protests and members of administration?
- There needs to be openness and communication without biases in order to come to an amicable resolution rather than a “fight.” Student Life has been reaching out and trying to make that connection but there has not been enough response to generate those productive conversations.
10. Why is the University not making a statement on issues of genocide and why have they not been able to come forward with a statement on this issue?
- He is not in a position to answer this question but Father Paul is the person who has come forward with this statement.
11. How can Student Life include student input and opinion in their policies?



- Codes are updated every few years and try to include student input in the updates. The freedom of speech clause will be updated.

5. Open Forum

[6:15 pm - 6:40 pm]

- a. Olivia motions to amend the agenda to clarify the start time of Open Forum to begin at 6:25 PM.
 - a. Corina seconds.
 - Motion is passed.
- Corina has been working with the BOT committee of academic affairs and is open to feedback and collaboration with other senators.
- Kiannah Nicole had a meeting with Father Fitzgerald and brought student body concerns to his attention. The following includes questions and answers from the meeting.
 1. What are the next steps for the University to address the ongoing concerns regarding the genocide of Palestinians? Can the University issue a formal condemnation or statement on this?
 - Last year, following the events of October 7 and statements by Pope Francis, USF echoed a commitment to free speech, encouraging students with differing views to engage in dialogue.
 2. Specific steps for the Board of Trustees regarding divestment from conflicts such as Palestine and ensuring no investment in harmful industries (e.g., arms manufacturing, private prisons).
 - USF is currently not profiting from the war in Israel and Palestine, and does not invest in arms manufacturing, private prisons, or harmful industries.
 - The resolution to divest from fossil fuels is in the process of being enacted, and directly resulted in why there are students in the BOT: investment committee
 - The investment processions involves a lengthy a process but they are currently working and will involve the Senate - Advice: work with Julie Orio's Team



3. What plans are in place to support Palestinian and Congolese students, addressing the harm they face on campus?
 - Over the years, students and faculty have organized events, donations, and fundraising to support affected communities. USF's openness to international students (from 102/104 countries) remains a point of pride, with notable support from Father Paul.
 - Collaboration with Senate and key figures like Lester Deanes for future fundraising and support initiatives.
4. Why was Professor [Redacted] laid off, and what was the rationale behind prioritizing certain budget cuts?
 - Father Fitzgerald relays he was not involved.
- **Fundraising and Donor Engagement:**
 - There's a focus on supporting academics, with a push for benefactors to endow faculty chairs, extracurricular programs, and racial justice initiatives.
 - Notable donors include **Gordon Getty** (\$32M Getty Scholars in the honors college and the arts), though some areas, like the arts, are still underfunded.
 - **Current fundraising** is ongoing for the **Masonic East building** to develop more classroom space and infrastructure.
 - Initiatives like **BASE** have launched through a mix of fundraising and operational budgets, yet there's still a limitation on physical space, necessitating pop-up centers. Father Paul was not involved in this process.

6. New Business

[6:40 pm - 6:45 pm]

- a. Opening of Financial Accounts
 - i. T1 Dons
 - ii. Conspiracy Club
1. Elena motions to open vote for approval of new financial accounts.
 - a. NyAshia seconds.
 - Motion passed.



7. Freshman Class Representative Candidates [6:45 pm - 6:55 pm]

- a. Jesus Aguilar Martinez is running because they believe in social justice. They are a CDS major and enjoy working with people. He wants to focus on mental health resources with CAPS to provide more services for students.
- b. Leanna Leung was in ASB in high school and wants to continue being involved. She wants to find ways to engage their constituency through events and community engagement.
- c. Thelma Salinas was student body president in high school and has been involved all throughout high school so she is inspired to get involved. She wants to increase resources for international students, especially with the LWSC.

8. Announcements [6:55 pm - 7:00 pm]

- a. Tabling with Jake
- b. 9/5 Interfaith Ice Cream Social, 11:45 am - 1:00 pm, University Ministry
- c. 9/8 KUSF Rock & Swap, 7 am - 3:00 pm, McLaren
- d. 9/10 Cafe International, 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm, Intercultural Center
- e. Lip Sync battle
- f. Presidential Debate Watch Party, Tuesday 9/10, 6-8 pm at Lone Mountain Studio Theater
- g. SLE Boba & Board Game Night, Thursday 9/5, 7-9 pm at UC 4th Floor Lounge
- h. Rush is happening now for our social greek organizations.
- i. UC 4 HPS is doing a period equity event.
- j. Tote bag painting for craft club on Friday 9/6.
- k. First Friday event this friday, there will be a shuttle.
- l. Please encourage School of Nursing Students to vote for their cohort rep.

9. Adjournment [7:00 pm]

- Emiko motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 pm.
 - a. Litzell seconds.
 - The motion is passed.