ASUSF Senate Agenda
Wednesday, November 18th, 2020 | Zoom | 5:00 - 7:30pm PST

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
   a. Myra, Annie, Tanya, Aditya, Austin, Berkelee, Brooke, Drew, Emily, Ethan, Fiza, John, Lovepreet, Manny, Nick, Becca, Sarah, Shelly

2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

3. Open Forum
   a. Anyone who wishes to address the Senate

4. Committee Members and Senators Fall Harvest [closed session]
   Harvesting Connections and Ideas with our invaluable Committee Members
   a. Ice-Breaker [5:05-5:20]
   b. Meet your Representatives [5:20-5:40]
   c. Closing Remarks [5:40-5:45]

5. At-Large Presentation Dallas [5:45-6:00]
   a. IA Feedback [closed session]
   b. Applicant Presentation
      i. As a student on the pre-law track, she feels that USF resources are underdeveloped for those who want to be in pre-law
      ii. There is a lack of awareness and communication
         1. Pre-law track for USF law is the only one available, but isn’t widely known
         iii. Believes that being a senator is the only way to enact change for pre-law students
         iv. The amount of resources are underwhelming
      c. Discussion & Voting
         i. A position that broadens the scope for law students may be beneficial, so there can be resources that are not centered towards USF law school
         ii. There is a direct need at the moment, but may strictly be temporary
         iii. Aditya motions to vote Dallas as a pre-law representative
         iv. Austin Seconds
1. In Favor: 9
2. Oppose: 0
3. Abstain: 1

6. Break [6:00–6:05]

7. At-Large Presentation Olivia [6:05–6:22]
   a. IA Feedback [closed session]
   b. Applicant Presentation
      i. Would like to be a student wellness representative
      ii. Students have a negative experience when looking for assistance
      iii. Personal health, both mental and physical, takes a toll on personal life and their performance
   c. Discussion & Voting
      i. The position is needed
      ii. Becca motions for Olivia as a student health and wellness representative
      iii. Austin Seconds
         1. In Favor: 10
         2. Oppose: 0
         3. Abstain: 0

   a. SONHP Induction
      i. Shelly Anne Aquino is the new SONHP Representative


10. Resolutions [6:30–7:00]
   a. 20–21–08 Increased Accessibility for External Mental Health Resources
      i. Aims to add outside mental health resources onto the syllabi in order to assist those off-campus due to limited resources because of COVID-19
   b. 20–21–07 Preservation of Staff and Faculty Resolution
      i. Aims for a conditional increase in tuition. Tuition increase will be in order to restore salaries of the staff and faculty in order to prevent layoffs.
11. Open Space for Preservation of Staff and Faculty Resolution Discussion & Voting

[7:00-7:30]

a. The $128,000 figure was decided based on a conversation between the senate and the staff and faculty.
   i. This is to help those who feel financially insecure and feel like their jobs are threatened
b. This resolution is a commitment to our staff and faculty who have supported their students throughout the years
c. We want to support our community as students
d. Senate does not support a tuition increase if learning is remote
e. The 1.0% will only be going back to staff and faculty
f. Why are there continuous budget increases and why are students responsible for the budget?
   i. The tuition is not known and it is unfair that it is not well communicated to the students.
   ii. They make this budget based on a projected number of students, but most students have deferred or left the university.
   iii. In order to combat the issues of the budget, there is a tuition increase
   iv. Typically tuition increases happen no matter what stance the Senate takes, but this year, the resolution is conditional.
g. If we only support a tuition increase if we go back to being in-person/hyflex, then will this provide the administration want us to go back in-person before it is safe to do so? What is there to prevent this from occurring?
   i. The determination on if we are allowed to be in person for fall 2021 will be based on the City of San Francisco’s regulations at the time. It’s not a decision that the University can make on its own. To my knowledge, this decision will be made in June.
h. How do we know that the increase will go directly to staff?
   i. We aren’t the ultimate decision makers, but we hope the decision is respected.
ii. Resolutions are recommendations to the University, but in the end the BOT will make

i. Can we get an itemized receipt to understand where all the money is going?
   i. We brought this up repeatedly to admin, but admin’s response is that the university does not make this available to students because that is not how the budget works.

j. Is the university pulling from the endowment?
   i. The university budget is very complicated, and the endowment is not as large as other schools
   ii. The biggest push back for not touching the endowment is because the university is experiencing debt
   iii. USF is a tuition-based university, so most of the money they receive is from students.
   iv. The University has a lot of debt and contracts that limits the university’s decisions.

k. Why is a tuition increase the first choice of the admin, in the midst of a pandemic and unprecedented financial hardship, rather than the 400 million dollar endowment?
   i. They worry that if the endowment is touched, it will force the University to pay loans that they cannot cover

l. What is preventing the senate from directing the increase towards financial aid?
   i. Financial aid is one of the only, if not the only, budget that is being protected. It seems counterproductive to increase financial aid when it is not being cut. However, student life and academics gets affected is the faculty and staff is lost, so the resolution is to support the entire community since the

m. Would the senate be able to suggest a meeting with the budget board to clarify where the budget is being allocated? Is there an opportunity for students to speak with students?
i. The board has their hands tied, but Berkelee can advocate and bring that up to the board on Monday.

ii. Can always reach out to Berkelee for further information.

n. How likely is it for them to continue to be remote next fall? With a vaccine on the way and many other schools in the nation open, it’s surprising that another remote year is under consideration. Do you think this resolution, that says 1.9% tuition increase ONLY IF we are on campus next fall is going to put pressure and motivate the university to open in the fall?
   i. The decision falls with the SF Health Department
   ii. There has not been a final decision yet.

o. What did the last $2,404 tuition increase go towards funding? Why do they need more than that? There are many costs that the school is not paying due to online modalities (campus upkeep, wifi, electricity, water etc.). Why can’t this money be allocated towards staff/faculty instead of another tuition increase?
   i. Unsure because there is not a detailed receipt available for students
   ii. 1.9% = $986.67

p. The senate is against an increase in tuition if the format remains remote

q. How likely is a tuition increase?
   i. Relatively likely because the university’s budget has been struggling

r. Can the resolution also include a meeting, announcement, email to explain why the tuition is increasing
   i. There will be a Town Hall held in the spring

s. How much leverage do students have to defend our rights as students? If school is not available, it can disproportionately affect the student population?
   i. Is very confident to make strides to make an impact because student representation has more than doubled in BOT committees
   ii. The nature of COVID has put more pressure on the board
   iii. Senate has been working with all members of the community for actions, such as, this resolution
      i. Staff and Faculty
2. UBAC members
   t. Becca motions to amend the title to “Increased Commitment to the Students, Staff, and Faculty of USF
   u. Aditya seconds
      i. In Favor: 8
      ii. Oppose: 0
      iii. Abstain: 1
   v. Becca motions to amend the resolved statement to include “student-facing services”
   w. Drew seconds
      i. In Favor: 9
      ii. Oppose: 0
      iii. Abstain: 0
   x. Ethan motions to suspend the bylaws
   y. Rebecca seconds
      i. In Favor: 8
      ii. Oppose: 0
      iii. Abstain: 1
   z. Shelly motions to vote for the Increased Commitment to the Students, Staff, and Faculty of USF Resolution
   aa. Ethan seconds
      i. In Favor: 7
      ii. Oppose: 0
      iii. Abstain: 2