

LOBBY CORPS MINUTES
Meeting #12
November 16, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jara called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Voting Members Present

Genesis Jara (Chief Government Relations Officer)
Sofia Musman (ASI Vice President)
Stephanie Argent (Senate Representative) **(Dp @ 12:56pm)**
Danielle Carancho (Senate Representative)
Hilda Jurado (Senate Representative)
Amanda Kilian (Student-at-Large)
Nicolas Olenslager-Orton (Student-at-Large) **(Ar @ 12:34pm)**
Autumn Farmer (AVP Legislative & External Relations Designee)

Voting Members Absent

Zak Show (Student-at-Large)

Non-voting Members Present

Lindsay San Miguel (Asst. Director, Government Affairs & Initiatives) **(Ar @ 12:40pm)**

Non-voting Members Absent

3. APPROVAL /CORRECTIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

(M) Argent (S) Jurado to approve the Lobby Corps Agenda, Meeting #12, November 16, 2017

VOTE ON THE MOTION

PASSES 7-0-0

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

A. Lobby Corps, Meeting #11, November 9, 2017

(M) Musman (S) Carancho to approve Lobby Corps Minutes, Meeting #11, November 9, 2017

VOTE ON THE MOTION

PASSES 7-0-0

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

6. REPORTS

A. Chair/Government Relations Officer

Chair Jara reported the following:

- CHES interviews will be on December 1st at 8:00am
- Will be working with San Miguel to put together the CHES training information
- Asked how the district visit with Assemblyman Travis Allen went
 - Olenslager-Orton stated that they met with their field worker and they seemed really open with all three items on the policy agenda. Especially allocating funds to a specific fund for education and increasing funding for mental health.
 - Olenslager-Orton pressed him on a bill that Assemblyman Allen introduced to defund sanctuary cities in California. They explained that they wanted to press the sanctuary city bill because they had a mother whose son was killed by an illegal immigrant and they wanted it to be clearer regarding felonies.

B. Vice Chair

Vice Chair Carancho reported the following:

- Nothing to report

C. Students-at-Large

Students-at-Large reported the following:

- Kilian confirmed the meeting with Sharon Quirk-Silva on Tuesday, December 5th at 9:00am
- December 8th is the last day that they are scheduling district visit meetings
- Posted the invite to Assemblymember Matthew Harper's holiday party
 - Jara reminded members of the board that they are required to fill out forms for their district visits

D. Senate

Senator Jurado reported the following:

- Senate passed the last reading for the resolution of the Football Exploratory Committee
- Passed the second reading for the resolution against hate acts
- ASI Recycling Coordinator, Eric Bryan, conducted a presentation regarding SustainU and other sustainability efforts on campus

E. AVP Legislative & External Relations

Farmer reported the following:

- Nothing to report

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion Item: Dream Act of 2017 Efforts

Jara said that they would be contacting student organizations to get them to help with phone banking and tabling next semester.

Carancho suggested reaching out to the college councils and then have them pitch it to the student organizations because they would be able to reach as many organizations as possible.

Musman said that if they are all part of the same college council and want to advocate for the same thing, they can all come to the same phone banking or tabling events.

Jara pointed out that for the cultural organizations, they would have to go through Commissioner for Cultural Affairs Cail.

Musman suggested reaching out to the College of Democrats and College of Republicans.

San Miguel recommended that they go to SLD and get a list of active clubs on campus.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Information Item: Health Center Fee & Mental Health Resources – Dr. Brad Compliment & Dr. Mary Ann Takemoto

Takemoto provided some statistics and averages from the campus wide survey that they conducted:

- 51% of students reported more than average or tremendous stress within the last 12 months
- 57% reported overwhelming anxiety within the last 12 months
- 50% of the students sampled felt hopeless within the last 12 months
- 9% seriously considered suicide within the last 12 months

Takemoto believes that these numbers bring to light what is going on with our students and how stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues are increasing, but the amount and types of services being offered are not.

Compliment stated that the university is accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS), and they attained that status about 3 years ago. With this accreditation, they are required to do certain things in order to maintain it, such as:

- Individual and group counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Emergency services
- Hospitalization
- Outreach activities, such as Project OCEAN through the CAPS program
- Suicide awareness and prevention, as well as psycho-educational presentations

Compliment added that there is an after hours, on call service that they have contracted with for students that need to talk to counselors anytime outside of the 8am-5pm weekday hours. In the past year, there was a 36% increase in the number on call contacts that were made.

There is also an on call service every day from 8 am to 5 pm and they will see anybody that comes in in crisis or needs to talk to someone immediately. Last year, there were 664 on calls that were performed.

Phone and email consultations also increased by 31% from the previous years, so they can see that there is a rising need for counselors and services being offered.

IACS suggests 1 counselor for every 1,000 to 1,500 students on campus. Currently, there are only 12 clinicians in the counseling center, so CSULB's ratio is more like 1 counselor for every 3,125 students. If they wanted to be closer to the IACS recommendations, they would need 25 clinicians.

Compliment believes that in order to provide the best services to students, the biggest thing they really need to address the issue of adding more clinicians to the staff.

Jurado asked if they would be able to share the statistics from their presentation today with members of the board so that they may be able to take this to legislative visits.

Compliment stated that they would be happy to share this information with the board.

Carancho asked if the fee increase was going to add more clinicians or what those funds were going to be used for.

Takemoto explained that they would be using part of this to support mental health services. They hired two new counselors this year and they increased the psychiatrist's schedule to four days a week, and they are going to hire a social worker.

Carancho asked if the funds are being used for other things, because according to their calculations, this increase would generate over a million dollars for the university.

Takemoto added that they have hired additional support staff for health services; they hired a registered dietician and an acupuncturist.

Olenlager-Orton asked how the UCs overcame the financial problems with increasing mental health support services.

Compliment answered that there was a commitment made by the Board of Regents to provide support for mental health services and they made it a priority to allocate a large portion of funds for these services.

B. Discussion Item: Tuition Increase Efforts

Jara asked the board for ideas on how they would like to approach these efforts.

Carancho said that they would be posting an article regarding tuition increase on Facebook. They also believe that the best approach would be to do an educational campaign to inform as many students as possible.

Musman said that they should focus on lobbying the CSU Board of Trustees individually so that they know how this tuition increase will affect students.

Jurado thinks that they should partner with SQE because they are a pretty large organization and they are the ones that planned the protests last semester.

Carancho suggested that they invite SQE to one of their meetings so they can collaborate ideas for next semester.

Jara explained that the postcards would be similar to the DACA postcard, which are cards that students fill out and they would use as leave behinds for their legislative visits.

Jurado thinks they should incorporate the postcards in their tabling efforts so they can have as many students fill them out as possible. Also suggested having some kind of small snack or food to draw students in to talk to them and fill out the postcards during tabling sessions.

9. VOLUNTARY CLOSING COMMENTS

Jordan Wynne from Housing Long Beach presented to the board about the issues with homelessness in the student population. They have worked actively on multiple issues and summarized the campaigns that they are working on.

They have a few legislative pieces, and they have a local and state initiative.

The local initiative would introduce a rent protection ordinance in Long Beach that will be on the elections ballot in November 2018. This initiative would institute rent controls that will cap rents at 100% of the consumer price index and will keep them from going up by increments of hundreds of dollars.

Just cause eviction ordinance: Right now there are not any protections for renters and landlords can kick people out for no reason. Ordinance states that unless the tenant violates the lease, they cannot be kicked out.

As it stands right now, landlords are very wary to rent to students. Housing Long Beach wants to step in and give those rights to students and help them from being discriminated against and that they are not priced out of a place to live.

They will also have a Renters Board to deal with any issues such as conflicts with state laws, adjudication for rent increase/decrease that is outside of the terms of the lease. A mandatory clause in the policy will be that at least three out of the 5 members of the board are renters.

There was a bill passed in the 1990s called the Costa-Hawkins Act that states that rent control cannot happen on buildings that were built after 1995. It also says that once somebody moves out of their unit, that unit can then be adjusted to market rate.

So what they are seeing is people being evicted in cities that do have rent control, and then their rents go up to market rate.

There are also large buildings that are eligible for rent control. This incentivizes them to evict people and then update and redevelop their buildings to make them ineligible for rent control.

They would like to keep Lobby Corps updated on the status of the campaign and they hope they could get some lobbying efforts from the board in their legislative visits

Musman thanked Wynne for coming in to speak to the board and thinks that this issue is very important.

Carancho asked if there is a name for the ballot initiative for the ballot they are hoping to get on the 2018 ballot.

Wynne explained that they just submitted the language for this ballot, but it has not been finalized yet.

Jara said that they would be following up with Wynne regarding this ballot and Housing Long Beach's efforts so that they can lobby on behalf of these issues.

Kilian thinks it is great that they are focusing on making housing more affordable, but asked what their approach was for the housing shortage.

Wynne stated that they have sat on a few boards to discuss affordable housing, but they realize that they have to approach the housing shortage as well.

They have been present in dialogues in terms of building more affordable housing and they believe that they are building way too few. They want to encourage Long Beach to be more progressive in terms of building more and adapting more land.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection Chair Jara adjourned the meeting at 1:28pm.