

To: ASI Board of Directors

From: Donovan A. Bersamina
Director of Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Subject: 2021 End of Year Board Report

General Information

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A Note to the Nest

To my fellow Hornets,

I have come to realize that although I had the pleasure of serving our college this year, I never bothered to introduce myself. So, for the first and last time please allow me to do just that. My name is Don, I'm 22, I enjoy collecting vinyl records and film cameras, and most of my free time is spent with my dog. I'm a student-veteran, super senior, majoring in Biological Sciences and most recently I have been serving as the Director of Natural Sciences and Mathematics for our college.

I was sworn in to this position at the beginning of the Spring semester, half way through a regular term. When I applied to fulfill the vacancy, I had already enrolled in 17 units of upper division BIO and CHEM courses. The semester was by no means academically easy and when combined with COVID, I find it hard to remember why I thought it was a good idea take on the additional responsibility of student government. Thankfully, I don't have to think too hard to remember.

Sac State has given me an education, work, friends, mentors, home, and community. I like to think that my life is dedicated to the serve of others but, I must admit I had been lacking when it came to my contributions for our campus community. When I swore in, I saw an opportunity to make up for that. I saw my chance to give back to the community that had already given me so much. I can only hope that in my short time as director I have helped to shape the culture and climate of our college for those to come after.

Congratulations to those graduating this semester and good job to everyone for completing another semester under COVID. Thank you again to the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics for allowing me to serve you all, it has been an honor.

Stingers up!



Donovan A. Bersamina

Internal Committee Accomplishments

Student Academic Senate

- Appointed to Committee on 3/17/21
- Attended meetings regularly
- Proposed Open-Notes Encouragement
 - Open notes encouragement: shift in the dominant preference of closed notes test to open notes test, in response to the changing availability of information
 - Open notes exams prioritize practical application of knowledge
 - Closed notes exams priorities memorization
 - Academic senate gave support, expressed possible problem with cheating standards
- Review of Fall 2021 Modalities
 - Student body will begin to return to campus in Fall 2021
 - Modalities were established to describe how classes would be conducted (i.e. online, in-person, hybrid, etc.)
- Adoption of AB 1460 (Ethnic Studies undergrad requirement)
 - Senate supported the adoption of an additional undergrad requirement

Wellness, Safety and Sexual Assault Committee

- Appointed to Committee on 2/3/21
- Promoted related material

University Committee Accomplishments

Alcohol Advisory Committee

- Appointed to Committee on 2/4/21
- Attended meetings regularly
- Proposed idea of CSUS adopting “medical amnesty” protocols to committee
 - Discussed past attempt to adopt similar policy
 - Committee showed support of adoption

NSM Academic Council

- Appointed to Committee on 2/3/21
- Attended meetings regularly
- Increased student engagement
 - Proposed amendment to bylaws allowing for alternate to sit in for the student representative
 - This allows for the following directors of NSM to send active student leadership to the faculty council meetings
 - Purpose: increase direct student- faculty interactions
- Current focus is on the development of college specific Subcommittees

UEI Bookstore Advisory Council

- Appointed to Committee on 2/12/21
- Attended meetings regularly
- Discussed ways to support students during COVID
- Went over plans for continuing drive by book drop off

2021 Director of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Strategic Priorities

2.2.1 Support Wellness, Safety and Sexual Assault Committee

- Meeting with Strategic Priority Group
- Promoted related material
- sent email to BOD regarding Anti-racism task forces

3.1.3 Encourage activism expression by creating a space where students can be creative.

- Meeting with Strategic Priority Group
- Promoted related material

3.2.1 Further outreach to Sacramento community.

- Meeting with Strategic Priority Group
- Promoted related material

3.4.1 Increase awareness of racial injustices, discrimination, and white fragility

- Meeting with Strategic Priority Group
- Promoted related material

4.2.2 Publicize awareness of safe zone and ally trainings

- Meeting with Strategic Priority Group
- Promoted related material

Noteworthy Events and Initiatives

NSM Joint Council

- Stopping by club zoom meetings to introduce and recruit for NSMJC
 - allows for me to visit and get face to face time with active students
 - met with all clubs that held a meeting in Spring 2021
- Created NSMJC interest form
- Found second student to attend NSM academic council meeting
 - Student will serve to help relay information to the NSMJC
 - Also encourages student participation in facility level business
- Can we require a club position specifically designed for the ASI joint councils?
 - Doing so would create a central structure of student engagement with the already active student population
- New focus: many students I've met with are unaware of the joint council. Because of the short amount of time left in the semester, I have decided to focus my efforts on establishing familiarity so the next director may be able to integrate smoothly

- Notes have been collected and will be passed on to next director

Biomedical Sciences Alternate Upper Division Elective

- Looking into the feasibility of allowing for students in the Biomedical Sciences Concentration to enroll in health-oriented courses (PUBH 118, SWRK 151, PHIL 104)
 - More health-oriented courses that can shed light on racial disparities within medicine
- Adoption of AB 160 fulfills a gap in racial equity classes
- Decided against further action
 - Suggest continuation to next director
 - Notes will be collected and passed on to next director

Adoption of Medical Amnesty Policy

- Looking into the feasibility of CSUS adopting medical amnesty policy for students who seek on campus support
 - Such a policy would grant CSUS students who request medical attention for illegal substance use on campus (underage drinking or drug use) with “administrative amnesty”
- Referencing UCD established policies for legislative wording
- Drafted Resolution in Support of a Medical Amnesty Policy
- Met with Bill Macriss, Tom Carroll, Assistant Dean of Students and University Conduct Coordinator, and Aja Holmes
- Legislation ID: 2020/2021-04-137 passed 4/28/2021

Support for Open- Notes encouragement

- Looking into the feasibility of ASI Board taking a position to encourage the adoption an open notes exam format
- Discussed with NSM Dean: Dr. Hammersley
 - Positive support for idea
- Discussed matters with the Student academic Council
 - Conducted a forum to discuss the semantics of the idea
 - Possible areas of conflict:
 - “anti-cheating” standards may have to be rewritten
 - encroaching on academic freedoms of professors
- Rebrand from “policy” to “encouragement”
- Decided against further action
 - Not enough time to produce fruitful action
 - Notes will be collected and passed on to next director

Academic Survey

- Proposed idea to survey the student body on what academic tools Professors have implemented that showed moderate levels of success

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Director of Natural Sciences & Mathematics

- Project started with good intention but few road blocks
 - Should this be done by individual college
 - Teaching tools between colleges are varying
 - What kind of usable information do the professors want to see
 - Would a survey be the best tool?
- Decided against further action