

To: ASI VPUA Elect

Subject: ASI Vice President of University Affairs Transition Report

Introduction

Congratulations on winning your race and becoming the next Vice President of University Affairs! It is a major accomplishment to be elected to the ASI Board of Directors, and even more so for the executive positions. I am confident you will do great in this position, but to help you do as great as possible I am writing this transition report to share my experience and advice. This position is extremely important to ASI and plays a critical role in representing our students here on campus. Though it may feel like a lot of work at times, I can promise you that it will be extremely rewarding as well.

Internal Committees

During the semester I was involved with three Internal Committee, which are those that are done by ASI to support our services or provide additional action on issues we feel ASI should be active on. Though I had been involved with three, after the end of the fall semester I passed an operating rule change that combined my second and third committee into one. This committee is the Wellness, Safety and Sexual Assault committee, which is under your operating rule responsibilities to chair (so below I will detail more on it). Though you may only sit on 2 or 3 internal committees, as important discussion arises, or board members request attendance, you should attend meetings for other committees as you see fit.

Committee # 1: Lobby Corps

Though impacted by COVID-19, Lobby Corps had another successful year. We engaged in many discussions on legislation being proposed at the state and federal level and had some great guest speakers along the way. We also did some mock lobby visit exercises that were greatly beneficial to our members. Though a lot of our lobbying was scheduled for March, April and early May, so it did not occur, I think we put in a good amount of effort in being active on issues of importance to students and can grow next year. If you are interested in working on legislation, or just being better informed on University Affairs and policy that relates to it, I cannot recommend Lobby Corps higher.

Committee # 2: Wellness, Safety and Sexual Assault

At the start of my term this committee was two separate committees, Sexual Assault Prevention Student Advisory Committee, and the Student Wellness and Safety Committee. As the year went on the attendance and engagement with these committees was extremely hard to get, and it became clear to me that the subject areas were extremely interconnected. So, with that, I put into legislation the combining of the two committees. With this, we were able to get a few more students involved per meeting and bringing the staff and advisors that sit on the committees together was also very beneficial. We had a plan to utilize the Out of Darkness Walk, Denim Day, and the Take Back the Night event, to table and increase student engagement in our committee, but due to COVID-19 those plans fell through. I plan to coordinate a graphic to be made for the committee that can be used over the next semester to recruit for students, and the partnerships with Mental Health and Counseling Services, and with WEAVE I think are very valuable to making this committee the success that it can be.

Noah Anders Ray Marty
Vice President of University Affairs

Looking at the new committees focus, it is tasked with being an advisory body to you and the ASI Board on matters relating to student safety, student wellness, and Sexual Assault. These issues can encompass basic needs programs, mental health initiatives and other topics. I ensured the scope was intentionally broad so that this may act as a body that you can work with and consult on a variety of issues that impact University Affairs.

University Committees

Appointing students to University Committees is a lot of your roles responsibility but serving on them is also critical. You will want to be well informed on all the University Committees and the work they do, so you can adequately appoint students based on their strengths and ensure the student voice is as strong as possible. As for serving, the VPUA sits on the Union Well Inc. Board of Directors, and the Sexual Violence Awareness Team. I had to have a designee sit on the SVAT, but I sat on the Union WELL board and really enjoyed it.

Committee #1 Union WELL Inc. Board of Directors

This committee is the governing board for the Union and the WELL, so being informed on the issues they work on is important. The committee analyzes the operations of the facilities, the initiatives they are working on, and oversees the budget and spending of the organization. Because ASI is in the Union, and the Union and WELL serve so many of our students, being informed on these issues can help you represent your students and is another avenue to advocate for students.

Committee # 2 Alumni Association Board of Directors

This committee is one that I sat on in place of our ASI President as their designee. The committee is the governing board for the Sacramento State Alumni Association, so it deals with the operating business of the org. Our meetings were in the evening and a lot of our discussions centered around the membership restructure that the organization was going through with the intent of being more inclusive to newer alumni who are just graduating and beginning a career. Besides this, meetings act as an opportunity for the alumni that sit as directors to get updated on the goings on of Sacramento State, like the campuses health, advocacy efforts, challenges, and even an ASI update which I delivered regularly.

Committee # 3 Convocation Committee

This committee just began near the end of my term and I have only attended one meeting, but I have done work for it this far. The committee is focused on bringing a convocation to campus, and as student leaders our main task has been ensuring that the student perspective is shared and that they are moving forward in a way that draws students in.

Accomplishments

Strategic Priorities

1.3 Enhance Political Education – How to be an educated voter

1.3.1 Work with the OGA team to create a simplified voter information packet on propositions and how each office they are voting on matters to college students.

- Created a digital voter information packet for the 2020 primary election that could be distributed to students.
- Created an evergreen bookmark for voter registration efforts that can be passed out while tabling

1.3.2 Board disseminates information packets to Sacramento State community.

- Voter information packets were digitally distributed, and the bookmarks were produced and ready for tabling

1.4 Support Increased Policy Advocacy

1.4.1 Board participates in Lobby visits with advocacy partners

- Encouraged Board Participation in Advocacy visits, 5 unique board members participated in visits, while those board members engaged in 15 meetings total

1.4.2 Collaborate with OGA to take stance on higher education legislation

- Worked with OGA to advocate and pass resolutions on 6 higher education issues

1.4.3 Engage more students in policy advocacy

- Attempted to engage students in CHESS, worked to increase Lobby Corps Participation, worked to bring CSSA priorities to Sac State and engage students.

1.5 Promote attendance to CSSA Events

1.5.1 Promote CHESS Conference Attendance

- Added CHESS promotion slide to all classroom presentations
- Posted about CHESS on social media and announced in class

1.5.2 Promote CSSA advocacy efforts

- Attended 3 (after 5/9) Plenary and engaged other board members to attend

2.2 Advance ASI awareness & visibility

2.2.1 Collaborate with campus partners to promote ASI events and programs

- Worked with Student Health and Counseling Services to post regarding ASI events

3.3 Support Basic Needs Campus Programs

3.2.1 Collaborate with local and/or state leaders to host a Basic Needs Forum

- **Important:** Though I was not on this priority, over your term you may find that there are priorities that need work, sometimes it's as easy as quickly assisting, while other times you may

need to take on more. In my case, I saw that this priority needed assistance due to outside factors, so I assisted with outreach, planning and coordination. Doing things like this, if needed, will help your board be successful and build strong working relationships.

3.3.2 Support and partner on Mental Health Initiatives

- Worked with the Out of Darkness walk to provide a keynote video, had scheduled partnerships with two additional events and was working on a third when COVID – 19 eliminated the possibility.

4.3 Support the Graduation Initiative Programs

4.3.1 Raise awareness of existing Graduation Initiative efforts

- Worked with Dr. Dragna to plan how to get student feedback and concerns heard during the COVID-19 crisis as it relates to graduation, academics, and planning.

Positional Responsibilities

As VPUA your responsibilities are very specific to your role unlike that of a college director that has the same as their fellow directors. As VPUA you oversee appointing students to university committee (process detailed in the Legislation Section), chair the Wellness safety and Sexual Assault Committee, must be informed on University affairs and meet with admin in some key issue areas, and coordinate with appointed committee members to ensure that they have all the tools to serve and are doing their job. Committee appointments will take up the bulk of your work, and things like tabling, advertising, and working with your college directors will be your best tools.

Along with this, you will need to work closely with OGA to ensure you are informed on CSSA efforts and on any legislation that could impact the University. If legislation is not your strength or priority, you can work with other board members to make sure these matters are addressed, but you will need to stay informed on them. Another important responsibility that you have is anything that is assigned to you by the President. Though this is at the end of the operating rules, as the year progresses some things may arise that need urgent work, and the president may designate based upon those needs.

Noteworthy Events

ASI Meetings

January 24-26th CSSA Plenary meeting (Hayward)

March 8th Attended CHESS Conference

March 27th CSSA Special Board Meeting regarding University Affairs Letter

April 18th CSSA Virtual Plenary

ASI OGA Events

September 24th Tabling for National Voter registration Day

October 17th Tabled at Community and Civic Engagement Fair

November 7th Delivered Letters in Opposition to 4th year requirement at State Capitol

November 18th Desmond and Sierra Voter Registration Tabling

December 3rd Tabling at Taste of Asia

March 7th CHESS Welcome Reception

March 9th Attended CHESS Advocacy Da

ASI Events

July 30th Safe Zone training

August 9-11th Board Retreat

August 22nd Spoke at Part-time Staff Orientation, Participated in Dreamer Ally Training

September 12th Tabled at the ECS Kickoff event

September 12th Attended ASI Block Party

September 30th Attended Meet up of ASI Department Directors and Board Members

January 16th ASI Board mid-year retreat

February 11th I am ASI Podcast participated in

University/Constituent Events

June 11th Met with VP of University Advancement Candidate

June 17, 19, 24, 28 Orientation Tabling

July 10, 12, 23, 25, 31 Orientation Tabling

July 10th Met with Associate Vice President Joy Stewart-James

August 12th Attended CSU Oversight Joint Assembly/Senate Hearing

August 22nd Attended Presidents Fall Address, Attended Presidents Welcome BBQ

August 29th Participated in SWARM Photo

September 4th Participated in Phlagle Blast

September 6th Attended Open house for Dreamer Resource Center

September 6th Meeting with candidate for Director for Policy and Records Management

September 12th Met with executive Director of the Union Well Inc. to discuss Board Position

September 18th Union WELL Inc. Board of Directors Meeting

September 18th Meet and Greet with College Deans

October 10th Tabled at the Meet the Majors Event in FYE Space

October 14th Alumni Association Board Meeting

November 6th Special Board Meeting for Union Well Board of Directors

November 12th Attended open discussion by CSU Board of Trustees on the search for a new Chancellor

December 9th Attended Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting

January 16th President Spring Address

February 12th Union Well board of directors

February 27th Met with VP IRT Search team to pass on student feedback

March 11th Union Well Inc Board of Directors Meeting

April 9th Out of Darkness Walk participation

April 20th Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting

Classroom Presentations

September 5th Class presentation

September 6th Classroom Presentation in ASI Office

September 19th Classroom Presentation

September 24th TWO classroom presentations

October 3rd Classroom presentation

Club Presentations

Date and Club

College Democrats October ?

College Democrats February ?

Projects Started / Pending Projects

In terms of projects that I deem ongoing or pending, both relate to the new Wellness, Safety and Sexual Assault Advisory Committee. The first is just improving and helping this committee find its place overall. As I mentioned above, this committee was started during my term to bring together both the old SAPSAC and SWSC into one joint committee. I did this since both struggled to get attendees and this trend had continued for multiple semesters in a row. I was hoping this could broaden the scope and bring more students into the committee, but as our efforts were about to start the COVID-19 pandemic occurred and halted it.

Working with both staff at Student Health and Counseling Services (and PHE), but also with the Confidential Victims Advocate, our objective was to table for the committee at events, and to create a social media graphic that could be distributed on Instagram or as a quarter sheet flyer. This committee is going to need work to get its membership up, and I think that is an important project to consider for your term since chairing (or designating the chair for) the committee is in your role and responsibilities.

The other project I think is important is the work the committee was doing regarding the Title IX changes. Though recent events may have delayed this, for my entire term changes to Title IX were being drafted and debated behind the scenes by the department of education. They are still expected to be published any day, and the changes being proposed are likely going to be very detrimental to victims of sexual assault and will dramatically limit the university in what it can do on these cases, and discourage victims from coming forward. Advocacy and the student voice will be essential if these changes move forward.

If you choose to no longer pursue these projects, you **MUST** reach out to your campus partners to update them. Not only does this assist in successful relationship building for ASI as a whole, this is considered an important piece to your professional reputation.

Legislation

Legislation is a critical part of any board member's job, but for you as VPUA you will have to get familiar with legislation since you will likely be submitting it for every single board meeting. In order to appoint students to any committee, you must pass legislation that appoints them. This means that you can only make appointments every two weeks, and your decision on if you are going to make any appointments must be made prior to the legislation deadline every other week. There are two major types of legislation that you will be submitting for appointments, one type is the general university committee appointment legislation, this is for the committees that we as ASI can directly appoint students. The other piece of legislation is recommendations to the university president for appointment, this legislation is for committees where our board has the ability to recommend students to be appointed, but the University President has the final say and must confirm these recommendations. In either case, you never know when you will encounter a student interested in being appointed, so my best practice was always submitting both pieces of legislation at the deadline each cycle, that way if a student does need to be appointed, or the urgent need for an appointment arises, the appointment can be made as quickly as possible and not delayed up to a worst case scenario of 3 whole weeks.

Noah Anders Ray Marty
Vice President of University Affairs

In terms of general legislation, the board should pursue next year, I would say addressing the needs of students as needed based on the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic sets in. This can take the form of resolutions, support of legislation, or working with community partners to offer services. As VPUA you'll need to stay informed on university affairs, and if issues that could impacted students at the university level arise, then be prepared to draft legislation on it. One critical area I can envision needing action is on Title IX changes, this was something I was following very closely and always prepared to act on, but the changes never ended up dropping during my term. At some point in your term they will, and in collaboration with OGA and your committee that you chair, action will be needed.

Additionally, always look for ways to strengthen or amend your own operating rules or others. The operating rules are a living document that we can amend based on the experiences of the board. Just like how I combined my two committees, there are plenty of things that can arise that will make parts of the operating rules outdated and in need of change.

Recommendations

As with any position on the ASI Board, the saying "you get out what you put in" rings true, and the amount of time you dedicate to this position and its work will greatly affect the amount you are able to accomplish. I think one of the most import lessons I learned was to get started as early as possible during the summer. One of the most important roles of your new position is appointing students to University committees. Once the semester starts, University Committee chairs will reach out left and right and want their ASI rep position filled, so getting as much done over the summer will help lower the amount of positions to fill immediately in the first board meeting of the fall semester. Additionally, learning how to submit and edit legislation, work with your ASI staff, and coordinate with your board members are all valuable skills that will make next semester far easier if you get some early experience.

Additionally, one of the other most important things you can do early, is build a strong working relationship with your fellow board members. I can guarantee that over the course of your term you will need to lean on your board members time and time again for support, assistance or anything else, so being able to work together effectively is critical. Hopefully, these tips assist you in your role, but if you have any questions at all I'll be available to answer, I'll make sure to pass on my contact information.

One other side recommendation, when it comes to meeting with administration or University staff, reach out earlier rather than later! They have extremely busy schedules and can get booked up far in advance. Make sure to follow up if you do not hear from them, as sometimes they get so many requests that they simply cannot keep up.

Conclusion

Once again, congratulations on this role!!! I cannot state more how enjoyable of an experience serving as VPUA has been, and I really hope that your experience is the same. Being on the board is an amazing privilege, but also an important role, so make sure to work hard and enjoy it. My year went by so fast and before I knew it, I was writing this report and getting ready to transition to my next chapter in life. Try to be in the moment and do as much as you possibly can while you have this great opportunity. At the start of the summer it may feel like you have forever to get everything done, but time will move fast, and things will get crazy. This role is the most fun thing I have done so far in my career, and I am sure the same will go for you. Best of luck in this role, I am confident you will do great!

Noah Anders Ray Marty
Vice President of University Affairs