



**Special Elections Committee Minutes 17-10**  
**April 20, 2017 12:00-1:00pm**  
**USU 3700- ASI Conference Room**

Elections Committee  
 2016-2017

Members

**Samuel Ramtin**  
*Chair*

**Collin Bogie**  
*ASI Representative &  
 Vice Chair*

**Christopher Morales**  
*ASI Representative*

**Rye Boulter**  
*ASI Representative*

**Stephanie Ferro**  
*CSUSM Student*

**Jordan Gaydos**  
*CSUSM Student*

**Kelcee Funderburg**  
*CSUSM Student*

Advisors

**Rodger D'Andreas**  
*Senior Director*

**Ashley Fennell**  
*Government Affairs  
 Coordinator*

**Ahmbra Austin**  
*Media & Communications  
 Coordinator*

ITEM	SUBJECT	PRESENTER
01	<b>Call to Order</b> The meeting was called to order at 12:01pm	<b>Sam Ramtin</b> Elections Chair
02	<b>Roll Call</b> <b>Present: Sam, Collin, Chris, Rye, Jordan , Kelcee, Rodger, Ashley</b> <b>Tardy: Stephanie</b> <b>Absent: Ahmbra</b>	<b>Sam Ramtin</b> Elections Chair
03	<b>Recognition of Guests</b> Kim Clark, Lori Brockett, Rhiannon Ripley, Bridget Blanshan, Anna Rapada, Jeroen Barendise, Teresa Macklin, Yomira Zamora, Joe-Joe McManus, Chris Lee, Louis Adamsel, Crystal Flores, Christian Hicks, Chaz Diaz, Jairo Sanchez, Brian Kelton, Enrique Corona, Aaron Herrscher, Elijah Schiender, Anthony Anselmo, Tyler Cerwinski, Anthony Feghali, James Dyer, Elizabeth Buckle, Leon Striker, Keianu Diers, David Bleshenski, Connor Norton, Gregory P. Elliot III, Jason Beyer	<b>Sam Ramtin</b> Elections Chair
04 Action	<b>Approval of Agenda</b> Collin motioned to approve the agenda Chris-2 <sup>nd</sup> Motion Carries	<b>Sam Ramtin</b> Elections Chair
05 Action	<b>Approval of Minutes</b> Collin motioned to approve the minutes Jordan-2 <sup>nd</sup> Motion Carries	<b>Sam Ramtin</b> Elections Chair
06 Information	<b>Open Forum</b> <b>Chair Sam</b> discussed what open forum is and who it is meant for. He mentioned this is the time for the public to address the committee for issues other than the ones listed on the agenda. No public statements were made	<b>Sam Ramtin</b> Elections Chair
07 Action	<b>Closed Session, Pursuant to CA Education Code Section 89307 ( c ) (1): Review of Alleged Elections Code Violations</b> Description: The ASI Elections Committee will review and take action on alleged violations of the ASI Elections Code. Fiscal Impact: None Prior to going into closed session for deliberations, the Committee heard information presented by those who had filed complaints as well as the candidate against whom the complaints were filed. Additionally, representatives from IITS were on hand to discuss	<b>Kim Clark</b> ASI Executive Director & Associate Vice President, Student Auxiliary Services  <b>Lori Brockett</b> Associate Vice President, Alumni Engagement & University Events

their findings once asked to investigate the actions that received complaints.

**Leon Striker** presented his complaint regarding Chris Lee's use of mass emails. He believed these actions violated the campaign guidelines as outlined in the elections packet. He also brought character witnesses who testified that they received the email from Chris Lee even though they do not know him. Leon also mentioned an email from an Elections Committee advisor, Ashley Fennell, which his slate received regarding the campaigning language use. He believed this action represented holding a whole slate accountable for one candidate's actions and the other slate should receive the same treatment. He believed that Chris's actions undermined the integrity of the elections process. He also inquired about what ASI's legal counsel advised. **Kim Clark** mentioned that the information is confidential under client-attorney privilege.

**Other complainants had nothing more to add to the discussion**

**Chris Lee** presented information regarding the emails he sent to students. He asked the guests who voted in the election as well as who received his email. He believed his emails did not violate the elections code because he only emailed students once. He mentioned that COBA students are less than 13% of the campus population and those are the only students he reached. He claimed the emails he sent did not pressure the students to vote for his slate, they only informed. He feels the other slate unjustly targeted him. He believes that Collin's actions of removing himself from the Elections Committee proceeding at the last meeting show his bias in the previous processes. He believed that Collin steered the committee away from keeping Chris as a candidate. **Stephanie Ferro** clarified that Collin had been acting as Chair in the last few discussions so he never had a vote or a voice in any of the discussions made. As the Chair, they are only there to facilitate conversations and all previous votes had been unanimous. The Chair only votes if they need to make or break a tie. **Collin Bogie** also mentioned that he only stepped out because he had heard student concerns so out of respect and fairness he stepped out of the meeting, not because of his own bias or for increased transparency.

**Teresa Macklin** and **Jeroen Barendse** from campus IITS presented the information that IITS had gathered regarding the sent emails. Initially, they were asked specific questions by Ashley Fennell (on Behalf of the ASI Elections Committee) regarding number of emails sent and if any groups in particular were targeted. **Teresa** reviewed the process of collecting email information. They found that over 2100 unique email users received the email. They found there was no specific order to the emails sent and none of the emails included the "opt-out" clause. They found that

campus list serves were not targeted but it could have been student groups based on the use of the “bcc” field.

**Collin yielded his time to guest Anthony Feghali**

**Anthony** asked how people get access to other people’s emails. Teresa mentioned that the online campus directory is public information. She did mention that users are able to suppress their email if they do not want it shared publicly.

**Chris yielded his time to guest Jason Beyer**

**Jason** mentioned that he voted how he did based on in-person interactions, not emails. He also shared concerns with not every candidate having a biography on the ballot as well as a, what he believed, biased Cougar Chronicle article. **Collin Bogie** responded to mention that every candidate received the same deadline for ballot information and Chris did not submit his on time. The candidates all received the same reminders for this ballot information; no candidate received any special treatment for these deadlines.

**Chris yielded his time to guest Rhiannon Ripley.**

**Rhiannon** identified herself as the author of the Cougar Chronicle article in question. She mentioned that she focused on the main points of the slate’s goals with no bias. She only used information that received. She reached out to all the candidates so they all had the same opportunity to supply information. She mentioned that the slate simply has different focuses. She apologized if the article came across as biased because the intention was to present information.

**Chris yielded his time to guest Yomira Zamora**

**Yomira** discussed that the students do not want a revote. She expressed concerns regarding the silencing of the student voice. She also mentioned that since ASI has offered to cover the campaigning costs, her slate is financially at a disadvantage because they have less members. She discussed concerns of going through another campaigning process when so much effort and outreach done in the last cycle. She would like to end this hostile environment and move on with the results. She discussed that students have finals and the end of year events to focus on, including the students on the committee.

**Chris motioned to move into closed session**

**Jordan-2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Motion Carries**

**Within closed session, the meeting was extended to 1:10pm.**

**Moving out of closed session, Chair Sam reported out that the committee** has taken action to dismiss the complaint against candidate Chris Lee as having no merit based on evidence presented by IITS and on the advice of legal counsel. There was not excessive emailing which is the term defined in the policy. The Committee determined excessive to mean multiple

	<p>emails to the same email address. Chris Lee will remain as a candidate in the ASI Elections process.</p> <p><b>Collin yielded his time to guest Yomira Zamora</b></p> <p><b>Yomira</b> wondered about the results announcement.</p> <p><b>Ashley Fennell</b> mentioned that the results are up for approval at the Elections Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow, 2-3pm.</p>	
<b>08 Information</b>	<p><b>Announcements</b></p> <p>None</p>	<b>Sam Ramtin</b> Elections Chair
<b>09 Action</b>	<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p>Chris motioned to adjourn the meeting</p> <p>Kelcee-2<sup>nd</sup></p> <p>Motion Carries</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 12:58pm</p>	<b>Sam Ramtin</b> Elections Chair

I, Sam Ramtin, Chair of the ASI Elections Committee, hereby certify that the above minutes were approved by the committee at a scheduled special meeting held on April 21, 2017.

Sam Ramtin

4/21/17

Date