

University Student Union
California State University, Northridge
Diversity and Inclusion Committee
Minutes
Monday, April 26, 2021 | 3:00pm – 4:30pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 886 6019 9571 Passcode: D&I

This meeting was facilitated through an online Zoom format, consistent with the Governor’s Executive Order N25-20, suspending certain open meeting law restrictions.

I. Call to Order

Chair Olmedo Torres called the meeting to order at 3:04pm.

II. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Olmedo Torres provided the following land acknowledgement: *The University Student Union recognizes and acknowledges the Sesevitam, the first people of this ancestral and unceded territory of Sesevenga that is now occupied by our institution; and it honors their elders, past and present, and the Sesevitam descendants who are citizens of the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. We recognize that the Sesevitam are still here and we are committed to uplifting their stories, culture, and community.*

III. Roll Call

Present	Absent	Staff	Guest(s)
Andrew Diaz*	Anaya Galves	Dr. Freddie Sánchez* (Executive Secretary)	
Sophie Malchus*			
Nadia Marin de la Torre*			
Giselle Olmedo Torres*			
Dominique Silva* (Late 3:08pm)			
Kyle Susser*			
Uriel Tapia*			

*Participated in Zoom meeting.

IV. Approval of Agenda

M/S/P (S. Malchus/K.Susser) Motion to approve agenda for meeting on April 26, 2021.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

V. Approval of Minutes from meeting on April 5, 2021

M/S/P (D. Silva/U.Tapia) Motion to approve Minutes from April 5, 2021.

Motion Passed 6-0-0.

VI. **Open Forum**

N/A

VII. **Action Form**

A. Mission Statement Recommended Approval

M/S (D.Silva/S.Malchus) Motion to accept the updated USU Mission Statement as recommended:

The mission of the University Student Union is to uplift and empower students to achieve their educational goals by providing leadership development, meaningful employment, and inclusive environments that promote equity, innovation and well-being. We offer engaging programs, services and facilities that advocate for social justice and connect students to CSUN.

Executive Secretary Sánchez and Committee Member Susser explained that the USU Internal Diversity, Equity & Inclusion work team has worked on the mission statement since February using a Design Thinking Model. They shared that in February, the work team administered a survey to all USU staff, student employees and Board of Director (BOD) members, including committee members. A total of 53 people completed the survey (38% of all professional staff, 14% of all student employees, 31% of all BOD members). The committee reviewed 371 comments across seven items of inquiry. Twenty themes were created based on CSUN and CSU mission statements and the Role of the College Union statement. The committee also reviewed 45 non-CSUN mission statements and created a Density Map with all USU survey responses. The internal work team provided three prototypes to the management team and solicited feedback. Once the feedback was received, a final draft mission statement was proposed to the USU Management Team. The mission statement went through extensive editing and the final draft is the new proposed statement.

Committee members shared gratitude to the work team and provided additional feedback about the mission statement. Committee members want to see the mission statement invoke feeling of love and home, a place where people would want to go. They provided additional edits and recommend the following statement: *“The University Student Union, as the heart of campus, uplifts and empowers students to achieve educational, personal and professional goals by providing leadership development, meaningful employment, innovative programs, services and facilities. We promote equity, inclusion and well-being, while encouraging social advocacy to help Matadors feel heard, respected and connected to CSUN.”*

M/S/P (D. Silva/K.Susser) Motion to table the vote until next meeting after the proposed edits are shared with the USU Internal Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Work Team and the USU Management Team.

Motion Passes 6-0-0.

VIII. Discussion Items

A. Update to Project Rebound Request

Chair Olmedo Torres shared that the BOD Finance Committee approved an update to the Contracts Policy due to the request received from Project Rebound. Project Rebound encouraged CSUN and all related entities, including Associated Students, Foundation, North Campus Development Corporation, The University Corporation, and University Student Union, to completely divest from all partnerships with the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA). The committee approved the following update to the Contracts Policy: *“By accepting a contract or purchase order with the USU, the Contractor certifies that no materials, equipment, supplies, or services have been supplied in whole in part by sweatshop labor, forced labor, convict labor, or indentured labor under penal sanction, abusive forms of child labor or exploitation of children in sweatshop labor. The certification is evidenced by the Contractor by signing the CSU General Provisions or by the contractor accepting a USU Purchase Order.”* Committee members shared excitement for the update and glad that the USU was able to make the policy changes to be more inclusive.

B. Continuation of Goals & Breakout Rooms

Chair Olmedo Torres shared that unfortunately, the committee would not have enough time to propose recommendation on a USU Diversity, Equity & Inclusion statement. Chair Olmedo Torres shared that she would make a recommendation to the next BOD Diversity & Inclusion committee to continue the work done by the committee. She also shared that enough efforts have been done to complete the USU Land Acknowledgement Statement and vote during the next D&I Committee meeting.

Committee member S.Malchus left meeting at 4:12pm

IX. Announcements

Committee member Diaz stated that he serves as chair for the Associated Students Diversity & Inclusion Committee and invites committee member to the A.S. Diversity & Inclusion Meet & Greet taking place on Tuesday, April 27th from 2- 3pm.

X. Adjournment

Chair Olmedo Torres adjourned the meeting at 4:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Freddie Sánchez
Executive Secretary