



SENATE MEETING #13
Agenda
Thursday, February 15, 2024
7:00 PM - ASUCR Senate Chambers

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of Agenda**
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
 - A. [Senate Meeting Minutes #12](#)**
- V. Public Forum** (3 mins per person)
- VI. Ex- Officio Reports** (3 mins per person)
- VII. New Business**
 - A. Elections Presentation and Updates**
 - B. We R' Survivors Presentation by Senator Sreeram**
- VIII. Committee Reports**
 - A. Finance**
 - 1. [Finance Meeting Minutes #5](#)**
 - B. Legislative Review Committee**
 - 1. [SB-W24-003 Updating Chapter VII: Elections Code](#)**
 - C. Green Campus Action Plan**
 - 1. [Green Grant: HUBxGCAP Punch Cards](#)**
 - a) [Budget Sheet](#)**
- IX. Public Comment** (3 min per person)
- X. Senator Reports**
- XI. Roundtable and Announcements**
 - A. January Senator of the Month**
- XII. Adjournment**

Victoria Nguyen
Executive Vice President



I. Call to Order

A. 7:06 pm

| Senators Present/Absent | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|---|
| 1. President Pro Tempore | Choy | E |
| 2. CHASS Senator | Khan | E |
| 3. CHASS Senator | Colon | P |
| 4. CHASS Senator | Sreeram | P |
| 5. CHASS Senator | Ho | P |
| 6. CHASS Senator | Lu | E |
| 7. CHASS Senator | Kannan | P |
| 8. CHASS Senator | Nguyen | P |
| 9. CHASS Senator | Campos | E |
| 10. CHASS Senator | Shah | E |
| 11. CNAS Senator | Haidar | P |
| 12. CNAS Senator | Trutalli | E |
| 13. CNAS Senator | Su | E |
| 14. CNAS Senator | Ho | P |
| 15. BCOE Senator | Narasimhan | P |
| 16. BCOE Senator | Peedikayil | P |
| 17. SOE Senator | Toral | P |
| 18. SPP Senator | Pizarro | P |

B.

TOTAL PRESENT: 11

The Associated Students of the University of California, Riverside (ASUCR) is the officially recognized student voice at UCR to the campus administration, faculty, and outside community. We aim to serve the UCR community through advocacy, education, and empowerment and work to enrich the undergraduate experience by bringing relevant issues and programs to the student body.



- II. **Approval of Agenda**
 - A. **Friendly Amendment to Remove January Senator of the Month**
 - B. **Motion to remove January Senator of the Month Sen Narasimhan, Seconded Sen Sreeram**
 - C. **Vote Passes: 11-0-0**
 - D.
- III. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
 - A. **[Senate Meeting Minutes #12](#)**
 - B. **Motion to approve this weeks agenda Sen Colón, Second Sen Peedekayil**
 - C. **Motion passes: 11-0-0**
 - D. **Motion to open [Senate Meeting Minutes #12](#) Sen Ho, Seconded Sen**
 - E. **Vote Passes: 11-0-0**
 - F. **Motion to approve [Senate Meeting Minutes #12](#) Sen, Seconded Sen Kannan**
 - G. **Vote Passes: 11-0-0**
- IV. **Public Forum** (3 mins per person)
 - A. **Senate Intern Sophia**
 - 1. **Reminder about blind date thrifting**
 - 2. **Rescheduled because of rain two weeks ago. Next week 2-3 at the hub**
 - 3. **We will have drinks and it will be a lot of fun**
 - B. **Assistant news editor at the Highlander**
 - 1. **Highlander is committed to fair coverage in regards to student body community**
 - 2. **Any questions about coverage – reach out to highlandernews.org**
 - 3. **Come to office hours: 3:30 to 5 pm on Tuesdays**
 - C.
- V. **Ex- Officio Reports** (3 mins per person)
- VI. **New Business**
 - A. **Elections Presentation and Updates**
 - 1. **Good afternoon senate and everyone that is in the galley we have a lengthy presentation but it is important for us and those in the galley**
 - 2. **My R’puns have gotten bad and I apologize for that I cannot do anything about my unpaid members we will be discussing our history our numbers and our plan**
 - 3. **The effects of voter turnout and fix complaints we have had to deal with in the past**
 - 4. **R’history: A quick little crash course in ASUCR elections, we used to be a lot smaller campus. A lot easier to know what was going on. Very talked about by the newspapernewspapers and students. Popularity was at an all-time high. We used to be a styleparliamentary-styled government. There was no hierarchy. No directors. Everybody ran for a senator position within their college and had one vote. Get rid of middle**



tables. We used to have political parties. Some candidates state that they want to bring back political parties. Political parties meant more marketing which increased voter turnout.

5. Historically speaking the Your side party would dominate and leave all other minor seats to the ABC and other minor parties
6. In 2014, we hit our record of voter turnout with 38%. The record has been uncontested for a decade.
7. So here we can see the percentage of student turnout throughout the years and we see a growth in turnout
8. However, recently, we have seen a significant drop in that number. Starting in 2018, and coming back in 2019. And then continuing to fall in 2020 due to the pandemic and continued growth in 2021 and 2022 and then we get the infamous 9% of 2023
9. Not blaming any elections directors for anything that has happened for the voter turnout but would defend them. Transparency and updates like this are what's important.
10. Despite 38%, that means over 10k students still didn't vote in 2014.
11. With more undergraduate students, we've seen a decline in the number of students coming out to vote.
12. It's lower than before when we had five thousand fewer students.
13. Before we go around blaming anybody
14. We need to consider referendums – changes in student needs
15. What are referendums for those in the galley
16. They amount to student fees and what we saw as an increase and an additional 14 dollar fee for every student we also saw a 3-dollar refund from GCAP that rightfully passes the 60 total fees that did not
17. Now this conversation is not about the good of the referendum or whether or not she supports them.
18. The existence of political parties and amendments
19. If news outlets like the Highlander aren't covering major topics and events, students who get their news from them are less likely to get the info they need.
20. I also want to highlight candidate quantity and effort. If there aren't a lot of candidates there's no competition. If there's no competition there's no need to show effort. If there's no effort no one comes to vote. Not only that, current members if you are out here telling people what to expect..



- 21. I highlight this as this is an issue we bring into this year a little negative and a Debbie Downer**
- 22. As a Political Science major, I see how politicians care about every little thing because they want to stay in theirtheir position and grow**
- 23. And I hate to say it, but in my three years of ASUCR I have seen the trend reflected within our own our own student government. I want this to change but it's not plausible or even fair for people to expect a single person to change all the bad habits and all the negative stigma that ASUCR has accumulated over the year**
- 24. Here's our plan all of which would not have been possible without the committee**
- 25. The first day in the office, I met with Asha and told her I wanted to get rid of Quatrics. We are on our way to finalizing and securing the software that will undoubtedly change elections for the better moving forward.**
- 26. We are bringing back presidential debates. There are not going to be any rebuttals, This should not be a platform to bring anybody down. This should allow for the spotlight of unique ideas.**
- 27. More marketing with our video campaign. Videos will be shot next week. R'gear collab with the office of the president. Using things that students already know about and connecting them to something they should know about. Elections!**
- 28. Polling sites on first-year housing. The goal is to plant the seeds of ASUCR in the first years to increase voter turnout for the next four years.**
- 29. Sixth after having the privilege of working with the previous Mayor of Moreno Valley and the current mayor. He has agreed to come to ASUCR to talk about the importance of voting.**
- 30. So here are some things to be aware of**
- 31. There are no more referendums this year. Note EC's fault. Blame Vice Chancellor Haynes as it was his call.**
- 32. We have a lot of Candidates which broke the previous record of 42 candidates by a lot.**
- 33. A lot of people either do not know what ASUCR is or they don't like ASUCR**
- 34. We can't change this overnight but we can certainly try**
- 35. Elections will only be successful if we all do our part.**



36. I identify this as I reached out to ASUCR and only 2 people reached back out to me but once candidacy opened up suddenly everyone needed me
37. So here's the number that we have. 2024 filing for candidacy results: 94 candidate applicants. Some candidates might drop out. The final list of candidates will be posted in Week 10. Working with candidates so they get the info that they need. They are working on tasks and mandatory workshops have started
38. We are going to start informing them of their eligibility.
39. Do note just because someone has filed for candidacy or you have seen them at the workshop that does not mean they will be on the ballot
40. Pretty even split for 1st, 2nd years.
41. Nobody from SOE turned in an applicant
42. SOE was very supportive and reposted all the flyers.
43. We can't force students to be a part of ASUCR. SOE will be the only position that will be a special election. SOE students are incredibly less likely to show up to vote because there is no one representing them.
44. Now legislative and executive. Pretty evenly split. Senate positions with CHASS dominating with 27 candidates applying. CNAS had 12 people for 5 students. This application was open for a month. 4 days before the application closed, we had 0 CNAS applicants.
45. 6 candidates on the day of sending out the CNAS newsletter. A lot of people did not want to be a part of CNAS. A lot of people didn't want to run for CNAS senate position.
46. Fellows, interns, who have known about ASUCR have stated that they had negative experiences in ASUCR. People said that they did not like ASUCR. It is a very real/big thing. When you talk poorly about a community, no one will want to join. There is a very real effect. When you talk badly about an experience, no one will want to join. People who want to join ASUCR as a senator report that they did not go through the process because they heard negative things about ASUCR.
47. Brian helped get CNAS 6 candidates. It shouldn't be so hard to get students to join something that's for the good of the student body.
48. For presidential and VP positions, only two positions are running uncontested.
49. Third VP might be added so everyone has adequate time.
50. The only position without an opponent will be the Personnel director.
51. Every other position was able to secure at least two candidates.



52. **New polling sites and times open up the possibilities to new waves of people who previously would not have participated in Elections. 3 out of the many senators who had concerns, only 3 showed up to voice their concerns. One of their main issues was the polling hours. If you come up with concerns, we will reflect that into the work we put out.**
53. **Endorsements – In an effort to increase engagement of the student body as well as ensure candidates are putting in effort in their campaign as well as expanding their reach, we want them to go beyond the comfort area of the HUB and be intentional with the people they campaign to. We will post the official process to endorse on our Instagram but in summary, the org/club will conduct their own method of selection/voting process to pick candidates to endorse. They will submit the form to the ED who will email them to check the legitimacy of it.**
54. **Only endorsements from officially recognized UCR clubs and organizations will be accepted as valid endorsements**
55. **Just a gentle reminder from your president and my committee. Be respectful, have integrity, avoid gossiping or spreading harmful rumors and remember these candidates are people.**
56. **Let's make this fair and friendly for everybody.**
57. **I hope everybody feels supported, but it's very disheartening to know that some want to go down the path (harming. spreading rumors)**
58. **My committee will not take this lightly**
59. **Questions**
60. **Sen Peedikayil: Individual people can't endorse. How does the elections committee plan on enforcing that?**
61. **ED Arias: At the end of the day, the elections committee doesn't have the jurisdiction to enforce. If it's a fellow who's doing it, the fellow can't repost their endorsements and say "I'm being endorsed by the President/etc." ASUCR as a whole can't endorse an individual candidate. ASUCR should be impartial if you're not running.**
62. **Sen Narasimhan: It is incredible to see more BCOE candidates. Having a lot of candidates this year is incredible. Your work so far is amazing.**
63. **Ed Arias: BCOe if I'm being extremely transparent. Before the newspaper wasn't out, a lot of people were campaigning and filing for candidacy.**
64. **EVP Nguyen: Thank you Director Arias and all of the Election committee whoever you are back there. Thank you for all the work you are doing and the work you will continue to do.**



B. We R' Survivors Presentation by Senator Sreeram

- 1. Hi everyone I am Teesa Sreeram**
- 2. I just wanted to start off by saying think about your own comfort. I wanted to start off with a triggering content warning. I will be discussing about SA, sexual assault violence**
- 3. The purpose of me speaking today is just to inform the senate, the galley, and the student body about the topic of Sexual violence**
- 4. The gaps and the processes that involve that and things that need to change. I want to receive some support from the student government. I did approach the regents for more permanent funding for the care office.**
- 5. Care stands for campus advocacy resources and education**
- 6. They provide help for those who have survived through sexual violence**
- 7. They have advocates who can take survivors to through every step of the process**
- 8. UCPD is our university's police system and they are the ones who receive criminal reports on topics of this**
- 9. Title IX is an office that surrounds the campus policy – keeps people accountable for**
- 10. Sexual assault/violence is prohibited on our campus**
- 11. Title IX is to hold individuals accountable**
- 12. Their jurisdiction on the matter though is a little bit limited**
- 13. I will talk briefly about some data that I found concerning. Not all of this is from our current year, most of this is from 2022 and a bit earlier. In 2022, title IX received 199 cases of sexual harassment/contact/etc.**
- 14. If you have questions about that you can come meet with me and we can go over this and specific data**
- 15. So that's specifically about title IX. ten cases of rape reported on this campus from clergy report that the university has to report on every year based on reports of different campus reported issues of all topics**
- 16. A needs assessment was released.**
- 17. Note that 192, with many unreported cases, there are a lot of students not receiving enough support. A lack of marketing in resources**
- 18. I want to talk briefly about Title IX**
- 19. While they are supported to be a neutral office. It is pro-protecting the university and the person who is being accused. They want to protect themselves, the university, tricky situations where individuals can be sued. Survivors are left attending a university that doesn't care about**



their well being. They want to help those that are in the wrong. I wanted to ask them about what they do to keep survivor safety–

20. This university is more likely to protect those who caused the issue and ensure the name of the school is safe
21. When someone files a Title IX report, that means someone violated the policy
22. The other person is not allowed to retaliate. They already broke a policy
23. Who is to say they will not break another policy
24. So, another story that was brought up to me was that Title IX does not take cases of sexual violence between the same sex seriously
25. Title IX does not take trauma for practices, and they do not collab with these practices
26. We do a lot of things with the intention
27. Very focused on policy policy policy, but they do not focus on the people behind those policies
28. In terms of Title IX, there are a couple of options. The only anonymous way of reporting people is to have a conversation. They will go down the policy.
29. Formal investigation where the person being accused will know the accuser.
30. The survivor is allowed to have an advocate such as a family or a friend. This process is not created to support survivors. They are already being super vulnerable. I want to push for more consistency and more trauma practices. I want us to advocate that this happens. I want us to acknowledge that Title IX does not do what it's supposed to do. I think that a lot of systems in our university are created to silence students. I want to break it down. I encourage you all to speak up and speak out. Here in student government, I want to hear your voices. I am committed to improving the landscape of survivors on our campus.
31. If you have any questions or want to talk more about the things I am working on, let me know. Thank you
32. EVP Nguyen: Thank you, senator.
33. President Ahluwalia: We know all the issues of Title IX, a lot of students have shared many concerns specifically over the summer and last quarter, a lot of student researchers have been going through a toxic environment, TITLE IX was very unresponsive and very unhelpful. Admin has been reached out to. We need to gather students. If students have any concerns, reach out to us through the anonymous feedback



form. Let ASUCR know this happens to many students, not just one student. We need to hold the specific offices here accountable. We can push for an audit to get more funding.

34. In 2020, our care offices did receive audits. So, our ask is \$2.50 per student to go through advocacy and prevention.

35. Sen Peedikayil: I just wanted to thank you for being here today and having the courage to spread this info to us. I really hope that ASUCR takes this information and moves with this. I hope that we hold Title IX accountable because their actions don't lie with their intentions. Thank you.

C. PPT Choy joined at 7:47 PM

VII. Committee Reports

A. Finance

1. [Finance Meeting Minutes #5](#)
2. Motion to open [Finance Meeting Minutes #5](#) Sen Narasimhan, Sen Kannan
 - a) Org Allocations: \$5,138
 - b) Total Org Allocations: \$5,138
 - c) Organization Contingency Closing Balance: \$39,758
 - d) ASUCR Contingency: Opening Balance: \$53,513
 - e) ASUCR Closing Balance: \$53,513
3. Motion to approve [Finance Meeting Minutes #5](#) Sen , Seconded Sen
4. Vote passes: 12-0-0

B. Legislative Review Committee

1. [SB-W24-003 Updating Chapter VII: Elections Code](#)
2. Motion to open [SB-W24-003 Updating Chapter VII: Elections Code](#) Sen Colon, Seconded Sen CHASS Senator Ho
3. Vote passes: 12-0-0
4. Bylaw change to change elections code. Change elections time 9AM -3:00 PM
5. To address concerns about polling site times. To allow polling site times at the SRC. At peak times.
6. Motion for a recess Sen Sreeram, Seconded Sen Nguyen
7. Vote passes: 12-0-0
8. Motion to call meeting back into order at 8:08 PM Sen Sreeham, Seconded Peedikyil
9. Vote passes: 11-0-0
10. Motion to move into close session Sen Pizarro, Seconded Sen Colon
11. Vote passes: 11-0-0
12. Motion to move back into open session Sen Pizarro, Seconded Sen Kannan
13. Vote passes: 11-0-0



14. Friendly amendment to replace sponsor with Sen Krystal Toral. Sen Colon, Seconded Sen Haidar

15. Vote Passes: 11-0-0

16. Senate has chosen and directed by EVP and vote results are 3-0-8.

C. Green Campus Action Plan

1. Green Grant: HUBxGCAP Punch Cards

a) Budget Sheet

b) Motion to open Green Grant: HUBxGCAP Punch Cards and all its accompanying documents Sen Pizarro, Seconded Sen CHASS Sen Ho

c) Vote Passes: 11-0-0

d) Sen Narasimhan: GCAP Grant is for bringing reusable cups to the HUB

e) Punch card system where after buying 10 times, they can get a reusable gift card

f) Any questions feel free to reach out to Ellen Nguyen, VP of Sustainability

g) Motion to approve Green Grant: HUBxGCAP Punch Cards Sen Pizarro, Seconded CNAS Sen Ho

h) Vote Passes: 11-0-0

VIII. Public Comment

(3 min per person)

IX. Senator Reports

A. PPT Choy: I want to announce the success of research match expo

1. Over 500 RSVPs, with over 300+ check-ins

2. Hope to do this again next year

3. Among that too, we are on our way to finishing an amendments project

4. The rest of committee is working with exec cabinet and directors

5. Member of SHAQ? Meetings to discuss health insurance

6. We decided to remove an obesity medication that is primarily used for diabetes but is also used for people who are overweight

7. Continuation of Lyra, a mental health Act

8. Chosen to remove obesity medication from UC SHIP

9. Drops premium for everyone on UC SHIP

10. Sen narasimhan

11. Global fair, would love to see the gally at global fair. Feb 23 4-7 bell tower. Over 20 cultural orgs confirmed and it would be amazing to see everyone ther and performances from almost eight groups. Cultural fashion show. Feel free to let me know if you're interested. You will have a fun time. Some initiatives: I am on GCAP and we are working on bike lanes. We want to help safety with the scooters on campus. A lot of people find it safety hazard and people are scared. We want to make sure people biking, scootering, biking are safe. Working on proper transport on campus.



12. Fill out our feedback form. We want to bring out student concerns. We want more proper accessibility for buildings with scooters and bikes. Working with Sen Peedikayil and VP of Sustainability who is spearheading this → Turning off lights on campus when they aren't being used

13. BCOE town hall

X. Roundtable and Announcements

A. Town hall next week, free celsius. Learn more about what there is to offer. Be more involved.

XI. Adjournment

A. Motion to adjourn at 8:37 PM

B. Motion to adjourn meeting Sen Toral, Seconded CHASS Sen Ho

C. Vote Passes: 11-0-0

Victoria Nguyen, Executive Vice President

Angel Mojarro, Senate Secretary