ASSOCIATED STUDENTS INC.

Wahlberg vetoes; ASI will confront decision on CSSA

By Mallory Plant
The Collegian

Students and government leaders thought that their decision on whether to join a state lobbying group wouldn’t happen until the fall. But on March 11, Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) President Graham Wahlberg vetoed their vote.

The senate will now continue to discuss joining the California State Student Association (CSSA), which provides one way for Fresno State students to have a voice on Capitol Hill. According to the bylaws of the ASI senate, “the president may veto, in whole or in part, any action approved by the Senate that shall be deemed by the president to be detrimental to the welfare of the Associated Students.”

Wahlberg sent a memo to ASI senators outlining his veto of the March 4 senate decision to hold off on the vote on joining CSSA until Fall 2009. Wahlberg gave three reasons why he believed the veto was important:

First, Wahlberg said, Fresno State students need a bigger voice in regard to the coming tuition increase.

Second, students should be able to represent their opinions at the state level.

And finally, Wahlberg said other schools had gotten a chance to discuss the matter before voting.

Wahlberg said he wants to try and give the senate a chance to look at the decision again.

“The quickest way to a vote on joining would be to let the veto happen,” Wahlberg said.

in the most recent ASI meeting on Wednesday, March 18. Wahlberg believes that postponing the vote is worse than not voting.

“The information is put in front of the Senate now and they are the ones who know what it is about the bill,” Wahlberg said.

Wahlberg believes the image of the senate is important, too. “Postponing the vote until the fall is not the message the senate wants to send to the students,” Wahlberg said.

The senate has a chance to overturn the veto with a two-thirds vote, but at the March 18 meeting, they voted 7-5 in overturning the veto, allowing it to stand.

The senate must make a decision regarding joining CSSA before Fall 2009.

The Senate split on the decision because the CSSA has not come up with a permanent policy and vision for members.

According to Executive Vice President (EVP) Jessica Sweeten, the CSSA’s new proposal is changing and would not be voted on by the senate.

“ASI should not join a contract that has been changing since September 2008,” Sweeten said.

Some senators agreed with Sweeten on this issue, but others strongly agreed with Wahlberg.

Senator Anton Bortolussi agreed with Wahlberg.

“Not voting is cowardly. The ASI needs to take a stance,” Bortolussi said.

Fresno State’s ability to join CSSA will not disappear with a vote not to join. “If the Senate votes no on joining, then the next senate can still choose to join the CSSA,” Bortolussi said.

In upcoming meetings, the senate will vote on whether or not to join the CSSA.

Sweeten has a chance to get more information regarding the matter.

She will be attending the CSSA meeting this weekend where she suspects much debate regarding the changing proposal will take place.

As Fresno State faces further economic strife, university is forced to decide where to cut back

By Melissa Knopp
The Collegian

For the lucky seniors that will be graduating this May, Roger Barlow said that even and proposed class reductions are probably the furthest thing from their minds.

But for the students that will continue on in the fall, worry seems to be anything but a stranger.

With Welty’s recent statement of Fresno State facing an $8.8 million deficit, and the announcement of possibly increasing student fees by 10 percent, students could wonder if the classes they need will even be available in the fall.

In a recent interview with the Fresno Bee, Welty spoke not of cutting essential classes for students to graduate, but of eliminating those classes, a proposed 100 or so, that show low enrollment and thereby increasing other class sizes.

Andrew Rogerson, Dean for the College of Science and Mathematics, agreed with Dr. Welty when it came to the classes in his own school.

“Not much will change during the fall semester,” Rogerson said. “We will continue to cut low-enrollment elective classes, but don’t expect any impact on required courses.”

Dr. Fraka Harmansen, associate dean for the College of Science and Mathematics, said the decision even though required classes won’t see a change, new students may have something to worry about.

“We are trying to accommodate students’ needs for courses as best as we can with constrained resources. While the main problem for most of the colleges seems to be budget cuts, Kremen School of Education’s dean, Paul Bear, says their problem lies mostly in the freeze on full-time enrollment students, or FTEs.

“My school was over by 115 for the year, so we will be accepting fewer graduate students and making sure we do not exceed our target, which will be approximately 1,245 annualized FTEs.”

According to Fresno State’s Fall 2008-09 Enrollment Update, the full-time enrollment headcount for 2008 was 19,381 — 533 more students than their original target of 18,848.

Reviewing these numbers, Fresno State’s plan for fall 2009, continuing into 2010, is going to see quite a change. According to the same document, Fresno State, in order to get enrollment back on track, will no longer be accepting lower division transfers.

“We will no longer allow students to receive a second bachelor’s degree. While the issue for the university may be high enrollment, for the Lincoln School of Engineering, Michael Jenkins, said that things in his college aren’t looking so dismal.

Along with Jenkins’ plan to keep all courses for the fall semester, he also said that there will be no delay to graduation and anticipates being able to accommodate all of the students that enroll.

“The major impact will be in general education, where we will no longer open extra class sections to meet the high demand.”

— Dr. Fraka Harmansen, Associate Dean, College of Science and Mathematics

Harmansen said that even though the hope is to keep classes intact for students, nobody can predict the future and what will happen with university budgets.

“The situation is somewhat fluid,” Harmansen said, “we do not know the full extent of potential fiscal reductions, but the planning committee is trying to minimize the impact on students to the full extent possible.”

For some of the other colleges however, classes may not be so easy to keep.

Bob Harper, the interim dean for the Craig School of Business, said that because the business department does their own scheduling, the exact number of classes that will be cut is unknown.

“We are looking for improved efficiency, by offering one less section from most of our required multi-section business courses (pre-business and core courses) and by compressing tradition, all- low enrollment classes,” Harper said.

“We are trying to accommodate students’ needs for courses as best as we can with constrained resources.”

According to the associate dean, Ramakrishna Nuna, beyond keeping all required classes for the students, the college is also in the process of hiring three new full-time members to its faculty.

While things seem to be on track, according to the university, the various colleges on campus seem to agree that students don’t seem to have a reason to worry about getting their classes — yet.

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Living through siblings

ALEX ZIMMERMANN

The grass has been cut, the dirt has been raked, dugouts cleaned out and the fence has been put up. Ladies and gentlemen spring has arrived and it’s little league time.

Little league baseball; a chance for kids ages twelve and under to compete in America’s number one pastime. Little league also brings other opportunities, such as an opportunity to grab a ballpark dog and catch a game, or an opportunity to grab a baseball and play on a winning team with your parents, coaches and umpires.

But what little league means to me is a chance to relive my childhood dreams through my younger brother. I have many memories from when I was in little league, but unfortunately that is all I have.

Growing up I wasn’t the best player on the team, but I was a competitor. As years past by me I watched my baseball talent peak, while others continued to grow and went on to play high school and college ball. Now that I have kids I get to relive my dreams is slow pitch softball as an intramural team. That is, until little league comes around.

I remember playing little league and watching my infant younger brother watch me from the stands, and when I say watch me, I mean run around the park and drive my parents crazy. Although I never realized how close he was actually watching

Nowadays that same infant is almost 12 years old and is making little league dreams of his own come true. I can see his desire to impress me by the way he wants me to see him play. And every time I do, I can notice how he gives more than the usual 100 percent.

And that is when I relive my little league days through him. I remember walking up to bat and seeing my whole family in the stands cheering, but what really got me excited was my older brother and dad standing behind the backstop giving me encouragement while I took my at bat.

I understand my younger brother’s desire to impress, because hearing those words of encouragement while I was playing little league made it more than just a game. And when I say I live my little league dreams through my younger brother, I mean that he is doing things that I look back on and say “man I really wish that could have been me.”

It brings a tear to my eye thinking about how good he has become since it makes me sad, but because I am so proud of him and how he has become a better little-leaguer than I ever was. He is what the professionals like to call a “franchise player.” So for those of you that could use a „feel good moment,” I would suggest attending a younger sibling’s little league game, because there is nothing like seeing a sibling reliving some of your best childhood memories.

I am so proud of him and how he has grown and went on to play high school and college ball. And that is when I relive my little league dreams through him.

Web-Spe@K

"Who will win the NCAA basketball championship?"

"Hopefully ETSU, Wisconsin-Green Bay or Siena."

Response:

“Student fees to go up 10 percent

"Let’s focus more on what we can do to make sure that education is no longer the hardest. Make a move and take action against the increasing education cuts, because when it comes down to it the only change we’re going to see is the kind we can effectively bring about.”

Response:

“New separate but equal

“No separate but equal

“The issue of gay marriage is either about granting gay’s legal rights or it’s about chopping away at religion. If it is truly about giving equal rights, then the solution is easy, change the legal state sanctioned term for all. It’s about chopping away at religion, then we will continue this senseless debate.”

Response:

“Economy falls, slackers rise

“God forbid a man make any type of generalization about a woman and it’s sexy. The hypocrisy is blatant, considering feminists can engage in male bashing.”

Response:

“Nasty bird date a month ago

“I went on a blind date a month ago with a guy that allowed the bill to sit on the table for 30 minutes before I picked it up and said, ‘lets handle this.’ And yes, he let me pay for the whole thing. I have no problem paying half, but I had to pay for his too! Needless to say, that was the last time I went out with him. Oh and he called. Why wouldn’t he? Loser. What happened to the romance guys?!”

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The art of the fold:

By Victoria L. Jones
The Collegian

Precise folds take shape as she executes the steps. The wind blows a fine mist off the fountain and grabs her long dark hair. She pushes it gently from her face and makes another crease.

Nu Vang has been making origami since she was eight. It takes her a little over a minute to fold the center spread of the features section in The Collegian into a heart.

But the club has 10 members and pass out flyers. They need to attend a meeting, fill out an application and pay the $10 fee.

The origami paper is made to fit the task, but many of the papers have a pattern on one side and a solid color on the other.

“The goal of the club is to have an environment or a place where we can have people come together and learn a little bit about the Japanese culture and also origami,” Nu Vang said. For Valentine’s Day, the club folded the heart Nu Vang demonstrated by the fountain. Nu Vang said they try to apply origami to practical life as well.

It takes her a little over a minute to fold the center spread into challenges like that. The piece Nu Vang is working on now requires 93 pieces. The strawberries are red, with a black ink pen. Nu has drawn circular seeds on them with a black ink pen.

The group uses regular copy paper or and small 7.5-centimeter square origami paper. The origami paper is made to fit the task, but many of the papers have a pattern on one side and a solid color on the other.

“Nu Vang concentrates on making precise folds while designing an origami piece to assemble the whole,” Song Vang said. “It’s going well, but we would love to have more people join,” another motivating factor.

Song Vang is a junior majoring in mass communication and journalism. She started the club in January of this year with her sister and club secretary Tam Nguyen Song Vang, a freshman linguistics major.

The Vang sisters and that was the easy part; they then set up a booth in the free speech area to attract members and pass out flyers. The club has 10 members that meet every other Friday in Speech Arts 151. The club has had only three meetings so far this year.

“The art of the fold:

The origami club experiments with fun designs and colors learning an art form from his culture.

“I am Japanese and I don’t know how to fold origami,” Honda said. “I thought I should learn for my culture’s sake.” Honda said he knew the Vang sisters and that was another motivating factor.

Honda said he has enjoyed the meetings thus far, but agrees that the club could use more members.

Techniques like money folding and wet folding are familiar to the Vangs, but as a club they are still working on the basics. Nu Vang said the skill level in the group varies, but all levels of experience are encouraged to join.

“Word of the Day

An all-purpose excuse that people use during a recession to justify doing things that are below their usual standard. Often these things in reality have little or nothing to do with economic circumstances.

From UrbanDictionary.com

Interested in learning how to make your own origami?

Watch this story’s accompanied video at The Collegian Web site, http://collegian.csufresno.edu
WOMEN’S NCAA TOURNAMENT
SATURDAY, MARCH 21, AT 5 P.M., GALEN CENTER (LOS ANGELES)

Bulldog Game Day

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RADIO: KFPT-AM 790

(24-8, 12-4 WAC) VS. (25-6, 15-3 Pac-10)

By Lorenzo Reyna
The Collegian

The second season for the Fresno State women’s basketball team has begun, and sophomore guard Jaleesa Ross expressed three types of excitement for this weekend at the NCAA women’s tournament.

“Excited that our fans get to come and watch us play, excited to not have to fly and excited to play another game,” Ross said. “We’re glad we’re still playing basketball.”

Fresno State punched in their ticket to the big dance after winning its second consecutive conference title this past weekend in Reno, Nev. The Bulldogs won the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) title after a 56-49 victory against Nevada. They hold a 13th seed in the Trenton Regional.

The WAC Tournament most valuable player, Ross, is already expecting a challenge from Pac-10 power and fourth seeded Cal, especially when the Golden Bears are on defense.

“I’m expecting a couple of different defenses,” Ross said. “Their strong point is they got really good post players. I know its going to be tough to get into the key and get some shots but its going to be a good matchup.”

Fresno State previously played the Bears in an 83-79 loss in Nov. 2007. Forward Hayley Munro was on that Fresno State team as a freshman.

“For sure their team is pretty similar to the one we played last year,” Munro said. “It should be a great matchup. It’s really exciting. We have a team that we can match up well against.”

Two key players for the Bears are Ashley Walker and Devanel Hampton. Hampton is an interior presence for the Bears but wasn’t in the lineup in the last meeting with the Bulldogs. Walker is from Modesto and was once recruited by Fresno State.

Coach Adrian Wiggins knows that with both Hampton and Walker in the lineup, Cal will likely attack the inside.

“We have to keep the ball out of the post and when they touch it, we have to make sure they’re not in the paint when they touch it,” Wiggins said.

Senior Bailey Amundsen feels that there are two keys to winning their first round game against Cal.

“Defense and rebounding,” Amundsen said. “They have two big post presences. We have to stop their post and block them out. There’s going to be a lot of focus on defense this week. But we are familiar with them. We feel confident going in.”

Players to watch

Fresno State’s player to watch: Haley Munro, forward

Cal’s player to watch: Ashley Walker, center/forward

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