ASI considers pay for senators

By Bryan Maxey
The Collegian

A referendum on the next Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) election ballot could see Fresno State student leaders paid for their time in office. ASI President Graham Wahlberg proposed at the April 11 ASI senate meeting to pay students for participating in student government. The proposed legislation would give students who hold a position in office monetary compensation for their duties upon entrance of student government.

"What makes the proposal so great is that it essentially creates 17 jobs for students," Wahlberg said. "We would be recognizing student leaders for their time spent here."

Currently, ASI members work as student volunteers. However, the volunteer aspect of ASI put several of its senators and would be senators in a bind, especially in the current economy.

In the last few months, seven members of ASI have resigned from positions. "Students have other obligations," Wahlberg said. "It’s too expensive to live and volunteer this many hours without some type of compensation.

The plan to compensate leaders was devised as a strategy to keep students in office. With the help of other student leaders at other California State University campuses (CSUs), Wahlberg began drafting a policy that would potentially motivate student leaders and encourage continued participation in student government.

"I talked to other senate leaders at CSU East Bay and CSU Long Beach and asked them how they managed to keep their senate members for extended periods," Wahlberg said. The solution, he found, was paying senate members for the responsibilities they undertake while in office.

"By and large, senators are paid on almost every other campus," Wahlberg said. "It’s interesting that it has never been thought about here.

Paying students for their participation in student government is not an uncommon practice throughout the CSU system. Of the 23 CSUs, most campuses offer stipends to certain leaders. Recently, Wahlberg contacted 12 universities to discuss the proposal. Of the 12 campuses, including CSU Long Beach and CSU East Bay, nine paid their ASI members.

Of the three campuses that don’t pay their student leaders, they are either working on a plan to begin paying their leaders or they don’t have the resources," Wahlberg said.

Wahlberg, who’s optimistic about the plan, says paying senators would do two things: reward students for service to ASI in the capacity of an appointed officer — for their hours spent per week over the course of the year.

"Time spent here is time that senators could be spent earning," Wahlberg said. "Paying senators creates and maintains a level of professionalism and prestige for ASI." The plan is currently being retooled, but under the new proposal the 17 elected members would receive a stipend — compensation for student leaders for service to ASI in the capacity of an appointed officer — for their hours spent per week over the course of the academic year.

"The money comes directly from ASI’s budget," Wahlberg said. "It’s money we already have, so there will be no fee increases for students."

Student leaders will receive part of the $20,000-$25,000 budget established at the beginning of the academic year.

When the proposal goes to vote, Wahlberg believes that students will vote in favor of the referendum because it creates job opportunities.

"The stipend would bring about changes on a school level because we would have a continued staff," Wahlberg said.

"Imagine what we would see if our senators stayed on for a full year."
Organizations’ short reach

Self-reliance learned through university programs’ shortcomings

The Chick Boy Scout

H e shook my hand, and, as we smiled for the camera, spoke to me out of the side of his mouth. “See you next year.” A flash-bulb popped, and the chair of my department winked at me as I walked across the stage in my cap and gown.

One short year ago, I had all the credentials to graduate with my bachelor’s. However, it wasn’t until two years ago that I realized I was just one more student among the millions who weren’t ready for the reality of life on the outside.

In my profession, job applicants are expected to have portfolios and resume reels. I’ve had a single professor require a portfolio from all students. And I keep getting e-mails about something called the “Senior Exit Experience.” Apparently it’s supposed to help prepare graduates for the real world.

As touted as the career center, Richter Center and other student-involvement organizations are among officials, the truth of the matter is that they aren’t reaching the students. Ask your friends sometime if they’ve ever been to a resume workshop or know what the Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning is. Among mine, the response would be a blank stare.

It wasn’t until two years ago that I even knew the career center offered workshops.

In my profession, job applicants are expected to have portfolios and resume reels. I’ve had a single professor require a portfolio from all students. And I keep getting e-mails about something called the “Senior Exit Experience.” Apparently it’s supposed to help prepare graduates for the real world. So far, I haven’t seen anything more than free coffee and donuts.

The up side to this lack of support—or perhaps just lack of marketing—is that a student wants to know how to do something, he’s going to have to teach himself. I didn’t have the option of sitting in an office listening, zombie-like, to someone tell me what to do for my portfolio. I had to research it myself, which gave me a deeper understanding than someone talking at me ever would have.

And this May, when I walk across that stage and leave Fresno State behind me, I’ll take with me the lesson in self-reliance that I learned here. Maybe that’s not such a bad thing, after all.

Comment: The Collegian is a forum for student expression. Readers can answer this week’s question at http://collegian.csufresno.edu

Web-Spe@k

Called each week from discussions on The Collegian Online.

New question: Should plans for a new parking structure be approved even if it means an increase to parking permit fees?

Response: “Economy falls, slackers rise”

“Man, it’s your own fault if you can’t scare your man into doing whatever the hell you want him to do. It’s up to you to draw the line on what you tolerate from these slackers.”

Response: “Hill’s eulogy defines Brown’s legacy”

“Dan Brown’s story is so inspiring and I hope that he’s remembered by future Fresno State generations.”

Response: “Kids celebrate 51 years of poetry”

“I was a participant in the Peach Blossom in the 4th grade and here I am 31 years old talking about it like it was just recent. Keep the festival going because so many good memories are created, friendships are made and the kids’ confidence in themselves grows because of this event. The Peach Blossom is worth all the work everyone puts into it.”

Response: “Letter to the editor: McKee Fisk upkeep neglected”

“And yet the university has proposals for new buildings. They need to change their priorities.”

Response: “National title brings new issues to Beiden Field”

“Being a performer and athlete I can see the mental problems. But for outdoor activities, it seems to be a waste of staff time to make such rules. The only real way to ban such a thing is to not allow cameras period.”

That’s What the People Are Saying

On book deal recently signed by former president

“In the book, George W. Bush will discuss his 12 toughest decisions, like ‘should I heed Al Roker’s warnings about Katrina?’ That would be one tough decision. ‘Should I let Cheney carry a loaded shotgun?’ That would be another.”

—David Letterman, Late Show
The daily crossword

Across
1 Place for storage
5 Down (up)
9 PBS’s “The ___ Gourmet TV Show”
14 Panpionta runner
15 _ Visto: search engine
16 Three-layer snacks
17 Quaff!
18 Pond denizen
19 Inspector on the telly
20 Undercover cop?
23 Drama award
24 Storytelling slave
25 Introduction to “SentLanguage”?
30 Campus climbers
31 Who, in Quebec
32 Babe in the woods
36 Wyo. neighbor
37 Vue and Aura, in the auto world
41 Go, with Buckets and Bobcats
42 Houston shuttle letters
44 Til __
45 Weakened
47 Wants to rust an oversleeping ecclesiastic?
51 New drivers, typically
53 Musical with the song “The Gods Love Nubia”
59 Battery connection

Down
1 Elm et al.: Abbr.
2 React to a kneeslapper
3 Part of a wet quintet
4 Dad-blasted
5 A right may cause one
6 One skipping church?
7 Have the main role
8 “Smooth Operator” singer
9 Domestic class, briefly
10 Teatites
11 Concealed
12 Models
13 Belgian river
21 Deep chasm
22 Bride follower
25 Who used to spend markkkaa
26 Eye layer
27 His ___: big shot
28 Outfit
29 Pet
33 Author Quindlen
34 “Yeah, right!”
35 Diminish
38 “Don’t ___ surprised”
39 Holy day: Abbr.
40 Any ABBA singer
43 Meeting plans
46 Protcted, as a home
48 Walks on stage
49 Spanish stewlike dish
50 Put on the line
51 Relating to pitch
52 Eat away
54 Zinger
55 Greek letters
56 Compensate for oversleeping
57 Low-lying area
58 Key with four sharps: Abbr.
62 Ug., with an online

Recessionista
A person who is able to stick to a tight budget while still managing to dress stylishly.

Correction
The name of a restaurant in a headline on page 7 in the March 25, 2009 print edition of The Collegian was misspelled. The name of the restaurant is Belana.
Guard LaShay Fears
In her first NCAA Tournament game, the junior transfer led the Bulldogs with 18 points, on 6-of-9 shooting. The 'Dogs fell to Cal 70-47.

Fresno State Bulldogs
(10-9, 0-0 WAC)

vs.

Lipscomb Bison
(12-10, 8-1 Atlantic Sun)

FRIDAY, SATURDAY (DOUBLEHEADER), SUNDAY, MARCH 27-29, AT PETE BEIDEN FIELD

Projected Starters
Tonight, 6 p.m.: Jake Floethe (3-1, 1.67) vs. Rex Brothers (4-1, 2.60)
Saturday (Game 1), 2:05 p.m.: Holden Sprague (2-0, 2.02) vs. Brandon McClurg (2-1, 2.12)
Saturday (Game 2), 5:35 p.m.: Josh Poytress (1-0, 0.00) vs. Josh Smith (3-0, 2.97)
Sunday, 1:05 p.m.: Derek Benny (1-1, 4.95) vs. Charles Williams (1-4, 8.06)

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Bulldog Weekend Series

After a four-game sweep last weekend, Diamond 'Dogs look to rebound

By Collegian Staff

Coming off a 5-1 showing at the Pepsi-Johnny Quik Classic, the Bulldogs seemed to have everything under control.

But after an 0-4 sweep at the hands of the Loyola Marymount Lions last weekend, the Bulldogs are back to square one and barely over .500.

Poor outings by Fresno State’s relief pitchers have been the reason for Fresno State’s recent four-game skid.

The Bulldogs blew the lead late in three out of four games last weekend.

Fresno State’s starting rotation has yet to take form either.

While senior Holden Sprague and sophomore Jake Floethe have been consistent, no one else has quite stepped up to fill those final two spots.

Usually the Friday night starter, Sprague will be pushed to Saturday to give the Bulldogs an extra boost in the doubleheader.

Offensively, Danny Muno continues to rack up numbers in his sophomore season.

The defending WAC Freshman of the Year is leading the team with a .389 batting average and has knocked in 14 runs.

Junior third baseman Tom Mendonca is six homers shy of Giuseppe Chiaramonte’s school record of 43 home runs.

A series win would be a much-needed lift for the Bulldogs as they inch closer to conference play.

Diamond 'Dogs look to rebound

Bryan Cole / Collegian File Photo

Danny Muno is leading the 'Dogs in batting (.389) and runs (14).