

Weekly USA Meeting Minutes



April 23rd, 2025 / 1:30-3:00 PM / JMB Student Center

1. Call to Order

Mission Statement: *The members of the United Student Association (USA) are committed to nurturing our community by fostering a comfortable and supportive environment. We advocate for the needs and interests of the diverse student body at South Seattle College. We strive to accomplish this commitment by promoting and encouraging self-development, community involvement, and culture sensitivity.*

Land Acknowledgement: *We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People past and present and honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe.*
[reflection]

2. Facilitator: Juliana Ferreira

3. Roll Call

- **President** Menen Girma — Present
- **Vice President** Tien Le — Present
- **Communication Officer** Juliana Ferreira — Present
- **Issues & Concerns Officer** — Vacant
- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer** Trevor Porter — Present
- **Sustainability Officer** Rexi Rex — Present
- **Marketing Officer** Hanan Mohamed — Present
- **Treasurer** Abbigail Hoover — Present
- **Advisor** Monica Lundberg — Present

- **Ground Rules:**
 - **One person talks at a time**
 - **Tackle problems, not people**
 - **Limit distractions**
 - **Act in respectful manner**

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion 1: Gail moved to approve agenda for April 23rd, 2025; Rexi seconded the motion.

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion 2: Menen moved to approve minutes for April 16th, 2025; Tien seconded the motion.

6. Scheduled Guests

DO NOT USE AS LEGAL ADVICE. CONSULT AN IMMIGRATION LAWYER.

- CAIR WA, 2p-3p.
 - Faiza Duale discussed the role of their organization in civil rights for Muslims and immigration, particularly with the Afghan community. She highlighted their work in delaying government actions and empowering communities with their rights. Faiz also explained the concept of executive orders and their impact on immigration policies. She identified potential targets of the new administration, including those with temporary permissions, non-immigrant visas, and immigrant tracks. Faiza also mentioned the potential for denaturalization and the need to monitor political activism. She advised caution when encountering law enforcement and immigration authorities, especially in non-sanctuary cities.
 - The discussion also focused on immigration enforcement and risks for international students and immigrants in the US. Faiza explained that authorities are using AI to track social media activity, targeting politically active individuals and students. They advise caution regarding social media use and protest participation, especially for non-citizens. She outlined various ways immigrants can be detained, including at borders, during traffic stops, and through citizen reports. Faiza provided tips for interacting with law enforcement, emphasizing the right to remain silent and request an attorney.
 - Faiza mentioned that some students are facing detention or removal proceedings due to criminal activity. She advised students to get legal advice and not to leave the country without consulting an attorney. She also explains that green card holders can face issues if they stay outside the US for more than 180 days, and that both green card holders and international students may be targeted for political activity or past criminal issues.
 - Faiza emphasized that rights are limited at the border, even for US citizens, and provide advice on traveling with electronics to protect personal information.

- Deleasha Vicent, Director of International Programs
 - The conversation also covered visa revocations for students, with Deleasha clarifying that specific reasons are not provided, and speculation includes political involvement and law enforcement encounters. She advises seeking legal counsel immediately if facing visa issues.
 - Deleasha also mentioned that her office is monitoring these status terminations daily and notifying students immediately. She encouraged students to speak with their attorney for specific advice and to not leave the country without legal advice.
 - Deleasha reported that The Seattle Colleges' Federal Changes Task Force is working to respond to executive orders and protect international students, including partnering with advocacy organizations and providing support resources.
- Andrea Wilmot, International Programs Staff
- Sancha Harrison, Associate Director, International Programs

7. Guests Concerns & Issues

- Khang Ly Nguyen Thach, regarding visa revocation affecting international students.
- Thinh Le, to learn about USA
- Duc Van Pham, get information

The meeting covered a range of topics including campus issues, immigration concerns, and budget planning. Discussions focused on the camera controversy in the Wellness Center, student recruitment, and immigration enforcement risks for international students and immigrants. The committee also addressed budget constraints, making difficult decisions on funding allocations for various programs and activities.

Officer Agenda Items

1. **President: Menen Girma**

- BoT report
- MC Service Award
- Meeting with Hip and Sayumi
- Email USA Officers
- MSA Feedback
 - The USA team discussed several issues, including the camera controversy in the Wellness Center. They report that Muslim students are more concerned about who controls the camera rather than its presence. The team expresses frustration with the ongoing situation, as their vote to

remove the camera has not been implemented. They consider writing a more assertive email to address the issue. Additionally, they discuss the student application process, noting a lower-than-expected number of applicants and planning to review applications in the coming week.

2. Vice President: Tien Le

- Hiring process
- Security meet and greet
 - Tien covered several topics including updates on student recruitment, event planning, and a guest presentation. The hiring committee discussed pushing back the timeline for student applications and scheduling future meetings.

3. Communication Officer: Juliana Ferreira

- Alternative meeting for the week of May 12th, check your emails please.
 - Officers will fill out a form with their availability for that week.

4. Diversity and Inclusion Officer: Trevor Porter

- Finalizing ice cream social vendors, activities, and budget.
- Planning with Fella and Kano to plan and finalize Student Development day (May 14)/Otter talk(tbd?)
- Art Gallery Tabling Thursday Noon-1pm
 - Trevor provided updates on upcoming events such as the ice cream social and Spring Fling.

5. Sustainability Officer: Rexi Rex

- Finalize and promote the West Duwamish Forest Restoration event 4/29
 - Rexy is preparing for her forest restoration event.

6. Marketing Officer: Hanan Mohamed

- Updated the A boards.

- Announced and sent out flyers for the hiring.
- Worked on flyers/ updated the Instagram Page.
- Outreach to clubs and events on campus.

7. **Treasurer: Gail Hoover**

- Finish Creating S&A Presentation for USA and PC
- Attend President's Cabinet Meeting to Make S&A Presentation
- Approve S&A Presentation at USA Wednesday Meeting
 - The meeting focused on discussing the budget for the upcoming year, which was originally estimated at \$1.1 million but later reduced to \$800,000. The committee had to make difficult decisions due to the budget constraints, including cutting funding for some programs and activities. The final allocations were presented, with a significant portion going towards salaries and benefits. The committee also discussed the challenges they faced, such as communication gaps and policy inconsistencies, which delayed the decision-making process. They also discussed the need for transparency and the importance of considering student feedback in their decisions. The conversation ended with a discussion on the campus recreation program and the need for further clarification on its activities and budget.
 - USA will vote next week.
- Talk with Monica about the Media Cart and Orca Cards
- Begin scheduling for TRC and UT Fees Committees

8. **Advisor: Monica Lundberg**

- CAIR talk Wednesday
- Food Pantry grant visitor Wednesday
 - The team discussed follow-up actions from a recent event, including writing "thinking of you cards" to students affected by immigration law changes and sharing vetted information on social media. They also reviewed a successful visit from a food pantry partner who contributes annually to their program.

9. **Public Comments**

Action Items:

1. **USA Team**: Vote on the final S&A budget allocation for 2024-2025
2. Dennis/**USA Team might collaborate**: Schedule and conduct S&A Q&A sessions next Wednesday at 12pm and Thursday at 1pm to explain budget decisions to students
3. **Trevor**: Investigate the status of the S&A reserve account that had \$260,000 withdrawn last year
4. **USA Team**: Promote the Seattle Colleges Federal Changes webpage on USA social media channels
5. **Juliana**: Create and design support cards for the 5 impacted international students and coordinate with other **USA members** to sign them
6. **USA Team**: Write supportive messages on the cards for impacted international students and send them to Deleasha/Andrea for distribution
7. **USA Team**: Follow up with Campus Recreation program regarding their event marketing, student feedback, and program implementation details

Next Meeting: April 30th, 2025.

Committees

Menen Girma	College Council, Board of Trustees, Faculty Tenure: Counseling/Campbell
Tien Le	Tenure: History/Lopez
Hanan Mohamed	Tenure: History/Dillan
Danny Hoover	Tenure: ISS/Korsusky , USA Budget Committee, SA Fee Committee (Winter/Spring), UT Committee (Winter/Spring)
Rexi Rex	Safety committee Monthly, Campus Sustainability Committee, Tenure: Merri (no work during fall qtr)
Trevor Porter	Diversity Committee, Tenure: Auto/Kilgore

Meeting Adjourned at: 4:10pm
Agenda and Minutes by: Juliana Ferreira and Tien Le.