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**UtahStateUniversity™**  
**STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

**ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING MINUTES**

10/9/2017 | 4:00 PM | USUSA Senate Chamber

**CALL TO ORDER AND THE FIGHT SONG / SCOTSMAN**

**Approval of minutes: Senator Khasgiwala: Moved / Senator R. Thomas: Second / Passed**

**Senator Bess: Move to add electing a President Pro Tempore to the agenda / Senator Olson: Second**

**Senator Bess: President Pro Tempore is who would take Blake's position if he is not here.**

**Passed**

**VP Harms: Perfect. It has been agendamended.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**VP Harms: I have a few announcements from EC. Michael Scott has been meeting with people at mental health USHE system. He will talk to you more about it. Also, we are starting to discuss what sorts of legislation we want to take to the Utah State Senate about mental health. They want to help, so be thinking about what sort of legislative action will benefit our colleges and our people. Todd with the service has been discussing food insecurity. If you have any input, please speak to him. He is also working on AggieSync, a new system for logging service hours. PCAB is working on Our Schools Now! They are trying to propose a less-than-one percent increase in sales tax, the proceeds of which would go to public schools in Utah. PCAB is collecting signatures to put this on the ballot for the next election. Sign it and talk to people in PCAB about it.**

**Senator Bess: Is it benefitting K-12 schools?**

**Assistant Johnson: And higher ed. All public schools in the state.**

**VP Harms: \$19 million specifically would be allocated to USU at the discretion of President Cockett.**

**Senator Olson: Do you know what the political climate is like?**

**VP Harms: They are trying to go around the legislative body this time. It will be at the discretion of taxpayers.**

**VP Harms:** Homecoming events this week. They would appreciate the support. Also, a fire pit was stolen from the HURD campout. If you have any information, please let us know. We are working on narrowing down applications for fee board. We also have deans breakfasts coming up, and it would be nice to be able to have legislation ready to share with them.

**Senator Olson:** Can you explain a little more about the deans breakfasts?

**Senator Lieber:** Typically we will meet with the deans at 7, have breakfast, and discuss our concerns with them. It is good to have all the deans together. It was pretty low-key last year.

**VP Harms:** We were elected to pursue initiatives and make positive change on campus.

**Senator Olson:** Would you like that on the agenda for AS? Should we have a day where we all bring ideas and hash them out?

**Senator Lieber:** Academic Senate is the place to hash things out. I would rather do that than set up something less formal. Parli pro helps when we're discussing controversial ideas.

**VP Harms:** If you don't think the discussion is ready to be brought to the table, talk to me first. If you have ideas that are ready, let's talk about them here.

## COUNCIL UPDATES

**Senator Khasgiwala:** Met with my council last week. Discussed different topics. Have almost completed the mental health committee. Soon I will be sending a poll to know timings for everyone's schedule so we can start meeting.

**Senator Davis:** Focusing on Huntsman Gala right now. Was planned for November 2, but there is an issue. Will probably be moved to the next Friday. Working on initiatives to better support our clubs and organizations.

**Senator Lieber:** Barbecue was successful. Looking forward, we are planning the Experience Fair. My associate dean is passionate about out-of-classroom experiences. His vision is a fair for students to discover those kinds of experiences. I am having a hard time figuring out how to make this event successful with a variety of different traditional and other majors and making it more attractive to students.

**VP Harms:** Have you considered a career fair style event?

**Senator Lieber:** That's pretty much what it is. We have companies coming and study abroad.

**Senator Bess:** Cup of Joe with Joe went well. This next week we have the Home to CHaSS barbecue, similar to what Senator Lieber did this weekend. It is free at Craig Aston park from 11:30 to 1:30 this Saturday. Kickoff is at 2:30. There will be games, free food, live music, a few other things. We have printed a lot more CHaSS swag that we have never done previously. Our dean is trying to get physical goods out there. The council is investigating events to finish the semester off. I wanted to ask—as CHaSS senator I am in charge of a student scholarship. Does anyone else do that?

**Senator Dowdle:** Science week is the 6th through 10th of November. Graphics should be done by October 28. All our events are planned. Just trying to figure out the logistics of prizes, buying and purchasing things, etc. Everything should be finalized by tomorrow. Reaching out to alums for networking night, and not just healthcare professionals. There are a lot of pre-health, but we want to get people who research and professionals in those disciplines. We want to make a pre-health week in the spring and focus more

on science for science week.

**Senator R. Thomas:** Continuing planning Loggers Ball. Got the band this week. Catering all set up. Getting ready to go. My dean is working on contracting a forest ecologist for NR week in April.

**Senator D. Thomas:** Education week is the 13th through 17th of November. All events are planned except the scholarship fundraiser. If you have ideas, talk to me or Grant. We are doing mock interviews next semester around the same time as career fairs. This week we have our first newsletter going out. We had one last year, but it was more spotlighty. This one will be more newsy.

**Senator Wise:** Artoberfest is this Thursday from 4-6:30 on the Quad. If you could share the event on Facebook, that would be helpful. The food and event is free. If you purchase anything, the proceeds will go to hurricane relief. We had our retreat this weekend, and our council really enjoyed it. It was in Logan and cost us a grand total of \$8. We have started highlighting students in our newsletter, and it is going well.

**Senator Olson:** Everything is going well with engineering council. We are showing a scary movie October 24th from 7-9:30. Unsure of location.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Assistant Johnson:** Discussion on the AOF: For those of us that we're in the AOF meeting last week, we did not award the group funding for their conference because they weren't presenting research and it wasn't an academic competition. Straight from the AOF application, "The purpose of the Academic Opportunity Fund (AOF) is to provide financial support to undergraduate students who wish to present research or to participate in an academic competition at a reputable event. The AOF is sponsored by student fees. AOF policies and procedures are meant to ensure that these funds are used responsibly." Wanted to discuss a possible name change to better reflect what the application is awarding or change the application itself to be more broad in what we are awarding.

**Senator Davis:** Move to amend house rules for this discussion

**Senator Lieber:** For what reason?

**Senator Davis:** To have an open discussion.

**Senator Bess:** Second

**Senator Lieber:** I think that would be foolish because we are not super great at parli pro, and if we jump ship all the time, that's not cool. Keeping speakers lists is very important.

**Senator R. Thomas:** I think we should stay in parli pro since we are discussing student fees, and when we are not in parli pro, it doesn't have to be included in the minutes.

**Failed**

**VP Harms:** Assistant Johnson, would you like to say anything to get discussion started?

**Assistant Johnson:** Nothing that I haven't already said.

**Senator Lieber:** With changing the stipulations to make it more broad, with the information we got from Linda last week, I think it would be foolish to change the requirements at this point since we just got new funding last year. We need at least another year to adjust that because

opening it up to every conference would get a lot more applicants and diminish our pool much more quickly. In regard to the name change, it could be seen as a problem, but it also hasn't really had that many problems thus far. If you have experienced a lot of problems, then maybe it is something we should change. I would move to vote on not changing the stipulations or the requirements as they are.

**Assistant Johnson:** Wouldn't we have to pass legislation to change this anyway? This was created through legislation--well, I've seen legislation about it a number of years back.

**Senator Bess:** Point of clarification: Similar to Anuj's legislation, we don't have to pass a constitutional amendment. If we were to change what this funding is for, what Senator Lieber is trying to prevent from happening, that might require a constitutional amendment.

**Senator Lieber:** I rescind my motion.

**Senator Olson:** I agree with Senator Lieber's points. Comic Con is a conference, and we could realistically get people applying for funding to attend Comic Con. It's not academic in nature, but someone could view it that way. I want to speak in favor of Senator Lieber's point that we don't broaden the requirements. We should do a name change, if anything.

**Senator Wise:** Point of clarification for Senator Lieber regarding this name change: Did you ever see people applying for a conference that didn't have to do with research, or was this a first?

**Senator Lieber:** This was the first time I've seen it.

**Assistant Johnson:** My thinking going into this would be not changing the requirements, but a name change to something along the lines of the Academic Research and Competition Fund. We haven't had problems up until this point, but it would bring clarification. What I would hope to accomplish today is to see if this is something we'd like to change, and if so, I will work this next week to figure out the proper avenue to do that, whether it is through legislation or whether it is something I can change myself. I'll talk to Linda.

**Senator Khasgiwala:** Point of clarification: What is the actual description of the award?

**Assistant Johnson:** The purpose "is to provide financial support to undergraduate students who wish to present research or to participate in an academic competition at a reputable event." The problem we ran into last week is the students were going to a conference that was more like a networking event.

**Senator Khasgiwala:** So this award [GRCO] was specifically created was to create a travel fund for grad students in addition to URCO. Why was AOF separately created?

**Assistant Johnson:** I think it's supporting different things, to my understanding.

**Senator Khasgiwala:** So you are going to change the name to Academic Research and Competition Opportunities?

**Assistant Johnson:** Potentially.

**Senator Bess:** I think, adding on to what's said, I agree that we shouldn't change the definition. I agree with what Assistant Johnson said. I think there's two ways of looking at this. They may have not read the description, and that was a limiting factor. I think we could look at this the other way, that a name change could better help people understand what this is. We probably need to understand what Senator Khasgiwala is saying in regard to URCO and not make them

sound to similar, but I like the idea of a name change to something research-related. I do contest that Comic Con could not be viewed as an academic institution.

**Senator Olson:** I wrote a draft name: The Academic Competition and Research Presentation Fund. It has all the points we want to hit. That's just a draft.

**Senator Lieber:** Just playing devil's advocate, we also need to consider that people might get confused and wonder if this is a new fund. That's something to think about. I think it would be useful to do a straw poll right now to see who is in favor and who is not to see if this is something even worth pursuing.

**Senator Lieber:** Move to have a straw poll / **Senator Olson:** Second / 5 for, 3 against, 1 abstention

[Discussion on straw polls, abstentions, and what to do moving forward considering the vote is fairly evenly split]

**Senator Olson:** Move to table this discussion until next week / **Senator R. Thomas:** Second / Passed

**VP Harms:** **President Pro Tempore (PPT):** I will let Senator Bess lead the discussion on this. Just explain a little bit about why you bring it up.

**Senator Bess:** We need a PPT, Latin for president "from time to time." This person will sit as chair if Blake cannot be here. Depending on how VP Harms decides to run his position, things could be delegated to PPT at his discretion. A leader besides just the chair.

**Senator Lieber:** Point of information: This person would also be going to EC if Blake couldn't make it. This person needs to be available on Tuesdays.

**VP Harms:** Any nominations?

**Senator R. Thomas:** I nominate Senator Lieber.

**Senator Dowdle:** I nominate Senator Bess.

**Senator Khasgiwala:** I nominate myself.

**Senator Lieber:** You can't because you are already on EC. That's the reason we didn't have Ty last year.

**VP Harms:** What the nominees like to say anything?

**Senator Bess:** I am honored. And I appreciate Senator Dowdle's nice thoughts. I would motion to rescind my name for consideration.

**Senator Olson:** Move to vote by acclamation on Senator Lieber's nomination / **Senator Khasgiwala:** Second / Passed

## ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Tim:** Just a reminder that we have open houses coming up. Layton is this Thursday from 5-12. Next week October 17th, that one is here in town. We have Senator Olson and VP Harms signed up for that one.

Many of you have signed up for and followed up on QPR training. Just a reminder, when you are hanging banners downstairs, they must be six feet long, eighteen inches tall, and hanging at the right place. Are any of you planning on riding in the mule at the homecoming parade on Saturday? VP Harms is.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Senator Bess: Moved / Senator Khasgiwala: Second / Adjourned

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Tim Olsen, VP Blake Harms, Senator Anuj Khasgiwala, Senator Cody Davis, Senator Heather Lieber, Senator Grant Bess, Senator Travis Dowdle, Senator Rebecca Thomas, Senator Deidra Thomas, Senator Sierra Wise, Senator Erik Olson, Assistant Dallin Johnson, a few students