



UtahStateUniversity™ STUDENT ASSOCIATION

ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING MINUTES

8/29/2017 | 4:00 PM | USUSA Senate Chamber

CALL TO ORDER & THE SCOTSMAN

Approval of minutes: Senator Liber: **Moved** / Senator Olson: **Second** / **Passed**

PUBLIC FORUM

Alison Berg: **Introduction**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Summer recap—discussion about what everybody accomplished or thought about this summer in regard to their position or problems they discovered that they want to solve

Senator Khasgiwala: Main focus is to start working on Mental Health Week. Starting to meet with grad student council this week to improve Mental Health Week. Wants to spread Mental Health Week from the main campus to the regional campuses.

Senator Dowdle: Has been planning out science week over the summer. Was not given a clear budget beforehand. Working on scheduling speakers. A chemist is coming in from Ohio State. Will be doing a double event with the chemistry department head. Chief of staff of Harvard Medical School is coming next week.

VP Harms: Should we be spreading this through our councils?

Senator Dowdle: Yeah, go ahead.

Senator Davis: Preparing for business week. The first event is the 23rd of September—a 5k for orphans with down syndrome. Will need help with a minute to win it type event on the 27th, a Wednesday night around 6:30.

Senator Bess: Light on the Hill — Week of Welcome. Fairly formal event. Only an hour. Dean of the college will be speaking. Grant will be giving a speech. Might have a fire twirler. IOGP co-panel event on free speech will be happening in the Perry Pavilion in Huntsman Hall on Wednesday, September 13.

Senator Olson: Engineering week will not be until February. Summer has been spent going over ideas.

Senator Wise: Spent the summer working with the dean. Events coming up October 12. Has been working to create a course in her college on job placement and entrepreneurial training. Grateful for help from the dean. Will be a connections type course. If other senators have anything similar to help her, that would be appreciated. Artober Fest.

Senator Lieber: Caas welcome event happened last Thursday. Successful. Caas week is coming up. Three weeks out. More information as it gets closer.

Outdoor Product Design and Development: Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge — 93 campuses around the nation are competing to be the most “outdoorsy” campus. Download an app starting mid-September. Activities, sponsors, etc. Competition opens September 18, and the opening of Caas Week is September 18. Senator Lieber needs help developing this event.

Senator Lieber: Do you think a campout could be successful on Monday, September 18?

Senator Davis: Where will this be?

Senator Lieber: On the quad.

Senator Bess: I think it would have to be tied to another activity to get people there. Music or something and then campout.

Senator Lieber: It would be similar to day on the quad—invite all these different avenues to make this a success.

Senator Bess: Make a smaller competition. Have a prize for someone who can make it to all the booths that night.

Senator Lieber: We thought about a night at first dam too. Decided against it because it's off campus. Purpose in this meeting is to let us know what it is. Will get you more information in the future.

Senator Davis: Possibly combine with athletics. Create more incentives.

Senator Bess: Could people camping out for the game count for points?

Senator Lieber: Yes, definitely.

Senator R. Thomas: Training at Bear Lake training center for Natural Resources. Working on the Loggers' Ball in November

Senator D. Thomas: Working with council. Had an event similar to Senator Lieber's that invited the freshmen from her college to pizza. Had solid attendance.

USUSA Officer Contract Signing

John Mortensen:

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs. Liaison with the Provost's office. Wants to offer his services to us. Officers in the past have had great ideas but have not known how to navigate the system. Wants to be a resource for us. Office is located in the registrar's office. Feel free to email or call. The other thing has to do with a possible change to the academic calendar. Minor change having to do with going to Friday classes the Thursday before fall break and Monday classes the Tuesday after Presidents' Day. Some of the reasons for this are outdated. Students complain about job schedules in that regard. Mortensen suggests it causes more problems than it solves.

Senator Lieber: Agrees with the point that most of those Monday/Friday classes end up getting cancelled anyway.

Senator Dowdle: Most labs allow wiggle room that could make up the difference.

Senator Bess: Agrees. Weird schedules mess with things. Traditionally, his classes have been cancelled on those days as well.

Senator Olson: Mostly agrees, except for MWF classes that feel rushed. Especially mechanical engineering classes.

John: This policy has been around for a long time, before online classes. There might be online content that could be added to those classes.

Senator Khasgiwala: MWF classes have more than enough classes compared to TTh classes.

John: Gave an overview of the numbers and what they would look like with changes. (In the fall, there are 70 instruction days—currently, 14 Mondays, 15 Tuesdays, 14 Wednesdays, 13 Thursdays, and 14 Fridays. Could change to 14 Mondays, 15 Tuesdays, 14 Wednesdays, 14 Thursdays, and 13 Fridays. In the spring there are 73 instruction days—currently, 14 Mondays, 14 Tuesdays, 15 Wednesdays, 15 Thursdays, and 15 Fridays. Could change to 13 Mondays, 15 Tuesdays, 15 Wednesdays, 15 Thursdays, and 15 Fridays.)

Senator D. Thomas: In favor. However, look into education classrooms. Night classes, one day a week. They might be something to look into.

John: With calendar changes in the past, the first year might be painful.

COUNCIL UPDATES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VP Harms: Will get language to the Senate on the No Test Week policy from last year.

NEW BUSINESS

ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tim: Think/Care/Act booth at Day on the Quad — Kevin Webb needs volunteers. 10:30 - 2:30. Reach out to Kevin if you are available to help. Also, you should have received an invitation to the Slack channel mentioned at the retreat. Would like to set up meetings with senators every other week. Except those with college weeks coming up—more frequently.

Senator Lieber: They might need help with take down for Day on the Quad. Wednesday at 2:30.

ADJOURNMENT: Senator D. Thomas: **Moved** / Senator Lieber: **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, President Michael Peters, John Mortensen, Alison Berg