CALL TO ORDER AND THE SCOTSMAN

Approval of minutes: Senator Wise: Moved / Senator Thomas: Second / Passed

PUBLIC FORUM

Assistant Jorgensen - Classroom Improvement Fund & AOF

Assistant Jorgensen: We have the application for Classroom Improvement Fund ready and I will email that out. Start having those conversations with your department heads and deans about what improvements can be made. The applications will be due on March 1st and we will be meeting for that on Monday, March 4th. That will be the Monday before Spring Break.

Senator Lake: Is there a release date for the Facility Enhancement Fund application?

VP Smith: I have 60 days to determine the charter of that committee. In that charter, we will determine what the application process will look like. Once that is finished, we will be meeting shortly after. I will keep you updated on that.

Assistant Jorgensen: For AOF, when you are emailing your people to inform them of our decisions, if you could include Spencer and I on that email, that would be great.

VP Smith: In Faculty Senate, they said that this is the first time in 57 years we have been in the top 20 for football.

Linda: In 1978, we were 17th in the nation. That was more than 57 years ago.

Senator Kemp: I saw via twitter that this is the highest we have been ranked since 1964.

VP Smith: Making history, Aggies.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

VP Smith: PCAB is working on an ugly sweater dodgeball tournament in December. PCAB runs an Instagram 'Humans of USU' page where you can highlight a student. Please follow them. Sam had a meeting with Mayor Daines. They have a neighborhood representative for all the neighborhoods in Logan. They want to create a student position on a committee to represent student housing. GRC is trying to
create a better relationship with the city and are attending their meetings. They are also working on creating a town hall for tenants to talk about what your rights are and what laws are there to protect tenants. Tomorrow is voting day and they will have a watch party at 7. Expedition vote went well and said thank you for everyone who helped. November 7th is Aggie Jazz Night that SAA is helping with. It starts at 4:30, students can sit in the lower bowl. You can meet the coaches and players and eat some food. Tickets were still available last week. Meghan said thank you for helping with the Howl, it went really well. Athletics was a little disappointed with the number of students who came to the last game. On the 9th, there is a Harvard basketball game at 7. Every Sunday, Service will be doing Stuff-a-Bus starting at 5 they will distribute the bags. Anybody can come. Linda said in EC how proud she is of everyone.

Linda: I was extremely proud of Senator Wise and Senator Olson, as well as President Hunsaker, on how you represented the students in front of the upper administrators. I felt they were impressed on the work you all have done. I wanted to let you know how proud of you I am and all your hard work.

VP Smith: I have been able to meet with two or three Faculty Senators and introduce USUSA to them. I went to GRC and took the roster of Faculty Senate and they signed their names by some of the Faculty Senators to help build that relationship. Josh and I are starting to look at the diversity statement again. Some of the administrators suggested just creating a bulleted list of ideas and letting Faculty Senate write it but to show that there is student support behind this. It seems like there would be a lot of support for a diversity statement within Faculty Senate. We will continue to work on that. I met with Becky Lauver to introduce USUSA and explain what student government is and how and why we do certain things. I feel like it answered a lot of her questions. Faculty Senate is creating a committee that says they understand global warming is a thing and want to discuss ways USU can improve on being more efficient around campus. Stan Albrecht committed to being carbon neutral by 2050. This is a way to get moving. They want to create that committee and if any of you want to be on that that would be something to think about. I have been working with the Women and Genders Studies Office. They are doing a panel on how to get involved in USUSA. If that is something you are interested in, let Kevin or I know.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Senator Wise - Report on Stater’s Council

Senator Wise: Erik and I went to Stater’s Council to present on the legislation we have been working on. I feel they were excited about what we have been working on. There was a lot of support and understanding. I feel that comes from the relationships you have with your respective deans. My legislation passed unanimously. They brought up some things to consider but I feel the environment and the feedback was positive. I felt they were very supportive of student government and the direction we are going. We have set a good tone for if there will be other legislation that needs to pass by upper administration, I feel we have a good channel opened up. I am willing to collaborate with other people on those. Thank you all for your supportive through this process. We will be going back to Faculty Senate with my legislation at this point.

Senator Olson: When is it going back to Faculty Senate?

Senator Wise: On the 12th. I will reach out to Becky about what she feels the best approach would be and possibly going directly to the subcommittee.

NEW BUSINESS

ETE Student Committee
VP Smith: I met with AIS about my statement of support. ETE stands for Empowering Teaching Excellence. They have this system, like boy scouts, where you get different badges by completing different tasks. If you complete everything you get a certificate on learning how to be a good teacher. This could be conferences or publishing in a journal. I have noticed badges on teacher’s doors. They have a faculty committee that says what they want the subject to be. Robert Wagner wants to create a student committee that would have a say over the topics teachers learn about. Some of these would be how to teach to different levels of understanding, how to utilize the syllabus, etc. They want to create this student committee of about 20 people to collaborate with the faculty to come up with the conference subject. They want the first meeting in January. They have tasked me with creating this committee and it is not necessarily a USUSA committee but we do have the option to be involved. They want us to talk about how we would want this to be formed. We discussed pros and cons of making it USUSA exclusively and working through student affairs or creating a committee and randomly selecting people to be on this committee. They were concerned about USUSA on this because we may be desensitized by some of the issues going on or that we may not bring diverse opinions. However, we do sit on a lot of committees and we do represent each college. They wanted to look at diversity in a lot of different ways. They want someone from each college but want to consider all points of views and give other people who may not have been involved to voice their opinions.

Senator Thomas: I like the idea of maybe selecting someone from each of our councils and from there take it from a pool of people, maybe those who applied to Fee Board. Then you would get the diversity of colleges as well as people who are involved or wanting to be involved.

Senator Wise: I believe that we should go with more structure than pulling a name out of a hat. I don’t believe random assortment would be good. I like the idea of pulling from different pools. For the sake of efficiency, I like the idea of having a committee member who have an interest in being part of these conversations.

Senator Hall: I like the idea of having one or two representatives from USUSA. How often would this meet?

VP Smith: Semesterly.

Senator Olson: I agree that there should be some form of appointment. Our job could be to find someone from our colleges to make sure all colleges are represented. I don’t necessarily think they should have to sit on the council. I think it would be cool to have both and have one from each college and have a pool of randomly selected student so you don’t have a bias towards involvement. Having randomly selected individuals would be beneficial.

VP Smith: I was playing with the idea of having each of you submitting 2-3 names and having two from every college. It wouldn’t have to be from your council, but you could pick them and that would leave a few spots where a USUSA officer could sit on it.

Senator Olson: Is this ongoing?

VP Smith: Yes they want it permanent. They also discussed how long someone would be appointed to this? They discussed having a two year commitment or one term.

Senator Pitt: I think we can all speak on how short one year is, especially if they are only meeting semesterly. I think there is value in a two year position. They can see things through.

Senator Hall: I also see value in a longer position. It may make it complicated to make half two year commitment and half one year. Having a new committee each semester
would create more problems.

Senator Lake: I see the value of a shorter one year term. In a college like mine that is diverse, there are different needs being met so if somebody were to serve from CAAS for two years, I wouldn’t think that excellence in teaching would be achieved. I think a year would be better.

Senator Olson: I like the year for bringing in new ideas and they can align with our positions. It would be interesting to have two year terms but off cycle. So the first year you pick one person but the next year you pick one more so you get people with new perspectives.

Senator Kemp: I see value in the one year term because making it two years may cut out people who can’t do the two years because they are in the upper years of their college but who have good insight on teaching.

VP Smith: I am not sure, I think there are good things about two years but it is hard to commit to a two year appointment. They do meet in the summer and it is difficult to work with students in the summer.

Senator Wise: Is there compensation for students to incentivize a longer term?

VP Smith: Currently, no. We could maybe have that come from my budget. I don’t see this being a huge commitment as they are meeting once a semester. It is just a think tank of discussing issues in academia and what we want professors to know.

Senator Lake: This seems repetitive of AS. The excellence in teaching refers to academia itself. I think there would be value in having some of us sit on this committee. We don’t want our purpose being overlooked as we are over academics. I appreciate the value of students. I do believe this is important for Academic Senate to be a part of.

VP Smith: I agree. The committee helps determine what topic will be covered and what you want professors to be focused on. I think that is another reason they don’t want USUSA to do this because they don’t want this to be coming from student affairs but as a scholarly perspective.

Senator Thomas: I am wondering if there is some way we could create a committee of our own where we have a few students we are able to talk to. We could bring them here and we can discuss this as a meeting. I agree with Dexton.

VP Smith: Like a town hall or a gripe night.

Senator Thomas: Yeah! Each Senator can facilitate some committee where they can understand different ideas or perspectives that students have then we can bring that together. If me and another Senator have similar issues, that is something we can decide could be the topic for that conference. Is it a big enough deal to create a committee of 20 students?

VP Smith: They have a journal of different topics they want and they have different workshops that can have a theme, etc. A committee of students will create a long list. The idea is to pick a big topic and work on it throughout the year.
Senator Allred: I like what Senator Thomas and Senator Lake said. An issue of picking random students is if they are informed enough or if they will have opinions. There is merit in choosing random people but there is the issue of them not having opinions.

Senator Hall: I agree that 20 students is large, I feel 10 would be just as effective. I have been to some of the ETE workshops, they are helpful and informative but it is an elective thing. You can get these badges and a certificate but the way I see is it is that this is one aspect of what we as Senators deal with. There are a lot of things encompassed by academics and our positions. I feel like I already have so much to do and wouldn’t necessarily want to have another committee to be in charge of over this but I do feel student input is having beneficial to see where students think faculty could improve on. I think that requiring Senators to be on the committee would be excessive. I think having a representative from AS or choosing someone from our councils that have a handle on our opinions or students would be a good route.

Senator Kemp: I think that we are already adding more and more councils to our positions with Facilities and Tier II to our positions. If we have another committee, it is adding more workload.

Senator Wise: I think that everything we do is valuable to the university and us personally. The more opportunities we can spread to students and give them experience on a committee can enhance their experience and empower them to move towards student advocacy as well. We could do this but this could benefit other students.

VP Smith: What would you think about having an application process like Fee Board?

Senator Lake: I think that would generate more people who are more excited to be involved because they had to seek out the application. The only problem you would have would be to reach all aspects of the college. It would be up to us to market it. There is value in applications.

VP Smith: My only concern is that we barely reached 20 Fee Board applications and we were looking for a committee of 20.

Senator Olson: I don’t feel applications are necessary for an advisory group.

Senator Thomas: I think an application sets it up to be more prestigious are just creating a list, especially in a large group of 20 people. I don’t think it would be beneficial.

VP Smith: I will meet with Robert and will let you know how that goes. I will let you know in a week or so how that committee will be formed.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Senator Hall: We are planning to have a meeting to plan Mental Health Week. I will email you all to see if you have interest in being participating in that. About creating undergraduate and graduate collaboration, I have met with SAA, the research side of the Graduate School, James Morales and a lot of them have geared me to look into Career Services and talk to them about this. RGS has a webpage form faculty members where they can put information about their research and say they are looking for undergraduate students to help in any capacity. Undergraduates can go to that page and say what they are interested in and are paired with faculty mentors. They are going to change that to have a box to click if you are a graduate students and you will have to fill out the same application but can have graduate students matched with undergraduates as well. There will be a question for if undergrads want to work with a graduate student. That is something we are going to start advertising. I will send out more information once that web page has been updated. This week is Non-Traditional Student Week and they have events for that.
Senator Lake: VP Johnson is going to give a diversity training to my council this upcoming week. I have a rare opportunity tomorrow to give a tour of our facility to the Idaho State FFA Officers. They have a good outreach for who will come to USU. That is a great connection to have with the Idaho State FFA because of our good Agricultural programs. The fee group I chair has become a focus group about tuition within the college and the university. I have recruited students who have reached out to me about wanting to be more involved. Not only has this been a group meeting about the fee increase from CAPS but has become a focus group about differential tuition and how fees are being used and changing that rather than bringing in differential tuition.

Senator Wise: I met with the Faculty Senate Executive Board Subcommittee to talk about our next move. I felt they had a good understanding of what our body does. There will be a few minor changes. I will put a disclaimer that this is a resolution and what that is in the introduction. They talked about how they want to create a better relationship between Faculty Senate and USUSA. They mentioned the email that Dexton sent out and how professional it was. If you could send those emails out and maintain those relationships moving forward would be helpful. The concerns in the Theater Department are escalating. I am in contact with the Student Affairs office and hopefully some solutions can come soon. Our Rights and Resources town hall will be on November 27th. We will have Sam, James Morales, Emmaley Fishburn, someone from the LGBTQ+ community, campus police, the RA’s, etc. We want as many people as we can. We will have them each introduce their body and the resources they can provide students. We will open it up to questions and have booths and treats. We are hoping to have material to distribute. The issue is students don’t know their rights and what resources are there and proper protocol.

Senator Pitt: There were a lot of alumni and donors on the National Advisory Board. We had several students present on what they were able to accomplish inside and outside the classroom. We got a charge from them to ensure we are reaching as many students as possible and giving more people those opportunities. We had the Stephen R. Covey Leadership Center inauguration this last week. Steve Young announced the announcement of this center. This pertains to all students across the university. You can go to the center and get a minor in leadership. It also will be funding leadership programs and ideas students have as well as teaching principles about what Stephen R. Covey wrote about how to be an effective individual. My council and I are putting on a town hall next Tuesday at 6pm and we have all department heads and administration coming to it. Students can ask questions or bring up concerns in an environment where we have everyone in one room who can address those questions.

Senator Allred: November 16th at 9am is the library fee meeting. We need 3 students and if any of you are interested, let me know. They want to propose an idea to set up systems to allow students to access online resources even when they are not currently enrolled for those who are gone on internships, etc. If you have feedback on that, I would love to hear from you guys.

Senator Wise: Would that mean a potential increase in fees?

Senator Allred: Friday, November 16th at 9am is the Library Fee Meeting. If any of you are interested in being on that, we need 3 students. I reached out to students at large but let me know if you are interested. He sent me an email about an idea they want to propose. They want to set up a system for students to access resources if they are located off campus over the summer and not enrolled in classes. The library has a fee for the resources they offer. Students who access those resources over the summer and are not in classes would not be paying those fees. If any of you have feedback on that, let me know.

Senator Wise: Would that have an impact on the fee students pay?

Senator Allred: That is a question I will be taking with me to the meeting. It doesn’t say anything about that in the email. I wanted to meet with all the departments and see how they are doing and how students feel. I talked to Journalism last week. They are struggling and I am taking that one under my wing. I have some council members taking the other 5 departments. We are
working to distributing different surveys to different departments and taking those results to the
department head. Whatever feedback we get from the department head, I will take to the dean. The
CHaSS Gala will be on November 30th. Everything is going well for that. Tony Ahlstrom is my
student outreach person and he wanted to do a thank you booth at Old Main on the week of
Thanksgiving. We are going over the Classroom Improvement Fund and the Sustainability Grant
to get the refillable water bottle fountains in Ray B West and hopefully Old Main. I heard it is
difficult for Old Main because they have a beauty committee and love their gold water fountains.
I heard it is $1,500 per water fountain. We are looking at smaller grants from the Sustainability
Fund. We are looking to get about 7 fountains.

Senator Kemp: Loggers Ball is on November 17th at 7:00. Tickets are on sale in the NR Atrium; $10 for
students, $15 for non-students. Prices go up at the door. That is the same day as Aggiethon from 9-5 and
PoBev is that night. Our cookie social last week went well and it was the same time as coffee hour. If you
stop by the NR building every Tuesday from 10-11, you can get some free coffee. We did the social at the
same time. One of the concerns with Aggie Blue Bikes was that faculty was able to rent the bikes. Now
they are paying $6 to use the bikes, we pay about $2 in our fee. The concern was that this was created so
students can use this. Faculty using this could turn away students because there may not be enough.

Senator Service: I know they run out fast. Any time I have tried to get a bike, they have been
gone.

Senator Pitt: Could they look into having a limited number for faculty?

Senator Wise: Are all faculty paying the $6 or just those faculty members who want to use the
bikes?

Senator Kemp: I believe it is faculty members that want to.

Senator Wise: My issue to that is the reason we have the access to the bikes is because
we all pay fees to use those bikes. A little goes a long way. $6 isn’t enough to rent a bike
for a semester. They are benefiting from students paying fees and are able to pay a
small amount for the services. It seems more logical to not have faculty use them.

Senator Thomas: My council had dinner at my house last week so we can develop more of a friendship
with one another. They are meeting right now about Education Week. I will send graphics out next week.
We are working on getting information from students about what they want to see changed in their
courses and departments. The council and I are going to come up with a few topics and approach the
department heads how we can change and also help work on transitions from how the program will be in
two years.

Senator Service: I met with my dean and she had nothing but good to say about both of you that went to
Stater’s Council. I also attended the open houses in Provo and Layton. We had a lot of seniors come and
they were interested in what USU had to offer. This week is Science Week. We were off to a rough start
with our first event. Everything ran smoothly other than flyers being delivered. We had good attendance.
We are pairing with other groups tonight for Stuff-a-Bus to gather food donations for the Food Pantry.
Tomorrow night is the Kahoot quiz. Everyone is invited. Later that night, we will have a networking night
hosted by SAA. They had trouble connecting with alumni so we are having Jesse Steadman speak because
he will be a future alumni. PCAB and SAA have been promoting it. Wednesday, the Chemistry club is
putting on a demo show and showcasing demonstrations from Science Unwrapped. Thursday, will be
Elemental Bingo. We had really good attendance last year and I am hoping for the same. We will have 5
rounds of bingo and games in between. Dr. Ensign is MCing it. You don’t have to know science things to
attend. Friday will be a conglomeration of different things, catering will bring donuts to the Hub and the
Entomology Club will bring insects. The College of Science will be donating thank you notes for those who
I have helped with the Life Science building. I will be interviewing Heather from the Sustainability Office about Blue Goes Green Grants and how students can be involved and apply.

Senator Olson: The differential tuition oversight meeting was last week. Differential tuition is pretty transparent within the college and how that money is spent. All this money goes back to students. It either goes to teaching faculty, TA’s or lab equipment. We are capped out with differential tuition within the college. I want to start looking at how it can be used effectively. We don’t have a problem with it being mismanaged but we are going to look at if this is providing more effective learning for students.

Senator Wise: Could those of us in a college with differential tuition have a meeting?

VP Smith: Sierra, will you organize that meeting?

Senator Olson: The College of Engineering was just selected to be the recipient to an OER Grant. This is something AS pushed a little bit last year. I was able to lobby for the College of Engineering to receive this. I will be pushing professors to apply for that grant and receive this material. I had my fee meeting next week. I have a meeting in Old Main and we are pushing to get Computer Science students to be there. CS are underrepresented so we are trying to make sure we have representation. We had a great meeting about Engineering Week. We are focusing on bringing in a different speaker to expand our scope to get more attendance. This is a piece of sad news, I got the news over the weekend that a professor died in the college. It sounded sudden but I am not sure what the circumstances were. She was new last year so CAPS is being brought to the college and a memorial is being put together. Please reach out to mechanical engineering students if you know of any.

ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spencer: There will be a referendum on the Regional Campus and AS Oversight legislation. There will be a social media push. If you have questions on the Stater’s Council, I would recommend reading those minutes. One of the surprise was that Tier I and Tier II tuition will be changing. Elections committee, we are looking for people who will be willing to do that. We are thinking about having applications. I know certain colleges are doing debates and town halls during elections for your individual colleges. Is that something you are interested in to add to a charter for a trial run this year?

Senator Service: If people are running unopposed, would that still happen?

Senator Wise: I know scheduling is difficult with all that goes on during that week. Sam has interesting ideas on how to restructure that.

Spencer: We discussed having a primary town hall on Monday and a finals town hall on Wednesday. That would leave Tuesday to be open for these in the respective colleges. I will talk to all of you about this. I will be gone Thursday and Friday but will be available if you need to contact me. I will be moving offices tomorrow to where Megan Crosland is located. She will be moving to the outside space. The reason I have been put in that office is to advise students in more of a closed office space. That will be a place you can find me.

ADJOURNMENT: Senator Olson: Moved / Senator Hall: Second / Adjourned

IN ATTENDANCE: Spencer Bitner, VP Allie Smith, Senator Kristin Hall, Senator Dexton Lake, Senator Sierra Wise, Senator Cameron Pitt, Senator McKenna Allred, Senator Mason Kemp, Senator Deidra Thomas, Senator Abigail Service, Senator Erik Olson, Assistant Brooke Jorgensen, President Jaren Hunsaker