ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2018 | 4:00 PM | USUSA Senate Chamber

CALL TO ORDER AND THE SCOTSMAN

Approval of minutes: Senator Pitt: Moved / Senator Kemp: Second / Passed

PUBLIC FORUM

VP Haas: Dinner next week at Cam’s house.

Senator Pitt: Does 7:30 work for everyone?

Senator Service: Are you going to send out what you need from us?

Senator Pitt: Yes.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

VP Smith: I have been working on my Statement of Support for CIDI and working on fulfilling my Charter. There are a few meetings that I haven’t been able to attend so I have been working on that and on Fee Board. I am going to be meeting with the Faculty Senate President which is one of the meetings that I have been trying to schedule and just hasn’t happened in the past. I want to help give her a student perspective from USUSA. If you want anything for them to know about your college, I can relay that on to them. Jaren and VP Tatom want you to know there are liaisons for you in Blue Crew and PCAB. Blue Crew is for set up for events, they can’t promote your stuff on USUSA Events but Blue Crew members can share on social media. PCAB can help with logistics but can also be at events and share your media. Student Advocate has Meet the Candidates today. On October 23rd, they are having a gerrymandering panel.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ASR 2019-02: USUSA Academic Senate Oversight Resolution

VP Olson: This legislation has changed a little bit. I had a meeting with Dr. Morales, Dr. Olsen, President Hunsaker, VP Smith, VP Jackson and VP Johnson. We talked about philosophy about what we are trying to do and specific areas of oversight. In terms of procedure, the biggest change would be charter changes for the Exec VP would be approved by EC not AS and Graduate Studies Senator charter would be approved by AS not EC.

VP Smith: We felt like it would be unfair for these specific ones would go to both bodies. My
charter would be understood more by EC not AS. With the Graduate Studies Senator, we felt that AS would understand that position more than EC.

Senator Olson: The other thing is that USUSA governing body is referenced but it is not described. I put in a definition in there for that. Basically it says that the governing body for the officer is the body they sit on. We also discussed appointments and vacancy. Appointments for Exec VP will be confirmed in EC and the Grad Studies Senator will be approved by AS. For appointed positions, the process for someone replacing them is a little different. Depending on which role, saying they go to the appropriate body, what were your thoughts on that?

VP Smith: My only concern would be for regional campuses.

VP Olson: Are regional campus officers appointed?

Linda: The President and all VP’s are elected, all the reps are appointed. They are really split down the middle.

VP Smith: In our meeting we decided that it would go to the individual governing bodies to decide but then it would go to Jaren to approve.

VP Olson: This is about filling a vacancy so the President already chooses who will fill the vacancy, this is about who will approve that appointment.

Spencer: I think it needs to be apparent that this is talking about the ratification not the appointment.

Senator Olson: All this is saying is what body will approve that appointment

Linda: If it is a Regional Campus though, it wouldn’t necessarily go to the Executive VP, how would that be determined?

Senator Olson: It would go to the appropriate body to be confirmed. They would still be chosen by the RC President.

Linda: It says it will be determined by majority vote of the President, Executive VP and Senate Pro Tempore. Do you feel those three have authority over Regional Campus and how are you going to give that?

VP Smith: This is just a new idea.

Linda: I would suggest we ask Kevin about that. We could put ‘and/or RC President’

VP Smith: How would you guys feel about that? Instead of AS confirming appointed positions, they would go to this committee of three people. Aren’t the appointed positions appointed by specific people in their charters?

Senator Olson: It is in the charter they can approve the person in the beginning. This is saying what happens next if there is a removal from office. This is saying that the person who this is under their charter, this person has to be approved by the appropriate USUSA governing body as determined by those three people. They would say this approval would go to the Regional Campus EC.

Linda: I think you can do that for Logan campus but for Regional Campus you can put
'Regional Campus President.' You should talk to Kevin about the wording. I don’t feel they need to come to these three positions.

Senator Kemp: These three people are just deciding which body this goes to, right?

Senator Olson: Yes. They aren’t even confirming the person.

Linda: They won’t even see the bill. We don’t do much of their business.

Senator Kemp: The confusion is that these three people will even know.

Linda: I don’t know if they have the authority to decide what will do. We are trying to keep it in the body.

VP Smith: Technically all of Regional Campus vote for all of Executive Council. Realistically, they should know.

Spencer: I think what is happening here is you are taking the idea of who should fill it from RC and sending it to these three people.

Senator Olson: These three people would have their process of selecting someone. They would put someone forward with the question of who would approve them. The fair way to confirm this is by saying the majority vote of those three people. They would decide.

Spencer: Does that help it be more efficient?

Senator Olson: I don’t know this is just an idea I had 30 minutes ago.

Linda: I think this is a good idea. I just think you need to include the RC President or a committee.

Senator Olson: I’ll talk to Kevin about this. Another section talks about the removal of appointed positions. It basically states the same thing. If an appointed position is being removed. In deciding which appropriate body to send them to, these three positions would be in charge of making that call. Again, I am up in the air about that. I think it clarifies just saying ‘appropriate governing body.’

Senator Lake: Were those three positions clarifying the veto process? If there was a removal having the President veto if it happens.

Senator Olson: Right now the legislation states that AS can charge someone and 2/3rds of AS will confirm the charge and they will go the Hearing Board who will determine if they are guilty. The discussion was that if someone was charged if there could be a person between that process. If Jaren was charged, I would say yes or no to Jaren going to that Hearing Board.

Spencer: If there is a 2/3rd vote, there has to be an apparent reason they are being charged.

Senator Olson: I have reservations about it for the reasons that it limits judicial oversight and if there is 2/3rds to confirm the charge, I feel like if there is a veto power there should be a power to override that veto. I didn’t want to include that yet. One thing that
is important to know is because there is already that authority. The VP of Student Affairs is at the head of this and has the power to override any of this. Because of that step, I feel like there is already an oversight built into the Constitution. I don’t feel it is appropriate.

Senator Lake: I agree. I don’t think it is necessary.

VP Smith: I was in favor about it when we talked about it. I would be interested in what EC has to say. I see ideas for and against it. Having a check within USUSA would be a good measure. I am on the fence about it.

Linda: The Hearing Board is through the Conduct Office. They go through a special training.

Senator Lake: I had to go through that board when I first ran and I would have much rather gone through that board than the President be the decision maker at that time. That is one person deciding the fate rather than a body making that decision together.

Senator Kemp: Motion to forego Second Reading of ASR 2019-02 / Senator Lake: Second / Passed

Senator Olson: Motion to approve ASR 2019-02 as a Second Reading / Senator Lake: Second / Passed

ASR 2019-03: Proposed Revisions to the Faculty Code

Senator Lake: Motion to table ASR 2019-03 / Senator Olson: Second / Passed

Senator Wise: Motion to open discussion for ASR 2019-03 / Senator Olson: Second / Passed

Senator Wise: This was brought up in the meeting I just came from. They had issues with some of the language. As far as what I have changed is very little to clarify that this is a resolution.

Senator Lake: Motion to forego second reading / Senator Olson: Second / Passed

Senator Olson: Motion to approve ASR 2019-03 as Second Reading / Senator Lake: Second / Passed

NEW BUSINESS

VP Haas - Statement of Support for CIDI

VP Smith: I am meeting with Provost Galey about this tomorrow that will create more resources for faculty to improve their teaching. I currently had Senator Wise, Senator Thomas, Senator Hall, VP Johnson have approved it and I am hoping to get President Hunsaker and VP Jackson to approve this. My hope is that we can all support this before I go tomorrow. Currently, it is voluntary for faculty to receive instruction to improve different aspects of their teaching. The idea is that they ran a pilot program in CAAS where they had content specific material for how faculty can teach more effectively with their content. There were some faculty with consistently low IDEA surveys. They would like to have these resources available for all departments. They currently don’t have the resources to make this happen for all departments. I think we should support expanding that. I also talk about how I would like to see accountability. There are a few things in the works for that already.

[Reading of Statement of Support for CIDI]

Senator Lake: I would add the actual name of Applied Sciences, Technology, and Education.
Senator Olson: Yeah I think this is great. I am comfortable putting my name on this.

Senator Kemp: I would feel comfortable adding my name on this as well.

Senator Pitt: Do you know specifics on how they will be held accountable?

VP Smith: That will be way down the road but the idea is that right now all the colleges in Utah in that they are creating a rubric where faculty peers will sit at the back of the classroom and rate the professor on this rubric. USU has not made any official statement on how or if they will use this rubric. There are a lot of studies that show that peers are more indicative of quality education than students trying to evaluate a teacher. I would be an advocate of the rubric.

Senator Kemp: Is that broken up by colleges? I know different colleges have different levels of accountability.

VP Smith: Right now the only accountability is for tenure so all university professors who want tenure go through an extensive review the year before and after. Anything further than that can be at a college or department level.

Senator Service: You can put my name down.

Senator Lake: You can add my name.

Senator Pitt: You can add my name too.

Senator Hall & Senator Allred - ASR 2019-04: Mental Health Resolution

Senator Olson: Motion to table ASR 2019-03 / Senator Kemp: Second / Passed

Senator Hall: Motion to open discussion for ASR 2019-04 / Senator Kemp: Second / Passed

Senator Hall: VP Jackson brought this to us as an ECR and this has a lot of academic ties. We thought it was important to also pass this as an ASR to show our support and bring this forward to the faculty. This is pretty much copied and pasted from Sam’s ECR other than starting at line 2 to change Executive Council and Academic Senate as appropriate for this coming from AS.

VP Smith: This was brought to academics attention because it does have an academic component. We have permission from him to be copying and pasting but under the understanding that this will not be visited in EC. He wants this to be an understanding that this is a one time thing where we make two pieces of legislation and copy and paste.

Senator Hall: Coming from the Faculty Senate Executive Council meeting, the consensus was that this might not need to go to Faculty Senate but could go to the Provost Office. This would be under the idea that this is important information to have on a syllabus.

Senator Olson: Motion to approve ASR 2019-04 as First Reading / Senator Wise: Second / Passed

COUNCIL UPDATES

Senator Hall: I have my Graduate Student Council meeting tomorrow. We will be presenting information about adding dental and possibility vision insurance at the Graduate Council meeting next month. Tomorrow and in the next couple weeks we will be working on that. I also have a few meetings with some faculty members that the graduate council recommended to me for creating more undergraduate and
graduate collaboration.

Senator Lake: We are in the beginning stages of planning the rest of the year. We are planning a networking night and other events that are new. My new proposed fee is about a $15 increase to mental health. I am more of a stickler about being aligned to state regulations and right now we aren’t. Whether or not we are understaffed or if students can find resources somewhere else is a discussion we can talk about in another discussion but the way they are proposing it is to align with state standards which is 1 council to x amount of students. This is a state law that we don’t have right now. They are asking for an increase to align with state regulations. We will receive more information soon.

Senator Wise: This morning we had a meeting with Arts Council. My President called the meeting at 7am. We reevaluated where we were and had my committee members sign a charter as a mid semester check in on their responsibilities.

Senator Pitt: I went to the Differential Tuition Board. One of the takeaways was that there is still a feeling of animosity towards differential tuition but the issue was not in paying it but in understanding where it is going. The administration has done a great job, they have a new website with all the information and have also invited students come talk to them for more information. The problem is that students are complaining but aren’t going to find more information. I have a meeting to come up with more ideas on how to get that information out there. One of the main ones is that we are working with the faculty on the curriculum board to get this information on the course syllabus and information each semester. My council had some restructuring, we decided to have chaired positions whether that is with administration, marketing, with each major, etc. as well as having three main teams for events.

Senator Kemp: I met with Business Services today to talk about planning for Loggers Ball. I am trying to get ahold of Aggie Radio to get a band to come to play. I have learned about my budget and for NR week and different accounts I have in my college and USUSA. I feel like I am having troubles getting my council to come to our meetings. I am trying to debate on if I should send an email to them or if I should send a doodle poll out to find a better time. I know Senator Thomas made her council members sign a contract.

Senator Pitt: I mentioned this earlier. We had to have a little ‘come to Jesus’ meeting with everybody on where we are making our commitments and priorities lie. There are two people who have carried a disproportionate amount of the load this year. Having them speak about all the work they have done this year helped other people feel like they can balance this as well as their other commitments.

Senator Lake: Is your council paid?

Senator Kemp: Only the President gets a stipend.

Senator Olson: I think being consistent. Ask yourself what the value is for them to be at your meeting and how they can better the students around them or gain professional experience. I don’t think sending out an email or text but having a frank conversation in person about what has been going on.

Senator Service: I have a meeting scheduled to discuss the sustainability fee. I don’t think we are going to ask for something but we are going to discuss what we are going to say. We are almost ready for our first podcast episode we are just working to schedule the time with our interviewee. We are working on last minute details for my week. I have the same problem as Senator Kemp on how to attend. I would be open to hearing what you come up with as well.

Senator Olson: I met with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee member from the College of Engineering and got some great feedback on Faculty Code stuff and seemed motivated to help me with
specific areas of the Faculty Code can be changed. He made points about how professional staff is not necessarily represented on Faculty or Dean Search Committees too because it is restricted to tenure track faculty. He talked about how the nature of universities have changed and there is a lot more professional staff and not everyone is tenured staff. He believes the Faculty Code should change as a result of that. It was great to hear someone excited to work on code. Halloween event, we are having a social in the Engineering Lab building on the 26th from 4-6pm. We are working on including computer science. There is a big divide between the engineering and computer science. Computer science teaches a lot of their classes in Old Main and all the engineering classes are in the Engineering building or the Engineering Lab Building. We are discussing different ways to include them, possibly by having a meeting over there, or change the name of the council to Engineering and Computer Science Council because we were referring to the council as the Engineering Council and if you are a computer science student, you may not realize you are part of that. We are trying to refer to it with computer science in there. They are looking to change the name of the college in the future to include computer science in the name.

ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Linda Zimmerman, Spencer Bitner, VP Allie Smith, Senator Kristin Hall, Senator Dexton Lake, Senator Sierra Wise, Senator Cameron Pitt, Senator Mason Kemp, Senator Abigail Service, Senator Erik Olson,