CALL TO ORDER AND THE SCOTSMAN

Approval of minutes: Senator Service: Moved / Senator Allred: Second / Passed

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

VP Smith: One of my platform goals was to redo the IDEA student evaluation. I have done a lot of work on that this week and kind of revised my platform. I have done some research and found that students are not a good evaluator of professors. I have looked at other Universities and on a Secondary level, I would like to move more towards peer evaluations and have a department head, or someone do it. Teachers who have received bad reviews can go have continuing education to become a better teacher instead of never changing their lecture. As far as an EC update, Jaren has sexual misconduct pamphlets to distribute. Take some and pass those on to your councils, have some on your desk. If you want some, talk to Jaren. They talked about QPR training and we talked a potential Tuesday and Wednesday days that could work for those. They are going to get two or three dates to get everyone trained. Director Moon wanted to remind everyone of the 6 week time period for advertisements. SNAC is talking to Capital and Support about moving. The Service Center is doing Aggie Sync trainings and will come to your councils to teach about how to log service hours, etc. They are presenting to clubs and councils about the Dance Marathon coming up. If that sounds interesting, pass that on to your councils. Please make sure your council Rosters are done and to Sophie asap if you haven’t done so yet. The Tier II Tuition Committee and the decision was to have the Organization and Diversity position sit on that and not have an additional Senator. Thankfully, I had Kristin, Jaren and Linda there and we were able to get all your concerns out. I felt like EC was extremely respectful of your opinions and spent a long time considering your positions and took every concern you had seriously. I feel like the ultimate decision is something I can support. If you have further questions about that decision process, you can talk to me about it.

Assistant Jorgensen: Accountability for time commitments on House Rules from here on out. I will be keeping track of those. Please follow up when you have made up those hours. The only excusable events are for school related things and your individual events regarding your position. Family and other related absences are written off as a warning and must be made up. I will be sending out a template that you can modify and send to your professors, department heads and deans to spread the word about AOF so we can keep these applications coming. Also, as you meet with your Deans and department heads, keep in mind the Classroom Improvement Fund.
COUNCIL UPDATES

Senator Hall: We are starting to brainstorm for Mental Health week. If any of you are interested in helping plan that week, let me know. We are going to start having meetings at the end of December.

Senator Lake: Our first event for CAAS week happened this morning and there was a lot of media attention. Very great way to kick off CAAS week. Please help promote the mechanical bull so we can make a profit, 10% of that will go towards mental health. For the campout on the quad, we got a third food truck so we will have Pauni, Lucky Slice and Morty’s. Our tractor parade will be at 10:15 down Aggie Blvd. We are having animals on Thursday. It is a Meet and Greet with Alexis Cooper. If you can help me promote those events, I would appreciate that. If you want service hours, there is a tree gleaning activity tonight and they are gleaning a pear tree.

Senator Wise: We had our college wide meeting to discuss Title 9. Noelle Cockett, my Dean, myself and two representatives from SAVVI were there to answer questions. I feel we were able to clear the air with some of the confusion with what has happened in the last year. Our feedback has been mixed but we are grateful for the student feedback. I found out today that I have been selected to be the student representative for the Dean Scouting Committee. From my understanding, it has not always been the case to have a student representative. Hopefully, this will open up a dialogue to make this a norm for this college and others. I met with the music department head and she has had a concern with the Faculty Code of Conduct to make sure things is proper language for what is in place right now. The way the faculty code stands now, professors are evaluated based on performance and competence within their field, not necessarily conduct. She wants to rephrase the wording so that what happened last year won’t happen in the future and action can be swifter for the safety of students. I would love to have more input from other colleges. We are just going to pass this as a resolution because this is something the Faculty Senate will decide. If we can have our stamp of approval, it will help them facilitate the conversation. Octoberfest is on October 4th. This past week, my council had a private QPR training with VP Olsen.

Senator Pitt: I have recently met with students about the Tuition Advisory Board. The feedback I received was that they felt like in years past, the representation on that hasn’t been exactly fair because many of the students sitting on that board are under full scholarship and don’t have to bear the burden of differential tuition. I talked to my dean this last week and we are going to make sure those 8 students are not under full scholarship and are paying differential tuition. We are going to rewrite my Charter to make that more specific for whoever takes my position next year. We have business week next week and I will be sending out info this week for that to be shared.

Senator Allred: Homecoming is coming up and CHaSS does a tailgate, we are helping with that. We are working on planning on upcoming events this semester.

Senator Thomas: We have an opening social and we are working on a date for that. We basically have our week completely planned and are just waiting on a confirmation from a speaker. Max is going to set up the contract for that. Our September newsletter will go out at the end of the month.

Senator Service: Things are going well with my podcast. Everything with Aggie Radio is settled and Spencer and I are going to meet and have a testrun. We just need a title and have an intro. We have interest from faculty to be interviewed. We started brainstorming for Science Week and we are going to try a lot of new things. I wrote a short story for my college on Facebook and the college posted it on their Facebook and Twitter. It is targeted towards freshman but if you want to hear an embarrassing story about myself, go check it out.

Senator Olson: Opening social went really well, our 22 clubs got a lot of interest. We are going to start looking into altering the Faculty Code of Conduct in some way. Right now, there is no requirement for student representation but is largely formality and there is no strict mechanism to get student feedback.
and is not generally considered.

Senator Hall: In my department, they use grad students. If you are looking for advice, we can talk after.

VP Smith: With council updates, when I listen to your updates, I try to write down what would be applicable to report to EC so they can be informed of what is going on in your colleges. For your updates, if you are working on policy and charter change, we want to know about that. With events, you are welcome to share about those as well but some things may be more appropriate for SLAC where you can go into more details.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Lake: CAAS Charter Change

Senator Lake: Removing “11. Sit as an honorary member of The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Student Ambassadors.” due to restructuring the ambassador and council a few years ago and with that it became two separate bodies. My position was removed from that position.

ASR for Diverse Curriculum

VP Smith: I have talked to a few of you about this. This is from a MyVoice complaint that curriculum was too Western, European centered and not enough diversity. I have explored different avenues to address this. The English Department issued this Diversity Statement. The best solution I have found is to approach each college or different departments about implementing something like this. I know the professors that worked on this. They drafted this over a period of 18-20 months and it took several professors a long time to put this together and I have a lot of respect for those who put time into this.

[Reading of Diversity Statement on English Department website]

VP Smith: This is very specific to the English Department. In revising this, I would like to make it more universal to all departments. I don’t think it would be difficult to get support for this. Some of my professors use Authors in some of their texts that represent diverse backgrounds. Sometimes this may require a little bit of content change and have a different perspective. In some classes this may be the case. Hopefully students are patient with the change. The idea is to invite departments to do this and then talk to Noelle Cockett about adopting this into the Faculty Code of Conduct. Do you guys feel there would be support for something like this?

Senator Lake: This is great. I think we are becoming an increasingly more diversity aware generation. As far as adopting a whole new curriculum, applying this may not matter due to that my college is such a hands on college. The resources and what we are teaching is not like some of these old principles that are being taught in CHaSS. We cover more from the last 100 years, if not sooner. I can’t think of a degree in my college that isn’t hands on, I don’t think there would be a huge response to changing their curriculum to find someone else who would be more diverse.

Senator Olson: I think the response would be ambivalent. I don’t think there will be a lot of support or opposition with this in Engineering. I think it would be a little irrelevant to certain professors. I think this is fine, I would be curious to see where this would go.

Senator Wise: I think that the argument of having a hands on program, I think that the Art’s is a good example of that. Some students brought this concern up and I think it is legitimate. For some of my professors, it is hard to find literature that is both diverse and scholarly articles. We are trying to be sure that when we bring in speakers that we are mindful of inviting people of
diverse backgrounds.

Senator Olson: I think it would be effective to not just look at curriculum but what can we do to foster diversity in other ways. Maybe if there was a statement on that, that can be something that is included on that.

VP Smith: I don’t intend that this will say exactly how they will commit to diversity. I think that should be up to the field.

Senator Hall: I agree with Senator Wise and Olson have said. I think the Grad School would be in favor of this. Last year, a survey with STEM Graduate Students, they found there was a lot of negativity towards diverse students in those areas. I think the Grad School would be really interested in this.

VP Smith: I agree, I think this could help with those STEM majors.

Senator Wise: One more idea, I know we have QPR training that is mandatory. I don’t know if they have Diversity trainings, but I don’t feel like it is pushed as much. Maybe that is an angle we can push from the student’s perspective.

VP Smith: The Diversity training is not quite ready for mass production yet. Josh is the only person doing that. That is why it is limited. He is working on having more people trained on that. It is coming but not quite ready yet. Even if you don’t feel like your college is willing to make a lot of changes, if anything, this is a symbol to those diverse students that we acknowledge them and we are not forgetting them in our pursuits of education. For that reason, I would appreciate support in this. I am going to revise this, talk with Josh and meet with President Cockett and would hope to get your support in contacting your colleges.

One year review for Noelle Cockett

VP Smith: Tomorrow morning at 8am, because she is a new president, they have a one year review for her. This is unique because the next review won’t happen for another 5 years. They are interviewing a few of the faculty and some student leaders. I have not had many interactions with her. I only have good interactions with her. If you know students who have had more interactions with her, please let them know. Because this is a serious thing, they are bringing people in from the state level. If you have any constructive or negative feedback, they would like a name attached to that so they can approach that person for further information, they don’t want to take criticism lightly.

ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spencer: The only thing is if you aren’t going to the CAAS banquet on Thursday, there is a Personalities Passion Workshop at 6:30 in the Skyroom.

ADJOURNMENT: Senator Thomas: 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 Deidra Thomas, Senator Abigail Service, Senator Erik Olson, Assistant Brooke Jorgensen, President Hunsaker