ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING MINUTES

October 29, 2018 | 4:00 PM | USUSA Senate Chamber

CALL TO ORDER AND THE SCOTSMAN

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Jack Baldwin - Notis

Jack: I am with a company called Notis. It is basically a KSL type thing. It organizes a bunch of services for students. This is a resource. You can view housing, buy/sell books, etc. all in one place. A big addition we are adding to this app is a club section so every club on campus can create an account where people can follow them. When you post on the platform, whether it is an event or you are buying or selling something, this covers everything but Canvas. A club can post privately or publicly for events. It is a free tool, we have a high school version as well. The Universities we have connections with, we market towards those high school students. This increases student engagement which can help retain students. I will be presenting before Cam and his council in their meeting on Friday. When you have public events and want to get the word out, this can help.

Senator Pitt: My council started posting their events on the Notis.

Jacob Alder - AOF Report

Jacob: I had a great time at the Conference. I went to Perdue for two days and there were about 150 Engineers and great resource. I told you about the electric roadways and we were able to view some of the work they have there. It was a great opportunity as an undergrad to interact with PhD students and Grad Students and put my resource on the platform to them. There were some people afterwards who were interested in what we had done. There were also some conversations with the Colorado Roadway and transportation. Thank you for supporting me.

Rhett Ballantyne - Networking Events

Rhett: For your information, the part of my charter in SAA is to contact those interested in creating networking events for their colleges. I don’t know how many clubs know that there are opportunities to work with Alumni. You can work with me on getting those organized. Please let your clubs know, I have access to lists of Alumni related to your colleges. Thank you for being active in helping with these college networking nights. If you have questions about the process, please let me know.
VP Smith: While all the Senators have clubs within their college, you might want to talk to Josh who is over all the clubs on campus.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

VP Smith: I met with Donna Brown about the Center for Teaching and Learning she ran in Wyoming. She wanted to point out that NEHMA is a place you can throw events. It is a great location and can be more central than the TSC. She wants to make that more available.

Senator Allred: Did she say anything about a discount for us? It can be pretty expensive.

VP Smith: We didn’t talk about pricing at all but I bet if you went to through her she would give you more information. I also talked to her about including art in the Hub of the TSC. I put something on Slack about the section we could possibly use. I emailed Ray Cheetham, who is in charge of the TSC. Basically they don’t know what to do with it yet. There are a lot of people wanting to use that section of the wall so our name is in the hat. I talked about putting a piece of chalkboard and putting up a piece of art students could interact with. You could even pick a piece of art that corresponds with that college week or what is going on and students can write what events are going on. They really liked it at the University of Wyoming. We will see if they give USUSA that space or not. Stater’s council will be meeting on Wednesday morning at 7:30 am in the Senate Chambers. If you sponsored a bill, I would talk to your advisor about what is expected of you. For that CITI Statement of Support, I had meetings scheduled with both Robert Wagner and Becky Lauver and they both got rescheduled. I met with other Faculty Senators about some of the bills coming on. They all seemed enthusiastic but also clueless about what USUSA is. I feel our efforts are worthwhile. In EC, Service is doing a Pizza Pie Cafe fundraiser and some of the proceeds will go to Aggiethon. Programming Board just bought 4-5 outside heaters that you can potentially use for outside events. Student Advocate is meeting with the provost about the Mental Health Resolution. Jaren and Sam are meeting with Holly Daines.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Lake: How does everybody feel about the safety of our students who walk compared to those who bike or skateboard? One MyVoice said that they have noticed it has been worse this year with bikers and skateboarders being kind of crazy.

VP Smith: I encourage people to use the public transportation because it is free and feel it is considerably safer.

Senator Kemp: I saw a MyVoice as well about creating a bike lane for bikes and skateboards, which I think is a great idea, especially while people weave in and out of traffic.

Senator Pitt: Would that be taking a section of the sidewalk and painting a line down it?

Senator Lake: Pretty much. It would narrow the sidewalks which could make walking a little more congested.

VP Smith: When the sustainability office came and talked to us, they talked about other universities who award bikers for biking safely. I feel they would be eager to collaborate.

Senator Olson: From what I understand, this is something that is on their mind. With the redesign of 700 North, they are working on better safety. Whoever is on the fee for Aggie Blue Bikes could
bring this up and see what options are available for shorter term. The real issue is where the intersections are. The straightaway by the University Inn is a little worse than maybe by the library. Maybe a lane maybe 20 feet before there.

Senator Kemp: I did talk to Aggie Blue Bikes about a fee increase but they weren’t going to request one because they have an excess right now. They are in a weird point where they have money but are trying to figure out what to do with this.

Senator Wise: Some of the people who use bikes and longboards the most are people in my college who are more physically removed from campus. If someone has a class in Old Main, it is the only way they can make it there on time from the Arts building. Students talk about how the bus system is inefficient for students in that position. If they had a better bus route that came quicker from the bottom of campus to the top in a shorter circuit, we may be able to alleviate some of that congestion.

VP Smith: How is fee board going?

Senator Wise: My fee board advisor quit this week so I no longer have someone to advise my fee. I talked to Linda about this and she suggest going through one of the associate deans. We will just need to double check if this is okay because there is not a lot of staff positions that could take this over.

VP Smith: I will look into it. Has everyone else been able to meet with their advisors?

Senator Pitt: I am planning on meeting with my advisor and committee next week.

Senator Thomas: I haven’t heard back yet so I don’t have a date yet.

Senator Allred: I don’t have a date yet but I will let you know asap.

Senator Kemp: I met with Meg from Aggie Blue Bikes last week. They are not going to ask for an increase. I am a little confused about my role in the process.

VP Smith: However many administrators you have, you have to have the same number of students plus one. You have to review the finances over the past years. Where they are not requesting a fee, it should be pretty easy.

Senator Olson: I met with the administrator last week and I have a meeting with the committee a week from tomorrow.

Senator Lake: Mine is still writing it. I told her the completion date should be by November 27th which is when we are meeting to go over it.

VP Smith: I talked to her today and she is eager to get it done.

Senator Service: I met with mine last Wednesday and they are not looking for an increase or any restructuring. I think we were all confused by why we were meeting.

Senator Wise: I met with our budget advisor about how the fee currently stands. There were a few changes that made it so there is an artificial increase on this fee. One is how fees are going to be allocated between summer semester and fall/spring semesters. A few years ago, they changed how they apply fees to online courses so everyone receives an artificial bump. Now, there is always discretionary funding we have left over. But there is the Tippetts Art Galery that is
not being supported through the Provost Office which is how NEHMA runs but is not supported through the college. It is kind of a weird gray area. Right now it is being supported through differential tuition. We have talked about restructuring that fee so it goes to the Tippetts Gallery and maintenance and shipping for exhibitions that come in. If you have a fee, would it be most appropriate to propose a restructuring or does this sound like a completely new fee?

**VP Smith:** I think that would be up to Business Services to decide. Your position would be to help them know if you support it or not. It would be up to them to decide how to do it.

**Senator Allred:** I did talk to him at breakfast and the library is not asking for a fee.

**Senator Kemp:** There was a concerned about faculty using the Aggie Blue Bikes because they don’t have to pay fees for that. They changed it so they pay double what the students are paying so it is no longer an issue now.

**COUNCIL UPDATES**

**Senator Lake:** About the Faculty Senate email, I got one back from Heidi Wingreen stating her support. Her and Becky Lauver are the only two I have heard from. Our Student of the Month has gotten some great feedback. It has helped students who are not as involved feel more recognized. I want to write something about this into my charter.

**Senator Allred:** How do you pick the Student of the Month? Our dean wants to put out a form on our website.

**Senator Lake:** We use our peer advisors. We send out a list of qualifications we are looking for. We have GPA requirements, who has been involved in the community or the university, etc. We weren’t necessarily looking for freshman but we want students who have been here a while and have shown they have been involved. We have been picking one from each department. We are having to double up in a couple months and will have to do two Students of the Month because we have more departments than months left in school.

**Senator Wise:** I have submitted my proposal about the part time counselor for the Caine College of the Arts. We are going to supplement CAPS and the CAPS fee increase so we can make sure students have the services they need. I will follow up once we hire someone. We are in the process of scouting to see if this is an effective strategy. I have been working on my legislation to prepare for Stater’s Council Wednesday. It will have its second reading in EC tomorrow. If you have more suggestions, please let me know. Matt Omasta will no longer be sitting on Faculty Senate. The new Senator who will take his place is the one I traveled with to Alabama. I have a really good relationship with her and she is support of the legislation. It has been brought up to me that there are ethical treatment of students that has happened within the theatre department. Some of these allegations are definitely more serious than others but it’s all bad. The Arts college is unique for a lot of reasons. One being that it is small and the professors really know their students. It is difficult to go to someone with a grievance because there is no level of confidentiality. There is also an ideology that we have to protect the craft and break people down to build them up, which is ridiculous. Students are not sure what their rights are as students. There are violations with university policy and code and they will be frustrated but don’t know there are processes they can go through. We are planning a town hall during our common hour to talk about some rights students have and if they are violated and what they can do. I can send that information out to everyone.

**Senator Kemp:** I think a more widespread event for this would be good. That could be
something you can talk to Sam about.

Senator Wise: We are definitely involving Sam and GRC. Right now, we are just involving Mica in legal right now. We are planning Arts Week.

Senator Pitt: I have nothing at this time.

Senator Allred: CHaSS Gala is November 30th. One of my council members put in a donation order for food. I put in for the Pepsi funds to do that. I am meeting with the department head over journalism about some concerns that have come up within the program. QPR training went well last week. About the CHaSS Gala, we are getting a band and a DJ. I emailed all of my Faculty Senators, modeling the email that Dexton sent out. I got one reply and they were in support.

Senator Kemp: Loggers Ball is November 17th. If you happen to stop by the Atrium tomorrow, we are having a social to decorate sugar cookies.

Senator Thomas: I am planning Education Week and it’s going great.

Senator Service: Science week is next week. Monday, we are helping with Service Center and CAAS for Stuff a Bus. Monday, we have our kick off near the fountains. We are giving out flyers and cookies, sponsored by Dining Services. Tuesday, we are doing a Kahoot quiz on science related questions and there will be prizes. We are trying to find some Alumni for Tuesday night for a networking night. If it doesn’t happen, we will reschedule for the spring. Wednesday, the Chemistry Club is having a couple chemistry demos in ESLC 130. Thursday is Elemental Bingo in the TSC Ballroom. We will mimic it off of High Stakes Bingo. Friday, is Fear Factory. We are teaming with the Entomology Club and they are bringing bugs to the Hub. We might have a live podcast at that time, either interviewing my council members and I on why we are sometimes afraid of bugs, or we may be interviewing someone from the Sustainability Office on Blue Goes Green Grants and how students can apply and what that has done for the university. We also may be signing thank you notes for everyone who has helped with the new Life Science Building. Science unwrapped went really well, my council and I played with dry ice and bubbles and lots of interaction with those who attended.

Senator Olson: We have our differential tuition meeting tomorrow. I have concerns about the seriousness meeting and it not being formal enough to ask for how much money they are collecting. Tomorrow is going to be a good case to solidify that and see if it has changed since I brought up those concerns. If not, I have a meeting with my dean on Thursday. The Halloween event went well. I am putting out a survey next week about student life. ASR 2019-02 passed in EC and will be going to the student body in early November. We will soon be able to amend each others charters, hold each other accountable and approve appointments to our body.

ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spencer: The staff talked about our two year plan and objectives within SILC. One goal is to define outcomes and objectives for the groups we advise. I want to talk to each of you about learning objectives for your position, councils, as a student as a student body you represent. I will follow up with that in our meetings. Aggie Heroes is on Thursday at 6pm. Any marketing you can do, please do that. They moved it forward so it wouldn’t interfere with the basketball game that night. The rest of the staff went to Inclusion Excellence meeting today.

VP Smith: Josh and I went to that as well. Noelle Cockett talked about her efforts with Diversity in the University. She talked about the new Latinx Cultural Center. It was in James Morales focus group, they just passed a new center, specifically to the Latinx community. Right now, Utah has 14% population of Latino. Currently, 6% is being represented at Utah State. They want to
increase that representation. I went with two purposes, one with student government to work on that diversity statement, the other being my education major. I got to introduce USUSA to a lot of people who didn’t know what it was. It was a great networking experience to express how important diversity is to us as USUSA.

Spencer: I will be gone this Friday and next week’s Thursday and Friday so I will have to reschedule some of our meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: Senator Lake: Moved / Senator Kemp: Second / Adjourned

IN ATTENDANCE: Spencer Bitner, VP Allie Smith, 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, Jack Baldwin, Jacob Alder, Rhett Ballantyne