CALL TO ORDER AND THE SCOTSMAN

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

PUBLIC FORUM

VP Service: We can do family dinner at my house on January 27th at 6pm. If you want to send me ideas of what to cook, that would be great.

VP Smith: What have we eaten in the past? We did soup, thanksgiving, pasta. We could do tacos.

VP Wise: I love tacos. Let’s do tacos.

Senator Lake - Campus Safety

Senator Lake: I would love ideas on how to improve campus safety. I met with Chief King from USU Police and bounced ideas off each other. He has some great ideas on how to improve campus safety and I would like to reciprocate those ideas to our Facilities Enhancement Committee because there is room to grow, one of those ways is in improving our landscape. One of the questions I asked was about what defense mechanisms we could use and he gave me an eAlarm. You can pull the clip out of the end and it makes a siren noise that can even scare bears away. This is something that is part of my platform to improve campus safety, lighting in alleys and the Quad. I think Facilities Enhancement could be very beneficial. If you have ideas, I would love to have them so I can add them to my agenda. This is also part of my charter to sit on a committee to improve campus safety.

Senator Kemp: A couple of us talked about writing a resolution about changing the lighting for safety and sustainability. I contacted the group who presented to us to get more details about their research. We will hopefully be working on that soon.

Senator Wise: A concern I have always had is that the Arts college is always open. They lock the exterior doors at midnight but I have pulled all nighters there throughout my undergrad or am leaving at 2 or 3 in the morning. This is concerning especially because the Arts college has a high demographic of female students there is always a concern about safety. If we could have the campus police give a presentation or send out information about campus safety or even giving one of those to those visual arts students. The visual arts is open 24/7, music shuts down at
midnight. If there is a better solution for night time safety, that has always been a concern.

Senator Allred: That is also a concern among the journalism department in the Agg Science building. They make the Aggie TV shows and students are there editing until like 2-3 in the morning as well.

Senator Lake: They suggested that we need to work with USU Police to make sure there is not a mentality that we should be scared of police. Chief King encourages his police officers not to write tickets but to promote safety. He wants to work with us on teaching people about their safety escort services. I have been working with VP Johnson and President Hunsaker on an app they are developing together. That will help improve this situation as well.

Senator Olson: A lot of other universities, like Arizona State and Virginia Tech, have peer safety groups. If you get trained, you can walk students home. Something like that could be beneficial too if you are ever on your own. Improving lighting may be beneficial but being with another person can help improve that as well.

Senator Wise: At the beginning of the year, we were given an all college training about policies and procedures after the Allen-Sullivan Investigation in the piano program. One of the things that has changed is that we now have windows where you can see into every classroom. A lot of the faculty was concerned if there was ever a school shooting. If you shut the door and turn off the light, someone could still see into the room. I remember in elementary school, we would have lockdown drills and you would know what to do. As gun control as an ongoing debate in our country, I think it would be beneficial to have trainings on what to do if there was ever a shooter. I know we have the Aggie Blue alerts that go out but I think if I was ever in that situation, I wouldn’t know what to do.

VP Smith: There is a freshman training for that when they go through orientation.

Senator Wise: Maybe we would just need a refresher or something.

Senator Hall: Or even look into seeing if there is something like that for the faculty.

Senator Kemp: I know they will put a hold on your account until you have finished certain courses online. Something like that with a safety review before registration could be beneficial as well.

VP Smith: I have heard that some of our emergency poles across campus are deactivated and don’t work. I feel that is a concern that is an easy fix.

Senator Lake: Who do they directly call? USU Police or Logan Police?

Spencer Bitner: It goes to campus police

Senator Olson: Didn’t they intentionally move away from those because they are expensive and ineffective? I remember hearing that.

VP Smith: Well they are there and I would be concerned that if someone were to push it and not know that it doesn’t work.

Linda Zimmerman: When is your next Facilities Enhancement meeting?

VP Smith: My policy is coming super slow so I need to hit it hard. I think that is
something we talked about in that meeting.

Senator Lake: Thanks for your input. I’ll take this to Chief King and work on improving these as part of my campaign.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

VP Smith: About the USA meeting, the mayor of Salt Lake spoke to all the university presidents about the UN coming to UT this summer. This is interesting because they usually don’t meet outside of New York. They will speak about creating sustainable cities. They really want input on this and our job is to spread the word to get students voices heard at the meeting. It is August 26th.

President Hunsaker: The input they want from the youth will be read and submitted to the general assembly. This is a massive deal. If you, or anyone you know is interested, talk to me. We are trying to get students there to represent the youth voice. We will know more soon.

VP Smith: Tomorrow we will have some upcoming legislation on mandatory upstander training. Braxton stressed being in your office hours so you can sign for elections. They are looking for a full-time advisor for SAA, starting in March. Aggiethon is looking for an executive position. Applications are open and they will start planning for next year. They also have a marketing and outreach position up as well. Bannon said he is planning a Greek dodgeball tournament. Diversity Cabinet is now trained to give the diversity training and they can give more of those. There was a meeting between Josh and President Cockett on the sustainability resolution and that will be on the agenda for EC tomorrow.

Senator Wise: The upstander training will be for us or our councils?

VP Smith: I think they are wanting it to be similar to QPR and Diversity so it would be anybody who is compensated would be required to do it. I would encourage you to read the minutes on that. Thank you all for a great Fee Board. Everyone was so polite and considerate. It was hard to manage the time so thank you for helping me wrap that up in time. I hope you are all being active in looking for student input on what we will be voting for on the 23rd.

Senator Allred: Where are the minutes from past years?

Assistant Jorgensen: The only place I could find them was under Allies folder under fee board. The most recent ones were from 2015 but those were the only ones I was able to find so I don’t know if you can look in another place.

Linda Zimmerman: We have all those in my office. We have almost everything up to last year scanned in and are close to getting everything online so it will be just like our legislation.

Senator Thomas: I looked it up the other day and the one from last year might be in your email.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Olson - Charter Changes

Senator Olson: Some of the changes are just specific wordings.

[Review of changes]
Spencer Bitner: I know we talked about having everybody review their charters. I would love to have this section about time expectations to be similar in each of your charters. How would you feel about making this consistent across the charters?

Senator Allred: I like the idea of completing the two hours in the College of Engineering space. There isn’t a space designated in CHaSS. I don’t know if that is the same for other colleges. I have tried to do this multiple times in the CHaSS advising center but they have said multiple times that they don’t have room. Maybe it can be similar but elected into if you want to spend time in your respected college area.

Senator Kemp: I was looking at mine too, I have a space but I don’t know if I want to make it a requirement if they don’t feel it is effective. I want it to be more of an option.

Senator Olson: Another thing I am realizing is reflecting the new committees. This doesn’t change that. There may have to be language in there about serving on those. We should probably address that soon.

Senator Olson: Motion to approve Engineering Senator Charter changes / Senator Wise: Second / Passed

Senator Allred: Would there be a possibility for all charters coming forward to have a meeting about making similar verbiage and we can all put it in our charters.

VP Smith: Maybe that is something Brooke could do. From what I understand, there are just a few little differences. Brooke, if you wouldn’t mind looking at those and sending out an email about which one has the best wording.

Senator Hall - White Paper: Additional Child Care on Campus

Senator Hall: A lot of the research I have done over the past three and a half years is helping students who are also parents on campus. I work for a grant and we subsidize child care for parents at Utah State University. We have heard from many people that they need more access to on campus child care and more family friendly spaces around campus. We did quite a bit of research through this grant with the participants of that grant, not every student-parent on campus, but those who get funding through this grant. We have contacted all the other universities in Utah and visited the U, BYU and UVU to see what their child care programs look like and what family friendly spaces they have. This has become this White Paper. What I am looking for is I am trying to go around to different groups and get their endorsement. The plan is to take this to James Morales and, if possible, Noelle Cockett to preset them as reasons that we need more child care across campus with those endorsements. I know a lot of us know people in your colleges who need child care.

[Reading of White Paper recommendations section]

Senator Hall: I don’t know if this is something you want to vote on or if you want to contact me individually.

Senator Kemp: Right now, USU doesn’t have any child care?

Senator Hall: We have one on campus child care. Only 20% is reserved for students. The other 80% is for people in the community or mostly faculty and staff. They have a waitlist for over 100 families which is pretty consistent and normal for them. It is not only a student need, but also a faculty and staff need.

Senator Olson: This is awesome. Students in my college always have kids in classes. I can’t image that is easy for them if they have to step out of class. Parents will always tag team or one parent
has to put their education on hold. This is something I have routinely heard is a problem. Is this something a student fee could support if there are no other funding options? It seems like an appropriate use for it.

Senator Wise: There is a smaller demographic of student-parent within the Arts college. I know that the CCA might not be the top priority for you to lobby this to. However, I was recently in a meeting where this was brought up. There was a woman taking a printmaking class and within that classroom there is a tub of acid and a machine that could crush your bones. There were children in that space. If you want to schedule an appointment with her, I know that she would be in full support because this not only affects the parents, but in this case, is affecting child safety.

Senator Hall: I would love for her information.

Senator Allred: If this were to become a student fee, would it only be available for students and not available for staff?

Senator Hall: I think that would be okay. There are definitely enough students facing this problem on campus that we could fill a child care. The grant I was working for is originally a federally funded grant designed to help pay for child care on campus. We have a unique grant agreement because they have let us fund child care not on campus because we have shown there is a need and there is not enough child care on campus. We would need someone to build this space. The grant funds would be able to fund this child care but cannot fund the construction of one. We have not found anyone who would be willing to give us this space. If we found that space, the rest of the funding would be taken care of.

Senator Allred: So that could be a potential fee to get a building?

Senator Hall: Yes.

Senator Kemp: Motion that AS endorses White Paper / Senator Olson: Second / Passed

VP Smith: Keep us updated on this. Maybe this could be something to talk to our deans about or research.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Senator Hall: Every Spring, we have the Graduate Enhancement Award which is a $4,000 scholarship for graduate students. This year, we have moved that into the awards spring. The university wants all scholarships to go through this awards spring. With that, there has been a timeline change. Right now, we are having students applying for the 18-19 scholarships and the 19-20 scholarships. We had it closed to work out some of those details. It will be opening back up soon. With mental health week, we have almost all our schedule and budgets figured out. I will be emailing everyone tonight or tomorrow with more details about that. On February 6th, we have scheduled the graduate student gripe night. It will be in Library 154 from 5-6pm. My grad director from last semester joined the military so I have a new grad director, Jessica.

Senator Lake: I apologize for not being at retreat. If you have any questions about CAPS, feel free to ask me. This month’s student of the month is an agg business major. Our networking night changed times, it will be in between the two speeches given by Temple Grandin. For the first speech, we have about 150 students, some are coming from Dixie. The Board of Regents approved recommending $39 increase for 3 years for differential tuition. This is a good compromise. I appreciate President Hunsaker for his voice reflecting the students in the college of agg. He said he doesn’t feel like it will pass. If it does, at least we
were able to compromise. I consider it a win. I anticipate hopefully writing a letter to someone on the Board of Trustees on how I would vote and give my opinion.

Senator Wise: I receive a kind email from the group presenting to us from AOF last week. They are grateful for the amount we were able to award. Thanks for supporting those groups through AOF. This week is Arts week. We have created a podcast about why someone would pursue a creative degree and what that looks like within the industry. The first episode came out today. We will be releasing 4 of those through Thursday. I am really proud of how that has turned out, my council worked hard on that. I will send out the itinerary. Battle of the Bands is Wednesday. Masquerade Ball is Friday. We have trivia night at Lucky Slice tomorrow night at 7. We will have really cool prices and the trivia will be art and culture related as well as pop culture. We haven’t had a lot of sign ups yet. You can register as a team or just show up. Cost of participation is $1 to register that will go to our Student to Student scholarship. If you can share the Facebook page, I think it will be a really fun event. We have an additional meeting about the dean’s search. We have narrowed down the candidates and are going to start inviting people for interviews. I spoke to Senator Olson about this and discussed writing legislation to always have students on these search committees. I will be meeting with the Provost about the legitimacy of this and what it would look like. If you have this already in your college or have ideas, I would love to talk.

Senator Allred: Would that search committee be just for deans or department heads?

Senator Wise: What makes the most sense for me would be for any administrative position that oversaw student fees or student life be it department heads, deans, advisors, etc. The student events office does a great job at having student input. Within this search I have been involved in, there were several times where Dean Foley or the Provost asked me questions about the student experience and how that relates to student life. I think searches of that nature when there are not students on board, there is a disconnect with what the faculty is looking for in a candidate and what matters to the students.

Senator Allred: Thank you. I would love to support the legislation for that.

Senator Pitt: My council has set up a weekly meeting of Wednesdays at 6. We did lose a few members so we are working on hiring, especially for the marketing team. We had a very successful event on Friday. It was all for women to come to learn about getting involved on campus and make professional connections. We had successful women come from all over the state to speak. My council had an idea to do something along the lines of a student to student scholarships. The idea is that if professors or administration hear about an individual in need, from an accident or something causes their expenses to be tight through the semester, they can access these funds to help this student. We want to look into that. I would love to pick your brains if any of you do that.

Senator Allred: I met with my Dean about CHaSS week. The J Comm department head resigned and took a new position somewhere else. That is why I am so interested in the student included on the search committees. I would love to be part of that if I can. I asked him questions about it. They are working on the logistics. He encouraged me to meet with the interim department head and do a town hall for the J Comm department. That is on the list of things to do this month to the end of the month. A couple of my council members have quit or are leaving for internships. I am trying to decide on if I want to fill those positions.

Senator Kemp: We have our regular meeting time scheduled. I apologize for not being at the retreat. I have scheduled a meeting with my dean for leadership council.

Senator Thomas: I had an additional department reach out to me about an additional classroom improvement fund request. My council will be getting together on Wednesday nights. We are going to go over our ideas for the rest of the semester.
Senator Service: We are still working on a meeting time but we should have it by the end of today. I am keeping my council president on board. We met together one-on-one and came up with a lot of ideas about what we want to do this semester. One of our ideas is to do something more permanent within the Life Science building, be it contributing to art or plants or something. We want to leave a lasting mark.

Senator Olson: Engineers week is in 5 weeks. Schedule is starting to finalize. One of the events is free Marvin Joe’s. E Council is shifting in how we get our money. Most of the time, differential tuition is paying for some of our larger expenses. This year we are proposing a formal budget to the dean. We ask for a x amount of dollars to be allocated through the next year. My council president and I will take that to the dean. Before we have never known if they will approve certain budgets. If we know up front, we would have more certainty on where something will be funded from. We are using this as an opportunity to increase the caliber of the engineering council in the college. I was reached out to by a recruiter from the National Association of Engineering Student Councils. We will probably join this society. They have conferences about different schools around the nation. It is $120 a year. There will be conferences for the council president and senator to go to. I am working on legislation like Senator Wise mentioned and other projects I am finishing up right now. We have a speaker coming next week named Steve Brick. We are cosponsoring with IOGP. He works on energy policy. He works in the field of energy and policy. His talk will be focused on the state of energy as a whole in the United States and technical problems posed by some of the solutions. He will be talking on the 23rd at 2:30pm in Library 101. I will send out graphics for that. I am going to bug the department head about the CS problems from last semester.

ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spencer Bitner: Charter changes before February 1st to get ready for anybody applying for positions. Elections, if anybody wants to run, they are all open now. We talked about debates for individual colleges, Tuesday will be the best day. If it is uncontested, I would advise to have an info session with the potential new senator. That will be after the primaries.

Senator Thomas: What time will primaries close on Tuesday?

Linda: We announce at 5, closes at 3.

Senator Thomas: So, the town hall will have to be before 3.

Spencer Bitner: Correct. We want to see if that is something we require of senators in the future. Make sure to put photos into Box for the end of year video. It is on the front page of Box. If you have had council changes, make sure to update your roster and send those to me. I will send that out via email and just make sure to update the list on that.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Linda Zimmerman, 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