CALL TO ORDER

Officer accountability

PUBLIC FORUM

VP Emma Brain: This is legislation that has been a few years in the works; advisors are strongly in favor of it for the Service Center to reach its full potential. I’ll give you a brief readthrough. It had its first reading yesterday in EC, which it passed, and then it’ll have a second reading tomorrow and will then be taken to Stater’s Council.

READING OF ECR 2020-02 HISTORY, PURPOSE, PROS, AND CONS

We’re addressing the perceived distance caused by the removal by keeping the officer on the programming board so they can interact and plan together.

Another con that you should be aware of is that it would take the voting body of EC to eight, which eliminates the tiebreaking vote of the president. Linda and Sami strongly believe that the president should have the tiebreaking vote, so they’re writing legislation to remove SAA from EC. It’s a big move, but they don’t receive any funding from SILC or USUSA. They’ll do something similar to what we’re doing, still being a part of programming board and have access to the mule, but move forward towards their own goals and the Alumni Association’s goals.

Originally I wrote this legislation because the last few years where there’s someone running who has been a director for a few years and another person who has a lot of social capital but not have ever been part of the Service Center, and it really is in the best interest of the Center to have a student in that role who is familiar with the needs, programs, and other directors.

Senator Karras: I think that last point can apply to any of our elected positions, that if someone served on a college council, they’d be better-suited for Academic Senate. How is Service VP different?

VP Brain: That’s a really good question. We’ve been considering it a lot. We’ve looked into Executive Council’s structure and have seen that the leader can be built into that role, and has in the past. Service VP doesn’t vote on Fee Board, they’re kind of there de facto. It makes sense to move us to the body that we’re most aligned with.

Senator Ward: I think what really sets apart Service and SAA is that their organizations work better on a
community level, not just on campus.

VP Brain: Yes. It’s unfortunate that we’re tied in with SAA in this decision because our demographics are different.

Senator Dent: Do you feel like your position has been able to impact USUSA or is there more happening in the community?

VP Brain: By far it’s with the Center for Community Engagement. There has been a lot of time that I’ve felt could be better spent when we don’t have enough volunteers for SNAC, or if there’s a director that needs help with their program. I think this role would be best suited for those needs.

Senator Dent: If you have been able to make an impact in USUSA, how?

VP Brain: Do you mean working with it or..?

Senator Dent: I just want to know if you find any value in being a part of USUSA.

VP Brain: I think that as much as it brings value to the student in the role, it could be the same if not better in the CCE where it fits.

Senator Brost: I would see the benefit of it being on EC is just the accessibility of it.

VP Brain: Right.

Spencer Bitner: As far as events go, that relationship will not change. They’ll still be on the programming board and a full participating member. Events are covered. I feel passionate about that because it’s better for us to communicate consistently than to have people competing.

VP Brain: It’s important to remember that the Service Center is very central. Most of the communication that happens regarding collaboration on events happens as people are walking to their offices, just because it’s so central.

Senator Bird: Does the Service Center receive funding from USUSA? Will you keep that funding?

VP Brain: The SILC office provides funding for several programs, like the Inclusion Center and the Service Center, so we would retain that funding, minus the scholarship. The CCE would provide that.

VP Lake: We go to EC as a consideration to them, so we’re going to show our support here as well. Thank you all, and thank you, Emma.

VP Brain: Thank you. If you have any questions, let me know. We’re planning on doing a press release and then it’ll be on the ballot. If you’re in support of this and want to advocate it, please do.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

VP Lake: We have made some exceptions to putting things on agendas the last couple of weeks, but I want to remind everyone that the deadline to turn something in is on Friday at noon. The Statesman and the public needs to
know what we’re doing each week. We do want to improve on that.

President Cockett is coming to Executive Council tomorrow at 4 talking about tuition changes. You all are invited, but not required, to attend. There’s another meeting at 3:30 downstairs. Please make every effort to be there. If you have an issue with that time, I suggest talking to President Ahmed in this instance.

Senator Scott: Is this just USUSA officers?

VP Lake: Yes.

Senator Scott: Is there a dress policy?

VP Lake: No.

Senator Chamberlain: Do you know why it’s a secretive topic?

VP Lake: I don’t know anything about it.

No meeting next week because of President’s Day.

Higher Ed Day is this Friday. More details are coming. You should have sent the excusal letter to all of your professors.

I won’t be here Wednesday; I’ll be doing a leadership lecture at my high school, so if you need me, email me.

We have quite a few Facilities Enhancement applications. I probably got 10 on Friday. As soon as Spencer and I determine a way to rate those, we’ll send them out. For reference, on the 25th of February after EC we’ll go over them together. Please, for those of you on the committee, make the special effort to be there.

Emma did touch on this briefly, and then I’ll bring it your attention and we’ll send it out over email. It’s a piece of legislation that removes SAA from Executive Council. The logic is based on the advisors of SAA being in support for the same reasons as the Service Center advisors, they’d like to appoint a student. They want somebody who knows SAA because it is a special-interest student group on campus. EC and AS are supposed to be representative of the entire student body, not special-interest groups, and you could consider SAA and Service special interest. There is a memorandum of understanding about the accessibility that the Alumni Association can have to some of the SILC office’s resources. Also, the imbalance of voting is an issue. We decided not to separate the Diversity and Clubs VP, which the advisor for that position still feels is the best choice. Our advisors feel like USUSA, particularly EC, is structured in a way that everyone’s workload is comparable, so that’s about a zero percent possibility.

Senator Karras: It would be interesting to see if this body could serve as a tiebreaking vote by unanimous decision or majority or something.

VP Lake: It is meant to have the president be the tiebreaking vote.

The reason we didn’t go another route is that SAA is not housed under the division of Student Affairs. They just use some of our resources and then vote on various things. To say that’s representative of the entire student body is incorrect; SAA doesn’t necessarily represent every single student. That’s why this piece of legislation was written.

Spencer Bitner: The biggest difference is that the president is the only individual who is voted on by the entire student body, both statewide and Logan, which is why they have the precedent of breaking ties.
VP Lake: This will be read tomorrow, if you have interest in coming and listening to that. If you have questions or comments that you need answered or shared, write them down and give them to me. We don’t want to suspend house rules, but I would be happy to make points on your behalf. Just be aware. I’m not trying to be secretive, I just can’t present this before EC reads it.

NEW BUSINESS

CAAS Senator Charter Changes

 Senator Brost: I want to talk about this duty.

READING

In looking at this and some of my other duties, I feel this is something that’s a lot of work to highlight only one student instead of a group of people and there are other things that can be done with my time.

 Senator Fry: What is the process for this?

 Senator Brost: I’m going to turn this over to VP Lake.

 VP Lake: I did this when I was a senator. We were developing a new program that worked with each department’s peer advisor to select a student and recognize them. It didn’t seem like a lot of work, but I delegated it and they were very proficient. She makes a valid point, though; you could recognize multiple people. That was the intention of it. We felt the more we recognized students, the more they’d try to get involved.

 Senator Dent: I think charters should tell you what to do, but I don’t think it should have initiatives. I think it would be better that are required in the charter instead of programs.

 Senator Brost: I agree. In everyone’s charter I think you can pick things that are on the line between a charter item and a platform item.

 Assistant Kremnev: Could you keep it and make it broader, saying that one of your responsibilities is to recognize students in the college, however that’s interpreted? Would you feel comfortable with that? Is this an important thing that needs to be carried out continually?

 Senator Brost: I think it should be left up to the senator and what they decide to do. I discussed with both candidates running and they both expressed concern about how necessary this item is.

 Senator Scott: I agree, I think it’s completely up to the senator. I think their platform that they promote should be their main focus during their tenure, so to keep from distracting senators from their promises I think it should be left out.

 Senator Bird: How are the students recognized?

 Senator Brost: They had social media posts, were recognized at our meeting and a picture was taken, and it was displayed on the screens.

 Senator Karras: I think this is beneficial, but I agree that it doesn’t have to be mandated in the charter.

Approval of charter changes: Senator Brost: Moved / Senator Scott: Second / Voting body: Passed
COUNCIL UPDATES

Senator Scott: I met with my council on Friday. We’ve been talking about the survey we sent out. I set up an appointment to meet with administration on February 26th to talk about that result. It was about 90% positive response about putting food in the Impact Commons. I’ll be presenting some of those ideas and trying to come to a conclusion.

We have a Gripe Night with arts students at 7:30. Hopefully that will bring new concerns to light so I can present those and start thinking of solutions.

We are in the works of providing Upstander and QPR training for any interested arts student within the next few weeks.

We will be holding a club rush/candidate tabling event on the collegiate level so we can get more participation and face time.

Senator Bird: I set guidelines for our club policy and I’ll present it to my council tomorrow and then we’ll send it to our associate deans and department heads and present to them next week for more ideas and then we’ll implement it.

I’ve set scholarship criteria as well and we’ll go over that tomorrow so that scholarship can be awarded next year.

Our college has a Year of the Woman grant and they're using it for a lecture series on women in sports. The first one, last week, was on the female athlete triad which is about disordered eating and how it affects your body. They’re every Thursday throughout February.

Senator Dent: Last week we held our student leadership board and we’re getting a lot of really good ideas on how to work with clubs.

We’re preparing for our events with women’s week.

My council organized a debate last year for the candidates. Is that mandated or up to us?

VP Lake: It’s up to your disgression.

Spencer Bitner: We considered putting it in charters but decided not to.

Senator Lyons: We are receiving the last few faculty survey responses. We’re sending a survey to students on Wednesday.

We had a s’mores activity last Friday. We’ll probably do it again closer to summer.

Senator Fry: We’re working on planning our next Graduate Studies Social in March in the education building.

I met with a selection committee for the Undergraduate and Graduate Faculty of the Year awards. I’m organizing a council to meet for the Graduate and Undergraduate Student Researcher of the Year awards.

This Wednesday I’ll sit on the selection committee for the next Vice Provost of the graduate school.

Still working on Mental Health Week. We’re about a month out.
Senator Chamberlain: Last week I met with my council of three. We’re planning NR Week. It should be fun, and we’ll hopefully have free tacos.

We wrote a Facilities Enhancement grant but then found everything we’d applied for in closets in the BNR, so we’ll reuse all of that stuff.

I’m sitting on a hiring committee for an Aggie Blue Bikes staff member.

Senator Brost: President Cockett came to the Dean’s Leadership Council last week. She sat with us for close to an hour and a half and it was just a big discussion about leadership. She was very real and very personal with us. It was fantastic and a lot of people really appreciated it.

After reviewing the results of our survey, we’ve decided to do a drive-in movie at the end of the semester. We have to work out where. We have a couple suggestions: the cross country gravel parking lot on the north side of 1400, also wanted to talk to spencer about the logistics of doing it in the football stadium parking lot, we also thought about doing it out at the dairy, but the further you go the less attendance you have and if we do it at the football stadium, we feel our attendance would be up. If you have suggestions, let me know. We want each club to run their own concession and that can help with that initiative of club unification.

Senator Karras: Next week is Engineer’s Week. I won’t tire you with all of the happenings, but if you’re in the happening zone (which is the Engineering Buildings) next week, you can participate.

Senator Lyons: Everything’s on your website, right?

Senator Karras: Everything accessible to the general population is, and that’s where you can register for events.

We are also looking to the future to hold Approximately Pi Day with the College of Science to foster some good relations between our colleges.

Our council is holding a miniature forum to invite candidates to talk about their platform and plans for office.

Senator Ward: Next week we’re planning to have a small event for the two candidates running for CHaSS Senator. We’re planning on Tuesday at 6 because that is when our dean is available. That’s just a basic candidate sit-down where Joe and I will ask about their platforms and what they’re planning on doing. There’s a Meet the Candidates event on Thursday, but we feel this will give the opportunity to have a small, more intimate environment to learn more and be informed.

For Paulina’s week, after Spring Break, we’re doing Women’s History Trivia in the Hub Friday morning.

We have CHaSS Week in March, after Paulina’s week. I’m excited about our events. A lot are the same but there are some new and some changes. For example, the taco truck instead of being on the patio will be on the Quad. We’re also changing the menu to make it more accessible. We made a couple new events to highlight especially smaller clubs who don’t see a lot of representation. We’re doing something with the Anthropology Club, which will be great.

We were going to do an event with our department heads, but it’s hard to coordinate an event with all seven of them. We’re also worried about students not coming and ending up wasting department heads’ time, which is a big concern. We’re changing the structure to a meeting with my council so we can discuss student concerns there.

Senator Dent: Sorry I didn’t respond to your email, but I’d love to talk with you about that afterwards.
Senator Ward: No worries!

ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spencer Bitner: People have talked about surveys that they’ve done. I would love to have that data. Please send it to me to use in the future.

Since there’s no AS next week, please make sure you’re available to sign the budget sheets for people running for your position. I believe it’s in the Student Advocate VP’s charter to sign if you’re running.

We are looking for Robins Awards presenters. We wouldn’t have everyone present, but who would be interested if your individual in your college wins? We’ll contact you. It would be closer to the event. We’ll let you know so we can keep it a secret for as long as possible.

Business Services wants student name suggestions for the updated auditorium space in this building. Any thoughts?

Senator Karras: Joseph Calliendo, who passed away just recently. The Marv and Joe sandwich is named after him in the Hub. During Engineer’s Week they’re only $2 in memory of Joe Calliendo.

Get ahold of me if you have names. We could call it literally whatever you want. They’ve remodeled it to be more of a multi-purpose use venue, so they’re looking to get student input on the final name, probably because they didn’t ask for input in the first place.

Senator Chamberlain: Sagebrush Hall.

Spencer Bitner: That used to exist, so that’s interesting.

Senator Chamberlain: Someone mentioned that meeting tomorrow night at 5 PM. What is that?

Spencer Bitner: It’s for the USUSA Awards. You’ll meet and have a chat after EC.

Senator Karras: I never received a survey.

Spencer Bitner: You can still vote and tomorrow you’ll come to a consensus.

Senator Dent: To clarify, there’s a meeting at 3:30 and then EC and then the awards meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Scott: Moved / Senator Fry: Second / Voting body: Passed

IN ATTENDANCE: Spencer Bitner, VP Dexton Lake, Senator Jared Fry, Senator Sara Dent, Senator Sakia Brost, Senator Nathan Scott, Senator Rachel Chamberlain, Senator Naomi Ward, Senator Alex Lyons, Senator Tiffanee Bird, Senator Cooper Karras, Assistant Anna Kremnev