CALL TO ORDER

Approval of minutes: Senator Brost: Moved / Senator Fry: Second / Voting body: Passed

Officer accountability

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

VP Lake: Next week is Fee Board at 5. You can eat during the first part. Dr. Morales will give his report from the Executive Committee.

Senator Brost: When we meet next week, is that our final vote?

VP Lake: It’s our final meeting, so yes. We all discuss in that meeting and we will have a final vote after discussing everything.

Senator Brost: How is the spouse card discussion fitting into this?

VP Lake: Dr. Morales just wanted opinions, but it’ll be up to them ultimately.

Senator Brost: I was just wondering if I should share that with my council.

Senator Dent: It’s just going to be increased, not eliminated, right?

VP Lake: Yes. The question is the amount. It’s an excellent feature.

Senator Chamberlain: Would it be up for discussion in changing it to a friend or partner card for anyone who has a partner/friend in Logan who is not in school, instead of just a spouse card?

VP Lake: Bring that idea next week!

We were supposed to meet on February 14th to review Facilities Enhancement Fund applications, but because it’s Valentine’s Day and Higher Ed Day, we’ll push that to Monday after AS.

Review the discussion items from Friday and see if there’s anything you need to follow up on.
Get your letters written by Friday.

Be sure you’re in your office so that candidates that want to declare can find you. You need to go over the charter with them.

Senator Brost CC’d me on a Facilities Enhancement reminder email. Please send those if you haven’t.

Please review the expectation contract. It’s supposed to be in your Box folder (if it’s not in yours it’s in mine, you can find it there).

Would you prefer Costa Vida or Chick-fil-A for fee board? Five for Costa Vida and two for Chick-fil-A.

Excusing Senator Scott since it’s Arts Week and he had an event. Please support him this week.

NEW BUSINESS

Classroom Improvement Fund

Assistant Kremnev: I am the chair of the classroom improvement fund. We made some revisions to the application, which I’d love for you to review before we send it out to everyone in your college. It might even work best if you wander around your buildings and find the places that need some help.

Senator Ward: What’s the difference between facilities enhancement and classroom improvement?

Assistant Kremnev: It’s mostly the scale of it.

VP Lake: When we do facilities enhancement, we avoid doing anything inside a single classroom and instead focus on improving outside the classroom and the security. It’s more for projectors, screens, etc.

Senator Brost: Drinking fountains?

VP Lake: That’s facilities enhancement.

Classroom Improvement is also smaller, around $36,000.

Assistant Kremnev: We only changed dates, but I want you all to be aware of what this is and of the timeline. It’s due March 1, 2020, and then we’ll meet two weeks after that. To submit it they need to have the building, room number, department, overseeing faculty member, a professional bid, and an itemized list. Nothing can begin until the next fiscal year, which is July 1.

Senator Bird: Should we send this with Facilities Enhancement and explain both of them side-by-side?

VP Lake: If you haven’t already, sure.

Senator Brost: I had some faculty ask what the budget is for facilities enhancement last week. Can we share that?

VP Lake: Sure!

Is everybody clear?
Senator Karras: Who sits on Classroom Improvement?

VP Lake: Everyone, and Anna chairs it. And then the only three that don’t sit on Facilities Enhancement is Grad Senator, Senate Pro Tempore, and the Tuition Review Member, and that’s because we needed a better balance, so we had to have three fewer senators.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Senator Bird: We’re trying to have a few smaller events this semester.

The college is looking at how to work out-of-state student teaching and I’ve been able to sit in on discussions and it’s been exciting.

Senator Fry: We picked our Mental Health Week speaker last week. We just need to order our supplies.

I had the first council meeting of the semester and we started planning our last pop-up socials and email collection.

Senator Lyons: We had talked about doing a Year of the Woman STEM panel, but things have changed there. We’re instead working on bringing the head scientist for the International Space Station, who is an Aggie alumna.

Senator Karras: When would you try to bring her?

Senator Lyons: That depends. Probably March or early April. We would really like to work with you on that.

Senator Karras: We would love that. Engineers’ Week is the second-to-last week of February, so that could work, but it might be too early.

Senator Brost: Our new club policy includes a requirement for new clubs to present to the council, just so we have a good idea of what clubs exist. The Equine Illustrations Club is coming this week.

Last week I went to the Dean’s Leadership Council with about 30 students (some council members, some ambassadors) and I shared information about Fee Board and they voted similarly to how we voted. They wanted more information on the video streaming fee. It was just to get software to help stream videos, right?

VP Lake: And covering copywrite.

Senator Brost: I also brought up the Spouse Card. They wanted to know a lot of the same things we did, like when and where it’s being used.

Our chili cookoff is February 22nd in the TSC. All of the proceeds go to help a student in the College of Ag, which is really cool.

I talked to my council about the Engineers’ Week boat race and they’re on board. When is that again?

Senator Karras: It’s the 19th of February.

Senator Brost: How does it work?

Senator Karras: I’ll explain more later.
Senator Dent: The Dean and Associate Dean and I went to the Board of Trustees with an unofficial differential tuition proposal. If it is implemented, we want to ensure we educate students about it as much as possible.

Senator Fry: How much is that increase?

Senator Dent: It’s an increase on the undergraduate 1000- to 2000-level courses. There’s currently a $2 per credit fee, but the proposal is to increase $15 per year for three years, so up to $45 per credit. The goal is to cover the 90% premium that we pay for professors; 80% of our differential tuition goes to paying salaries. In the past five years it has increased from a 60% premium to that 90% premium in order to remain competitive in acquiring faculty. It would only increase students’ tuition $80 per semester over four years since there are only a few classes it affects.

I support it because I understand that we need to remain competitive. I worked with the dean and the board to understand their thoughts and the thoughts of the students. If you know anyone who would be interested in the details, I’d love to talk to them about it.

We’re planning Women’s Week for the week of March 9th. If anyone else is thinking of doing events that week, I’m still up for collaboration.

Senator Lyons: Would you be interested in bringing our speaker that week?

Senator Dent: That would be incredible. That’s the same week Senator Brost is doing things, right?

Senator Brost: Yes, and Paulina.

Senator Karras: Have you reached out to women’s organizations in other colleges, like SWE?

Senator Dent: Not yet, we’re still working on things. I’ll get in touch with them.

Senator Ward: Also Women in Politics

I’m planning a department head round table with my council and restructuring my team a little bit.

Senator Brost: When you figure out when your round table is, I would like to attend so I can figure out how to structure one.

Senator Dent: For sure, it should be soon.

Senator Ward: CHaSS Week is the third week of March. We’ve come up with a couple of new events that we haven’t had in the past and I have a meeting with my dean to discuss that.

We got a new member.

We’re partnering with Series Committee and we’re looking to partner with SAA for our events for CHaSS Week.

Senator Karras: Aggie Fest went well. I think we can improve college participation and student participation. Some of the clubs who tried to reach out to others had success. We don’t know if our other CCC events will be more successful. I’d love to hear your feedback going forward and know if you’re really interested in this. I’m still very passionate about it and have seen it benefit engineers.

Senator Brost: I think doing it the second week of school would be more successful.
Senator Karras: I agree. It was tough. We usually hold our opening social several weeks after the beginning so that people have time to regroup and we don’t compete with other events.

Senator Bird: It wasn’t greatly advertised. Most students didn’t know about it, maybe because students hadn’t been on campus to see things. Day on the Quad is well-known so it works without advertising, but this needs to get bigger before it’s that easy.

Senator Brost: I’ve had a lot of students ask why we can’t have a Day on the Quad in the spring, and really that’s what we’re trying to do

Spencer Bitner: The big thing that makes Day on the Quad successful is the Connections classes. If we could somehow implement extra credit or credit clubs, those are successful incentives. I think it was successful to tie in with other clubs. I’m not sure if there would be time any other week, so I feel like this was a great step in the right direction.

Senator Karras: It was our first year doing a lot of this, so it makes sense that there were hiccups.

Senator Ward: I think everyone’s familiar with Day on the Quad so if we could somehow connect it to that branding that would be effective!

Senator Karras: If we want it to be more like Day on the Quad, we probably need to have more free stuff, food trucks, and other common Day on the Quad features. We’ll keep it for next year.

Thank you, College of Ag, for participating in the boat race. That is Wednesday of Engineers’ Week. We’ll get directions and registration out soon, but basically clubs need to be there at 6:45 with their pre-made boat. There are two people in the boat, the biggest it can be is 3.5 feet by 7 feet, and it must have at least 6-inch-high walls. It can only be cardboard and duct tape. If you register early, you can get a free roll of duct tape to help.

Senator Lyons: Can you add paddles out of duct tape and cardboard?

Senator Karras: No, it just has to be your hands.

It’s traditionally a race to see who can get across the pool and back. This year we’re adding a buoyancy challenge since people usually float in and sink their boats for fun afterward. The boat can be bigger in this contest. For example, last year I built a boat that held seven people. You have to cover every inch of cardboard with duct tape so that it doesn’t wither away in the pool.

Senator Brost: What’s the incentive?

Senator Karras: There are lots of prizes, gift cards, giveaways, rubber duckies, duct tape, and then we’ll also have gag consolation prizes for losers.

We want more crowd participation, so bring your committees even if you don’t build a boat. We’ll be throwing sponges, squirting water, etc. We want it to be fun and casual.

We have 20+ events in four days that week. There are lots of ways to participate.

We have a couple of Facilities Enhancement requests coming in shortly. One of them is the engineering lab building.

I’m looking for information about how IDEA surveys are used in my college. I want to get input on how other colleges use them and be able to suggest it to my administration.
I’m trying to get opinion from students about the proposed fees for next week.

Senator Chamberlain: Our first council meeting is next week. We’re preparing for NR Week. We have a speaker lined up, Emma Marris, but she’ll come after NR Week.

We’re planning a Welcome Back Breakfast to start the semester.

We’re gathering input on student fees.

ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spencer Bitner: Senator Scott is at a mental health lecture right now until 6 in the Daines. Battle of the Bands is tomorrow. Every Brilliant Thing is Wednesday. Paint Night is on Thursday. The Masquerade Ball is on Friday at 9 I believe.

Thank you for helping with Clue last week! It was really successful for a first-time event and it served a very diverse group that we normally don’t serve.

Thank you for taking the feedback and reflection survey from the retreat. We’re looking through those and we’ll contact you if anything needs to be followed up on.

There are four of you who haven’t scheduled one-on-ones with me, so we’ll figure that out.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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