



UtahStateUniversity™ STUDENT ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

10/24/2017 | 4:00 PM | USUSA Senate Chamber

CALL TO ORDER AND THE FIGHT SONG

Approval of minutes: VP Ambuehl: **Moved** / VP Yoshikawa: **Second** / **Passed**

Officer accountability

PUBLIC FORUM

Senator Olson: I am on the Calendar Committee. They plan the academic calendar three years out. This affects everything from when breaks are taken to finals week. One of the items of controversy is changing the finals week of spring semester. Currently we have 73 days calendared in the spring, and only 70 are required. They want to make it so we shave off those days so we get out of school earlier. There are a few reasons for that. Currently we have finals week Monday to Friday, and that cuts into graduation. John Mortensen came up with two options. In regard to holding Friday classes on a Thursday like we currently do, they are planning on axing that. That is probably going to happen for Fall Break and Presidents Day. Less than half of Friday classes were actually held this Fall Break. One of the main options I want your feedback on is to cut spring semester down to 70 days. This would move finals to Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, with an interim day the previous Wednesday. This would make it so we can be out of class that Wednesday. Option two is essentially the same, but the interim day would be the previous Thursday and finals would go until the Thursday of finals week. My job is to get feedback from you all. Any questions?

President Peters: This would be a year out?

Senator Olson: Correct. This would be Spring 2019.

VP Brown: How many days are in the fall?

Senator Olson: We currently operate on a 70 day schedule for fall.

VP Ambuehl: Is there still no test week before?

Senator Olson: It would just start five days before.

VP Harms: In AS, we did a straw poll, and everyone was unanimously in favor of option one.

Senator Olson: There are a lot of facets to this. Speak as students for this.

VP Ambuehl: The 71 day option would add one class period?

Senator Olson: Yes, it would try to fix that disparity. What are the general thoughts about this?

President Peters: Is there an option to remain with the status quo?

Senator Olson: That is an option, yes. They would like to change it, though.

VP Brady: Have you talked to specific departments that hold their classes on certain days? Does this impact them at all?

Senator Olson: I haven't heard any specific interests like that. There were four or five different departments on the committee, and they didn't have any concerns with that.

VP Ambuehl: So the main reason for this it to give more time for graduation and to give more time for students to get to internships, etc.?

Senator Olson: Correct. There are other concerns as well. For example, the testing center. It gives them more time to plan and more students can be served.

VP T. Brown: From a professor's point of view, I think option two makes more sense. From a student's, I think option one makes more sense.

VP Ambuehl: I agree. It gives a bigger break up.

VP Brady: So the testing center would allow you to take finals on Saturday?

Senator Olson: Correct. Can we take a straw poll? Option one is 70 days. Option two is 71 days.

Straw poll: **Option one: 9 / Option two: 0**

VP Brady: We have canceled all future meetings with the freshman support group I have been working with. There was not a lot of attendance. If people ask, it has been canceled.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Peters: USU Eastern have decided on a date for the exchange. It will be this Friday. We are excited to host the officers. We want to make sure we show the same hospitality to our fellow Eagles and Aggies from Price. They will arrive around 11 a.m. I will take care of a campus tour. If you are available from noon to 2 this Friday, we will have lunch and share remarks. We will go to the classroom and do the officer exchange there. Who can come?

VP B. Brown: What if I came at 12:15?

President Peters: That's fine.

[Todd, Spencer, Jacob, Anuj, and Bridget will be there.]

President Peters: After the exchange, they are helping decorate for the Howl. This should be fun!

VP T. Brown: They don't have service center person coming up. Is there a counterpart for me

coming?

President Peters: I'm not sure how their structure works, but we'll learn about that more this Friday. We'll work things out.

COUNCIL UPDATES

President Peters: An update from PCAB: We've been working hard on five initiatives. The most prevalent right now is Aggie Heroes. It will be showcased a week from tomorrow night in the TSC ballroom at 7 p.m. It's eight student speakers who will take the stage and share an experience they've been through. One student was in a car accident and talks about his experience going through that. At his lowest of lows, he decided to keep going. We will also be featuring Alison Berg to share her story with us. Heroes are all around campus. We all have a story to share. We want to let the students in the audience know they are not alone. The purpose of this is to have students supporting other students. We premiered video one last week, and we are going to watch video two now. [Shows video.] What are your thoughts?

VP Brady: Move that montage back so everyone says "I'm an Aggie Hero" at the same time.

VP T. Brown: I think either have subtitles on everything or not at all.

President Peters: Right. It's kind of tricky with the different languages.

VP B. Brown: Maybe say what language it is in the subtitles.

VP Harms: It might be funny to show all the languages at the same time.

President Peters: Did we get posts on social media?

VP Ambuehl: I've seen posts on personal accounts.

President Peters: Let's see if we can get some help from USUSA posting.

VP Harms: We were visited by Megan Fisher this week in AS and they've asked us to put on a service fundraiser, so we will be brainstorming specifics. Science week is coming up the 6th through the 12th of November, and Education week is the week after. The Tippets gallery is open. The engineering school is having a scary movie on Thursday at 7 on the third floor of the engineering building. CHaSS is having poetry in the dark at the same time, and I think Grant planned that specifically for spite. National Food Day is Thursday, and the nutritionists are partnering with the Ag college to have a food diet day from 10:30 to 1.

VP T. Brown: When will this service thing with Megan be held?

VP Harms: It will be the same week as Thank You Week. Friday, November 2.

VP Ambuehl: Can I come talk to Academic Senate about Hurd stuff?

VP Harms: Either come to public forum or email Dallin to get on the agenda.

VP Ambuehl: Thursday is a volleyball game at 7. They have a best sign competition. Soccer game at 3 on Friday. Last home game. 100 free t-shirts. Volleyball game at 12 on Saturday, and the football game at 8 vs. Boise State. Free beanies for students. Basketball season starts November 3. One thing I'm trying to focus on is pre-game things for basketball. We want an amped up atmosphere before the games.

VP Yoshikawa: We have Mr. and Miss International coming up on the 17th of November. If you could help promote, that would be great. The whole month of November is Native American appreciation month. There will be a few months going on throughout the month. If you could share advertisements with your councils, that would be great. This is something I should talk about in AS, but we've been getting requests from departmental clubs for USUSA funding.

VP Harms: You don't want that. Tell them to stop? [Chuckles.]

VP Yoshikawa: I'll come next Monday to AS.

VP Ambuehl: Before the Boise State game, we are going to have a flag from all 88 countries at USU run out onto the field.

VP B. Brown: Tomorrow is our political fair and meet the candidates night hosted by GRC. 11-2 in the lounges for the political fair, and in the evening from 7 to 8:30 is meet the candidates night. It will be one-on-one conversations with students, and then they will give their platforms.

VP Aratari: Tomorrow at 5:30 is the volunteer meeting for the Howl. We will be doing Upstander training, so bring your committees. 7:30 is the passion workshop. On Thursday we are doing, at one o'clock decorating for the Howl. At 7:30 is Moonlight and Music. On Friday at 9 a.m. is more decorations. Friday at 12 we are meeting in the Field House to do the stage. We meet for evening festivities at 6 p.m.

VP Ambuehl: I didn't put my name on the thing, is that ok?

VP Aratari: Yes. You won't be a lead, but that's ok.

VP Brady: 6 o'clock on Friday is mandatory?

VP Aratari: Yes. If you're going to be at TEDx, let Meghan know.

VP T. Brown: If you can't make it tomorrow at 5:30, you can't help?

VP Aratari: Talk to Meghan.

Kevin: I think there is an update for the Field House time. I think Marcus is coming at 10. Focus mostly on TSC stuff.

VP T. Brown: Two things: Stuff-a-Bus is coming up in November, and applications for the spring alternative break to Guatemala is due December 1st. If you could tell your councils, that would be awesome.

VP Brady: True Aggie night November 4th. A more low key one. You have to kiss another True Aggie for this one. Alumnight this week is probably canceled this week. We have one planned next week Thursday. If you haven't signed up for the leadership bowl, please do that by the end of the day.

VP Aratari: With the leadership bowl, can we pass that long to our committees?

VP Yoshikawa: I don't think so.

VP Brady: The more people who sign up, the less you get to play. I think the ambassadors, A-team, Hurd, and SAA are the organizations that are invited. We also provide food, so we have to take that into consideration. It sucks because we want to include everyone, but we have to look at it logistically.

Director Perry: Just a couple things--we're in trouble with getting the picture taken care of, but not really. Dress code is decided, but timing is an issue. Quick straw poll, who would be ok early morning? [Everyone.] Ok, we'll do a follow up Doodle poll and find a good morning to do it. We have two photographers hired. We are excited about that.

Senator Khasgiwala: Last week I worked on testing Yammer. We found a bug--two different networks for these students. Alan is working on fixing that, and then we can start with the promotion process. It is easy to get undergrads on it, but not with grad students. I discussed Mental Health Week with Ty this weekend.

NEW BUSINESS

VP Harms: Be meeting with your fee administrators and forming committees.

ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kevin: Linda is out. Depending on travel things, she will be back Thursday morning or afternoon. I'm here and I'm not scary. On Friday at noon we are going to do a little lunch thing for the FIJI guys at noon. This is their last week here recruiting.

VP Yoshikawa: How many ended up joining?

Kevin: Mid to high twenties.

Who can attend the exchange on Friday? I'll email Linda and see if I can get excusals.

ADJOURNMENT: VP B. Brown: **Moved** / VP Harms: **Second / Adjourned**

IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin Webb, President Michael Peters, VP Blake Harms, VP Jakob Ambuehl, VP Todd Brown, VP Bridget Baldwin, VP Brendon Brady, VP Joseph Aratari, VP Chelsea Yoshikawa, Senator Anuj Khasgiwala, Director Spencer Perry, Assistant Dallin Johnson, Alison Berg, Senator Erik Olson, Senator Rebecca Thomas, David Higashi