



## UtahStateUniversity™ STUDENT ASSOCIATION

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

8/29/2017 | 4:00 PM | USUSA Senate Chamber

#### CALL TO ORDER & THE SCOTSMAN

Approval of minutes: VP Brady: **Moved** / VP Harms: **Second** / **Passed**

#### PUBLIC FORUM

**John Mortensen:**

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs. First, wants to be a resource to us to help us get our ideas through—navigate committees, etc. The other thing is a proposed change to the academic calendar. This is simple enough that it could get approved fairly easily. For years, the policy has been, with fall break, for example, that we attend our Friday classes the Thursday before Fall break. The reasoning behind that is to even out MWF and TTh classes. [In the fall, there are 70 instruction days—currently, 14 Mondays, 15 Tuesdays, 14 Wednesdays, 13 Thursdays, and 14 Fridays. Could change to 14 Mondays, 15 Tuesdays, 14 Wednesdays, 14 Thursdays, and 13 Fridays. In the spring there are 73 instruction days—currently, 14 Mondays, 14 Tuesdays, 15 Wednesdays, 15 Thursdays, and 15 Fridays. Could change to 13 Mondays, 15 Tuesdays, 15 Wednesdays, 15 Thursdays, and 15 Fridays.] There are problems with that—jobs, commitments, babysitters, etc. that don't align with changed class schedules. For the most part, those days seem to be wasted—many professors cancel classes those days. Other schools in the state do not do the same thing. John thinks we should get rid of it. Will be meeting with department heads, etc. in the coming weeks. This will be proposed to the calendar committee in their next meeting. Does EC have any concerns?

VP Harms: **Talked to friends yesterday about this idea. The feedback from people that agree with the current system is that they support it if they don't like the class that's getting skipped over.**

VP Brown: **Have you heard from professors one way or another what they think about it?**

John: **Not yet. Will be bouncing it off professors soon. If this were to be approved, the earliest it would take effect is Fall 2018.**

VP Baldwin: **In CHASS, most professors cancel classes those days anyway. In full support.**

John: Let us know if there is any reason not to change the current system.

VP Brady: Would this affect the business school, since they don't have Friday classes anyway?

John: They would attend their Thursday classes instead of having a day off.

VP Aratari: Labs will typically be cancelled all week if one day during the week is off.

John: I've heard similar feedback from the science senator.

VP Yoshikawa: Wouldn't there be an imbalance if there were one-day classes on those days?

John: Yeah, the instructor would somehow have to make adjustments. Instructors could switch their classes to a different day of the week.

President Peters: Any other questions?

Linda: Fun fact: John is on the wall over here. He was Athletics and Campus Rec VP. John also ordered our very first Big Blue mascot when he was Athletics VP.

John: It was royal blue and had real horns. It was hard to maneuver in. The next VP after me didn't want anything to do with it. After I went out of office, nobody would take the lead on it. Fortunately, nobody chucked the costume, and a student volunteered to bring it back.

#### **Alison Berg:** Introduction

President Peters: Alison has been writing for the Statesman for sometime. Writes very good articles. If you have anything you'd like to float by her, please reach out.

#### **Senator Lieber:**

Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge — 93 campuses around the nation are competing to be the most "outdoorsy" campus. Download an app starting mid-September. Activities, sponsors, etc. Competition opens September 18, and the opening of Caas Week is September 18. Senator Lieber needs help developing this event. The competitions runs from Sept. 18 to October 15. What do you have going on that month, and do you have anything we can do to piggyback on that competition? Also, the Monday of CAAS week, we've considered having a CAAS campout. We want to make it possible, but it is coming up so quick. Joe, do you have any directors that would want to take up some extra responsibility?

VP Brady: Could happen at First Dam. Would cost more with buses, but SAA events in the past have been successful.

VP Harms: Have you connected with all the Outdoor Programs on campus yet? ORP?

Senator Lieber: Chase, the marketing guy with Outdoor Product Design (OPD), has reached out to those people. They know about it.

VP Yoshikawa: Is OPD not in NR? (No) There was a laser tag/dodgeball tournament all in one when the ARC opened. The place was packed. I don't know if that's technically

outdoorsy.

VP Ambuehl: Point of clarification: Is the focus a fun outdoor campout to rack up points?

Senator Lieber: Yes, the objective is to raise awareness about the competition.

President Peters: Is there any way we could incorporate our travels to San Jose? Campout on the beach? Sharing stuff on social media?

VP Baldwin: Is there anyway we can involve the community?

Senator Lieber: Yes. You don't have to attend USU. You just have to affiliate yourself with USU. If your grandma is an Aggies fan, gardening is one of them. She could log her hours. This is a bigger project than I can handle alone. My focus is the event during my week. If you have any good ideas, you can forward them to me and I can forward them to Chase.

VP Brown: I can forward this on, but we have a nature center that would love a project. On campus we have the Community Engagement Center. I'm sure sustainability organizations would love to do stuff too. I can send you their emails.

Senator Lieber: Could this be successful on Monday night?

VP Brady: Family Home Evening. I don't know if overnight would affect that.

Senator Lieber: Reach out to me with ideas. Mostly want you guys to catch the vision of this. Could be a big selling point for the university as a whole. Thanks.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### USUSA Officer Expectations Contract Signing

VP Ambuehl: Quick question. Is KD ditto ok?

President Peters: Sure.

### Summer Goals Follow-up / Review Campaign Platform

President Peters: Go around the circle and review how they used their summers to meet their goals and what our plans are going forward.

VP Baldwin: Did a lot of reflecting. Read through charter probably 10 times to figure out her role on campus. Her council has strayed from its original purpose. Has met with council and representatives around town to establish better connections with local and state governments. Wants to create a non-biased hub for USU's government interests. Goals: big disconnect between city government and USUSA—wants to establish better connection with city council. Re-establish that connection, rather.

Director Perry: Put more information/USUSA content online. Updating websites. Been a lot of work, but worth it. Highlight the officers. Over the long-term it's going to be really good for everybody. Worked with the IT department this summer to update the app—get events in your pocket.

**President Peters:** The calendar feature on the app is really cool. Went straight into my Google Calendar

**VP Aratari:** Read through Ryan's notes on the carnival. Wants to give back to students to be more involved. Went to several of the orientations. Let them know we're always willing to have people come in. Organized a diverse council. Rebuilt the programming board over the summer. Everyone is on board to keep this committee going. Blue Crew is outreaching like crazy. We have liaisons for every position.

**VP Brady:** Biggest goal is to make SAA accessible to more students and eventually all students. Most students don't know what it is, or that they're already a member. Wants to do a PR campaign to show the students what SAA is and what USUSA as a whole is. We know how everything works, but most students don't. Excited to work with Spencer on it.

**VP Yoshikawa:** Previously, position has been looked at two-partedly. However, a lot of diversity events would benefit clubs events and clubs events would benefit diversity events. Wants to unify the two. Has been working with Rob Llewellyn to create a mentorship program for international students. Has worked with A-team to learn how to join a club. Clubs are excited to get new members outside of day on the quad.

**President Peters:** Biggest focus has been to enrich the cultural experience—recognizing students for what they're doing on their campus. Had chances to travel—to DC and Illinois—to bring our school some national recognition. Hopefully the Israel trip will bring recognition on the international level. Wants to create a statewide campaign with billboards that will say "Welcome to our (U) state!" at the entrances to our state borders. It will have our logo and our website on it. They will also be along I-15. This is a project with the Board of Trustees to further the "I'm an Aggie" campaign. There is something very special about Utah State University. That's the platform I'm most excited about.

**VP Harms:** Worked with Brendon to start working on increasing networking. Help students get mentorship for the jobs they want in the future. The other thing is about wait-lists. They have hired three new faculty, so that has worked in my favor.

**Senator Khasgiwala:** Has been working on making the graduate process more smooth. Also organized a video call to help all the international students come here. Also started working on Mental Health Week with the grad council. Was also working on making some networking. Also working on establishing communication platforms between all grad students.

**President Peters:** Do you have dates for Mental Health Week? Let's find out about that and see how we can help.

**VP Baldwin:** I also want to help with that.

**VP Brown:** One of my initiatives was to make the service center a more inviting place. The new logo outside the service center is part of that. Please thank my advisor, Nelda. She is amazing. Another thing is to collaborate more with organizations around campus. We are doing a dance marathon on November 3. Does anybody know when housing's meetings are?

**VP Baldwin:** I know an RA I can text.

**VP Yoshikawa:** Did you email the advisor for RHA?

**VP Ambuehl:** Matt Anderson. Reach out to him.

Senator Khasgiwala: Also reach out to Peterson in Admissions Office in the TSC.

VP Ambuehl: Dance marathon. Main goal is to streamline the Hurd Committee and streamline its professionalism. It wasn't effective last year. Kicked out all the roles and shortened the numbers. Instead of 40 or 50, we have 18. Smaller numbers because there is not enough work for that many people. Goal to increase attendance at women's sports. Tried to plan out from incredibly far back. Trying to focus from win/lose to social events where we have fun, regardless if we win or lose.

## COUNCIL UPDATES

President Peters: If there are things that are relevant to this week, please update us. You can also yield your time. For us, we have chosen nine new members for PCAB. We have about 42 members total. We can let you know who they are if they are applying for other positions as well. We will be encouraging those who didn't make it to get involved. Yield.

VP Harms: Yield.

VP Ambuehl: First Hurd meeting tonight. Wants to echo Joe.

VP Yoshikawa: While working the Information Booth, someone asked if we had councils they could be a part of. Has collected emails of people who are wondering if they could still apply for positions. Yield.

VP Baldwin: Did they pinpoint what they want to get involved with?

VP Yoshikawa: Mainly talked about clubs and diversity. We can just keep each other updated if we have spots open throughout the year. Yield.

VP Baldwin: MyVoice. They have fixed it so now students' emails will come through. In regard to the email from earlier, it has been fixed.

VP Ambuehl: Respond with our emails or through MyVoice?

VP Baldwin: Through MyVoice, but include your information. Yield.

VP Aratari: Thank you to those who attended last night's first events. Very successful. Those firepits we purchased can be used for any of us. Please use them. Our volunteers are incredible. Day on the Quad setup went so fast. SAA social and Light on the Hill tonight. Please be there at 8:30 tomorrow morning to help with Day on the Quad. Need help with takedown as well. Bingo on Thursday. Friday night tailgate and True Aggie night. Really wants to encourage us to show an environment/atmosphere of being at events, helping to clean up, etc. Weeks of Welcome is the time for new Aggies to learn why they love USU. Yield.

VP Brown: Wants to make our campus tobacco free. If you are passionate about this, please reach out to me. Wants to thank Joe for putting the service opening social on the WoW calendar. Yield.

VP Brady: Opening social tonight. 5-7. Then please go to Light on the Hill. Probably won't need volunteers at True Aggie night, but come and have some fun. We are picking our committees, so please let anyone know if they would like to get involved. Yield.

Director Perry: Yield.

Senator Khasgiwala: Yield.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## NEW BUSINESS

President Peters: We have an exciting weekend for two of our VPs.

## ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda: set up weekly meetings with advisors. Tomorrow is Day on the Quad. Wear polo shirts to welcome students. We love you to come to events, but when you do come, we need you working. Don't make it a strictly social activity. Be a good example to the volunteers.

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Linda Zimmerman, Alison Berg, 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, Senator Heather Lieber