CALL TO ORDER AND THE SCOTSMAN / FIGHT SONG / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Approval of minutes: VP Smith: Moved / VP Tatom: Second / Passed

PUBLIC FORUM

Emmalee Fishburn - Sexual Violence Prevention

Emmalee: My role is coordinating sexual violence prevention efforts across campus. This includes the mandatory online program for first year students and staff, campaigns, awareness, etc. The reason I am here is to get a snapshot of concerns you have related to the issue, ways I can partner with you and anything you think I should be aware of.

VP Jackson: I have sat in on a few of the Title IX coordinator presentations as well as on the Sexual Violence Taskforce. I have mentioned in these meetings is that we should eliminate the stigma towards Title IX and the reporting office in general. A lot of students feel intimidated by the office. I think it would be good to make a more integrated effort, even through USUSA, to put a face to the name. Take the time to meet with us and talk to students, host an informal, welcoming event. I know a lot of students who are afraid to report or who have been accused and are afraid that Title IX will take over their life. I would like to see more integration with student life and events.

VP Johnson: I think it would be helpful for some form of a campaign to help alter the way students perceive the reality of sexual assault across campus. A lot of students perceive sexual assault is that it happens in the bushes when, in reality, it is people who are the most close to you. Discuss ways to avoid that and the connection between alcohol and sexual assault, especially on this campus, and the stigma associated with sexual assault survivors.

Senator Hall: I have had a students divulge information I need to report to Title IX. As an instructor, I was aware how to report that. I am still not sure what to do after I report that.

Emmalee: After the report is made, really it is providing the support the student needs, it may not be anything, it may be something. There is a chance someone from Title IX reaches out to you and encourage you to make further action.. Once the report is made, there is no required further obligation. Referring them to resources is also helpful.

Senator Hall: I think it would be helpful for faculty and instructors to know what we can do to help students and what our report initiates, whether that is a full investigation, etc. Even if we are not involved in the rest of the process it would be nice to know what the process is.

VP Greer: I had a similar experience where I had to report something. After I did, I didn’t know what I should
do and if I should tell the student. I wasn't sure if it was okay to tell the student what happened in the meeting. It would have been helpful if the Title IX officer had clarified things with me. I wasn't sure what to do with that student.

Emmalee: That is hard too because you want to respect that students confidentiality.

VP Johnson: As a university employee, you have to express that as an official employee you will have to report to Title IX what they confide in you. Is that something we have to do in this position as well?

Emmalee: Yes. You do have an option to report an online care concern about a fellow student. It is nothing mandatory.

Linda: It’s not mandatory. However, if you work on campus, that puts you in a different position

VP Johnson: Do we have an amnesty clause at USU and is it actually comprehensive?

Emmalee: Yes we do have an amnesty clause. Comprehensiveness in what way?

VP Johnson: I want it to be clearly laid out that a student who experiences sexual assault knows that if they report there are protections for them.

Emmalee: Yes it does provide protection. However, students don’t always believe that it will always be enforced. There can always be more messages about that. Holding staff more accountable to the amnesty clause is important. I believe there should be better awareness on the amnesty clause. I have noticed that it really isn’t visible anywhere.

President Hunsaker: The way we have the conversation about how we conversate. We need to have conversations about correcting the ‘locker room talk.’ I would love to have President’s Cabinet part of this and help you in any way that you see fit to further the education.

Emmalee: I have noticed that there is a lot more behaviors on sexual harassment and discrimination than sexual assault and rape. Those are behaviors that are easier to correct than acts of sexual violence but they also create an cultural acceptance of sexual violence as a result which are precursors to those other behaviors. As I come through and do trainings, that ‘locker room talk’ and other behaviors are going to be discussed.

President Hunsaker: One last thing, talking about consent and the grey areas of sexual assault is important. Sexual assault isn’t just rape, but the myth is that’s what it is.

Emmalee: The education doesn’t go as in depth about consent as I would like it to. Consent is part of our daily lives. We have to have consent to do everything we do everyday. We need to teach students they are practicing consent every day. Thank you for your feedback, if anything comes to mind, please be in touch with me.

Sierra Wise - Faculty Code and the Piano Pedagogy Program

Sierra: This is regarding the history of sexual misconduct that has happened in the piano department. In August 2017, after being notified of problems in the piano department through Title IX, the coordinator of the Piano Program, Gary Amano, was put on a forced sabbatical. Currently administrative leave does not exist. In February 2018, former students from the piano program came forward in social media to report their experiences of harassment and rape. On February 15, 2018, USU hired an outside attorney to investigate those allegations. On April 6, the findings of the investigations were released and Gary Amano retired before he could be publicly fired by the university. In Spring 2018, students campaigned for the protection of Dennis Hirst who received a professional reprimand but was not removed from the program. In September, Jaime Caliendo came forward with allegations of sexual assault against Dennis Hirst and is pressing changes in a civil case. Around that same time, students who had campaigned for the removal of Dennis Hirst from the program, were now campaigning to remove him from the program. In
September, Dennis was reassigned to a position where he will work from home and have no contact with students. He was not on leave but they simply changed his position. He is not on administrative leave. In September, the university publicly launched an investigation against Dennis Hirst. There was a private investigation going on prior to Jaime’s allegations. That was done privately to prevent tampering with evidence which is why students were not notified. When Jaime stepped forward, that was when the university announced their investigation. Here are the findings of the Sullivan investigations. Beginning in 1994, students and parents have reported sexual harassment and assaults against 4 specific faculty. The program found guilty of psychological abuse and vindictiveness, graduation was withheld from certain students and they found that drugs and alcohol were involved in the assaults. Actions that have been taken was that Amano was removed and barred from the university, Hirst was initially given professional reprimand but has been reassigned, the college is now developing a new standard for faculty behavior and Title IX is being restructured to bring positive change. There are still issues facing students. Just last week the intern piano director, when allegations came out against Hirst, he met with university administration about his concerns and when his concerns were not addressed in a timely manner, he resigned. This is leaving us down two faculty positions. According to the Annual Review of Faculty, there are confusing semantics. Under the code, it says, “Such reviews shall, at a minimum, incorporate an analysis of the fulfillment of the role statement. The basic standard for appraisal shall be whether the faculty member under review discharges conscientiously and with professional competence the duties appropriately associated with his or her position.” Basically, the language they struggle with is professional competence vs conduct. Currently faculty are reviewed on their professional competence. How they treat students is not part of their conversations once they reach tenure. Additionally, administrative leave does not exist. There is language that a professor can be dismissed if there is a danger to students. That language is confusing. It is a general statement and the judgement call they would have to make puts the university in a really hard liability issue. Title IX communication is on a need to know basis. Talking to Cindy Dewey, at the time when Amano was dismissed, she had only been notified of one of those four reports only because the student who had filed it had a relationship with her and felt comfortable telling her about it. Because things are confidential through Title IX, people can only get information as that organization sees fit. I feel if there are Title IX reports being made at the university that their department head or whoever the next in line person should know. My call to action is a resolution to the faculty code. According to Cindy Dewey, once you hit department head and above, it can be seen as a conflict of interest if there are changes you want to make to the Faculty Code. I am really hoping that you have an understanding of why this resolution is being written. VP Jackson and VP Smith are working with me on this. If you are interested, please reach out to me. We are creating a google doc for anybody who wants to make suggested edits to the Faculty Code. Please speak with students and ask them their position on the Faculty Code. Also, please refer students who need additional services to CAPS, SAAVI and Title IX.

President Hunsaker: Have you talked to Becki Lawver, the Faculty Senate chair?

Sierra: No but I will send her an email.

President Hunsaker: She would be awesome to work with. Yesterday in faculty senate, they were talking about a discrimination clause.

Sierra: I have been talking about it to my Faculty Senator. There is language about discrimination and harassment but the language is really vague. Until we fix this language, student’s aren’t safe. This could happen again. We need a better procedure and a more clear cut process.

VP Johnson: Is the addition of that discrimination clause going to be written into this?

Sierra: Yeah, we will write it into this. I know faculty senate is already talking about this so I don’t want to step on any toes there. Essentially, we know that Faculty Senate can take a while to pass things. I hope that by drafting this they will see that there is student support and can help expedite that process. As an additional measure, once we have this resolution, if you wouldn’t mind spreading the word about why we are revising the faculty code and why it is important. I am
hoping that involving more students on this would make this move quicker.

President Hunsaker: My understanding of how faculty code is written, they take ideas of what they want changed and send them to PRPC and they write it from there. Everything that goes before Faculty Senate is an idea and it gets sent and comes back and gets reviewed from the body.

Sierra: Yes, and that’s what I mean why we don’t have legislative power over the Faculty Senate which is why this is a resolution.

Linda: Do you have an estimated time of when you want this resolution through? President Hunsaker will have to hold a Staters council to get a few items of legislation on the table to get moving forward.

Sierra: I told AS yesterday that we will have about two weeks to go over the Faculty code. I think we will have a good idea at the one week mark and get moving.

VP Smith: I recently learned about PRPC. It is a subcommittee under Faculty Senate. If there is going to be any revisions to Faculty code, it has to originate there. I have a professor who sits on it and I can get you in contact with them. If anyone else is interested in this, minutes were sent out from the Faculty Senate yesterday for clarification on the discrimination clause. Have you considered doing a town hall on this?

Sierra: Yes, that was suggested to me. USU has been selected for the For Freedoms Expedition that will be in the Tippetts Gallery. It is discussing the intersection between politics and the art community. We are on par with the top design schools in the nation. They had a town hall last night. The hope for this, is that it will be up for a year and they also want to have town halls integrated into it. We want to have a town hall specifically to talk about Title IX and the Faculty Code. I would be more than happy to expand that out to include the wider university community. Do you think the best way to revise the Faculty Code, if we pass a resolution, based on the bodies we have to go through, do you think a resolution is the best approach?

Linda: I would definitely send through Stater’s Council fist. They can approve some of those items of legislation and they can give you guidance of where to go next.

President Hunsaker: What are the possibilities of having a reading next week?

Sierra: I can make it happen.

President Hunsaker: We have this one and a Regional Campus one as well. We can do those two readings in the next two weeks and then we can get a Stater’s Council going as soon as possible. We will have four or five different resolutions. I think it will be really cool to bring Stater’s Council in to talk about all the work we have been able to do, let’s move these forward. If we can have this ready for next week, I would love that.

Sierra: AS has a google doc we are going to work on this on. Is there anyone else who feels strongly on this? If any of you want to be included on this, shoot me a message.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Hunsaker: I will be meeting with my PCAB directors about initiatives and ways we can help you all. Again, if there is anything that PCAB can help with, let’s be in communication. I know we will work with Light the Night. If you have any ideas, I would love to hear them. On Friday, Utah Student Association will meet at the U. If you would like to pass anything pertaining statewide along, let me know. I have been talking to Levens and I am pretty sure everyone’s suits are there and ready, except for Maxx’s.

ACADEMIC SENATE REPORT

VP Smith: We had Emmalee Fishburn come yesterday and Sierra Wise came and presented as well. NR’s Hammock and Hang went decently well. They want to do socials once a month. They have Loggers Ball
booked and had a climate change forum last night. CHaSS is getting QPR trained. Engineering is working on a haunted Halloween event. There is some legislation that Senator Olson is working on. Science is working on their podcast, the name will be Outside the Beaker. Arts is working on getting their counselor who will work part time in their college and part time for CAPS. I am working on a statement of support from AS and will probably be approaching you individually. It is basically a statement to the provost saying there is a center for instructional design to give teachers more resources to improve their teaching. They are trying to expand their resources to get faculty more resources to improve their teaching quality. This letter would be from AS to show support for this. Once the letter is finished, I may be approaching you guys to sign it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ECR 2019-02: Mental Health Syllabus Resources

[Reading of ECR 2019-02: Mental Health Syllabus Resources]

VP Jackson: The part that is changed is the last section. On the website there is nothing that explicitly states that serious mental health crisis/sexual assault are not reasons to take an incomplete or a withdrawal. It is my understanding it is considered an emergency deemed by the instructor. I wanted to get your opinion on that. Should I keep it as it is written or change it so those are included in those policies.

Senator Hall: I think that not every student might ask for this. As it is stated right now is good rather than stating explicitly sexual assault incident as a separate thing.

VP Jackson: Motion to Pass ECR 2019-02 as Second Reading / VP Stoker: Second /

Senator Hall: Don’t we need to motion to change the ‘or’?

VP Jackson: Motion to table that vote / VP Tatom: Second / Passed

VP Jackson: Motion to make minor grammatical changes / VP Tatom: Second / Passed

VP Smith: Where it says, ‘including a serious mental health’, is that part of the W/I policy?

VP Jackson: It is not explicitly stated but that is the point of this resolution.

VP Smith: Would you think about changing it to, ‘included but not limited to’?

VP Jackson: Yeah, that’s fine.

VP Griffith: If this is about mental health and sexual assault. Can sexual assault be added to the tags?

VP Smith: The resolution is to add these additional clauses. Would you want to rearrange it so that those clauses are added to the list including the death of a family member? In the I policy it says there are extenuating circumstances with a list of what falls under that category. Do we want to add these under that list?

Senator Hall: I think it appropriate to have it as it is written now. It was written as a piece of the list, not every student who goes through one of these things would necessarily be asking for a I or W.

VP Smith: My only hesitation would be when it says, ‘other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor’ and I wouldn’t want someone to interpret this that the instructor has the ability to determine a serious mental health crisis as appropriate for an I. Moving it to the other list would give it back to the student.

Senator Hall: would also be a hesitant move when this goes to the next committee.. The faculty
and instructors are highly encouraged to work with students who have one of these incidents. Especially when it has been reported or they are receiving services on campus for. Putting it separately might make faculty more hesitant to add this.

VP Jackson: I think the purpose of this is not to change but to expound on what is already there. A mental health crisis or a sexual assault incident are emergencies and are appropriate to have an I in the clas.

VP Smith: I was personally in a situation where I wanted an I. Getting an I or W, nobody wanted to work with me on this. I would want to give the student’s as much flexibility as we can. What happened to me happened to another student as well.

VP Jackson: I think you are right. I think that this could be a separate issue we can look at. The purpose of this is not to change anything in the code but to expound what is already in there. That is certainly something we can look into. That can be a whole new resolution to make I or W easier for students and a system is in place for that.

VP Jackson: Motion to add Sexual Assault as a tag / VP Griffith: Second / Passed

VP Jackson: Motion to add ‘Including but not limited to’ on line 38 / VP Tatom: Second / Passed

VP Jackson: Motion to Pass ECR 2019-02 as Second Reading / Senator Hall: Second / Passed

NEW BUSINESS

VP Johnson - House Rule Changes

VP Johnson: I want us to examine the house rules. I would like to propose that we change house rules to allow all forms of technology. Clearly within limits, not to include games or anything. It helps me to have access to my laptop. This hour takes a huge chunk out of my day, I am always working. Last week when VP Stoker was talking about Aggiethon, it would have been so easy to write that email and send it off right then. Second, for agendas, it would be beneficial to have the agendas sent out the evening before AS and EC by 5pm so we have valid information. Referring to last week’s Athletics Council. It would have been beneficial to know about that and what we were voting on. Having background would be beneficial. Lastly, illnesses associated with absences, you should be excused of those absences.

Linda: This body can only make changes for EC. It will have to go to AS to change the house rules for that body.

Assistant Jorgensen: I try before I leave on Fridays to print the agendas on the board by Jaren’s office. Are you talking more about having documents we will be going over sent out?

VP Johnson: This is interbetween agendas and technology. I want to get rid of papers, I think it would be good to have a virtual copy of agendas on top of the minutes we receive from you and having that all online.

President Hunsaker: I agree a lot with technology. It is resourceful for us to have them here. I don’t know with the emails, I feel ya on a spiritual level there, we do lose time in the office. At the same time, here is not the time for those emails. This is the time for conversation for time to discuss EC duties.

VP Tatom: I agree with that. I worry about if presenters are here how that would look typing on our computers. I get it would save you time and you were typing what they are talking about. If I am presenting and people are on their phones or laptops, I don’t feel they are listening to me. Also, I like the paper agendas because I like to write on them because I have to report to my directors and writing exactly what I need to report on this paper helps me.

VP Griffith: I agree with what VP Tatom says. I do feel like an adjustment to the laptop thing. We all have our phones, with laptops, if it could be when you are giving your report to have it open
but not necessarily when others are giving those.

VP Johnson: The emails I am talking about are not just like every day emails, it is being able to keep up with everything. You can write next to what is going on. If it is virtual, you can annotate it as you are going and send that off in an email at the end of the meeting.

VP Smith: Linda and Jaren will tell you that I fought for no technology because it makes me so distracted. There are various scholastic studies that show people get distracted when there is technology. I would be against technology but I would be open to a personal privilege to take notes on your computer instead of paper.

President Hunsaker: These are public meetings, anyone can come take an agenda by the door. I guess they don’t need one but that is something we can think about.

VP Jackson: My opinion is that it is President Hunsaker’s decision, I don’t think it is necessarily everyone’s decision.

President Hunsaker: Where we have approved house rules, does it take a vote to change house rules.

Linda: That is a good question. In the end, you chair this committee, you can run the meeting how you wish. So does VP Smith with AS. We always discuss them and vote on them so that there is a clear understanding. You two can make the decision to make these changes. You can choose to re vote or you can choose if you want to make a change. There has never been a formal thing where we have to vote on those.

Senator Hall: As far as technology, I agree with what other people have said, it can be very distracting and we do get rich conversation because we don’t have technology. I agree that it is 2018 and we can take notes online. In other committees, there are no printable agendas and everyone takes notes online. In other meetings they put the agenda up online and have it displayed on the screen.

VP Johnson: We did reduce the paper size which I appreciate. I agree with all the points that have been made. If we get the agendas taken care of, wellness has been taken care of and I can have a conversation with you about a personal privilege about technology.

President Hunsaker: Let’s talk about this over the next week.

RCECR 2019-01: Requesting Amendment to Add Utah State University Blanding Campus as a Regional Campus Service Region

President Hunsaker: I had to change this and it is not quite ready yet but I want you to know what is coming. The Blanding campus is now an official regional campus. We need to amend the USUSA constitution to include Blanding on this list. Regional campus put together a resolution they sent to us of things they would like to see. I am currently working and finishing how that resolution will go and will have that ready for next week. This is a specific ECR, not a RCECR, going before this body but there are small changes in the language.

ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNCIL UPDATES

VP Greer: We did the 6 for 6 challenge. It worked really well and we got huge attendance. We won the student challenge and got a lot of stuff from Taco Bell. We got a lot more donors on board and I met with them this morning. We have $17,000 raised from donors alone. We are going to keep doing these challenges and change the culture here to be an even more high spirited, Utah State, Aggie family culture. The Homecoming game, we want to do the 6 for 6 again. About 45 students will be awarded, 40 will receive $100, 5 will receive $500. We are thinking of doing different types of games during the breaks to include people. We will be continuing that on into basketball season. Homecoming game is going to be a blue out or/also also be the most spirited Scotsman type person with plaid and kilts. We are thinking about doing a competition for Most Spirited. We have the BYU watch party Friday. Powder Puff is coming
up and everything is good to go with that.

VP Johnson: Last night was an amazing success. All the food was gone after about 7. We had 450-500 people attend. Tonight is Coco and Coco. Tomorrow is global picnic from 11-2. Some are cash only, most will take a card. Thursday is Artoberfest, followed by Global Get Down and Women's volleyball in between. Friday will be the mental health awareness campaign. Saturday is PoBev. Thank you to PCAB, SAA and Blue Crew for promoting materials. We finished shooting the Hispanic Female Leadership Campaign. There will be a full spread in every facet of PR and Marketing through the university. The training for the RA’s for diversity training last Tuesday went really well. I have a training set up for Ambassadors. I will take Cabinet Council appointments starting next Monday and I should have my cabinet trained by then. On behalf of ATCA, you were all sent out the Inclusive Excellence Symposium. You have to register online for it. It is an event we have been working on since last Spring. It is like the Bridging Banquet in that it will connect you to alum. There will also be individuals from the community, state and nation who are experts in their field.

VP Jackson: We have gotten about 800 students registered on paper, I am sure more online. Expedition vote is October 27th, we just got our website, grc.usu.edu. Please register some teams. We will have a kickoff in the TSC at 9am that day. Our council is attending city council meetings starting tonight. We are meeting with Neil Abercrombie tomorrow to talk about lobbying objectives in the Spring.

VP Tatom: We have a PoBev this Saturday at 9. Howl student tickets went on sale yesterday, $15/student. You can only get one ticket per student ID. Public tickets go on sale next Monday, $25/person. Street painting is next Monday. If you have not registered, please contact Lexi. Homecoming week is next week, Lexi will be sharing graphics on Slack. There is a USUSA Involvement page on Facebook. It is not to promote events, it is to promote volunteering. If you try to post your event, we will not approve it. This is to help students get involved on campus.

VP Jackson: How does registering to vote

VP Tatom: I think that is okay. Programming Board met last Wednesday. We decided to take money out of the Programming Capital Improvement Fund and decided to buy 6 lights that are about 6-7 feet tall for safety outside.

VP Stoker: There was a benefit concert for Primary Children’s Hospital and we got $200 from it. Yesterday we got 124 people registered for Dance Marathon and we got 1st in the nation in our tier. We get a portion of $10,000 being awarded to us.

VP Griffith: Bridging Banquet went incredible, we had 355 people attend. We have an Alumnight this Thursday. If you have anyone in the PR/Marketing field, please contact me, we would love to have them at this event. This Saturday, from 8:15-10:30 am we are doing the highway cleanup and we would love to have any organization be apart of that. Intersection painting is on Sunday. If you or your councils are interested in that, it will be from 9:30-11 that night. We are opening that to people involved on USUSA.

Senator Hall: I have been working on a more systematic way to increase collaboration between graduate and undergraduate students. If you know ways that they can be better in contact with each other, I would love to hear about that. We are looking to creating an intramural league or game for graduate students. It will start out very informal to gauge interest and hopefully get bigger from there. I wanted to echo what VP Johnson was saying about the Inclusion Excellence Symposium. It should be awesome. One of my friends on my research team will be presenting a poster of research I have done.

ADJOURNMENT: VP Jackson: Moved / VP Smith: Second / Adjourned

IN ATTENDANCE: Linda Zimmerman, President Jaren Hunsaker, VP Allie Smith, VP Samuel Jackson, VP