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

Approval of minutes: VP Jackson: Moved / VP Johnson: Second / Passed

PUBLIC FORUM

VP Jackson - Neighborhood Council

VP Jackson: I am putting together a USU Neighborhood Council. This is the application. I am looking to send this application out over break.

[Reading of Neighborhood Council application]

VP Jackson: Any questions?

President Hunsaker: When are you hoping to get everything wrapped up?

VP Jackson: I am hoping to have the first meeting by the end of January. We are hoping to have the selections made the week after we get back from break.

President Hunsaker: How many students are you looking for?

VP Jackson: About 15-20. We want a wide variety of people from different backgrounds and neighborhoods around campus. This is also coming from the mayor of Logan as well and she is very supportive of this and wants student feedback. I am hoping this is a successful body.

VP Smith: When are the applications closing?

VP Jackson: I am still finalizing this but they will probably close the first week of school and I will make the decisions that week. I will have the first meeting the last week of January.

Senator Hall: Will you email us once this is up?

VP Jackson: Yes. I would love for you to send this to your councils. There aren’t a ton of prerequisites because I want a wide variety of backgrounds. Nobody should feel afraid to apply.
as long as they live off campus.

VP Johnson: Is there a specific zone they are looking for?

VP Jackson: She said specifically the Adams park neighborhood. My vision is to be all encompassing. I am looking for issues affecting students rather than long-term resident perspective. They are different and I would like that perspective represented to the city council.

President Hunsaker: Speaking to the different backgrounds you are looking for, what can we do to help you achieve that within our councils but also outside of that?

VP Jackson: The best diversity I can look for is different types of housing and different ages. People who live in a house and apartment have two very different experiences with parking and landlords. The rights and responsibilities of landlords and apartment managers are different. A grad student would have a different perspective than a first year student but I would like both of their voices to have different perspectives.

Senator Lake: I sent you all the minutes from my meeting with the intern director from CAPS. If you have questions about that fee, let me know. I think I have the largest fee increase asked for this year and I want to look at it objectively.

VP Jackson: Have you talked to Neil Abercrombie? I would recommend talking to him. He has a lot of knowledge about the Utah System of Higher Education and what their plans are for addressing mental health. I don’t know if that would adjust your fee but it would be good information to know what they are doing on the state level. If they are planning a budget increase, we wouldn’t want to have a student fee if we wouldn’t need it.

Senator Lake: Who is Neil Abercrombie?

VP Jackson: He is the USU government relations director. He is the university lobbyist essentially.

Linda: President Hunsaker has the unified budget from all the institution presidents and the Board of Regents. They are trying to ask for a certain amount of money. I don’t recall seeing anything for an additional counselor.

President Hunsaker: I can’t name specifically what USU’s requests are but I want to say it has to do with research and underserved populations. I don’t think there was anything related to counselors.

Senator Lake: They are asking for a $9.90 increase for a total of $13.40. We already pay a $3.50 CAPS fee. That is to supply a new counselor. The breakdown of what they are asking, they have to cover the deficit which is $65,406. Funding for half a counselor in the CCA, they are paying for half through their differential tuition funds. Sierra and I are going to talk about that because she is leery about that one. Funding for a full time counselor, full time marriage and family relations counselor and two doctorate students and also a ¾ time physician which will make a full time employee. The marriage and family relations thing, I was skeptical about, but the statistics show that the counseling they have for that is just as full as CAPS is and extends to spring semester.

Linda: As you look at the budget, we have to make sure we allot 46% additional from their salary for benefits because it is student fee funded. If they are not student fee funded it comes from a different pot. I want to make sure you are calculating salary and benefits.
Senator Lake: That was part of it. We are voting on two different things. The first is to apply state mandated increases for cost of living. When the state says, here is a 1% raise for cost of living, they want that grandfathered into what they are proposing, similar to what is in place in student events and campus rec. The second is the way it stands right now, we don’t have to approve every option.

Linda: With the increase, it already is currently in the policy that any time a legislation increases the cost of living, that all state institution employees get that it is automatically increased. The wording in our policy only has our department and Campus Rec. That is something the fee board would bring up to change the policy to include that department and the student health department. It is simply adding the other two departments or we change it to any fee funded salaries are automatically increased per the legislation. That is a policy change, not necessarily something you vote on within your groups. I don’t see that it would be a problem because at the time the policy was made, I think those were the only salaries in place. Now we are getting more doctors and counselors. We just need to add on that all student fee funded areas automatically get that increase without going to the Fee Board.

President Hunsaker: Are these counselors here for this campus only and how many students are they basing their number off of?

Senator Lake: They also do regional campuses. I would have to find it in the proposal.

President Hunsaker: That is just something to look at as we move forward.

Senator Hall: The MFT, is that going to be housed in the MFT department or in the CAPS office?

Senator Lake: In the CAPS office because they can also be used as a non-marriage and family relations counselor, even when that is their priority.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Hunsaker: No meetings next week, don’t let your office hours keep you here. President’s Cabinet is probably in the lead for the Christmas trees. I met with USA last weekend and talked about an initiative toward campus safety. We talked about making a video about consent on understanding of what consent and sexual assault and misconduct are and making consent serious but something we can talk about. That is the goal USA has. We discussed different things coming up for Higher Education Day and what focus we would like to see there.

ACADEMIC SENATE REPORT

VP Smith: We would like to do a Secret Santa party on Monday at 4:30 on the third floor of the TSC. It will be a Christmas treat potluck to reveal our Secret Santa. Everyone bring their Christmas treat to share.

VP Jackson: What is the dress?

VP Smith: Come as you are because it is finals week. If you haven’t washed your hair, that’s cool. You can wear sweats. Yesterday, we had a charter change for Senator Lake. Thank you for your support in the legislation to let us make our own charter changes. It went smoothly. We passed legislation that Erik will go over. Senator Allred said the CHaSS Gala was great. In CCA, Sierra met with President Cockett about the Theater department issues. They found that it is a small program, the professor who teaches the majority of the classes is also their academic advisor. If they want to submit a complaint about their professor it usually goes to their advisor who is also their professor. If it goes to the department head, it is
redirected back to their advisor. Provost Galey and President Cockett are trying to fix that. If you know if any other departments that are doing the same thing, they ask that we let them know so they can fix that as well. They are getting differential tuition to fund another mental health counselor specific to that college. It will be about $60 a student per semester. Science is going to try and do an event next semester for networking. I had a course fee committee meeting. They all request course fees, we denied most of them because they share index numbers with other courses. We have denied them until they each get their own index numbers for the sake of transparency.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VP Johnson - ECR 2019-08: USUSA Student Sustainability and Climate Crisis Resolution

VP Johnson: **Motion to table ECR 2019-08** / VP Jackson: **Second / Passed**

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Olson - ECR 2019-09: In Honor of Dr. Areti Kiara

Senator Olson: About three weeks ago, one of the engineering professors passed away suddenly. She was teaching a class this semester, she had been at Utah State about two years and was a mentor an outdoor recreation club and she had a lot of influence in the college. The college did a lot to honor her. However, there was no response from the University as a whole. Utah State didn’t say anything, The Statesman didn’t say anything. It is common on the state and national level to honor people who have passed away and had a significant impact with a legislation to formally recognize their achievements. I wanted to do that for USUSA. I think this is an appropriate use of a resolution where there is no real action associated with it but to formally take time to recognize someone who made an impact on our University. Yesterday, we passed this as a first and second reading and I ask we do the same today.

[Reading of ECR 2019-09]

Senator Olson: Any questions?

VP Smith: **Motion to pass ECR 2019-08 as First Reading** / VP Johnson: **Second / Passed**

VP Griffith: Would we be able to sign this from all the officers of USUSA.

Senator Olson: I could write a formal letter and sign as the USUSA AS and EC.

VP Smith: We could all be co-sponsors.

VP Jackson: **Motion to pass ECR 2019-08 as Second Reading** / VP Johnson: **Second / Passed**

COUNCIL UPDATES

VP Tatom: *Moonlight and Music* this Thursday at 7:30 in the Hub. There will be free Mac-n-Cheese.

VP Johnson: *Aggiefest*, is on January 9th, 11-2 in TSC Lounges is coming up with Welcome Back week. If you have open positions, applications, initiatives coming up through spring semester, this would be a great opportunity. This is a mini day on the Quad. We will be sending out emails about this soon. I already have donuts and marketing ordered. Diversity Cabinet will be having a retreat on January 12th. FSL Rush is January 28th-March 1st. Jaren, I will try to talk with you about that USA initiative, I have something I can hand over to you.
VP Jackson: We have our GRC lobbying schedule planned out for next semester. On Wednesday, January 30th, we will be going down as GRC. February 15th is Aggie Ice Cream day for all the USUSA officers. It is a great opportunity to go down and meet a lot of people who work in the Capitol and hand out Aggie Ice Cream. March 4th is Higher Education Day, a lot of officers will be doing a lobbying presentation down there that day. I met with Neil Abercrombie last week to go over lobbying goals. We are going to meet to solidify what we are going to do. I talked to Josh about using our sustainability legislation and some other things. If there is anything you would like GRC to lobby for, come talk to me. We have GRC applications going back out, not sure when. We have 5-6 members leaving for internships, if you know anyone who would be interested, let me know. Vote for the GRC tree.

VP Stoker: We will be doing service at Moonlight and Music. We are moving the SNAC pantry to the Service Center on the 12th at 11:30 or 12 if you would like to help. We are excited for the change.

VP Griffith: If any of you are going to the Bowl game for football, the Alumni Association will be doing a tailgate. Thank you for the participation in Donor Education week. It was the first one we have done and we are happy with how it turned out. Look for a statement from SAA in the Aggie Insights magazine that is going out quarterly. It will have an update on what student body is doing. That will go through Braxton to make sure we have a clear statement. For SAA, we are reopening our committee applications next semester. They will be due on January 11th. They will be open from January 7th-11th. If you know anyone coming to the university, tell them to apply. If any of you don’t have plans for Christmas, you can come to my house or I can bring you a treat because Happy Holidays!

Director Moon: Remember the 6 week timeline. Get requests for next semester in early.

Senator Hall: We finally heard back from the person about getting dental insurance started for grad students. Thank you to everyone who came to our mental health week planning meeting last week. I have a huge final due Thursday so you will probably hear from me on Friday about the theme.

ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda: We had problems with some of your stipends this month. Election packets should be out in the next couple days. They are in the final round of proofreading. How would you like us to tell you when they are out? We can send something out through Slack. We can get some marketing out that they are available. Open houses are officially done. Thank you for all of you who helped with those. We had 28 total. It was very productive.

VP Johnson: I have two applications for Diversity director and Council of Student Clubs and Organizations. If you have people, send them my way.

Linda: Election committee applications are live as well.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Linda Zimmerman, President Jaren Hunsaker, VP Allie Smith, VP Samuel Jackson, VP Joshua Johnson, VP Jenna Stoker, VP Daria Griffith, Senator Kristin Hall, Director Braxton Moon, Assistant Brooke Jorgensen, Senator Erik Olson, Senator Dexton Lake