EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2018 | 4:00 PM | USUSA Senate Chamber

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

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

PUBLIC FORUM

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
President Hunsaker: We are meeting Thursday at 12 for the Wyoming trip at the Stan Laub parking lot by the indoor training facility where the rafting trip met. They will have parking passes. Bring your own snacks. Check the list Sophie sent out for a packing list. Bring your swimsuit. We have a Capital and Support meeting next week right after EC at probably 5:30.

ACADEMIC SENATE REPORT
VP Smith: We have been looking at Sierra’s ASR and we are working in conjunction with Sam for the mental health section on the syllabus. We have been working on resolution that will make changes to the constitution. Kristin and Sierra went to Faculty Senate Executive Council to see if they could get on the agenda for Faculty Senate. We are working on building relationships with the Faculty Senate. I met with Provost Frank Galey about academics at USU and resources to teachers. We discussed a lot about council attendance within your subcommittees and we talked about some things we could do to increase attendance. If you have things that work really well with getting people to those meetings, let us know. Engineering is doing a Halloween event on the 26th from 4-6 in the Engineering Lab building right before Halloween. They are giving tours of the basement. They are also working on closing the gap between Engineering and Computer Science. If you ever refer to it as the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

VP Griffith: What would be an example of that?

Senator Olson: Computer science has a big divide. They are in separate buildings. We are trying to be precise when referring to our council in referring to us as the College of Engineering Council not just the Engineering Council. Either Engineering and Computer Science or College of Engineering.

VP Griffith: Not Engineering and Computer Science but College of Engineering.
Senator Olson: It can be both. The technical name is the College of Engineering. We are trying to include computer science in the actual name.

VP Smith: Business school had their differential tuition town hall and are trying to get references and links to students about differential tuition information, they want to get it on the syllabus for business classes. If you hear students complaining about differential tuition in the business school, there is a website that explains where all their money goes to and they can meet with advisors about it. CAAS is asking for a $15 increase for fees. Currently they are not up to state regulations, that increase would be to get them up to regulations.

VP Jackson: What do you mean when you say state regulations?

VP Smith: However much population there is on campus, they are supposed to have a certain number of counselors. Currently we are not up to code with that

VP Jackson: I understand there is a national recommendations. I’ll talk to him on that.

President Hunsaker: Would you like to update how Faculty Senate went?

Senator Hall: Yesterday, Sierra and I went to Faculty Senate Executive Meeting. Faculty Senate has a smaller committee that reviews the agenda for the actual Faculty Senate. In order to get on the agenda you have to meet with them and they vote you onto the agenda. Sierra presented on the ASR she has been working on for proposed revision for Faculty Code so that tenured faculty can be put on administrative leave. I went to help VP Jackson and present the Mental Health Syllabus Resource ECR that was passed here to add mental health resources to syllabi across the university. The meeting started with someone motioning to take us off the agenda. They are undereducated with our process, the role of USUSA and what a resolution was. We feel they need to be educated on what our body does and the process we go through. We have gotten faculty input already so there was a lot of talk and the decision was made to table both of these. The mental syllabus was decided to meet with a Provost and work through their office. Hopefully next month it will go a little better.

VP Smith: I met with Provost Galey about who USUSA is and the process we go through. I feel like I need to explain this. Provost Galey said they didn’t know it was a resolution or that it is very procedural for us to write this way and we are encouraged to write this way.

Senator Hall: I can’t tell you how many times we explained what a resolution was and this was just us trying to make a suggestion for them to look at.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Regional Campus ECR 2019-03

President Hunsaker: I did not have a chance to update this.

VP Tatom: Motion to table ECR 2019-03 / Senator Hall: Second / Passed

NEW BUSINESS

ASR 2019-02: USUSA Academic Senate Oversight Resolution
Senator Olson: I had a meeting with James Morales, Eric Olsen, Linda, President Hunsaker, VP Smith, and VP Johnson. The first large change was in who would oversee certain positions for the positions who sit on both AS and EC. The Executive VP would align more with EC on their charter and the Graduate Senator would align more with AS.

Senator Hall: Is that the first time that USUSA governing body is referred to?

Senator Olson: Yes and that is the defining line to make it clear.

Senator Olson: It is the same logic for approval of appointments. We decided it would be the governing body of the vacancy to approve that position that is being filled. For those who go on both, the Exec VP would be confirmed by EC and Graduate Studies Senator by AS. This is a procedural thing, there are differences in the constitution for elected and appointed positions. There are different rules that govern them if they are removed. For appointed positions, the same person would nominate a replacement however, the problem for who would approve the replacement. The key is this ‘the appropriate’ governing body for those positions is not defined so I wanted to make it explicit there so that there is a process there to know what is appropriate for which body the approval would be made in. I threw in the line that states that it will be determined by a majority vote of the USUSA President, Executive VP and Senate Pro Tempore. Those people would not confirm the appointment but decide which body it would go to. I repeated that language under Approving the Vacancy of Positions and Removal of Appointed Positions. This states which body levy charges on those who sit on both.

President Hunsaker: We discussed the procedure of charging with misconduct and what that looks like within the body with the $\frac{2}{3}$ vote and before it goes before the Hearing Board to having it go in front of the VP or the President to be confirmed.

VP Smith: Yesterday it was discussed that the Hearing Board is nominated and confirmed by the President. The proposed change is that if we all vote that someone is charged with misconduct, the idea is that Jaren or me can say yes or no that can go to the Hearing Board. There would also be an appeal process but at the end of the day Dr. Morales would have the final say. The Senators seemed fine without it. Currently we don’t have that extra check.

Senator Olson: Part of what was brought up yesterday was that the Hearing Board can be overturned by the VP of Student Affairs. It was discussed giving the President veto powers over those charges. If there is a veto, there should be an override for that veto. We haven’t clarified that process. We thought it would be okay to keep that line out of it.

President Hunsaker: Essentially I don’t see that after the $\frac{2}{3}$ vote the President would rarely ever turn down that and once the information comes back from the Hearing Board, the President doesn’t have the power to veto it. It gives another check and balance. I think that is appropriate and is what is currently done on a university level. If there is any sort of conduct within faculty, it goes to President Cockett and she then sends them to a Hearing Board who she also appoints. I think it is a good model to resemble.

VP Johnson: I think with this line, it would have to be worded to convey the fact that the President has the responsibility to take it to a hearing board. I don’t know how I feel about the veto power with the President. The veto power seems like there could be a conflict of interest based on relationships at the time or which body it is coming from.

VP Smith: I align closely with VP Johnson, I do feel there is potential for that. Something
that was brought up was that this is the same hearing board for grievances during elections. Senator Lake made the comment that he had to go to hearing board and he felt really confident going with his side of the story because they were very unbiased and not giving the chance for the President to be biased. I understand that point of view and also see the benefit of having checks and balances.

Senator Hall: I am curious on your opinion, Senator Olson. I think the point of this bill is to change which body is overseeing these things. I feel like this is a different discussion.

Senator Olson: That was my thought as well. I think if there is a veto, we need an override. I am trying to be minimal and simply give AS ability for oversight within their own body. It is worth having the discussion but I don’t want to see the good in this brought down with other debates.

VP Johnson: I would like to second Senator Olson’s feelings. This concern is something to look at in the future but is not with this piece of legislation.

[Reading of ASR 2019-02]

President Hunsaker: I still personally think President or Executive VP should be there for one more check and balance. I feel like the arguments of having it have been a hypothetical extreme. If the President and VP are doing their role, they will be able to make an ethical decision. I feel like that would be the case more often than not.

VP Smith: We passed it in AS as a second reading but I would like to hear your thoughts or decisions on the regional campus details from that discussion. Are we going to keep the Senate Pro Tempore in that committee for Regional Campus?

Senator Olson: I have a meeting with Kevin for those things.

VP Johnson: To President Hunsaker’s point, this is something worth our discussion. I validate that the hypothetical is in the extreme and potentially a red herring but if this is something to be added into this, I would like to have the appropriate balance for that check. If the President has the veto power, the hearing board should have an override of that. It can be written into this but may be a different piece.

Senator Hall: Motion to approve ASR 2019-02 as a First Reading / VP Jackson: Second / Passed

ASR 2019-03: Proposed Revisions to the Faculty Code

[Reading of ASR 2019-03]

VP Jackson: Incredibly minor, but it lists President Hunsaker as Executive Vice President. Also, Senator Wise and I have discussed this and I think it would be useful to include definitions of humiliation, discrimination, intimidation, vindictiveness and psychological abuse. Having those definitions listed would be helpful in terms of presenting it to Faculty Senate. I could work with her on that.

President Hunsaker: When this was presented the other day, was there anything specific that was written that they were hung up on?

Senator Hall: They brought up something similar to what VP Jackson brought up. There were arguments for and against vague language. It was a mixed bag on how specific and what terms could be used. Most of it was that they were hung up on the process.
VP Smith: Senator Wise mentioned that they seemed to say that they were okay with the idea but they wanted to have control over the wording which she seemed fine with. They wanted to be able to write the Revised Faculty Code.

Senator Hall: They personally felt that it should be written 'Be it further enacted that we suggest Faculty Senate’ to change it to this.

VP Smith: You could even say ‘be it further suggested’. Is it part of parli pro or why do we do this?

VP Jackson: It goes back to them not understanding what a resolution is. It is more important for them to understand what a resolution is and the purpose of USUSA than us conforming to what they want. I think having their input on their language if they are in support is beneficial because we are getting into legal things here. Their input would be valuable if they are in support.

VP Johnson: Who sits as the chair of Faculty Senate?

VP Smith: Becky Lauver. I am going to become her new best friend!

VP Johnson: Have we talked to President Cockett or Vice Provost about this?

VP Smith: This morning with Provost Galey, he said that when he is on Faculty Senate he is supposed to be neutral but he suspects that he or Noelle Cockett will step up if they get hung up on procedure.

President Hunsaker: I am bringing this as well to President Cockett and will probably bring Sierra, Kristin and probably Sam to explain these resolutions and what we are looking for with them.

VP Johnson: To have the three of them on a joint statement may change the minds of Faculty Senate and shut them up. Put that in the minutes.

VP Smith: Provost Galey mentioned specific people on Faculty Senate that would be on board.

President Hunsaker: Faculty Senate themselves don’t write the code. They send their suggestions to the legal team to write their code. This is a suggestion to suggest the suggestion. Getting this to Faculty Senate right now is the goal.

VP Johnson: My only concern is what I would hate to see is Faculty Senate get ahold of this and twist the wording and at the end of the day it would still have our names on it.

VP Jackson: Senator Wise has worked so hard on this. This is incredibly worked out and thought through. She has been working so hard on this. It is very specific and I would like to voice my support.

Senator Hall: She met with her college Dean and every Department Head in her college on this and they all had support in this.

VP Johnson: Motion to approve ASR 2019-03 as a First Reading / VP Griffith: Second / Passed
COUNCIL UPDATES

VP Greer: We just have Women’s Volleyball and Women’s Soccer. Football is Wyoming this weekend. You guys get to be the HURD. We did not get 6,000 students at the game this Saturday. We gave away those who were awarded money before the game but didn’t give away the rest of it during the game. We kept with our word because we have to get 6,000 students to give away the $6,000.

President Hunsaker: Do you know how many we were at?

VP Greer: The total was 4,200. I don’t know where these kids were. It was a good game overall. We had an Athletics Council meeting. Our GPA is rising each year. In 2016, the total GPA for student athletes was 3.046. In the Spring of 2017, it was 3.138. This past spring was 3.238. We have been climbing the ladder, it is a goal of the Athletics Department for the student athletes. It is student first before athletics. The highest GPA team is men’s cross country at 3.4 and women’s cross country at 3.785. They are ranked 12th in the nation right now. That is amazing results. We are very proud of that. It is not easy to maintain that GPA individually and especially as a team.

VP Johnson: The Hispanic Female Leadership Campaign ran in The Statesman. It will hit more media tomorrow. The FSL SAAVI Campaign is in the next few weeks. There will be a free speech panel at the alumni house on the 25th at the Alumni House. On the 23rd we will have our prop 4 event. AGTA Inclusive Excellence Program is on the 29th. If you haven’t signed up already, please do so. There are only 45 seats left. I have a pretty cool list about all the different candidates and propositions coming up with this election.

VP Jackson: We had Meet the Candidates last night. We had 15-20 campaigns there. We have the Expedition Vote, it’s hot and ready. I will share the media and link today. It will be October 27th with a 9:30 am kick off. We are also going to have a redistricting event on Tuesday, October 3rd in the Auditorium on Proposition 4. I am working with Abercrombie on an election preview event the week before elections. If anybody has questions about voting or ballots have them come talk to me.

VP Tatom: Thanks for your help with Homecoming. Lexi is grateful and had a very good week. Volunteering at the Howl information is out there on all the media. We especially need help on the 26th, the day of the Howl, setting up a state. The mandatory meeting for the Howl is on the 24th at 6pm in the TSC Auditorium. If you have questions about the Howl, text Rachel to double check, even if you are pretty positive you know the information. We don’t want to confuse anyone with any information. I am starting to plan Welcome Back Week. Let’s talk about it events you might want to include.

VP Griffith: Homecoming week went incredible. True Aggie Night, we had 380 couples kiss on the A, one of the largest True Aggie Nights we have had. We sold out of Fast Passes which was over $640 dollars donated to the Aggiethon. Our next True Aggie Night is on October 24th and we might have a dance before.

Director Moon: Nothing to update.

Senator Hall: We had a Graduate School Council meeting this morning. I have a few meetings set up to talk about graduate and undergraduate collaborations. We are moving forward with adding student fee information online. We hopefully have a meeting with Dr. Inouye who is a VP of Graduate School about adding additional insurance for graduate students.

Assistant Jorgensen: I sent out an email for the Leadership Bowl spreadsheet. If you guys got that and want to participate, sign up.
President Hunsaker: That will be November 3rd.

ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Spencer Bitner, President Jaren Hunsaker, VP Allie Smith, VP Samuel Jackson, VP Bannon Greer, VP Meghan Tatom, VP Joshua Johnson, VP Jenna Stoker, VP Daria Griffith, Senator Kristin Hall, Director Braxton Moon, Assistant Brooke Jorgensen, Senator Erik Olson