EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2019 | 4:00 PM | USUSA Senate Chamber

CALL TO ORDER

Officer accountability

PUBLIC FORUM

Bonnie Glass-Coffin: The next step in the Interfaith Initiative

Todd Halvorsen: Bringing the New York Times to campus

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Ahmed: We’re looking for people for the open houses. We have exhausted all of the officers, so we’re looking for people that would be charismatic and positive about USU in your councils. Bring them to us.

Linda Zimmerman: Just give those names to Sophie to reach out to them.

President Ahmed: Just suggest those to Sophie.

I’ve been meeting with my PCab. We’re working on some initiatives, mostly going to different colleges. If you have suggestions or would like to know more, come talk to me.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

I want to bring up the budget situation we discussed yesterday. Dr. Morales has denied the scholarship increase and since most of us voted yesterday to go with the second option if we needed to. 21 of us agreed that it would be okay to confirm it in Executive Council. I want to bring that to a vote, for $1,000 to be allocated to SNAC and the rest to be added to our budgets at about $200 per officer.

Budget approval: Senator Fry: Moved / Director Olds: Second / Voting body: Passed

It passes. Some of you should receive that into your individual accounts and the $1,000 will be coming to SNAC.

VP Jessop: Do you know how my position will be receiving that money?
Linda Zimmerman: We’ll do a voucher.

I want to clarify that this is a one-time allotment. That money will be reviewed by James for next year’s council.

President Ahmed: It says that in the email I sent, so hopefully you read that.

VP Low: Is that $200 each semester or total?

President Ahmed: Across the board.

Thank you all.

NEW BUSINESS

VP Lake: This is ASR 2020-01, which is Academic Senate Resolution. I hope you read it. We read these out of consideration so if there was ever an ECR, we’d read it to the senators to get feedback out of consideration. There are very few times where it has to be approved in both bodies. We don’t even need to take a vote, but I would love your feedback to take to the senators so they can make any changes you suggest. I’ll read through the whole thing.

Reading: ASR 2020-01

This is the time where you can give feedback or changes. It has to go back to Academic Senate, but I will take any suggestions.

VP Jessop: I just want to agree that it’s a good idea. I’ve been able to sit on several hiring committees over the past few years. I think it’s great also for students to be able to see what a real career interview looks like.

VP Rivera: When you say, “students who sit on the hiring committee will be required to keep information private,” what do you mean? Do you mean the record, the process, if they notice something they might not agree with or that they think is a violation of code, is that something they would be required to keep private?

VP Lake: In some hiring committees, there is some personal information which is private. That’s what I’m referring to. It’ll come up on a case-by-case basis, but mostly if there’s personal information that’s discussed on the hiring committee that they need to keep private. There are FERPA things that need to be kept private. There’s not much, but there is some.

There are some departments that are doing this already as part of their faculty hiring, and there are departments that require it. Our office, for example. I sat on the hiring committee for the new Associate Director of CAPS because it’s required to have a student on there. It’s a continuing trend. President Ahmed asked the other institutions who does this, and there were a bunch: BYU, UVU, the U... We don’t know whether or not it’s iron-clad and written in their faculty code, but ideally this could be taken to the Utah Student Association to get the ball rolling to other universities as well.

VP Low: I think this is a great idea. Would we want to expand “ethnic and gender diversity?” Is that good enough for this?

VP Lake: For the purpose of this legislation, I only added the one student caveat.

Yesterday we discussed the issue of whether it’s a minimum or maximum of one student. It’s a minimum, and I
always encourage more. How’s the dean going to know who to appoint? That can fall onto the department head, because they’ll know who would be a good representative from their department. The Academic Senator is always an option, but they may not be the best option because they may not be in the department that’s hiring. I added the one-student thing because that’s what the Faculty Code says. If we wanted to address the diversity, that would be something brought up completely separate. I know Human Resources is working on making revisions to the Faculty Code, so once they do that we may want to go back and see if that was included and then address that if we desire.

COUNCIL UPDATES

VP Tomlinson: There were no games and no events last week. Looking forward, we have volleyball tomorrow and are having pancakes before the game. On Friday for men’s soccer first game, we will have pizza before the game.

Assistant Kremnev: How effective are those? When you bring 150 servings of pizza, do they all get eaten? I’m just wondering how well they work because I love that you’re supporting all of the club sports.

VP Tomlinson: Last year, we didn’t have anything like this set up on the Hurd Committee where people would be over individual sports. Instead we, as a whole committee, would focus on sports together. That’s something that I’ve changed; each sport has someone that is assigned to that sport. They’re in charge of making sure that sport gets promoted, their graphics are sent to the social media manager, and they set up times for them to come on campus and promote themselves. I don’t know how to answer that question because this is the first time we’re doing it. We’re collecting feedback. I give them a budget for the year and see what they can do with that.

Assistant Kremnev: So, you haven’t had any events like this yet this year? I thought there were a couple earlier.

VP Tomlinson: There was one for the women’s soccer game. It’s hard because each sport is their own entity and they want us to do things, like march to the match. We’ve tried that before and it doesn’t work, we had one person show up. We took the pizza to the game and there were lots more students there, which we assumed would happen. They knew where we would be with the pizza and they came there. There were probably 80 people which is good for women’s soccer.

Assistant Kremnev: Yeah! Thanks.

Senator Fry: Students are going through GRCO training to get their GRCO funds. Last week, my director met with the scholarship committee to go over the new application for the Graduate Enhancement Award because there were a lot of issues last year. We’re revising that for more clear criteria.

VP Rivera: GRC really wants to do an event for Year of the Woman. We’re teaming up with IOGP and bringing women from very male-dominated fields, like an athlete and women in law.

I have a meeting tomorrow because I’m looking at changing the smoking policy on campus because I’ve gotten a lot of MyVoice complaints about it in recent weeks.

My council will be voting on the use of the $200 we’ll be getting; I really want to put that money towards the ramp. This is really important.

Senator Fry: Do you picture something like the U has done this year with a completely smoke-free campus,
or just areas?

VP Rivera: Probably something similar to what the U has done because it’s not uncommon for campuses to be smoke-free. Because it’s been brought up by so many students, it’s definitely worth a conversation.

VP Lake: Senator Lyons has a Solar Luncheon next week where you can look at the sun with solar telescopes without damaging your eyes. Consider supporting him in that and go look at the sun. Senator Chamberlain is planning Logger’s Ball, except as Unlogger’s Ball to discourage unnecessary logging and logging within the state. It’s going to be at the Cache. The climate strike is also this Friday, if you wish to participate. Senator Dent is asking everybody’s support for October 3rd. After Homecoming Week is Business Week, and Foreign Figures is coming. They’ll be performing in the ballroom. Entrance is $5 that will go towards Operation Underground Railroad. She feels it will be the most difficult thing to get attendees at. Please disseminate graphics. I still need fee board applicants. Talk with your councils because we are almost to our seven, but I would like to be able to filter.

Director Olds: How many applications did you get after last week’s new graphic? Did it help?

VP Lake: I’d love to say it did, but it didn’t. People saw it, and there’s an ad in the Statesman, so hopefully it’s just people waiting until the deadline.

VP Rivera: Did it have a description?

VP Lake: Yes, but it’s brief.

VP Brain: Can I apply?

VP Lake: I was going to ask that! Can they technically do that?

Linda Zimmerman: They could, but the whole point of Student at Large is to get away from USUSA and have other opinions.

VP Lake: So, you can apply, but you might be the first to get cut.

VP Low: Are there any graphics Senator Brost needs posted for CAAS Week?

VP Lake: She told everybody to go follow USU CAAS Instagram page or her Instagram page and just share them that way. The CAAS marketing team has broken down each day and posted them there. Tonight, she has a movie at the Caine Dairy.

Student fees have become more transparent; I’m very proud of that. The history of each fee has been broken down on the student fee page. My committee is working on continually making that more transparent. I’ve had my second meeting and it’s going great. We have a lot of things that are proactively getting done. Continue to support Senator Brost this week.

President Ahmed: We’re going to have Assistant Kremnev make a brief announcement about info booth.

Assistant Kremnev: We are adding Twitter to the info booth. There’s a training put together that I’ll send out. I’m really excited about it.

VP Low: What does that mean?
Assistant Kremnev: During your hour that you’re sitting at the info booth (you’ll still be there so that you are visible), there’s a whole list of potential posting ideas: updating the student body on your initiatives, talking about an event, posting links to frequently asked questions on MyVoice which VP Rivera is putting together... There’s a pretty solid list. I want you to be accessible to the student body. I want you to be able to answer questions for more than the eight people that walk past. I want you to answer questions immediately; I’ve talked with VP Rivera and there are MyVoice concerns that come in that need to be answered immediately or don’t quite fit the MyVoice platform. Twitter is a very common platform for companies to use as a help line and to answer questions. I want you to be able to be there and have fun.

VP Jessop: Are we creating a new Twitter profile for it?

Assistant Kremnev: Yes. You’ll log in and say, “live with VP Jessop” and then go ham for an hour. We’ll have you post about six times per hour.

VP Rivera: The info booth is USUSA’s info booth; do we have any criteria of things we’re allowed to promote there? Sometimes there are private companies that leave flyers.

Assistant Kremnev: USUSA organizations or college clubs or other departmental clubs or services offered on campus as an entity of the university are fair game and we’re happy to promote them. As far as private companies go, you have the right response to toss them.

VP Low: Homecoming is coming up. Rass is hard at work. The theme for Mr. USU is “Dance,” whatever you want that to be. Sign-ups for street painting are available until Friday. I think there’s a link to it on USUSA. It’s probably easiest for you to send her your index number. There is going to be a Karaoke Raffle Night. The Time Machine Dance has been moved from Traditions Week to Homecoming Week. Mardi Gras is going to be at the end of Traditions Week.

We just need to hear from Ray about getting a TSC Policy Board meeting set up. I’m the chair of that board. We’re meeting in October and talking about the TSC. If you have concerns or feedback on the TSC, please bring it to me before that.

VP Rivera: Do we have any update on the auditorium?

President Ahmed: Yes. I can address that after.

VP Jessop: We’re also preparing for Homecoming. We need help with intersection painting and highway clean-up. Highway clean-up is happening Saturday at 8 AM. We’re meeting at the Welcome Center then. We’re meeting at the David B. Haight Center for intersection painting the next day at 10 PM. Intersection painting is a ton of fun and a great way to be involved in Homecoming traditions. At the end of the week we have our first True Aggie Night. The ramp is live, so that’s cool. We’ve surpassed $300, so it’s looking good. It makes a huge difference if you share that graphic.

VP Patino: We selected our CoSCO team. Our meeting is next Thursday. We have 13 members. I’m pretty excited! From their emails they all look nice and cute.

We’re still planning Diversity Week, which is in three weeks. It’s going to be fun. The graphics look cool and I am so excited. Did I share the events that are going on that week?

Monday will be our International Dessert night. We’re going to have a little passport and all of the booths will stamp it while you learn about different cultures and eat different international desserts. It’s at 7 PM in the Ballroom.
Tuesday will be a Snactivity, Donuts with Diversity. That will be 11 to 1.

Wednesday is our picnic day in the TSC fountain and patio area with the farmer’s market, we’re collaborating with them. That will be from 11-2. Later that night we’ll have a LatinX poet come either at 5 or 7. The Inclusion Center is going to bring the person in.

On Thursday we have Oktoberfest from 4-8 on the Quad.

On Friday, the Asian Student Association is doing an Autumn Festival, and we’re having True Aggie Night that night. Hopefully we have the ramp ready for that, because that would include diversity and inclusion.

We changed the name to Diversity and Inclusion Week instead of just Diversity Week. We want to include those who don’t feel like they’re diverse, even though they are.

On Saturday we have PoBev.

Director Olds: We’re finally through the big wave of projects. Homecoming is done. The HOWL is close to being done and it’s going to be so awesome. Now is the time to get your requests in for even further than six weeks out. We have a lot more time on our hands. If you have events or initiatives that you want to push, like Sami and are working on. We don’t just do events, we can do strategies and campaigns. Get your requests in.

Right now, Carson and I are working on a social media post request. I noticed that a lot of people need outreach, so that will be added to the same area as design requests soon. That way we can use our channels to promote your things and give you all a little more reach.

VP Brain: I want to tell you the service opportunities each week. We don’t have anymore big events, it’s just continuous things I want to make you aware of so that if someone wants to do service you know what there is.

From now until mid-October we have gleaning every week. Gleaning is the distribution of food that would otherwise go to waste. That’s really fun and kind of relaxing and social.

We have opportunities with No Lost Generation to volunteer in public libraries who have recently come as refugees and have language barriers.

We have Aggies for Education in the mornings at elementary schools.

Aggie Translators: if you know anyone who knows a second language, have them go to Jasmine and Corbin. We’re always looking for new translators.

VP Tomlinson: Do the translators have to be students at USU? I know people in the community who are our age or who have graduated.

VP Brain: Yeah! Aggie Translators go to parent-teacher conferences because there are a lot of Title I schools in the valley. The parents need to be able to communicate with teachers.

VP Low: Any update on Aggiethon?

VP Brain: We’re looking for sponsors right now. Jenna Stoker is your person if you want to know about that.

President Ahmed: VP Morales and I met with Dwight Davis. They showed us the plans for the auditorium. My
primary concern was losing that space for student events. We will still have access to that spot, you’d just reserve it like you do currently. We will not be losing access to it. The only thing that will be changing is the configuration of the room. Part of it will go to the LatinX group who is currently in the library. The rest of the auditorium will become more like the ballroom. They’ll have a sound system and projectors. I asked if we’d still be able to have as much access as we do right now; as long as you reserve it, we should be good to go. I feel a lot better after seeing the plans. If you have more questions, you can come talk to me individually. We will not be losing access to that space, it’ll just look different. There will still be chairs and a portable stage.

VP Jessop: Will we still meet next week even though it’s Homecoming?

President Ahmed: Yes.

ADJOURNMENT

VP Lake: Moved / VP Rivera-Soto: Second / Voting body: Passed

IN ATTENDANCE: Linda Zimmerman, President Sami Ahmed, VP Dexton Lake, VP Braden Tomlinson, VP Cooper Low, Senator Jared Fry, Director Cameron Olds, VP Jenny Patino, VP Tarren Jessop, VP Paulina Rivera-Soto, VP Emma Brain, Assistant Anna Kremnev