EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2020 | 4:00 PM | USUSA Senate Chamber

CALL TO ORDER

Approval of Minutes: VP Lake: Moved / Senator Fry: Second / Voting body: Passed

PUBLIC FORUM

Dwight Davis and Mica McKinney: Dwight is the chair of the COVID taskforce. Our goal is business continuity: we want our classes and research to continue moving forward. We’ll make recommendations as needed. The university has an infectious disease plan, which is what we’ve been moving through. We are in contact with USHE, other schools in the state, the lieutenant governor’s office, the Utah Department of Health, Bear River Health Department, and those online resources from CDC and Johns Hopkins. We feel we’re still in a prevention and preparation stage. We’re trying to avoid going online because there is no community transmission here. We’ve looked at travel and events, and we’re starting to restrict non-essential things. We’re encouraging absenteeism and isolation when needed, and we’re working with Academic Instructional Systems to continue coursework for those people. COVID sounds frightening, but most people recover, especially in your age group, but we’ll be evaluating what events have higher-risk attendees. We’re concerned about stigmas associated with COVID and want to be clear that anybody can get sick and that everyone should be supported through their self-isolation and subsequent return to the campus community.

VP Jessop: Could this affect commencement? If so, how?
Mica McKinney: That’s a fundamental function of the university, so we’ll look at all options if concerns remain by that point.

Director Olds: What level of virus appearance would elicit a campus closure?
Mica McKinney: Most of the schools that have moved online have community transmission, which is untraceable transmission. We would look closely at the risk of community transmission to the broader group. With Washington, New York, and California have transmission beyond campus where they can’t control.

VP Low: Are there thoughts on larger sections being restricted or just events?
Mica McKinney: It’s part of the conversation. Our goal is to keep classes moving forward, so we prefer to cancel events than classes. There is really low risk within our campus community, so we
want to be vigilant in our prevention efforts.

VP Low: We should know by tomorrow?

Dwight Davis: We’ll have additional guidelines out tomorrow

Mica McKinney: Those will be focused more on faculty and staff. One of the reasons we’re not requiring a doctor’s note is to keep healthcare centers safe for those who are at risk.

Director Olds: Are there tests available in Logan?

Mica McKinney: There are, through Bear River Health Department. They are still processed in Salt Lake, though.

VP Rivera-Soto: Are students going to get information about the doctors’ notes?

VP James Morales: We’re drafting that email. It may come in one bulk communication from the president.

President Ahmed: What if individuals choose to travel to level three countries?

Dwight Davis: They will be asked to self-isolate.

Mica McKinney: All university-sponsored travel to level three countries has been cancelled. If students travel on their own, they’ll still be asked to isolate.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Ahmed: Light the Night is next Monday at 7 PM. My goal is to have 100 people there; PCab has already bought the supplies for that. Reach out to your councils about that. Once advertising is ready we’ll send it out. We’re trying to get Wild Bill to speak there.

We’ll be promoting the ACT guide during Mental Health Week, like we did with the Utah State Safe app. Please volunteer to man a table for that next week.

Truth in Tuition is tomorrow at 11 in the ballroom. There will be pizza. Tell students to attend and hear President Cockett explain tuition increases.

VP Low: Are there promotional materials for that?

Director Olds: Yes. I’ll share them on Slack.

President Ahmed: If students are feeling the symptoms of COVID-14 they can self-isolate but anticipatory isolation will not be valid for missing assignments, etc.

COUNCIL UPDATES

VP Tomlinson: Sam Merrill owns San Diego State. We’re looking forward to hopefully sending a bus to the NCAA tournament, but if it’s on the east coast we probably won’t. The watch party will be held if events are still allowed.
Director Olds: There has been officer-sponsored material that is off-brand. Make sure you come to my office first. Branding is important and it must be approved.

There will be a video at our end-of-year party. If you have pictures, put them in Box yesterday. Upload as much as you can as soon as you can.

The officer photo has not been scheduled yet. It will take place this week.

Senator Fry: We had a pop-up social before spring break. There were almost 200 people there. It’s fun to move around because we see different students in each location. We’ll have two more; the next one is March 24th in the Education building.

Next week is Mental Health Week, so I hope you like succulents, free t-shirts, yoga mats, etc. I’ll send graphics out soon.

We are getting close to the end of tax season, so let me know if you need them done.

VP Rivera-Soto: Gripe Night is coming up and I have some really creative prizes.

The legislative session is over; Aggie Ice Cream Day went really well.

I have an event with Latinos in Action tomorrow from 12:30-1:30 in Library 208 that focuses on student involvement. It would mean a lot if you came.

VP Lake: Senator Dent’s college has cancelled all Focused Fridays until the end of the year. Most of her events for Women’s Week have also been cancelled. She’ll be sending out information and graphics for that.

The new fee videos are up, which is exciting! They’re on the student affairs website and the student portal.

VP Jessop: This week is Networking Week. Tonight is Women in the Workforce at 7 PM in the Alumni House; come support Paige! Tomorrow there’s a resume workshop in the Eccles Conference Center at 6:30. Trevor Sean Olsen is returning to campus to speak on Thursday. Friday is our Nuggets for Knowledge event where we’ll hand out chicken nuggets and thanking them for all they do.

VP Low: We have a new event called Big Blue’s Birthday Bash on Friday from 8-9:30. There will be some cake and ice cream and then a power hour dance.

Saturday is PoBev on the Farm and Dexton donated a lot of boots for decorating.

ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Zimmerman: Megan isn’t in her office because she’s due in about two and a half weeks. She’s working from home, so come by and we can call her at any time. Nelda is also off campus.

VP Jessop: Have expectant students been given the same warning?

Linda Zimmerman: I don’t know. I know James made the call for his division.

Senator Fry: I talked to Dining Services about event cancellations and they won’t make you pay for reservations or the items they’ve purchased ahead of time for your event.
VP Tomlinson: What are some of the decisions that could be made and how would they affect us?

Linda Zimmerman: Events. Academics are the priority, so events will be cancelled if needed.

President Ahmed: That’s only if it’s untraceable.

Director Olds: How long would we be on high alert?

President Ahmed: It’s up to the CDC. Make sure people aren’t seeking information on the school website on anything other than policy.

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 Tarren Jessop, VP Paulina Rivera-Soto, Assistant Anna Kremnev