ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2021 | 4:30 PM | USUSA Senate Chamber

- CALL TO ORDER
  - Approval of minutes: Senator Lesser-Thorngren: Moved / Senator Rodriguez: Second / Voting body: Passed
  - Officer accountability:

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<td>Vice President Casdorph</td>
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<td>Senator Chowdhury-Magana</td>
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<td>Senator Christopher</td>
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<td>Senator Cox</td>
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<td>Senator Dikwa-Nkrumah</td>
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<td>Senator Lesser-Thorngren</td>
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<td>Senator Mousley</td>
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<td>Senator Thorngren</td>
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<td>Senator Wappett</td>
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- PUBLIC FORUM
  - There was no public forum.

- PRESIDENT’S REPORT
  - Vice President Casdorph: Please remember to complete your Administrative Fee committee meetings and finish the forms as well. Office hours will not be required for this week and next amidst finals. I will also propose that we don’t have Academic Senate next week.

- UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - Senator Chowdhury-Magana: Jess and I went through my charter and fixed some of the things we discussed last week like committee meetings.
  - Approval of charter: Senator Wappett: Moved / Senator Mousley: Second / Voting body: Passed

- NEW BUSINESS
  - Senator Wappett: We have been working on this idea all year and we are excited to have
it to read today. If you have edits, make those in your copy and we will discuss after the reading. [Reading of ASR 2022-01]

- Senator Thorngren: I like the section where you recognize and support some of the current initiatives in the USUSA
- Senator Mousley: What is meant by the language of “incentivize” a DEI toolkit?
- Senator Rodriguez: Based on conversations we have had, we learned that it is more effective to have incentives than requirements, so things like faculty evaluations or onboarding trainings could be an effective way to accomplish the initiatives. We are keeping it open ended and offering ideas.
- Senator Dikwa-Nkrumah: What is the incentive you are talking about?
- Senator Rodriguez: The incentive is partly the training itself, and it is also included in the incentive of being better for evaluations and what not. A lot of that will also be determined by the faculty as well.
- VP Casdorph: Stater’s Council will be an important part of how we communicate this to faculty as well.
- Jessica Roueche: Many faculty members need to have portfolios when they are moving for promotions, and a training like this would be good for their portfolio.
- Senator Christopher: Is there any way that faculty will be held accountable for this?
- Senator Wappett: Faculty have to go through reviews often, so having this training as something to complete before those reviews and placements will help in terms of a career advancement opportunity.
- Senator Rodriguez: Part of this will also be up to the discretion of the DEI Vice President.
- Senator Christopher: When will the DEI Vice President be created?
- Senator Rodriguez: The position application is already open. We also hope that the new VP will see that this is an important priority of students as well.
- Senator Christopher: Will you add where you got your sources from?
- Senator Rodriguez: Yes, in all the sources I included I shared where they came from. I can also share a link with the document.
- Senator Thornley: What is the faculty consensus about this toolkit?
- Senator Rodriguez: The 2019 Diversity Report said that over 70% of faculty support diversity training, although we haven’t felt the exact same level of support in our personal meetings. Although, when we presented it we had used the words “mandatory training,” which was not as well received as we hope that “optional” and “DEI toolkit” will be.

- Motion to pass as a first reading: Ay: all, Nay: none

- COUNCIL UPDATES
  - Senator Christopher: We have a holiday party this week for our council and we are also opening our council applications for the Spring Semester.
  - Senator Cox: National Ag day is coming up in March and we are looking to recognize all of the departments in our college. We are also planning some events for this as well.
Senator Dikwa-Nkrumah: Our Cram Slam is on Wednesday and Thursday is the pinewood derby event on Thursday. To participate, anyone can go to the computer lab and pick up a kit.

Senator Lesser-Thorngren: Arts week is coming up and we have almost finalized everything except times. We are bringing back masquerade ball and we are also having another arts sale like Artober fest. We are doing a film with popcorn that week as well. We are also planning to partner with Entrepreneurship enter for an event to help art students build up their businesses.

Senator Mousley: For the remainder of my term, I am focused on two things that I campaigned on, which are TA and grader pay and expanding mentorship opportunities. I have spoken with the Dean about concerns I have heard from students. There are some cases where people are being paid under minimum wage on average, so it is an important issue to address Right now, I am gathering as many personal accounts, ideally in the college of science, but if you have any sense of TA and grader pay outside of the college, I would love to hear them. We also have an event with hot chocolate and science presentations, as well as a presentation on applications from the Science Writing Center.

- VP Casdorph: I do sit on committees that deal with TA pay. Can you figure out if they are paid from course fees, and also if they are upper level or new students?
- Senator Mousley: I know that it is largely department based. In math departments for example, it is largely course fees, but there are SI leaders who are paid from a different fund somewhere else.
- Senator Chowdhury-Magana: Are you looking at graduate TAs or Residence Assistants as well?
- Senator Mousley: I have been looking primarily at undergraduate, and from what I have seen there is a significant difference between graduate and undergraduate. Right now, I am trying to learn as much as I can about this, and I will be happy to amend to include graduate students as well. I am also hoping to encourage more similarity between departments. I also hope that there is a movement away from stipend pay to hourly wage. My goals are two-fold: that we are aware of what students are making and also bring up departments that are not paying their students for the same work that other departments are paying.
- Senator Chowdhury-Magana: I would be happy to look into this with graduate students in the College of Science as well.

Senator Rodriguez: We are planning the CHaSS Gala for January in the alumni house. We are figuring out catering and my events VP and I will meet with the dean this week as well.

Senator Chowdhury-Magana: We have been working on our investigation to the HR reports on our school psychologist, we are getting more reports from students as well as faculty. We have also secured speakers for Mental Health week and we also secured a drag show.

- Senator Rodriguez: How do students report something about this psychiatrist?
- Senator Chowdhury-Magana: They would need to email it to my grad senator address.
Senator Wappett: Our headshot clinic went well and our cookie exchange was also very well attended. We are dropping ads for the Naturally Engaged art contest. Please share those and repost in your colleges. We are dropping those now, about three months before NR week to give people time to finish it. We are also making preparations for NR week right now.

Senator Thorngren: We had a great meeting with our deans and we just finished our “Fuel for Finals” event. Our E-club fundraised over $4,000 for Sub for Santa. There is also a Covey leadership event that people from all colleges are welcome to attend. We have our business council holiday party on Thursday. I also wanted to share that I have heard student concerns of faculty holding classes on Saturdays that are required, which I discussed with my dean and learned is not allowed. If you hear of problems like this, let me know.

• ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS
  o Sophia May: As you are planning spring events and college weeks, think creatively about how to include statewide students in that.
  o Jessica Roueche: Please complete the advisor survey we sent this morning. Also, please finish your receipts and purchases soon because Business Services will take a break for the holidays. Additionally, the scheduling service opened for Spring so if you need to reserve any rooms.

• ADJOURNMENT
  o Senator Christopher: Moved / Senator Lesser-Thorngren: Second / Voting body: Passed