ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING MINUTES

October 25, 2021 | 4:00 PM | USUSA Senate Chamber

• CALL TO ORDER
  o Approval of minutes: Senator Thorngren: **Moved** / Senator Cox: **Second** / Voting body: **Passed**

  o 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 Wappett</td>
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• PUBLIC FORUM
  o Reagan Jensen: We are currently hiring for the 2022 A-team. As you work closely with students, we want to ask you to recommend students who would be a good fit to apply for A-team.
  o Kara Pastorik: They can find the information on our website, which is usu.edu/ateam. If they have any questions, they can come to our office and ask. Applications close this Friday at 5pm.
  o Jacob Horton: In the past, the PR and Marketing office used to take care of all of the marketing for your events. This changed over the summer and those functions moved to Student Media because it made more sense to have all of those similar projects coming from the same place. If you would like to make a video with Blue Light Media, the first thing you need to do is to fill out a request form which can be found on the Involvement page of the USUSA website. When you fill out these requests, please be as descriptive as possible. Coming to the meeting with mood boards, previous designs, or any inspirations
will make the meeting go much smoother and more quickly. Submit as much inspiration as you can when you put in your feedback request.

- VP Casdorph: What kinds of projects do you take on?
- Nathan Laursen: Any graphic designs you need for posters and signs, and we also have photo and video services available.
- VP Casdorph: What is your timeline?
- Jacob Horton: The timeline I like to give is 5-6 weeks which gives extra time to get approval and tweak the designs. We will take care of the approval requests with PDP and UMAC.

- Nathan Laursen: As soon as your request is approved, we will put you in a Slack channel with you, the designers and project managers, and your advisors. We want to keep all communication about the designs in that channel.

- Senator Rodriguez: How long does PDP usually take?
- Jacob Horton: A lot of different factors go into PDP’s timeline, so that can vary. I would say about 2-3 weeks but that also depends on the time of year.
- Senator Lesser-Thorgren: Is there a process with how to deal with something that is printed incorrectly?
- Jacob Horton: Normally, when that happens, that 2-3 week window accounts for PDP to correct. If it is a problem that comes up during the design, that can be fixed pretty quickly. If PDP has a mistake, usually they will be quick to help and easy to work with to fix that problem.

- Jacob Horton: We are also introducing a project tracker that you can access under the USUSA resources page of the website.

- Nathan Laursen: The fourth step is to send all edits to the Project manager in the designated Slack channel. We can’t emphasize strongly enough how important it is to keep all communications about the design in that slack channel.

- Jacob Horton: When you receive the completed project, you will able to see all of the designs and elements in a box file. Printed materials will be hand-delivered to you when they’re finished. Finally, when the whole process is complete, we will have you fill out the customer satisfaction survey.

- Senator Wappett: If the designer is going in a direction you don’t like, could you pull out and do an independent design?
- Jacob Horton: Yes, that is totally a possibility. You can work with UMAC and PDP independently, but it can be tricky because they are constantly updating their rules and we are the ones who are most familiar with those updates. However, if you run into an issue with a designer, please let them know that you don’t like it and what you don’t like about it, so that you can work together on the problem. Our goal is to make things easier for you, not harder.

- Jacob Horton: Also, please keep in mind that you are working with students, and it is important to keep in mind that they have tests and plans just like any other students, so you may need to be a bit more patient. We also ask for some patience as we are working
through some kinks with the relationship between UMAC, PDP and Student Media especially as we are making the transition to bring in new elements to Student Media this summer.

- **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**
  - VP Casdorph: There will be a dinner on November 11 at 6:00 pm with Dr. Morales and we will send out another RSVP page.

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  - There was no unfinished business

- **NEW BUSINESS**
  - VP Casdorph: For new business today, we are going to talk about the constitution and elections changes. Basically, we wanted a constitution that represented everybody so that there would be representation at all the different campuses. We went to Eastern and had a special election to incorporate EUSA (Eastern Utah Student Association) into USUSA. That passed with more than a 2/3 vote, and now all statewide students are part of USUSA. Now we will have one USUSA president and Eastern will have a vice president over their campus. This is what we currently have [references infographic, included in attached slides]. We have our Executive Council, our Statewide Campus Executive Council, the USUSA Academic Senate. Now we have a Logan campus vice president, which is a new position. Any box that looks like this is a non-voting member. Statewide, we have a vice president over all of these locations. The USUSA student body president will be the chair of both the Logan campus executive council and the statewide campus executive council. Then we have our statewide executive council and they have their own VP. Lastly, we have our Academic Senate, which isn’t going to change much. The Exec VP is still the chair. Then there is the ELB, these three positions are in their own committee and they also sit in the other councils as you can see.
  - Senator Wappett: Why are there so many non-voting members?
  - Sophia May: Since the Executive Leadership Board members are voted on by the entire statewide student body and they have a vote in the Executive Leadership Board, there are checks and balances; the thought is that since the ELB will vote in their own body, it is important for them to sit on the Logan Executive Council and the Statewide Executive Council so they are aware of the issues going on but it is unfair for them to have a vote on those councils because they already have a vote in their own body and it is important for the members of those councils to be the primary people voting on their issues in the councils.
  - VP Casdorph: An as an overarching theme, this was decided by President Cockett and President Ahmed and others a long time ago; however, this is what we are doing and there has been a lot of discussion. At this point, it is sort of set in stone but we are still open to questions.
  - Senator Rodriguez: For the Logan Campus Vice President, what will be in their charter?
  - Sophia May: Great question. We patterned this off of what is happening at the
University level. We have President Cockett who is the president at the University level, so we mirrored that in USUSA. If the USUSA president is going to give adequate time to all of the statewide issues and attend those meetings, they wouldn’t have time to do that in the Logan day-to-day things. Things like planning Aggie Blue and sitting on certain committees will go to the Logan VP.

- **Senator Rodriguez:** This is more hypothetical, but I think that myself and other senators feel like there are decisions being made in Executive Council without our input, and I’m wondering if that council of three people will be able to make decisions and statements without our input? Will they be speaking for us without our opinions?
- **Sophia May:** Absolutely not, and one of the major parts of this was that they wanted to create checks and balances for that reason. The ELB can’t just make a statement that applies to everybody without getting other input. The structure is set up so that three people aren’t going to make decisions for everyone, there are checks and balances.
- **Senator Thorngren:** Why was Athletic & Campus Recreation Vice President changed to Executive Director?
- **VP Casdorph:** What it came to was that the VP positions listed here can be the only instances where Vice President is used. To be fair, executive director was the best phrase that was brought forth, there were other options like representative that were not chosen.
- **Sophia May:** As a point of clarification, this was voted on by the student body in the last election.
- **Senator Christopher:** What is the difference between Logan Campus VP and Executive VP?
- **VP Casdorph:** How it worked was that a lot of the statewide issues went to the President, a lot of the current President’s committees went to the Executive VP and Student Advocate. Anything big picture, multiple campuses is to the ELB and anything Logan specific is for the Logan council.
- **Sophia May:** Point of clarification: The executive VP will be the chair of both fee boards. Logan has its own student fees that are different from other campuses, but they will be on both student fee boards.
- **Senator Lesser-Thorngren:** They are going to try this out next year and see it how it goes, is that right? I think that having four different elections will not be effective for students.
- **VP Casdorph:** To explain that, let’s talk about this next slide.
- **Senator Rodriguez:** Before we move on, I have a question. Will the scholarships for statewide representatives change? And will student fees pay for these scholarships?
- **Sophia May:** The scholarship will not change because their responsibilities are staying the same.
Senator Thorngren: Will all of the scholarships stay the same for everyone on Executive Council? Will we know if anything does shift?
Sophia May: Yes. No scholarships are going down.
VP Casdorph: We will hold a meeting and we will get a presentation about that so we will be aware of any changes.
Senator Rodriguez: With the compensations, will Academic Senate that represent the whole state have different compensation than those that don’t?
Sophia May: That is the case already, Academic Senate positions represent all statewide students.
Senator Lesser-Thorngren: Will this change how we plan events, do we need to plan things for statewide campuses as well?
Sophia May: Academic Senate will not change. You are already representing Statewide students, they voted for you. This is why we ask you to try getting statewide representation on your councils. That is one of the motivations behind these plans, because you are all representing these students but we haven’t had been able to do enough with statewide students so far.
Senator Lesser-Thorngren: Would there be an eventual budget increase to do events on their campuses?
Sophia May: .The one thing I would recommend there is to work with the campus vice presidents and the representatives under them to collaborate with them, and that way you can work with the budgets that already exist with those statewide officers to collaborate on events.
VP Casdorph: I think that this hasn’t been done before, I don’t know of other universities in the nation that are doing this. We are sort of making our own path, so it is a work in progress and I’m looking forward to what is coming up going forward.
VP Casdorph: The changes to elections include that any students regardless of campus can run for USUSA President, Executive VP, Student Advocate VP, and college senators. There will no longer be a primary and final election, but there will be run-offs if needed. There will be two election weeks. Week one will be the three positions on the executive leadership board. Week two will be all of the remaining positions. Students can now declare for two positions, although they can only hold one position.
Senator Rodriguez: I don’t think that it is fair for one person to run for two positions. I wanted to run for CHaSS Senator because I care about CHaSS, I would have been frustrated to run against someone who had originally run for vice president and didn’t care about CHaSS.
Sophia May: I will tell you that this was a big discussion in the meetings and it was a big compromise with incorporating Eastern. They were very concerned that they would have a student that really was excited to run for a USUSA ELB position but they don’t make it, then they would miss out on having those students
lead on their campus

- **Senator Rodriguez**: I see what you are saying, but I still think this makes room for Logan students to abuse this rule. Like if I had run against Erik Fogth after he lost the election, I could have lost by hundreds of votes.
- **Senator Thorngren**: For example, you could put your name out for President even if you don’t care at all about that race, just so you get your name out there to run for Diversity VP or something like that.
- **Senator Lesser-Thorngren**: Then you would also get your marketing materials increased and you double your budget and it is unfair.
- **Sophia May**: These are absolutely valid concerns, that is why we are going to keep working it out. In order to get Eastern on board, this was something we had to do and something that President Cockett asked us to do.
- **Chief of Staff Alder**: Is there a provision for using budget for the first election and then using the same materials for the second election?
- **Sophia May**: No, you would not be able to reuse materials like that from the first to the second election so we would not get that unfair advantage.
- **Senator Lesser-Thorngren**: Is there a way to make this election filing possible for Statewide but not for Logan students?
- **Sophia May**: That is something that would take another special election that is not feasible before the next election.
- **VP Casdorph**: These are all important things to talk about and I’m glad we are getting your input. We will continue to work things out as best as we can. We have the Facilities Enhancement meeting after this, so I would entertain a motion to email in your updates to be included in the minutes so we can move now to the facilities meeting.

- Motion to send updates in by email: Senator Cox: **Moved** / Senator Thorngren: **Second** / Voting body: **Passed**
- **Senator Lesser-Thorngren**: Point of information: Artoberfest has been changed to Thursday and it is in the TSC ballroom. Please share the graphics, I will send those out after the meeting.
- **VP Casdorph**: I wanted to go over some benefits of the changes we’ve talked about today. The new constitution allows for more lines of communication with upper administration, more opportunities for statewide officers to sit on committees that used to only be chaired by Logan Officers, including Facilities Enhancement, College Councils, Academic Opportunity Fund. If you have any questions, please bring them to me, President Stevens, or your advisors and we will help get those questions answered. In my perspective right now, this is the best path we can take right now and we will keep figuring out what works best.
- **Sophia May**: I’ll add that we would appreciate if you keep track of your observations and concerns so that we can include those as we continue to change things and make compromises, we value your input and contributions.
• COUNCIL UPDATES
  o Senator Christopher: CEHS Week is two weeks away! Getting all the small details ironed out. Will print and send out the graphics ASAP! Excited for the events planned.
  o Senator Dikwa-Nkrumah: Council Halloween event is Wednesday 3-6 in the engineering lab building. After, we will be focusing on Engineering Week for the rest of the semester.
  o Senator Mousley: We are finalizing design of flyers to be handed out to students during Science Week and finalizing purchase list for Science Week.
  o Senator Rodriguez: For CHaSS council we are currently working on a advising event, it is going to take place Nov. 6th. Our service committee is working on gathering supplies for making hygiene kits for an event. And as usual just slowly preparing for CHaSS week.
  o Senator Wappett: QCNR cook-off was a great success! Super fun, lots of participation. The book club has picked 6th extinction for book. Halloween group is dressing up our polar bear this week. We are wrangling club treasurers for training. Logger’s Ball is happening, and soon!
  o Senator Chowdhury-Magana: We had our international panel and keynote for the inclusive excellence symposium and we had 235 attendees. I will be working on the bi-annual survey and hopefully get that out by the end of the week. I will also be meeting with several people on the Jet committee that is focusing on mental health.

• ADVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS
  o There were no advisor announcements.

• ADJOURNMENT