

# **ASUW SENATE MEETING MINUTES**

The February 8th, 2022, senate meeting was called to order by Vice President Anderson at 7:00pm. The land acknowledgement statement and mission statement were read, and the Pledge of Allegiance was done at individual member's discretion.

## **ROLL CALL**

Senator Bogus, Hughes, Labato, and Pradhanang were not present.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the February 8th, 2022, senate meeting were approved without objection, as electronically circulated.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chief of Legislative Affairs Carrier moved to add confirmation and swearing in of a new Senator as the last item under new business.

The motion was approved without objection.

The agenda was approved, as amended, without objection.

## **OPEN FORUM**

There was no one in the gallery wishing to address the Senate.

## **SPECIAL EVENT**

Al Walsh from student legal services addressed the Senate to discuss the services provided by student legal services. First of all, he discussed how the purpose of student legal services is to help students with legal problems by giving them advice and guidance on what to do. However, student legal services is unable to represent students in court and will not be able to get involved with serious criminal matters such as a minor in possession charge or any other situation where the student is facing jail time. One of the biggest issues that student legal services handles is landlord tenant problems. With this, student legal services has helped greatly with getting students out of bad leases and even getting their deposit back. With landlord tenant rights, they help walk and talk students through different options they have. Al then began to explain how even though you may have won suing your landlord, it can be difficult to get your landlord to actually pay you. In order to solve this problem and others, you can change the process of who the rent is actually going to. He also gave some advice on how to avoid a bad landlord such as watching out for commonly known bad landlords and ensuring you know exactly who your landlord is. He then touched on how the new landlord city ordinance will basically force the city to deal with any problems that students may be facing with landlords. Additionally, student legal services touches and works on a little bit of everything from family law, immigration, emotional

support animals, and more. He also thanked the ASUW executive branch for their hard work with providing support and space to student legal services. Finally, he ended his presentation with saying if you ever need any legal assistance or advice, come talk to student legal services.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Executive Reports**

President Swilling first wanted to say welcome back to Senate and apologized for being unable to attend the previous week. He also welcomed and introduced himself to the new Senators and reported that he can always be reached via email and he will work on responding as quickly as possible. Then he began to discuss COVID and how numbers are currently low especially compared to the past. The presidential advisory committee on COVID-19 met to discuss masks and recommended that masks should be discontinued everywhere except for in classrooms and in labs. Masks would also be required on buses and all health-related entities on campus. However, this recommendation still has to go through the board of trustees so it is still up in the air on what may actually occur with the masks. Next, he reported that he has been working hard with the budgets and gave a shout out to everyone who helped with the budget deliberation. He also has been working on the vice president of research and economic development search and has come down to the final candidates. This role is extremely important and he hopes they can have a final candidate soon. Additionally, he has been working with the deans of the honors college to have a look at the honors major and provide feedback. They are currently considering providing a bachelors degree in Honors so he will be providing insight to this. He is also working with the strategic planning process for both ASUW and the University. He reminded everyone that if they were invited to sit on these committees to attend. Strategic planning creates the next 5 year plan for the University so it is a very important process to be a part of. He reported he is also conducting the search for the assistance director of ASUW and have their last candidate interview will be coming up. He has also been working on equitable access to provide feedback and insight to the program. Equitable access would provide all undergraduate students textbooks for one flat rate cost. He also gave a brief update on parking and said that the Union parking lot is going away and construction will likely begin in April or May. This lot will be completely gone in the summer however the Ivinson parking garage will not be ready until about November. The parking permit structure is also changing and the closer you are will be more expensive. Next, he read the director reports for those directors not present. Director of Marketing Clark-Mellott reported “This past week I have been working on promoting financial wellness events, including the podcast, which is released right now, other work in social media, and some marketing work regarding other executive’s projects. I am also creating a post letting student orgs know again that they can market through our social media channels. In the future, I will be working on the next podcast episode about Love month with Director McLean.” Director of Governmental and Community Affairs Brown said “Director Brown is currently attending a City Council meeting. Director Brown spent the majority of her week writing resolutions in response to budget resolutions from the Wyoming State Legislature which will be up for first reading tonight. Director Brown continues to work on other ongoing projects including the student issues survey, outreach with student groups like the Queer Community Coalition alongside Director Sapien, resolutions to explore issues diverse students face on campus, and the continuation of

finalizing work on the Good Samaritan Policy resolution. As always, Director Brown invites any senator to visit her during office hours to discuss their projects further.”

Chief of Staff Homer-Wambeam’s report was included with President Swilling’s.

Chief of Legislative Affairs Carrier said “I first want to start off with giving a warm welcome to all of our new senators and welcome to your first senate meeting as an official senator. For those of you who don’t know me, I’m kathryne and I am the chief of legislative affairs so I work very closely with Vice President Anderson and you’ll see and hear from me a lot in regards to the Senate. I am also your go to person for anything legislation or Senate related. Anyways, I have nothing to new for me to report this week. Per usual, I have been assisting with first-year senate and attending various meetings here and there. I have also been focusing on the ad-hoc restructuring committee and with that, I am looking at finding a new meeting time so I am sending around a new sign-up sheet, please only put your name down if you are genuinely planning on attending the committee. I had like 20 people say they were interested in being on the committee a few weeks ago but like 9 people have been showing up, so I ask that you only put your name down if you will be in attendance regularly. New Senators, you are welcomed and encouraged to sign-up to sit on this committee as well. Just a little bit of background, the ad-hoc restructuring committee focuses on restructuring parts of ASUW that have historically not been working so well. Last semester we got rid of the college representation model like we have now and also shrunk the number of senators to 21. This semester we are reworking our patterns, so our relationship with the interfraternity council, college panhellenic council, and sustainability council. If any of that interests you please feel free to sign up and you are more than welcome to come chat with me at anytime if you have any questions about it at all. Anyways, coming up, I am continuing to work with scholarships, more information on this will be coming next week, but just so you all know now, it will be required for you all to serve on at least one scholarship committee. Next week, I will be our special event where I will go into more detail each of our scholarships and then you all can sign-up for the one you are interested in serving on. Finally, I am going to start doing something I think is a little fun in my reports, or at least I think its kind of fun. I am going to start sharing a fun fact about ASUW so that we can all learn a little bit more about ASUW. So this week’s fun fact is that the ASUW office, so down in the basement of the Union, used to be a bowling alley.”

Director of Diversity and Inclusion Sapien was not present.

Director of Finance and Student Organizations Reyes-Aguilar’s reported “This past week I spent most of my time working on Financial Wellness Events alongside Director Stadler and recording a financial wellness podcast as mentioned earlier. I have also been helping out with budget hearings and participated in the budget deliberation day last Sunday. In the coming weeks, I will continue to work on finalizing more Financial Wellness events, as well as working with Director Sapien on translating documents on the ASUW Student Org Funding website into Spanish to make it accessible to Spanish speaking students.”

Director of Financial Planning and Analysis Stadler was not present.

Director of Governmental and Community Affairs Brown's report was read by President Swilling's.

Director of Marketing Clark's report was read by President Swilling.

Director of Partners, Programs, and Events Hacke reported "I wanted to mention that you can find student legal services resources and information on the ASUW website along with our other programs. Also feel free to reach out to me and I can steer you in the right direction. The rest of my report will be given throughout various other communication."

Director of Wellness and Sustainability McLean reported "This week, I worked with Chief Homer-Wambeam and Ivan Sapien to plan mental health week, which will be taking place the week of February 28. I am continuing work with climate action and medical amnesty, so send me an email or come by the office if you would like to be involved. Safety and wellness met Monday at 2:30 in the ASUW conference room. We are continuing our work in fulfilling President Swilling's campaign promises of winter safety. If you have not met your committee requirements would like to join safety and wellness, please let myself or VP Anderson know."

The Judicial Council was not present.

Vice President Anderson first wanted to welcome all of the new senators and said that their committee assignments should be done this Friday. Next, he said that if you have received the Senatorial Scholarship that you will still need to go in and accept it in WyoScholarships, however, it has not been actually uploaded in yet, so be on the lookout for that. Next, he said that he is always able to be reached by email, but his work email is his preferred email. Finally, he gave a big thanks to Programs and Institutional Development, Budget and Planning, and Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy for their hard work with the budget and equitable access.

Project Coordinator Crosby reported "The 109<sup>th</sup> administration is working tirelessly to address the initiatives on which they ran and have dedicated much of their time. My support of these efforts has materialized in different forms, including meeting with Connor of Restorative Justice in the Dean of Students to discuss and align DEI goals; meeting with Strategic Partners in FSL to deconstruct the expectations and relationships of the current Partner structure; interviewing candidates for the Assistant Director position with hopes of filling the vacancy; supporting Non-Trad. as they work to expand their leadership and membership; assisting the operations of and presenting at this past Saturday's Student Leadership Conference; helping Student Legal Services prep for their forthcoming Special Event presentation; and collaborating with FYS Advisor Smith as we reimagine the structural and educational standards of First Year Senate. Moving forward, I will continue to work alongside Multicultural Affairs as we support UMC's upcoming African Diaspora celebration event on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>; attending ASUW committee meetings; making myself available to Partners and Programs; liaising between ASUW and CSIL; attending events coordinated under Love Month and Financial Wellness Month; and hosting individual check-ins with Executives – and I'd like to extend that offer to any Senator who'd like to sit down and talk with me, just hit me up.

As always, if I can be of service to you in any capacity, please don't hesitate to reach out."

Accountant Shaef reported that most of her time recently has been spent working with the budgets. She also thanked everyone on Budget and Planning for their hard work and thoughtful debate during the budget session. She gave a shoutout to Senator McGee for all of the extra hard work she has put in into leading the budget hearings, staying after debates to formulate emails, and scheduling appeal hearings.

### **Ex- Officio Communications**

College Panhellenic Council reported that they had their budget hearing last week as well as their biweekly meeting with partners. They also reported they are forming a book club for Women's history month.

Faculty Senate was not present.

First-Year Senate reported they met tonight at 5:15pm but did not vote on SB #2779 because their steering committee gave a do-not pass and that is the only committee they currently have. However, they did make recommendations on all other legislation.

The Interfraternity Council reported they had their biweekly meeting with ASUW and have also joined the Ad-Hoc Restructuring committee in order to give insight on partners.

International Students Association reported they have coffee hours where you can interact with other international students in the international students office.

Non-Traditional Student Council reported they had a members meeting that focused on the non-traditional student experience. They also voted on an appointment of a new ex-officio member for the ASUW Senate.

Residence Halls Association was not present.

The Sustainability Coalition worked with Food Security Taskforce and are working to reach out to food cabinets to ensure that they are all up to date and working smoothly.

Staff Senate was not present.

Student Athlete Advisory Committee was not present.

United Multicultural Council was not present.

Wyoming Honors Organization was not present.

### **Committee Reports**

Steering reported they met at their usual time last week and have begun meeting in the Senate chambers. They steered legislation and made recommendations on legislation.

Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy reported they met last week and made recommendations on the steered legislation up for second reading tonight.

Budget and Planning reported “Budget and Planning met last Friday to vote on several pieces of legislation up for debate tonight. We had quite a bit of discussion for these bills and realignments, as well as some funding requests that had come to us previously. We have decided to circle back on some of these funding requests by inviting speakers to our future meetings. In addition, we heard all budget hearings and debated for 9 and a half hours on the next fiscal year’s budget. In the next week we will be hearing appeals from several budgets and then writing legislation for the approved budgets. As a reminder for all those who have submitted budgets, if you are interested in appealing that, please send myself and Accountant Schaefer an email by tomorrow at 5pm.”

Elections reported they did not meet last week.

Programs and Institutional Development reported “PID met last week on Friday, and we assigned each member to an ASUW program for reevaluation this semester as well as decided on our recommendation for SB#2780. We also heard a presentation from Equitable Access where they gave us an updated report on the program and the concerns that they were addressing from members around campus.”

Safety and Wellness reported they met this week and have a new meeting time from 2:30-3:30 in the ASUW conference room on Mondays where they started working on Winter safety initiatives.

Student Organization and Funding Board reported they met yesterday at 3:30pm in the Big Horn Room. They heard one event request from the cowboy country swing club which was approved. They also heard a conference request from the student chapter of energy resources and approved their request.

The restructuring Ad-Hoc reported “when the ad-hoc met on Friday we went over past evaluations with the partnerships and started discussing how we are wanting to approach this restructure in general. A common theme with this discussion is that there needs to be a lot clearer definitions and specific requirements of that this partnership is going to look like. We are planning on better defining this by trying to nail down what exactly the two groups are asking of one another. With that, this week we are really wanting to revisit what the two groups are asking of each other and are going to begin hopefully codifying some stuff.”

Strategic planning reported they are working to develop the strategic plan which is a unique opportunity that comes only 4-5 years. They are currently focusing on data gathering by looking over past strategic plans and evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of each. With this, they are beginning to decide what they want their strategic plan to look like.

### **College Contact Reports**

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources had no report.

The College of Arts and Sciences had no report.

The College of Business had no report.

The College of Education had no report.

The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences had no report.

The Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources had no report.

The College of Health Sciences had no report.

The College of Law had no report.

School of Energy Resources had no report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Senate Bill #2779: Incorporating Financial Need as a Selection Component for all ASUW Scholarships

The bill was read for a second time.

Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy gave a do-pass recommendation.

Budget and Planning gave a do-pass recommendation.

Senator Rhymes moved to pass Senate bill #2779.

Senator Ewalt seconded.

Senator Rhymes moved to amend the bill by inserting “WHEREAS, some students applying to these merit-based scholarships already have the entirety of their tuition and living expenses paid for through other funding and therefore possess the time and funding to participate in more leadership activities, but financially needy applicants may not be considered due to not being perceived as equally competitive; and,” between lines 20 and 21 and inserting “THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW Accountant shall determine the criteria for how financial need is assessed by ASUW scholarship committees, including but not limited to a personal statement of need, declaration of significant funding sources such as the Trustees’ Scholars Award, assessment of employment hours during school year, or other appropriate means of assessment; and,” between Lines 32 and 33.

Senator Engel-Cartie seconded.

The motion passed unanimously via a voice vote. President Swilling moved to amend line 33 by inserting “beginning in Fiscal Year 2023 before “the ASUW accountant shall determine.” and “THEREFORE, be it further enacted that until Fiscal Year 2023, financial need as a selection criterion shall be

determined by the unmet financial need as reported by the UW Financial Aid Office on the scholarship applicant review form; and,” between lines 37 and 38.

Senator Rhymes seconded.

The motion passed unanimously via a voice vote.

The motion passed, as amended, via a roll call vote, 21-2.

#### Senate Bill #2780: Defining and Reducing the Scope of the Associated Students Technical Services

The bill was read for a second time.

Budget and planning gave a do-pass recommendation.

Programs and Institutional Development gave a do-pass recommendation.

Senator Rhymes moved to pass Senate bill #2780.

Senator Smith seconded.

Senator Rhymes moved to adopt the amendments made by the Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy committee as electronically circulated prior to the meeting.

Senator Engel-Cartie seconded.

President Swilling moved to amend the motion with the amendments electronically circulated during the meeting.

Senator Smith seconded.

The motion passed unanimously via a voice vote.

The motion passed unanimously via a voice vote as amended.

The motion passed unanimously, as amended, via a roll call vote, 23-0.

#### Senate Bill #2781: Allowing the ASUW President to Appoint Three Executives with the Advice and Consent of the Intersession Oversight Committee

The bill was read for a second time.

Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy gave a do-pass recommendation.

Steering gave a do-pass recommendation.

Senator True moved to pass Senate bill #2781.

Senator Laverell seconded.

The motion passed unanimously via a roll call vote, 23-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Senate Resolution #2782: ASUW Support for Wyoming Legislature HB#0028: Hathaway Scholarship

The resolution was read for the first time.

The resolution was steered to Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy.

Senate Resolution #2783: ASUW Support for Wyoming Legislature HB#0031: Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship Program

The resolution was read for the first time.

The resolution was steered to Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy.

Senate Resolution #2784: ASUW Support for Senate File SF#0030: Wyoming Community College Investment Fund

The resolution was read for the first time.

The resolution was steered to Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy.

Senate Resolution #2785: ASUW Support for the Creation of a Graduate Certificate in Community & Public Health

The resolution was read for a first time.

The resolution was steered to Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy.

Senator Ewalt moved for a five minute recess.

Senator Smith seconded.

The Senate reconvened at 8:35pm.

Senate Bill #2786: Funding for the Marketing and Promotion of New Student Organizations

The bill was read for the first time.

The bill was steered to Student Organization Funding Board; Programs and Institutional Development; Budget and Planning

Senate Resolution #2787: ASUW Opposition to Wyoming State Legislature SF#0051: Fairness in Women's Sports Act

The resolution was read for the first time.

The resolution was steered to Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy.

DACA/Intl. Student Scholarship Realignment

Budget and Planning gave a do-pass recommendation.

Senator McGee moved to approve the realignment.

Senator Castronoco seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously via a standing vote.

Rhitmavara Pokharel was confirmed and sworn in as a new Senator for the College of Health Sciences.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

First-Year Senator Etchepare wanted to thank the authors of the bill to address the concerns the First-Year Senate had.

Senator Rhymes announced that alternative spring break is being held by the SLCE office this year. The trip is completely free to go on besides a \$50 fully refundable deposit.

Director of Finance and Student Organization Reyes-Aguilar announced all of the upcoming financial wellness events. Specific dates and events can be found on the ASUW social media.

After processing, the meeting adjourned at 9:04pm. The next regular meeting of the Senate will be on February 15th, 2022, at 7:00pm in the Union Senate Chambers Room 221.

Kathryne Carrier  
Chief of Legislative Affairs-109<sup>th</sup> Administration

