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# **ASUW SENATE MINUTES**

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The May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting was called to order by Vice President Titus at 7:00pm. The mission statement was read and roll was taken. Senators Haratyk and Knight were absent.

## **SWEARING IN OF NEW SENATORS**

All of the Senators present at the meeting were sworn into their positions by Advisor Lozano.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting were approved, without objection, as electronically circulated.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved, without objection, as electronically circulated.

## **OPEN FORUM**

There were no comments made in this section of the meeting.

## **SPECIAL EVENT**

Dr. Kimberly Chestnut, Vice President for Student Affairs, addressed the Senate to talk about her division and also provide insight on the COVID-19 working groups from all across campus. She began by talking about the Student Affairs division on campus and saying that it is about student success achieved through engagement and holistic wellness. They offer student-centered services through an agenda made for and by students themselves in order to create a safe and comfortable environment for everyone on campus. To achieve this, they offer Wellness services because mental health is an important issue that has been amplified by COVID-19. Division also works to educate students and make them accountable for their actions. ASUW members are leaders, so they are expected to uphold the student code of conduct and set an example for their peers. Student Affairs also offers many leadership opportunities including for social justice through SLCE, which measures it populations and participation to gain feedback on their programming. They really focus on shared governance within their ranks, but also for across campus as a whole. The entire division is made up of 243 full time staff members, 97 Resident Assistants or Graduate Assistants, and about 600 or so hourly students. Dr. chestnut then turned the floor over to Dean of Students, Ryan O'Neil.

Ryan began by saying 'hello' to everybody and explaining her title and what that entails. She touched on the values of the Student Affairs division. First up is the student development platform which includes the 'We are UW' campaign, community values, the student code of conduct, and

experiential learning, found in Multicultural Affairs, SLCE, ASUW, etc., which all help to evolve students while on campus. Second is personal and social responsibility which also involves the 'We are UW' campaign and is a place of improvement for many students. The third is holistic wellness which entails the supporting of the entire student by the University and importantly tends to the academic needs and success of those students. Fourth is diversity which is comprised of Multicultural Affairs, but also many other areas like study abroad, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, International student and Scholars, which has Advisor Lozano's wife, Abby, working in it, etc. Fifth and finally is engagement which is made up of ASUW, CSIL, and really focuses on student involvement and engagement.

Kim then was returned the floor and talked about the five areas that composed the campus wide COVID working groups. First was University operations, which was chaired by Acting President Neil Theobald and General Counsel Tara Evans. This group focused on testing every member on campus every two weeks via saliva tests; they were working to figure the supply chain to be able to do so and the logistics of such a plan. The second group was University structure which was co-chaired by Associate Provost Tami Benham-Deal and Associate Vice President David Jewell. This particular group focused on an on-campus educational environment, with subgroups of it focusing on course delivery methods, research continuity, lab classes, etc. They also kept in mind that many faculty members are at high-risk for severe complications from the virus while students are not. The third group is social structure which is headed up by Dr. Chestnut herself and included the functions of RLDS, CSIL, and other sections of campus for student services. They had initial recommendations including students wearing masks, single occupancy residence halls, social distancing measures being put into place, dining halls having new looks, and retail dining being only takeout options. Other members of that group include President Talamantes and folks from Athletics and the medical communities as well. The fourth group is personnel policies which Associate Vice President for Human Resources, Tom Koczara, chaired. They focused on mask wearing by employees and sick options for them as well. Other members of the committee include Project Coordinator Wheeler and Senator Wilkins. The fifth and final group was focused on community and state interaction and was chaired by Vice President Boswell and Chad Baldwin. They have been mainly working with people from the state in Cheyenne. The subgroups for academics include scheduling and instructional delivery, research, and also reflection, assessment, and lessons learned. Vice President Chestnut then took questions from members present. First, she noted that the recommendation of single occupancy residence hall rooms was just that, a recommendation, and is not a final decision yet. If that were to happen though, it would be more manageable, but the rooms would not be likely to be charged at the rate of single rooms because it is more of a disservice to students who do not have roommates and looked forward to that college experience. She also mentioned that the entire nation was anticipating a decrease in enrollment and that it was expected even before COVID hit. This is because there are less children in this generation and there are less Wyoming high school graduates this year, which is a trend seen nationwide. They were anticipating 250 less first-year students in the fall, pre-COVID, which was leading to talks of budget cuts even prior to the pandemic; those will now just be exacerbated by the crisis. Freshman will be granted leniency in the live-in policy and dorms will be expanded by the renovation of old residence hall buildings and rooms. Dr. Chestnut also talked about how the location of classes in classrooms is important to ensure social distancing can happen four room sizes that is why modifications are being put into place. There is a matrix that will choose rooms based on this modified scheduling. The University is working to make classes in person if at all

possible because if students take gap years that hurts retention rates and increases student debt. They do not want to be online and are smoothing out a process for student success. These groups are considering starting the semester really to make sure finals week is completed before Thanksgiving break to allow for mitigation, increased safety, and avoiding a surge of flu season. If a new surge arises in October, the University could return to all online classes or increase isolation housing on campus. Research has shown that students who live in on-campus housing their first year are better engaged, more satisfied, and have more academic success. There is a revenue component for Greek life and the University, but students also receive secondary support in this on-campus housing. She is reluctant to let first-year students out of the residence halls but would be most likely to let them live in Greek houses if they did not fulfill the live-in requirement. This year is undetermined on many fronts, but she assured everyone that conversations on such scenarios have been being had and are continuing to happen. Dean O'Neil offered that the Greek life on campus has national guidelines from their individual chapters to follow that include social distancing. Kim added that they are working to provide information on best and safe practices for those on campus to abide by and that masks are one of the most important factors to limit the spread and transmission of the virus. Criteria to receive a test have been lowered and include less symptoms being shown to be administered which will hopefully lead to more capacity for testing to be done institutionally in a central location. The IT department has been following physical distancing guidelines and mask mandates and enforcing those and they are working on doing the same for Half Acre gym and the Coe Library. It was presented that annually 60000 to 120000 people are lost due to complications from the flu, so the dual factor of that and COVID could present many issues leading to the need for aggressive testing capabilities on campus and they have been meeting and making contingency plans to be able to do so. If they are not able to test so often, temperature taking is an option that has been floated, but this all could be the new reality until a safe vaccine is developed and put into place. The question then becomes if that vaccine is required by students on campus. Finally, Dr. Chestnut noted that talks have been happening about one round of COVID tests being taken for students before they return to campus and those could be active tests or antibody tests. If students present with the antibody they may not need to test again, but they want to be able to implement both for safety reasons of all those on campus. Plans are being developed to have online options for people who do contract the virus or otherwise get sick during the course of the semester.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Executive Reports**

President Talamantes said

Vice President Titus said “welcome to the 108th administration! What an interesting inauguration day and first Senate meeting. I do have a couple important announcements for you all tonight. First, there are quite a few things cut from the agenda tonight in order to increase the ease and speed of which we can conduct this meeting virtually. If you all are curious what a normal agenda looks like, I encourage you all to go to the ASUW website. Next, typical parliamentary procedure would be you sticking your hand out and then being put on the speaking list and then waiting for me to call your name when it's your turn to speak. On Zoom, however, we use the raise hand function which can be found by clicking the “Participants” button. Two

important things that were cut from the agenda tonight were committee reports and college contacts. Typically during these times at the first Senate of the administration we allow you to fill out the committee preference sheet and to meet with the senators in your college and decide who will be the college contact. However tonight this will all happen after the meeting via email. I will send out the committee preference forms for you to fill out and you should get in touch with your fellow senators in your college to discuss who is going to be the college contact. Lastly, in order to follow up on these virtual tasks, ensure a smooth transition into office, and compensate for the loss of face time I will be meeting one-on-one with each Senator over the next couple months. All of this will be sent in an email later to remind you, so don't worry if I lost you at some point, and I will include the link you can use to schedule a one-on-one with me whenever it is convenient for you. Last thing I wanted to put on your radar was the Senatorial retreat which will happen sometime in the Fall which is mandatory. As soon as we have a better understanding of what our Fall semester is looking like as a University, I will be in touch with you all via email about dates and times of this event. Please keep an eye out for an email from me after this and don't forget to set up your one-on-one with me. For the nominations we will set up a poll and you can vote on your screen."

Advisor Lozano began by congratulating everyone on being in their seats on ASUW's Senate, but that the professional staff within the business office are sad to see other people go and move on to the bigger and better things. He echoed the sentiments of Vice President Titus to check the website of ASUW and familiarize yourselves with the working documents and structures of the organization. He thanked Vice President Chestnut and Dean of Students, Ryan O'Neil, for heading up the Student Affairs Division and always looking out for students. They will be familiar faces for everyone throughout the semester and their input is valuable, including the Director of the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership, Jeremy Davis. He then introduced the other professional staff members and yielded his time to them.

Accountant Shelly Schaefer welcomed everybody to the 108<sup>th</sup> Administration. She is excited to get the opportunity to work with all of those involved in ASUW again and noted some of her jobs duties include making sure the student fees received are spent correctly and according to the Finance Policy, working on the annual budget, and also assisting in the Special Projects application process, among many other things.

Project Coordinator Wheeler began by stating his position title and added that it entails overseeing the programs of ASUW, including First-Year Senate, United Multicultural Council, and Non-Traditional Student Council. He noted that many Senators and other elected officers of ASUW have served on the First-Year Senate and that he also holds the title as President of the Staff Senate, which allows him to sit on the Board of Trustees with President Talamantes, which he looks forward to being able to do.

Advisor Lozano continued by reiterating how strange the times are currently and that everyone in the business office are available as a resource to those who need it. He wants to be accessible as possible, so he will be sending an email out to everyone later with his contact information and closed by saying he is able to meet everyone in-person during the fall semester.



## **Ex Officio Communications**

Student Athlete Advisory Committee reported that they had begun discussing what their summer training would look like and also what classes for athletes would look like in that same time period.

Staff Senate reported that their regular monthly meeting would be occurring on Wednesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, from 1:15pm to 3:45pm and that their President is sitting on one of the campus wide COVID-19 task forces with Senator Wilkins.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Nomination and Selection of President Pro Tempore**

Senator Houghton nominated Senator Wilkins.

Senator Wilkins nominated Senator Houghton.

Senator Houghton was selected as the President Pro Tempore.

### **Nomination and Selection of Parliamentarian**

Senator Houghton nominated Senator Hoversland.

Senator Hoversland was selected as the Parliamentarian.

### **Nomination and Selection of Sergeant-at-Arms**

Senator Houghton nominated Senator Wilkins.

Senator Wilkins nominated Senator Pierson.

Senator Hoversland nominated Senator Holcomb.

Senator Pierson was selected as the Sergeant-at-Arms.

### **Nomination and Selection of Marshal**

Senator Hoversland nominated Senator Wilkins.

Senator Anderson nominated Senator Swilling.

Senator Horton nominated Senator Rubano.

Senator Wilkins was selected as the Marshal.

### **Nomination and Selection of Senators-at-Large for the Intersession Oversight Committee**

Senator Wilkins nominated Senator McManamen.

Senator Hoversland nominated Senator St. Marie.

Senator Rubano nominated Senator Horton.

Senators St. Marie and Horton were selected to serve on the Intersession Oversight Committee.

Senator Swilling moved to approve SAL Lucia Ward to serve on the Intersession Oversight Committee.

Senator Horton seconded the motion.

Motion approved by a voice vote.

Senator Doran moved to approve SAL Lorenzo Scalise to serve on the Intersession Oversight Committee.

Senator Rubano seconded the motion.  
Motion approved by a voice vote.

Senator Rubano moved to cancel the regular meeting of the ASUW Senate on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020.  
Senator Swilling seconded the motion.  
Motion passed by a voice vote.

Senator Hoversland moved to invoke the Intersession Oversight Committee at the adjournment of the meeting.  
Senator Pierson seconded the motion.  
Motion passed by a voice vote.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Senator Horton announced that she would be sending an email to all of the Senators in the College of Arts and Sciences about choosing a college contact by the end of the week, so be on the lookout for that.

After processing, the meeting adjourned at 8:33pm. The next regular meeting of the Senate will be on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 7:00pm via a Zoom videoconference.

Hank Hoversland  
Chief of Legislative Affairs-107<sup>th</sup> Administration

