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# **ASUW SENATE MINUTES**

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The September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 meeting was called to order by Vice President Titus at 7:01pm. The mission statement and the land acknowledgement statement were read and roll was taken. Senator Smith was absent.

## **SWEARING IN OF NEW SENATORS**

The new senators were sworn in.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes were approved as distributed.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

## **OPEN FORUM**

There were no speakers during open forum.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Senator Wilkins moved to make a budget realignment of \$26,480 to the Sustainability Coalition.  
Senator St. Marie seconded.  
The motion passed by a vote of 23-0-1.

## **SPECIAL EVENT**

Megan Selheim, from the Green Dot at UW program, spoke to the Senate. She went over what the Green Dot program was. She noted that Green Dot is a program committed to reducing and preventing power-based personal violence such as sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking. Green Dot is a bystander intervention program to reduce these forms of violence with one thought; If everyone does one thing, no one will have to do everything. She went over what a Green Dot is: a Green Dot is your choice at any moment to make campus safer by promoting safety for everyone and letting others know that you will not tolerate violence. A Green Dot is any behavior, choice, word or attitude that sends a clear message that: 1. Violence is not okay with you, and 2. Everyone is expected to do their part. She also noted that this program is new and that it will continue to be rolled out in stages, and the student trainings, which are about 90 minutes, should open sometime in October 2020.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

## Executive Reports

President Talamantes reported “My apologies for being absent during our September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. I will be with the City Council alongside President Seidel discussing student activities and university operations for this fall. This document will serve as my report for the September Meeting of the Board of Trustees. I will update you all on what the Board committee has been up to, discuss major action items that occurred at the meeting, and discuss what ASUW will be working on in the coming months. In the Biennium Budget Committee, tuition increases and budget cuts were the main topics of discussion. As per a Board policy that was adopted in 2014, tuition will increase by 4% each year. Typically, this is voted on during the July meeting but due to the circumstances, the Board has postponed the discussion until November to give ASUW the opportunity to make a recommendation and illicit feedback to the committee. I will be reaching out to David Jewel to discuss the next steps for ASUW to be involved in the process. Additionally, President Seidel will be bringing a proposal for budget cuts to the November meeting that has feedback from folks around campus. I will be working with Vice President of Student Affairs, Kim Chestnut, on setting up focus groups for students to get information on budget cuts and provide input on their priorities and initial thoughts. I will be communicating with you all if any Senators are interested in signing up to participate. These groups should be meeting in the next few weeks. In the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, the committee discussed the removal of the ACT/SAT requirement for the admissions process. Many students are running into the issue of their ACT/SAT getting canceled due to COVID and not having an adequate testing site or space. The Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, Kyle Moore, brought up this issue because there are other competitor schools offering this option. The Board moved to approve the removal of the ACT/SAT requirement for admissions so long as there is a disclaimer that informs students this may have implications on their financial aid and scholarships. While the ACT/SAT requirement will be optional for students enrolling in the Fall of 2021, the ACT/SAT will still be required for a variety of scholarships such as the Hathaway Scholarship. In the Vice President and Dean Search Committee, the committee discussed the current searches that are happening. The Art Museum has an official director who is now Nicole Crawford. The committee is in the process of finalizing the search for the Dean of Arts and Sciences, however most of this was discussed in Executive Session. The search for a new Provost of Academic Affairs is in progress and they hope to find a new Provost by January of 2021. Additionally, in the Spring, they will begin the process for the search of the Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Dean of the College of Education. These searches are starting up in the spring because President Seidel and other members of the committee would like the new Provost to be somewhat involved in the process. President Seidel is interested in getting students involved in the search committee and will be in touch with ASUW at the end of the Fall semester to see if any Senators are interested in participating in the search. As for action items, one item I put on everyone’s radar a few weeks ago was the potential for the Athletic fee to be refunded at a certain percentage. Tom Burman, the Director of Athletics, gave a verbal update to the Board about sports and there is a very high chance that the Mountain West will play football in the next month or so. Because of this, there was little conversation about refunding the fee at this moment in time. However, Tom was understanding of there being a refund regardless of football or other sports still playing since students are not having the same athletic experiences as they normally would. I will be reaching out to Tom to discuss a refund in the Athletics fee and how might we make that happen at the next Board

meeting. Those are all the updates I have for the Board. Please remember that the applications for the Judicial Council are still open and will be until this Friday at 5pm. If you know anyone who would be interested, the application is available on the ASUW website along with a job description. If you all have any questions, please feel free to email me at [asuwpres@uwyo.edu](mailto:asuwpres@uwyo.edu). Thank you!”

Chief of Staff Rhymes reported “First update: Pokes Vote. For those who don’t know, Director Nielsen, Director Perez, and myself are collaborating with the SLCE office to host the Pokes Vote campaign completely within a WyoCourses shell. The SLCE office is creating content that deal with the logistics of voting, absentee ballots, and registering to vote in Laramie. ASUW folks are working on modules that discuss why voting is important, how to avoid media bias, and candidate profiles for national, state, and local elections. Our goal in using WyoCourses is to provide quality information that is accessible to all UW students, since they already have to use WyoCourses to access coursework. We delayed our deadline, so the publishing date is now October 14th, which is later than we were hoping for. Despite this setback, we hope that we can use this truncated timeline to our advantage and use the novelty of the campaign to fuel engagement in the short period before the national election. Second update: Director of Governmental & Community Affairs Nielsen: Director Nielsen is of course focused on Pokes Vote, and has been the primary point of contact to organize efforts between ASUW folks and the SLCE office. Her primary role is to organize the candidate profiles and collect data for that module, as well as reach out to UW professors to contribute to our media bias module. Compiling info for the local Laramie elections is quite a bit of work, and we could certainly use some more hands. Senators can fill their service hour requirement by helping Director Nielsen collect information about local candidates. If you’re interested, you can reach out to Director Nielsen directly via email. Additionally, Director Nielsen is working with Advisor Wheeler on contacting law firms to discuss contracting attorneys for the SLS office. Third update: Director of Diversity Perez: Once again, Director Perez is currently focused on Pokes Vote, and her primary role is to organize and create content that discusses why voting is both a responsibility and a privilege. We are hoping to create a compilation of short clips with students stating why they vote, so she is currently reaching out to Student Orgs for submissions. She’s also working closely with the student org Define American to create content that raises awareness for undocumented students who cannot vote, and we’re all very excited to see that content come together. Fourth update: Director of Marketing Pados: My fourth and final update comes from Director Pados, who has been producing content for a number of projects, including but not limited to: Student Right to Know, Judicial Council applications, Student Org marketing, and the Cooking with Acres webinar project. She expects to take on more tasks related to Pokes Vote in the coming weeks, and is also working with Director Perez on raising awareness about Hispanic Heritage Month.”

Director of Diversity Perez was absent.

Director of Finance and Student Organizations Berg reported “In the last week I reached out to past special project recipients to get them to advertise the current special projects fund that is going on, I reached out to UW catering to see how they are supporting on-campus events, and I worked on updating the event budget request form. I also attended Involvement Fest and had great conversations with student org leaders. Finally, I also worked with the Director of Financial

Planning and Analysis to set up three financial wellness events that will occur throughout the semester. I'm still working on planning a meeting with UW catering, am checking in on special project recipients, and I am still working with student org leaders who received conference funding to help distribute those funds. In the coming week, I will be meeting with UniWyo and other financial entities and execs to continue the financial wellness planning event process. I am also working on the Student Org Townhall; reaching out to those student org leaders with questions, working on my part of the presentation, and working on summarizing the UW Connect application. I will also be meeting with many student org leaders to answer questions, have a leadership meeting with orgs from the COB, and talk with UMC. I also hope to offer general support through ASUW for these leaders. I am also working on legislation to benefit student orgs with Chief of Legislative Affairs Swilling."

Director of Financial Planning and Analysis Madhyanam reported "Much of my report is the same as Director of Finance and Student Organizations Berg, as we work closely together. We have a meeting with UniWyo and three exciting financial wellness and literacy events planned. We are also working on getting past legislation on special projects and help share the word on some of those great projects that we've funded in the past. The Budget Reduction Working Group also met this last week and is giving recommendations on their respective branches regarding the budget, they have 45 days to present their plan to President Seidel and the Board of Trustees."

Director of Community and Governmental Affairs Nielsen was absent.

Director of Wellness and Sustainability Harris reported "Last week, one of my main focuses was getting the ACRES webinar started, and we had the first video release on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and they'll be coming out every Friday for the next few weeks. I also began working on my part of the proposal to make ACRES student farm a program of ASUW. My portion focuses on how it will affect food insecurity, the food pantry, and sustainability efforts. I've also been doing research on mental health and how we can address mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. I met with a member of the Laramie city council to discuss this, and I plan on meeting with the head of the Lifesavers Coalition on Friday. Additionally, I will be meeting with VP Titus next week to talk about campus safety.

Chief of Legislative Affairs Swilling reported "I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new senators from the College of Health Sciences. It's great to welcome to the Senate and we look forward to working with them throughout the year. On that note, we still have two vacancies in the College of Agriculture and School of Energy Resources. If you know anyone interested, direct them to the vacancies page on the ASUW website. Additionally, I'm working with the Steering committee to overhaul our By-Laws, and the edits for Article 1 will be introduced for first reading next Tuesday, so be on the lookout for that. I'm working on updating the website by adding our new Senators and First-Year senators, making sure the legislation archive is up to date, and ensuring that the minutes and agendas from this year are posted. Finally, I'm working with Director Berg to amend the Finance Policy to allow ASUW to help student orgs with certain expenses during special circumstances. Furthermore, I also have several meeting with Senators

and other execs to discuss multiple ideas for legislation that they have had, and I'm looking forward to those meetings.”

Vice President Titus reported “I've been working on setting up the ASUW WyoCourses shell so that you all can submit service hours and use that as a resource. It's completely up to date with new requirements and includes information on the scholarship bill we passed last year. Everything is in the form of a quiz, which is what we use to track service hours. Make sure you fill those out on time, as they're how we track scholarship eligibility. If you have any alternate ideas on what counts as a service hour, just communicate with me and I'll let you know. Next, the UW Food Share Pantry has seen a downtick in usage, so spread the word and let me know any ideas you have for better outreach. It's a great resource, so please try and make sure it's used. Next, we will be live streaming Senate meetings from here on out, so it is essential that you get model release forms to COLA Swilling if you haven't yet. If you have, thank you for that! Next, we are still working on updating By-Laws and Finance Policy revisions; expect to see those bills in the coming weeks. Next, Pokes Vote candidate profiles can be done for a service hour, two for one and one for half - will send follow up email about this too. Reminder about attending FYS as service hours and scholarship requirement. Next, we will be having a student organization Town Hall / information session, if you know any student orgs. who would want to talk tell them to email me, I am having members of Funding Board talk about the funding process and working with Eric Kahl to go over the student organizations and entertainment office, so do what you can to advertise it and let students know about it special elections in the College of Health Sciences, which happened yesterday. As COLA Swilling mentioned, SER and College of AG seats are still. Finally, if you would like to sign up for the ASUW elections committee, please see the following link: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CYDZUaqGq-ifSQFEcJni6zcyjNF18O5QYypvWbV\\_6RA/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CYDZUaqGq-ifSQFEcJni6zcyjNF18O5QYypvWbV_6RA/edit?usp=sharing)

Advisor Wheeler reported “Not much to report, First-Year Senate is in full swing and I am excited to see the collaboration between the two Senates as we learn from one another and work with us on legislation. Vice President Titus and I met with UMC to discuss their future, to help wrap our minds around the changes from this semester.”

Accountant Schaefer reported “I was contacted by the Law Clinic, as we have a student that wants to utilize the ASUW name change fund, I will notify you once that's finalized. I also met with the Non-Traditional Student Council to discuss creative ways to outreach and use their budget.”

### **Ex Officio Communications**

College Pan-Hellenic Council reported “This week is National Hazing Prevention Week, so we are hosting a virtual speaker on Thursday at 7:00, you are all welcome to come and learn how to prevent hazing within our community.”

First-Year Senate reported “First-Year Senate met earlier tonight, and it would be great to have anyone who wishes to be there show up.”

Interfraternity Council reported “Like CPH reported, we National Hazing Prevention Week and will have that speaker on September 24<sup>th</sup>, and our chapters are continuing with recruitment this week.”

Non-Traditional Student Council reported “We met with Accountant Schaefer to see how we can best utilize our budget in the age of COVID-19 and see how we can utilize different types of programming. I also met with Advisor Wheeler to speak on how to engage non-traditional students, and I have met with Multicultural Affairs to try and set up the non-traditional student listserv, to try and transfer that over to ASUW, and to ensure it’s updated and see how it can best be used, possibly by going to IT and seeing if they can update their listserv technology in general.

Residence Hall Association had nothing new to report to the Senate.

Sustainability Coalition had nothing new to report to the Senate.

Staff Senate reported “Much of what I had to say has been reported already. Regarding the Budget Reduction Working Group, we are working on budget reduction focus groups/listening session to get different perspectives across campus. There will be three sessions: student, staff, and faculty. We will hopefully get emails out about that shortly.”

Student Athlete Advisory Committee reported “We will be having our first entire athlete’s meeting of the year tomorrow, where will decide our philanthropy project for the year. Additionally, it has been decided that on election day all athletics hour will be canceled to ensure everyone is able to vote.”

### **Committee Communications**

Steering reported that they steered the legislation that is up for first reading today, SR #2707 and SB #2708. They are also working on finalizing working documents edits, and legislation on those will be forthcoming.

Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy reported that they did not meet last week, as they had no legislation. They are still working on outreach and finding better ways to do that, as they are trying to connect with multicultural SOs to help rendezvous with them.

Budget and Planning reported that Budget and Planning met and went over Article 2 of the Finance Policy to help find changes that may be necessary.

Program and Institutional Development reported that they had their weekly roundtable and welcomed the new First-Year Senators on their committee.

Student Organization Funding Board reported that they met at their usual time, and they reviewed the Finance Policy Article 3, Section 3.02, and they are making some minor changes so that it is a

clean, professional, and easy to read. They are hearing a request next week for funding for a conference. They will have two senators at the Student Org Round Table.

Student Outreach and Programming reported that they met last week and have been busy planning their Kahoot! Tournament, which is happening on the 30<sup>th</sup>. It would be great if people could spread the word on those marketing materials. They are also working on initial planning of homecoming events and hoping to plan with FSL to ensure students can safely enjoy homecoming.

### **College Contact Reports**

Agriculture and Natural Resources reported that they are getting some student engagement, and are trying to feel how best to work that. They also noted that some of the more prominent Ag SOs are beginning to meet this week.

Arts and Sciences reported that the UW Art Museum is opening again next Tuesday, which we are all excited about. Additionally, professors and students are preparing for in-person classes beginning on Monday.

Business reported that they are meeting tomorrow with some administrative folks in the College of Business to help determine goals and get updates on what's occurring with the beginning of Phase 3 of the COVID Plan coming up.

Education reported that they had a new vacancy, so if you know anyone interested please let them know.

Engineering and Applied Science had nothing new to report to the Senate.

Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources had nothing new to report to the Senate.

Health Sciences had nothing new to report to the Senate.

Law had nothing new to report to the Senate.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Senator St. Marie motioned to approve the nomination of Nicole Sanders as Chief Justice to the ASUW Judicial Council.

Senator Hoversland seconded.

The motion passed 27-0-1.

Senator Houghton motioned to approve the nomination of Morgan Cloud as Associate Justice to the ASUW Judicial Council.

Senator Wilkins seconded.

The motion passed 27-0-1.

Senator Greig motioned to approve the nomination of Donald Bellamy as Associate Justice to the ASUW Judicial Council.

Senator Hoversland seconded.

The motion passed 27-1-0.

Senator Hoversland motioned to approve the nomination of Taryn de Meillon as Associate Justice to the ASUW Judicial Council.

Senator Houghton seconded.

The motion passed 26-1-1.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Senate Resolution #2707: ASUW Support for Student Employees During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The bill was read for the first time.

The bill was steered to Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy and Program and Institutional Development.

Senate Bill #2708: Finance Policy Edits - Article 3, Sections 3.01 and 3.03

The bill was read for the first time.

The bill was steered to Budget and Planning and Student Organization Funding Board.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Senator St. Marie announced that the Elections Committee is currently in need of Senators, and he's the current interim chair and was chair last year, so if anyone has any questions please feel free to ask him.

Director Madhyanam announced that the Special Project Application is opened, and the link is on the website under the Budget and Planning Committee page, so please let people know about that.

After processing, the meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM. The next regular meeting of the Senate will occur on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 7:00pm via a Zoom videoconference call.

Hunter Swilling

ASUW Chief of Legislative Affairs - 108<sup>th</sup> Administration