

---

# **ASUW SENATE MINUTES**

---

The September 8<sup>th</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 St. Marie was absent.

## **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.

## **SPECIAL EVENT**

Vice President Titus lead the Senate in a group activity to help brainstorm why Senators are involved with ASUW. Senators answered the poll question “Why’d you join ASUW?”. Top answers were leadership, positive change, service, and personal/professional development. Attendees then answered the question “What are your goals for the year withing ASUW?”. Top answers were sustainability and outreach. Senators then answered the following questions in a WyoCourses discussion page: “What are you passionate about?”, “What projects/initiatives do you want to tackle this year within ASUW?”, and “What student concerns do you think ASUW should address this year?”

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Executive Reports**

President Talamantes reported “I’m working on the judicial council applications – we have a few justices who were phenomenal last year who are interested in serving again. Hopefully by the start of next week, Judicial council applications will be open and we will run them for a two week period to fill some vacancies. Next, an update on student fees – we got a question from Talking with Talamantes & Titus and on our Instagram about the athletics student fee. Student Affairs is evaluating a reduction in the athletics fee and will be making a proposal to the Board about reducing the Athletics fee. There is strong support from Student Affairs and they are confident the Board will approve this request. However if they do not, I will report back to you all on the 22nd after the conclusion of the September Board meeting to give an explanation. I am also involved in

the conversations regarding Budget Reduction and am a part of the Campus Engagement subcommittee. I will be meeting with them this week to discuss the potential of setting up various focus groups to try and understand what students opinions are in regards to budget cuts and what their priorities are. I am also working with Director of Wellness and Sustainability Harris, Chief of Staff Rhymes, and Senator Pierson on creating a proposal for ACRES becoming a program of ASUW. We hope to present this proposal to the Dean of Ag and Ag Extension that has lots of detail on their budget, how ASUW can help them achieve their goals, and how them being a program can benefit campus. We hope to present legislation to you in October that puts this up for a debate but also gives you all a glance at the details of the proposal.

Chief of Staff Rhymes reported “For my first update: Director of Governmental & Community Affairs Nielsen: Director Nielsen and I had a very productive meeting with the SLCE office today, and we made a strategy and timeline for this year’s Pokes Vote campaign. We are currently working on some online engagement tools that students can access at their own pace. We hope to have more updates by next Senate meeting. Director Nielsen is currently collaborating with Director Harris and a contact at Laramie City Council on a mental health initiative in the Laramie community. Finally, Director Nielsen is working with Advisor Wheeler on how to fill the Student Legal Services gap through contracting attorneys from the Laramie community. Second update: Director of Marketing Pados: Director Pados has tackled a variety of projects in the last week, including website updates, initiating a social media giveaway, and creating graphics for Student Right to Know, the ASUW Budget Summary, and other projects. Director Pados has also started to create a design handbook, which can be used by future directors of marketing to standardize marketing content. Third update: Director of Diversity Perez: Director Perez has spent a lot of time researching the diversity components that are required for accreditation. While UW meets the diversity requirements for accreditation based on multicultural events offered, we do not have a university-wide standard regarding the diversity content covered in our curriculum. Director Perez will continue her research focusing on last year’s Diversity Campus Climate Survey and continue seeking areas where UW can raise the bar in active learning regarding multicultural content. Additionally, Director Perez is excited to collaborate with Director Nielsen on Pokes Vote content. Final update: Director of Wellness and Sustainability Harris: First, Director Harris has been working with ACRES to develop a cooking webinar series where volunteers can share basic cooking skills and affordable, nutritious recipes through on online platform. In the last week, Director Harris and ACRES were able to add the Wellness Center as a key collaborator, which is an excellent step towards promoting this project to a wider audience. Director Harris is still seeking volunteers for the project; if you enjoy cooking and want to share your talents in the kitchen, please contact Director Harris via email for more information. Additionally, Director Harris was able to meet with representatives from Art with an Impact about their program called “Movies for Mental Health.” She is currently assessing the features and potential impact of this programming idea. That concludes my report, thank you Madame Chair.”

Director of Diversity Perez was absent.

Director of Finance and Student Organizations Berg reported “In the last week I worked on getting all the documents for student org portion of the ASUW website. I also had meetings with three different student org leaders to help clarify what ASUW can do for them in these uncertain times,

and I attended Talking with Talamantes & Titus and discussed student org support alongside other execs. I also shared documents with SO Funding Board to help find issues and things that need updated in the ASUW Finance Policy, I spent time talking with student org leaders about how we plan on support them, and I'm still working on updating the excel event budget form. I will start working with DoFPA Madhyanam on planning our first virtual financial wellness event, work with SO Funding Board to continue to update our financial policy and get student conference funding, I will be CSIL on developing a virtual poster run and supporting the virtual Student Involvement Fest, and I will be reaching out to the Branding Iron to get some ads printed to raise awareness about the ASUW Special Projects fund."

Director of Financial Planning and Analysis Madhyanam reported "The Budget Reduction Working Group meeting was canceled last week but will be meeting this week, but will be meeting this Friday. I finished my budget summary report, and the DOM is working on that and it should be finished by tomorrow. I am also working on creating a simplified version of the ASUW Finance Policy so that SOs can more easily determine what they need to do and talk to SO Funding Board about it. I am also working with VP Titus on creating a student fee committee. "

Director of Community and Governmental Affairs Nielsen was absent.

Director of Wellness and Sustainability Harris was absent.

Chief of Legislative Affairs Swilling reported "Vice President Titus and I compiled a list of expectations for ex-officios, and we are holding an ex-officio orientation on Wednesday September 16th from 5:00 to 6:00 and Friday September 18th from 11:00am to 12:00pm. I also helped interview FY Senate candidates today alongside Hank and First-Year Senate Advisor Ward. They seem like a great group, but we only have 11 applicants. If you know anyone who's interested, please direct them to Lucy's email! I am also continuing work on Lauren's promise legislation, as well as editing the Bylaws, so be on the lookout for legislation regarding those in the near future. Also, PLEASE GET YOUR MODEL RELEASE FORMS to me, if you have not yet. You can print those out and email those back to me as a picture or scanned document. If you don't have a printer, Advisor Wheeler has let me know that he has multiple copies printed, so we can mail those to you. Even if you have signed one in the past, we still need you to get one to us. Thank you!"

Vice President Titus said "I am working with the Sustainability Coalition to help formalize the UW Food Security task Force. Anyone interested in joining the Task Force should email me. I am also working with Director Madhyanam on Student Fee Transparency initiatives and will continue to work on rolling out of content with Director Pados. We are also looking to revise the Student Fee and Programmatic Fee Special Committees and explore the possibility of creating a comprehensive Student Fee Review Standing Committee. I welcome any and all Senators who are interested in this project to email me as I want to gain as much feedback as possible throughout the process. We also want to livestream the Senate meeting next week, so please get us your model release forms. I am also working on updating WyoCourses and will have that

fully completed next week so that you will be able to access and receive your ASUW Senate scholarship. You can also look at the Expectations document in the SharePoint to see what you need to do to gain that scholarship. Finally, we still have Senate vacancies in the College of Health Sciences, School of Energy Resources, and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Please tell your friends, peers, and student orgs about this. It's a detriment when we have these vacancies. Applications close this Friday and can be found on the ASUW Website."

Advisor Wheeler reported "Accountant Schaefer is attending to personal matters and will return next week. We were supposed to return to the office Monday with the advent of phase two, now it looks like it will be Thursday. If you need us, please email us before you come in. As COLA Swilling said, First-Year Senate only had 11 applicants. We're still holding interviews in order to help provide candidate that professional development, which a big part of First-Year Senate. UMC is meeting with VP Titus on Friday to discuss the upcoming semester, and the Chair of Non-Traditional Student Council Rachel Ratliffe and I are meeting tomorrow to discuss the semester.

Accountant Schaefer was absent.

### **Ex Officio Communications**

College Pan-Hellenic Council reported "Pan-Hellenic's primary formal recruitment period starts on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and ends Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and will be completely held online."

Residence Hall Association reported "We moved in our second phase of students this last weekend and started promoting representatives for the halls so we can get our GA moving forward and we hope to start that next Wednesday at 7:00 PM."

Sustainability Coalition reported "The Sustainability Coalition is finalizing our strategic partnership budget to be presented next week to the budget committee so we can start promoting our initiatives such as ending food insecurity and zero-waste initiatives so we can fully collaborate with ASUW."

Staff Senate reported "We held our monthly meeting last Wednesday. President Talamantes was in attendance, and we appreciated her report. President Seidel and the VP. A large discussion was about construction on campus in the future, beginning with residence halls and the tearing down of Wyo Hall, there's a lot of concern about cost and necessity of the project. Moving on to the Lewis Street Corridor, talking about the cost and need of that. The majority of our discussion revolved around that."

Student Athlete Advisory Committee reported "We are fully shut down with the pause and the lack of face-to-face activities, but we are hoping to be back to you very shortly full speed ahead. We do have the WyoHoming Now campaign, if you know anyone with a few extra dollars, you can donate to the Cowboy Joe Club, and the state will match your donation to help make up for the loss of revenue resulting in the canceled foot and potentially basketball seasons."

## **Committee Communications**

Steering reported that they steered the piece of legislation that had been submitted, Senate Bill #2706. We also brainstormed outreach effort ideas for Senators and will publish that list within the next week or so, and looked over by-law revisions for elections. Any senators interested in providing input on elections should email me.

Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy reported that they got started on their outreach effort for the Senate vacancies that the Senate currently has, members of the committee have been reaching out to RSOs from those colleges and sending them some marketing materials to distribute to their members so we can help get those vacancies filled.

Budget and Planning reported that they met and discussed their game plan for special project outreach and how to go about that, and they discussed a few budgetary realignment, one of which will be seen next week and one of which took place.

Program and Institutional Development reported that they met Friday at 11:00am, and they are looking forward to having programs and partners meeting with them in the future, and are scheduling one-on-one meetings with these programs to see where they're at and see how the committee can help them.

RSO Funding Board reported that they met at their usual time, and they reviewed the finance policy, and they'll be having their first requests next Monday at 2:30 for a couple of conferences, and whatever else may come in. They are also starting their revisions of the finance policy and plan on finding a spot to talk about Funding Board and what they have to offer during the next Talking with Talamantes and Titus.

Student Outreach and Programming reported that they met last week and started workshopping their first virtual outreach event.

## **College Contact Reports**

Agriculture and Natural Resources met Dean Rasco and talked about the needs of the students in the college. She was concerned about student involvement and ensuring that students were going to finish the semester. We discussed maybe having an activity fair to help students get involved with SOs inside the college. She was also concerned about funding for grad students, so many of them are on grants, and since their research often could not be conducted this summer, that there will be no money to help them. They discussed using ASUW to bring light to this issue.

Arts and Sciences had nothing new to report to the Senate.

Business reported that they are in the process of meeting with Dean Sprott to set up a meeting in the coming weeks to discuss some of his visions for the academic year in such an odd time, and to be able to get to know him. We are also working to coordinate with fellow Senators in the College

of Business to ensure we are doing our best for our constituents. The College of Business also has several webinars that are going on, as well as a Career and Exploration Fair, info for which can be found online.

Education reported that they are going to be attending a prominent College of Education SO to help improve the relationship between their leadership teams.

Engineering and Applied Science reported that met last week and talked about outreach to students doing office hours, Senator St. Marie is reaching out to the Dean to set up a meeting time.

Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources reported that they had a meeting with the new Director of Wellness and Sustainability, and had the chance to talk about new sustainability projects that they plan to collaborate on this year.

Health Sciences reported that they have been reaching out to students to try and fill the vacant ASUW Senate seats in that college.

Law reported that they have been reaching out to some of his classmates to hear feedback from students, who are eagerly waiting for the pause to end so optional hybrid classes can return.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Senate Bill #2706: Changes to the James C. Hurst Scholarship.

The bill was read for the first time.

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

After processing, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM. The next regular meeting of the Senate will occur on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 7:00pm via a Zoom videoconference call.

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