ASUW SENATE MINUTES

The December 3rd, 2019 meeting was called to order by Vice President Houghton at 7:06pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, the mission statement was read, and roll was taken. Senators Jones, McCoy, and O'Connor were absent. Ex-Officios from Faculty Senate, Interfraternity Council, International Students Association, Non-Traditional Student Council, College Panhellenic Council, Staff Senate, Student Athlete Advisory Commission, and United Multicultural Council were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the November 19th, 2019 meeting were approved, without objection, as electronically circulated.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

OPEN FORUM

There was nobody in the gallery to address the Senate.

SPECIAL EVENT

Kimberly Chestnut, the Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and David Jewell, the Associate Vice President for Financial Affairs addressed the Senate about their work on Acting President Theobald’s presidential priority of student success, which includes advising. Also included in this priority are producing a better rate of graduates within four years, more affordable education, and supporting students, which takes a lot of faces. Currently the University is a year and a half into their new model with ACES advising being a key point. The challenge that these two officials are trying to tackle is how advising can be more effective for all students. The Dean of Students office is mainly tasked with dealing with students that are challenged academically or in other areas, so it is believed that ASUW should be a part of the conversation on how campus can be more of a help for students all around. Wyoming is a beautiful part of this country that has an abundance of wind and fresh air. It is a fiscally conservative state that is not a major proponent of change because of the ideal that things are just good enough, so why fix something that is not broken. Kim and David want to change this thought process and ask for more. Complacency can be a dangerous thing and this should be apparent to this body as being student leaders. When issues are heard, change should be implemented, if not talked about at least. This administration realizes that being a student is not an easy task between trying to balance class, homework, jobs, being involved, and many other commitments. When campus is spread out and having multiple buildings and locations to do one thing, students get confused and do not have an easy time accomplishing minute tasks. Sometimes they just give up and move on because of the jumbled bureaucracy. Only 25% of
students on this campus finish their degree in a four year timeframe. This number only spikes to 40% completing their degree when the timeframe is extended to six years. Because the $6 per credit hour fee was just approved, this priority wants to work with what they have to see how it can be spent the best and the most effectively. Some students are pleased with the advising they receive on campus, but it is important to realize that others are not. The new model that is being proposed will be efficient overall, including economically efficient. This is because new businesses wishing to enter the Wyoming market ask many questions including how good the K-12 education is, how the healthcare is in the state, and how favorable the tax structure is. In Wyoming all three of these things are fairly favorable for businesses. Where Wyoming struggles is the final question of how educated their workforce is. This needs to be fixed at this University as the sole four-year institution in the state. We need to create a pipeline for students to leave here without debt and more opportunities to stay in the wonderful state. The debt part has been an issue because this semester alone, 439 students have hit their limit on direct federal loans. This number is at $35,000.00 for dependents and $57,000.00 for independent students. Only 22 of those students that hit that cap will be graduating in December. Advising has not been of a great assistance in this process and helping students to look forward in their lives, but also generally in their finances. Studies have shown that earning a college degree helps people earn millions more in their lifetime. If people are not earning these, according to David, there are problems because they will not be able to take care of their parents in the future and their life’s progress will slow down in general. This leads them to believing that advising can be improved with the current fee that is set in place. The special event then took questions; during this period they again clarified that they do not support an increase in the advising fee quite yet. They also believe advising should be all encompassing to include financial and wellness advising also. Included also in this new model would be a somewhat centralized advising in one building to be beneficial to large amounts of students. This comprehensive, central advising would allow for advisors to take more time and ask students how well they are doing studying wise, if they are experiencing food insecurity, their housing situation, and their career plans among many other things. This will take a culture shift so that advisors are not pawning off duties to other people rather than being of assistance to the students they serve. Good students who can graduate and enjoy their experiences at this school end up being good donors to the University in the future. The residency regulation has been discussed and is being looked at right now. This has to do with out-of-state students and is a complicated issue. The changes to this UniReg should be coming out in early 2020 and ASUW’s feedback on these changes is important to the drafters and the Board of Trustees. Currently, the process of advising is frankly unimpressive and just transactional. Nobody is to be held accountable for these issues, so they are looking to work on hiring somebody to do that and make advising about the whole students. A major step in allowing this to happen would be to switch ACES back into the Student Affairs Division, where its namesake has been in the past. Faculty will still be included in this plan, but they will serve more as mentors and not as extra advisors. They mentioned yet again the need for empathy and genuine caring during advising, but also for there to be a person atop of it that can be held accountable for making these changes sans any excuses. Comprehensive advising like has been mentioned above has been done well in small, niche parts of campus has been done well, but this needs to be done on a large scale across all of campus. Examples of these are Athletics and Veterans Affairs. UW has about $165,000,000.00 in a Wells Fargo bank account currently, so financially they are not worried. They now want to focus on retention rates and letting them pay when they are able to. College is not easy and students have to bust their asses to finish it, so the University needs to understand this and help them out in any
ways they can. To create this change, anything legal and ethical is on the table in David’s eyes to do so. This is not going to be an easy task to accomplish, but will be important for the future students planning to attend here. UW needs to be a single, united community rather than the current fractured bureaucracy it is. Teaching is just as important as researching at this land grant University, so faculty members need to jump on board with this plan also and be accommodating and empathetic as well.

Senator Mulhall moved to suspend the Abernathy clause.
    Senator St. Marie seconded.
    Motion passed by a voice vote, without objection.

**RSO FUNDING BOARD REQUESTS**

There were no new requests to be made by the RSO Funding Board to be heard by the Senate.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Executive Reports**

President Wilkins reported that the ASUW Holiday Party with Acting President Theobald is being held on Wednesday night from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, so please try to show up if you can make it. That will be happening at the UW Alumni House on 14th and Ivinson. Today, he and other members of the executive branch met with members of CSIL regarding a possible restructuring of RSOs into a tiered system. For example, knitting club would be tier one and club sports would fall under tier three. This should not affect ASUW in a great manner though. Lastly, Student Affairs has asked for volunteers for winter commencement on December 14th. This commitment would begin at 7:45am and could be used as a service hour.

Chief of Staff Talamantes reported that a marketing intern has been hired to help create a video for the Rave Guardian app. The FSL community and Residence Halls Association should be helping to promote the video and the app overall. The executive branch is in talks about second semester projects to work on, with one of them being an overall ASUW food drive. The RSO food drive was a little rocky with the unexpected cancellation of classes, but it should be occurring again next semester on a bigger scale. More projects include doing a lobbying session that will be open to all students, a sexual assault awareness week with the FSL community, and finally a student outreach week with the Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy committee.

Director of Governmental and Community Affairs Campbell reported that the meeting with the Governor will be happening next week on Wednesday. Transportation to Cheyenne will leave at about 10:00am and should be returning by about 3:00pm. Please email him by Wednesday, the 4th, by 12:00pm to let him know if you will be attending this trip.

Director of Student Wellness and Sustainability Savage reported that the food security taskforce met before Thanksgiving break and went very well. She said that the big thing that came out of
that meeting was the fact that they will be working on a phased project proposal to present to the Board of Trustees next semester and let that body know what resources are needed from them. Please get in contact with her if you would like to be a part of this large project that is very important to campus.

Chief of Legislative Affairs Hoversland announced that the scholarships are still up and will be accepting applications until Sunday, the 8th of December. If you signed up for one of those committees you should have received an email from him or Director Savage with a doodle poll that needs to be filled out. Service hours for this period of November/December need to be filled out by December 15th as to save time for everyone during finals week. He will discuss the Senatorial scholarship further with Vice President Houghton and report back on that next week during the regular meeting in the Senate Chambers, the last of the semester. He noted that legislation is still due on its normal time Friday of this week, but will report on the extension for break at the next meeting as well. Finally, he announced he will be out of the office during finals week and back home for break, but can be reached via email and is willing to help out anyone over that time period.

Vice President Houghton reported that he would be giving a report on behalf of ASUW to Staff Senate on Wednesday afternoon. He mentioned again that the holiday party with the Acting President was tomorrow and to please RSVP if you can make it. Finally, he noted that members of the executive branch would be sitting down with a couple of members of the Laramie City Council to talk about housing issues that were begun last year.

**Ex Officio Communications**

First-Year Senate reported that they met earlier in the night and passed their own bill to make quorum in their body an absolute majority because they have not been able to meet this in the past due to exams and what not. They debated and voted on the three pieces of legislation on the docket for second reading in this body and also conducted the first reading, and steered, the six pieces of legislation up for first reading tonight in this body.

Residence Halls had no report.

Sustainability Coalition had no report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Steering reported that they met earlier in the afternoon to go over and make grammatical fixes to the six pieces of legislation up for first reading tonight. They will be back to their normal meeting time on Friday.

Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy reported that they met on Thursday, the 21st of November, to discuss outreach efforts with multicultural RSOs and had a working session on a draft version of Senate Bill #2688.
Budget and Planning reported that they met to formulate their recommendation on the special projects bill that is up for second reading tonight and are now in the phase of the semester where they will begin planning the budget process.

Program and Institutional Development reported that they met on Monday afternoon to discuss the two resolutions that were steered to them.

RSO Funding Board reported that they met on Monday afternoon also to conduct a probationary hearing for the International Students Association RSO. At this hearing, the committee decided to place the RSO on probation for not meeting the five week deadline that is outlined in the Finance Policy. They ultimately made this decision because the board felt that it would be a great learning opportunity for the RSO.

Student Outreach and Programming reported that they did not meet before the break, but have been having ongoing discussions on outreach efforts and would enjoy to be included in similar discussions happening in the Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy committee.

Elections reported that an email will be sent out with the information that is being reported tonight; this email will also include the documents for the applicants being discussed and needs to be replied to with committee members’ availability for the meetings. An interview for the position of the Elections Commissioner is being held on Wednesday morning at 8:00am in and another one on Thursday afternoon at 3:30pm. The committee will meet to discuss these interviews and ultimately appoint a commissioner and discuss the legislation steered to them on next Monday, the 9th of December, at 4:30pm in the ASUW Conference Room, Union Room 020A.

**COLLEGE CONTACT REPORTS**

Agriculture and Natural Resources had no report.

Arts and Sciences had no report.

Business had no report.

Education had no report.

Engineering and Applied Sciences reported that they held their monthly office hours on Monday.

Haub School reported that they have been working with a lady hired as the graduate advisor within their school to discuss the possibilities of a position dedicated to sustainability within their respective school.

Health Sciences reported that physiology club is hosting a bake sale in the Union throughout the day on Wednesday.
Law had no report.

School of Energy Resource reported that scholarships for their school were released this week and the school will be holding information sessions about these in the coming days.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Senate Resolution #2680: ASUW Recommendation on Proposed Programmatic Fee Increases for FY21

The resolution was read for a second time.
Program and Institutional Development gave a do-pass recommendation.
Senator St. Marie moved to approve the resolution.
Senator Rubano seconded.
Senator St. Marie moved to add the word “as” after the word “advising” in line 20 of the resolution.

The amendment was taken as friendly.
Motion passed by a roll call vote of 30-0-0.

Senate Resolution #2681: ASUW Recommendation on Proposed Mandatory Student Fee Increase for FY21

The resolution was read for a second time.
Program and Institutional Development gave a do-pass with amendments recommendation.
Senator Conard moved to approve the resolution.
Senator St. Marie seconded.
Senator Welsh moved to amend the resolution by changing Addendum A to Addendum B and adding Addendum A, the reasoning behind the proposed increase in the Consolidated Student Services fee, as well as adding “outlined in Addendum A” to the end of line 10 and changing “Addendum A” to “Addendum B” in line 21 of the resolution.

The ex-officio from First-Year Senate seconded.
Motion passed by a voice vote without objection.
Motion passed by a roll call vote of 30-0-0.

Senate Bill #2682: Special Projects Allocations for Fiscal Year 2020

The bill was read for a second time.
Budget and Planning gave a do-pass with amendments recommendation.
Senator Doran moved to approve the bill.
Senator Anselmi-Stith seconded.
Senator Conard moved to amend the bill to change the dollar amount in line 5 from “$85,500.00” to “$84,500.00.”

The amendment was taken as friendly.
Motion passed by a roll call vote of 30-0-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Selection of Student-at-Large of the Month
Senator Conard nominated Eric Herold.
Senator Titus nominated Colleen Floyd.
    Colleen Floyd was chosen by the Senate as the student-at-large of the month for the month of November.

Selection of Senator of the Month
The ex-officio from First-Year Senate nominated Senator Titus.
Senator Conard nominated Senator Welsh.
Senator Conard nominated Senator St. Marie.
    Senator Welsh was chosen by the Senate as the Senator of the month for the month of November.

Senate Bill #2683: Senator Election Outreach Efforts
The bill was read for the first time.
The bill was steered to Student Outreach and Programming; Elections.

Senate Bill #2684: Revisions to the ASUW By-Laws
The bill was read for the first time.
The bill was steered to Budget and Planning; Steering.

Senate Bill #2685: ASUW Alternative Capital Spring Break
The bill was read for the first time.
The bill was steered to Budget and Planning; Steering.

Senate Bill #2686: Revisions to the ASUW Finance Policy
The bill was read for the first time.
The bill was steered to Budget and Planning; Steering.

Senate Bill #2687: The Discontinuation of Processing
The bill was read for the first time.
The bill was steered to Steering.

Senate Bill #2688: Revision to Senator Responsibilities on Student Outreach
The bill was read for the first time.
The bill was steered to Student Outreach and Programming; Elections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Doran announced that the Senator of the Month had not been reported yet. It was clarified by the chair, Vice President Houghton, that Senator Welsh was selected for this award for the month of November.

After processing, the meeting adjourned at 9:01pm. The next regular meeting will be December 10th, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Senate Chambers, Union Room 221.