

ASUW SENATE MEETING MINUTES

The November 2nd, 2021, senate meeting was called to order by Vice President Anderson at 7:01 pm. The land acknowledgement statement and mission statement were read, and the Pledge of Allegiance was done at individual member's discretion.

ROLL CALL

Senators Bogus, Ebben, Hansen, Houghton, and Pradhanang were not present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the October 26th, 2021, senate meeting was approved without objection, as electronically circulated.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

OPEN FORUM

Nick addressed the Senate tonight to express his remarks about the current mask mandate at the University. Nick first began by stating how he is a law student who had transferred here from Oregon due to the fact that the University of Wyoming at the time did not have a mask mandate and students were able to protect themselves from COVID-19 in the way they felt was best to do so. However, a couple weeks before school started, the mask mandate was reimplemented. He then began to discuss the results from the recent ASUW student issues survey. He claimed that even though the results of the survey showed that a majority of students are in support of the mask mandate, what he has seen and heard from students contradicts this result by stating that most students do not want to wear a mask. He used the examples of Half Acre and Washaki to show that when given the option, students are not wearing their masks. He encouraged ASUW to conduct another survey of students at Washaki and Half Acre and to bring these results to the Board of Trustees. He then began to discuss how nowhere else in the state of Wyoming has face mask requirements but yet the University still does. He also noted how Alumni are not required to wear facemasks and how events such as Football games, facemasks are not required. He then began to address how some students have exemptions from wearing masks and that these exemptions should be more widely recognized and accepted. To help solve this problem, he proposed to add underneath the "face masks required" signs, "unless an approved exemption". Overall, he wants exemptions to be more widely recognized, a proper survey to be conducted, and for the wishes of students to be accurately represented.

SPECIAL EVENT

Vice President Anderson held a Kahoot game over ASUW's working documents, leadership, and history to help the Senate learn more about ASUW.

COMMUNICATIONS

Executive Reports

President Swilling first reported that he has received a notice of intent regarding the creation of a graduate school. As part of this graduate school there may be a creation of a graduate student council, however the details of this and how it will interact with ASUW is still to be worked out. Next he reported that the finishing touches are being put onto the food security endowment and has a meeting with the food security task force to continue working on this. He hopes that this will be completed by the end of the Semester so that the Senate can vote on it and it can be implemented. Next, he reported that he had a meeting with Dr. Seidel, Dr. Carman, Dr. Allen, and Dr. Shader regarding the School of Computing as a follow up to the resolution that was passed here in Senate. At this meeting, follow up questions regarding the School of Computing were asked and substantial changes to the plan. President Swilling has also been continuing to work on increasing salaries of the ASUW pro-staff in an attempt to fill the current vacancies. He also reported that there is a vacancy in the ASUW Office-Aide position which can be applied for on the HR website. Next, he reported he is having a meeting with the housing committee to help decide building the new dorms. He also reported the student and academic affairs committee is having a work session regarding the University restructuring changes. Finally, there is a community vaccine incentive working group meeting and if anyone is interested in sitting on this, please let him know.

Chief of Staff Homer-Wambeam said “The past week I have been working on mask wearing social media for the Safety and Wellness committee. I have also been working on hiring a marketing intern for the spring semester for our Director of Marketing, more updates on this will be provided in the coming weeks. Besides my usual weekly Chief of Staff duties, last Saturday I attended the Student Org Summit, and I am excited to start implementing and incorporating some of the techniques that I learned from the featured workshops and presentations into my ASUW leadership position. I wish to thank all those that worked hard to organize the summit, both in this room and those not present, it was very impactful for those of us who attended! Tonight, I will also be giving a report on behalf of our Director of Finance and Student Organizations, Nicole Reyes-Aguilar. This week, Director Reyes-Aguilar has been attending special project hearings with Budget and Planning. She was invited to the ASUW Fee increase meeting last Wednesday and is working on finishing a list of active student organizations on campus. Director Reyes-Aguilar has also been attending several Financial Wellness meetings to move forward with some events in the works. Furthermore, she has been aiding student orgs in preparing to present their funding request to the Funding Board. Over the next week, Director Reyes-Aguilar will continue to attend special project hearings, work on the active student orgs list, and work on Financial Wellness events, meeting with potential speakers for future events. Tonight, I will also be giving a report on behalf of our Director of Governmental and Community Affairs, Allison Brown. Director Brown enjoyed attending senate last week, and is currently attending a City Council Regular Meeting. Director Brown, alongside Director McClean, President Swilling, Vice President Anderson, and pro-staff met with Dean O’Neil and VP Chestnut for an initial discussion regarding the implementation of a Good Samaritan policy. In addition, Director Brown met with the Safety & Wellness Committee to start communicating

with senators about the project and upcoming legislation. Director Brown and Director McClean plan to discuss these items with AD&P this week. Director Brown has been in correspondence with City Councilors and Mayor Weaver around initial conversations for upcoming ordinances relating to Landlord and Property Management Companies as well as Tenant Rights. Director Brown and Director Sapien began collaborating on a project to expand the Land Acknowledgment Statement across campus, with different organizations and groups, in conjunction with the Native Center and other relevant stakeholders. She looks forward to this new project with Director Sapien. As a member of the Ad-Hoc Committee for Restructuring, Director Brown met with President Sidel and relevant stakeholders earlier today to address Senate Resolution #2757 and student concerns.”

Chief of Legislative Affairs Carrier said “The most notable thing I did last week was finish SB 2759, the Defining General Elections bill which is up for first reading tonight. There are some important changes and things to consider in this bill so I would encourage you to really take the time this next week to read and review it and as always, I am more than happy to answer any questions you may have about it. On Monday, the Student Leadership and Involvement Council met which as a reminder, is the student advisory board for the Wyoming Union. So first we talked about making a web page over the advisory group just to showcase who is on the committee, our charter, and our agendas. At the meeting we reviewed the Union Policies and looked over the revisions to the Union policy. There are no super notable or “crazy” changes to the policy, but if you would like to review those changes and provide feedback, feel free to let me know and we can look at them together. We did a first reading of these policy changes and when we meet again next month, we will be debating and discussing these changes in further detail. We also talked about how the student leadership conference marketing is and if there is anything then should change. I had to leave early, but also on the agenda was a discussion about student engagement and why it may not be as great as it has been in the past. Our next meeting will be on December 6th. Today me and a few other members of the Ad-Hoc committee met with President Seidel, the Provost, and a few of the other members of the School of Computing team to specifically address and discussing more in depth the concerns and questions from the resolution. It was a very informative discussion and we gained a lot more clarity about the finances and plans of the school which I personally found very helpful. Additionally, we learned they are reevaluating and changing some of the administration layout of the school and have decided to prioritize certain components of the School such as focusing more on a certificate or bachelors rather than trying to accomplish everything at once. We are continuing to work with them to see if maybe, if all of our concerns are adequately addressed, to write another resolution or letter of support of the School which is what we did state we could do in the resolution we just passed. I will make sure to keep you updated on this process, and always if you want more specifics, you can always come talk to me or come to the Ad-Hoc. This week I am continuing to work on legislation and Ad-Hoc stuff as that is taking up a majority of my time just in general. I am also working on updating the website and if you got an email from me asking for a headshot to put on the website, please send that to me here in the next week. This headshot does not have to be a perfect professional headshot, just a nice picture of you works. Once again, as always, please send me any reports you give at the meeting.”

Director of Diversity and Inclusion Sapien reported that this past week he has been working on creating a community coalition with student organizations on campus. With this, he plans to hold a meeting once a month with student leaders. Along with that, he reported that him and Director Brown will be meeting with the Native Center to best assist them with their goals.

Director of Finance and Student Organizations Reyes-Aguilar's report was included with Chief of Staff Homer-Wambeam's.

Director of Financial Planning and Analysis Stadler said "This past week I have planned Financial Wellness events for Financial Wellness month in February. Currently, we have four events planned from with speakers from businesses in the Laramie community. I have continued to attend Fee hearings and Special Projects hearings. This week, I will begin planning for Spring Break Budgeting, a Financial Wellness event. I will continue to attend special projects meetings and fee hearings throughout this week."

Director of Governmental and Community Affairs Brown's report was included with Chief of Staff Homer-Wambeam's report.

Director of Marketing Clark said "Last week, my work consisted of editing the Green Dot, Sex Shouldn't be Spooky, video that got posted on Green Dot's social media. I also worked on some more social media work, specifically the Mask campaign with Safety and Wellness. This week, I am working on the next podcast episode, the town hall on Thursday featuring our very own Sen. Rhymes, and the next step in the mask campaign. I will make mention of the mask campaign later tonight."

Director of Partners, Programs, and Events Hacke said "I met with multiple of our program heads last week For UMC: We talked about general mission statements and procedures for the rest of the year. For NONTRAD: We continue to talk about internal leadership and goals for future events. For FYS: Their findings will be presented during their report, I look forward to working with them along with Chief Carrier. I have also been working on writing revisions to most of section 8 of the ASUW by laws. For those who are unfamiliar with this section, it deals with our partners and programs. I look forward to providing these revisions in legislation on the senate floor soon.

Director of Wellness and Sustainability McLean reported that she has been working with Director Brown on the development of a medical amnesty policy at UW which has been her primary focus this week.

The Judicial Council was not present.

Vice President Anderson reported that he met with Interim ASUW Support Staff Thomson-Lichty to discuss making the ASUW code of ethics more comprehensive and detailed as they are currently to vague. He also reported that he is working with Director Jeremy Davis to have ASUW and CSIL collaborate and work together more. He also reported that he will be following up with the First-Year Senate mentorship pairing and wants to make sure events are being scheduled. Finally, he reported that he will be holding a committee chair roundtable this week.

Project Coordinator Crosby was not present.

Interim ASUW Support Staff Thomson-Lichty reported that if there is a project or process you would like advice on, to not hesitate to reach out to her. She also reported that she is enjoying the conversations that have been happening around restructuring and the code of ethics. She also reported that the ASUW office is currently still looking to hire a new office aide. She is working on changes with the ASUW Pro-Staff and is working on proposing a fee increase for ASUW.

Ex- Officio Communications

College Panhellenic Council reported about the AFLV awards and that they are continuing with elections in November and that they are finishing up their By-Laws.

Faculty Senate was not present.

First-Year Senate reported they met and have 3 new First-Year Senators. They also reported their Steering committee is working on bills that will update the delegate clause, committees, and the vacancy procedure.

The Interfraternity Council reported they are continuing to work on their elections.

International Students Association was not present.

Non-Traditional Student Council had no report.

Residence Halls Association was not present.

The Sustainability Coalition reported that solar fest went great which was held this past weekend. They also reported that their leaders will be meeting with the food security task force and that they will be having a field trip to the Wyoming Recycling plant.

Staff Senate was not present.

Student Athlete Advisory Committee reported they are currently working on finding volunteer opportunities in the community and are working on finding more members.

United Multicultural Council was not present.

Wyoming Honors Organization had no report.

Committee Reports

Steering reported they made a recommendation on the now withdrawn legislation, held a hearing over unexcused absences, and steered legislation. They also wanted to remind everyone to email Vice President Anderson and Chief of Legislative Affairs Carrier to get an unexcused absence.

Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy reported they did not meet last week due to having no legislation last week. However, Senator Rhymes and Director Mclean appeared in front of budget and planning last week to discuss their special projects request. They reported they look forwards to meeting again next week.

Budget and Planning reported they met on Zoom last Friday and approved a budget realignment for UMC. They realigned \$750 dollars from one line item to another to help fund their Hispanic Heritage event. They also reported that have been busy with hearings for special projects request. They will be deciding their requests on November 12.

Elections reported they met last week and discussed filling vacancies and the upcoming general elections bill.

Programs and Institutional Development reported they met with student legal services to try and find them a new office space. They also reported they are working on looking over all of the meeting they have had with partners and programs so far.

The restructuring ad-hoc committee reported “when the Ad-hoc met last Thursday, we discussed paying Senators. As I mentioned last week, Vice President Anderson, President Swilling and I had met with Shelly to discuss paying senators last week. We learned that this is a possibility and we have decided it is something we will be pursuing. So on Thursday we discussed this and talked about things like making sure senators are held accountable, how we want the pay structure to look, how much we want to pay, and more. We have also began discussion on how many Senators we want and have also decided to reevaluate and consolidate some of our committees. The number of Senators and committees will be officially voted on this Thursday. As I mentioned Monday, a few of our committee members met with President Seidel today to discuss the School of Computing resolution. Due to this, we spent most of our meeting Monday preparing for this meeting and coming up with specific questions we wanted to address. Also on Monday, we briefly revisited the paying senators discussion. On Thursday, we will be recapping the meeting with Seidel and deciding how we want to proceed with School of Computing.”

Safety and Wellness reported they met at their usual time. Director Clark and Director McLean met to discuss the different types of masks campaigns and wanted to thank Chief of Staff Homer-Wambeam for providing the pictures for the campaign. They reported they gained two new Senators and spent most of their meeting discussing future projects specifically including mental health.

Strategic Planning reported that committee members have filled out a doodle poll to find a time to meet next week and that an official meeting time and invite will be sent out soon.

Student Organization and Funding Board reported “Funding board met at our normal time yesterday. We heard a conference request from Wyoming Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists. It was approved. We also heard an event request from the Associated Students of the Performing Arts for their production of *The Wolves*. If you all remembered, they did bring a request to us a few weeks ago, but they decided they wanted to make a few changes. So they made such changes and brought their request to us yesterday. We decided to approve their

request. Finally, we also heard from the Wyoming African Students Association for their Soccer Fiesta Event. After a few minor changes, Funding Board approved their budget. We also finalized some details on what we want our legislation to look like for the creation of new student organizations fund. Just a reminder, Keepers of the Fire will be presenting *Home from School: The Children of Carlisle Film and Panel*. This will be on the 4th at 6-9 pm upstairs in the Arts and Sciences Auditorium. Also, WASA's soccer Fiesta will be on the 6th at 9 am at the Rec Fields. Additionally next Saturday, the Cowboy Country Swing Club will be holding their annual event at the Quadrangle.”

Student Outreach and Programming reported “SOP has our Executive and Student mingling event tomorrow night from 5pm-6pm in the union gardens. We will have ice cream and hot chocolate so please come and tell your friends to come stop by as well.”

Tuition Allocation and Student Fee Review reported they are continuing to work on fee hearings and have begun to compile their recommendations on each fee unit. The fee legislation will be up for first reading on November 16th.

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 reported “There will be a Communication Disorders Virtual Open House, November 12 and December 3 where anyone can join over zoom to learn about their programs.”

The College of Law had no report.

School of Energy Resources had no report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Senate Bill #2759: Defining ASUW General Elections

The bill was read for the first time.

The bill was steered to the Ad-Hoc Restructuring; Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy; Programs and Institutional Development; Elections

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Nwokejiobi announced that WASA will be holding an annual soccer fiesta and people are encouraged to make teams to participate. The event is funded by ASUW and will also double as a fundraiser through donations made at the event. The event will be held this Saturday starting at 9am at the recreational field. If you are interested, reach her after the meeting and she will provide you a flyer.

Director of Marketing Clark announced that he would like you to film a 15 second video with your name, position in ASUW, and why you wear a mask. Send to the ASUW Instagram account or bring into the office.

Chief of Legislative Affairs Carrier announced that if you would like to use the ASUW conference room, to let her or Senator Wilkins know ahead of time.

Chief of Staff Homer-Wambeam announced that she is happy to help film why you wear a mask video.

Senator True announced that he needs to meet with all Senators from the College of Engineering after the meeting tonight.

After processing, the meeting adjourned at 8:25pm. The next regular meeting of the Senate will be on November 9th, 2021 at 7:00pm in the Union Senate Chambers Room 221.

Kathryne Carrier
Chief of Legislative Affairs-109th Administration