

# **ASUW SENATE MEETING MINUTES**

The August 24th, 2021, senate meeting was called to order by Vice President Anderson at 7:03pm. The land acknowledgement statement and mission statement were read.

## **SWEARING IN OF NEW SENATORS**

All new senators were sworn in at this time.

## **ROLL CALL**

Senators Cooper, Dawson, and Harris were not present. The Faculty Senate, Residence Halls Association, Staff Senate, and United Multicultural Council were not present.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the April 27th, 2021 senate meeting were approved without objection, as electronically circulated.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Senator Titus moved to add nomination of Sargent-at-Arms under New Business.  
Senator Wilkins seconded the motion.  
The motion passed without objection.

The agenda was approved, without objection, as amended.

## **OPEN FORUM**

Rachel Ratleff addressed the senate in regard to SR #2743: ASUW Support for Policies and Programs at the University of Wyoming Supporting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Rachel shared her experience of reporting discrimination at the University and stated that it was not as easy or effective process as she had hoped. She shared that she had to go through multiple offices and people to report discrimination and found that she was often referred to other places and was often not followed up with. Ultimately, she described her experience with reporting discrimination as frustrating and illogical. She brought to the senate's attention tonight the University's need for a clear path for reporting discrimination. Additionally, she shared what she would like to see to help lessen discrimination at the University and improve the reporting process. One of the things she would like to see done is a non-computer based anti-discrimination training that all students must complete. Additionally, she called for ASUW's help to assist the University with creating a more transparent and easier reporting process for ASUW.

Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Kim Chesnut addressed the Senate in response to Rachel Ratleff's testimony. She said she appreciated what Rachel had to say and wanted to offer to

ASUW a partnership regarding the discrimination reporting process. Dr. Chesnut said that the University acknowledges that the systems we have in place for reporting discrimination are not user friendly. She said the University has been working closely with the office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to create a better process. Currently, there is a bias education and engagement team that is working on this process and she welcomes the help and involvement of ASUW when reforming this process.

## **SPECIAL EVENT**

Provost Kevin Carman addressed the senate regarding the proposed restructuring plan for the University for fiscal-year 2022-2023. Provost Carman started his presentation with discussing some of his past experience at other colleges. Provost Carman came prepared with a presentation that had been given to the board of trustees at their summer retreat this year. He wanted to preface the presentation by saying that the budget cuts are getting more and more difficult as time goes on, as once the smaller things are cut, it can be difficult to start cutting into some of the bigger parts of the University. His actual presentation started with how the budget cuts are necessary and mandated, and how him and his team have been working to find how to incorporate these budget cuts while still maintaining a bright future for the University. A way to help maintain this bright future for the University is to restructure some major parts of the University. What some of these restructures will most likely look like is creating synergism among disciplines within colleges, looking at efficiencies of department size, reducing the number of department heads, and eliminating programs. Furthermore, there is the possibility for interdisciplinary programs that transcend departments/colleges such as the School of Computing. He also wanted to make note that while doing these cuts, they are considering the impact these cuts will be having on faculty and staff and have been keeping this in mind throughout this entire process. Next in his presentation, he discussed how much is required for the annual budget and where the needed money is going towards. The needed money will be going towards past budget cuts that had occurred, debt service to places like parking lots and dorms, and finally required reallocations. Combining these main components together yields for a total of approximately \$13,625,000 needed annually. Provost Carman then discussed places in which this needed money is able to come from. The main areas that money can come from are as followed; discontinuities, academic cuts across the board, academic reduction, reduction in academic admin, academic policy efficiencies, employment policies, consolidation in auxiliaries, parking, non-academic reductions, and step two reallocations. The next part of his presentation covered what some of the reorganizations of colleges will look like. One of the reorganized colleges would be the Engineering & Physical Sciences which would now contain mathematics and statistics. Additionally, in this college, there would be consolidation in physics and astronomy along with atmospheric space. The next college seeing reorganization is Agriculture and Life Sciences. In this college, some departments would see consolidations and many programs would be moved into different colleges. Additionally, humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts would become a college and in the College of Education, some reorganized structure of college and degree programs would be seen. Next in his presentation, he showed which programs will be eliminated or suspended at the University. These eliminations and suspensions were determined from those that have had chronically low enrollment numbers. However, Provost Carman did say that one day, he hopes that these programs can be brought back to the University. He then discussed more improvements that will be coming to the University. Some of these

improvements look like updates to the strategic plan, application for Carnegie Community Engaged, Pursuit of Carnegie research 1 school, creating a school of computing, and updating the University Studies program. Finally, Provost Carman ended his presentation by informing the senate on where they currently are now with the restructuring process. He reported that they have met with the Board of Trustees and have met with all the deans to discuss the changes. He also reported that they are following UW regulation 2-13 closely when making these cuts to ensure everything is done correctly. He also said 11 committees have been formed that contain faculty and ASUW to help review the regulations and process and that recommendations will be made by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Finally, as a reminder, these changes will not take place until next year.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Senator Wilkins moved to suspend the Abernathy clause.

Senator Titus seconded the motion.

Motion passed by a voice vote.

## **Executive Reports**

President Swilling said “We had our yearly internship and met with stakeholders across campus to form some initial connections and working on advancing shared priorities. It went well. The University Board of Trustees has been busy these past few months. Here are some of the major initiatives and projects that the Board voted on and that I spoke on over summer. We approved the design for the new dorms that will be built where Wyoming hall used to be. There was a lot of conversation about to best design these not only to attract students but also to help keeps costs down and to make sure they serve all student needs, and I sincerely think we came to a pretty good end results. We heard about a lot of excellent initiatives to advance student success, including new programs for first years that would have them take a weeklong accelerated course to get a crash course in getting adjusted to life here at the University. I am excited to see how ASUW can contribute to some of these projects in the coming months. We increased the amount of academic financial aid would be granted to out-of-state students to help keep up with our peer institutes and attract more bright out-of-state students to our institution. We approved the following new majors: M.S. in Environment, Natural Resources, and Society (ENRS), BAS Health Sciences Admin (Additional concentration), Plant Production & Protection, with Concentrations and Minors. In July, we had our away meeting and got a tour of SAREC, which is the - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center. We heard a lot about the restructuring plan and the plan for UW’s future, including the new school of computing, the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and the Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality Initiative. We heard from Governor Gordon about some of his plans for Wyoming and how UW’s restructuring fit into those plans. He’s excited about them, I would say, in particular some of the plans to increase innovation in areas such as carbon sequestration. We edited a lot of Uniregs and approved a lot of contracts. We had a lot of discussion and thoughtful inquiries about how to best manage COVID and create the Fall 2021 plan. Throughout this I was always clear that students needed to return back to in-person, and we had to organize our policies in such a way as to maximize the chances of that successfully occurring. ASUW had an in-depth search for execs this year. In early May we began looking for a Chief of Staff, a Chief of Legislative Affairs, and a Director Marketing. Pursuant to our by-laws, Colter and I decided to

appoint Hazel Homer-Wambeam, who some of you may know from campaigning last year as Chief of Staff, and Kaycee Clark as Director of Marketing. Hazel is a junior majoring in musical theatre performance with a minor in Honors, and she has extensive leadership experience. She runs and founded her own student organization, owns her own business in which she hired and oversees six employees, was awarded the distinguished young woman of Wyoming for 2019 award and received best in the nation for Self-Expression and Public Speaking. She also served on the UW Arts and Sciences Dean Student Council and sat on the Committee to Select the new Albany County Sheriff. She has done a truly outstanding job so far and I look forward to continuing to work with her. We also appointed Kaycee Clark as Director of Marketing. He is a junior majoring in communications with a minor in journalism and honors. He has served as social media coordinator for Lambda Pi Eta, a writing intern for Best version media spots, and an intern for KFBC radio station. He is also the Vice President of Coe-Digital Arts Club Student Organization at the University of Wyoming. He has also been working for us over the summer and had done awesome work. We also conducted a search for our other executives, and in all we received 51 applications, which was truly incredible. After a lot of thought and consideration, we selected 8 individuals, who will be up for confirmation later tonight. We went through ASUW's annual end-of-year spending process back in June, and here are some of the big priorities we funded. Split with the Union and Staff Senate the costs to make some upgrades to the technology available in the Senate Chambers, to ensure that we had a zoom-capable room. That has not all been fully installed, but we are hopeful it will be in the near future. Allocated \$125,000 in matching funds to a new endowment to allow international and DACA students to receive funding, like we do with the other 8 scholarships that ASUW controls. Alongside Senator Titus, we are looking forward to doing some initial fundraising on this. Allocated \$31,000 for the creation of a new endowment to support student success priorities, most notably at this time efforts to end food insecurity on campus. We bought a lot of swag to give away and increase interests in our events. We had meetings with IFC, CPH, and the SusCoa to discuss shared priorities. Working with Counselor Summerville to revive some efforts regarding a land-lord tenant agreement at the city council level. I sit on the WPGC, which is doing some excellent work regarding police and community here in Laramie, and we will have our full recommendations are done before January 1<sup>st</sup>. We really expanded how closely we work with Staff Senate President Chris Maki and Faculty Senate Chair Adrienne Freng, since we strongly believe that our voices are at their most powerful when we speak as one on issues in which we agree. ORED search committee – Rashmi Thapa and I. We lost our Accountant, Shelly Schaefer, and she will be missed. Colter and I are serving on the committee to elect a new one.”

Vice President Anderson said “First of all, I want to welcome everybody back to campus and express how excited I am to be conducting ASUW business in person again. I hope that everyone's fall is off to a strong start. The executive branch had a busy summer, and we are excited to have you all back so we can begin to make even more progress on the many initiatives that ASUW is carrying over from the 108<sup>th</sup> administration as well as newer projects that have been started just recently. We have laid the groundwork for several items which will be requiring legislative action in the coming weeks, including numerous areas of our working documents that will be receiving updates in the near future, and areas within the legislative branch that could be changed to make ASUW better able to represent its constituents. We are excited to work with you all to continue making positive changes to ASUW through the 109<sup>th</sup> administration. As a reminder, the ASUW Senate retreat will be this Saturday, August 28 from 10am to 4pm in the

Union senate chambers, lunch will be provided. Immediately after this meeting, Chief of Legislative Affairs Carrier will distribute a short survey to all those invited, please fill it out as soon as possible so we can account for dietary restrictions and ensure we have an accurate head count. Even if you do not plan on attending, please submit this form. If you are unable to attend the entire duration of the retreat, please feel free to come and go as your schedule necessitates. As well, please remember to respond to your temporary committee chairs' email regarding a fall meeting time for your standing committees. Committees will need to begin meeting regularly soon as there will be more legislation hitting the floor in the coming weeks”.

Chief of Staff Homer-Wambeam said “Hello everyone, my name is Hazel Homer-Wambeam, and I am ASUW’s Chief of Staff. As was previously stated, I was appointed in June by President Swilling, and have been working over the summer within the Executive Branch. Some of the major tasks I have been pursuing, are updating and advertising applications for the Executive Director positions, interviewing applicants, and moving forward with director candidates for the 109<sup>th</sup> Administration. We had an overwhelmingly large amount of interested students, with a combined total of 51 applicants for the positions up for hire over the summer. I have great confidence in our decisions, and am very excited for the wonderful work that I know these students will accomplish in the next year if confirmed. Over the summer I also organized and hosted the Executive Retreat which was held on August 14<sup>th</sup>. I have been very impressed so far with those of you in this room that I have had the privilege to meet or work with, and for those of you I have not yet crossed paths with, I am eager to get to work with you in the near future!”

Director of Marketing Clark-Mellott started by updating the senate on some of the summer projects he had been working on. Some of these projects included working on ASUW banners, updating the Wyocourses page, updating the website, and marketing the hiring for the ASUW executive branch. He also reported that our number of followers on social media has been increasing. On Instagram there has been a 17.3% increase in followers, Twitter has seen a 14% increase, and TikTok has increased by 36%. He then discussed some of the ongoing projects he is working on which includes marketing applications for First-Year Senate, working on Vaccine campaigns, and making our WyoCourses page live for students. Finally, he announced that there is a Townhall meeting Thursday that he will be attending where he will be asking questions students have asked on social media. There will also be podcast with President Swilling and Chief of Staff Homer-Wambeam released on Wednesday.

Advisor Wheeler started by welcoming everyone to senate and said he is excited to be in person. He then discussed how he has had a busy summer working with ASUW and President Swilling and Vice President Anderson. He also reported that the former ASUW accountant Shelly-Shaef was no longer working full time for ASUW. He also reported that he is still in the search for project coordinator. He also wanted to say that parliamentary procedure gets easier the more you do it and to not be intimidated by it.

### **Ex- Officio Communications**

College Panhellenic Council reported that the Cowboy Carnival held last Saturday was a success and that about 2000 people attended. Additionally, she reported that chapters will be meeting on Monday to vote on the anti-hazing legislation.

The Interfraternity Council reported that cowboy carnival went well and that next week chapters will be reviewing the anti-hazing legislation.

International Students Association reported they will be holding a BBQ during the second week of September.

The Non-Traditional Student Council reported they had a new President who has been working closely with the past Presidents to develop a new council.

The Sustainability Coalition reported they met for the first time yesterday and discussed priorities for the school year. They also reported they will be doing some housekeeping. They also had a fairly busy summer from discussing budgets and interns. Finally, they reported they will be meeting again this week.

The student athlete advisory committee reported their first of the year BBQ went well. They also reported they are working on a point-based system to advertise themselves and other teams to help promote events. They will be meeting more in the future

### **Committee Reports**

Steering reported they met on Monday from 5:30 to 6:30 to steer legislation and discuss the attendance policy. This time will not be the official meeting time however and an official attendance policy will be announced next meeting.

Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy had no report.

Budget and Planning reported they will be meeting at 9am this Friday to discuss, purpose, timeline, and goals of the committee.

Elections had no report.

Program and Institutional Development had no report.

Student Organization and Funding Board reported that Tuesday, August 31 at 9:45am will be their first meeting and that they already have two requests they will be hearing.

Student Outreach and Planning reported they are working on finding a time to meet next week.

Tuition Allocation and Student Fee Review reported they will be setting a permanent meeting time soon. They also reported they have a deadline for the fee memo and they hope to have a complete timeline for when fee recommendations will be submitted to the board of trustees.

Senator Titus moved for a five-minute recess  
Senator Dawkins seconded the motion.  
Motion passed by a voice vote.

The Senate moved into a five-minute recess at 8:40pm.

The Senate reconvened at 8:45pm.

### **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 reported they are working on finding a member for the ACTE organization.

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 had no report.

The College of Law had no report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Nomination of a Sargent-at-Arms**

Senator Wilkins nominated Senator Laverell  
Senator Rhymes nominated Senator Talamantes  
Director Hacke nominated Senator Smith  
Senator Hansen nominated Senator Harvey

#### **ASUW Executives Confirmation**

Senator Rhymes moved to approve Kathyne Carrier as the Chief of Legislative Affairs.  
Senator Smith seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 24-0-0

Senator Titus moved to approve Ivan Sapien as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion.  
Senator Engel-Cartie seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 22-2-0

Senator Laverell moved to approve Nicole Reyes-Aguilar as the Director of Finance and Student Organizations.  
Senator Talamantes seconded the motion.

Motion passed 23-0-1

Senator Titus moved to approve Brittany Stadler as the Director of Financial Planning and Analysis.

Senator Smith seconded the motion.

Motion passed 24-0-0

Senator Rhymes moved to approve Allison Brown as the Director of Governmental and Community Affairs.

Senator True seconded the motion.

Motion passed 24-0-0

Senator Engel-Cartie moved to approve Ashton Hacke as the Director of Partners, Programs, and Events.

Senator True seconded the motion.

Motion passed 24-0-0

Senator Engel-Cartie moved to approve Rhiannon Mclean as the Director of Wellness and Sustainability.

Senator Smith seconded the motion.

Motion passed 21-3-0

#### **ASUW Judicial Council Confirmation**

Senator Titus moved to approve Angela Schweisberger to serve one year on the Judicial Council.

Senator Talamantes seconded the motion.

Motion passed 24-0-0

Senator Dawkins moved to approve Brad Sankey to serve two years on the Judicial Council.

Senator True seconded the motion.

Motion passed 24-0-0

Senator Titus moved to approve Cristina Salazar to serve two years on the Judicial Council.

Senator Engel-Cartie seconded the motion.

Motion passed 24-0-0

Senator Talamantes moved to approve Friday Otuya to serve two years on the Judicial Council.

Senator True seconded the motion.

Motion passed 24-0-0

Senator Wilkins moved to approve Hank Hoversland to serve two years on the Judicial Council.

Senator True seconded the motion.

Motion passed 24-0-0



## **Confirmation of Chief Justice of the Judicial Council**

Senator Engel-Cartie moved to approve Hank Hoversland to serve one year as Chief Justice.  
Senator True seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 24-0-0

## **Confirmation of ASUW Standing Committees and Senator's Committee Assignments**

Senator Titus moved to approve the ASUW Standing Committee Assignments as shown.  
Senator True seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 24-0-0

Senate Bill #2752: A Change to the Required Composition of Sponsors on ASUW Legislation  
The bill was read for the first time.  
The bill was steered to Advocacy, Diversity, & Policy; Programs and Institutional Development; and Steering

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice President Anderson announced that all senators needed to pick up a model release form from Chief of Legislative Affairs Carrier at the conclusion of the meeting. He also announced that if senators bring a completed model release form back to the Senate retreat occurring this Saturday, that they would be eligible to acquire new ASUW gear.

Senator Houghton introduced himself to the senate and announced that due to a time conflict with a class, that he will be joining the senate late when possible.

After processing, the meeting adjourned at 10:00pm. The next regular meeting of the Senate will be on August 31, 2021, at 7:00pm in the Union Senate Chambers Room 221.

Kathryne Carrier  
Chief of Legislative Affairs-109<sup>th</sup> Administration