
ASUW SENATE MINUTES

The September 1st, 2020 meeting was called to order by Vice President Titus at 7:00pm. The mission statement and the land acknowledgement statement were read and roll was taken. Senators Brooks and Horton were tardy.

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

Chief of Legislative Affairs Swilling and Vice President Titus gave a special event regarding a legislation overview. The speakers went over the purpose and gave an explanation of the title, introduction, author, and sponsors for the legislation. The speakers also covered the importance of the WHEREAS and THEREFORE clauses, which are to show what the bill is going to accomplish and address why it is important for it be passed, and to show what is going to happen and when the change is going to take place, respectively. They then went over addendums, which are used to show the actual changes or to show what is being created. They then went over the timeline for legislation. Legislation is due to the Chief of Legislative Affairs by Friday at noon. The bill is steered to its respective committee on Friday at 1:00pm, and the bill has its first reading on the next Tuesday's Senate meeting. It is then debated in the committees where it is steered, who give the full Senate their committee recommendation of either do pass, do not pass, or do pass with amendments at next Tuesday's Senate meeting, where the bill is read aloud for the second time and then debated on. The bill then is voted on that same day. After the bill is passed, it's signed by the ASUW Senate chairperson and the ASUW President.

COMMUNICATIONS

Executive Reports

President Talamantes reported that she is involved in the following efforts:

- Working on legislation to revise the James C. Hurst Scholarship

- This is a scholarship that was made in the year 2000 to honor an employee of ASUW and Student Affairs who was instrumental in programming for students of marginalized identities. James C. Hurst helped spearhead MSLI which is the Multicultural Student Leadership Initiative and this scholarship was used for students who were mentees in the program. After completing the program they could apply for the scholarship
- Multicultural Affairs discontinued this program about four or five years ago because it was dated and didn't have a lot of participants. Because of this, we have money sitting in our endowment that was set up for this scholarship and it has yet to be spent.
- I have been working with Chief of Legislative Affairs Swilling, VP Titus, and folks in MA to help rewrite the trust so the scholarship can be a broad leadership scholarship for marginalized students – that way there aren't as many barriers for students of color to access the scholarship but also keeps the intent of why the scholarship was started in the first place
- Expect that to be up for first reading in the next week
- If you are interested in sponsoring this bill or reading it, send me a chat and I can forward you the draft we have right now
- Working with the universities communication team on making sure that we get information out to students as quickly as possible if we have to go into a pause
 - 2 stages of pauses
 - Stage 1 criteria of a pause is right now up until the surveillance testing program is operational (phase 1 and phase 2) – a pause under this stage could be triggered by numerous things
 - Five or more new symptomatic cases, confirmed through diagnostic testing and identified in a single day
 - Over a 3 week period, total symptomatic cases per week is equal or greater than 120% of the number at the beginning of that three week period
 - One fatality in the UW population
 - Available capacity for isolate/quarantine is below 20% of the total UW on-campus isolation capacity
 - Stage 2 criteria of a pause is effective with a fully-launched surveillance testing program (so phase 3):
 - One day increase of 20 or more new cases in the UW population relative to the weekly average
 - For instance – if the average is 10, and in one day we get 20 cases – that triggers a pause
 - Increase in the seven day average of one additional case in the UW population
 - Sample prevalence for the tested UW population exceeds 5%
 - One fatality
 - Available capacity for isolation/quarantine is below 20% of the total of UW on campus isolation capacity

- An automatic pause would result in all classes being delivered online, students being asked to shelter in place (so for the dorms it means that they would have to stay within the “pods” in their halls), and only essential personnel allowed on campus for a period of 5 business days. Things like the library and computer labs will remain open but with limited hours(8-5pm instead of 7;30-7pm) – within those 5 days university leadership will decide if it’s safe to come back to campus
- Please just be aware of this – this is a communication that will be sent out to students in the morning
- I would highly recommend that you all read the communications that are sent out by the university via email OR follow the university on social media like Instagram and Facebook – post a lot of info here about this and they really just want students to read it.

Chief of Staff Rhymes reported that after being confirmed last week, our executive team hit the ground running. I have some updates for those executives who are unable to attend tonight: First update: Director of Governmental & Community Affairs Nielsen: In the last week Director Nielsen has been reaching out to key contacts in the UW and Laramie community to establish good working relationships. She has also been busy compiling information that will be useful for the Pokes Vote campaign, and is excited to begin collaborating with the SLCE office later this week. As many of you know, Laramie City Council meetings coincide with ASUW Senate meetings, so Director Nielsen is unable to join us at Senate for the remainder of the year. She looks forward to begin delivering updates from City Council meetings starting next week! Second update: Director of Marketing Pados: Over the past week, Director Pados has created graphics and social media posts for a wide variety of content, including UW Shield jobs, Senate vacancies, Student Right to Know, and First Year Senate. Director Pados has also been a huge asset in overhauling the ASUW website in order to make information accessible to students, and is currently working on student fee transparency graphics. Final update: Director of Wellness and Sustainability Harris: First, Director Harris is working with ACRES to create a cooking webinar series, where volunteers can share basic cooking skills and affordable, nutritious recipes through on online platform. While this project is still in the early stages, she is currently 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. Second, Director Harris has been onboarded into the Food Security Task Force. We are both excited to continue our involvement and find new avenues to support the task force through this semester, including the development of the UW Food Share Pantry. Third, Director Harris is currently looking into ideas for community events that highlight conversations surrounding mental health and personal welfare; she is in the early stages of this project and is working on partnership ideas.

Director of Diversity Perez reported that she this past week she has contacted Melanie Vigil from Multicultural Affairs and started a conversation collaborating together and having more student voices in ASUW. She also is going to contact the School of Culture, Gender, and Social Justice, which is a new school with a new director. She wishes to get opinions on the removal of the diversity graduation requirement, to see if it is a good idea to begin a conversation about bringing that back. She is also starting to contact multicultural RSOs, especially with the online format, and

because of that she is giving these RSOs some time to settle down, and she hopes to be in contact with presidents or co-chairs by next week.

Director of Finance and Student Organizations Berg reported I worked really hard on getting student org leadership meetings established on a college-by-college basis, but so far I've only heard back from Arts and Science, the College of Business, and the College of Ag and Natural Resources, so she is still waiting to hear back from some of those deans, though good progress is being made. I also worked on reaching out all of the student org leaders on campus, and familiarize myself with all of those student orgs on campus. I introduced myself and offered them assistance, and had them many of them reach out to me asking for help. Something else I've been working on is making sure that the student org part of the website is up and running, and updating the forms there. I've made a lot of progress and hope to have it done by Friday. I've also made a student org flowchart, which outlines the steps that student orgs need to go through to get funding. This should be done by Friday as well."

Director of Financial Planning and Analysis Madhyanam, who said "The majority of my week was spent meeting other execs in committee meetings, and we were trying to figure out what programs need to be evaluated. I was also working on the ASUW Budget summary, which I have almost had finalized and should be uploaded by next week. I have also been active in the budget reduction meetings, and I will keep the Senate updated on that.

Director of Community and Governmental Affairs Nielsen was absent.

Director of Wellness and Sustainability Harris was absent.

Chief of Legislative Affairs Swilling has several projects he is working on. First, he reminded Senators to sign their model release forms and send in a photo of themselves for use on the website. He also mentioned that there were multiple vacancies on the Senate, two in the College of Health Sciences, one in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and one in the School of Energy Resources. He also mentioned that he had compiled a list of Senator's expectations and responsibilities, which would be an easier way for Senators to know what they had to do for their role. He mentioned that would be sent out at the conclusion of the meeting. He also mentioned that he would be updating the website to make sure legislation, committees, and Senator contacts are up to date. He mentioned that he had worked on the James C. Hurst legislation alongside President Talamantes, and that should be introduced next week. Finally, he also mentioned that he would be collaborating with Lucy Ward to help with the First-Year Senate, which is having interviews and orientation in the near future.

Vice President Titus said "I have also been on updating the website, and the pandemic has forced us to shift the ways we think about information and technology access. If you are on the website and come across any issues, email me or Director of Marketing Pados. Also please send in your model release form so we are able to livestream our Senate meetings. Even if you have signed one in the past, we do need you to sign it again, so please try to do that ASAP. Reach out to us if

you have any issues, as we can mail or email them if necessary. Something else I have been working on is collaborating with the Sustainability Coalition and the Food Security Taskforce, to help open the Foodshare Pantry, which had upwards of 40 pickup orders, showing that was money well spent. Tell all of your friends and students orgs about this to get the word out! It's clear there's a need. Next, we had our ASUW Town Hall Talking with Talamantes and Titus, this has a ton of great info and submit questions to the feedback form, this is a great way for us to dispel some rumors. Lastly, we currently have a vacancy on SO Funding Board, so if anyone is interested in attending these meetings, please let me know."

Advisor Wheeler reports that he is working with Director Nielson on the SLS position, so updates are coming next week. First-Year Senate is also still accepting applications and we are hoping to have interviews next week. Finally, I am working with UMC co-chairs Gonzales and Tay about what this fall will look like for them in terms of purpose and direction.

Accountant Schaefer noted that our job posting for the ASUW advisor position and ASTEC coordinator closed last week, and they are going through those and hope to have someone hired for them shortly.

Ex Officio Communications

Residence Hall Association had nothing to report to the Senate.

Sustainability Coalition noted that they were hard at work on their food security initiative, and they are also working on a strategic partnership budget for ASUW, and they are looking for new ways to engage students, including zero-waste webinars. They invited anyone to reach out to them if desired.

Staff Senate reported that their executive team had had a chance to talk to President Seidel, and that was a great chance to get to know him. They also noted that President Seidel would be able to attend their full Staff Senate meeting tomorrow night.

Committee Communications

Steering reported that they have set up the absence policy, which is that Senators cannot miss more than three Senate meetings for the year. Absences can be excused by emailing VP Titus and Chief Swilling 24 hours prior to meetings. Please let them know as soon as possible if something comes up. Finally, two missed committee meetings add to one Senate absence, and you must email the committee chair at least six hours in advance in order to get those excused. In terms of goals, steering aims to go over the ASUW working documents and make those more cohesive and simple to understand. They also aim to go over the elections process and make some revisions, which Senator St. Marie is going over. Senator Hoversland and Wilkins on amending parts of the finance policy, so if you see anything that can be amended, reach out to them. We would love any collaboration on that initiative.

Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy reported that they had their first meeting last Friday at 4:00pm, where they selected their permanent chair and decided on a permanent meeting time of Wednesdays at 5:00pm. They also delved into their goals and plans for the fall semester, taking the time to continue outreach to underrepresented groups on campus, and hoping to market to some groups and RSOs to advertise the ASUW Senate committee vacancy. They note the challenges of reaching out virtually, but that it will be a great opportunity to learn. They also noted a brief discussion on potential future legislation.

Budget and Planning reported that they will be meeting at 4:10pm on Tuesday afternoons. They discussed outreach for special projects and had Account Schaefer go over what the budget process would look like in the spring semester.

Program and Institutional Development reported that they met Friday at 11:00am, which is the permanent meeting time and selected the permanent chair. They are looking forward to welcoming strategic partners and programs to their meetings, and ensuring that the next few months are a time of growth and not setback for ASUW, and ensuring that the concerns of students, our partners, and programs are addressed.

RSO Funding Board reported that they selected Senator Hoversland as the permanent chair, and they need an additional Senator to serve on the Funding Board. They went over the goals of the committee for the year, which include sending out a survey to track who we funded and how, which is one of the main goals. They also want to be more policy oriented and update the funding policy. Next Monday they will begin the discussion of what needs to be changed there.

Student Outreach and Programming reported that they met last week and selected a permanent chair, and the committee meets Wednesdays from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. They noted that a lot of their events will have to be virtual, so they are in discussion on how best to engage the student body.

College Contact Reports

Agriculture and Natural Resources scheduled a meeting with Dean Rasco to help assess student needs and further student outreach, and will email relevant people to ensure that a note can be sent out ensuring that marketing materials are sent out

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

Business reported that they are working 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.

Education reported that they are determining if they would like to set up a virtual office hour, and have emailed Dean Rush to set up a meeting with her. They are also brainstorming ways to make themselves more accessible to students in this time of virtual education.

Engineering and Applied Science reported that they discussed having group office hours as well, but are now searching for more effective ways to reach out to students.

Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources reported that they have a meeting with the new Director of Wellness and sustainability, and I hope to speak to her about ongoing sustainability projects that I can collaborate with, and our new Dean starts the 28th, so after that point I will try to set up a meeting with him as well.

Health Sciences reported the they have been discussing with their fellow Senator and have reach out to Dean Jones to try and set up a meeting with him, but have not gotten a response. They are also working to find students interested in filling the two health science vacancies.

Law sent out an email to the College of Law seeking feedback, and they are waiting to hear back from more constituents before meeting with the College of Law Dean to ensure that all concerns are equally represented. Some concerns include the desire for reduced tuition since we are forced to go online, and concern over the fact that fees were raised.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Wilkins nominated Senator Hoversland as Social Chair for the 108th Administration.
Senator Hoversland accepted.

Senator Hoversland nominated Senators Wilkins and Houghton for Social Chair.
Senator Wilkins did not accept.
Senator Houghton did not accept.

Senator Hoversland was selected as the Social Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Talamantes announced that Talking with Talamantes and Titus is tomorrow from 4:30 to 5:30, and there will be a lot of information about the phase plan, what a pause looks like, and information and resources for student organizations.

After processing, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM. The next regular meeting of the Senate will occur on September 8th, 2020, at 7:00pm via a Zoom videoconference call.

Hunter Swilling
ASUW Chief of Legislative Affairs - 108th Administration