
ASUW SENATE MINUTES

The September 15th, 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. Senators Holcomb and Laverell absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved as distributed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Senator Doran moved to add the Sustainability Coalition Budget Realignment request to be added to New Business.

Senator Hoversland seconded.

The motion was adopted without objection.

Senator Wilkins moved to move New Business before the Special Event.

Senator Hoversland seconded.

The motion was adopted without objection.

The agenda was approved as amended.

OPEN FORUM

There were no speakers during open forum.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Wilkins moved to make a budget realignment of \$26,480 to the Sustainability Coalition.

Senator St. Marie seconded.

The motion passed by a vote of 23-0-1.

SPECIAL EVENT

Vice President Titus led the Senate in a group activity to help brainstorm why Senators are involved with ASUW and what they were passionate about, and reviewed the results. Food insecurity, mental health, and wellness were popular results. Senators 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?” during the prior meeting, and VP Titus urged everyone to look through those. For this Senate meeting, everyone split into breakout rooms with 6-8 people based on interests within ASUW, which would take place during a fifteen minute recess. In the breakout rooms, Senators, execs, and ex-officios engaged in ice breakers and discussed potential areas of collaboration.

Senator Wilkins moved for a fifteen minute recess.

Senator Hoversland seconded.

The motion passed.

The Senate moved into a fifteen minute recess at 7:35.

The Senate reconvened at 7:50.

Senator Anderson reported that his breakout group, which discussed engagement, outreach, and marketing, discussed looking at more effective ways to reach out to students. They were looking for better strategies and tactics for engaging in a virtual environment. This is important for making sure they're well represented, up to date, and getting represented.

Senator Hoversland reported that his breakout group, which discussed ASUW internal practices, legislation, and policy, discussed the creation of a vice chair or secretary role for standing committees, especially as a means of allowing younger students to learn how to chair committees. They also discussed potentially changing how Senators are elected in order to increase representation.

Director of Diversity Perez reported that her breakout group, which discussed diversity, justice, and equity, talked about reaching out to multicultural RSOs and finding out how to get them more involved. They also had a small conversation about defunding UW police, as they believe they have too much money allocated to them in this day of online education.

Director of Financial Planning and Analysis Madhyanam reported that his breakout group, which discussed money, student fees, tuition, and the budget, talked about how sometimes the university is not very transparent about where student fees are allocated. They talked about creating a Student Fee standing committee to help offset this issue.

Senator Brooks reported that his breakout group, which discussed wellness and sustainability, talked about things they could do for education, real tangible things, that they could do to help students, including assisting fiscally. They also discussed a partnership with student health services. They discussed how to reduce single use plastics, even though that's very hard to avoid using, could focus on properly disposing of them.

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. The applications for the one vacancy we have on the council are live on up on the ASUW website, and they will close on September 25th at 5:00pm. We hope to fill that one vacancy and have a full seven seats on the JC. Also, I've been working on improving SR #2707: ASUW Support for Student Employees. We had a great discussion on ways to improve the bill, and Dean O'Neil and VP Chestnut had great

feedback to improve this bill and make it powerful and respectful. You are always welcome to submit comments via email or SharePoint. Lastly, I have a meeting with the Board of Trustees, so I will be at Senate next week and give you updates on that!”

Chief of Staff Rhymes reported “For my first update, Director of Governmental & Community Affairs Nielsen: Over the past week, Director Nielsen attended the City Council working session, which was primarily focused on the Casper Aquifer, so nothing relevant to UWYO or ASUW. She also worked with Director Perez and the SLCE office on content for Pokes Vote. This year’s Pokes Vote campaign is centered around using a WyoCourses shell to disseminate voting info to students. We plan on launching 8 informational modules on October 1st. Finally, Director Nielsen is continuing to meet with contacts from the law school to find a solution for the vacant Student Legal Services office. Final update, this time on Director of Wellness and Sustainability Harris: Director Harris has been tying up loose ends on her cooking webinar project, and the first video should drop this Friday! We’re excited for this collaboration between ASUW, ACRES, and the Wellness Center to kick off. Beyond that, Director Harris has been busy with a lot of research on long-term mental health resources and food insecurity, and has joined the food pantry working group on the Food Security Task Force. Additionally, Director Harris, President Talamantes, and myself met with Senator Pierson and the president of ACRES to sketch out our proposal to make ACRES a program of ASUW.

Director of Diversity Perez reported that she finished compiling her research on the diversity requirements for accreditation, and is excited to work with Chief Swilling on legislation in the coming months. Director Perez has also been working with Director Nielsen, the SLCE office, and myself on Pokes Vote content, and will be spearheading efforts to include international and DACA status students in the conversation..

Director of Finance and Student Organizations Berg reported “In the last week I worked on getting all the documents for the Student Orgs portion of the website updated. I had three meetings with student org leaders to help clarify what ASUW can do for them in these uncertain times. I attended Talking with Talamantes and Titus and discussed Student Org support alongside the other executives. To complete these projects I shared these documents with Funding Board and got some great feedback that led us to find some issues that need updated in the financial policy. I spent time talking with student org leaders about all the exciting virtual ways we are working to support them. In the upcoming week I am going to get started alongside the DOFPA with planning our first virtual financial wellness event. I will work with Funding Board to continue to update our financial policy and to get some student orgs conference funding. I will work with CSIL on further developing a virtual poster run and supporting the virtual involvement fest they are planning. And I will reach out to the Branding Iron to get some advertisements made about Special Projects. _“

Director of Financial Planning and Analysis Madhyanam reported “I finished working on the Budget Summary and the DOM has worked on it, creating a fantastic graphic. I will have the COLA share that with you before the next meeting, it’s just been slightly delayed by the budget realignment request. Next, we got the final numbers on the budget cuts from the Budget Reduction

Working Group, which is about \$36 million. We are trying to finalize that and see the best way to move forward. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to me.”

Director of Marketing Pados reported that she had been working on generally social media communications and updating, as well as posting the Student Right to Know, as well as additions to the ASUW website. She also collaborated with COS Rhymes to plan the giveaway prize distribution that will take place later this week. She also worked with student organizations to feature them on the ASUW Instagram account. As DoFSO Berg mentioned, she also worked on marketing materials to help spread information about the special projects marketing and application process. She will also help spread the word and market the virtual quiz event organized by SOP and the cooking classes organized by Acres and Dir. of Sustainability and Wellness Harris.

Director of Community and Governmental Affairs Nielsen was absent.

Director of Wellness and Sustainability Harris was absent.

Chief of Legislative Affairs Swilling reported “I attended the First-Year Senate meeting and gave a special event presentation giving them a little bit of background about their constitution, the SharePoint, and our legislative process. Next, the campaign for the special election in the College of Health Sciences is going on this week, and the vote itself will be held on Monday, September 21st from 8:00 to 5:00 PM. Specific to Health Sciences, so if you know anyone from that college or are in that college, be sure to vote! We’re still looking for a SER and an Ag Senator, applications for that opened yesterday and stay open until the 25th at 4:30. If you know anyone interested, please let them know about this! Applications can be found on the ASUW website. Next, I’m working on several pieces of legislation, and the edits for article one of the bylaws are entering their final stages. If you have any comments or concerns with article one of the Bylaws, let me know! I’m also working on updating the website, making sure that bylaws and legislation archive is update with the legislation passed during the 107th administration.

Vice President Titus said “Here are some UW Food Share Pantry updates: it is still open through the pause, you can contribute food to boxes placed in the Dean of Students office and in the Union at some point soon, I turned in the volunteer list so they could organize that info but if you are still interested in helping out other ways just email me. The Food Share Pantry have given out over 80 bags in its first week and a little less in the following weeks. ASUW end of year spending is still being used to afford supplies for these bags. Next, we are livestreaming Senate for the first-time next week, and if you have any other ideas on how to increase engagement and transparency with the student body, I am all ears. If you haven't turned in your model release forms, please do that TONIGHT. Senators Milburn, McManaman, and Perryman are still needing to turn in these forms. Next, we have an ex-officio orientation with COLA Swilling tomorrow at 5p, and Friday at 11am; anyone wanting to attend one or both of these would be more than welcome to! It will be a good way to increase and improve relations with our ex-officios and help them forge necessary connections with Senators that are increasingly difficult this year. Please email me, text me, or message me on Teams to express your interest and I will send you the Zoom link. Next, Sen. St. Marie made College Contact folders in our SharePoint. Feel free to use those for collaborations with your colleges. I will have a list of suggested outreach/service hour ideas from Steering in this folder by next Senate

meeting. Finally, WyoCourses first service period hours due in about a month, submit those on WyoCourses. I am still working on updating the assignment as our scholarship requirements changed last year but I should have it opened up next week. Please take this time between now and then to make sure you can access the group on WyoCourses so we can remedy any issues ASAP.”

Advisor Wheeler reported “Not much to report, First-Year Senate had their first meeting, which was exciting to see them elect their head table and their stump speeches and see all the experiences these students are bringing to the table. Next, UMC met with VP Titus to see how they can increase the visibility of UMC and improve their effectiveness when reaching out to stakeholders across campus. They will discuss that and loop back with VP Titus and others. Next, Chair of Non-Traditional Student Council Rachel Ratliffe has a meeting with Accountant Schaefer on how to best discuss non-traditional students with their budget this semester.”

Accountant Schaefer notified us that she has been working on scheduling interviews to fill the two vacant positions: ASUW Advisor and ASTEC Program Coordinator, which we hope to have filled by the end of the month. I have also been working on a quarterly budget report to send to all of you, so be on the lookout for that in the middle of October. Next, we get to be on campus, so my office hours will be Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from next week on.

Ex Officio Communications

College Pan-Hellenic Council reported “Pan-Hellenic’s primary formal recruitment period starts ended yesterday, Monday, September 14th and we were able to invite 48 women into our community. In addition, the open recruitment for professional sororities opened yesterday the 14th, and they are having COVID safe recruitment events.”

Faculty Senate reported that they met for the first time yesterday, as the leadership has been extremely busy. The budget situation is dire, and the change to leave the pause was a surprise. They hope to learn more at the Board of Trustees meeting.

First-Year Senate introduced himself as Saber Smith, the new First-Year Senate Presiding Officer. They reported that in their meeting, they elected their head table. He told us the names of their elected officers.

Interfraternity Council reported that last week some of their chapters started virtual recruitment, which will continue next week. Their recruitment process is not as structured as Panhellenic Council, so the chapters are allowed to run it as they see fit based on what they need to get done, and what they can best incorporate during COVID-19. Next week they are holding their anti-hazing week, which is a very important topic within the community.

Residence Hall Association reported they will have their first general assembly meeting starting tomorrow at 7:30 via Zoom, and they are working on recruiting representatives from the Halls.

Sustainability Coalition reported that they have been working on finalizing their budget, which was approved tonight. They will work on using these funds in the best way possible now that they are approved.

Staff Senate reported that they welcomed two new Senators, and the team is now gearing up for the Board of Trustees meetings. The chair is on countless budget and COVID-19 groups. One of the initiatives is a focus group coming from the Budget Reduction Working Group, reaching out to staff members to hear their thoughts about the upcoming budget cuts.

Committee Communications

Steering reported that they reviewed some legislation that was pulled but will likely be introduced next Senate meeting. They are continuing work on our policy revisions notably to the Finance Policy and the Elections Policy. If any of you have any thoughts relating to these two parts of our working documents or any other part, please email myself or COLA Swilling.

Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy reported that they met last week at 5:00pm on Wednesday to go over the legislation that was referred to them and vote on that. They finished their SO outreach effort and are now looking at more effective ways to do that in the future.

Budget and Planning reported that the Special Projects Fund went live this week, and they worked with the Sustainability Coalition to get their budget passed.

Program and Institutional Development reported that they met Friday at 11:00am, and they are made a recommendation and reviewed SB #2706, and they also got a chance to meet with their programs and partners in weekly roundtables to see where they are at for this semester.

Student Organization Funding Board reported that they met at their usual time, and they reviewed the finance policy, and they are making some minor changes to article three of the Finance Policy so that it is a clean, professional, and easy to read documents. Senator St. Marie is talking about funding board during Talking with Talamantes and Titus, to share info about funding board and their services, as well as ASUW elections. They also funded two conferences, the Women in Business Virtual Conference, and the Society for Women Engineers for the virtual 2020 national conference. A total of \$1,250 was allocated for these conferences.

Student Outreach and Programming reported that they met last week and have been busy planning their Kahoot! Tournament, which should be a fun way to get students to be engaged virtually. They are working on ways to get students involved in Homecoming as well.

College Contact Reports

Agriculture and Natural Resources reported that they are compiling a list of Student Organizations in the College of Ag to send off to students and try to get them more involved.

Arts and Sciences reported that they had received an invite the A&S Dean's Council for Undergraduates, which is a great way to do outreach and have feedback. Second, many students orgs in CA&S will be participating in the virtual involvement fest on Thursday from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.

Business reported that they are in the process of setting up their office hours, the following Monday, and are working on setting up a meeting with their Dean.

Education reported that they were able to attend a meeting of KDP meeting, a prominent RSO in the college. They introduced themselves and offered to see how they could help. They also met and had a nice chat with Dean to see how they could support the college in the coming year. They are also discussing creating a Facebook group to help students are going to be student teaching in unfamiliar locations to help find help or housing.

Engineering and Applied Science reported that they are working to outreach to every single Engineering SO to spread the word on ASUW and the resources that are available to them from ASUW.

Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources had nothing new to report to the Senate.

Health Sciences reported that they have been working hard to get students to apply for the vacancies, which has worked, as there are four applicants. They are scheduling a meeting with the Dean of Health Sciences to see how to best meet the of the College.

Law had no representatives at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

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

The bill was read for the second time.

Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy gave a do-pass as amended recommendation.

Program and Institutional Development gave a do-pass recommendation.

Senator Hoversland moved to adopt the bill.

Senator Wilkins seconded.

Senator Hoversland moved to amend Addendum B to include an ASUW Senator-at-Large in the scholarship committee.

Senator Wilkins seconded.

The motion passed by a voice vote.

Senator Hoversland moved to amend Addendum B to include the need for the recipient to send in a resume to help the committee judge the applicants.

Senator Wilkins seconded.

Senator Hoversland withdrew his amendment.

Senator Pierson moved to amend the legislation to delete the words "be it enacted" on line 15, as it was repeated.

The motion was adopted as a friendly amendment.

Senator Pierson moved to amend Addendum B to allow the scholarship committee to award the scholarship to any other underrepresented or marginalized ethnic group, at the discretion of the committee, and to change the GPA requirement to a 2.0; specifying that that requirement would be waived for incoming first-year students.

Senator Wilkins seconded.

Senator Horton motioned to divide the question. The proposed amendments to the legislation were thus divided in two.

Senator Wilkins seconded.

The motion passed by a voice vote.

Debate continued with the proposed amendment allow the scholarship committee to award the scholarship to any other underrepresented or marginalized ethnic group, at the discretion of the committee.

The motion passed a voice vote.

Debate continued with the proposal to change the GPA requirements for applicants to a 2.0, with the specification that this requirement would be waived for incoming first-year students.

The motion passed by a voice vote.

The motion passed by a role call vote of 20-1-1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VP Titus announced that the virtual Involvement Fest is the 17th from 4:00pm to 7:00pm, and she hopes that all student events will participate. It is a sim-like experience, so that should entice people.

After processing, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM. The next regular meeting of the Senate will occur on September 22nd, 2020, at 7:00pm via a Zoom videoconference call.

Hunter Swilling
ASUW Chief of Legislative Affairs - 108th Administration