

# Committee on Government Operations

## Senate of the Associated Students 84<sup>th</sup> Session

Minutes for Tuesday, April 26th, 2016 at 6:00 pm

Presidents Conference Room on the 3rd Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union

### 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:11pm on Tuesday April 26th, 2016 in the Presidents Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union.

### 2. ROLL CALL

Senators Blair, Bond, Charles, Jacoby, and Jordan were present.

Senators H. Jackson and T. Jackson were absent excused.

A quorum was present.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

### 4. MINUTES

There were no minutes to approve at this time.

### 5. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to approve at this time.

### 6. NEW BUSINESS

#### a. Appointment of Committee Vice Chair

Senator Jacoby nominated himself for Vice Chair of the committee of Government Operations.

There were no subsequent nominations.

Senator Jacoby was given five minutes to speak on behalf of his self-nomination for Vice Chair.

Senator Jacoby expressed that he is very passionate about government operations. He proceeded to list his experience qualifying him for the position. Jacoby explained that he had already submitted legislation that was on the table at this time. Jacoby explained that at the time he was currently working with Brandon Boone in order to reformat the elections process. He explained confidently that he felt experienced enough that he would be able to take over Brandon's position if he were to be absent for any reason. Because of his experience and constant contact with Brandon Boone, Senator Jacoby felt qualified and confident for the opportunity to be an attentive and able-bodied Vice Chair for the committee of Government Operations.

Senator Jordan opened the committee to questions.

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Posted at the ASUN Offices in the Joe Crowley Student Union,  
Frandsen Humanities Building, the Ansari Business Building,  
Mathewson- IGT Knowledge Center, 1664 N. Virginia St. Reno, NV 89503  
and online at [www.nevadaasun.com](http://www.nevadaasun.com).

If you would like a copy of any of the agenda items listed, please contact  
Senator Jordan at [senatorjordan@asun.unr.edu](mailto:senatorjordan@asun.unr.edu).



There were no questions at this time. Senator Jordan suggested the committee to a discussion of the candidate.

There was no input or discussion of the candidate, Senator Jacoby, at this time.

Senator Jackson moved to appoint Senator Jacoby to the position of Vice Chair of the committee of Government Operations.

Senator Charles seconded.

The motion carried unanimously; Senator Jacoby was appointed Vice Chair.

The board congratulated Senator Jacoby.

**b. Discussion of Meeting Times**

Senator Jordan said that the Doodle Poll was unsuccessful. The most favorable time slot consisted of only four votes. He suggested they keep the same meeting time but also asked if there were any other suggestions.

A senate member asked a clarification question regarding session length and session ending dates.

Senator Jordan answered this question by explaining that the 83rd senate session ends in Spring. He continued to explain that the 84th session will then begin soon after; however, committees will be suspended on or around May 11th due to the semester break.

There was no further discussion regarding meeting times. The committee will continue to meet on Tuesdays at 6pm until the end of the session.

**c. Future Senator Projects**

Senator Jordan began this discussion of future senator projects by explaining how government Operations is structured. Gamberg will be reading over the Statutes of the Associated Students (SAS) over the summer while the committee is suspended. During this time, he will also be organizing a timeline for the entire session. The session timeline will include when specific titles and chapters will be reviewed and when it will be expected to have legislation written and completed for those specific chapters.

During the first session after the summer break, Senator Jordan will introduce this timeline to the Government Operations committee. He will communicate to the committee members via email and will give reading assignments each week. Committee members will be responsible for completing these reading assignments on their own time before the next committee meeting. During the corresponding meeting, the committee will discuss the assigned readings and will address any problems or concerns regarding those. If any problems or concerns need to be addressed during the discussion, the committee may agree to write new legislation in order to address those concerns regarding the SAS. If this becomes the case, he will assign this task to certain individuals and will expect the new legislation to be completed by a determined deadline.

These legislation assignments may require senators to reach out to different clubs and organizations depending on the nature of the assignment. After contacting the required individuals or groups as soon as possible, the senator will report the meeting results back to

the committee. The committee will then review the conclusion from the club/org meeting and will further discuss the developments of the legislation assignments.

Senator Jordan proceeded to address the importance of these legislation assignments. The goal of the Government Operations committee is to develop new legislation for the SAS. Because of this, it is crucial that all members of the Government Operations committee participate in the requirements of the legislation assignments. In the past there has been a problem with committee members not completing assigned legislation assignments. Senator Jordan would like to see an improvement in assignment completion.

Senator Jordan asked the committee for any questions.

Senator Bond asked about the sections of the SAS that will be covered. She wanted to know if the sections being covered in the upcoming session will be the same sections covered during the 83rd session or if the 84th session will continue to move forward from where Senator Gamber left off.

Senator Jordan explained that he has been advised by Senator Gamberg to begin by looking at Title VIII. Title VIII concerns student scholarships that use ASUN funding. The issue involving Title VII that needs attention involves cases of ASUN-funded scholarships where ASUN does not have choosing power in determining the scholarship recipients. Senator Gamberg suggested looking at Title VIII first and continuing through Title XL if time allows.

#### **d. Legislation Workshops**

Senator Jordan explained that he wished to discuss the legislation items first so that he could discuss those items while explaining to the committee the most effect ways to write legislation. Senator Jordan began by explaining the outline and format of a properly written piece of Legislation. He used S.B. 84 An Act to Amend The Title of The Junior Editor of NSURJ in the SAS as an example.

The Title of the Legislation will always come first and will always be followed by an explanation of the context of the bill. If using the above listed legislation as an example, one would make sure to explain a little bit about NSURJ and what they do as well as the Junior Editor position and what about it is exactly going to be changed. In this case, only the title was intended to be changed. After you discuss what exactly is going to be changed, you will then discuss why exactly it needs to be changed. After explaining what is going to be changed and why it needs to be changed, you would then go into detail and discuss each individual change to the legislation. Senator Jordan explains that the most important aspect of the structure of these legislations is to remember to always explain the context first. After explaining the context, you can follow by explaining the changes and the reasons for those changes in any order, as long as they in some way follow the context of the bill.

Senator Jordan then goes to explain that after writing down explanations for all of the areas above, you would continue to either edit the legislation or add an addendum to the legislation. In order to edit the legislation you would begin by exclaiming: "Be enacted by the Associated Students,' and follow by listing your exact changes to the legislation. In order to add an addendum, you would write out your specific changes to the legislation and exclaim in the addendum that this specific change will replace a specific clause or group of sentences in the SAS.

Senator Charles asked for clarification on her understanding that an addendum would be used when an edit to the SAS would need to be made that would encompass more than three lines. Because this kind of change is much larger than editing only one sentence for example, one would add an addendum to the bill instead of simply editing a line or two in the legislation.

Senator Jordan explained that this is true, that the longer the change that needs to be made, it is typically easier to enact an addendum.

**e. S.B. 84- An Act To Amend The Title Of The Junior Editor of NSURJ In The SAS**  
Senator Jordan passed the gavel to Senator Jacoby.

Senator Jordan began by explaining that during the prior week, Kyle spoke to the senior editor of NSURJ. The Senior Editor of NSURJ wants to increase the level of professionalism across the entire organization and because of this, they would like to abolish the title of Junior Editor, not the position. Instead, the senior editor of NSURJ wished to change the title of Junior Editor to Associate Editor. With this change of the editor title, the job description and position requirements would remain unchanged.

Senator Bond made a wording and phrasing suggestion for page 2, line 2 of the proposition. This suggestion was made for clarification purposes.

Senator Jordan agreed with the suggestion and made note to edit that sentence in the legislation assignment.

Senator Charles added further suggestion regarding wording and phrasing clarification for lines 3 and 4 of the legislation assignment.

Senator Jordan agreed with this suggestion and made note to edit lines 3 and 4 as well before submitting the assignment to Senator Teixeira for approval.

Senator Bond suggesting amending the excerpt and passing it instead of submitting to Senator Teixeira for approval.

Senator Jordan approved of this idea.

Senator Bond moved to edit page 2, lines 2-4 to read "whereas changing the title of Junior Editor to Associate Editor increases the professionalism and attractiveness of the position and thereby will increase prestige of the position and organization as a whole."

Senator Jordan seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

Senator Jacoby moved the committee back to discussion of the bill as a whole.

There was no further discussion at this time.

Senator Jordan moved to favorably recommend S.B. 84- An Act To Amend The Title Of The Junior Editor of NSURJ In The SAS to the senate.

Senator Bond seconded this motion.

The motion carried unanimously; S.B. 84- An Act To Amend The Title Of The Junior Editor of NSURJ In The SAS was recommended favorably.

It was noted later that in addition to the previous changes to S.B. 84 there would need to be further alterations where every instance of the phrase 'Junior Editor' would need to be replaced with 'Associate Editor.'

Senator Jordan added that it be enacted by the Associated Students that SAS 110302 C and SAS 110302 D are amended so that everywhere 'Junior Editor' appears, it be changed to 'Associate Editor.'

**f. S.B. 84- An Act To Amend The Elections Code**

Senator Jacoby returned the gavel to Senator Jordan.

Senator Jacoby began to explain that on page 106, the SAS states that debates for presidential and vice presidential candidates must be held at least two days prior to the elections and that all candidates must be available for said debates. However, in this section of the SAS there is only mention of particular rules regarding senate elections. Referring to senate elections, the SAS states that the elections commission may elect to host a debate with candidates running for senate positions from a particular college or school. Senator Jacoby explains how this wording gives the elections commission the option to hold or not to hold a proper debate for senate position candidates. Senator Jacoby explained how he would like to amend the elections code in order to make it mandatory that the elections commission hold at least one proper debates for senator elections. Senator Jacoby expressed that since there typically are already debates that typically occur for the senate positions, he is not looking to change what has been happening, but instead looking to create a code that will be able to properly hold the elections commission accountable.

Senator Jordan opened the committee to a discussion.

Senator Charles suggested specific wording that made clear the intentions of holding the elections committee accountable for holding at least one debate per college per elections cycle. Senator Charles' input was to suggest a more clarified and direct amendment to the already existing statement.

Senator Jacoby suggested adding an addendum to Senate Debates Part II where it states that debates shall be held at least five business days prior to the general elections for each represented college.

Senator Charles moved to add in after the second stricken line that debates shall be held for each represented college at least five days business days prior to the general elections of each represented college.

The motion carried.

Senator Jordan opened the committee to a discussion of the bill as a whole.

Senator Bond moved to recommend favorably SB 84: An Act to Amend the Elections Code.

Senator Charles seconded.

The motion carried unanimously; SB 84- An Act to Amend the Elections Code was recommended favorably to the Senate.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:39pm.