

Committee on Academics

Senate of the Associated Students

Minutes for Thursday, October 27th, 2016 at 4:00 P.M.

The Joe Crowley Student Union, President's Conference Room in the Center for Student Engagement

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Senator Henderson called the meeting to order at 4:00pm in the President's Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union Building.

2. ROLL CALL

Senator Blair, Crupi, Henderson, Kohler, and Urquidi were present.

Senator Crooks was absent excused.

A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. James Beattie said next week Dr. Mensing, director of undergrad research, will present at senate to let everyone know who got what grants last year, what research they worked on, etc.

He suggested to start thinking about questions.

Dr. Beattie said Dr. Mensing will probably propose community research ideas. As of now, \$25,000 goes to undergraduate research on campus. Last year academics passed a \$10,000 bill to fund research abroad during summer.

The new proposal is a city initiative to do funded research in the Reno.

Dr. Beattie said the Provost office has talked about working with tesla and other large wealthy companies.

But James doesn't think that is a good idea because Tesla can afford to fund their own research. Dr. Beattie wants city of Reno and other community partners from different demographics of the city.

Poor demographic areas have less trees and less healthy air quality. James suggested a research project to do an assessment of the tree in the city and where to plant trees for socio-economic equality of trees around the city.

Dr. Beattie said the program would pay for a student to go out into the community and do an assessment of the trees. Then provide the city with direction of where to plant trees. This is called engaged scholarship because the student provides solution.

He encouraged everyone should come up with a question or suggestion like having to present not only to the university but also the city.

The research would tie into UniverCity push.

Dr. Scott Mensing would have to come back to the committee talk about this idea and write legislation.

Dr. Beattie came up with some stipulations. For example, what month would they come, would ASUN officials be allowed to sit in meetings to select students for research, etc.

Dr. Bettie suggested writing legislation into the sas as soon as possible because the director after Mensing may not support it.

Dr. Beattie said to make sure you have stipulations. ASUN should know what we are getting for our money.

Posted at 1664 N. Virginia St. Reno, NV 89557 in the ASUN Center for Student Engagement inside the Joe Crowley Student Union, Frandsen Humanities Building, the Ansari Business Building, The Mathewson IGT Knowledge Center and online at www.nevadaasun.com.

If you would like a copy of any of the agenda items listed, please contact Chair of Academics Dahlia Henderson, at 775-784-6589 or at senatorhenderson@unr.edu



Senator Henderson agreed and would love to see a presentation to school and city after the research.

Senator Crupi said director Mensing was awesome to work with last year. However, Mensing will not be director forever. He said stipulations were needed to determine who was being selected and how. ASUN officials were there in the past to make sure the money was being spent evenly.

Senator Crupi said within the first hour last year, the group picked who would receive the scholarship and opportunity to do research. He said it took a few more hours to determine how much funding each student should get.

Director Beattie said the more committees ASUN officers sit on and do successful work, the better you are after college. He said Dr. Mensing would be a great mentor to have on a project like this.

4. MINUTES

There are no minutes to approve at this time.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a) Senator Reports:

Senator Blair

She said she was still coordinating with doctor Mensing to talk to freshman classes about studying abroad. The last class they talked to had 200 freshman.

Senator Crooks

Senator Crupi

He said he talked to professors about engineering advising. He heard from his peers that students either leave with what they started with or got no advising help. Other students got completely different or incorrect advice when they talked to various professors. Only enough advisors to work with freshman. Working on something to educate professors and make the advising process easier.

Senator Kolher

He said he didn't have any new news other than an undergrad research forum meeting in two weeks.

Senator Henderson told Senator Kohler to post information about the meeting everywhere he can to increase attendance.

Senator Urquidi

He said he has nothing new to present. He said he is willing to help Senator Crupi with the college of engineering advising.

Senator Henderson

She said she sits on the core curriculum board. The board oversees the Silver Core curriculum that began this fall.

Core Objective 1 is Fundamental Practice of Effective Composition and Communication.

Core Objective 2 is quantitative reasoning.

Core Objective 3 is Critical analysis and use of information.

There are 14 objectives so she did not feel like reading all of them.

Dr. Elliot Parker is the chair of the board. He wants one of the senators to sit in on four of the sub-committees. Chair Henderson wants the senators to go to these meetings with one of the interns.

She said she doesn't have the times for the meetings yet but the meetings would be on core objectives 1, 3, 5 history and culture, and 8 on the constitution.

Director Beattie said it is really important for students to attend the meetings and be the voice for the student body.

Senator Crupi said they are very open and willing to listen to student opinion. Students are not often at these meetings so student voice is welcomed because Silver core will affect what students will be learning for the next few years.

Senator Henderson agreed with Senator Crupi. She stressed the importance of having student voice because the board has a ton of data about the curriculum and faculty but very little about students. The board can gather the data but student voice conveys to the board how the classes affect the students and how the students feel after taking the class.

Senator Henderson said the subcommittees recommend to the core board for reverification for how the class wants to be recognized within the various cores.

The sub-committees take on classes for consideration one at a time. The discussions are very detailed about specific classes and what they entail to earning a degree.

Senator Henderson said these committees consist of mostly faculty but don't have any student voice.

She will email Dr. Elliott about the times. Everyone on the academics committee should sign up for the meetings.

The core board was working on diversity just like the senate; not always just academic principles.

There are more documents on the Facebook page to learn about the committees.

Senator Henderson said that the senators will meet with her before going to the meetings so they know everything about silver core.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Brainstorm, brainstorm, brainstorm

Senator Henderson said she is still working on definition for committee on Academics. She wants to narrow down the responsibilities of the committee.

Senator Henderson made liaison positions to work on for the next year to see how the positions work. At the end of the year have a new definition for the ASUN website and the SAS.

Senator Henderson told her committee to decide what organization they would want to work with in their liaison position. There is NSURJ, and the faculty senate committee who has similar jurisdiction to the academics committee.

Director Beattie said the current liaison to the faculty committee is President Boone. He thought they could be asking for a liaison for sub-committees.

Senator Henderson agreed that she thinks it might be a sub-committee. Office of the provost is looking for a liaison as well.

Director Beattie said the Office of the Provost might be under someone else's jurisdiction but the documents are under the academics committee. He recommended contacting President Boone to be sure he hasn't assigned any other liaisons.

Senator Henderson said admissions and records was the next department that the committee on academics is involved with. She said she wants to get involved with them because admissions and records is how students get into the university.

Senator Crupi said Dr. Maples talked last year about admissions. He said changing admissions requirements is almost impossible because we are the land grant university. Last semester the committee wanted to increase admission requirements to get into the university so we are more prestigious. We are at 84% acceptance rate.

Senator Crupi said that if the committee wants Dr. Maples to speak about admissions and records, the committee should have questions and ideas ready to present.

He said admissions tried to use a common application last year but it didn't work out. Also the idea of transitioning from semester to quarter system but that didn't work out either.

Senator Henderson a lot more research would be required for talking with admissions and records. The next liaison will be for the libraries and determine if senate can do anything for them to get more students to utilize the library resources. The liaison will have to contact the various libraries individually.

Senator Henderson said advising is something that could be new liaison position to help the various advising departments and if they need anything.

Director Beattie liked the idea and suggested to start with talking to Derek. He said advising has moved away from academic advising to holistic advising so he thinks it would be a great idea.

Senator Crupi said advising for engineering does a good job laying out a plan for major progression because there isn't much variance in classes. He said the biggest flaw in engineering is the spreadsheets that track student progress but students have to see advisors to see their spreadsheet. Students want to be able to access their records other than my Nevada to bring in their info to the advising appointment. Making it possible for students to see their progression would be helpful even though it will not easy to implement.

Senator Henderson said it would be good if every student had a plan that put in the classes they need in all the right semesters and show students when to take certain classes that are only available certain semesters.

Senator Blair said it would be really helpful for minors because minors can be harder to keep track of.

Senator Henderson said she liked the idea for a minor spreadsheet.

Senator Crupi said it wouldn't be much work because he already has a template for advising spreadsheets.

Senator Blair said it would be nice if the program connected to course curriculum because it is frustrating when the course catalogs change.

Senator Henderson said adding advising to the definition of the academics committee could lead to large improvements in future years.

b) Liaison Positions

Senator Henderson said she added undergraduate research to the liaison positions and Senator Kohler will be the liaison because he is already involved. She wanted to specify that in the new definition, undergraduate research would be its own thing. Still keep the definition general so there is room to grow and evolve.

Senator Henderson said she is going to insurance meeting for student insurance. If anyone has questions, email them to her.

Senator Blair asked if she should add the questions to the email she is already sending to Dr. English.

Senator Henderson said yes.

Senator Henderson said she would like the interns to pair with a senator for liaison position as a side project. She will follow up with the senators to make sure the interns are doing some extra work as a learning opportunity.

Senator Henderson asked for volunteers for the following liaison positions:

Undergrad research- Senators Kohler and Blair. Intern Moreno-Montes will join.

NSURJ- Senator Blair

Office of the Provost- waiting on confirmation from President Boone

Faculty Committee- waiting on confirmation from President Boone

Admissions and Records- Senator Urquidi and Legislative Intern Ung

Advising- Senator Crupi and Intern Mehtaji

Libraries- Senator Crooks

Senator Henderson said for over the next week, the senators need to figure out who to contact for a face to face meeting to see what senate can do for them as well as what their department can do for senate.

She stressed the importance of being professional. Reports need to be ready in two weeks.

Director Beattie said he can help answer questions for who to contact.

Senator Henderson said to let her know if the senators had any questions or anything else.

Senator Blair suggested telling the representatives what ASUN wants to work on rather than going to a meeting with no ideas.

Senator Henderson agreed that it is necessary to have ideas of what you want to work on and see from them. The meeting should last 30 minutes to an hour.

Senator Henderson asked if anyone had ideas for anything else the committee could add to work on.

Senator Blair suggested working with tutoring center or counseling center in PSAC to show how students get effected when they don't get help.

Director Beattie said he felt like university affairs should stay in charge of counseling center.

Senator Henderson agreed but thought the tutoring center was a great idea.

Director Beattie suggested the math center. He reminded everyone to never promise anything during your meetings. He suggested supporting the departments and writing legislation for the departments but to not promise any financial support. Throwing money at a problem is never the best way to solve problems.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Henderson adjourned the meeting at 4:42pm.