

# Committee on Public Affairs

Senate of the Associated Students 85th Session  
Minutes for Wednesday, May 3rd, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.  
Joe Crowley Student Union Room 320

## 1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Senator Ryan Becker called the committee on Public Affairs to order at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 in the Joe Crowley Student Union in Room 20.

## 2. **ROLL CALL**

Senator Becker, Senator Lippi, Senator Sarwar, and Senator Smith were present.

Senator Bussman and Senator Sullivan were absent excused.

Senator Tool was tardy excused.

A quorum was present.

## 3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The former/current Legislative chair introduced herself as Veronica Charles, the Director of Legislative Affairs for the 84<sup>th</sup> session. She said that Public Affairs works a great deal with Legislative Affairs and that Public Affairs is the alliance between Legislative Affairs and the Senate. The director of Legislative Affairs and their department tracks legislation all year because even though it is an off-legislative year, there are still mid-term elections and Senate still has to meet for special sessions. She hopes that Public Affairs is going to meet weekly with the Director of Legislative Affairs to talk about what is happening within the community. Legislation can bring about questions like: Do guns and cars on campus affect our student body? Public Affairs decides whether or not it impacts the student body by bringing in the legislation and talking about it as a student body. Something like homeowner association, for instance, is not pertinent to the Senate or student body. Public Affairs decides what they want to take to the Senate/student body and everyone has the open discussion to decide how they feel about the legislation as well as figure out how the constituents feel. When pieces of legislation are drafted, they must go through Senate to get approved, as well as through the director of Legislative Affairs. Finally, the legislation must go through Public Affairs. Public Affairs is in a difficult position because dealing with publically elected officials is a “wishy-washy” situation and it’s always changing. They have to be able to write legislation based off of what happens in the community. Public Affairs and Legislative Affairs must discuss student opinion on issues and have legislation already written prior to bringing it to Senate. Per Senate resolution and ASUN, they are representing students’ voices. It is up to Public Affairs to decide legislative materials. Public Affairs works on the student behalf, and Legislative Affairs works on public officials’ behalf.

There were no further 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, 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 Beaton at [senatorbecker@asun.unr.edu](mailto:senatorbecker@asun.unr.edu).



Nominees for the Legislative chair position must be knowledgeable in state happenings that pertain to higher education. They also have to be knowledgeable about the bicameral system the Senate operates on. They are a student externally serving the system.

*Senator Toole entered the room at 4:03.*

#### **4. MINUTES**

There were no minutes to be heard at this time.

#### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to be discussed at this time.

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **a. Election of a Vice Chair**

Senator Becker asked if anyone would like to run for the Vice Chair position for the committee of Public Affairs.

There was no nomination.

Senator Becker moved to discuss the position again at the next Wednesday's meeting.

##### **b. Committee Goals**

Senator Becker asked if anyone had any new goals or suggestions to improve transparency or communication throughout the department.

Senator Sarwar wants to meet with Legislative Affairs and make sure they're tracking legislation. She said that Legislative Affairs and Public Affairs need to work more closely together, to make sure the legislation is accurate and up to date.

Senator Becker said that more leadership positions are available within Legislative Affairs. He suggested having the director sit in on every Public Affairs meeting and the top 3 personnel sit in on every other meeting.

Members of Public Affairs committee should feel free to bring certain pieces of legislation and resolutions to meetings.

#### **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Senator Becker would like there to be a Vice Chair and will answer any questions about the position.

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Becker adjourned the meeting at 4:10 pm on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.