

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

Minutes for Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 5:30 P.M.

Rita Laden Senate Chambers, Third Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union

## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Senator Martinez called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm in the Rita Laden Senate Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union. Presiding secretary, Andrea Godoy.

## 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## 3. ROLL CALL

Senators Becker, Billman, Bussman, Cook, Flangas, Kuykendall, Cam. Lee, Cyn. Lee, Lippi, Mah, Mall, Martinez, Sarwar, Se, Smith, Stopka, Sullivan, Thummel, and Tool were present.

Speaker Jackson and Senator Paningbatan were absent excused.

A quorum was present.

## 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

There are no minutes to be heard at this time.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Mensing was the director of undergrad research. He had two immediate needs for senate. They relied on their assistance in reviewing proposals and dispersing funds from senate. The first was in relation to the undergrad research award. He knew some of them were familiar with it since he had their applications. He asked if anyone was unfamiliar with the undergrad research so he could give them a brief overview. Every year, they had a solicitation for undergrad research. ASUN contributes \$25,000 and the Office of Undergrad Research contributed \$40,00 so they had a of \$65,000 to distribute. They ask for applications from students from all majors. This year there was a major change where they had 4 subdivisions set up: STEM, Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. These applications are reviewed by faculty and students, according to their bylaws, generally from senate. He needed 4 or so senators to help review. Ideally, it would be three from the STEM disciplines and then 1 person comfortable doing both Arts and Social Sciences or 1 of each. No one will have more than 12 applications to review and applications are only 2 pages. It must be done by April 27<sup>th</sup> however so timing is a challenge. And they can always take more reviewers if they wanted to read less.

Dr. Beattie asked if there was a rubric.

Dr. Mensing said yes. The applications get uploaded to Nevada Box and then his office will help set them up and give them instructions. He can also meet with anyone if need be.

Dr. Beattie said if they had an application being considered, they shouldn't volunteer.

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**POSTED ON OR BEFORE 9:00 a.m.**

**ON THE THIRD WORKING DAY BEFORE THE MEETING**

Posted at the ASUN Offices in the Joe Crowley Student Union, Frandsen Humanities Building, the Ansari Business Building, The 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 Hannah Jackson at (775) 784-6589 or [speaker@asun.unr.edu](mailto:speaker@asun.unr.edu).



Senator Becker asked if they could review applications from Social Sciences if they applied for STEM.

Dr. Mensing asked if he had an application in but wanted to review.

Senator Becker said he didn't have an application; he was asking for those it might apply to.

Dr. Mensing said it was better if they didn't volunteer if they had applications. If, that was the only way though to get sufficient reviewers, then they could make it work.

Senator Bussman asked if he wanted volunteers now.

Dr. Mensing said yes; they could collect names now or later. He didn't need to take up more of their time.

Senator Martinez said they will collect names at the end after Dr. Mensing's period of question and answer; he will send the names to Dr. Beattie after the meeting.

Dr. Mensing said the ASUN contributes \$10,000 to their international research program. They send students from the university to work with faculty in institutions abroad over the summer for research. They are sending students to 7 countries this year. 2 will go to Italy, 2 will go to France, 2 to Spain, and 1 to china. Their office also contributes \$10,000 and they contributed \$10,000 to their financial support. They needed a small committee to determine how they wanted to distribute funds. They need volunteers for that also. He asked Dr. Beattie how many people were needed.

Dr. Beattie believed the agreement said two but last year, he worked with the Committee on Academics because they had a little more time.

Dr. Mensing said that was fine. They will look for senators later for distributing those funds. He looked forward to developing a close relationship with the Committee on Academics and on hearing their recommendations for how they can run their solicitations better.

There were no further questions.

Senator Martinez asked for volunteers to review applications; Senators Bussman, Smith, Flangas, Sarwar, Becker, Mah, Thummel, Kuykendall, and Billman volunteered.

Kathy Ray is Dean of Libraries. Steve Smith, the CIO, worked closely together. He could not be there but she was there to discuss the increase they voted on and how they will use it. She can take questions also. They may not know that the tech fee started in 1999 when students then wanted the ability to have computers in classes for PowerPoints. There was no money before that and nothing in classrooms. They voted in a \$4 fee and that has been here since 1999; yet technology and the campus size has increased enormously. They may notice on the fee schedule that there was a total of \$7. The other \$3 is the integrated fee for MyNevada imposed by NSHE; the university had nothing to do with that. In the past year, they approved an increase of \$2 by credit hour. That meant they now had \$6 per credit hour. This was to expand things like wireless access points on campus for inside and outside for ubiquitous cover. They are also working on proposals for the sides of campus and the residence halls. They will also give money to department labs, which they had not been able to do before. The KC also has 400 work stations and printers and that has to be maintained and refreshed as well as the workstations that were added in Pennington. They must keep the equipment up. They also handle technology issues with classrooms. This money will go to people, the classrooms, the Help Desk in the KC, equipment, wireless,

and those kinds of things. She asked if they had any questions since she wasn't sure what kind of information they wanted to have.

Senator Mall said in his college, there were always problems with the computers and what times they could use them. He asked if there was a chance in the future for the software to be duplicated in KC computers.

Ms. Ray said they talked about it and it was a preliminary topic of interest. Engineering does use their differential fees to make sure those computers meet the needs of engineering students. Student tech fees are usually for general use labs for all students. They generally didn't do much there but suggested he talk to them.

Senator Stopka asked how much they wanted to raise it.

Ms. Ray said it had been raised by \$2 per credit hour.

Senator Bussman asked where the change went.

Ms. Ray said it came in as one big fund. There was an Advisory Board composed of faculty, students, faculty senate, the CIO, and herself that handled how the money is distributed based on needs.

Senator Bussman asked where the extra money was going.

Ms. Ray said about 47% is in smart classrooms, people to handle the needs of classrooms, maintenance of Canvas, and instructional technology of all kinds. 31% is for campus department labs that have general use and the Help Desk. 10% is for department needs. The DRC receives 3-5%. The student equipment loan downstairs in the KC is 2%. Wireless and networks is 4-5%. Streaming audio and video is now 4%. The money is spread across all those areas as needed.

Senator Becker asked if they had \$6 for tech and \$3 for MyNevada for a total of \$9 now.

Ms. Ray said yes.

There were no further questions.

Senator Martinez asked for volunteers for Dr. Mensing.

Senators Bussman, Smith, Flangas, Sarwar, Becker, Mah, Thummel, Kuykendall, and Billman volunteered.

## **6. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE SENATE AND REFERRAL**

There were no items to be heard under this agenda item at this time.

## **7. REPORTS OF ASUN OFFICERS**

- a. President of the Associated Students, Noah Teixeira  
President Teixeira said he was working on getting through interviews. He just hired the Chief of Staff and the Director of Programming and they are on the Oversight agenda for next week. He was also working on the positions and will have people for them as soon as soon. He and VP Atienza are working with Cairn Lindloff to buy stuff for orientation tours. VP Atienza will talk more about the dates for orientation trainings. He will be presenting the budget to Senator Martinez so that it can be referred to Budget and Finance. He had been working with TEDx to

see what kind of role they were going to play this year. was enjoying the position so far and was excited for the rest of the year.

Speaker Teixeira presented the budget to Senator Martinez and asked it be referred to the Committee on Budget and Finance.

Senator Martinez referred the budget to the Committee on Budget and Finance.

There were no questions for President Teixeira.

- b. Vice President of the Associated Students, Sebastian Atienza  
VP Atienza said this past Friday, they had the End of Year ASUN banquet. It was great to celebrate the 84th session's accomplishments. For orientation, they had had multiple meetings with New Student Initiatives to see what role ASUN have. If they are staying over the summer, they are looking at the weeks of May 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to do trainings for the Getting Involved presentations. He asked senators to let him know if they were staying over the summer.

Senator Becker asked what he defined as being here over the summer.

VP Atienza answered at any point that they can help with orientation.

Senators Billman, Martinez, Mah, Tool, Thummel, Kuykendall, Cam. Lee, Cyn. Lee, Becker, and Sullivan designated themselves.

VP Atienza said they are looking at doing different promotional items. They have done sunglasses and water bottles this past two years and he wanted to do something new to push getting students involved. If they had any ideas, please email him. He has a meeting with Student Services to revamp the program and what to talk about for every service. His meeting for that will be very shortly. For the Pack Internship Grant Program, they will have a poster reception on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 6-8 pm. It will be for all those that participated to show what they did during the program. There will be appetizes and awards given out It is in the Great Basin Student Lounge in Mackay Stadium; they just opened it up when they did the renovations. It would be cool to see the new senators there since it was one of the nicer things ASUN gave back to. On Friday, he and President Teixeira had a meeting with the Student Fee Governing Board. They will be going over the allocation of student fees around the university.

Senator Bussman asked if he could repeat the time for the poster reception.

VP Atienza said 6-8 pm. but if they wanted to help set up, then 5 pm.

There were no further questions.

## **8. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND SENATORS TO COMMITTEES**

The Senate shall elect Chairpersons and senators to the following standing committees:

- a. The Committee on Academics  
Senator Martinez said the Senate will now elect chairs to the standing Committees on Academics and Public Affairs. Nominations will be accepted for each committee individually. Nominations do not need a second and self-nominations are welcome. To nominate someone, please use the phrase: "I nominate the Senator [NAME] to be Chair for Committee on [COMMITTEE NAME]." Each nominee will be allowed five minutes to give a presentation followed by a period of five minutes for questions and answers. The legislative clerk will be

keeping time and giving the nominees a 1-minute warning. Each senator is responsible for their questions during the interview and only clarification questions will be allowed as a follow-up. To ask, please state: "Point of clarification, [STATE QUESTION]." While it is traditional for a nominee to not be in the room during the consideration of other nominees and the vote, it cannot be required by the Senate per Nevada Open Meeting Law and the Parliamentary Authority. Each senator is entitled to cast a vote for the chair.

Senator Martinez opened the floor for nominations.

Senator Bussman nominated Senator Tool to be the Chair for the Committee on Academics; Senator Tool accepted.

Senator Smith nominated Senator Cam. Lee to be the Chair for the Committee on Academics; Senator Cam. Lee accepted.

Senator Martinez said seeing no further nominations, nominations are now closed. Without objection, the nominees will be recognized in the order in which their nominations were made. The following have been nominated for the Chair for the Committee on Academics:

1. Senator Tool, a senator from the College of Education
2. Senator Cam. Lee, a senator from the College of Interdisciplinary Programs

All nominees were placed into nomination.

Senator Martinez asked the nominees to please leave the room while the body compiled a list of possible questions. He will then call in Senator Tool for his 5-minute presentation. It was not required per Nevada Open Law but the body asked the nominees leave. He reminded Senators that Speaker Jackson had previously emailed them asking for questions; please stick out your hands so he may compile them.

Director Rodriguez said the nominees should leave the room since they were coming up with questions right now.

Senator Martinez thought the nominees could stay in the room; they didn't have to leave.

Director Rodriguez said the nominees could stay in the room when it came time to hear presentations but for right now, they were developing questions to ask. What will happen right now was they will get an unfair advantage since they will have time think about answers. This was a new way to keep things efficient.

The nominees, Senators Tool and Cam. Lee, left the room.

Senator Becker wanted to ask how the candidates planned on strengthening the bond between ASUN and the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Director Rodriguez said that if they are going to present the questions, they need to make sure they have the questions written beforehand so that Senator Martinez isn't burdened with writing them.

Senator Bussman wanted to ask if each candidate had contacted Scott Mencing, the Faculty Senate, the Office of the Provost, the Office of Admissions and Records, or the University Libraries since they are mentioned in the committee's description.

Senator Flangas wanted to ask if they met with the previous chair and if they did, what they took away like any goals or things to improve on or work on.

Senator Bussman asked if they could ask question based on what they say.

Senator Martinez said yes. He encouraged any senators that hadn't spoken to say something now.

Senator Cyn. Lee said besides the duties already outlined with the Undergraduate Research Journal, they should also ask them to touch on new ideas and how to implement them.

Senator Bussman said they should ask how familiar they are with the current university academic policy if they don't touch on it during their presentation.

Senator Martinez recognized Senator Tool for his 5-minute presentation and said he would get a 1-minute warning followed by a period of questions and answers.

Senator Tool gave his speech: Hi, my name is Justin Tool. I am running for the chair of academics because it is in line with the goals for the university, academics is in his mind. I have received recognition on the Dean's list and for athletic achievements. Since high school, I have been interested in student government. These interests persisted as an undergrad. As an intern, he learned from former Speaker Pro Tempore Jackson as a mentor, and learned of proper academics procedures. The chair of academics coordinates programs and serves as liaisons. One of hi person interests is the Wolf Pack Reading Week programming together with the chair of civic engagement. I believe I can conduct and improve on these duties. The Nevada State Research journal offers many undergraduates the opportunity to engage in and publish research, but they need help with money and advertisements. In order to do this, building connections is essential and I must act as a liaison. Advertisement is necessary for there is a lack of diversity in the undergraduate award. Senate provides a majority of funding, but it must be more inclusive; there are more freshman and there needs to be more diversity. By working with you and your representative colleges, I think we can change this. Furthermore, another issue is that they usually get the same applicants applying for the award. They can create legislation to allow new people into the pool. As student leaders, I believe that collaboration is important and I will work closely with civic engagement to make sure the legacy of last year is preserved. I got to work closely with the chair last year, and I hope to make it a fixture of senate. ASUN last year went to two tier-three schools to engage them in a pursuit for higher education. The event was a success, but the supply drive did not meet its goal. I believe I can change that. Thank you.

Senator Martinez said they will move into questions and answers.

Senator Becker said Senator Tool discussed how ASUN went to different tier 2 and 3 schools this past year and the supply drop didn't meet certain expectations. He asked how Senator Tool would increase participation.

Senator Tool said one issue is they were limited in places to advertise and hold drop spots. They only had one in the KC and Joe; the spots were limited and not well known. They need to advertise it and work with the community to get donations would help improve getting more supplies.

Senator Bussman said a large part of being the chair was communicating with different faculty. He asked if Senator Tool had been in contact with the Office of Undergraduate Research, the

Faculty Senate, the Office of the Provost, the Office of Admissions and Records, or the University Libraries.

Senator Tool had been in contact with Dr. Mencing and he worked in the provost's office so he will be able to be in contact more frequently and often.

Senator Flangas said he mentioned meeting with the previous chair. She wanted him to expand on what he took away and how that shaped his goals.

Senator Tool said he didn't have much time to sit down and discuss but he worked closely with her in putting on the Wolf Pack Reading Week. He was in contact via email to get advice to act as a safety net and working with other committees.

Senator Cyn. Lee said they mentioned that many people involved in academies are STEM majors. If elected, she asked what new ideas he had to reach out to new people besides undergrad research.

Senator Tool wanted to promote the program more and making it more well-known. They needed to make sure professors talked about it, orientation guides talked about it, and getting in contact with advisors so advisors promote the program.

Senator Mah said Senator Tool stated wanting to increase the diversity of the undergrad research award and not always have the same applicants. He asked Senator Tool what rules he would implement to create diversity.

Senator Tool said the rules themselves would need to go through the Undergraduate Research Journal but also promoting it more and having advisors refer students.

Senator Martinez asked the body look to page 20 to see the descriptions of standing committees in the SAS. He encouraged the body to ask more questions.

Senator Bussman asked how familiar he was with the university's current academic policy and if he had any changes he looked at.

Senator Tool said he didn't have many changes in mind but was familiar with the policy.

There were no further questions for Senator Tool; Senator Tool left the room.

*Senator Sarwar left the room at 6:08 pm.*

Senator Martinez recognized Senator Cam. Lee for her 5-minute presentation followed up by questions and answers.

Senator Cam. Lee gave her speech: Hello fellow senators, I am running for the chair of the academics committee. I am a second-year neuroscience major, and I work in the neurobiology research lab. I have started my own project about the variability in *Drosophila melanogaster*, which is another name for fruit flies. Research is something that I am very passionate about, and she takes pride in. That is one of the reasons I want to be chair of the Academics Committee. I use a lot of those resources. I would like to continue the efforts that this university has implemented. On my goals sheet, I want to promote the Nevada Center of Applied Research (NCAR), which is a program for students here at Nevada who are interested in starting their own research. NCAR is for people whose interests don't really align with their

principal investigator. Another thing to implement was to create a volunteer abroad chapter, which decreases the cost of volunteering abroad and can help students like me. It allows students to be exposed to different perspectives and cultures and increase retention. The chair of the committee on Academics is in charge of contacting people which is a lot, so I was thinking to create more liaisons to improve outreach. Those are my goals.

*Senator Sarwar entered the room at 6:10 pm.*

Senator Martinez said they will now move into questions and answers.

Senator Flangas asked if she met with the previous chair.

Senator Cam. Lee said yes. She contacted her last Wednesday but former Senator Henderson was busy so they have been emailing back and forth. She got the idea of creating more liaison positions from that conversation.

Senator Becker said she discussed creating a volunteering abroad program; he asked how Senator. Cam. Lee would implement it and what made it different from other programs on campus like USAC.

Senator Cam. Lee said USAC and volunteering abroad was different. Through USAC, you had to take courses whereas volunteering was over the summer only. If they didn't have the entire year to spare, they could gain experience over the summer. She explained how lowering the cost for volunteering abroad through a charter would work. She is going to India over winter break and the air fare alone was \$2800. However, if they bought something like 12 tickets, then they received a discount of about \$200 per ticket.

Senator Becker asked how she would implement it.

Senator Cam. Lee was not sure but if they had group of people interested in volunteering abroad, then that group can buy their tickets together and that would in itself lower the cost of airplane tickets.

Senator Bussman asked if she had been in contact with Office of Undergraduate Research, the Faculty Senate, the Office of the Provost, the Office of Admissions and Records, or the University Libraries

Senator Cam. Lee said no; she only met with the former chair, Senator Henderson, and former Senator Kohler. But she will meet with the others.

Senator Kuykendall asked what departments or organizations she would work with for the volunteering abroad program.

Senator Cam. Lee agreed that the Committee on Academics couldn't do it alone. She wasn't sure how she would implement it but it would have to be a group of people such as the committee.

Senator Billman said one of her goals was to encourage students to do more research and publish it in the NSURJ. He asked what incentives she had in mind.

Senator Cam. Lee asked if he meant incentives for publishing.



Senator Billman said yes.

Senator Cam. Lee said scholarships or things like discounts on books.

Senator Bussman said she mentioned liaison positions briefly. He clarified if she wanted to delegate some of her contacts to the committee members.

Senator Cam. Lee said she would delegate them within the committee.

Senator Bussman asked why as opposed to just contacting them herself.

Cam. Lee said even though it was the chair's responsibility to contact offices such as that of the Provost and Admissions and Records was a lot for a chair. She thought it would be easier if she delegated those responsibilities and they reported back to her.

Senator Cyn. Lee asked if the Nevada Center for Applied Research was just for Senator. Cam. Lee's college or if there was more to it like other programs.

Senator Cam. Lee said there were more than just STEM programs. Most of the people who do apply are mostly STEM or Engineering majors.

Senator Martinez asked she leave the room during discussion; Senator Cam. Lee left the room.

The body moved to discussion.

Senator Flangas thought it was admirable that Senator. Cam. Lee wanted to expand the liaison positions. That held her committee more accountable and expanded them in the process. She also thought it her general expansion of goals was good because she had more things to incorporate into the committee. This showed she wanted to steer the committee into a brighter future than before.

Senator Becker asked the body if they could compare and contrast between both of the candidates' ideas. He noticed Senator Cam. Lee had new ideas such as the volunteering abroad program and expanding liaison positions but couldn't pick out any for Senator Tool.

Senator Cyn. Lee said Senator Tool mentioned something about Wolf Pack Reading but she was not very familiar with the program. She asked if that was already a program.

Senator Becker believed Senator Tool wanted to improve all the things he talked about but had no plan of action.

Senator Mah agreed with Senator Becker but also believed Senator Cam. Lee wasn't quite sure how to implement her ideas. She wanted to implement the volunteer abroad program but wasn't sure how and wanted to gather a group of people. She also wasn't well versed in the incentives she talked about. He felt the same for both.

Senator Bussman wanted to mirror those statements. Senator Cam. lee had no concrete ideas behind the incentives while Senator Tool had specific ideas for legislation to increase the diversity of candidates. That was admirable. As far as the delegation of liaisons, he didn't think it was a good idea and felt the chair should have personal contact with all those offices.

Senator Kuykendall agreed with Senator Busman for the liaison positions. He added that in pertaining to the visions and ideas Senator Cam. Lee had, although there were no concrete plans behind them, having them would allow her to expand and improve the committee. He believed that once in the position, they could hold her accountable to implement the ideas.

Senator Cyn. Lee said Senator Tool mentioned that the most involved in academics were STEM majors but he didn't have plans to bring in more people from different colleges besides talking to more people and having advisors talk. She felt the volunteering abroad program would bring more people together. .

Senator Flangas noted that Senator Cam. Lee talked about aiding retention rate within her goals, which was something the body was supposed to do. She thought Senator Cam. Lee's goals were oriented around what the body was supposed to be doing. Her goals showed vision to improve.

Senator Mall said in comparing both resumes, Senator Tool had 3 jobs and being senator would be his 4<sup>th</sup> whereas Senator. Cam. Lee only had 2. Being chair is a very busy position.

Senator Kuykendall asked the body if Senator Tool was asked if he met with same people that Senator Cam. Lee was asked about.

Senator Martinez said yes.

Senator Bussman said Senator Tool answered he had contact with the Office of Undergraduate Research and believed he sat down with the previous chair while Senator Cam. Lee corresponded via email. Senator Tool also works in the Office of the Provost but that didn't count for actually sitting down.

Senator Flangas clarified that Senator Tool had said he emailed the previous chair and worked with the committee as an intern; he didn't actually sit down with the chair.

Senator Sullivan said both said they emailed former chair.

Senator Smith appreciated that Senator Cam. Lee had goals for this session and future sessions.

Roll call vote to elect the Chair for the Committee on Academics:

For Lee: Senators Becker, Billman, Cook, Cyn. Lee, Flangas, Kuykendall, Lippi, Mah, Mall, Sarwar, Se, Smith, Stopka, Sullivan, Thummel

For Tool: Bussman

Senator Cam. Lee received the majority of votes.

Roll call vote to appoint Senator Cam. Lee:

Yeas: Senators Becker, Billman, Bussman, Cook, Cyn. Lee, Flangas, Kuykendall, Lippi, Mah, Mall, Se, Sarwar, Smith, Stopka, Sullivan, Thummel

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

Motion carried.

Director Rodriguez wanted to clarify that they understand they were confirming Senator Cam. Lee as the chair.

The body said yes.

Senator Cam. Lee was sworn in as the Chair of the Committee on Academics.

b. The Committee on Public Affairs

Senator Martinez said he will now be accepting nominations for the Committee on Public Affairs. Nominations do not need a second and self-nominations were welcome.

Senator Kuykendall nominated Senator Becker; Senator Becker accepted.

Senator Smith nominated Senator Sarwar; Senator Sarwar respectfully declined.

Senator Martinez said without objections, the nominees will be recognized in the order in which they were made. Senator Becker from the College of Division Health Sciences; all nominees have been placed into nomination. Senator Martinez asked Senator Becker to leave the room at this time as the body was going to compile a list of possible questions; however, he was entitled to stay according to Nevada Open Meeting Law.

Senator Flangas wanted to ask how he will approach issues on a local and national level seeing as how the Nevada Legislature was out of session this year.

Senator Bussman wanted to ask if he had current plans for the veterans' breakfast

Senator Sarwar wanted to ask how he would implement a way to increase student awareness of students to voice their concerns.

Senator Mall asked if Senator Becker was questioned last time about talking to the previous chair.

Senator Martinez believed so.

Senator Kuykendall wanted to ask if he met with the previous chair and what he got from the experience.

Senator Martinez said seeing no further questions, he will bring in the nominee. He will be recognized for his 5-minute presentation and then the body will move into questions and answers.

Senator Becker gave his speech: Good evening everyone, my name is Ryan Becker and I am one of the three senators for the Division of Health Sciences. I stand before you all today in hopes of being elected to be the Committee Chair of Public Affairs for the 85th Senate Session. I will first start off by elaborating on the duties of the Chair of Public Affairs.

Starting with how I will maintain responsibility of formulating policies regarding the bodies of government at the local, state, and federal level; including the Reno City Council, the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, and the Nevada State Legislature. Our committee will support and distain policy that will effect local governance bodies such as the Mayor, City Councilmen/women, and all of the businesses that make up the Chamber of Commerce such as the ABBI Agency. The specific state government bodies that we would influence consist of the Legislative session, Assemblymen/women, and the Governor. The

federal governances we would influence would primarily be our State Senators. I am very confident in my ability to represent our students through the bills and resolutions that will come through this committee if I were to be elected. My experience with multiple clubs and organizations gives me a strong idea of where we need to appropriate more representation of certain groups. My former job with the City of Henderson allowed me to enhance my ability to utilize whatever feedback given, to make it into an improvement for the organization and the community.

Expressing our student external concern is a huge part of this committee's responsibility. If I were elected the Chair of Public Affairs, I would provide a safe, anonymous way for students to voice their concerns external to the university. The first way we could do this by having a form in the Center for Student Engagement (possibly at the front desk) where students can handwrite their concerns and turn them in anonymously. Another option and probably the most convenient option is to add a link onto the front webpage of ASUN that leads students to an online submission form, where they may voice their concerns electronically and anonymously. The next question is, how would we tell the students about this new incredibly opportunity? I would utilize ASUN's InkBlot and have them advertise this new student service to all clubs and organizations, through posters, and also through the television screen slideshows in the Joe Crowley Student Union. Something that we need to work on that I would love to discuss with the committee, if I were to be elected, is how we need to increase our data acquisition regarding student opinion. It was brought to my attention that we do many resolutions and make many decisions on behalf of students, but without getting actual data on their input. One way I propose to fix this is to increase the number of surveys we are allowed to release yearly. Another way is to put a one to three question survey on the point of purchase for ASUN sponsored events (such as BLF). Or even organize a group to stand in front of the E.L. Wiengand Gym or the Joe Crowley Student Union offering incentives for answering short surveys, perhaps on a tiered system (answer more questions, more incentives such as pack protein).

A relatively new and emerging responsibility of the Committee of Public Affairs is representing the voice of our students' concerns pertaining to Tuition and Fees of the University. This role is emerging, in particular because we, as the representing body of the students, are going to be in charge of writing resolutions that support or disdain changes in Tuition and Fees that third parties will be trying to market to us to be in favor of. Now it is up to us to determine whether these changes in Tuition and Fees are acceptable for our students, and whether we should support them or not. We can also represent our student's voices, with the same strategies as I described pertaining to InkBlot and data acquisition of student opinion discussed earlier. The Public Affairs Committee is also in charge of acting as a liaison with the President's Assistant or the Director on Public and Campus Relations. Once appointed, I would work closely with the Director in working on issues regarding Public and Campus Relations. Possibly about how our campus and downtown Reno are identified as "food deserts" per Public Health Research. A "food desert" is defined by the Public Broadcasting Service specifically, "defined for households as being more than a mile from a supermarket with no access to a vehicle." It is known that there are many students on campus and even in nearby off-campus housing that do not have access to a vehicle. Therefore, instituting a new supermarket less than a mile away from campus would be even more advantageous. Talking to City Council about possible subsidies for these stores, may influence these markets to open a nearby location.

One of the more civically, tangible responsibilities of this committee is holding the annual Veteran's breakfast within two weeks of Veteran's Day. Using my experience with our U.S. Army ROTC Program, I would utilize their network of veteran's and service members.

The body moved to questions and answers.

Senator Billman asked he expand on the veterans' breakfast.

Senator Becker talked to military groups on campus such as the National Military Fraternity and they actually have the national president. It would be interesting to have him attend the breakfast. He also talked to the Nevada Alpha chapter's president and the vice president of the Wolf Pack Veterans Club. He also would coordinate with the US Army instructors for the ROTC active program they had.

Senator Bussman said he wanted to open an off-campus supermarket that is affiliated with campus. He asked if that was needed and how he would position a supermarket that could grab all students.

Senator Becker said it wouldn't be affiliated with campus; it would only be affiliated with it by asking the city council to provide subsidies. Like give monetary incentives to stores to move into the area. He was thinking of the east side of campus by the apartments as being the best spot. They would provide a store close enough to be walking distance for the houses and apartments down there and for the dorms. He had not asked all students but many of the students he has talked to brought up that the Raley's near the west side of campus or the WinCo down McCarran were the closest.

Senator Sullivan asked if he was aware that campus escort would take students to the store on McCarran and there the demand was not quite as big to merit that.

Senator Becker understood it but it was also brought to his attention that many students don't utilize it because they were unaware of the services. They can go through his idea or expand on Campus Escort services and have them go to other stores.

Senator Smith asked if he realized the Raley's on Keystone was only 0.7 miles from campus and it offered a 10% discount to all students who presented a Wolf Card when shopping. She asked how a supermarket close to campus would do in terms of competition.

Senator Becker was at fault because his research was not thorough. He brought the idea to act as a liaison with the Director of Campus and Public Relations but also planned on having monthly meetings with the Director of Campus and Public Relations to bring up other issues.

Senator Lippi said he had to be very close to the Director of Campus and Public Relations.

Senator Becker said one had not been appointed as far as he was aware.

Dr. Beattie said that was true.

Senator Thummel asked if he could expand on using inkblot for promoting.

Senator Becker said Inkblot was the biggest marketing advertising on campus. Some of the things they could do was advertise to clubs and organizations on campus. He would also be happy to do that himself. He couldn't reach out to all clubs but would be happy to organize something with his committee. He would also do it through posters and the campus tv's.

Senator Flangas wanted to go how he was going to make sure he wrote policy for local, national, and state legislation all of which would affect the university since they were a land-grant university. She was wondering how he would specifically in his committee to stay up to

date. How would he actively structure the committee to make sure they are up to date on what happens in the different levels of government.

Senator Becker would address the changes through close coordination with Legislative Affairs. He spoke with former senator Eshenbaugh and she and the previous director had a close relationship. They showed up to each other's meetings and brought up the idea to have one on one meetings either biweekly or monthly. It would be the chair and the director of Legislative Affairs.

Senator Sarwar asked what plan he had in working with the policy analyst for legislation.

Senator Becker didn't know if this had been instilled yet but he wanted to invite the policy analyst and anyone else in the department.

Senator Bussman said he mentioned some methods to survey students and collect data about fee increases and tuition. Senator Bussman asked Senator Becker if he talked to the Office of Student Persistence to collect data and keep it statistically significant.

Senator Becker asked how he defined statistically significant

Senator Bussman said he was not a stats major but that was the point. For a student to conduct a survey like that it was important to look at how they implement the survey otherwise they will get very biased results.

Senator Becker said he did not meet with them but would be happy to. It was not a role he had identified from the SAS description but it can be added since it sounded like something that would be relevant in terms of student data acquisition. In terms of bias, there are students that don't attend BLF or other events they host so having a point of purchase would not be 100% objective. Something that would be is that at the point of registering for classes or at the point of having academic advising appointments, to reduce subjectivity.

Senator Bussman said the orientation program does have an entry survey; he can talk to Cairn Lindloff.

Senator Sarwar asked if he went to the state legislature this session or had idea of bills passing right now.

Senator Becker said no.

Senator Mah said he had wanted to increase anonymous feedback online and on paper. They can do that already do that online by going through the ASUN website by hitting contact us and put anonymous

Senator Becker said they can add something to the Center for Student Engagement by giving it to Front Desk and some other location. He believed the service had not been widely utilized and they can use inkblot to better advertise it.

The body moved to discussion; Senator Becker left the room.

Senator Kuykendall said Senator Becker did his homework before coming back in. Although his grocery store idea had some hiccups, he believed Senator Becker's ideas were refreshing and

that was something that should be taken into account. He came in with ideas on how to make the position better.

Senator Billman said Senator Becker was prepared and had step by step plans to implement them; that was impressive.

Senator Thummel said Senator Becker he knew how to market his ideas to all students.

Senator Cyn. Liked how he has military related ideas; they were really concrete. Senator Becker was very involved with military-related organizations on campus.

There was no further discussion.

Senator Kuykendall moved to approve Senator Becker as the Chair for the Committee on Public Affairs.

Senator Smith seconded.

Roll call vote to appoint Senator Becker as the Chair for the Committee on Public Affairs:  
Yeas: Billman Bussman, Cam. Lee, Cook, Cy. Lee Flangas, Kuykendall, Lippi, Mah, Mall, Sarwar, Se, Smith, Stopka, Sullivan, Thummel, Tool  
Nays:  
Abstentions:

Motion carried; Senator Becker was elected as the Chair for the Committee on Public Affairs.

## **9. REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES**

### **a. Chair, Committee on Budget and Finance – Senator Kuykendall**

Kuykendall said they had not met but they will meet on Friday from 1-2 pm. This upcoming Tuesday, they will have an additional meeting to expedite the budget approval. The Friday meeting will discuss the vice chair and go over goals for the committee and under New Business, they will review and discuss legislation to move funds from the reserves to the academics' scholarships funds. For Tuesday, it will be about the budget.

### **b. Chair, Committee on Civic Engagement – Senator Flangas**

Senator Flangas said their meeting is Friday from 2-3 pm. For their first meeting, they will elect a vice chair and outline goals. She asked her committee to come ready to learn and ready to create a strategic plan for implementing civic engagement. There was a room change from Room 420 to Room 405; she will send a follow-up text.

Dr. Beattie said they need to put a sign up on the original door.

### **c. Chair, Committee on Government Operations – Senator Thummel**

Senator Thummel said their times will be Fridays from 3-4 pm. he will be mirroring what the past two chairs did. In their first meeting, they will be electing a vice chair, going over goals for the committee, and what they might want to change in SAS. It will be in President's Conference Room.

### **d. Chair, Committee on University Affairs – Senator Bussman**

Senator Bussman said he posted the agenda for this week. Their meeting times will be Thursdays at 4 pm. He has reserved the President's Conference Room for 4 pm every Thursday. For the

agenda right now, they will be electing a vice chair, discussing the liaison positions, and discussing the legacy binder. He didn't expect them to all understand which liaisons they wanted so it will be an open discussion throughout the rest of the semester. For the legacy binder, some of it will be done but tomorrow but it will spill into the next committee meeting.

- e. Speaker Pro-Tempore – Senator Martinez  
Senator Martinez said he is holding the fort down until Speaker Jackson comes back from DC.
- f. Chair, Committee on Oversight – Speaker Jackson

#### **10. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Senator Kuykendall said his meeting will be in room 423.

#### **11. MOTIONS TO FAST-TRACK APPOINTMENTS**

- a. **NOMINATION OF DUSTIN TOOL TO THE OFFICE OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SENATOR**

#### **12. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS OF SENATORS AND ASUN OFFICIALS**

- a. **The following nominations were submitted to the Speaker of the Senate on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017:**

- i. **NOMINATION OF DUSTIN TOOL TO THE OFFICE OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SENATOR**

Senator Martinez said that under Article 2, Section 1, Subsection f, it was his right to receive the position and therefore no fast-tracking was needed.

Dustin Tool was sworn in as Senator for the College of Education.

- b. **Senate Committee Changes**

Senator Martinez asked which senators wanted to sit on the Committee on Academics.

Dr. Beattie said if there were senators sitting on two committees but wanted to switch to Public Affairs or Academics and didn't want to sit on three, this would be the time to remove themselves as well.

Senator Martinez asked how they worded the motion so that a vote isn't needed.

President Teixeira said it was "I move to add myself to the Committee on Academics by unanimous consent." Then Senator Martinez would say "Is there any dissent to the motion." If there is no dissent, then the motion carries.

Membership of the Committee on Academics: Senators Cook, Lippi, Se, Cyn. Lee, Becker, Cam. Lee

Senator Smith moved to approve the membership of the Committee on Academics as Senators Cook, Lippi, Se, Cyn. Lee, Becker, Cam. Lee by unanimous consent.  
There was no dissent; motion carried.

Membership of the Committee on Public Affairs: Senators Billman, Bussman, Smith, Sarwar, Sullivan, Tool, and Becker

Senator Smith moved to appoint the membership of the Committee on Public Affairs as



Senators Billman, Bussman, Smith, Sarwar, Sullivan, Tool, and Becker by unanimous consent.

There was no dissent; motion carried.

Senator Cook moved to remove himself from the Committee on Budget and Finance by unanimous consent.

There was no dissent; motion carried.

Senator Flangas moved to remove herself from the Committee on University Affairs and add herself to the Committee on Budget and Finance by unanimous consent.

There was no dissent; motion carried.

Senator Se moved to remove himself from the Committee on Budget and Finance by unanimous consent.

There was no dissent; motion carried.

Senator Tool moved to add himself to the Committee on Civic Engagement by unanimous consent.

There was no dissent; motion carried.

### **13. VETO MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

There were no veto messages at this time.

### **14. CONSENT AGENDA**

There was no legislation filed for the Consent Agenda.

### **15. FIRST READING OF LEGISLATION**

There was no legislation to be considered under first reading at this time.

### **16. MOTIONS TO FAST-TRACK LEGISLATION**

There was no legislation to be fast-tracked at this time.

### **17. REFERRALS TO COMMITTEE**

There was no legislation to be considered for referral at this time.

### **18. SECOND READING OF LEGISLATION**

There was no legislation to be read at this time.

### **19. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

#### **a. Senator Reports**

Senator Martinez said Speaker Jackson asked that 4 senators speak on the assignment given by Dr. Beattie. He asked that 4 senators talk about what they learned and what that person oversees in the university. from the people assigned to them.

Senator Bussman was assigned to the Career Studio which was first faculty member he talked to. He found out that for as many ideas as you have with your platform, it will be an open discussion with faculty members. They will have a lot of ideas and they will know better than you, so go in with an open mind. The Career Studio's biggest challenge is marketing. They are introducing a new program called HandShake which is like Givepulse for careers and internships. He will talk about how that will be promoted through orientation, and he will be an orientation guide.

Senator Mah met with Mark Gandolfo and Daniel Fergus. He was learning about the different departments and seeing if they had any ideas for ASUN to help with. One thing was that with Raymond Silva, being the tech coordinator, didn't have much utility with ASUN Sound and Lights and their department. Sound and Lights handled ASUN events with equipment and sometimes they had to call on them for extra equipment or assistance. There was a lack of communication on inventory and collaboration. He will set up a meeting with Chris Partridge to see what they can do in terms of equipment. He had a meeting scheduled with Dr. Sagebiel to look into getting solar panels on the tops of gardens, garages, and roofs.

Senator Mall met with Dr. Marczynski the Associate Vice President, Student Life Services, & Dean of Students. He wanted to meet with him because he has been on the campus before, when the University had different staff. The University was at a point where no one stayed in Reno, and people drove from Carson and California. They talked about the history of the university and related it to his own college. One of the biggest things was to get the college of engineering more funding, and how to represent students. He didn't know about the Great Basin Resident Hall programs.

Senator Bussman said with the office of student persistence, he wanted to say that he had the impression that there was some data base that the university had, but that's not the case. There is not a lot of data on anything unless you go to specific departments, who collect data. If you want data, you need a specific purpose and what you are looking for. The office of student persistence looked at data for sexual assaults, and he will be meeting to get a presentation on that, there is career data, and one other thing. As far as what he wanted to do with that, it is important with student fees, which will go through them for 2019, so it's important to cultivate a relationship so that when those fees get amassed they can conduct a survey to learn what students will value in terms of new fees.

Dr. Beattie clarified that the university had an office for data but it was more about demography. He can get them data in terms of how many credits students take and the average GPA. It is a lot more demographic, which the office of student persistence has collected data on civic engagement and student perception. With student fees, when the fitness center was just a thought, ASUN conducted a survey to see if students were in favor of it. Demographic data is in terms of schools people came from and background, everything that was in their applications.

Senator Billman met with Sandy Rodriguez, the director for the Center for Student Engagement and Legal Services. He took notes on the meeting but forgot them. What he got out of the meeting was that the center administered services and are where all the services came out of. She was the director and there were assistant directors. They discussed Legal Services; they and provide legal advice but cannot represent them in court. They can however, help students find the next step and where they need to be in their situations.

## **20. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Senator Kuykendall asked if any of the people that went to Academics or Public Affairs were sitting on two committees.

Leg. Clerk Hanson will get back to him on that. Cook and Se removed themselves, and Flangas who

added herself to another committee. Everyone is on two committees.

## **21. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Bradley wanted to talk about an event next Tuesday that was focused on a masculinity series. She worked with Justine Hernandez for It's on Us. It is a male-only event. It will be Tuesday and Wednesday but they only want males. They will watch the documentary *The Mask You Live In*. It will be at 7 pm in the Joe theater. She will need people to man the booths. Any males that wanted to work on it see her after.

Senator Cyn. Lee asked if they had to be a guy to volunteer

Ms. Bradley said yes. She wanted it to be males only so that they can express themselves without females. It will be at 7 pm and they will be serving popcorn and giving.

Senator Bussman asked if they were tabling before the event starts.

Ms. Bradley said they will table before and after the event. The documentary is about masculinity and she wanted the It's On Us table to be there, it's a cosponsoring event with ASUN.

Senator Martinez asked they see Chief of Staff Bradley after the meeting.

Dr. Beattie thanked Senator Martinez for stepping in. Anyone that wanted to do the undergraduate research awards should see him after the meeting. Dr. Mencing wanted to know their specific major and they would do that. They had a few long meetings coming up but summer was around the corner. Speaker Jackson has set dates for the meetings and she will be emailing them.

Senator Becker asked if they could speak on behalf of someone if the senator was not present.

President Teixeira said it should be after they adjourn.

## **22. ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Martinez adjourned the meeting at 7:23 pm.