# Committee on Oversight

**Senate of the Associated Students 85th Session**

**Minutes for Wednesday May 17, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.**

**President’s Conference Room, Third Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Speaker Jackson called the Committee on Oversight meeting to order at 1:00 pm in the President’s Conference Room. Presiding secretary, Andrea Godoy.

1. ROLL CALL

Speaker Jackson and Senators Bussman, Flangas, Kuykendall, and Martinez were present.

Senators Cam. Lee and Thummel were absent excused.

Senator Becker was absent excused.

A quorum was present.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

1. MINUTES
   1. The minutes from April 25th, 2017

Senator Kuykendall moved to approve the minutes from April 25th, 2017.

Senator Flangas seconded.

Motion carried.

1. REPORTS
2. Secretary of the Senate – Andrea Godoy

Secretary Godoy had no report.

There were no questions.

1. Speaker Pro Tempore – Senator Martinez

Senator Martinez said he was meeting with Chief of Staff Bradley to review the syllabus he created. Then he will go to President Teixeira to see what he thinks and then will schedule a meeting with the speaker.

There were no questions.

1. Chair, Committee on Academics – Senator Cammie Lee
2. Chair, Committee on Budget and Finance – Senator Kuykendall

Senator Kuykendall said they didn’t meet between last week and this week but there is new legislation dealing with the budget that they will see.

There were no questions.

1. Chair, Committee on Civic Engagement – Senator Flangas

Senator Flangas said Senator Bussman was in contact with people about integrating Give Pulse and Handshake. She will research other schools to see how they integrated Give Pulse. It wasn’t as easy as she thought. The two of them had a meeting set for next Tuesday to see what the preliminary integration would be like and what the process was for making it a module. The rest of Civic Engagement good; she will sent out the summer plan. The first thing was Give Pulse.

Speaker Jackson asked how service palooza was doing.

Senator Flangas said service palooza was awesome. She was working with her senators and would give out assignments now that finals are done. They have templates to send out, and they are also sending out for the San Rafael engagement thing.

Speaker Jackson asked if she talked to Senator Martinez yet so they can maybe do some advertising and signup for the internship at service Palooza. They can think about it later but it would be a cool outreach event.

There were no further questions.

1. Chair, Committee on Government Operations – Senator Thummel
2. Chair, Committee on Public Affairs – Senator Becker
3. Chair, Committee on University Affairs – Senator Bussman

Senator Bussman said the committee had its last meeting last week. He scheduled individual meetings with his committee members since he thought that would be more conducive in setting a plan. Director Rodriguez suggested having a senator go to neighboring universities over the summer to see what they were working on. Senator Paningbatan will go to UNLV to see if UNLV had a committee like University Affairs and if so, see what that committee is doing. He was personally trying to introduce an outreach program. He was meeting with Director Shultz today from 3-5 pm. This committee will work with the Wolf Shop to alleviate some issues the Wolf Shop has been having, especially budget concerns. There has been some significant disconnect between university faculty and the Wolf Shop. Once he gets the data, he will delegate the different departments among his committee. Senator Flangas touched on the Handshake and Give Pulse integration. They reached a dead-end but he will meet with Kayleigh Johnson to further integrate the two things with academics.

Speaker Jackson loved the idea of having senators visit neighboring universities.

There were no questions.

1. Chair, Committee on Oversight – Speaker Jackson

Speaker Jackson said great job, she loved their reports. Use the summer to get ready for the fall before they start the semester. She will be here all summer. Make sure they set a weekly time for each committee, which makes it easier for the secretaries and for everyone else if they know when they meet. She needed the committee goal sheets by Friday at five, because she is compiling a document to give to the president. She will send out a reminder email too.

There were no questions.

1. NEW BUSINESS
2. NOMINATION OF OLUWAFEMIFOLA P GBENJO TO THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Senator Martinez moved to recommend favorably the Nomination of Oluwafemifola Gbenjo to the Office of Director of Diversity and Inclusion.

Senator Flangas seconded.

Speaker Jackson asked she leave the room to discuss some possible questions; Ms. Gbenjo left the room. Speaker Jackson said they should have received her portfolio over email yesterday. She asked the body if they had any questions and asked them to keep in mind that the position was relatively new.

Senator Martinez wanted to ask if she planned on continuing working with programming for unity week and any ideas she had for the upcoming year.

Senator Flangas wanted to ask her to explain the diversity carnival and the goals related.

Ms. Gbenjo said she was running for the director of diversity and inclusion. Diversity and inclusion is important to her because she went to a school where there were five black people, minorities weren’t there. Diversity wasn’t something she thought about, and she didn’t have a lot of black or ethnic friends she could discuss it with. It wasn’t until she came to UNR and joined the black student organization and different groups, that it opened her eyes to see how important diversity it is, especially in a predominantly white institution, it was easy to overlook those things and not really think about it. There are many different cultures, backgrounds, and ethnicities which need to be realized and acknowledged, which is why it is important to be a liason and represent minority groups on campus. If they are going to come to this university, they want to feel welcome and feel that there are people who care about them. Diversity is having people from different cultures, beliefs, institutions and sexuality everywhere. As the director, you have to know who the different groups are. With programming, you need to not only throw events that are popular for the majority, but also for the minority, especially if you want to have retention. She believed she was qualified because she had programming experience and knew how to work with central station and have smooth events. She learned communication skills. She has been a part of BSO since her freshman year, and was now vice president and is now president. She has relationships with the Center, and that is important for talking to people and communicating and being able to relate to people. As a black woman she relates to minorities. She planned events for BSO and Sisters on the Move. These skills will help her out. As director, she wanted to get involved in events. The center hosts a university and diversity forum, there is a diversity summit, she wanted to work with Night of All Nations and other events. She wanted to be involved with Unity Week which shows groups of people you don’t usually get to see. It was exciting to be able to put something on that everyone can enjoy. Not everyone is taught the importance of college, so she wanted to work with the Center to bring in people from minority high schools and elementary schools to show them importance. She wanted to make sure that everyone knows about the Director of Diversity and that UNR care about minorities.

Senator Flangas said this position was still new and Ms. Gbenjo would be paving the way. The portfolio said she would fill the diversity and inclusion board with diverse individuals. Senator Flangas asked Ms. Gbenjo what she would be looking for in a board and what they would accomplish.

Ms. Gbenjo said she needed to talk to President Teixeira about the exact structure but she wanted passionate people who would put in the hard work and be openminded. It required a lot of understanding even things you don’t really understand, being able to empathize with people, and have a passion for diversity.

Senator Martinez said in the SAS, she needed to coordinate 3 events. He asked if she had any ideas other besides Unity Week.

Ms. Gbenjo said a fashion show would be really good. There was a fashion show a couple weeks ago, and it was smaller in the ballrooms. She thought having people showing their style was good. President Teixeira mentioned having clubs lined up on the quad to show diversity.

Senator Kuykendall said in her long-term goals, Ms. Gbenjo wanted to work with the city. He asked for a general direction that she wanted to move in.

Ms. Gbenjo said she wanted to work with the city and clubs like the Boys and Girls clubs because a lot of minorities go there after school. She wanted to work with different centers in the community, and those that cater to different committees in the Reno area and letting them know this position exists at UNR. The Boys and Girls club puts on a lot of events for minorities.

Senator Bussman has asked all directors if they would attend the first Senate meeting in the fall to present a breakdown of how they would use the budget. He asked Ms. Gbenjo if she would commit to that.

Ms. Gbenjo asked if he meant having a proposal ready

Senator Bussman said yes, how she would use the budget.

Ms. Gbenjo said yes.

Speaker Jackson said diversity initiatives get an extra ten thousand dollars, asked if she had any big plans for events.

Ms. Gbenjo wanted one large scale event and have the rest either aiding different things or allocating money to help clubs with their events.

Senator Bussman said a long-term goal was to increase the budget of the department. Asked if that was the current budget.

Ms. Gbenjo said that was before she knew there was an increase in the budget.

There were no further questions; the body moved to discussion.

Senator Kuykendall said in regards to the increased budget, the plan to have diverse clubs line up from Legacy Hall to the Quad tableting was a part of the new ideas for the budget. Coming up with new ideas on the spot is hard and he didn’t want them to hold that against her.

Senator Flangas noted that Ms. Gbenjo had a good grasp on the position despite the position being new and just finding out about the budget increase - whether it was sponsoring events or planning her own. When they had a new position they needed to reinvent everything that was going on, and she already had a community on campus to reach out to. That goes to making the position successful. Senator Flangas felt Ms. Gbenjo would make the ideas tangible quickly.

Senator Martinez said going along, he realized that she was planning with the smaller budget in her head, so she wasn’t planning larger scale events. She wanted to start an internship program which was awesome. Besides holding events, she had other goals, and understood what it meant to be the diversity and inclusion chair.

Speaker Jackson said the question regarding the internship was a good question he should ask at senate.

Senator Flangas said working with the Boys and Girls Club and the Reno community had civic engagement aspects. She had a good grasp on how to get people to learn a lot but that was also inexpensive; it would be a good opportunity for people.

Motion carried; Ms. Gebenjo was recommended favorably.

1. NOMINATION OF COLE NASON TO THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BLUE CREW
2. NOMINATION OF AUSTIN LENSCH TO THE OFFICE OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EVENT PROGRAMMING, MARKETING, AND INTERNS

Senator Kuykendall moved to recommend favorably the Nomination of Austin Lensch to the Office of Assistant Director of Event Programming, Marketing, and Interns.

Senator Flangas seconded.

Speaker Jackson asked Mr. Lensch to leave the room so the body could discuss questions.

Ms. Kinel asked if she could give a synopsis of why she chose him.

Speaker Jackson said she was going to do that after they did questions.

Director Kinel was excited about all the nominations. Mr. Lensch was up for the Assistant Director of Programming, marketing, and Interns. Basically, he would be her right hand man and would be acting director if she was not there. She had very high expectations for this position and he surpassed all of them. Some of his duties included writing and executing a curriculum for the internship and be a liaison for Inkblot. During the interview, she asked for marketing plans, a training program, and an interview outline for interviewing candidates. Overall, she was confident in his abilities.

Mr. Lensch said thank you for having him, he was excited to be here. For some time, he has been passionate about education and programming which are vital for this position. He has wanted to be an educator since he was a kid, and that’s all he wants to do. He has been inspired by many people in programming. He is majoring in education and wants to apply what he has learned to the department. He has been involved in event programming since middle school, and involved in student government and was the president in high school. He knew he wanted to be involved in the university, and at orientation he attended the “Get Involved” session, so he went home that night and applied for the internship with programming. His first year, he was an intern and learned the basics of the department and how to be successful. His second year he was hired on as a programmer. In the last year he has learned about his strengths and weaknesses. These passions will help guide this process and will be a benefit to the board. This position is split up into marketing and internships. His goal for marketing was to create strict deadlines and hold the programmers accountable. He will require details for events eight weeks prior, and he has mapped out the fall semester dates. This will give him a week to get sort out the details and submit it to Inkblot for the seven week bundle, which is the largest bundle you can get. As well, he will work with Director Kinel to hold everyone accountable by creating a strike system or a contract to make sure everyone follows the deadline. He will create an environment that emphasizes marketing, so he wanted to have a good relationship with Inkblot by inviting the director and team members to come to the meetings and talk about how they can improve. He is interested in reaching out to a professional marketer to get them excited about marketing. He would like to involve programmers in the marketing process which will get them excited about their own events. Next, he wanted to create and maintain a relationship with the director of Inkblot to create accountability. He would have biweekly meetings with the director, and will at least have an account coordinator. He would also like to show them appreciation by sending them notecards after big events. He would establish new marketing techniques for reaching diverse populations, look at what other schools were doing, reach out to students, and look at survey results. If they are cosponsoring events, he wanted to work with those groups. When it comes to internship he wanted to hold interns accountable and create a learning atmosphere with clear expectations. He wanted to create a contract with expectations and removable offenses, so that they are aware of that. He wanted to have a strike system, where one strike is a talking to, a second strike is a written up form for the director, and a third strike is removal from the program. They would get an email for each strike. He wanted to treat all the interns the same and make sure everyone feels equal. He would educate all the interns about being a programmer and enforce weekly meetings to improve the education process, and create intern binders with worksheets or lessons so they can look that over as they plan events. He included a syllabus in his portfolio to break down semester one and semester two. He wanted to increase the retention rate by showing appreciation for the interns, by having intern of the month, and that would be submitted by programmers or the director. He wanted to have one-on-ones to see how they are doing and how he can accommodate their needs. He would give a survey to both programmers and interns at the end of semester one to see what needed to be changed. He had an idea to create a general survey for the last board and then list board to see how his changes affect the program. Last, he wanted to collaborate with other ASUN officials to create diversity and give a quality experience. He wanted to plan socials for the interns so they can meet the people they will work with in the future and they can learn what each board does. His syllabus is in the portfolio, semester one is lessons on how to event plan, and semester two is planning their own events. He laid out the mentoring process and the hiring process. He believed his passion and experience would allow him to give to this board everything he could.

Senator Martinez asked he go over proposed plans 1 and 2.

Mr. Lensch said he got excited and proposed two different plans, but after discussing the proposal, he wanted the interns to be in before BLF.

Senator Bussman said Mr. Lensch’s marketing plan mentioned establishing new techniques for reaching more diverse populations. Mr. Lensch wanted to send out a survey through clubs and orgs. Senator Bussman asked if they could increase the scope on who it was sent out since sending it to clubs and orgs only would just target students that were already involved.

Mr. Lensch said when it came to students who weren’t involved, he thought they should go to them. He was thinking of events where they go to students; if they pass out hamburgers they could ask them to take a survey while in line, ask students what they think of the events, or if students know about the department. They just need to think of ways to get students that walk by programming events.

Senator Bussman said if he wanted to talk to the Office of Student Persistence, they are the ones who send out campus wide surveys and they can get great data that way.

There were no further questions; the body moved to discussion.

Senator Flangas thought in terms of the syllabus, he understood the details of his job. In response to Senator Bussman, Mr. Lensch had a portion on creative ideas and that was interesting. He said he wanted to work with the CFA for a homecoming mural, and he has a few other points there.

Senator Martinez wanted to state he will be abstaining since the nominee was his fraternity big but Senator Martinez, but he felt Mr. Lensch was a very prepared and he had big plans. The idea of a contract was amazing and felt all internships should have that.

Senator Bussman liked that with everything Mr. Lensch proposed, he had a huge degree of accountability.

Motion carried; Mr. Lensch was recommended favorably.

Senator Martinez abstained.

1. NOMINATION OF KYLE FENG TO THE OFFICE OF ASSISTANT OF DIRECTOR OF EVENT PROGRAMMING, BUDGET AND FINANCE

Senator Kuykendall moved recommend favorably the Nomination of Kyle Feng to the Office of Assistant Director of Event Programming, Budget and Finance.

Senator Martinez seconded.

Speaker Jackson asked Director Kinel to introduce nominee.

Director Kinel said Kyle Feng is up for the director of Budget and Finance. His duties would be administrative for the budget and accounting. She didn’t think his lack of programming experience because his duties were administrative and he had experience with the budget. For the interview, she asked him to write a budget break down for the school year, and an outlined plan for keeping programmers accountable. She asked his strengths, and he said he was meticulous, which made him a perfect candidate.

Mr. Feng said good afternoon, he would be a junior in the fall with a double major in chemistry and math. Last year, he was a senator for college of science and was the chair of the committee on budget and finance. He found a passion for civic engagement and got an in-depth look at the ASUN budget during financial review. His freshman year he was president of his resident hall and hosted two events focused on diversity, and he has had to plan two events for his fraternity and create a syllabus for them. His goals were to regulate the budget with additional oversight by acting as an additional level of clearance. It would be more work, but it would allow a second pair of eyes to look over everything before money is spent and make sure student funds are being spent with integrity. His second goal was to use a system of differential analysis to compare costs between alternatives before they spend funds. He had an example in his portfolio. He also wanted to improve on last year’s ideas and reuse objects from previous years. There was a budget break down for BLF and some other events.

The body moved to questions and answers.

Senator Martinez said the part within accountability and the template, those were just questions for the programmers, correct?

Mr. Feng said yes. The idea behind that was that if a programmer spent more than what was requested, the two of them would sit down to find out why. And, if it was unreasonable, they would implement the strike system

There were no further questions; the body moved to discussion.

Senator Kuykendall said he will abstain since Mr. Feng is the vice president of the fraternity Senator Kuykendall belonged to. Senator Kuykendall said Mr. Feng gave him lots of information about the Committee on Budget and Finance since Mr. Feng was the previous committee chair.

Senator Flangas said he had a great handle on the budget and accountability. His notes in the sheets explained why changes could be made. He put a lot of thought into it.

Senator Martinez said Mr. Feng’s accountably was awesome. Mr. Feng immediately mentioned integrity and that was necessary when talking about money. His system to keep programmers accountable so they would not overspend was awesome. They needed to make sure every penny was being used wisely.

There was no further discussion.

Motion carried; Mr. Feng was recommended favorably.

Senator Kuykendall abstained.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Speaker Jackson said for the internship program, she thought it would be great if they got all the interns together to do some volunteering.

Senator Flangas said on that on the BLF spreadsheet Mr. Feng submitted, he listed artists. She asked if those artists were real or imaginary for the purpose of making the sheet.

Mr. Feng said the numbers were real but the artists are not.

Dr. Beattie asked if they were hearing the engineering nominees today at Senate.

Speaker Jackson said yes

Dr. Beattie said because they would be hearing senators, they need an update. They don’t go through the same interview process as appointments besides what is heard at Senate. All the candidates need to be thoroughly vetted out. He reminded them the one time constraint was being available at 5:30 pm Wednesdays. The candidates may not know that, and that is a detail they do not want to miss. The worst thing was having a special election and then the next week finding out the person cannot attend Senate. That means the body just shot down other potential candidates. The nominees they saw today were vetted out through several interviews whereas the Engineering nominees had not; please keep that in mind.

Senator Kuykendall asked why they weren’t hearing the Journalism applicants.

Speaker Jackson said one of the nominees went through a serious family emergency so she postponed the election in order to have the best applicant pool possible. She wanted to ensure the body would have choices and a good election.

Senator Flangas asked if they would hear all three candidates and then vote.

Speaker Jackson said one candidate pulled out this morning so they will only hear two. Before the meeting tonight, please come up with potential questions. As Dr. Beattie mentioned, these candidates only go through one interview process so, apply that to important questions, or even doing some research on the college of engineering.

Dr. Beattie said they ran for office, they had to have platforms, goals, and debate. Make sure to ask the big questions. Don’t be tough just to be tough, but senators represent the entire college. Ask questions that they were asked that they appreciated. Remember, they want to know what they will do for their college and how they will interact with the constituents. They can teach them all the procedures, but they want to know what kind of public servant they will be.

Speaker Jackson said they will have that period where they can talk about potential questions, but she would like if they could come up with a couple before the nomination.

1. ADJOURNMENT  
   Speaker Jackson adjourned the meeting at 1:53 pm.