

Department of Legislative Affairs

Agenda for Thursday October 12, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.

Joe Crowley Student Union, 3rd floor room 323

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Senator Schultz called this meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 12th, 2017, in the Joe Crowley Student Union, room 323.

2. ROLL CALL

Director Schultz, Policy Director Overholser, Projects Coordinator Truscott, and Projects Coordinator Irving were present.

Assistant Director Eshenbaugh and Policy Analyst Romans were absent excused.

A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment to be heard at this time.

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.

If you would like a copy of any of the agenda items listed, please contact Director Schultz at directorlegislativeaffairs@asun.unr.edu.



4. NEW BUSINESS

I. Overholser discussed ASUN/NSHE Campus Clean-Up Day Legislation, (see attachment A), which is the policy for the next Smart Talk. He said that he needs schedules from department officers so he can start scheduling times for the policy whiteboard event. Department officers will also be handing out handbills during this whiteboard training event. The 1874 Campus Clean-Up Day will be the third Saturday of April and the objective is to reach 1874 volunteer hours logged by students in one day. This piece of legislation exists so that UNR can have more of a sense of community, because there is currently a sense of division on our campus. This piece of legislation is in the drive so everyone should look over it. It will be printed out and posted in the office next week to take copies to give to students. When talking during the whiteboard event next week, department officers will ask students what kind of events they would like to engage in regarding community service, whether it be on campus or surrounding community. An outside event is something like a park clean up. The university owns Dick Taylor Park, so students could clean there because it is not focused on enough. The entire idea of the university and the No Walls 2025 Plan is to bridge the university to the city and the city into the university, as well as get the students involved in the community.

II. Regarding Policy Whiteboard Training, once again, Overholser needs schedules to figure out the hours for handing out handbills. Department officers also need to tell students when the whiteboard hours (in front of Knowledge Center- the free speech area) will be. Department officers also need to invite students to their office hours to talk about legislation. Whiteboard training entails inviting 10 students to office hours during one's white board hours, engaging at least 20 students to write on the whiteboard, and checking their interest. Another goal is to have 20 students that share Wolf Pack Smart Talks. They have to go to the Smart Talk as well as share with their friends. Another goal is for 3 students to post to the new legislation tracker. It is a completely open forum (not censored at all), so department officers should pull reliable students and teachers to post on the legislation tracker so that it looks credible. Lastly, talk to as many students as possible, take business cards when one goes to host white board hours, hand them out, and tell students that the department is always looking for more members.

5. REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

a. Director Spencer Schultz said he counted 46 people in attendance for the most recent Wolf Pack Smart Talk. The next one will be on October 24th. Interviews were finished and 6 interns were selected. He will be sending out personality assessments to see how the interns will fit. He has high hopes for the next Wolf Pack Smart Talk. He is also currently working on a piece of mental health legislation based off of the HCR 16. With the recent Las Vegas gun shooting, it is important that students have access to psychiatrists. Many students told speaker Jackson they couldn't get in to the counseling offices or there was too long of a waiting period. ACS standards state that for every 1000 students there should be 1 licensed psychologist, and there are currently only 13 psychologists for the 21,000 students on campus. On a more personal note, Schultz unfortunately did not get in to the AB202 study, but he will contact the representative and will probably still be able to help because of his data and anecdotal opinions to help the study move along. In the NSHE tuition and fees committee, they are pushing for a 1.8% biannual increase in tuition. Previously, there has been a twenty percent increase over the last eight years. The inflation rate is 1.7 percent, which is much better compared to previous years. In the office, Schultz is creating a policy and procedure manual instead of pushing an attendance policy through Senate. His job is to censure and fire officers if any offenses occur, but he will instill the Point System. Meaning, if a department officer is late or misses a meeting it will count as one point, or if they do not attend office hours, it will count as half a point. The department needs to verify that they all have accurate job descriptions. Schultz is currently sitting on two committees- the master strategic plan for the university, as well as the food committee. There are 3 contracts up

next year for food in the Joe, so committee members will negotiate with contractors and choose new restaurants for next year. Finally, he will send out a formal email regarding interns.

- b. Assistant Director Keely Gardner was absent excused.
- c. Policy Director Quinton Overholser said that Raul created a legislative affairs email, so he will transfer the drive to that and the department will have access to it. The drive will be the main contact on the handbills that department officers will be handing out during the white board event. Also, the login for the legislation tracker and the email is the same, so department officers can put in legislation through that email. The 1874 legislation will be tracked through Give Pulse, but needs to be coordinated with projects and the person who runs Give Pulse- Chris Partridge. Next, he will start working on Inkblot side of things and promoting to reach the goal of high attendance- at least 1874 students who complete one hour of service. Overholser will read Brita Roman's report into the record in her absence.
- d. Policy Analyst Brita Romans- Overholser read into the record:

“Angelo emailed the logos for the Nevada conservation link so she will forward these to everyone in the department. She is concerned that the Smart Talk will seem left leaning, so she wants the department's opinion on whether or not a balancer should be brought in.”

Truscott responded to Romans' question and said that as long as the speakers in the Smart Talks are not unitarily bashing current administration or turning the talk into a partisan issue, it is fine. The topic is environmental science, and therefore scientific argument, not a political one.

Overholser commended projects on Wolf Pack Smart Talks, as they quadrupled last year's Smart Talk attendance.

- e. Projects Director Jake Truscott said that the next Smart Talk would be on October 24th, headed by Angelo and the Nevada Conservation League. Originally they were going to do DACA discussion that day, but they decided to push it back until November 12th, because they were having issues getting individuals to come up and speak. Instead, on October 24th, Nevada Conservation League will be here and this event will be advertised, and they already have speakers lined up. Hopefully they will sponsor the event along with ASUN. Angelo, their moderator, already has a full panel ready to go. The event is already being advertised across northern Nevada. Truscott recommended that ASUN provide snacks for the event since people cannot bring outside food into the auditorium.

Overholser moved to allocate \$50 in funds for October 24th's Wolf Pack Smart Talk.

Truscott seconded the motion.

There was no dissent; motion carried.

Overholser asked how many panelists they will have.

Truscott said there would most likely be four panelists. Planned Parenthood of Northern Nevada may be co-sponsoring the event and will have their own tables. Romans is taking the lead on most of these events. Ramada Keller will be joining us for DACA discussions. For the December 12th Smart Talk, Nevada Now, Economy Environment and Education will be joining. Truscott emailed the governor and representatives for his individual departments, and they usually respond within 48 hours. His current project recently hit an obstacle but he is actively working to resolve the issue. The event is still possible; they just need to straighten everything out. Truscott said he would finalize WPST (Wolf Pack Smart Talk) schedules soon.

Schultz asked how long a formal proposal for WPST would take.

Truscott predicted that he would be done by Friday getting numbers straightened out because he has two concerns- one is the cost (must be under 40, and cannot be more than 20). This will be happening on the 22nd of March. He is trying to actively look for someone else to bring in, but must keep the budget under \$70,000. He will get everything set, gauge Shapiro's interest in Ralston, and get numbers by Friday.

Overholser asked if Truscott contacted John Ralston.

Truscott said he plans on reaching out to John Ralston and Harper Alexander.

Schultz asked what snacks should be provided at the next WPST.

The department suggested granola.

Schultz said that for Nevada Now, Economy Environment and Education, the department should contact EDawn, the Economic Development Association of Western Nevada, because he has connections in that and they may be able to get a speaker.

Irving explained that her mom sits on the board, so she can help get a speaker as well.

Truscott said he wants a panel of 4-5 for the environmental education panel, but if they could get the governor, it would be even better. Regarding the water bottle issue, someone can go to the dollar store and get cheap plastic glasses, borrow the water tank from ASUN, and let attendees get water themselves.

Irving said she is working with the Wolf Shop to try and get reusable water bottles for WPST attendees.

Dr. Beattie said that there two water tanks in storage that can be used.

Schultz commended the last WPST and Truscott for being an engaging mediator. The live tweeting was helpful, as there were more likes on tweets than people in the room.

- f. Projects Coordinator Carin Irving said that some of the possible Smart Talks coming up are DACA, Nevada Now, and environment. Her and Romans are deciding which one to do next. She would like help getting President Johnson to talk about education and the state of education in Nevada. She is also trying to push getting Nevada history teachers to speak and give a background of Nevada. She would like the next Smart Talk to be a Nevada oriented event. Regarding Make Your Mark, she is planning on doing two in the spring: one in mid-February and one very close to the end of the year. The Smart Talk toward the end of the year will gauge what kinds of Talks students want for next year. This will be something for next year's department officers to go off of.

Schultz commented that he sat in a recent budget and finance committee meeting and allocated \$3,000 total to Make Your Mark. He asked that the department keep Make Your Mark expenditures under \$2,000 if there will only be two events, but would prefer three events for that amount. If there is an MYM event at the beginning, middle, and end of the semester, they will be able to get many more people engaged.

Irving responded that there might be an issue doing three events because the big Shapiro talk will be in the middle of the semester, as well as unity week.

Schultz said that if the event is turned into a voter registration event, it is in the SAS that the Senators are contracted in order to run Turbo Vote. Erica messaged Schultz yesterday, so they will be getting someone else to help, as well as have interns come in. So, they will have extra people. He said he would most likely not be taking an intern because Carissa gave him two interns from executive board. Department officers might get three interns, policy might get two interns, and one will be given to Keely. So, the department will have a seven-man team of people as opposed to the two-man team now.

Olverholser said that he Romans love helping the other departments. They can help but they just need to let them know.

Irving addressed Olverholser saying that regarding his legislation, from a project standpoint, it is too early to start getting student involved, because they will forget about it. She suggested they do the whiteboards event with the idea of introducing volunteering places, but do not advertise the legislation until a month in advance.

Schultz said that he agreed with Overholser because marketing for an event like this takes a long time. At TMCC, there was an annual diversity festival and Schultz had to market six months in advance, because if you don't start early and start often, people will forget.

Irving said that there would not be much interest now for an event that's not happening for months. She said that marketing the event is fine, but handing out handbills is ineffective because they will get tossed in the trash.

Truscott said that most events are based off policy, but asked when the department should put their full weight behind the event.

Schultz said that they should start putting their full weight behind the event in February.

Truscott asked if they should start doing tabling events six months before the event.

Olverholser said that the reason the department should start advertising the event now is so that they can get recidivism. For example, each whiteboard shift worked, there should be three people posting to the legislation tracker. This is to gain legitimacy.

Irving said that she learned in the past couple of months regarding getting students involved, is that need to have some background. For example, they need to know what legislation is before the white board event. Approach by introducing different pieces of the event, such as the legislation tracker. Officers should show students how to use the tracker and how it can be helpful, and then get Political Science department involved by using it in classrooms. After this, maybe the department can put out a TV ad about legislation tracker. From there, they can make it a bigger event.

Truscott said he wanted to get the idea behind how Overholser wants to market the event. Important to understand that events on campus are about immediacy, and the best way to promote immediacy is to get professors involved. There are plenty professors who are involved with environmental studies and environmental research.

Schultz asked Dr. Beattie his opinion on if they should start advertising the event now. Schultz believes in introducing things often and early, then revisiting it periodically the closer it gets to the event.

Beattie said students would be quick to respond but would then gradually lose interest. They will need to be reinforced with the information.

Schultz said they would need to compromise. Projects does not need to put all of their efforts on advertising the event right now, but it would be beneficial to introduce them to the policy tracker. They can pass out handbills with the date, but do not make it a top priority. They can also pass them out at Wolf Pack Smart Talks.

Olverholser said he is not looking for any big project, but he would just like the legislation tracker to be introduced to students.

Schultz said that the department should focus on this semester first and over winter break, they can start planning for next semester. Priorities as projects department should be Wolf Pack Smart Talks and big events. However, they can use these events to promote future events.

Truscott said that they would probably use interns for this event.

Irving asked if the first white board event should be focused on legislation tracker.

Overholser said yes because the next WPST is focused on the environment.

Irving asked if the 1874 legislation is getting a budget.

Schultz said that it would not be getting a budget.

Irving suggested rewarding students for volunteering by getting t-shirts with 1874 on them. She believes this would increase the turnout of the event. She also suggested that Make Your Mark and 1874 collaborate. She suggested that they introduce the legislation tracker at the next white board event.

Schultz said they could market 1874 even though it hasn't passed through Senate yet, but it does not have to be the main focus. The main focus should be the fact that the legislation tracker exists.

Olverholser said that they are not really marketing, but rather introducing policy at whiteboard events, as well as asking students about projects that they'd like to see. Whiteboard is about figuring out what projects students want to see.

Schultz said that the objective of whiteboard is to get students interested. Policy whiteboard is not a strict, inflexible thing; it is very fluid.

Irving said that from a projects standpoint, if the 1874 event doesn't happen, then it would make projects look bad.

Schultz said Irving should tell people that it might not happen, but that it is a goal.

Olverholser said that the bigger goal is getting student support.

Beattie commented that if a college republican wants change, they poll people and get signatures. When people are signing it they don't know if it's going to pass for sure. They should educate people about an initiative, even if they don't automatically expect it to happen. Whiteboard isn't going to make department of legislative affairs look bad. It will most likely get a new batch of students each time they do it, so don't wait to register people for voting until the week before- do it far in advance and just talk about the environmental in general.

Truscott asked for a write out of talking points for policy whiteboard and the purpose of white board. He thinks that it is not a lobbying tool- it is an interest tool. The idea is to engage students and get ideas of what they want to see.

Schultz said that this is where white board training comes in. It is both an interest tool and an engagement tool.

Truscott said that it took two months to get the idea of Wolf Pack Smart Talks down so they need a clear idea about whiteboard.

6. STAFF REPORT(s)

- a. Members of the ASUN Professional Staff may provide comments or updates to the Department. Schultz said he has not yet met with President Johnson in person, but will talk to Hannah Jackson and Noah Teixeira about how to go about doing that. He would like Johnson to come in for the environmental education Smart Talk, so hopefully his schedule is open. This will be December 12th. Lastly, for Make Your Mark, he would like three events.
- b. Truscott said that if they get Johnson, then get him to contact the governor's office. The third week of March, he wants all work focused toward Shapiro.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Truscott said that moving toward the planning stage for the Shapiro event, keep in mind, if we have the event in the Joe, they can get maybe 900 in attendance and use the overflow rooms. However, if it is moved downtown, there will be an increased cost because of security. He already contacted the venue, and it won't cost more than \$2,000 to get security coverage. They are paid at \$25 an hour and there needs to be five security guards for this event. They must coordinate with Reno Police Department as well.

Dr. Beattie said that the student events advisory board chooses the security for events. He recommended having the event on campus instead of downtown.

Schultz said that the democratic and republican parties would most likely want to sponsor the Shapiro event, so keep that in mind.

Olverholser commented that for Wolf Pack Smart Talks, they need more in depth questions. Secondly, he has a background in political mediation, so he can help in that area. He wants to see more questions going out and more time spent on each.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Schultz adjourned this meeting at 8:52 a.m.

Attachment A.

A DECLARATION DESIGNATING THE THIRD SATURDAY OF APRIL AS NEVADA
CLEAN-UP DAY

Resolution Number:

Authored By: The Department of Legislative Affairs

Sponsored By:

Whereas, all Nevada Systems of Higher Education institutions stand for sustainable practices, and continued pledge to environmental stewardship

Whereas, according to section 1.2.1 of the Nevada System of Higher Education code, the primary missions of the University of Nevada are teaching, research and public and community service,

Whereas, April 22nd is universally recognized as Earth Day and subsequently the month of April as Earth Month,

Whereas, local nonprofit organizations such as Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful and League to save Lake Tahoe hold annual clean-up days during Earth month,

Whereas, the commitment of higher institutions in Nevada to service could hold a high impact on families, communities, and future generations locally and statewide,

Whereas,

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno that, the third Saturday of the month of April shall be designated as 1874 Clean-Up Day in acknowledgement and support of the university pledge to sustainability and community service.