

Committee on Government Operations

Senate of the Associated Students 85th Session
Minutes for Friday, February 2nd, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.
Joe Crowley Student Union Presidents Conference Room

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Senator Thummel called the meeting of Government operations to order at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 2nd, 2018 in the President's Conference Room on the third floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union. Presiding secretary, Zanae' Jones.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Senator Billman, Flangas, J. Smith, S. Smith, Mah, Mall, Martinez, Stopka and Thummel was present.

A quorum is present.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Secretary Godoy said that she and Speaker Jackson had some changes that she wanted to make. She requested a senator to work with her on that. She said she already had the changes the Senator would just be writing legislation.

Senator J. Smith said he will do it.

Secretary Godoy said she also needs a Senator to help fix the SASS for this committee because there is some things in the SASS that they no longer do and it needed to be updated.

Senator Billman said he will do it.

Senator Thummel said the senators should see Andrea.

Andrea Godoy left the room at 3:02 pm.



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 Senator Thummel at senatorthummel@asun.unr.edu.

4. MINUTES

Senator Mah moved to approve the minutes from September 29th, 2017.

Senator S. Smith seconded.

Motion carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Senator Reports

Senator Thummel said he realized people were working on projects and it ceased during finals. He said he needed an update on those projects. He also said that they only have two and a half months of our term. He asked if anyone had any updates.

Senator Billman said he was working with Event Programming with fixing the SASS and said he was doing that with Senator Mah. He asked Senator Mah if he got an update.

Senator Mah said no.

Senator Billman said he will start working with Event Programming with fixing the SASS. He asked Senator Martinez what he was working on.

Senator Martinez currently he is working on legislation to edit Courtney S. position. Currently they are eliminating some assistants however, do not want eliminate all of them.

Senator Flangas said she knows that Senator Becker wanted to change the senate rules to do some kind of event that permanently puts it as a duty for the public affairs committee.

Senator Thummel asked that he wanted to do that as a committee and not the director of Public Relations.

Senator Flangas said yes to ensure that it is a part of it.

Senator Thummel asked for any thoughts on that.

Senator Flangas said that she did not have time to do that.

Senator Thummel asked if anyone would like to help.

Senator S. Smith and Senator Mah said they could help.

Senator Thummel said that they can reach to Senator Becker.

Senator Bussman entered the room at 3:05 pm.

Senator Thummel asked for any other reports.

Senator Mall said that he wrote legislation for campus escort and he might have to scratch the SASS for campus escort. He said that he will meet with Speaker Jackson with how much they want to change the SASS or if it worth it anymore.

Senator Thummel said Senator Mall and him were working on two google drive sheets. One of the sheets are given out for elections to summarize job senator positions for students to actually know what they will be doing. He said the other google doc's sheet is for summarizing the entire SASS and that is the one that he will meet with Speaker Jackson if it is worth doing. The google doc's sheet about summarizing all of the elected officials will be helpful to the students.

Senator Flangas said that Speaker Jackson talked about putting the description of the different committees and so students see transparency on what the Senators actually do.

Senator Thummel said that making sure that students know what they do would be helpful and he will have a meeting with Speaker Jackson and Senator Mall. He said he will also share the document with the other Senators. He asked for any other senator reports.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion on Future Projects and Legislation.

Senator Thummel said when he was going through the SASS he noticed that campus escort description it basically tells you nothing. He was working with expanding that. He talked to Director Martinez before the meeting and he said that this had happened in the past to where the department wants to make a change however, they would be basically down to us. He said the SASS for campus escort should contain laws because student would check the website. He said that he does not think the description should not be on SASS and wanted to know other Senators thoughts on it.

Senator Billman said that the SASS is a government document and it holds us accountable to what ASUN provide. He said that it was important to keep it in the SASS.

Senator J. Smith asked what were the consequences on taking it out of the SASS.

Senator Thummel said that when he talked to Director Martinez that it wouldn't affect ASUN. Things from student engagement and things like that do not need to be in the SASS.

Senator Billman said that if it does not retain with the SASS then he would cut it out.

Senator Billman said that even though the SASS does not have provide many laws on campus escort he does not think it would be wise to cut it out of the SASS because student fees are going into campus escort. Even though it is not much on it, there should be a skeleton of it in the SASS.

Senator Thummel said that he just wanted to get a feel for what everyone thought doing this.

Senator Stopka said that anything that does not need to be in there should be taken out.

Senator Thummel said thank you for the input and that he will be brought up in Senate also. He also said that he will let the committee know what they will be doing in the future. He said that he is also working with Senator Becker to potentially merging two director position into one and he will be keeping them up to date on that.

Senator Flangas asked if they should get rid of the judicial department except for hiring them for a case by case basis. She doesn't believe ASUN should be paying thousands of dollars if they only work on a case by case basis. She said they only had one case this year and the year before that they had none. She said that she will propose it to Senate and she does not know what purpose they serve outside of a judicial ruling.

Senator Thummel asked if anyone had any thoughts.

Senator Flangas said that if they will be posing it to Senate they should think of this too. She said especially because they are always looking for more money in the budget and they are paying the associate justices \$3000 a year. Not that the work they do is not great, but they don't do many cases during the year.

Senator Thummel asked if anyone had anymore thoughts.

Senator Bussman said they could strip it down to one position for the judicial branch or give them more work.

Senator S. Smith said her worry is the branch does not have many responsibilities and the university will get the impression on getting rid of checks and balances.

Senator Flangas said they would not act on a check on a daily basis but when there is a problem.

Senator Thummel asked if the way they work is elect people and call them when we need them or whenever it is a case you would open up applications.

Senator Flangas said they would still appoint them to understand the SASS and pay them for a month to understand the SASS. She said they don't know what else the judicial committee does when there is not a case. She said that she was thinking of cutting back needless funding.

Senator Mall said he agrees with Senator S. Smith and that their needs to be three branches of government. The department also does an internship program.

Senator Billman said that currently they are prepared when something comes up in Senate and does not think it should be cut.

Senator Flangas said they do practice cases and go through cases in the past or scenarios however they are spending student funds on practice. She said that it is worth it to see if they should be spending this money on this branch.

Senator J. Smith said that he likes what Senator Bussman said about giving them more responsibilities and asked if anyone had any thoughts on that.

Senator Flangas said she knows they had talked about the Mediation program and nothing had happened for this. They currently do not have enough funding for this program therefore they don't serve directly to the students at the moment.

Senator Stopka asked if they cut their pay in half and give bonus for that case.

Senator Flangas said maybe they should pose it to Senate.

Senator Thummel said he thinks that it should be talked about at Senate because it is about cutting the judicial branch.

Senator Flangas said that the branch in the judicial is in the constitution and maybe our job is to department smaller to make it work. She said ASUN is spending at least \$9000 on those positions and maybe work on making it different. She does not think about cutting it entirely but, addressing how it was funded and function in the past.

Senator Stopka said all of Senate should talk about this.

Senator Flangas said the topic needed to be agenzized and she said that it is best to ask Hannah Jackson.

Senator Mall said that it can be brought up in comments/ announcements because it the main reason for announcements.

Senator Thummel said he would talk to Speaker Jackson..

Senator Bussman said that you could talk about it at public comment.

Senator Flangas said that she is not trying to aggressively cut this but, to consider it because they are looking for more money in the budget.

Senator Thummel said that he thinks that the whole Senate should hear.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the moment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Thummel adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m.