

Committee on Oversight

Senate of the Associated Students 85th Session
Minutes for Friday, January 26th, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.
Room #323, Third Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Speaker Jackson called the Oversight meeting to order at 4:03 pm in Room #323, 3rd floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union. Presiding secretary, Andrea Godoy.

2. ROLL CALL

Speaker Jackson and Senators Becker, Bussman, Cam. Lee, Flangas, Kuykendall, Martinez, and Thummel were present.

A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

4. MINUTES

- a. The minutes from November 28th, 2017
Senator Lee moved to approve the minutes from November 28, 2017 by unanimous consent.
There was no dissent; motion carried.
- b. The minutes from December 12th, 2017
Senator Kuykendall moved to approve the minutes from December 12, 2017 by unanimous consent.
There was no dissent; motion carried.

5. REPORTS

Speaker Jackson said they will yield reports for the sake of club fair, so they can attend.

- a. Secretary of the Senate – Andrea Godoy
- b. Speaker Pro Tempore – Senator Martinez
- c. Chair, Committee on Academics – Senator Cammie Lee
- d. Chair, Committee on Budget and Finance – Senator Kuykendall
- e. Chair, Committee on Civic Engagement – Senator Flangas
- f. Chair, Committee on Government Operations – Senator Thummel
- g. Chair, Committee on Public Affairs – Senator Becker
- h. Chair, Committee on University Affairs – Senator Bussman
- i. Chair, Committee on Oversight – Speaker Jackson

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. NOMINATION OF KATIE WORRALL TO THE OFFICE OF POLICY ANALYST FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
Senator Kuykendall moved to recommend favorably the nomination of Katie Worrall to the Office of Policy Analyst for the Department of Legislative Affairs.
Senator Martinez seconded.

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 Speaker Jackson at speaker@asun.unr.edu.



Assistant Director Eshenbaugh said Ms. Worrall was new to ASUN. She will let Ms. Worrall introduce her goals, but she did want to give an overview for why they selected these candidates. They opened the jobs right away and were able to pull multiple apps for each position; they had a great variety. After reviewing all the supporting docs, they had a few interviews and both candidates were the top for each position. They both add diverse qualities to the department and come from different backgrounds with various experiences which will help the department achieve its goals.

Ms. Worrall said she was a political science and international affairs major with an emphasis in the middle east. She was an intern under former Director Charles. She was there for a little bit; then she got an internship in the Nevada legislature as an assembly leadership and communication intern. She looked at different bills put into the legislature and wrote summaries and social media plans to tell constituents what was happening. She had experience with Nevada policy. She has lived in Reno her whole life so she is connected to those that are here. She cares about the community and wanted to be here for the entire community and the students on campus. Her top goals for policy is to work on youth homelessness and partnering with student organizations and community organizations like the Eddy House. She also wants to try and get some environmental sustainable initiatives by putting in more compost and recycling bins. She used to go to a school that had a lot of that she wanted to start the process for here.

The body moved to questions at this time.

Senator Becker said she mentioned working on initiatives for youth homelessness with student organizations. He asked if she had talked to any or knew which ones she wanted to work with.

Ms. Worrall said she was a part of the Young Democrats and they are working on it right now. She didn't want this to be a partisan thing though because she felt many people wanted to see progress. She wanted to reach out to the Young Democratic Socialists, The College of Republicans, community service and outreach clubs, and anyone that is interested in policy. In the community, she wanted to reach out to organizations like the Eddy House and ACTION. They are working a lot on it and she didn't want to exclude the work they have done.

Senator Flangas said another goal was to restart the Department of Legislative Affairs' social media page. She asked how she planned to accomplish that given that her term would be so short.

Ms. Worrall said it had been talked about when she was an intern; they were almost able to. She forgot there was a process for it but she wanted to figure it out, so they can start updating it and posing events and the policies they are working on. What the department does is important, and she wanted more people to know about them, especially things like Wolf Pack Smart Talks.

Senator Kuykendall asked what she thought could be improved on based on her experience as an intern.

Ms. Worrall said she wanted to have more diversity in ASUN. She knew it was hard for her to feel included at first because she was shy and timid and not as social. She wanted to make it so that those that were passionate can feel like they can be a part of ASUN, even if they weren't social. That was the biggest thing she wanted to do; have more diversity.

Senator Lee asked what her number one goal would be if appointed given that her term was short.

Ms. Worrall said the youth homelessness legislation. There was a lot that has happened, and she already had a sponsor in the state legislature. She had events in mind to get more to work on the drafting.

Senator Becker said Ms. Worrall mentioned being a part of a partisan group. He asked how she planned on staying nonpartisan in the position.

Ms. Worrall said she thought of herself as a representative first. She was not a huge fan of partisan things in the party. Mostly, she was a part of the Democrats since that was an easy way to be a part of the political process but parties can make it hard to represent everyone's ideas. She likes the idea of ASUN because it wasn't constrained by those ideas; she can talk to people without previous notions.

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

Senator Flangas said Ms. Worrall had a solid focus, especially with it being an off session because she wanted to draft policy that could be enacted in an active year. She would be active to get work done in such a small amount of time. Ms. Worrall was a good candidate.

Senator Becker said he liked her interpretation of diversity in ASUN; it wasn't by race or culture but by personality. He had never heard that mentioned before and he thought that was notable. She also responded to his question about staying nonpartisan very well. She said she would be in that position without being constructed by a party's preconceptions and notions.

Senator Kuykendall asked Assistant Director Eshenbaugh what stood out to her about Ms. Worrall and why she was on top of the list.

Assistant Director Eshenbaugh said there were two reasons. First, she had direction. Coming to them she would need to pick up ASUN related things, but she had policy direction and had sponsors for legislation. She also had community partners and knew who she needed to contact. Ms. Worrall was shy, but she was also passionate. Second, she had a personality that would mesh well with Policy Director Overholser. Ms. Worrall will do a great job. Policy Director Overholser is a great mentor and will be able to shape her to understand ASUN and how policy works with ASUN. She learned as an intern even though there wasn't a strong foundation for interns last year. That has changed this year. Ms. Worrall will learn along with the department.

There was no further discussion at this time; the body moved to a vote.

Motion carried.

b. **NOMINATION OF MACKENZIE NELSON TO THE OFFICE OF PROJECTS COORDINATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

Senator Kuykendall moved to favorably recommend the nomination of Mackenzie Nelson to the Office of Projects Coordinator for the Department of Legislative Affairs.

Senator Martinez seconded.

Assistant Director Eshenbaugh said Mr. Nelson heard about the position through Director Shultz since they had a class together. Mr. Nelson didn't know ASUN ins and outs but was a great fit for the department.

Mr. Nelson said he was junior and was political science major, and English writing major, and an international affairs major with specialization in diplomacy and law. He was really interested in the position because the department and increasing political action and awareness have both become a passion of his in recent years. He wanted to be involved since he began at UNR but due to credit load and jobs, he never had a chance to campaign and he didn't know about Legislative Affairs until now. As for goals, he really wanted to increase attendance and student participation in events like the Wolf Pack Smart Talks. He started going to them last year. They are filled with fantastic information. The biggest problem is that students don't know about them, don't talk about them, or don't go to them. He wanted to change those three things so more student hear about events and show up. His biggest plan was to review the topics they cover since these are supposed to be talks to explain multiple sides and give students an outlet to express their opinions. Topics like the economy or gun rights are hot issues where student votes could affect results locally, at the state level, and nationally. He wanted to emphasize that with tabling and more participation-based events rather than attendance based. He wants to table outside the Joe. Last year, the department did Make your Mark. He participated in it and loved it. He wanted to expand it to be monthly and have it themed towards the topics of the talks or whatever is happening in that month like Black History Month or Presidents' Day. This way, they can better aim student policy initiatives since they will know what students want and need. He also wanted to have voter registration drives since there is a midterm election this year. he knew it was early and they would have trouble registering this early on but that was something they still needed to try so as many students are registered to vote. This will help teach students that their votes can make a difference even when it's not a presidential election. He also has experience as an RA but that ended in May. The biggest thing he learned through being an RA was programming and making students come to events. He was really interested in the job.

Senator Bussman asked Mr. Nelson what he thought was the best medium for advertising.

Mr. Nelson said he wanted to use a variety of outlets, not just flyers or social media. He wanted to do a little bit everything and work with student groups on campus. They had a dedicated base. With all talks, there is bound to be a group that is interested in them at some point. That was the medium he wanted for the smart talks. He also wanted to have professors join the talks since they can become lecturers and offer extra credit for students to come. For the international relations talk last year, three professors presented and offered extra credit to their students, so it had a big attendance. He went to that talk because of the extra credit but kept going after that.

Senator Flangas said he mentioned expanding the list of speakers for the smart talks to include high profile candidates. She asked what his plan was for that.

Mr. Nelson said reaching out. When he was writing it, he didn't know much about the department yet so he wasn't sure it would be feasible this semester. In the future, he would like to see those talks begin debates as well as bringing in local candidates to debate and express policy ideas. Something like that was about calling people's offices to see if they would come out. It was all about reaching out to as many as they can.

Senator Becker said Mr. Nelson mentioned wanting to raise voter registration even though it would be difficult. He asked what the plans were for that.

Mr. Nelson said his main plan was to use every tabling event, every Smart Talk, and any event the department does to give students an opportunity to register. He wanted to spread awareness through speakers, tabling, and talking to students. There are initiatives that can be changed through

votes; students need to understand their votes matter. When they talk to students, they can say, "If you have a problem with this, change it by voting."

There were no further questions at this time; the Boyd moved to discussion.

Senator Kuykendall asked Assistant Director Eshenbaugh what made him stand out.

Assistant Director Eshenbaugh said he blew them away. He sees a longer-term career in ASUN and in the department. This short appointment will be challenging since he had many ideas and a restrained amount of time. But she enjoyed his larger thinking and dreamer attitude. That is what the department needed. Some of his goals, like bringing higher profile speakers to campus, were something he came up with on his own, but it overlapped with what the department had been doing. He had an intuitive idea of what was happening and what needed to happen. He was incredibly involved and added diversity to the group.

Senator Martinez said he was a great candidate because of his RA event planning background. Planning events is something RA's do constantly. He loved the part in his goals about not just acknowledge diversity but also understand it.

Senator Lee wanted to mention how he wanted to table. Many of them are opposed to tabling since it takes up time and not many students ever approach them. But Mr. Nelson turned it around to say that the few people that do come up develop a positive connection to ASUN.

Senator Kuykendall said he had two things. First, when he talks, Mr. Nelson was the spitting image of Director Shultz. They talk almost the same. Second, he loved the part about getting more of an audience to come to the Smart Talks and going to professors. If a professor of his said come to this, and you get extra credit he would go; he would go even if there was on extra credit. Bringing more high-profile politicians for discussions is a good thing too. They have been talking about civic engagement since the beginning of their term. If they do approve Mr. Nelson, they need to make sure they hold him accountable to make sure he delivers on all the great ideas he has.

Senator Flangas thought they should request information on how effective voter registration is at events to see the differences in the spring and in the fall. It aligns with the department and the candidate's goals and it keeps them accountable.

There was no further discussion at this time; the body moved to a vote.

Motion carried.

c. **S.B. 85 – An Act to Place a Question on the Ballot for the 2018 General Election**

Speaker Jackson said Legal never got back to her on verbiage of the legislation, so they cannot discuss the bill today.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Speaker Jackson adjourned the meeting at 4:31 pm.