

Committee on Public Affairs

Senate of the Associated Students 86th Session

Minutes for Friday, April 27th, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

President's Conference Room on the 3rd Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Alvarez called the meeting on Public Affairs to order on Friday, April 27th, 2018 at 9:00 am in the President's Conference Room of the Joe Crowley Student Union. Presiding secretary, Joshua Gilmore

2. ROLL CALL

Senator Alvarez, Senator Aziz, Senator Amaya, Senator Mckinney, and Senator Rogers were present.

Senator Mata was tardy unexcused.

Quorum is present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

4. MINUTES

- a. There are no minutes to heard at this time.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. There are no old business to be discussed at this time.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of a Vice Chair

Senator Alvarez said the duties of the Vice Chair such as doing duties of the Chair if the Chair does not show up, taking minutes if the secretary does not show up. If there are any other questions, please see the SAS. Senator Alvarez opened nominations for Vice Chair.

Senator Amaya nominated Senator Rogers to be Vice Chair of Public Affairs.

Senator Rogers accepted.

Senator Alvarez asked if there were any more nominations. Seeing none, nominations are closed. Candidates are asked to give a statement but not required. Senator Rogers is up first.

Senator Rogers said hello everyone. She is a 5th generation Nevadan and her grandmother was the first female police officer of Nevada. She strove for public relations in her state. Senator Rogers wants to see public relations thrive in Reno. She was talking with Social Services and they want to see our outreach to kids in the system and kids in the orphanage. They want to know that they are there for kids that need them. She was a BST provider for adult mental health, the severe mentally ill, in Nevada. She thinks it'd be cool to partner with other programs on campus such as Pack

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Provisions. They could also work with the food bank and Catholic charities. These organizations would provide grants that could keep homeless off campus and allow campus to feel safer. She believes that her experience will allow her to step up as much as needed.

Senator Alvarez asked if there were any questions. Seeing none they will move into general discussion about the candidate. Senator Rogers was asked to leave the room but is not required to.

Senator Rogers left the room at 9:05

Senator Mckinney said that he believes she's qualified. He thinks that she'll do a great job in the absence of Senator Alvarez. For those reasons he believes she's qualified.

Senator Aziz said that with her history as a Nevadan she has good grasp of the city and the outreach that can be provided by ASUN, she will do a great job as Vice Chair.

Senator Alvarez asked Dr. Beattie how she should do the vote.

Dr. Beattie said all in favor say aye.

Senator Alvarez said all in favor of making Senator Rogers Vice Chair of Public Affairs say aye.
Motion Carried.

Senator Rogers entered the room 9:08 am

b. Committee Goals

Senator Alvarez said that committee goals are for them to focus on their committee and what they want to do. In Summer, the rules of senate will be postponed but she would like to have biweekly meetings.

Senator Mckinney said that since this is the legislation period for local politics, he believes that they should go to Carson City to make sure the voice of the university is heard. He thinks that understanding tuition and fees should be understood and be able to be explained.

Senator Aziz said that they should be very active in local government that includes the university. They should be involved in university affairs, considering it affects the public and the university. This includes ensuring that students understand fully what will effect them as students.

Senator Rogers wants to work with the homeless population and with mental health. Not only on campus, but in the downtown area as well.

Senator Alvarez said they can make resolutions to show that they are in support of them and that they are working to ensure that the homeless have a better environment.

Senator Mckinney said that since public affairs is such a wide field, they should be sure keep their mind open and to actively look and seek out things that can be fixed, not just in the university but within our community as well.

c. 9/11 Memorial Proposals

Senator Alvarez said that since this is in the beginning of the school year, she would like to begin planning right now. She wants to make it a bigger event. One idea of hers is at 9:11 they have a moment of silence in front of the KC steps. She asked Vincent Rivera for any ideas on how they can improve it.

Vincent Rivera said he's here to hear what her ideas are, and to see if they can support them.

Senator Rogers asked Vincent Rivera if they would be able to work with local VA hospitals to get Veterans here so they could talk to them and see what they need as well.

Rivera said he has some contacts. Through those contacts he would be able to get the contacts that they need. He said he needs to know what her goal is.

Senator Rogers said her goal is to interact with Veterans.

Vincent Rivera said they're going to have to focus in more. Veterans is a wide subject.

Senator Alvarez said she thinks their main purpose, since it has been a campus focused event, is to extend it to the community. Another idea she had is involving color guard do their flag ceremony and the 5-minute moment of silence.

Vincent Rivera said that Veteran Services and ROTC are two separate departments, so they'll have to reach out to them.

Senator Alvarez said that she was also thinking musical therapy club could sing the national anthem.

Senator Rogers asked if they could reach out to emotional support animals for veterans if veterans do show up.

Senator Aziz asked if this event, historically, was just flags placed on the lawn.

Dr. Beattie said that he believes they're getting ahead of themselves. Dr. Beattie said this is an event that has been going on for a few years and has grown. Last year, Senator Becker worked with Veteran Affairs since they were having their color guard on the same day and it made sense.

Chai Cook said she believes that they did the flags on 9/11.

Beattie said he was talking about the Veterans Lunch since everything was going to lump together. It's for the veterans on campus, whether it be faculty, staff, or police officers on campus. 9/11 committee has not been doing well the past few years. Dr. Beattie said that while he appreciates the offer of help dogs, they need to sit down and talk to the Office of Veteran Affairs before the decision must be made.

Chai Cook said that it should be mentioned that 9/11 is not just a day for veterans.

Vincent Rivera said he understands the correlation, but even those who have served because of 9/11, are gone. They have graduated, and all of the ROTC here weren't even born before 2001.

Senator Mckinney asked Vincent Rivera and Chai Cook their positions so that he could have some background information and also for future reference.

Vincent Rivera said he is intake coordinator for Veteran Services.

Chai Cook said she is a coordinator for Veteran Services.

Senator Mata entered at 9:19 am.

Senator Mckinney said that they can meet with programming director, Austin Lensch. He would like to meet with them so they have more knowledge about the subject because he doesn't want to provide ideas that aren't even possible. He feels like he and everyone else should do more research about the topic.

Senator Aziz said he thinks for this situation, he doesn't think they should escalate the event too much more. He said that he doesn't think they should be adding a bunch of things for an event where they haven't done much before.

Senator Mckinney said he agreed and disagreed. He believes this event should've already been bigger than it already is. He said he saw the flags last year and should make more of a point that should be bigger.

Dr. Beattie said he encourages everyone to look at what other universities are doing to see what they've done, rather than trying to come up with something here.

Senator Alvarez asked Dr. Beattie if they should skip the Veteran Lunch for now and come back with ideas.

Chai Cook said they have a good format for the luncheon and it has been pretty successful in the past.

Dr. Beattie said they can come back with ideas to add or if they would like to change little things.

Senator Watson said one of them could be assigned to meet with the Veterans Services and report back.

Senator Alvarez asked Dr. Beattie if she should just skip the Veterans' Luncheon.

Dr. Beattie said yes, because it was new business and they were just discussing it.

d. Veteran's Luncheon Proposals

The Committee will propose ideas for the Veteran's Luncheon.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chai Cook said to contact them, she's her all summer.

Vincent Rivera said if they do need connections, he'll be more than happy to set that up.

Senator Mckinney asked if they could get their contact information.

Dr. Beattie said you can look it up on UNR directory.

Senator Aziz asked if they were in the Fitzgerald Building.

Chai Cook said yes, were also in PSAC also.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

10. NOTES.

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