

Committee on Public Affairs

Senate of the Associated Students 86th Session
Minutes for Friday, August 31, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.
President's Conference on the 3rd Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Director Alvarez called the meeting of Public Affairs to order in the President's Conference Room at 12:13 pm on Friday August 31st, 2018.

2. ROLL CALL

Senators Alvarez, Aziz, Rogers and Green were present. Senator Mata was absent excused.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

4. MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Meeting on April 30, 2018

5. REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Director Worrall said she was thinking for every weekly report she would go over projects and policy. There were a lot of projects today because a lot was going on in September. The first project was the candidate forum which they were called "Elevated Forums". The first was September 13th with Sheriffs and they would have students speaking about law enforcement issues. Attendance was needed there. For the series in general if they could help market and tell people, it was going to be students performing and speaking about their issues. Help promote those events and attendance. The set up was easy. She will need volunteers for national voter registration day, September 25th. Most of their events were from 11 Am to 3 pm. That was going to be a crazy day – they were having different activities around campus. At Hilliard Plaza they would have a voting tree for students to write why they were voting. There would be a mock voting booth that Gaby was working on so students could learn to use the new voting booths because now they were electronic. In the quad they would have Kornhole with candidate's faces and their information. They would do ballot initiatives in the DMS plaza area. There were six ballot questions. If they know of organizations whose purpose is to support or oppose a ballot initiative, reach out to her. There was a Vote Yes on questions 1 and 3, etc. In



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front of the Knowledge Center there would be performances all day – Rock the Vote and down in the lawn. They were invited elected officials and candidates to talk to students. They would be all over Reno and Washoe County. In the medical school, they were trying to think what they could have up there. The idea was to get the students up there active in voting and voter registration. If you have any ideas let her know. Senator Alvarez suggested a giant game of operation. They would have to make it. If you have time to give, please do. She wanted to invite them to tabling called “what’s on the Agenda?” Every week the department goes through the local and in state things that students can write on to let them know it’s happening. The goal was to table two hours a week for three days and have paper for them to write their testimony on and give them information on when the meeting is. Lastly, they are hosting an affordable housing teach-in with Action, a faith based organization. She will need help presenting if they would like to present in the university area. It would be half on affordable housing and half in the university area. She would present on the University’s expansion and student issues with housing in the area. She would see if other directors would like to collaborate on the event. They didn’t have a date and time yet but it would be the first week of October. For policy, the Washoe County Board of Commissions had grants approved for affordable housing. That was pretty great, they would hopefully see some progress on affordable housing in the area. It would affect their whole community as well. The Reno City Council had a meeting but there was nothing that pertained to them. This was where she wanted to put bills they wanted sponsored in the legislature. Their goal was to get ten sponsored. Right now they were doing top two primary system.

Chair Alvarez said they were still in the process of assignments for this committee.

Director Worrall said there was a Board of Regents meeting next Thursday and Friday. It was the duty of this committee to go to those meetings. There was an investment committee in Ballroom A to talk about fossil fuel divestment. There was also the loss of Title 9 family funding and services on the campus. There would be “Cultural Diversity and Title 9 Compliance”. She won’t be able to go Thursday from 9-10:30 AM and 1:30 to 3:00 pm. She could go to all the rest. Feel free to go to ones with her as well. She would be at the Cultural Diversity Committee but there was also a health sciences committee at the same time on Friday.

6. OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business to be discussed at this time.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. 9/11 Memorial Planning and Updates

Chair Alvarez said they were talking about this last semester and it was difficult after summer, but she talked with President Jackson and Monique who were talking about creating a service event for the 9/11 day. She wanted to put the flags up on the Joe lawn but she also talked about making it more like giving back to first responders in the community. They talked about making a table and having posters that highlight the events of 911. Students could make thank-you cards for firefighters and first responders. They were planning on making it on the day of 9/11 from 11 AM to 2 PM with a banner made up from Inkblot. They could also have iPads with earphones available so students can listen and make videos. Monique suggested having first responders on campus to thank them and let them talk about what they do. A lot of students on campus don’t remember it anymore, so it will be an educational event as well.

Senator Green asked how long it would take Inkblot to order a banner

Dr. Beattie said to look on the Website

Senator Rogers said there was a first responder who was also a Congressman.

Chair Alvarez said she would appreciate if she could reach out to him. They were also thinking Postcards if senator Green would like to coordinate that

Senator Rogers suggested getting a big thank you card to give one to each fire station

b. Veteran's Luncheon Planning and Updates

Chair Alvarez said she was in discussion with Chai Cook from veteran's services. She put it on the Facebook page. They were planning on giving lapel pins to veterans who came to the luncheon. It would have the American flag and a Nevada flag. They are a little costly so she was trying to divide the cost between them and Veteran's services so that they can also provide Blind Onion pizza at the event.

Senator Green asked if they would do a banner for that

Chair Alvarez said yes and they would have fliers.

Senator Aziz said he didn't think Inkblot could do a banner before the event according to their tiers.

Dr. Beattie said she could talk to Amy and see

Senator Rogers said the date was November 8th from 11 to 1:30

Chair Alvarez said she would send out a poll for shifts

Dr. Beattie said they could do it on Givepulse

Chair Alvarez said she would coordinate with Monique and create a Givepulse page.

c. Chair Updates

Chair Alvarez said this summer she was doing a lot with Veterans' Luncheon and the 911 memorial but she was also building relationships with the other Directors to develop a stronger relationship. Public affairs and legislative affairs rely on each other for confusing things. Policy Director is really good at communication and making sure the logistics and student impact is understood. She encouraged them to reach out to directors. She got to go to the State Legislature and testify, and she encouraged each of them to make the drive out there. She went through Campus Escort and went with Director Worrall. She also testified with Senators Green and Hudson and Vice President Bradley about the Gateway city council to provide more parking.

d. Senator Ideas and Assignments

Chair Alvarez said this committee weighed a lot in this upcoming legislative session so she encouraged each of them to reach out to local people to see what their response was. Did anyone want to reach out to anyone?

Senator Rogers said she would reach out to the sheriff

Chair Alvarez said if they didn't know who their representatives were to reach out to Director Worrall. She asked that they all send out emails by the end of next week so that they can get going with their committee. They weren't required to meet with any State Senators but they could reach out to representatives. She would assist with that. They should be pretty accessible. Send her emails or CC her by next week. She hated to give homework but she wanted them to write an additional piece of legislation for public affairs. Ballot initiatives

were a great place to start. It can be small or large legislation within the next week or so. She would like to see those within three weeks.

Senator Green said he was working on a few resolutions. One was on a local nonprofit going through city council to try to get a farmers market approved about a half a mile south of campus. Their focus was on food insecurity, specifically down town. They were working on a resolution in support of the farmers market.

Senator Rogers said she still wanted to get to-go boxes for the homeless community. She wanted to work with the Wolf Pack Pantry and other charities to have nooks and stations around the campus and around the community. She talked to the leadership teacher at one of the middle schools and she suggested going in to their career days – they could do it with civic engagement and help encourage them to volunteer.

Chair Alvarez said to let her know. As assignments, CC her the emails and have legislation ready in three weeks.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Committee on Public Affairs adjourned at 12:40 pm

10. NOTES.

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