

86th Session of the Senate of the Associated Students

Minutes for Wednesday, October 3rd, 2018 at 5:30 P.M.

Rita Laden Senate Chambers, Third Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Speaker Martinez called the Senate meeting to order at 5:31 pm in the Rita Laden Senate Chambers, 3rd floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union. Presiding secretary Kaitie Christiansen and Legislative Clerk Brooke Hansen.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL**

Speaker Martinez and Senators Ahmed, Alvarez, Amaya, Aziz, Burton, Clemons, Collins, Feil, Grant, Green, Hudson, Hughes, Lemus, Mata, McKinney, Rogers, Sewell, Wilcox, Wilday, and Yeghiayan were present. A quorum was present.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- a. The minutes from **August 29th, 2018**
- b. The minutes from **September 5th, 2018**
- c. The minutes from **September 12th, 2018**
- d. The minutes from **September 19th, 2018**
- e. The minutes from **September 26th, 2018**

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said: thank you for the opportunity to speak. He had some updates that might make the proposal more attractive. The overall issue was that Latin Honors was determined based on GPA based on college and school based on the previous two years as a threshold, so they vary for each college and school. One issues that concerned him was that it was difficult to know what GPA you need to have to qualify with the exception of 4.0. For the other recognitions, the thresholds change each year based on previous year GPA. He wanted to have something for students to see and know what to get for Latin Honors. In principle, the way the current system works is to have the top ten percent receive Latin Honors, but because the colleges are different it never worked out that way. This wasn't determined based on the top ten percent of the graduating class, but rather the previous class year. His motivation was to be able to have students have predictability and transparency. The goal of 10% was low for Latin Honors. That was the answer for the need for the changes. How does this affect students in harder classes such as STEM? That was just a reality that some disciplines have higher GPAs than others. The modified version of what they were proposing was for the Suma Cum Laude being 3.95-4.0, Magna being 3.8-3.95, and then Cum Laude from 3.75-3.849. Using last May as a comparison for the group, 6.54% graduated with Latin Honors and if they applied this criteria, 13.6% would have graduated with Latin Honors. The number of students receiving Latin Honors by college would go up by 207 students. If you go through college by college, every unit would have more Latin Honors except for journalism, which would have one less, and Community Health Science, with seven fewer. Including engineering, would have had six more Latin

POSTED ON OR BEFORE 9:00 a.m.

ON THE THIRD WORKING DAY BEFORE THE MEETING

Posted at the ASUN Offices in the Joe Crowley Student Union, Frandsen Humanities Building, The Pennington Student Achievement Center, The 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 Anthony Martinez at 775-784-6589 or Speaker@asun.unr.edu.



Honors. It would mean more Latin Honors, and a predictable set of criteria to target. Their goal was to be more predictable. He thought their current system was too conservative.

Senator Hughes said could he repeat the Cum Laude?

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said: Between 3.85 and 3.75

Senator Aziz said would this be enacted for 2019

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said: Not for the December graduation but they could for the May graduation. They had additional complexities because it wasn't just GPA, you also had to have 90 credits earned, there were specific requirements for transfer students, and there were a lot of criteria. They would remove these restrictions on the 90 semester credit hours and 60 in residence so that if they have the GPA they get the honors. This always causes problems for some transfer students.

Senator Collins asked if it would be updated yearly.

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said their goal was to have set thresholds, but that didn't mean they couldn't modify them.

Senator Alvarez asked if the Deans gave any feedback

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said they were positive of the changes. They haven't seen a modified version yet. The goal was to have at least 10% of students receiving honors. In general the deans were very supportive. One college that was concerned was engineering potentially being harmed because of the more difficult curriculum, but with these changes there would be more students receiving honors.

Senator Wilcox asked him to talk about the school of business data

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said according to the information he had, the college of business would have fewer Latin Honors

Senator Wilcox asked if this applied to graduate students as well

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said that graduate students do not receive Latin Honors

Senator Sewell asked what other colleges do for their honors programs

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said it was a mixed bag. Most universities do have a fixed GPA but those thresholds vary among universities.

Senator Sewell said they just had to base it on what they had now?

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said based on this scenario, there would have been about 13.6. They would have to monitor it to think about shifting the criteria. The goal is to fix those and leave them there.

Senator Hudson said where was the difficulty with communication about the requirements?

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said because it was changing every year. You could know a year ahead of time but incoming freshmen don't know. The goal was to have 10% but because it was based on the previous years, that wasn't always the way it worked. In this most recent case, only 6% received Latin Honors.

Senator Mata asked what the benefits were from the current system and what were the reasons for it in the first place?

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said he didn't have the historical perspective. There was a rationale. If the top 10% should receive Latin Honors, recognizing that there are different GPAs in those schools and colleges, and maintaining that threshold. It needed to have an honorific and controlling the percent so that they really are the top students. Some institutions do percentages by college or some based on the university. The goal was to maintain standards.

Senator McKinney said to provide more transparency, were they trying to set one GPA for each college or one for everyone?

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said to simplicity and transparency.

Senator Hughes asked if that was applied last year, is there a college that would have the highest vs lowest number of recipients.

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said nursing would have the highest amount of Latin Honors. They had 11 students receive Latin Honors and under this new system they would have 43. Nursing GPAs tend to be high.

Senator Hughes asked if there would be a percentage of students receiving Latin Honors.

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said he had a data sheet on undergraduate education. It would be more efficient for him to send the document out to them. Keep in mind that the application of these standards to last May was hypothetical because each year those numbers vary.

Senator Feil asked if it was just nursing students or all community health science.

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said it was the school of nursing. Health science was actually under social work.

Speaker Martinez said they had proposed criteria on their legislation. Was the sum up to 4.0?

Kevin Carman, Executive Vice President & Provost said that was the proposed one once they conducted another analysis.

President Jackson said thank you to everyone who came out for the one year anniversary of Las Vegas. The Direct or Diversity and Inclusion would be doing a small event for National Coming Out day on October 11th at 3 pm.

Speaker Martinez said he wanted to give a shout out to clubs and orgs and senator Feil for their work on Dog Fest and for everyone who went to iLead.

Daniel Lang said he was the director of elections and communication. He wanted to let them know that in a few Sundays, on the 14th, he was hosting a canvassing event and they would go to the residents around the

campus and drop off information regarding the midterm elections that were happening to get the word out to vote. That event was on GivePulse, it was October 14th from 12-4.

Commissioner Fullmer he wanted to give an update on the iLead conference from the weekend. It went extremely well. 186 organization showed up with about 372 students. They learned about using their talents and creativity to make an impact. They talked about creating monthly councils and holding leadership meetings and town halls. The keynote speaker was grateful to speak at conference. The second day at iLead was the day of service where they volunteered at the SPCA thrift store. The attendance was lower but they still had a great time.

Speaker Martinez read Director Lensch's report into the record:

"Homecoming was next week, please take a flier. Some ways they can help out are by attending the pageant, Protect Out Pack event to learn about resources, donating blood on Wednesday, attending Howl Fest on Thursday in front of the Joe, and helping their organizations sign up for a carnival table. Lastly, come support the women's soccer game by attending the fan fest. Please share this information with their organizations to encourage attendance. Email him with any questions."

Speaker Martinez read Secretary Godoy's report into the record:

"Hello Senators. They have a full department of secretaries. As they integrate themselves into their committees, please be as helpful as possible. The position is overwhelming at first and the secretaries will need your help while they adjust. The Center for Student Engagement has brought back Leader of the Pack to nominate peer directors. See front desk for a paper form. I sent out point memos last Tuesday, please check out that the points are accurate. A new sheet for outreach hours is uploaded. If they don't have the sheet, please email her. Some senators did not send legislation to her or the leg clerk. Senator McKinney, please send senate bill 86 and its addendum as word documents. Senator Hughes, please send Senate Bill 86: An Act to Amend the internship program. If you have any questions, please reach out."

Senator Feil said she got to go to the ribbon cutting and opening ceremony for the Pink Hills Towers and it was cool because they gave a large donation for Pack Provisions which doubles their goal for the year. Thank you to them!

6. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE SENATE AND REFERRAL

There were no items to be heard under this agenda item at this time.

7. REPORTS OF ASUN OFFICERS

- a. President of the Associated Students, Hannah Jackson
 - b. Vice President of the Associated Students, Carissa Bradley
 - c. Chief Justice, Kate Groesbeck
 - d. Chief of Staff, Matthew Dutcher
 - e. Director of Clubs and Organizations, Luke Bittar
 - f. Director of Event Programming, Austin Lensch
- Speaker Martinez read the report into the record:

"Hello Senators! Homecoming 2018, #LoveOurPack, is NEXT week! Please take a flier as it comes around. I'd love to share some ways that you could help our department out next week. Please attend the Pageant on Monday from 7pm-9pm to support the students running to be

Nevada Royalty. Please attend our Protect Our Pack event on Tuesday from 7-9pm in the Ballrooms to learn more about resources our campus has to offer students and how you can protect one another. Please donate blood at the Blood Drive on Wednesday. We will be in the ballrooms from 10am-4:30pm. PLEASE ATTEND THE HOWL FEST ON THURSDAY! The event is in front of the Joe from 7-10pm. We need as many people out at this event representing ASUN as possible. Also, if you are a part of another organization have them sign up to have a carnival table! The link was included in the email I sent out to all of you and is due this Friday at 11:59pm. Lastly, come support the Women's Soccer team by attending the Fan Fest before the game in front of the KC. We will be there from 4:30 until the game starts at 6:30pm. Please share this information with any organization you are a part of! We would love for as many students to attend each event as possible. If you have questions, feel free to email me or catch me in the office.”

- g. Director of Legislative Affairs, Katie Worrall
- h. Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Arezo Amerzada
- i. Director of Sustainability, Sierra Jickling
- j. Director of Campus and Public Relations, Mapuana Andrade
- k. Director of Campus Wellness, Brennan Jordan
- l. Attorney General, Omar Moore
- m. Speaker of the Senate, Anthony Martinez

8. REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES

- a. Chair, Committee on Academics- Senator Collins

Senator Collins said last week they had representatives speak about the spring science fair to get started on that. She invited the senior co-editors to come to a meeting in the future. She got to speak to the IT department about offering free printing on campus. She also got in contact with Scott Mensing, in charge of undergraduate research, and they need people to sit on a panel to review for the undergraduate research award. He contacted her to get senators because ASUN donates \$25,000 towards that office. He asked for one humanities major, one social science major, and five to six STEM majors to get representation.

Senator Wilday asked when they would meet

Senator Collins said in November. They would set a time that worked. IT would be more than one day because they would read ten to 11 two page proposals to review and give feedback.

Senator Burton said for his major, it was technically STEM.

Senator Collins said it wasn't strict, he was just looking for anybody.

Senator Feil asked if they could do it if they weren't any of those majors

Senator Collins said yes.

Senator Amaya said would there be a training.

Senator Collins said he would brief them on how to grade them.

Speaker Martinez said he would also be in to talk to senate in November.

- b. Chair, Committee on Budget and Finance- Senator Grant

Senator Grant said last week they conducted reviews on Insight Magazine, General Revenues, and the Center for Student Engagement. They recommended Senate Bill 86: An act to amend the senate budget which they will see later one. This week they will meet Friday at ten in the president's conference room to review Clubs and Orgs and legal services.

Senator Hudson asked if there were more financial reviews.

Senator Grant said yes

c. Chair, Committee on Civic Engagement- Senator Feil

Senator Feil said thank you for coming to DogFest, it was really successful. They will be meeting on Friday at 2pm to give updates. Tomorrow they want to go over the Kids U event from 1-3. It's on GivePulse with the room. Could she get some more volunteers? They did this with an elementary school before. She had to go to class the second session so she wanted more volunteers. It was open to the interns as well. Sign up on GivePulse

Senator Hughes said she would send an email out to the interns.

Dr. Rodriguez said she wanted everyone to know that she did not enter her dog into the competition because it would be a conflict of interest, but she knew she was the cutest one.

Senator Feil said if they could come earlier they could help with materials.

d. Chair, Committee on Government Operations- Senator McKinney

Senator McKinney said they had a meeting earlier and favorably recommended Senate Bill 86: An Act to Amend the SAS to eliminate all gender pronouns. They would vote on it tonight. They would meet next Wednesday and work on the liaison position.

e. Chair, Committee on Public Affairs- Senator Alvarez

Senator Alvarez said they would be having a meeting this Friday at 12:30 in room 320 to approve the budget for the veteran luncheon on November 8th from 11 AM to 1:30 pm. There would be a flag retirement ceremony before that.

f. Chair, Committee on University Affairs- Senator Mata

Senator Mata said they would not have a meeting this week. Last meeting they favorably recommended Senate Bill 86: A resolution in support of increasing the graduation fee increase. It will be discussed today. They had been talking about the difference between recognized and unrecognized Greek life and explained the benefits of being recognized, such as support from the university and enforcement of grades. Next week they will have Kathleen Rey, the dean of libraries, talk to them about the cool opportunities the libraries have to come up with some outreach opportunities. They do not have a secretary available for their time and were considering switching times, please let her know if other times work.

Speaker Martinez said they could send those times to him too. They definitely want a secretary present because they are helpful.

Senator Green asked if they would still do the campus safety walk on Friday.

Senator Mata said yes, at 8pm they would meet at Sierra Hall. Please wear walking shoes because they would walk the entire campus.

Senator McKinney said he couldn't make it to the safety walk, but he had some recommendations through campus. He would come to the meeting or email.

- g.** Speaker Pro-Tempore- Senator Hughes
Speaker Pro-Tempore Hughes said she sent out an email for internship pairings and would present the proposal for hours to spend with them. They had to work out some things with points. They are excited to learn.

Speaker Martinez said some of them were in public comment right now and were eager to learn.

- h.** Chair, Committee on Oversight- Speaker Martinez
Speaker Martinez said they would not be having senate on the 31st but they were required to come, they just didn't have to dress up. They can be wearing costumes. They would have a training and a review. For oversight, they would talk about outreach hours and approve a budget.

9. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no comments or announcements at this time.

10. MOTIONS TO FAST-TRACK APPOINTMENTS

There were no items to be heard under this agenda item at this time.

11. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS OF SENATORS AND ASUN OFFICIALS

There were no items to be heard under this agenda item at this time.

12. VETO MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

There were no veto messages at this time.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

There was no legislation filed for the Consent Agenda.

14. FIRST READING OF LEGISLATION

The following bills and resolutions received their first reading and were considered under item 16 of this agenda:

- a. **S.R. 86 – A Resolution in Support of Changing the Requirements for Graduating with Latin Honors**
- b. **S.B. 86 – An Act to Make a Three Percent Reduction to the ASUN Budget for Fiscal Year 2019**
- c. **S.R. 86 – A Resolution in Support of Increasing the Graduation Fee**
- d. **S.B. 86 – An Act to Amend the SAS to Eliminate All Gender Pronouns**

15. MOTIONS TO FAST-TRACK LEGISLATION

There were no items to be heard under this agenda item at this time.

16. REFERRALS TO COMMITTEE

There was no legislation to be considered for referral at this time.

17. SECOND READING OF LEGISLATION

The following bills and resolutions received their second reading and were considered:

- a. **S.R. 86 – A Resolution in Support of Changing the Requirements for Graduating with Latin Honors**

Senator Amaya moved to approve a. S.R. 86 – A Resolution in Support of Changing the Requirements for Graduating with Latin Honors.
Seconded by Senator Burton.

Senator Burton moved to amend this resolution, line item one, to read: Summa 4.0-3.95 GPA, Magna 3.5-3.94, and Cum Laude to read 3.75-3.849 unanimously.
Amendment carried.

Senator Collins said they already knew a lot about this from Provost Carmen. Right now each college has their own proposed criteria and it changes every year based on the previous years. This would make it easier for incoming freshmen to recognize what GPA they should have to graduate with this. If it changes, freshmen can't tell what they need to graduate. The new criteria is a wider range and make it consistent across each college.

Senator Rogers left the room at 6:15 pm
Senator Rogers entered the room at 6:21 pm

Senator Collins said if they did vote in favor, it wouldn't for sure happen. It was just a resolution.

Senator McKinney said if they approved this, did they have any information about their constituents' opinion

Speaker Martinez said this went back to trustee and delegate.

Senator Collins said she hadn't spoken to students but she knew according to Provost Carmen, a number of colleges would increase in honors rates so she assumed students would like to see that as well.

Senator Hudson said the removal of other requirements wasn't in this legislation, should that be in it?

Speaker Martinez said that would likely be on their own. This was just showing support of the resolution.

Senator Hudson asked if they could amend it

Speaker Martinez said yes

Senator Burton asked if line item one was their proposal?

Senator Collins said yes that was their proposal.

Senator Burton said it would be more appropriate to wait until Dr. Carmen sent out the document with all the numbers for the colleges and their percentages to see if it was fair.

Senator Hughes asked if they could table it.

Speaker Martinez asked if they could table it.

Senator Collins said yes they could table it

Senator Burton moved to table the resolution to the next meeting.

Senator Feil seconded.

Senator Mata said there was no academics meeting so they couldn't look into it

Senator Collins said were they going to individually look over the documents or should it go back to the committee

Senator Feil said she would like it to go to committee so they can discuss changing the other requirements as well.

Senator Burton said they could forward this to the committee if they let the motion die.

Senator Alvarez said some concern she had was the quick turnaround rate in May. There were several seniors she knew who were expecting an honors in May and that could have backlash. She would prefer them to wait a year.

Senator Wilday said another reason for tabling was because the requirements were different for each college. It would be more favorable to support having a set requirement for each college rather than one requirement for every college.

The motion failed.

Senator Burton moved to refer this legislation back to the committee on academics.
Seconded by Senator Clemons.

Senator Hudson said if a lot of them had concerns they should come to the committee.

Speaker Martinez said to send them questions if they had any.

Motion carried.

b. S.B. 86 – An Act to Make a Three Percent Reduction to the ASUN Budget for Fiscal Year 2019

Senator Burton moved to approve S.B. 86 – An Act to make a Three Percent Reduction to the ASUN Budget for Fiscal Year 2019.

Senator Wilday seconded.

Senators Clemons, Wilcox, and Feil left the room at 6:30 pm.

Senator Grant said the 3% reduction was due to a lower enrollment than expected. The highlighted numbers needed to be changed.

Senator Green said some of the changes were in professional salaries, classified salaries, and student wages. Did he know what wages would be cut?

Senator Grant said they would not hire another assistant accounting.

Dr. Rodriguez said they weren't cutting student wages, they just weren't going to rehire an assistant director for accounting. In the meanwhile she had to up the salary for the accounting tech doing

this alone. They still haven't hired the coordinator for publications but they were going through applications. All those savings are being used.

Senator Alvarez asked the difference between professional and classified salaries

Dr. Rodriguez said administrative faculty don't do 40 hour work weeks – they work until they get the job done. Classified staff are only allowed to work 40 hours a week.

Senator Aziz said on the reduction for campus escort, was that in terms of operating by reducing hours or hiring fewer employees.

Senator Sewell said that President Jackson didn't meant to highlight that one.

Senator Aziz retracted.

Speaker Martinez said President Jackson talked about this.

Senator Grant said President Jackson had already explained in the box why they were making those changes.

The motion carried.

Senators Feil, Wilcox, and Clemons entered the room at 6:30 pm.

c. **S.R. 86 – A Resolution in Support of Increasing the Graduation Fee**

Senator Alvarez moved to approve S.R. 86 – A Resolution in Support of Increasing the Graduation Fee.

Senator Hudson seconded.

Senator Mata moved to amend line item ten-12 to state: A copy of this resolution will be sent to Marc Johnson, Shannon Ellis, and others.

Seconded by Senator Aziz.

Senator Burton said his concern was that was it necessary to have this resolution on the desk of so many people?

Senator Martinez said it was being sent to the individuals it concerned.

Senator Mata said it would only go to four people and they asked to have this resolution.

Amendment carried.

Senator Mata said they had been talking about this for a while. The fee was \$75 and it would now be \$95 to go to paying for the people that check to make sure that people can graduate, printing pamphlets, and reserving Lawler. If they don't approve this resolution, all graduation would not be in the quad. That's the biggest change. The fee was increasing because there were a lot more people and more graduations. They didn't want to be picky about selecting on ADA, bomb squad, and security. In terms of student outreach, because of how fast they have to pass this, they weren't allowed to do as much outreach as they wanted to. People did talk to their classes and most people did not like it until they were told they would have to graduate in Lawler and then they liked it.

Some people said they didn't care what happened but just didn't want it to increase. She also had an email from the leader of the Graduate Student Association.

Speaker Martinez read the memo into record: Dear All, the unexpected time constraint has limited the GSA from reaching out to constituents. However, the feedback they received indicated that they would extend their support. They trust in their administration to put this money to good use to provide an excellent graduation experience.

Senator Mata said the GSA was also in favor.

Senator Wilday said after speaking with a few classes in the liberal arts, a lot of people had the same feedback that Senator Mata received.

Senator Alvarez said as a student ambassador she had to work with Senator Amaya. Graduation was quite an event. Last year had some security issues they were concerned about. They cannot skim over security and ADA. A lot of parents did not like to watch students across the screen.

Senator Mata said in the past they ran out of money and weren't able to hire a bomb sweep and they had a bomb threat and had to evacuate in the middle of the ceremony.

Senator Rogers said a large majority of the college of education had disabilities and special accommodations.

Senator Grant said everyone had the same thoughts on this. They did vote to approve this in the student fee committee and last year they had a \$50,000 deficit and were using a fund that is now empty.

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

Motion carried.

d. **S.B. 86 – An Act to Amend the SAS to Eliminate All Gender Pronouns**

Senator Wilday moved to approve S.B. 86 – An Act to Amend the SAS to Eliminate All Gender Pronouns.

Senator Feil seconded.

Senator McKinney said he went through the SAS and eliminated all gender pronouns to make more inclusivity.

Senator Amaya said she thought this was longer overdue

Senator Mata said they personally educated themselves on gender inclusive language and they looked over the changes made to the SAS.

Speaker Martinez said he would encourage everyone to write a resolution to encourage professors and the university to eliminate gender pronouns.

Senator McKinney said he was currently writing that resolution.

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

Motion carried.

18. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

a. Senate Committee Changes

There were no committee changes at this time.

b. Senator Reports

There were Senator Reports at this time.

19. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no comments or announcements at this time.

20. PUBLIC COMMENT

Senator Mata said national coming out day was coming out. Here are some dos and don'ts: Don't say I always knew, it was obvious. This is a really big deal to people so just say you support them.

Senator Alvarez said to all of those who have said Me Too on campus: She believes you.

Director Rodriguez said this resolution on gender pronouns, she remembers the senate battle when the language was changed because it was always a male pronoun, and then it became him/her and now they are at gender inclusive language.

21. ADJOURNMENT

Speaker Martinez adjourned the meeting at 6:48 pm.