

Committee on Civic Engagement

Senate of the Associated Students 86th Session

Minutes for Friday, September, 7th, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

3rd Floor Joe Crowley Student Union- President's Conference Room

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting on the Committee on Civic Engagement was called to order at 2:08 pm on Friday, September 7th, 2018, in the President's Conference Room of the Joe Crowley Student Union. Presiding Secretary, Kaitie Christensen.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Senators Amaya, Clemons, Collins, Feil, Green, McKinney, and Grant were present. Senators Rogers and Yeghiyahan were absent excused.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

4. **MINUTES**

There are no minutes to be heard at this time.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

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

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Presentation/Discussion with President Jackson**

The Committee will discuss the vision of Civic Engagement for students and "No Walls 2025"

President Jackson asked how the committee would define Civic Engagement

Senator Collins said being civically engaged didn't just mean politics, it also meant being involved in the community and volunteering to benefit the community.



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 Feil at senatorfeil@asun.unr.edu.

Senator Feil said she thought about leading by example and how they expect to put on these events for students. She wanted to volunteer in outreach as well.

President Jackson asked what it encompassed

Senator Green said it was about getting out into the community and being a bigger part of something

President Jackson said she would define it as any way you are working to make the community around you better. They have a really big opportunity this year to expand. Students think civic engagement is volunteering and voting but they can do more such as activism and self governance which they do every day through ASUN. Try to think big picture. She was glad Amy, Monique, and James were here. She looked at a document called a “crucible Moment” that outlines the role of higher education in democracy. It was a national task force that was created and published. It was a national call to action that started different organizational initiatives. One of those is NASPA Lead. It’s long so she will send it out. It takes a big picture look at their role. NASPA Lead was created for student affairs administrators in higher education. They do a lot of civic learning and democratic engagement work. They put on the CLDE conference and there is an organization called the Democracy Project as well as focus on community college engagement. They also work on different ways that they can implement these practices called the CLDE theory of change. If you head these words like civic agency and civic literacy, they are defined in these documents. There are different blogs with ways they can create a democracy and different talks and information. The meetings are based on what’s happening in the world and what the need for action is. This year the focus was hunger, homelessness, DACA and immigration, climate change, free speech, activism, etc. Those were good resources. UNR is a consulting institution and Amy is the co-chair for NASPA’s democratic engagement community. On the center for student engagement website they had information on the initiatives too. It was a national program.

Amy said that they have a new group this year that will include UNLV. It was exciting to start having these discussions statewide. There were other institutions as well. They meet monthly. One of the dialogues she was talking about was Baylor university doing a lot of work around the dialogues and discussions. In the spring they had one on immigration and they helped to train the facilitators. The Knowledge Community is different. Lead is institutional commitment but in NASPA they have 40 different Knowledge Communities. They have topics for people to join discussions and learn things. CLDE is a large group so it’s hard to focus especially because it’s an election year. These aren’t always talked about in student affairs even though it should be a part of everyone’s job to help to get people registered to vote. That was their platform, to spread CLDE in every profession because it was an important part of the democracy across every professor. It was a new program made up of 40 individuals across colleges doing similar work.

President Jackson said it should be interdisciplinary, not just in this office. They talked about the broad definition of what it is. They are a civic minded campus. It’s not everywhere when the president will sit down and talk to the students. We value working together to solve problems. The goal was to integrate that into the classroom and the community. Some of the history of civic learning on the campus began as a “cocreation” to develop shared governance and advocacy. Not every university has all of the things that we do at UNR and the mission itself was learning, discovery, and engagement. Civics was part of all those pieces. They talked about it at retreat to create a civic plan that focused on global citizenship and engagement. They talked about NASPA lead and ASUN. They have been a consulting institution since 2014. they have been implementing CLDE conferences. Pack provisions is part of that along with events like Elect Her, Turbo Vote, Givepulse, and doing different philanthropies and recognition programs like the 100 hour challenge and the Silver Paw award. These reframe the way that they run student government, like deliberately inviting people and giving them talking point to engage. Leg affairs does a lot of open forums. They encourage activism through their website by showing people how to organize and do activism. The next level is voting and volunteerism. This leads to No Walls 2025. Some of her goals were the public deliberation initiative, democracy plaza, promoting student participation in state and local government, and more civic pathways through the givepulse pathway

that focus on not just volunteer opportunities but also engagement in the community. They talk about jargon a lot like “civic ethos” so they need to work on helping other people see the bigger picture and realize that they are part of something greater than themselves.

Senator Feil said Hannah was showing them the big picture. She went to the conference without realizing what was going on until she stood back and saw the magnitude at the national level related to their campus. This campus has a lot of really cool things that other campuses don't. They dug into this at retreat but she wanted to familiarize themselves with it. A lot of these things were in the process already on this campus.

Senator Green asked what it meant to adopt a cocurricular transcript.

Dr. Beattie said it meant outside of the classroom so givepulse could track all of their civic engagement opportunities

Senator Clemons said how would they integrate service learning into the classroom.

Dr. Beattie said they would have to work with the faculty senate to work on implement that into classroom requirements

Senator Clemons asked if they could integrate it into the classroom to get extra credit

Senator Feil said that was individual

Dr. Beattie said service learning wasn't episodic volunteering

Monique said there were service learning classes through the education department

President Jackson asked if anyone took a service learning class

Senator Collins said she was required to take a class for honors where they chose from a list of organizations. She chose the discovery museum and worked there for five hours a week. Hers was science based because she was a science major and it was integrated into the classroom.

President Jackson said she did a similar one as an education major and it involved a lot of discussion and reflection. IT was integrated into the classroom. There are other ones like in predoctoral programs where you help out in the community. A challenge was getting faculty to buy into it because it was a lot of extra work without extra compensation. One of the things they changed in the board of regents handbook was to add an “engagement” component for tenured faculty.

Dr. Beattie said that engagement wasn't just service learning. For academic faculty the quickest thing to get tenure were teaching evaluations and publications. By the time you are full professors you can focus on civic learning. New professors, especially professors of color, are encouraged to sit on committees. The university needs to incentivize engagement

President Jackson said to talk to the office of service learning and civic engagement because they facilitate these models. Look at other schools too – at the University of Washington students are required to take a social justice course.

Senator Feil said No Walls was seeking to reach out to the community. Something she thought was cool was that half of this stuff was in motion, for example, campus wide community service initiatives. Canines for

Independence was a big step in that direction. That was really big picture and could be daunting but they had a great opportunity to get stuff done.

b. Presentation of Upcoming Civic Engagement Opportunities with Amy Koeckes

Amy said she brought Monique with her to work on civic engagement stuff. She would share things she has been working on.

Monique said next week was September 11, they had a day of remembrance and service. It was a school day so it was hard to do service but they would have a table for thank you cards for the firefighters in the community as well as an interactive site to see the events of the day. That was 11 AM to 2 PM. They also have constitution day coming up. They needed volunteers to come up and read the constitution in front of the KC from 10 AM to noon. They would also hand out pocket constitutions. In the theater from 6pm to 8pm they would show a film of American Creed which discussed voting and civic engagement

Senator McKinney said what was the time and the date

Monique said the movie was on September 17 from 6pm to 8 pm

Senator Feil said they could also sign up for Givepulse

Amy said they had blood drives happening, some were sponsored by clubs and orgs. Pack Provisions will be doing mobile Monday to hand out fresh groceries from the food bank. Sometimes they get potatoes or sometimes they get mangoes. They are also getting ready for panhellenic's philanthropy event on the 22nd. They received some club funding. They were looking to go out into the community and table at two places to build community relations with people in the community at Wingfield park. There was another festival about going out in the community.

Monique said it was also to celebrate Hispanic heritage month

Amy said they met with the American Red Cross and Spread the Word who clean books and hand them out. They are mostly based in Vegas but they are coming up here. Veterans groups would be coming up too. They were adding partners. At the end of the month on September 25 was voter registration day

Monique said they would have stations for people to register to vote on campus

Amy said the other big thing was dogfest, Pack the Park at the end of the month. They were asking for help for park clean up before and after. They will also have a visitor from Canines for Companions to share what their program has done for them. Vanessa has secured some face painters. The goal to raise money was 20,000 and they were at 13,000. It was really close and they keep getting sponsorships. New York life just contacted her to donate. They partnered with athletics. The muscle man's daughter will be the judge of the costume contest and they set up a photoshoot with the basketball team for the people who have canine companions can come get a picture with them. Dogfest keeps growing and morphing into them. She wanted to talk to them about the dialogues. They were doing two deliberate dialogues. The first was on mental health. They did a campus wide survey to ask students what kinds of dialogues they wanted to talk about and they said they wanted to talk about mental health. They were partnering

with the communications department to act as moderates for this event. They also need volunteers for Kids University.

Senator Feil said it was a really cute event they had a mock senate for the kids. She wanted to bring in a kid and his family and create a binding resolution to create an “honorary senator” position and make his dog the president for the day. They would set up some tabling events.

Amy said Logan and Lark came for a tour last week. They haven’t released this photo yet, but they wanted to before the end of the month. Logan is taking one class here, he isn’t quite a student yet but next year he would hopefully be accepted. Lark, his companion, helps him out a lot to provide him independence and change his life.

Senator Feil said the closer they got they would have more sign ups.

c. Debrief of Service Palooza

The Committee will discuss Service Palooza’s successes, failures, and everything in between.

Senator Feil said she wanted to talk about their thoughts on service palooza. She met with Dr. Beattie and Amy to go over what worked, what was weird, what needed to be fixed, and to email out a survey to vendors.

Senator Grant said the food trucks were great.

Senator Green said the vegan burritos were good

Senator Collins said one of the big things was people kept complaining about the lines. That wasn’t service but it was a general comment. People were more focused on the food than the service. She wanted to get their focus off of the food and on the events.

Senator Feil said it was hard because the food was the attraction. That’s why you had the passport system. Once they had that passport and started talking to people they realized there were a lot of opportunities or it was really cool. They needed a bit of a push.

Senator McKinney said as he walked around he would offer to talk to the service programs with them. They had more of an open mind that way. The whole event went well. He came a little late but it was a good environment.

Senator Feil said that was about leading by example to excite their friends

Senator Green said when they ran out of tickets, people would just leave. People should check out the food without the incentive.

Senator McKinney said that as senators they were focused on service but the programmers were focused on Taste of Reno so they all needed to be on the same page.

Senator Feil said they had a good turnout and served 750 to 1000 people. The groups were pretty happy. She would put feedback in the legacy box.

d. Discuss Legislation on Mandatory Community Service Hours

The Committee will explore the idea of mandatory community service hours within outreach hours.

Senator Feil said she talked with Secretary Godoy and some past senators about mandatory hours. She thought they should change the two week period into a four week period so it was an hour every week, and then two of those hours would have to be community service. It would be easier for the secretaries to collect. Of eight total hours, only two would have to be service.

Senator Grant said if they switch it too a four week thing it might get super clustered. Suggest one hour within the four week period to keep them on track

Senator Green said would they change it to eight hours every four weeks

Senator Grant said it would still be four hours every two weeks, but they would turn it in every four weeks

Senator Feil said they could figure out the periods and hours. This would be a binding resolution to require civic engagement to be a senator. They could get data on the past years. Half the time you are doing civic engagement. It can be volunteering with Programming or givepulse. It was very feasible. They didn't do it last session because they ran out of time.

Senator McKinney said it was a good idea. There was some confusion surrounding them. Mandatory one out of the four hours was good because it was something they were supposed to be doing. There was difference between community service and service with constituents. You were also getting your name out there and meeting new people.

Senator Feil said they could define that when they write this legislation in a few weeks.

Senator Clemons said could they get all four hours from an event

Senator Feil said it was maximum of two and minimum of one

Dr. Beattie said he was on the fence. Outreach hours were meant to be with constituents. It was changed to do outreach to get in contact with students who won't walk into senate. It helps to benefit things. If half of the hours can be spent doing service somewhere else, how does that help your students? Community service should be something you want to do. By talking to students while you volunteer at the programming event it might boost the opinion of ASUN.

President Jackson said they talked about an alternative last year. She understood that as an officer you should be a leader. Last year they talked about having a coordinated day or time every month to go to the food bank or do volunteerism.

Senator Feil said she talked to Secretary Godoy about that and the only concern was accessibility. As a committee though should provide these events. Tabling for dog fest was a good example

Dr. Beattie said that was good because that would be around students. Brandon Boone adopted a park and got all of ASUN to go down there, clean it up, and move bark. Putting that together was civic engagement.

Senator Feil said this wasn't in stone yet

Senator Clemons asked if volunteering with programming was community service or outreach

Dr. Beattie said it was both, you would pick one or the other if you had to count it for hours

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm

9. NOTES.

Unless otherwise marked by an asterisk, all items are action items upon which the Senate may take action. ASUN supports providing equal access to all programs for people with disabilities. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically handicapped persons desiring to attend the meeting. Please call the Speaker of the ASUN at (775) 784-6589 in advance so that arrangements may be conveniently made.