

Committee on Academics

Senate of the Associated Students 86th Session
Minutes for Friday, September 21st, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.
3rd Floor Joe Crowley Student Union President's Conference Room

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Senator Collins called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. in the President's Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union. Presiding secretary, Dominique Hernandez

2. **ROLL CALL**

Senator Collins, Hudson, Hughes, Sewell, and Wilcox were present.

Senator Amaya was absent excused

Senator Wilday was tardy unexcused.

A quorum was present.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time

4. **MINUTES**

- a. The minutes from April 27th, 2018
- b. The minutes from May 4th, 2018
- c. The minutes from September 14th 2018

The only minutes that were available at this time were the minutes from April 27th, 2018.

Senator Collins sought a motion to approve the minutes from April 27th, 2018.

Senator Hudson moved to approve the minutes from April 27th, 2018 through unanimous consent.

Motion carries.

Posted at the ASUN Offices in the Joe Crowley Student Union, Frandsen Humanities Building, the Pennington Student Achievement Center, 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 Collins at senatorcollins@asun.unr.edu.



5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Committee Senator Updates

Senator Collins said she would like to see if the committee has gotten started on their emails and liaison positions.

Senator Sewell said she emailed the tutoring center and set up meeting. She also had a meeting with the office of provost.

Senator Hughes said she went over with the office of provost as well

Senator Hudson said she hasn't heard back from her liaison positions.

Senator Wilcox said him and senator Wilday reached out to faculty senate and hadn't received a response.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion on Senate Res. 86 A Resolution in Support of Changing the Requirements for Graduating with Latin Honors

Senator Collins sought a motion to favorably recommend Senate Res. 86 a resolution in support of changing the requirements for graduating with Latin honors

Senator Hudson moved to favorably recommend Senate Res. 86 through unanimous consent

Senator Collins asked if there was any dissent to the motion

Senator Collins said she submitted this piece because President Jackson was emailed by the Provost and they were discussing the Latin honors requirements at the University. As of now, each college has their own requirements and it changes every year. Because of the requirements changing so much, it difficult for students to keep up with requirements for their college. What they basically proposed as a resolution is to make the requirements for graduation uniform for all colleges. This would make the format simpler to understand. All the deans proposed a new criteria.

Senator Sewell asked Senator Collins why they wanted to do a standard GPA across every college. As an engineering student, the engineering GPA average is much lower than those of the college of education for example. She said she doesn't know how she feels about this proposal due to some colleges requiring more difficult classes than others.

Senator Collins replied that she isn't sure why they are changing the GPA requirements specifically.

Senator Sewell said looking at this change from an overall perspective, students in challenging colleges would suffer more and be unrecognized.

Senator Collins said that President Jackson's reasoning was that students would be aware of the GPA requirements early on in their college careers rather than two years before they graduate.

Senator Hughes said that currently students in the top 1% of their college graduates receive the Summa Cum Laude academic recognition award, students in the 5-1.01% receive the Magna Cum Laude, and the students in the top 10-5.01% receive the Cum Laude. What she is understanding from this, if they raise those standards in the colleges where the GPAs are generally lower, there wouldn't be 10% of the population anymore. It is concerning and unfair that 10% of a college to be receiving these awards, while 5% of another college receives these awards.

Dr. Beattie asked that how would student's know what to shoot for? Students would be unaware if they were on track for academic recognition in general.

Senator Hudson said it is unfair for all of the colleges to be held at the same standard. Why do they keep changing it every two years per college?

Dr. Beattie said they do it based on the average of graduates per college. They are doing it based on percentage every two years. If they change it it wouldn't be based on percentages anymore.

Senator Sewell said as far as what GPA you know you have to shoot for, they change it every two years but they post it on the school catalogue. For example, for the college of engineering right now, in order to graduate with honors students would need a 3.991, 3.885, or a 3.77. Whereas students for other colleges all differ.

Senator Collins said she never considered the difficulty level.

Dr. Beattie said if this was going to be pushed to senate today, he recommends provost come inform someone and answer all these questions.

Senator Collins said she agrees and as of now there is a lot of concern. We obviously have a lot of questions so we need someone to come and answer them before we can agree to motion.

Senator Hughes said that currently if they changed Cum Laude to be 3.8 and above, the school of journalism is currently only required a 3.612. That number is already the ten percent for that college so if it were to be risen, it would drastically affect the college as a whole. This proposal would seriously impact different colleges disproportionality.

Senator Collins asked the committee if they would like her to get into contact with President Jackson or the provost to talk to them and answer their questions.

Senator Sewell asked Dr. Beattie what he would recommend them doing. She said if they table the meeting in committee then it won't go to senate. She feels like it would be most beneficial for all the senators to hear what the provost has to say about the proposal. Would we have to favorably recommend it in order to get it into senate?

Dr. Beattie said years ago, the speaker of Senate and the Chair on Oversight committee

unfavorably recommended something to senate. I'm unsure how procedural that is. You could recommend it to senate unfavorably or favorably. Another option is recommending it to senate favorably with discussion. You could explain the situation to whoever is going to present the resolution in senate as well. You could give the provost some questions a week ahead in order to prepare him to answer them.

Senator Collins said that resolution is on the agenda for the upcoming week in senate. However, if they can't get the provost to speak they can always ask Speaker Martinez to put it on the agenda for the following week. We are currently motioned to favorably recommend. When I present it, I can say we have several points of discussion we'd like to talk about.

Senator Wilcox said he would like to unfavorably recommend it, but still move it to senate.

Senator Collins took a motion to favorably recommend Senate Resolution 86.

The motion doesn't pass

Senator Collins took a motion to unfavorably recommend Senate Resolution 86.

Senator Hudson moved to unfavorably recommend Senate Resolution 86 through unanimous consent.

There was no decent to this motion.

Motion carries.

Senator Hudson asked for a point of clarification. Because we didn't favorably recommend it, we can't vote on it in Senate?

Dr. Beattie answered that what the committee did was send the resolution to senate without a favorable recommendation. This is saying that you're recommending that Senate pass it.

Senator Sewell said they are bringing it to Senate so everyone in senate can hear what the committee on academics has to say about it as well as our problems with it.

Senator Hughes asked Senator Collins what the time constraint on this resolution was.

Senator Collins said there is no rush on the committee to approve.

Senator Sewell asked what other colleges do with graduations. Do they use percentages or some other system?

Senator Collins said she was unsure and she could ask President Jackson.

Senator Sewell said a ranking system could be effective and it might be able to go onto MyNevada easily.

Senator Collins said she would be in contact with the Provost.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT***

There was no public comment at this time.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee on Academics meeting was adjourned at 1:29 pm.