

Committee on Public Affairs

Senate of the Associated Students 86th Session
Minutes for Friday, November 2, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.
3rd Floor of the Joe Crowley Student in the President's Conference Room

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Senator Alvarez called the Committee on Public Affairs to order at 12:05 pm in the President's Conference Room on the Third Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union. Presiding secretary, Breanna Czerlanis

2. ROLL CALL

Senator Alvarez, Senator Aziz, Senator Green, Senator Mata, and Senator Rodgers were present.

A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. **Jason Geddes**, Vice Chairman of the Board of Regents

There was no public comment at this time.

Senator Alvarez said they are waiting for Jason Geddes to come to the meeting.

4. MINUTES

There were no minutes to be approved at this time.

5. REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Director Worrall said she has many things to update them on. She said the Department of Legislative Affairs is working on a survey for students to fill out to help them during the legislative session. She said the survey will help them decide what they should lobby for. Director Worrall said they will be giving the first 100 people who fill out the survey vendor gift cards for places on or near campus. She said people who fill out the survey will also be entered in a raffle for bigger prizes. She said the Department will need help get the survey out to

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.

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students. Director Worrall said they will be tabling with tablets to get students to fill out the survey on November 12th as well as December 3rd.

Senator Alvarez asked if Director Worrall was planning on announcing the survey during the next Senate meeting.

Director Worrall said she will be announcing the idea of the survey and everything going into it, but not the actual survey. She said she will also be asking for help distributing the survey.

Senator Alvarez said next Senate they have the Town Hall and there will be no reports.

Director Worrall said okay.

Senator Aziz said Director Worrall can discuss it during public comment.

Director Worrall said yes. She said there will be a leadership luncheon next semester to recognize students who are active in the political process. She said they will be inviting legislators to come to the event and meet the students. Director Worrall said the Department of Legislative Affairs has held this event in the past. She said they are trying to focus the event more to students, so their voices are heard. Director Worrall said the leadership luncheon will be held on March 31st in the ballrooms on the fourth floor Joe Crowley Student Union. She said she will be working on ideas for how the Department of Legislative Affairs and the Committee on Public Affairs can work together on the event. She said the event for affordable housing event will be November 26th from 6pm to 8pm in the Great Room on the fourth floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union. She said she would love if the Committee on Public Affairs assisted with the event. Director Worrall said the event will focus on students' experiences or connections with affordable housing and the event will be to help students. She said community organizations will be at the event as well. Director Worrall said she thinks the event is related to the Committee on Public Affairs. She said the Senators should email her if they would like to help with the event. Director Worrall said the Department of Legislative Affairs has been focusing on the Native American Voting Rights Act of 2018 introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Tom Udall. She said Policy Director Cailles is taking the lead for the bill. Director Worrall said Policy Director Cailles will be meeting with the Native American Student Organization on campus as well as the Department of Diversity and Inclusion to see how the Department of Legislative Affairs can help get the bill passed. She said the Department of Legislative Affairs will be meeting with the City Council Woman Neoma Jarden for Ward 5, which includes the University. Director Worrall said Policy Director Cailles attended the City Council meeting where he met City Council Woman Jarden and set up a meeting. She said the Department thought of the idea to start a Reno College City Council similar to the Reno Youth City Council. She said the Mayor had discussed it years ago, but the Department of Legislative Affairs would like to bring the idea back up. Director Worrall said they would like to encourage more students to apply for the City Council Public Boards. She said Policy Director Cailles stated the members currently on those boards are not representative of the students. She said they are in the beginning stages of planning a huge Nevada System of Higher Education lobby day during the first week of the legislative session on February 8th. Director Worrall said the Department has new tabling times and the Senators may attend if they would like. She said the new times are Tuesday from 11am to 1pm and Wednesday from 10am to 1pm in front of the Joe Crowley Student Union if the weather permits. Director Worrall said on Election Day,

which is November 6th, they will be giving away free donuts to remind students to vote from 11am to 1pm outside the Joe Crowley Student Union.

Dr. Beattie said last year they handed out bags of popcorn that had a voting instructions pamphlet stapled to the bag.

Director Worrall asked if they would have to purchase popcorn bags.

Dr. Beattie said she should ask Helena Farrar, but they would probably have to purchase the popcorn.

Senator Alvarez asked if there were any questions.

Senator Green asked what date the affordable housing event was.

Director Worrall said November 26th.

Senator Alvarez asked for clarification on what they should write Bill Draft Requests on.

Director Worrall said they should write Bill Draft Requests for anything pertaining to students. She encouraged them to work together to come to a consensus on two to three, at most five, Bill Draft Requests to get sponsored. She said they are not likely to get ten different Bill Draft Requests sponsored. She said they should put ideas out to get people to think about what they can do at the state level.

Senator Alvarez said there was some confusion after the senate training.

Senator Green said he talked to Senator Alvarez after the training. He said he wasn't sure if the divestment Bill Draft Request was feasible if it was going through the Nevada System for Higher Education Board of Regents. He said he isn't sure if the State Assembly could tackle the issue. Senator Green asked Director Worrall for her thoughts.

Director Worrall said they will need to look into the issue more. She said she would like to create a Bill Draft request relating to environmental issues and have it sponsored by Assembly Woman Peters. She said they are more likely to add to a Bill Draft Request that was already created or talk about divestment issues at the state level.

Senator Alvarez asked if there were any questions.

There were no questions at this time.

Senator Alvarez thanked Director Worrall.

6. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed at this time.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Bill Draft Requests

Senator Alvarez said they should present on Bill Draft Requests today if they are applicable to students. She said they don't have to write Bill Draft Requests for education, but they can.

Senator Aziz said he looked into the Bill Draft Request for the Committee to Conduct a Study on the cost and affordability of higher education. He said the Bill Draft Request is based off Assembly Bill 202 from the State Legislature in 2017 which created an interim committee to study the affordability in higher education. He said the goal was to examine and evaluate the need in the state for existing and potential programs for higher education to ensure economic progress and development and workforce development within the state and to make sure the educational needs of residents are being met. He said Section 2, Subsection C includes options for a needs base grant program for eligible students within the Nevada System for Higher Education similar to the Silver State Grant Opportunity program. Senator Aziz said the Bill Draft Request is working on that clause from 2017 to ensure the committee starts developing a grant program for need based students. He said it is difficult to find information about the Bill Draft Request.

Senator Alvarez asked if there were any questions.

Director Worrall said she wanted to clarify. She said the interim committee already met. She said it's already included in the legislative session to be voted on and expanding the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship.

Senator Aziz asked Director Worrall if she heard about the changes in the Millennium Scholarship. He asked if all the Bill Draft Requests were associated.

Director Worrall said yes. She said the committee met in June. Director Worrall said some members of the Department of Legislative Affairs and Senator Alvarez to testify. She said the committee submitted all four Bill Draft Requests. She said she can go over it more next time.

Senator Alvarez asked Director Worrall if she knew when they were voting on the pieces of legislation.

Director Worrall said they are Bill Draft Requests. She said the Bill is not written yet, which is why Senator Aziz could not find information on it. She said the Bill Draft Request will go to the Legislative Council who will write the language that is going to change the Nevada Statute. She said that will then be read on the assembly floor and then assigned to a committee. Director Worrall said it can take them time to read through all the Bill Draft Requests and it is good this one is near the beginning.

Senator Alvarez said they will take a more in depth look into that Bill Draft Request.

Senator Green said he is looking into the divestment Bill Draft Request Director Worrall discussed the other night. He asked Director Worrall if Legislative Affairs could do research on the Bill Draft Request and set up a meeting to talk about it. He said he reached out to Director Jickling since she has been working on the divestment campaign. He said himself, Director Jickling, and Director Worrall attended the Investment Committee meeting at the Nevada System for Higher Education Board of Regent meeting. He said at the next Board of Regents meeting they will discuss what a carbon neutral portfolio might look like.

Senator Alvarez asked if there were any questions.

There were no questions at this time.

Senator Mata said there are a couple Bill Draft Requests focusing on Washoe County education. Senator Mata asked if they can look into those.

Senator Alvarez said it is up to Senator Mata. She said in the 84th Session for the ASUN Senate they wrote a resolution on Washoe County Question 1.

Senator Mata said there is not much information for the Washoe County Bill Draft Requests they want to investigate. Senator Mata said there is a Bill Draft Request for Washoe County that says the Board of Regents will not be based off elections anymore, they will be appointed. Senator Mata said they would like to investigate the Bill Draft Request some more.

Senator Alvarez said they can look after after the committee meeting to discuss the Bill Draft Request. She asked if there were any questions.

There were no questions at this time.

Senator Rodgers said she is looking into two bills that revise provisions related to mental health. She said she would like to look into those bills more as students are becoming more aware of their mental health.

Senator Alvarez asked if there were any questions.

There were no questions at this time.

Senator Alvarez thanked the Senators. She said they will have one-on-one meetings to affectively track the Bill Draft Requests.

b. Chair Updates

Senator Alvarez said they received the lapel pins. She said they will be given out to the first 150 people at the Veteran's Luncheon. She asked if the Senators will be able to attend the event. Senator Alvarez said the event will be from 11am to 1:30pm.

Senator Rodgers said she can be at the event from 11am to 12pm.

Senator Alvarez said okay.

Senator Mata said they cannot attend the event.

Senator Alvarez said she understands. She said she would like to have it on record who will be coming, and she thanked the Senators. She said there will be many speakers and many important people at the event. Senator Alvarez said she would like the Senators to be on their best behaviors, though she knows they will be. Senator Alvarez expressed her excitement for the event.

Senator Green asked when the banner will be signed.

Senator Alvarez said they will be tabling Monday from 12pm to 2:30pm. She asked if anyone is available.

Senator Rodgers said she is available from 12pm to 1pm.

Senator Green said he is available from 1pm to 3pm.

Senator Mata said they cannot make it. Senator Mata said the Committee last year extended it to the interns and had them tabling.

Senator Alvarez said she will reach out to Speaker Pro Tempore Hughes.

Senator Green said he tabled for the banner last year and within an hour it was completely signed.

Senator Rodgers asked what day the tabling was.

Senator Alvarez said Monday outside the Joe Crowley Student Union.

c. Senator Updates

Senator Alvarez said next meeting they will give full reports on initiatives, bill draft requests, and who they have been contacting. She asked if they have any questions.

There were no questions at this time.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Beattie said the Senators will have fun at the Veteran's Luncheon. He said the veterans are very nice and want to share their stories with people. He said the veterans enjoy taking pictures with the Senators and said the Senators should wear their polos. Dr. Beattie suggested that they move around from table to table at the event to talk to veterans and ask them questions. He said they should as if the veterans are having trouble on campus. He said many veterans say the campus is very friendly.

Senator Mata wanted to clarify the bill draft request presented during their report. Senator Mata said currently there are seven members and the bill draft request wants to take away election districts to have three overall elected.

Senator Alvarez thanked Senator Mata for clarifying.

Senator Aziz said he can attend the event at 12pm.

Senator Alvarez thanked Senator Aziz.

There was no other public comment at this time.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Alvarez adjourned the meeting at 12:33 pm.