

Committee on Oversight

Senate of the Associated Students 86th Session
Minutes for Friday, November 2nd, 2018 at 5:00 pm
Room #420, fourth Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Senator Hughes called the Committee on Oversight meeting to order at 5:03 pm in Room #420, Fourth Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union. Presiding secretary, Andrea Godoy.

2. ROLL CALL

Senators Alvarez, Collins, Grant, Hughes, Mata, and McKinney were present.

Speaker Martinez and Senator Feil were absent excused.

A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Jackson asked if there was a place for the discussion.

Senator Hughes said yes, it was under New Business on the agenda.

4. MINUTES

- a. **The minutes from August 31st 2018**
- b. **The minutes from September 7th 2018**
- c. **The minutes from September 21st 2018**
- d. **The minutes from October 5th 2018**

The minutes from August 31st, September 7th, September 21st, and October 5th have already been approved.

- e. **The minutes from October 12th 2018**

Senator Mata moved to approve the minutes from October 12th, 2018 by unanimous consent. There was no dissent; motion carried.

5. REPORTS

- a. Secretary of the Senate – Andrea Godoy
Secretary Godoy had no report at this time.
- b. Speaker Pro Tempore – Senator Hughes
Senator Hughes said she is wrapping up this semester of the internship. She will go over running a campaign next week so that there is no conflict of interest. She will also present the legislation that the interns are writing throughout the entire program. They decided to carry the internship through next semester and will include leadership characteristics and how to be leader in every day life.

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 Speaker Martinez at Speaker@asun.unr.edu.



- c. Chair, Committee on Academics – Senator Collins
Senator Collins said there was a meeting today. They reviewed the legislation in opposition of the new Latin honors criteria. They also discussed projects committee members are working on. Free printing is coming along. She has a meeting with Dr. Beattie to figure out the legal terms for the sample contract. They work order will be in soon. If all goes well, then they will just need to install the software on the computers and marketing for how to use it.

Senator Feil entered the room at 5:06 pm.

- d. Chair, Committee on Budget and Finance – Senator Grant
Senator Grant said the committee did financial reviews and heard legislation that covered the official rollover numbers. Some money will be going back into some accounts. There are just a few reviews left to finish off semester.
- e. Chair, Committee on Civic Engagement – Senator Feil
Senator Feil said her committee met today. They discussed the November civic engagement event. She and Senator McKinney are working on the event. They will probably do on November 17th and have it be related to making food packs for the homeless. But, they still needed more information and logistics. She will let them know more later. The committee started planning Wolf Pack Reading Week. They will be changing it from the traditional thing of just one week of events that weren't super interactive, even though they were supposed to be. She talked to some organizations and schools to create more infrastructure so they can do something more frequent with the elementary schools in the school district. She will update them later. The committee also heard senator updates.

Senator Mata had an idea for the December community project but didn't have time to go to meeting. Senator Mata asked how that should be brought up.

Senator Feil asked Senator Mata to email her and she will bring up the idea to the committee.

- f. Chair, Committee on Government Operations – Senator McKinney
Senator McKinney said there is a meeting next Wednesday; they will do more doc reviews with Attorney General Moore. On the agenda today was legislation to potentially amend the constitution. They are starting this really early since there was a strict timeline that it must be sent to legal. That is what they are doing now.
- g. Chair, Committee on Public Affairs – Senator Alvarez
Senator Alvarez said the committee is transitioning into looking and tracking BDRs. Director Worrall came to the committee and talked about the logistics between the committee and Director Worrall's department to figure out the content of legislation. She is working on integrating a college council with the City of Reno. Veterans' luncheon is this Thursday; they may have reps from Catherine Cortez Masto's staff attend as well as Dean Heller possibly depending on what happens on Tuesday.

Senator Mata asked Senator Alvarez if she emailed about asking the interns.

Senator Alvarez said yes.

- h. Chair, Committee on University Affairs – Senator Mata
Senator Mata had been absent for a bit to deal with personal issues but was back. People had questions about the campus safety walk about things that needed to be fixed. The safety walk

mostly had to do with lights and crosswalks but if they hear of anyone complaining of things that needed to be fixed, Senator Mata asked the committee to refer the complaints to Senator Mata. Senator Mata will forward any emails about that. Senator Green brought up that UNR and the City of Reno are creating new master plans. Senator Green wants the plans to focus on sustainability and create something specific for UNR to work on. Senator Green is working with Director Jickling to create an event where students can come and say what they wanted to see.

Senator Hughes said to go off that, Provost Carman will be coming to senate at some point for feedback for next year's master and strategic plans. Sharing what students wanted to see will be good information to give Provost Carman if that event can get done before he attends Senate.

i. Chair, Committee on Oversight – Speaker Martinez

Senator Hughes read the report into the record:

“Hello oversight. Just wanted to let you know as of right now we have a major event coming up on November 7th that we will need all of you to push forward! It will be in the Joe ballrooms, and we want as much student feedback as possible! It will be on campus safety! Please talk to clubs, clubs leaders, students, friends, etc. We want this to be a moment for students to voice their opinions! An email should be sent out either today or tomorrow to the student list serve! Thank you all for everything! Best, Speaker Martinez”

Senator Mata asked for the time.

Senator Hughes said it will be 5:30 and will be in place of Senate.

6. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business at this time.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion Legislative Internship Program

b. Discussion Elections Data

President Jackson said this was a joint effort between her and Senator Hughes. As they saw in the presentation from Dr. Beattie about the elections data, at least 40 students indicated financial barriers regarding campaigning as reasons they didn't file. Imagine how much better elections would have been if 40 more students had run. She wanted to brainstorm ways to remedy this barrier. She and Senator Hughes have thought of a few good proposals, but they also had some downfalls. It would get messy if she asked all of Senate this, which is why she came to Oversight to ask them to brainstorm some concrete proposals that would help remove financial barriers for students.

Senator Hughes said based on the data, the big boards are very effective in getting the word out about elections. One way to remedy the aspect of sustainability was to have ASUN offer a service where they pick up the boards after elections instead of students picking up their own boards. ASUN would charge a small fee to pick up the boards. ASUN would also keep the boards and give them at the next election cycle for students. This decreases the financial barrier and the amount of boards being used. A drawback though is finding a place to keep the boards.

Senator Collins worked downtown in an orthopedic clinic. She couldn't remember if it was Lowe's or Home Depot but one of those companies donated boards to the clinic. She suggested looking into seeing if they were willing to donate.

Senator McKinney said that boards can get torn up with the weather and snow. He suggested allocating ASUN funds to give to students that are running; they can decrease the salary of senators. Chairs do a lot of work and are paid for it, but general senators should have a pay scale similar to that of the Associate Justices to save money.

Senator Mata said it was a great idea to charge for picking up the boards. However, Senator Mata was worried that most students wouldn't want to pay since they don't put in a lot of effort in picking up the boards anyways. Senator Mata also thought it was iffy to hand out ASUN money. There would need to be a process in place to determine how you give out that money. Students that don't receive money might interpret that as ASUN saying they are not good enough to run for office. Senator Mata's personal opinion was that it was iffy handing out ASUN money.

Senator Grant agreed with Senator Mata. He saw it as a weird, ethical issue in giving candidates money from the same organization they are running for.

Senator Hughes said they would be charging students to take down the boards because it was ASUN providing a service. The money collected can be used for the next elections to purchase more boards. It was an accommodation for students that was being provided if for example they lived in the dorms and didn't have a way to go pick up a board. Using donated boards could be marketed in a number of ways.

Senator Mata said that last statement was to respond to Senator McKinney. Senator Mata understood why they needed to charge students a fee but thought they would be less inclined to use it if they are charged. If they did a fee, it would have to be less than \$10.

Senator McKinney said giving out boards gave certain candidates an unfair advantage. He asked what they would do if they ran out of boards.

President Jackson said they are \$12/board. If it became that big of an issue ASUN could buy more because at that point, they are handing out resources not money.

Senator Feil asked Senator Mata why they didn't want to charge \$10.

Senator Mata argued that most students would take down their own boards rather than spend \$10 for ASUN to take it down. \$10 was a lot of money for some students and suggested they charge students less.

Senator Feil was in favor of it; a person didn't have to use the service and it would be up to a person to decide. Sometimes, people are lazy and they should take advantage of that. That funding will make a big difference for the next elections.

Senator Hughes said the initial reasoning for this was because last elections season, the majority of infractions that were filed were due to boards being picked up late. It was a hassle for students to pick them up and dispose of them since it was cold. But if you don't pick up your boards, you are charged \$35.

President Jackson said another option was to have students pay the fee from their campaign deposit as opposed to paying up front.

Senator Hughes said that the initial thought was to charge students \$10 instead of them paying \$35 for not picking up their boards. They would save \$25.

Senator Mata said that made more sense.

Senator Grant asked who would be in charge of picking them up.

President Jackson said in the past, facilities picked them up and ASUN paid them. A big problem now is that Facilities had to do stuff to the grounds over last few years to prep the grounds for the number of boards being placed on them since there are so many. If ASUN had a better relationship with Facilities, this would be successful. She hasn't talked to them yet as they are still in the ideas stage.

Senator Alvarez understood that boards market elections to students. However, the issue she had with them was for example, a first gen student that is working part/full time and going to school. That student would find it difficult to run a campaign if it meant losing their job(s). Maintaining the disenfranchised students.

Senator Mata thought they should move onto other ideas. Senator Mata thought Senator Alvarez was correct but this discussion is to find the best solutions for boards without taking them away. They show that elections are happening.

Senator Alvarez said recycling boards comes with the paradox of who receives priority of getting a donated or reusable board. She asked how they can ensure a first gen or low income student receives boards without feeling like they are being discriminated against.

Senator Hughes said another idea was utilizing ASUN vehicles to drive students to the store to buy boards since many freshmen don't have vehicles. Students can be taken to Home Depot to purchase boards and then Campus Escort will deliver them within a 1 mile radius or something like that. For her personally, this was a barrier.

Senator Mata agreed with Senator Hughes. Senator Mata had to ask friend of a friend of a friend to drive Senator Mata. That idea was a huge step forward.

Senator McKinney said all of this won't make a huge change in one year, and won't be perfect. They will need to take baby steps. Seeing how giving out donated boards go or how using Campus Escort goes are good stepping stones for making elections better. Every year things will have to be tweaked.

President Jackson liked what Senator McKinney said. The purpose of this meeting was not to critique elections but rather figure out what they valued and make them better. Data has shown that campaigning and boards are something they value because they are effective. Instead, they should focus on ways to make boards an equal field for all students regardless of their situations.

Senator Feil had a quick idea. Last year, there was an info session about campaigning and running. One of those sessions can be a party where ASUN provides paint and ideas for candidates to decorate their boards. This would promote unity between campaigns and allow candidates to socialize with each other so that it is less of a competition.

Senator Mata said that was a great idea. Senator Mata said that one of the best campaigning experiences came from the Coffee with Constituents event. Not a lot of people showed up but the few that Senator Mata did talk to gave the best ideas for platforms. The conversations were really helpful spouted Senator Mata's best ideas. Senator Mata thought elections needed more of that.

President Jackson said Senators Mata and Feil had great ideas. She suggested they reach out to Dr. Beattie and the new Elections Chair, Daniel Little, to incorporate them. That was needed and the data showed that one-on-one interactions were important for constituents too.

Senator Hughes said there was some really good insight given.

c. S.B. 86 – An act to Amend the Constitution to Eliminate all Gender Pronouns

Senator McKinney said this legislation was to amend the use of pronouns in constitution of ASUN. Within the first whereas clauses he included the University's diversity statement: "The Office of Diversity Initiatives represents the University's commitment to realize and sustain a diverse, inclusive and welcoming environment for all". He also included legality reasons and facts for the push. The *Be it Enacted* clause was the question that will be sent to the University's legal team to see if they agreed with the wording of the question to make sure it wasn't leading one way or the other. This was the first step in long list of steps. If favorably recommended, will be sent to legal team to look over.

Senator Mata moved to favorably recommend S.B. 86 – An act to Amend the Constitution to Eliminate all Gender Pronouns.

Senator McKinney seconded.

Senator Mata moved to amend page 1, lines 4-5 to read: "*Whereas*, gender pronouns are non-inclusive and leave out students, faculty, and community members who are minorities."

Senator Grant seconded.

Senator Mata said this was to demonstrate that nonbinary students not only ones with different pronouns. There are lots of genders and feeling excluded from the community as whole was weird. It was easiest to summarize the genders as minorities.

Amendment carried; the body moved back into discussion of the bill as a whole.

Senator Mata asked Senator McKinney if the first few lines on the second page about the terminology from the Bar Association was because they only use "he" in their constitution.

Senator McKinney said that was to show that using gendered terminology does skew the perception of who should seek a position; that is why they should move away from having gendered pronouns in the constitution.

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

Motion carried

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mata talked with McKinney briefly but like Senator Alvarez said, Public Affairs had a discussion with Director Worrall about what the relationship between the two should be since it was not well defined. Senator Mata was wondering if they should put definitions of committees in the SAS.

Senator McKinney wanted to go over this with Dr. Beattie since the Senate Rules do define the committees. He wanted to make sure they don't double up and state the same thing twice since it was already defined. If Legislative Affairs does have questions, they can look at the committee description of Public Affairs in the Senate Rules.

Senator Alvarez said the most interesting part about Public Affairs is that they are the only committee that works with a specific department outside of senate. It was up to the discretion of the chair and the director to determine what kind of relationship they should have. She and Director Worrall had a close relationship and knew each other before ASUN. In the past, the relationships have varied.

Senator McKinney said if they do decide to update the Senate Rules, they need to work with Legislative Affairs to make sure the SAS states that the Director of Legislative Affairs will work with the Chair of Public Affairs.

Senator Mata didn't know it was already in the Senate Rules, that cleared up a lot but it was a good idea.

Senator Hughes had the email that was drafted about the student town hall meeting next week. The email has been sent to Dr. Ellis and she will send it out soon. The topics included in the email for discussion are:

- Anti-semantic acts
- Racism on campus
- Sexual harassment
- Disabilities on campus
- And steps moving forward.

It was importunate they get their clubs and committee members reaching out to everyone they can to make sure they get a big turnout. If they had questions, reach out to them.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Hughes adjourned the meeting at 5:40pm.