

Committee on Public Affairs

Senate of the Associated Students 86th Session

Minutes for Friday, November 30, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

3rd Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union in the President's Conference Room

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Senator Alvarez called the Committee on Public Affairs to order at 12:12 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, and Senator Dobbs were present.

Senator Mata and Senator Rodgers were absent excused.

A quorum was present.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

4. **MINUTES**

There were no minutes discussed at this time.

5. **REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

Director Worrall said she did not have much to report. She said she was more prepared to talk about the Reno College Council. She said the Affordable Housing event went well and they gathered many students' opinions which she will share with them soon. She said they will work more on housing issues in general and the university expanding. They found a lot of students care about the issue and want to see something happen. She said the Department of Legislative Affairs had been planning for next semester.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business discussed at this time.

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 Alvarez at senatoralvarez@asun.unr.edu.



7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Readings of Legislation

a. **S. Res. 86.- A Resolution in Support of Creating a Reno College Council**

Senator Aziz motioned to favorably recommend A Resolution in Support of Creating a Reno College Council.

Senator Green seconded.

Senator Alvarez said she was approached by Director Worrall about Reno college council for representation in the Reno city government from students who were not necessarily from ASUN. In order to avoid bureaucracy for voices to be heard. The purpose was to ensure representatives in the Reno city council work with legislative affairs. This would not just be for the university bur it would also include TMCC.

Senator Aziz asked who wanted to increase student representation.

Senator Alvarez said Legislative Affairs. There was also some support from the Mayor back in 2012. They considered making it happen.

Senator Aziz asked if there was any recent support from city council.

Senator Alvarez said Legislative Affairs talking to representatives in city of Reno government.

Director Worrall apologized for being late. She said that it would be a good idea to empower students to make their own association that would work on sustainable development and urban planning rather than adding another layer of bureaucracy with the college council. She wanted to give another perspective on how this idea might need to be flushed out more.

Dr. Beattie asked who would advise these students and train them.

Director Worrall said there was already a youth city council. Reno youth ages 14-18 are appointed by their city council member that was a representative of their area. They wanted to make a college council because students over the age of 18 wouldn't have representation on that. They wanted to make the structure similar where city council members appointed students. They would have their own budget and have an established board that citizens would serve on so that the people in city council didn't have to invest a lot of their own time into this. A good example of what was happening that the college council could act on was the expansion of campus. It would allow an association who was independent it would give them more leeway. She just wanted the committee to formula their own opinion. Another part that wasn't include was that the wanted to encourage city council members to employ students on their boards. That was another avenue they could follow so they didn't have to create the new board. She thought a lot of city council members would be more open to that. It wasn't that set in stone and it needed more discussion and work outside of the committee. It was their first time doing something like this.

Senator Aziz said he thought it would be more beneficial for them to have something that had more substance in the resolution. They should have more concrete plans to present to city council. He didn't know if it would be smart to have city council members appoint students because most students lived in the same ward and some lived on the outskirts of Reno. It would be too difficult and disproportionate. Population wise, if 85% of their students resided in a certain ward they had to elect more than just one student in that ward to represent the majority.

Senator Green said he believed the legislation also wanted to include students in TMCC.

Senator Aziz said TMCC didn't have any student housing so they would be more spread out but he felt like they could potentially have one UNR student while having four TMCC students which would cause discrepancy. It didn't mean that was how it would happen but he thought it was definitely a risk. They would also have to find a way to make sure their students were represented evenly.

Senator Alvarez said they would like to create an info structure for students outside of ASUN. From her experience, she thought more people were interested in being in the city government rather than just ASUN government.

Senator Dobbs said she really liked the resolution for students who weren't eligible for government elections. But, she had the same concerns. She lived over in ward 3 and so did her five roommates. She also knew students who lived in sparks and they definitely would be included,

Senator Green said he also liked the resolution and liked the idea of a college council. He wondered if there would be a follow up with the city council. He asked if they had reached out to TMCC to see if they were interested.

Senator Alvarez said legislative affairs were actively working on the Reno college council. She thought this discussion showed they were in support of this. She hadn't reached out to TMCC yet but she thought that could go into the development.

Senator Aziz said he was 100% in support of creating this but he thought creating a plan would give them an actual backbone to speak on. If they were to get those TMCC students to talk to them as well that would also help their case. Right now, the resolution was saying they should include TMCC but they didn't have their opinion based on consent.

Senator Alvarez said TMCC were under any obligation to join the council. So she begged to differ because she also felt like they were under represented in the city of Reno.

Senator Green said he agreed with Senator Alvarez even though he agreed with their concerns. He didn't think if the resolution passed it was going to happen right away.

Senator Alvarez said she thought it was important that they would be more proactive.

Director Worrall said she isn't completely sure how legislative affairs and senate worked together. She thought if they passed the legislation, legislative affairs could go lobby. She didn't think they could lobby and go to the city council until the legislation was passed in Senate. Also, on the wards, the wards didn't have to be specifically that way it was just an option. The boards didn't have to be proportioned by wards.

Senator Alvarez said she thought everyone was on the same page for the most part. They didn't have to be in the process of creating the entire thing.

Dr. Beattie said legislative affairs worked with Senate by providing opportunities through the Nevada state legislature.

Director Worrall said she just didn't understand the intricate details.

Dr. Beattie said they could pass an initiative if it came from legislation from the Senate or if it was allowed by the President. It was up to Senate as to how they wanted to pass it. In regards to TMCC, Hannah knew the president so she could get into contact with them easily.

Senator Aziz said he was in support of the legislation as it was right now because his understanding was different.

Senator Green said he supported the legislation and they could work out all the kinks later.

The committee moved into a vote.

Senator Resolution 86 A Resolution in Support of Creating a Reno College Council was favorable recommended.

b. S. Res. 86. – A Resolution in Support of making the Nevada System of Higher Education more Affordable

Senator Green moved to favorably recommend Senate Resolution 86 A Resolution in Support of making the Nevada System of Higher Education more Affordable.

Senator Aziz seconded.

Senator Alvarez asked Senator Amaya to present the resolution.

Senator Amaya apologized for the last minute edits and thanked legislative affairs for helping them do the research on the resolution. They wanted to create more opportunity for low income students. They wanted to expand the Silver state opportunity grant to four year institutions. That way there would be more opportunity to pay tuition. Also, the requirements were currently set to 15 credits a semester but they wanted to expand that to 30 credits throughout the year so that low income students who work full time could go to school part time. It would help with accessibility. The legislation also mentioned that taking less credits increased graduation rates of low income students. The next thing was the millennium scholarship. The current requirement was for students to maintain a 2.6 GPA. They wanted to raise that to a 2.75 GPA however it would be turned into a two strike policy instead of one. The two strike policy would allow incoming freshman to get another chance. Even with the legislation, she wanted to add a missing citation. For line 7, she couldn't make the amendment yet but she wanted to add the citation for that.

Senator Amaya moved to amend Page 3 line item 9 to say “the associated students at the university of Nevada support BDR ___ and ___.”

Senator Amaya said this was supporting two different bill draft requests and she didn't have the number with her but she wanted to specifically state the two BDRs they were supporting so it was a stronger argument.

Dr. Beattie said someone on committee can do it or pass it like it is and have a complete document ready for student.

Director Worrall said the reason they changed the BDR was because once the BDR became a bill it would no longer be under that BDR number. They had it proposing in order to show they were in support of these ideas.

Senator Amaya said her last comment was just that page 3 line item 11 she wanted it to say they wanted it to be implemented by July 2020.

Senator Green moved to amend Senate Resolution 86 A Resolution in Support of making the Nevada System of Higher Education more Affordable by substitution.

The amendment passed.

Senator Aziz said it also mentioned increased graduation rates. He asked if she had another citation for that.

Senator Amaya said she did have that.

Dr. Beattie said they only had one community college left in the state and the others were all hybrids.

Senator Amaya said she was told the Silver State grant was only given to community colleges so she didn't know what that meant exactly.

Senator Aziz said it included the state colleges as well and they had to be classified as a resident. He didn't see anything in here that mentioned the two year college's vs the four year state colleges.

Senator Green moved to amend line item 2 and 3 to say "requires a student to be enrolled in a community college or state college" through unanimous consent.

The amendment passed.

Senator Dobbs said on the financial aid website for the millennium, it said students had to earn 12 credits a semester and earn a 2.75 GPA.

Dr. Beattie said it was a 2.6 for the first 30 credits and then it was a 2.75 for all credits after.

Senator Alvarez said she was assuming the resolution meant to make it a 2.75 GPA overall.

Senator Green moved to amend line item 8 to say "whereas the 2018 campus wide civic engagement survey showed that 22% of students surveyed are facing food and housing insecurity" through unanimous consent.

The amendment passed.

Senator Green asked who was going to change the resolutions to present to the Senate body.

Senator Amaya said she was going to make the changes and resubmit it.

Senator Green said he was in support but he just thought it should look good before they present it to the Senate.

Senator Amaya said all the amendments should be added by that time.

Senator Alvarez said she supported the resolution and she did go to the summer meeting for it. She thought student opinions were really valid. There was some discussion for making it into two resolutions but she thought it was fine as one.

Senator Aziz said he also supported this resolution. There were a lot of students here but that were just shy of meeting some scholarship requirements and he hoped they could get further assistance.

Senate Resolution 86 A Resolution in Support of making the Nevada System of Higher Education more Affordable was favorably recommended. -

b. Chair Updates

Senator Alvarez said she didn't plan on having a meeting the following week unless important legislation must be put on the agenda for Senate after winter break. She said she will be leaving December 26th and not coming back until January 13th. She said she would not have any WiFi or cellphone service because she will be traveling to Cuba. Senator Alvarez said they should reach out to her prior to Christmas or after winter break if they need anything. She hoped they would enjoy their winter break.

c. Senator Updates

This item was not discussed at this time.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee on Public Affairs meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.