

Committee on Public Affairs

Senate of the Associated Students 86th Session
Minutes for Tuesday, January 29th, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
3rd Floor Joe Crowley Student Union Room 406

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Senator Alvarez called the Committee on Public Affairs meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in Room 406, Fourth Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union. Presiding secretary, Dominique Hernandez.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Senator Alvarez, Aziz, Dobbs, Green, and Ahmed were present.

A quorum was present.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

4. **MINUTES**

There were no minutes to be heard at this time.

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

The Director of Legislative Affairs will provide a report regarding upcoming projects, legislation, etc.

Director Worrall said she was going to go over the bills that were going through the legislature about sexual assault and harassment. There was only one BDR so far that hadn't become a bill that addressed that. There was three others that she was able to find and they were still BDRs so they didn't know exactly what the language was going to look like but it was supposed to be a survivor's bill of rights. It was being introduced by all democratic assembly people. The one that was a bill was introduced by the Attorney General. She thought the policy people were really trying to consolidate all of the BDRs and bills. They'd get assigned to each of the topics and write one page policy briefs to send to the senators and talk more about the bills so far. There was 100 in assembly and 100 in senate. It had gone through all of them and there were only about 7 so far that were really relevant but they weren't even that relevant. They were still waiting on the process so she'd update them when it was done. The session was going to start in 6 days so hopefully they'd be able to get some of those bills soon. They were also having an UNR institution wide lobby day on February 25th. Basically they'd be set up by the capitol building to talk to staff and legislators to talk about the priorities that the institution wanted to see in legislature. It just involved things like buildings and summer school funding. Session wide they wanted to lobby for a wide variety of things.

Senator Alvarez asked when the list that Marissa was handling would be released.

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.



Director Worrall asked if Senator Alvarez was referring to the list of policy briefs.

Senator Alvarez said yes.

Director Worrall said they were trying to do that weekly and she thought they'd try to send them out that week. After that she didn't know the process of the bills or how fast it would be. If there were more within the next week they'd send it out. She was going to try to make a nice newsletter so it would be easier to follow.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

There is no old business to be discussed.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Election of a Vice Chair**

Senator Alvarez said the committee would now elect a vice chair for the committee on public affairs. They could nominate themselves or someone else and nominations did not require a second. To nominate someone they had to stick their hands out and once they were called on they had to say, "I nominate Senator ___ to be office of the Vice chair on the committee on public affairs."

Senator Ahmed nominated Senator Aziz to be office of the Vice chair for the committee on public affairs.

Senator Alvarez asked Senator Aziz if he accepted.

Senator Aziz said he accepted.

Senator Alvarez said the nominations for the office of vice chair for the committee on public affairs goes as follows: Senator Aziz.

Senator Alvarez asked the candidates to leave the room as others were presenting but said they were not obligated to per the Nevada revised Statutes. She said Senator Aziz was up first and he had three minutes to give a statement as well as a three minute question and answer portion. Whenever he was ready to begin he may.

Senator Aziz said he would do it.

Senator Green said under the duties of Vice Chair, he have to draft minutes in the absence of the committee secretary. He asked Senator Aziz if he felt capable of doing that.

Senator Aziz asked them to define what his responsibilities were in the absence of a secretary.

Senator Green said he'd have to type the minutes and send them to Secretary Godoy if there was no secretary for the meeting.

Senator Aziz said he felt capable of typing the minutes and sending them to Secretary Godoy.

Senator Alvarez asked Senator Aziz to leave the room but she said he was not required to by the Nevada Revised Statutes.

Senator Aziz left the room at 5:03 p.m.

Senator Ahmed said he liked his shirt.

Senator Alvarez thanked Senator Ahmed.

Senator Green said he thought Senator Aziz would be a great Vice Chair.

Senator Aziz was voted Vice Chair of the committee on public affairs by unanimous consent.

Senator Aziz entered the room at 5:04 p.m.

Senator Alvarez congratulated Senator Aziz and the committee gave a round of applause.

Director Worrall entered the room at 5:04 p.m.

b. Committee Reflection of the Fall 2018 Semester

Senator Alvarez said she appreciated the insightful discussions they had about legislation especially. She wanted them to work on more resolutions and to keep track of all the resolutions and to make sure they were really on time with it. She wanted them to be more cognitive of the dates that were coming up since they had missed a couple. There was always room for improvement.

c. Committee Goals & Senator Updates

Senator Alvarez asked if anyone had anything to add to their committee goals. She wanted them to write a resolution based on a bill that was coming up and to lobby to state legislature as their own representative of that specific bill. She knew that was getting Director Worrall very excited. She wanted them to keep that in mind since they had 75 days left in office.

Senator Aziz asked about the goals they discussed at retreat. He asked if Senator Alvarez was asking for new goals.

Senator Alvarez said yes.

Senator Aziz said just bills based off of what actually going on Nevada Legislature.

Senator Green asked what the goals were that they spoke about on retreat. He said he wasn't with them because he was with his committee.

Senator Alvarez said they had a list of goals that was presented to each of them at the committee retreat. She wanted that to be done within the next couple weeks and wanted them to really focus on it.

Senator Dobbs said one of them was outreach to rural areas K-12.

Senator Alvarez said Senator Dobbs was on the outreach in rural areas and Senator Green has composting. Senator Green's goal was to focus on sustainability itself within the city of Reno. She knew he had been working on that pretty frequently but she wanted to see some resolutions drafted on that. She knew he had just taken on a new responsibility so he was free to ask anyone for additional help. She asked Senator Ahmed what his assignments were.

Senator Ahmed said he was assigned the paper stuff and to contact Raul.

Senator Alvarez said if Senator Ahmed could talk to Raul by next committee meeting she would appreciate that as well as a resolution drafted. She azenized Thursdays by 9. If he couldn't make a resolution by then he was free to report back to the committee.

Senator Aziz said he was assigned the 79th session assembly bill 407 updates. There were still no updates at this time.

Senator Alvarez asked Senator Aziz to have that report done by next week as well. He didn't have to have a resolution just a report. She said she would be maintaining communications with everyone in the committee by the end of the week to make sure they were on track. She wanted to focus on accountability and keeping on top of all the projects they got. She knew they got a lot of different things within the committee. Next meeting she'd ask for Senator updates.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Director Worrall said that Joko said the Youth Reno City Council had reconvened and they had been talking about expanding the age. It was 14 to 18 at the time but they wanted to expand it. He wanted her to see if the resolution they had about the college council should still stand given that information.

Senator Dobbs asked what the age range they extended it to was.

Director Worrall said they talked about extending it but they hadn't come up with an age to extend it to yet. Since it was City Council she thought it might be to age 25.

Senator Alvarez said she would personally like to see that pull through. Being 14 and 25 were two complete different mindsets. The higher education level was very much its own entity.

Senator Dobbs said she agreed and that a high school committee would probably vote differently than a college committee. Even with an age range of 25 it still eliminated some college students who had concerns they wanted addressed at city council.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The committee on Public Affairs meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm.

