

Committee on Public Affairs

Senate of the Associated Students 86th Session
Minutes for Tuesday, February 26th, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center Room 426

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Senator Aziz called the Committee on Public Affairs meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. in Room 426, Fourth Floor of the Mathewson IGT Knowledge Center. Presiding secretary, Dominique Hernandez.

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

Senator Alvarez was absent excused.

Senator Ahmed was tardy excused.

A quorum was present.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time

4. **MINUTES**

a. **Minutes from the Meeting on January 29, 2019**

The minutes from January 29, 2019 were approved.

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

Director Worrall said she met with one of the organizers for the Take back the Pack campaign which was started a week ago to address sexual assault policies and rape culture on campus. She reached out to Senator Green and Senator Alvarez to set up a meeting with them because they were chairs and related to this issue. She was looking for someone to attend the meeting with the organizers and she thought it was important to hear what they had been working on and what they had to say. Also to think about writing some kind of resolution. Given, it was one of the priorities they passed last Wednesday she thought it would fit.

Senator Dobbs asked what time it would be.

Director Worrall said no but she sent out a poll to everyone. She asked if Senator Green was still interested.

Senator Green said yes.

Senator Westerman asked if the campaign was doing anything for denim day.

Director Worrall said so she thought they were more focused on policy than events.

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.



Senator Dobbs asked if they were working with NV cares.

Director Worrall said she didn't know. One of leg affairs goals was to do a sexual assault teach in. They were also trying to gather Nevada cares and take back the pack campaign to see how they could bring something back to the table and plan the teach in. She thought their department was having trouble with working with the Senate. They sent out the policy briefs to everyone but they hadn't been getting resolutions in support or opposition. Without that, they couldn't go down to the legislature because they had no support. She was wondering if there was anyway to get someone to write legislation that wasn't in public affairs. It was just difficult without that to do their jobs down at the session. They were trying to think of how they could inform better on these bills. She was told they couldn't pass out policy briefs or talk about it on social media if it hadn't gotten passed in Senate so that was also difficult. She wanted to see if they could think about that together.

Senator Green asked if she couldn't talk about it if they hadn't passed it in Senate.

Director Worrall said yes it was kind of a grey area. She would rather talk about it collectively to think about how they could inform students about the session without the backing.

Senator Green said he understood not being about to go down to the legislature and lobby but he didn't think it was fair that they couldn't talk about it to students. He thought they should inform the students before voting. He had been getting the policy briefs but he had been swamped on a lot of things. He thought maybe they could find ways to open it up to the Senate and he would talk to university affairs. He thought everyone was just busy.

Senator Westerman said she thought it would be perfectly beneficial for them to let students know about the bills. When they wrote resolutions they were supposed to be the voices of the students anyways. It just made it more concrete that their resolutions represented the students feelings.

Director Worrall said she thought she would also say something at Senate to see what they had to say.

Senator Aziz said he would talk about it during his committee report at Senate. They didn't have to be bias anyway as long as they could inform students.

Director Worrall said she hoped it didn't sound like she said they weren't doing anything. She didn't want to make it seem like all of the policy briefs were in their hands. She was just hoping they'd help her talk to everyone else about it. The session was difficult and Anthony had said he would fast track these bills because of the nature of the session.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

There is no old business to be discussed.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **S. Res. 86- A Resolution in Support of Assembly Bill 133**

Senator Green moved to favorably recommend 86 A Resolution in Support of Assembly Bill 133.

Senator Westerman seconded.

Senator Dobbs said she wrote the resolution two weeks ago. The bill came through in their reports and there was essentially two parts. Section one was having counties support homeless youth as a part of their populations they support. Section two was changing the definition in the NRS to expand homeless youth from 18-24. It aligned with the federal definition of homeless youth. It allowed a lot of their agencies that supported homeless youth in Nevada to be eligible for grant funding. It wasn't going to require a lot of funds rather than creating a pathway to gain funds.

Senator Ahmed entered the room at 5:14 p.m.

Senator Green said he thought it was a great resolution he was in support of the bill and supported favorably recommending it to Senate.

Senator Westerman asked what the Eddy House was.

Senator Dobbs said the Eddy House was the only shelter in Northern Nevada that offered facility to homeless youth directly. They don't currently offer 24 hour service. It was really important for youth to have their own shelter because only 6% of youth would access services that were meant for adults.

Senator Aziz asked what the full age range was for Eddy House.

Senator Dobbs said she believed it was 12-24.

Senator Westerman said it said on line 5 that it was 18-24 but she didn't know it that was the entire population.

Senator Aziz said he read that more as a statistic but it kind of did imply that was the only range they serve.

Senator Green said he thought it was reflecting that number for college age students since that was who they were representing.

Senator Dobbs said it was 12-24.

Senator Aziz said he thought it would be beneficial for her to include the age ranges for Senate to see. Just another whereas clause.

Senator Ahmed said he just wanted to say that he liked the citations at the bottom because they were easy and clear to read.

Senator Dobbs said she didn't know how to cite the Nevada legislature correctly.

Senator Aziz said it should be fine.

The resolution was favorably recommended.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee on Public Affairs meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.