

Committee on Safety, Sustainability, and Wellness

Senate of the Associated Students 88th Session

Minutes for Thursday, September 3rd, 2020 at 5:30pm

Zoom Meeting: Email Joshua Luers at senatorluers@asun.unr.edu

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Senator Luers called the committee on Safety, Sustainability, and Wellness to order on Thursday, September 3, at 5:30pm. Presiding secretary, Yesenia Pelayo.

2. ROLL CALL

Senators Luers, Lopez, Nugent, Ramirez, Stoddard, Torres, Keller, and Kidd were present.

Senator Chantiyanon was tardy unexcused.

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. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to be discussed at this time.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Committee Goals

Senator Luers said COVID has really taken a hit on the strategic plan. When he wrote it, he was naive to think that things would be back to normal. Some of it is on its way and some of it isn't going to be possible. The red zone project is going to have to take a huge backseat because of the Virginia St. construction and because of COVID. He doesn't want to do brown bag lunches anymore and doesn't want to associate with UNRPD as much as they can help it. Habitual campus lighting checks doesn't need to be required anymore.

Senator Keller said even though there aren't many students on campus, they should always keep the safety aspect of walking home. She works at the Joe and closes at 10 pm and it's not always safe. They should at least promote people to carry pepper spray or something like that.



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Senator Luers said over the past two sessions Speaker Murphy and Senator Doyle were communicating a lot with UNRPD last session about installing more lights on every street. They added like two lights, but UNRPD didn't want to put lighting in a lot of places because not a lot of people pass through there. He disagrees with that and thinks there should be lights everywhere and it shouldn't just be pitch black in some parts of campus. Definitely carry something at night here because with COVID and there not being very many students a lot of the homeless population and dangerous population within the homeless population is creeping back on campus. Watch out for that because I've been seeing a lot of that lately. Senator Ramirez said she is starting to have meetings with people about sustainability and food waste in campus dining, and hopefully they can get something working where there's not as much food waste or whatever food isn't used they could give to the homeless population. She also said she wants to see how well the COVID regulations the fitness center has in place is working for them.

Senator Luers said the food waste was something that he ran on and talked a lot about in his debate at the beginning of the session. 1500 pounds of food waste is definitely wasteful so getting that down would be a good idea. As for the fitness center, he saw on Senator Abram's Instagram story that he was thinking about putting a juice bar near the center and that is something Senator Nugent was interested in as well. He said Senator Ramirez could bring that up in her meetings with the fitness center to ask if they would be open to that idea.

Director Guillen said pre spring semester she was sitting on the food advisory board. They haven't been responding to her emails yet, but she's been trying to get in touch with them. They've actually been doing a pretty good job especially at The Den with reducing food waste to a few hundred pounds a week. They had students cleaning it and they shipped it to an off campus partner for composting. They were doing a really good job, but she doesn't know how they're doing anymore. Director Samuelson wanted to do the juice bar as well. Director Guillen also said she would love to add renewing U-Pass to the goals because that is something they could do despite COVID. She asked Senator Luers if she should talk about U-Pass more.

Senator Luers said she could talk about U-Pass in public comment.

Director Guillen said she had to leave at 6.

Senator Luers said she could talk about it now then.

Director Guillen explained that U-Pass is a program that gets any UNR student or faculty onto an RTC bus using their wolf card. These past two years it has been covered with grants, but it is about to expire at the end of the year. What they need to do is convince students to vote in the elections during March to add a 4 dollar fee onto their student fees and that'll cover U-Pass for everyone. There is a lot of debate around it because it would be only undergrads paying, but everyone gets the benefits of it. It'd be really beneficial because the construction on Virginia St. is 90% RTC and there's going to be a new RTC bus station. They're counting on us to renew U-Pass so they can have more attendance with UNR students. She said it's all around a great program and she has talked to a lot of students from low income backgrounds who rely on U-Pass because they don't have a car. It'd be great to renew this program for them because a bus pass costs around 80 dollars. She knows she, Senator Luers, and Speaker Pro Tempore Supple are all working on the legislation to add the ballot question.

There were no further questions for Director Guillen.

Senator Torres said in the beginning of summer she was working on putting more lights on campus and she has that legislation drafted up. Also, she and Senator Lambert are working on putting more cameras near the YUnion and Highlands apartments because there has been a lot of thefts that have been going on especially with the shootings. They thought it would be a good idea to start putting more cameras and protection there. She is also the liaison for the director of wellness, and they are working on a food drive around Thanksgiving. It'd be great if they could start getting more help on that. She is also working with Senator Abrams on getting more feedback for the smoothie bar at the Joe.

Senator Stoddard said he wasn't sure if it was them or DEI, but he wanted to make at least the boundaries of the campus a sanctuary similar to that of San Francisco. It is pretty much ensuring that ICE does not have any jurisdiction here. If not the campus and maybe the entire city of Reno. He also wants to reform their education on sexual assault. It's too common that a lot of the education is dependent on females as far as how to defend against sexual assault and harrasment when we should be telling people how to not be rapists. He also said that even though he does want to encourage students to carry more deliberate means of protection when walking alone at night, he definitely thinks lights should be added.

Senator Nugent said a few initiatives he wanted to work on this semester was to work on more recycling efforts. He knows the Joe is still really wasteful. He knows there was stuff happening last year with trying to remove styrofoam, straws, and other things from the Joe and potentially writing that in some of the contracts different places have with the university because we control the leases there and we could possibly put it in the lease agreements. He knows there was some discussion on it but it never really got anywhere.

Senator Torres asked, in response to Senator Stoddard's comment on the sexual assault eductaion, if they thought it would be a good idea to start holding informational meetings with fraternities and sororities. She knows that that happens during NevadaFIT, but since NevadaFIT isn't happening it'd be a really good idea to start reaching out. She's not trying to place blame on the frats, but generally a lot of sexual assaults have statistically happened at frat parties. She thinks it would be a really good idea to start informing other people to be consensual

Senator Stoddard asked Senator Torres if that was a question for him to answer or just a follow up.

Senator Torres asked Senator Stoddard if he would like to start working on that with her because she is on the steering committee for Every Voice Nevada.

Senator Chantiyanon entered the meeting at 5:46 pm.

Senator Keller said she was going to bounce around a bit because she was originally going to respond to what Senator Nugent said about the Joe. She recommended promoting Boost, the app, where you order online to save waste from receipts that are printed and not used and thrown away. In response to the sexual assault comments on fraternaties and sororities, she said they should be cautious because even though they aren't trying to target them they might feel that way. It definitely should be talked about, but she is worried they might feel targeted.

Senator Nugent said unless they have data showing that sororities and fraternities are the main proprietors of that or data suggesting they are a problem group, he doesn't think they should single them out because it isn't right. He thinks they should definitely do some general education as there's always a place for that, but unless they have specific data showing fraternities and sororities are a problem group they shouldn't single them out.

Senator Luers said at the end of the day it is at Senator Torres' discretion. Especially if it's unaffiliated fraternities or sororities then we're not affiliated with them, so we don't need to be more cautious. He reiterated that it was up to Senator Torres' discretion with the advice that she's been given.

Senator Torres said she sees how it could be taken that way and she thanked them for that. She did also want to know if it could be taken that way. She's just trying to find a way to educate because as of right now Nevada Cares isn't giving that information out.

Senator Stoddard said he didn't want to target anyone, but he does want it to be more inclined to those who identify as males. In response to Senator Keller, he asked if Boost was like Uber Eats or DoorDash because they could try to have it work with FoodBucks.

Senator Luers said Boost was like Starbucks mobile order where you order on your phone beforehand and they'll have it ready for you by the time you get there and pick it up. He thinks it works with FoodBucks and meal plans. It can be used at Create, so it works with meal trades. He doesn't know if they've worked on it because last semester when he had a meal plan he couldn't upload his card, and it was really confusing.

Senator Keller said she just looked at the app and you have to enter your student email and meal plan code or number or something.

b. Liaison Positions

Senator Luers said he knows Senator Keller and Senator Kidd are new to this committee. He put in the email everyone's liaison positions. Sadly, they lost Senator Ahmed who was their one senator for the Facilities liaison. He told the new senators if they could take that facilities liaison that would be great along with any other one that they want. There is pretty much an opening on every single one besides the fitness center and director of sustainability.

Senator Kidd said she would like to be the liaison for the counseling center. She asked if it was two liaisons per senator.

Senator Luers said every liaison is covered with at least one or two people besides Facilities. Title IX, University Housing, and Police Services only have one.

Senator Keller asked what Facilities entailed.

Senator Luers said Facilities is the university's department for ground keeping and general upkeep of the university. From past experience, when this was a liaison for university affairs, there wasn't much going on. They shouldn't really be reaching out to you for anything considering their job is pretty complacent. It's an easy liaison position that you could tackle onto anything else.

Senator Keller said she could do Facilities and University Housing.

Senator Kidd chose the Director of Wellness as her second liaison.

Senator Luers listed off all the liaisons positions that were filled to remind everyone of their liaison positions.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Senator Stoddard said he met with Title IX to go over the new changes in Title IX policy. It's certain language that is mainly targeted towards what qualifies as sexual harassment. He is also meeting with Chief Renwick. He hasn't heard anything from University Housing.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Luers adjourned the meeting at 6:03 pm.