

# Committee on Academics and Student Affairs

Senate of the Associated Students 88th Session  
Minutes for Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting: email Steffany Yang at [SenatorYang@asun.unr.edu](mailto:SenatorYang@asun.unr.edu) for more information

## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Senator Yang called the committee on Academics and Student Affairs to order on Tuesday September 29, at 9:03 am.

## 2. ROLL CALL

Senator Yang, Abrams, Stoddard, Casildo-Rios, Harvey, Kidd, McElhoes, 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 discussed at this time.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Senator Updates

Senators will report on their liaison positions, progress on committee goals, and any other projects relevant to the committee.

#### a. Senator Abrams – Residence Hall Association, Nevada Career Studios

Senator Abrams said he had nothing new to discuss but was open to help or collaborate on anything.

#### b. Senator Ahmed – NSURJ, Faculty Senate

Senator Ahmed said he was still waiting on the Faculty Senate meeting. He said as for NSURJ, he was looking and apparently the senior editors graduated and no one had replaced them yet.

Senator Yang said to let her know if he needed any assistance.

#### c. Senator Casildo-Rios – AVP Student Life Services, Academic Advising & Tutoring Centers

Senator Casildo-Rios said he had nothing new but that he was keeping up his biweekly meetings with Dr. Nash.

Senator Yang asked him if he was collaborating with Senator McElhoes with their liaison positions.

Senator Casildo-Rios said yes and that she had contacted the tutoring center, but they haven't needed anything. He said he also let her know when his meetings with Dr. Nash, but she said she wasn't able to join them. He would keep her updated with his meetings.

#### d. Senator Harvey – NSURJ, University Libraries



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Senator Harvey said she was having trouble with the NSURJ liaison. She said she was told NSURJ was moving into the office of Undergraduate Research, so it may not be a liaison position that much longer. She said she got in contact with Dr. Kelley with Undergraduate Research and she is interested in coming in to meetings and talking about the office, so hopefully when she comes in she could also ask her about NSURJ. She also got in contact with University Libraries and they are currently emailing along with Senator Yang.

Senator Yang said she looked forward to having Dr. Kelley coming into one of the committees.

e. **Senator Kidd** – Office of Admissions and Records, VP of Student Services

Senator Kidd said Senator Yang and her were emailing Dr. Shannon Ellis about the grade replacement policy and the email should be sent out Friday at the latest. She said the exact same type of email would be going out to Director Turk for the Office of Admissions and Records.

f. **Senator McElhoes** - AVP Student Life Services, Academic Advising & Tutoring Centers

Senator McElhoes said she wasn't able to attend the meetings with Dr. Nash because she is in a lab at that time. She said she reached out to Dr. Urban to inform her that she would be the liaison. She said Dr. Urban seemed very open to working together.

g. **Senator Stoddard** – Faculty Senate, Office of the Provost, Nevada Career Studios  
Senator Stoddard said that he had been doing outreach for the grade replacement policy and students had seemed to like the idea. He said there has been a recurring concern about graduate schools still wanting students to submit initial grades. He will be talking to a few pre-professional advisors to see if he could confirm that information. He said there was nothing new from Provost and Faculty Senate other than what was said last meeting. As for the Nevada career studio, they are having another career fair on November 18th and are specifically looking for more neuroscience employers. He said he would be talking to Patti Wilson as well as any other College of Science senators to see if they could help with that.

Senator Yang thanked Senator Stoddard for his report and added that she would encourage him to reach out to graduate students or the Graduate Student Association for insights on the concerns about the grade replacement policy.

h. **Senator Yang** – VP of Student Services, Residence Hall Association

Senator Yang said that she had no new projects but along with Senator Kidd, they are planning on reaching out to Dr. Shannon Ellis to stay up to date with her. She said she did, however, have updates on committee related things. Provost Carman came into Senate last week, and Senator Yang said she had asked him about S/U grades, but he said no. She explained that the university wasn't looking into it even with the online course structure. She said she has had multiple constituents ask her about S/U grades and she feels a lot of students are concerned about their grades due to online learning as it is new to many students and there are a lot of limitations when it comes to technology. She said since it has been a general trend of concerns among students, she believes they should, as a committee and student senate body, readdress this concern and talk to administration and Provost Carman again. She said that if this is what the students want then they shouldn't ignore it even if administration said no. She moved on to saying that Associate Director Butler sent out an informational sheet about advising for each college. She asked that everyone take a look at it and spread the word to their constituents, especially freshmen. She said that a lot of freshmen may feel lost during this time and advising is important, so it would be helpful if they could get the word out.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

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

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment to be heard at this time.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Yang adjourned the meeting at 9:13 am.