

Committee on Academics and Student Affairs

Senate of the Associated Students 88th Session
Minutes for Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting: email Steffany Yang at 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, October 13 at 9:03 am. Presiding secretary, Yesenia Pelayo.

2. ROLL CALL

Senators Yang, Ahmed, Kidd, Casildo-Rios, McElhoes, Harvey, Chantiyanon, and Abrams were present.

A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Senator Yang introduced Maggie Ressel, Director of Access Services, and invited her to speak.

a. Maggie Ressel - Director of Access Services, UNR Libraries

Director Ressel thanked the committee for having her and said she was open to any comments, criticisms, or questions about the libraries. She said she was in her first year of the Faculty Academics Standards Committee and that they had a goal involving the committee on Academics this year. She asked Senator Yang if she should go more into detail about that.

Senator Yang said yes and asked her if she could go into more detail.

Director Ressel said that one of the ongoing kinds of goals of the committee is to increase awareness and reduce the recurrence of academic dishonesty. One of the parts is to inform instructors and students on the policies and consequences. One of their goals for the year is to continue collaboration efforts with the ASUN committee on Academics and Student Affairs to provide a module within the ASUN canvas specific to academic integrity including resources found in the appendix from last year's faculty committee report. Last year's committee identified all the resources on campus to help students understand and prevent academic dishonesty. She stated examples such as: the library explaining how to properly cite sources, the Office for Student Conduct explaining what the normal pitfalls are that students fall into, etc. Their committee was looking at a single bulleted sheet of information and links to policies and a quiz. Bob Ives, a professor for the College of Education, made an academic integrity course that he put out for the public and is specific to UNR's policies. They were looking into using that as a basis, but feels it is more important from the student perspective. She asked what the committee thought was an appropriate and useful way for the two groups to collaborate to improve the quality of student work and awareness of policy and consequences.



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Committee on Academics and Student Affairs Agenda

Senator Yang asked if anyone had any response to Director Ressel.

Senator Casild-Rios asked if the Canvas module would be mandatory for all students or just highly encouraged.

Director Ressel said she didn't know. It wasn't listed in her charges so she doesn't know what the goal is. She thinks one of the ideas is that it would be mandatory for students who have been caught violating the policies and it would be more extensive. She hasn't heard back from the Office of Student Conduct about what happens. There are different layers to violations so she doesn't know. For right now, she thinks it would be out there as just informational. She asked if ASUN currently uses Canvas for providing information to students.

Senator Yang said she knows they have access to an ASUN module and knows that at least all ASUN officers have their own module that specifies job duties.

Director Ressel said that doesn't sound like the place they should put it because it's not only for ASUN officers it's for students in general. To answer Senator Casildo-Rios' question, she said it would mainly be there for informational purposes.

Senator Yang said that for the College of Engineering, they have a college wide resources tab and every college has their own. She said maybe that was something to consider putting the module into.

Senator Harvey said she thought it was a really good idea to put it there and it would be accessible. She doesn't know how often students actually go through modules, but she thinks it could be used. She asked if there was any warning system before a breach in academic dishonesty was put on your record and if there could be a way that a student could do this training so it wouldn't go on their record.

Director Ressel said that that was a reasonable and good idea. She showed the committee the University Administrative Manual. She went through the sanctions of different levels of academic dishonesty. She doesn't know if there are any warning systems for more severe violations. When you enroll you are agreeing to adhere to the Academic Dishonesty Policy even though most students don't read it. They want to make students more aware. She said she will ask the Office of Student Conduct because they deal with the policies and consequences.

Senator Stoddard asked how she would feel making the module mandatory.

Director Ressel said she would be in favor of it but would be reluctant to use the entire course created by Dr. Ives. It is way too long to expect every student to take. Her committee is looking more at a single sheet with resources and a quiz. Most students don't know everything they have available to them. She could recommend to student services that the module be mandatory, but her committee deals with faculty and not students. It would come as a stronger endorsement if ASUN says it should be mandatory.

Senator McElhoes said she thinks this is really important and if there is any way to cut it down that will make students more invested.

Senator Yang said this semester there was a mandatory COVID module and her professors made it a quiz grade. She said she thinks it is an awesome idea and knows academic dishonesty is a problem this semester especially with online learning.

Director Ressel said she could share the content of the course and would love to work with anyone to cut down the course and add anything else they would want to have in the course. She doesn't know how much student input he got in the content of the course. She thinks it could easily be cut down to 15-20 minutes.

Senator Yang asked Director Ressel if the committee she is sitting on is a faculty senate

committee.

Director Ressel confirmed that it was a faculty senate committee. They just make recommendations to other groups that can actually make policy.

Senator Yang said they had liaison positions assigned to faculty senate committees. The senators assigned to those positions are Senators Stoddard and Ahmed. They will stay in touch with Director Ressel and if she wants to email Senator Yang with any information she will be sure to share that with the committee.

Director Ressel asked if it would be useful for her to send the word document of the course.

Senator Yang said that would be great.

Director Ressel asked if she should send it to all three Senators: Yang, Stoddard, and Ahmed.

Senator Yang said yes. She asked Senators Stoddard and Ahmed to type their emails in the chat.

Director Ressel said she could find them on the ASUN website.

Senator Yang thanked Director Ressel and said she was welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting or she could head out if she had other obligations. She thanked her for her time in talking to the committee and said she looked forward to working with her in the future.

Director Ressel thanked the committee for having her and reiterated that she is open to any question, complaints, or comments on the libraries.

Senator Yang asked if there was any other public comment or if the interns wanted to introduce themselves.

Dylan McCulloch introduced himself as a senator intern and said his mentor was Senator Yang. He is excited to be in this committee.

Jeremy Guevin introduced himself as a senator intern under Senator Harvey. He thinks it is really interesting to see how the committees work and that it is a privilege to do so.

4. MINUTES

- a) The committee will consider the approval of the minutes from September 15th, 2020. The committee will discuss the minutes from September 15th, 2020 and may choose to amend or edit the minutes. Upon conclusion of the discussion the committee may choose to approve the minutes.

Senator Harvey moved to approve the minutes from September 15th through unanimous consent.

Motion carried unanimously.

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 was going to meet with President Snowden to discuss what will happen after Thanksgiving and the upcoming semester since the announcement from President Sandoval as well as new protocols. He was in contact with the Nevada Career Studio, and they are having a career fair this week.

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

Senator Ahmed said he had no updates except for waiting to hear from Director Ressel soon.

Senator Yang thanked him for his report and said he'd now have Director Ressel on his radar and that it should be a cool project coming up for the committee.

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

Senator Casildo-Rios said there was no new updates and that he hasn't heard back from anything they needed from this committee. He is still doing his bi-weekly meetings with Dr. Nash.

Senator Yang asked if there was any updates in regards to Student Life Services with campus being shut down.

Senator Casildo-Rios said he was going to ask on Monday after they meet. He will let the committee know after he finds out.

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

Senator Harvey said she emailed Dr. Kelley, but she hasn't gotten back. She said she could send a follow up email. She was hoping to ask about NSURJ so they could figure out what was going on with that. She will let the committee know when Dr. Kelley wants to come in.

Senator Yang said Dr. Kelley was probably very busy right now. A lot of the research deadlines are happening, but she's sure Dr. Kelley would like to come in whenever her schedule clears up.

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

Senator Kidd said she and Senator Yang met with VP of Student Services, Dr. Shannon Ellis, and talked about campus shutting down as well as other concerns such as pass/fail grades. In regards to Office of Admissions and Records, she has a meeting with Director Turk this Friday with VP Brown and Chief Justice Paulina Pride.

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

Senator McElhoes said she had nothing new to add. She will be sending in questions to Senator Casildo-Rios to ask AVP Nash.

g. **Senator Stoddard** – Faculty Senate, Office of the Provost, Nevada Career Studios

Senator Stoddard said it looked like the Nevada Career Studio was still going to want to maintain operations throughout the close down. They will most likely commit to the same operations last time where they committed fully online. He has been trying to get in touch with neuroscience advisors to see if they can get any potential employers for the career fair in November. There is a Faculty Senate meeting on Thursday, but Senator Stoddard said he would not be able to attend due to training, but he will send the details out.

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

Senator Yang said she met with Dr. Shannon Ellis last Friday. She thinks a lot of students got confused on the email President Sandoval sent out and interpreted it as campus closing as it was last spring semester where nothing was open. That is not

the case and all the resources that are open on campus right now will remain open. The only difference is that after Thanksgiving we are switching to online learning completely and the dorms are closing. If you are a student you are encouraged to stay home, but if you don't have a place to stay they will allow you to continue living in the dorms. Senator Yang said she had voiced to Dr. Shannon Ellis that pass/fail grading was the number one concern and desire students have this semester. She also met with her dean and found that faculty and admin are not in favor of pass/fail grading, but it is a system wide thing. Pass/fail grading would have to be an NSHE decision and UNR doesn't really have a say in it. Admin can advocate for it, but it is essentially an NSHE decision. Seeing how that may not be a big push, we do have more academic leniency on the university level. They will be taking breaks on probations and academic dismissals for this semester and next semester. There will be more changes and improvements on academic policies and she will be working on that with Director Turk.

Senator Harvey said there was a student in senate last week that came into public comment to talk about this. She asked if Senator Yang was planning on reaching back out to them and updating them on this. She said she could send Senator Yang their email if she needed it.

Senator Yang said if Senator Harvey wanted to forward her any emails she had, she could follow up with them. She thinks they are still planning on writing the resolution for pass/fail grading because that is what students want. They will back it up with any data they can find from peer institutions and present it to admin and NSHE.

Senator Stoddard asked if, with the Resident Halls Closing and students not being able to return unless it was an extenuating circumstance, if Senator Yang knew what the defining factors would be.

Senator Yang said her and Senator Abrams would be meeting with RHA President Kayla Snowden and she would ask because she is also curious on what would allow students to come back to campus. She thinks the university would be understanding, but they are just trying to limit the amount of students coming back into campus.

Senator Abrams asked if VP Ellis said anything about spring semester or if they were mainly focusing on after Thanksgiving.

Senator Yang said we should expect spring semester to be the same as it was the start of fall semester except we wouldn't have spring break. The purpose of that is to prevent movement to prevent the spread of the virus. Hopefully spring semester will be back to normal, but we should prepare for the unexpected because we are coinciding with the flu season.

Senator Yang asked Senator Chantiyanon if she decided what two liaison positions she wanted to be assigned to.

Senator Chantiyanon said she wanted to be assigned to the Office of Admissions and Records and University Libraries.

Senator Yang said she thought those would work out fine.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Legislation Tracker Update

The Senators will update the Committee on the legislation they are working on.

Senator Stoddard said the grade replacement legislation they are trying to is really hard to get outreach from academic advisors. He went to the advising email directly and had them forward the same email. He has still heard nothing, but is going to stick with student outreach.

Senator Yang said it was very valuable that he is reaching out to students. She is sure the advisors are busy at this time of year due to students needing to get their advising approved before registering for classes. She said if he could secure an appointment anytime they have advising slots open that would help his legislation.

Senator Abrams said that he was more than willing to help on that legislation. A good way of outreach would be for each of them to reach out to the deans in their college.

Senator Yang said reaching out to the deans would be a good idea. She met with her dean last week and will give an update to the senate body. She, along with Senator Kidd and Senator Stoddard, are working on pass/fail legislation because this is still a huge concern for students and even though admin and faculty are not in favor of it, they are still going to try to advocate for it.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

8. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Yang adjourned the meeting at 9:41 am.