

# President's Cabinet

Executive Board of the Associated Students 88th Session

Minutes for Monday, October 26th, 2020 at 6:00pm

Zoom Conference Call

Email President Hall at [president@asun.unr.edu](mailto:president@asun.unr.edu) for more information

## 1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

President Hall called the President's Cabinet meeting to order on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 6:02pm via Zoom conference call. Presiding Secretary, Yesenia Pelayo.

## 2. **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** President Hall, Director Bajwa, Director Guillen, Director Kwan, Director Lanza, Director Rangel, Director Samuelson, Attorney General Flippin.

**Absent Excused:** Vice President Brown, Chief of Staff Bannoura, Chief Justice Pride.

A quorum was present.

## 3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

a. There was no public comment at the time.

## 4. **MINUTES**

- There were no minutes to be approved at the time.

## 5. **REPORTS**

### • **Report of the President, Dominique Hall**

- President Hall stated that she and VP Brown rewrote a budget allotting five thousand dollars to student assistance initiatives, and that the updated budget would be reviewed by the Committee on Budget and Finance that week. She stated that she had met with two Assistant Directors of Programming during the prior week to discuss their expectations and concerns and announced that one assistant director would attend Cabinet meetings for the remainder of the session. She mentioned that she had offered the Director of Programming position to a candidate but explained that this offer may be rescinded in compliance with new legislation that would be debated in the coming weeks. She discussed her recent meetings with President Sandoval, wherein she requested that the recipients of student assistance funds be subjected to more lax requirements. She also recounted her meeting with Chancellor Rose regarding recognizing diverse religious holidays, as well as the logistics of Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading for students. Lastly, she mentioned that she had written legislation for the Nevada Student Alliance and that it would be debated at their November meeting.

### • **Report of the Director of Clubs and Organizations, Nolan Lanza**

- Director Lanza reported that he had been placed on a Student Response System RFP committee and that he would attend a meeting for the JCSU Student Advisory Board in the coming week. He continued that he had met with his Assistant Director and with Gaby Ortiz Flores that day to discuss ways to grow ASUN's platform on PackLife. He stated that he was working with his Assistant Director to ensure that their department's



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budget was consistent. He also mentioned that he was forming committees to plan spring semester events.

- **Report of the Assistant Director of Programming, Michala Matovina**
  - President Hall read Assistant Director Matovina's report into the record. The report stated that AD Matovina was currently arranging interviews to fill two programmer positions, and that two events were coming up in the next several weeks: Pack Packs and Football Fest. The report then outlined the logistics of both events.
- **Report of the Director of Legislative Affairs, Alexa Rangel**
  - Director Rangel stated that her department would host its first tabling event that day to encourage early voting, and that an identical tabling event would be held for students on the following day. She announced that polls for early voters were open at Lawlor Events Center until October 30. She outlined a town hall event that would take place on Friday, October 30, in collaboration with UNLV's Department of Legislative Affairs. She also mentioned that her department would begin to coordinate post-election resources for students at their next meeting on October 29.
- **Report of the Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Priya Bajwa**
  - Director Bajwa announced the upcoming Proud to Be Indigenous campaign, which would take place in November. She also mentioned that the department had planned a virtual town hall discussion for November 13. She continued that the department was planning two events for the spring semester, both of which would be hosted by guest speakers. She stated that she would soon determine the price of hosting both of these speakers. She discussed her regular intern meetings and listed several presentations that she would be giving to ASUN interns in the coming weeks. Lastly, she stated that she and Senator Harvey were seeking faculty feedback on their ally statements for the syllabi initiative.
- **Report of the Director of Sustainability, Elizabeth Guillen**
  - Director Guillen reported that she would be updating the ASUN website with the Sustainable Nevada Initiative Fund webpage and added that she had been in contact with two groups who may apply for grants from the fund. She continued that she had met with the President of UNR's Environmental Club and that they had planned to give public comments at the NSHE Board of Regents meeting to encourage divestment from fossil fuels. She also mentioned that she had been drafting legislation on behalf of her department in collaboration with senators.
- **Report of the Director of Campus and Public Relations, Kyla Kwan**
  - Director Kwan detailed her yearlong project to recognize social holidays on campus, including Pride Month and International Women's Day. She reminded the body to gain formal approval before making social media accounts on behalf of the Association. Lastly, she reported that she had submitted her informational blog post answering student FAQs for upper UNR faculty.
- **Report of the Director of Campus Wellness, Parker Samuelson**
  - Director Samuelson reported on her recent work with President Hall regarding the Emergency Housing Fund. She detailed her recent meeting with UNR Counseling Services, where they discussed their efforts to uplift BIPOC and marginalized groups on campus. She added that Counseling would be hosting a residence hall support group and that she would share this new resource with President Snowden of the Residence Hall Association. spoke with Director Jim Fitzsimmons of the Wiegand Fitness Center regarding gym operations. She also announced that she was reaching out to various campus organizations in her efforts to assemble care packages for UNR students in quarantine. She added that only part of this project would be covered by the ASUN budget, and that other organizations would each contribute a portion.

- **Report of the Attorney General, Paige Flippin**
  - Attorney General Flippin discussed her recent meeting with her intern and stated that she would be reviewing past meetings on the ASUN website to make a list of the meetings that were still missing minutes. She reminded the body that they were responsible for creating their own minutes if there was no secretary present. She mentioned that she would attend an executive review with the Committee on Oversight in the coming week, and that she had also become a member of the Student Response System Committee.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Discussion of Student Concerns**

- **Discussion:** Attorney General Flippin asked how and if UNR clubs would be funded following the campus closure in November. Director Lanza replied that the Department of Clubs and Organizations still planned to hold meetings after the closures and therefore the clubs could still request funding if needed. Director Guillen asked if RAs would still be housed and employed after the campus shutdown. President Hall replied that she would advocate for them to keep their employment and that RAs could apply to the emergency housing fund. Director Rodriguez stated that they may be furloughed and that RAs could submit a hardship claim in order to continue living in the dorms during the closure. Director Kwan announced that a constituent had reached out to her with concerns about a third party travel agency that was promoting a trip to Cabo, which would take place a week before students return to campus. She clarified that this constituent was concerned that many students would participate and being an increased amount of Covid cases to campus. Director Guillen asked how awards from the Pack Internship Grant Program would be honored during the campus closure, and President Hall replied that she expected the program to be prepared to proceed remotely. She added that she would consult with faculty who knew more.
- President Hall asked the Cabinet to share their expectations for the remainder of the session. She also asked how she could make herself more transparent to the body when changes occurred within the Association. Cabinet members expressed a need for more communication, both on and off record, as well as discussions on the reasoning behind big decisions. They reasoned that these discussions and updates would allow the Cabinet to present a united front when asked about issues within the Association, and many of them alluded to a recent personnel change within the Department of Programming. President Hall responded that she could not divulge the personnel issues that occurred within the Department of Programming, and that she was uncomfortable giving off-the-record ASUN updates to the Cabinet. She stated that she would be willing to send routine, official memos to the members of the Cabinet to keep them updated on the happenings within ASUN, as well as holding routine meetings. President Hall then asked for suggestions to allow the members of the Cabinet to build stronger relationships. Various members suggested virtual socials, including remote watch parties and group games that could take place online. Director Rodriguez also suggested that the Cabinet do an outdoor service project together, which would allow for social distancing.

### **b. Cabinet Initiatives, Events, and Trainings**

- **Retreat Discussion:** President Hall asked the Cabinet to contribute ideas for hosting an in-person ASUN retreat. Director Lanza expressed his support for in-person retreats and stated that he thought they would be much more impactful than virtual meetings. Director Rodriguez commented that all University trips were subject to university regulations, meaning that most travel was prohibited and events were restricted to a

maximum of 25 attendees. Director Lanza suggested hosting the event separately for three groups of officers to keep the attendee count under 25, and it was decided that the retreat would be held at the JCSU.

- **Initiatives and Trainings Discussion:** President Hall asked for the Cabinet to contribute ideas for new training and initiatives in which ASUN could participate. Director Samuelson discussed her recent meeting with Dr. Shannon Ellis and the Director of the UNR Counseling Center. She stated that the Director of the Counseling Center offered to conduct a group therapy session for ASUN officers to address student leader burnout. Attorney General Flippin suggested that ASUN post on social media to celebrate the birthdays or professional accomplishments of its officers. President Hall highlighted Director Samuelson's initiative to provide care packages for quarantined students, as well as possible diversity trainings to be attended by the Cabinet. Several Cabinet members outlined recent trainings that their departments had attended. AG Flippin suggested a confrontation training for officers and Director Rordiguez suggested allyship trainings. She also suggested that ASUN coordinate events and resources for students in anticipation of the contentious US Presidential Election.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **a. Director of the Center for Student Engagement, Dr. Sandra Rodriguez**

- Director Rodriguez announced that ASUN had received a grant of \$99,000 from the Nevada CARES Act. She continued that these funds would be devoted to the update and expansion of Pack Provisions. She also mentioned that any trainings attended by the Cabinet would not need to be agendaized.

### **b. President Hall**

- President Hall thanked the Cabinet for their participation in the team-building conversation and stated that she would consider all of their suggestions.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

President Hall adjourned the meeting at 7:12pm via Zoom conference call.