

Committee on Safety, Sustainability, and Wellness

Senate of the Associated Students 88th Session
Agenda for Thursday, February 11th, 2021 at 5:00pm
Zoom Meeting: Email Joshua Luers at senatorluers@asun.unr.edu

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER*

Call Meeting to Order must be listed by Secretaries.

2. ROLL CALL*

Roll Call must be listed by Secretaries.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT*

Items heard under public comment may be for items either on or off the agenda. Action may not be taken on items raised under public comment. The Chair may elect to take public comment on action items on this agenda. The Chair may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak.

4. MINUTES

There are no minutes to be approved at this time.

5. OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business at this time.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of Vice Chair

The Committee will consider the election of a new vice chair.

b. S.R. 88 – A Resolution in Support of STARS Reporting at UNR

The Committee will consider favorably recommending this legislation.

c. S.R. 88 – A Resolution in Support of University of Nevada, Reno Providing Blue Light Blocking Glasses to All Online Students

The Committee will consider favorably recommending this legislation.



Posted online at www.nevadaasun.com

If you would like a copy of any of the agenda items listed, please contact Senator Joshua Luers at senatorluers@asun.unr.edu

d. Committee Reports

The Committee will discuss general updates regarding the Committee.

e. Liaison Updates

The Committee will discuss updates to liaison positions at this time.

7. REPORTS OF ASUN OFFICERS

- a. Director of Sustainability, Elizabeth Guillen
- b. Director of Wellness, Parker Samuelson

8. PUBLIC COMMENT*

Items heard under public comment may be for items either on or off the agenda. Action may not be taken on items raised under public comment. The Chair may elect to take public comment on action items on this agenda. The Chair may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak.

9. ADJOURNMENT

10. NOTES.

Unless otherwise marked by an asterisk, all items are action items upon which the Senate may take action. ASUN supports providing equal access to all programs for people with disabilities. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically handicapped persons desiring to attend the meeting. Please call the Speaker of the ASUN at (775) 784-6589 in advance so that arrangements may be conveniently made.

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

88th SESSION
2020-2021

**S. R. 88-
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STARS
REPORTING AT UNR**

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

JANUARY 22, 2021

SUBMITTED BY SENATORS STODDARD AND STANFILL AND SENATE INTERN NGO TO THE
COMMITTEE ON SAFETY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND WELLNESS

A Resolution In Support of STARS Reporting at UNR

- 1 *Whereas*, STARS stands for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System;
- 2 *Whereas*, STARS was created by AASHE, The Association for the Advancement of
- 3 Sustainability in Higher Education, which has over 90 members in the continental US;
- 4 *Whereas*, AASHE defines sustainability in an “inclusive way, encompassing ecological and
- 5 environmental health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations;”¹
- 6 *Whereas*, institutions are assessed in Academics, Engagement (Campus & Public), Operations,
- 7 Planning & Administration, and Innovation & Leadership, whose scores cumulate into a platinum,
- 8 gold, silver, bronze, or reporter rating valid for up to 3 years;

¹ “AASHE, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.” *The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education*, 15 July 2020, www.aashe.org/.

1 *Whereas*, the positive effects of STARS include gaining international recognition for
2 sustainability efforts of the campus, enabling meaningful comparisons over time using common
3 measurements developed by the international campus sustainability community (statistics,
4 engagement percentages, etc), and creating incentives for continual improvement toward
5 sustainability;

6 *Whereas*, according to the STARS website, “nine out of ten participants report that STARS has
7 instigated changes that have moved or will move their institutions toward being more sustainable;”²

8 *Whereas*, 1,018 global institutions have registered for the STARS reporting tool, 672 of which
9 have earned a STARS rating;

10 *Whereas*, the aforementioned universities include UC Davis, American University, and Arizona
11 State University (ASU);

12 *Whereas*, an article on the ASU Sustainability Website details, “ASU uses its experience with the
13 AASHE STARS data-collection process to refine annual benchmarks used to assess its progress in
14 advancing its university-wide sustainability program;”³

15 *Whereas*, since ASU first reported in July 2011, it has created successful sustainability initiatives
16 such as the University Sustainability Practices Program Assistants, an annual sustainability climate
17 survey to revise engagement goals, multiple social media handles dedicated to promoting
18 sustainability, and even a Carbon Neutrality Plan which earned ASU its platinum rating in March
19 2020;

20 *Whereas*, Rob Melnick, executive dean of ASU’s Global Institute of Sustainability, praises
21 STARS with teaching leaders to “engage their community and demonstrate a commitment through
22 effective sustainability practices;”

² “Why Participate.” *The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System*, 14 Apr. 2020, stars.aashe.org/about-stars/why-participate/.

³ “Arizona State University’s Sustainability Achievements Rated GOLD by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.” *Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation*, 9 June 2020, sustainability.asu.edu/news/archive/arizona-state-universitys-sustainability-achievements-rated-gold-by-the-association-for-the-advancement/.

1 *Whereas*, the University of Nevada, Reno has been a member of AASHE since 2006 and
2 currently has a STARS subscription valid until October 31, 2021, although UNR isn't actively
3 reporting;

4 *Whereas*, Assistant Director of Environmental Programs John Sagebiel is a primary staff
5 advocate for STARS;

6 *Whereas*, in an interview with Mr. Sagebiel, he emphasizes the importance of STARS is, "it
7 shows us where our weaknesses are, it shows us how we can improve, and gives us simple ideas on
8 how we can make our university more sustainable in the future;"⁴

9 *Whereas*, actively measuring sustainability criteria can easily create tangible improvements
10 towards campus sustainability;

11 *Whereas*, a lack of responsive human resources has been a primary obstacle for reporting to
12 STARS in the past;

13 *Whereas*, this is due to the decentralized structure of UNR administration, so responsiveness
14 from potentially hundreds of individuals whom have individual responsibilities is hard, especially
15 when measuring campus or community engagement;

16 *Whereas*, in the Fall 2020 Semester, the Eco-Socialism Committee of the Young Democratic
17 Socialists on campus contacted Mr. Sagebiel to offer assistance in bringing the UNR STARS report
18 to fruition;

19 *Whereas*, the Eco-Socialism Committee recruited volunteers from some student organizations,
20 including the Environmental Club and Engineers for the Common Good, to conduct research and
21 outreach to assemble a STARS report, but progress has been slower than anticipated due to the small
22 number of volunteers and the challenges of reaching staff escalated by the COVID-19 pandemic;

23 *Whereas*, by initiating a culture of reporting, STARS will encourage collaboration between
24 departments to provide data and open a line of communication about sustainability understanding;

⁴ Ngo, Olivia J, and John Sagebiel. "STARS Overview." 10 Dec. 2020.

1 *Whereas*, ASUN has an enormous voice and a captive audience, and its support can bring greater
2 awareness and enthusiasm about STARS to administrative authority;

3 *Whereas*, engaging with STARS facilitates conversation and development of future ASUN and
4 university sustainability initiatives that successfully draw in diverse people across campus to better
5 evaluate sustainability throughout their daily lives;

6 *Whereas*, such initiatives can include:

- 7 1) Continuing liaison work by Senators, especially in the Committee on Safety,
8 Sustainability, and Wellness to establish frequent communication about STARS criteria
9 and ensure data is being recorded for future reporting;
 - 10 a) Communication with the Provost's Office is especially beneficial, as they fund
11 the STARS subscription and have the authority to expand upon sustainable
12 projects completed by Environmental Programs;
- 13 2) Expansion of the Wellness and Sustainability section on the ASUN website to include
14 relevant sustainability statistics, tips for students to follow sustainable practices, a map
15 of sustainable features of campus, or promotion of events on campus that take active
16 measures to be sustainable;
- 17 3) Collaboration with the ASUN Office of Sustainability or Department of Event
18 Programming to coordinate student experiences with incentives to be more sustainable;
 - 19 a) On August 26, 2020, this Senate body passed "An Act to Create the
20 Department of Sustainability," which integrates an Assistant Director of
21 Sustainability position into the SAS beginning in the 89th Session, giving ASUN
22 more human resources to promote sustainability efforts;

23 *Whereas*, STARS will help the Associated Students and the higher education community keep
24 the university accountable and ensure transparency in areas such as sustainable operation,
25 interdisciplinary academia, and open access to research, as well as diversity, equity, and inclusion;

- 1 • ASUN President, Dominique Hall
 - 2 • Assistant Director of Environmental Programs, John Sagebiel
 - 3 • Associate Vice President of Facilities Service, Denise Baclawski
 - 4 • University Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Eloisa Gordon-Mora
 - 5 • Vice President of Student Services, Shannon Ellis
 - 6 • Provost, Kevin Carman
 - 7 • University President, Brian Sandoval
-

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

88th SESSION
2020-2021

S. R. 88-
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO
PROVIDING BLUE LIGHT BLOCKING
GLASSES TO ALL ONLINE STUDENTS

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

JANUARY 24, 2021

SUBMITTED BY INTERN ROUNTREE

**A Resolution In Support of University of Nevada, Reno Providing Blue
Light Blocking Glasses to All Online Students**

1 *Whereas*, Online school has caused stress and more screen time;

2 *Whereas*, UNR moving to online school due to COVID-19 has students spending the majority
3 of their time on the computer and as of right now there is no foreseeable end to online classes;

4 *Whereas*, the effects of the blue light from the screens on the eyes; Creates digital eyestrain, make
5 the eyes dry, and fatigue; Can cause damage to retinal cells over time¹;

6 *Whereas*, Blue light blocking glasses filter out the blue light from digital screens; which can be
7 harmful to the eyes;

8 *Whereas*, Blue light blocking glasses improve sleep quality and potentially confer protection from
9 retinal phototoxicity²;

¹Prevent Blindness: <https://preventblindness.org/blue-light-and-your-eyes/>

²Reserch on Blue Light glasses, The effects of blue-light blocking glasses spectacle lenses on visual performance, Macular health and the sleep-wake cycle: a systematic review of the literature: <https://onlinelibrary-wiley-com.unr.idm.oclc.org/doi/full/10.1111/opo.12406>

1 *Whereas*, Blue light blocking glasses minimizes eye strain and the lenses filter out the blue light
2 wavelengths³;

3 *Whereas*, The blue light blocking glasses have special lenses that block the blue light
4 wavelengths, that make your eyes more fatigued when on the computer all day for classes;

5 *Whereas*, You are not required to have an eye exam in order to receive blue light glasses; the
6 glasses are provided by multiple companies;

7 *Whereas*, Many companies have low prices that would be a reasonable to buy a large sum of the
8 products;

9 *Whereas*, Eyekeeper, Eyebuydirect and Walmart have low prices and have simple styles of
10 glasses for all;

11 *Whereas*, Blue light glasses cost an estimation of \$10; funding could potentially come from the
12 ASUN reserve funds and or the Students can rent out the Blue light glasses at the @One in the
13 Knowledge Center;

14 *Whereas*, University of Nevada, Reno should supply all students with Blue Light Blocking glasses
15 because we were forced into these unpredicted times of online school and spend five to seven days a
16 week on computers in order to strive to get our degrees at the university;

17 *Be it Resolved*, University of Nevada, Reno should supply the student with Blue Light
18 Blocking Glasses.

19 *Be it further resolved*, this resolutions be sent to the President of the University of Nevada,
20 Reno, Brian Sandoval; ASUN Director of Campus Wellness, Parker Samuelson; and ASUN Director
21 of Campus and Public Relations, Kyla Kwan.

³ The Best Blue light glasses for easing computer headaches: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/consumer-reviews/sns-bestreviews-health-best-blue-light-glasses-20200923-yqoi5sz6fbfjiko53u5li6xb3q-story.html>