

President's Cabinet

Executive Board of the Associated Students 88th Session

Minutes for Monday, February 8, 2021 at 4:00pm

Zoom Conference Call

Email President Hall at president@asun.unr.edu for more information

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

President Hall called the President's Cabinet meeting to order on Monday, February 8, 2021, at 4:01pm via Zoom. Presiding Secretary, Yesenia Pelayo.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: President Hall, Chief of Staff Bannoura, Director Okui, Director Lanza, Director Bajwa, Director Rangel, Director Guillen, Director Samuelson, Attorney General Flippin, Vice President Brown.

Absent Excused: Director Kwan

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**

a. **Report of the President, Dominique Hall**

- President Hall reported that she had met with President Sandoval and Dr. Shannon Ellis during the prior week, wherein they discussed dispersing another CARES Act Relief funding package for students. She outlined the requirements for students to receive this funding. She also spoke on the University's recent announcement that spring 2021 graduation would be virtual.

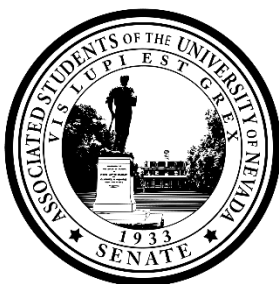
b. **Report of the Vice President, Austin Brown**

- VP Brown announced that, per his recent meeting with President Hall, President Sandoval, and Dr. Ellis, the University would be undergoing \$50 million in budget cuts. He stated that the deans of each UNR college were currently deciding how to absorb these cuts with the least impact on students. He also explained that there had been a decrease in spring enrollment by 100 to 200 students, which would decrease ASUN's budget for the remainder of the 88th session. Lastly, he reported that three thousand vaccines had been given to UNR for students and faculty. He clarified that it would likely be about a month before the majority of students would be allowed to get their vaccines.

c. **Report of the Chief of Staff, Demetri Bannoura**

- Chief of Staff Bannoura reported that the ASUN officer retreat had taken place during the prior weekend. He requested feedback on the execution of the retreat so that he could compile a resource for the next Chief of Staff, should another virtual retreat be necessary in the future.

d. **Report of the Director of Programming, Tara Okui**



Posted online at
www.nevadaasun.com.

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- Director Okui expressed approval of the recent officer retreat and outlined her department's plans for the coming semester. She stated that her department had held meetings of the winter break to coordinate events for Welcome Back Week, and she also announced that several Mackay Week events would be held the following week. She also stated that a nominee for Assistant Director of Programming, Mackenzie Clark, would speak at that week's Senate meeting. Director Okui announced that two programmers had resigned over the past two months due to other obligations, but that these positions would be left open for the remainder of the 88th session.
- e. **Report of the Director of Clubs and Organizations, Nolan Lanza**
 - Director Lanza announced that his department had hosted the UNR Club Fair and iServe in recent weeks. He discussed the turnout of each event as well as his department's recent adoption of a new student platform, Engage. He announced that UNR clubs would be allowed to join Engage on April 1. He outlined two legislative pieces written by the Department of Programming that would be discussed by the Senate. Lastly, he stated he would be working with his Assistant Director to update the club tracker and the new UNR PackLife website.
- f. **Report of the Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Priya Bajwa**
 - Director Bajwa stated that her department would hold biweekly meetings throughout the spring semester. She reported that a virtual spoken word poetry event would be held in April. She also discussed her plan to hold a meeting on the following day to discuss the logistics of securing a guest speaker for this event. Additionally, she mentioned her plans to create a virtual Black Scholars Banquet in the coming spring. She outlined her efforts to collaborate with UNR's Diversity and Inclusion Office and clarified that her department would not hold a Proud To Be campaign until the following month.
- g. **Report of the Director of Sustainability, Elizabeth Guillen**
 - Director Guillen discussed her work advocating for the renewal of EDPASS, including efforts to inform the student body of how to use the service. She also announced that the ballot question to renew EDPASS was currently being revised by ASUN's Judicial Council. She outlined her work to create more sustainable waste disposal at the Joe, which included a marketing campaign. She also announced that she had been reaching out to UNR professors to sit on the selection committee for the Sustainable Nevada Initiative Fund and mentioned plans to host virtual events for students during Earth Week. Director Guillen and President Hall discussed the monetary contributions that were expected from UNR undergraduates in order to renew the EDPASS program, and Director Guillen clarified that the EDPASS ballot question was requesting a payment of four dollars from each student.
- h. **Report of the Director of Campus Wellness, Parker Samuelson**
 - Director Samuelson reported that she had attended the Chancellor's mental health task force during the prior weekend and outlined the proceedings. She also announced that she would create new training materials for Pack Pods during the coming semester. Lastly, she stated that she was planning Wellness Week and assembling a budget to provide care packages to quarantined UNR students.
- i. **Report of the Attorney General, Paige Flippin**
 - AG Flippin outlined her recent meetings with potential applicants for the Attorney General position for the 89th session. She stated that she was holding regular meetings with her intern and recounted her recently published opinion regarding election procedures. She clarified that this opinion was viewable on the ASUN website.

6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion of the Nevada State Legislative Session

- **Discussion:** President Hall read her report to the Cabinet regarding her expectations for the ongoing Nevada Legislative session. She announced that she had accepted an internship with the Nevada state legislature and emphasized that ASUN had considerable influence in the legislature when advocating for student opportunities. She announced that she would be stepping back from the role of advocate in order to focus on her internship and explained that she would delegate additional responsibilities to each Cabinet member to accommodate for this. She gave specific duties to each Cabinet member, many of which entailed attending meetings and making decisions in the case of President Hall's absence. Directors Samuelson and Okui were also instructed to monitor local regulations regarding Covid safety as they planned student events.
- **Presentation:** Director Rangel gave a presentation on her department's advocacy plans during the ongoing session of the Nevada legislature. She announced that her department planned to host two virtual action days, wherein student stakeholders would provide public comment and testimony for legislation that would affect students. Director Rangel added that she planned to reach out to various campus organizations and UNLV's student government in hopes that they would contribute to these events. She stated that one action day would be held during March, and the second would be held during April. She outlined her plans to host a student legislator conference, which would host both student stakeholders and Nevada legislators and promote student engagement with local politics. She also listed the department's legislative priorities for the session: mental health, environment and sustainability, sexual violence and harassment prevention, affordable housing and education, LGBTQIA+ rights, services for DACA and international students, healthcare, and food insecurity. She reviewed the information that would be included in policy briefs and stated that these briefs would be uploaded to PackLife for student viewing. She also listed the bills for which ASUN would advocate, including the student loan borrower's bill. Director Rangel then reviewed her plans for a student legislative conference, a virtual Q&A event intended to foster conversations between students and legislators. Lastly, she detailed her plans for a student trivia event called "Don't Be a Political Bystander." Director Rodriguez recommended that Director Rangel collaborate with political lobbyist Michael Flores to assist in her advocacy work.

b. Debrief of ASUN Retreat

- The Cabinet elected not to discuss this line item at the time.

c. Discussion of Student Concerns

- **Discussion:** VP Brown stated that UNR engineering students were still being asked to attend a mandatory indoor, in-person event called Innovation Day, despite the recent announcement that graduation ceremonies were required to be virtual. President Hall stated that she would consult with the UNR administration on the issue, as Innovation Day seemed to violate local ordinances regarding Covid safety. Attorney General Flippin brought up student concerns surrounding Covid vaccinations. She explained that a constituent had contacted her and asked why some student workers were receiving their vaccines before other workers who had jobs with higher risks of Covid exposure. Director Rodriguez explained that vaccines were scarce, and that even professional staff with high-risk positions were currently being denied vaccines. Director Rodriguez also announced that nine students in the College of Education had written a letter to ASUN officers and to her. She stated that the letter contained very

specific and well-documented concerns, and that University administration was investigating these concerns.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

- Director Rodriguez encouraged the Cabinet members to give each other grace as they took on their new responsibilities, as listed in item 6a.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Hall adjourned the meeting at 4:57pm via Zoom.