

89th Session of the Senate of the Associated Students

Minutes for Wednesday, August 11th, 2021, at 5:30 P.M.

Zoom Conference Call: Email senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu for details

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Speaker Schein called the Senate of the Associated Students meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. via Zoom conference call. Presiding Secretary, Hope Cronan and Legislative Clerk, Bre Czerlanis.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Speaker Schein and Senators Beltran, Bergren, Bowling, Fitzpatrick, Golish, Guevin, Howell, Jojan, Kidd, Luers, McNaught, Ngo, Nithyanandan, Noble, Pelayo, Pilks, Ramirez, Ribeiro, Rountree, Rowe, Shamim, Thompson, and Wise.

A quorum was present

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

There were no minutes approved at the time.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. **Student, Trace Wolfgang**

- Wolfgang shared their and other students' strong opposition toward the proposed mandatory student health insurance policy, underlining how it would impact low-income and marginalized students. Senator Wise thanked Wolfgang and spoke in support of them and other students who would be disproportionately harmed by the policy.

b. **Anonymous Liberal Arts Student**

- Senator Ribeiro read a written statement from an anonymous student speaking out against the mandatory student health insurance policy. The student strongly urged that the Senate oppose the proposed policy.

c. **Anonymous Student**

- Senator Rowe read a written statement from an anonymous student speaking out against the proposed mandatory student health insurance policy. The statement echoed past statements and underscored how the policy would unfairly penalize low-income students who already struggle to afford the cost of tuition to simply attend the university.

d. **Student, Cathrine Desplancke**

- Senator Jojan read a written statement from an incoming sophomore at the university speaking out against the proposed mandatory student health insurance policy. Senator Jojan echoed the student's concerns regarding the policy disproportionately impacting low-income students.

e. Student Health Center Medical Director, Dr. Cheryl Hug-English

- Dr. Hug-English spoke briefly about the policy's origins. She stated that UNR, unlike most other universities, lacked an undergraduate student health insurance policy and postulated that the policy would provide a lower-cost option to students who lack health insurance due to its exorbitant price. She then fielded questions from Senators Ribeiro and Jojan and from students Wyatt Layland and Trace Wolfgang.

6. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE SENATE AND REFERRAL

a. Resignation – Senator Keller, Senator for the College of Education

- Speaker Schein read Senator Keller's resignation into record.

b. Resignation – Commissioner Hill, Commissioner of Sports

- Speaker Schein read Commissioner Hill's resignation into record.

7. REPORTS OF ASUN OFFICERS

a. President of the Associated Students, Austin Brown

- President Brown reported on the upcoming Return to Campus event, which was planned in conjunction with GSA and Dr. Shannon Ellis. He invited senators to attend the event. President Brown also discussed the proposed mandatory student health insurance policy, as well as topics such as emergency funding for the students affected by the pandemic, enrollment figures, mandatory vaccination mandates, listening sessions for the five-year Strategic Plan initiative, polling for on-campus parking, and more.

b. Vice President of the Associated Students, Keegan Murphy

- Vice President Murphy reported on a variety of updates. He discussed his attendance at several meetings concerning vaccine mandates, Greek Life, and more. Vice President Murphy discussed Welcome Week events and appealed to meeting attendants for volunteers.

c. Chief Justice, Dionne Stanfill

- Chief Justice Stanfill reported on Follow Your Curiosity presentations. She discussed her advertising to first-year students for work opportunities in the association and beyond. Chief Justice Stanfill then discussed how the Judicial Council had prepared for the upcoming year.

d. Chief of Staff, Parker Samuelson

- Chief of Staff Samuelson reported on the upcoming ASUN Summer Retreat. She overviewed last-minute policies and protocols for the days-long event.

e. Director of Clubs & Organizations, Nick Marimberga

- Speaker Schein read Director Marimberga's report into record. The report discussed updates around final planning for Club Fair, iLead, and more.

f. Director of Programming, Tara Okui

- Director Okui reported on planning for the upcoming Fall Concert, stating that her department would be announcing the headlining act soon. She then discussed planning for Welcome Week events and appealed to meeting participants for volunteers.

g. Director of Legislative Affairs, Robert Resnik

- Director Resnik reported on his meeting with UNR Director of Government Relations and Community Engagement, Michael Flores. He also discussed planning for the upcoming Voter Registration Drive.

h. Director of Diversity & Inclusion, Kaeli Britt

- Director Britt reported on developments around Pride-related initiatives. She also discussed her work planning a DEI segment for the upcoming ASUN Summer Retreat. Director Britt also discussed interviewing for the vacant commissioner spots in her department.

i. Director of Sustainability, Elizabeth Guillen

- Director Guillen reported on developments surrounding her department. She also discussed the recent RTC bus drivers strike, acknowledging how it impacted her plans for an upcoming event as well as her department's prospects for the EdPass ballot initiative.

j. Director of Campus and Public Relations, Michala Matovina

- Director Matovina reported on her recent outreach to Pack Friendly businesses and on her initiatives in conjunction with other ASUN officers. She concluded her report discussing the planned In Case You Missed It (ICYMI) posts as well as the newly released Navigate app.

k. Director of Campus Wellness, Jiego Lim

- Director Lim reported extensively about the proposed mandatory student health insurance policy. He thanked those who participated in public comment and acknowledged Dr. Hugg-English's attendance at the meeting. Director Lim discussed meetings he had attended throughout the past week before concluding his report.

l. Attorney General, Nour Sarsangi

- Attorney General Sarsangi reported on her contributions toward planning the upcoming ASUN Summer Retreat.

m. Senate Secretary, Hope Cronan

- Secretary Cronan did not deliver a report at the time.

n. Speaker of the Senate, Jakob Schein

- Speaker Schein reported on preparations for the upcoming semester, as well as a variety of projects and legislative ideas he intended on bringing to the table in the near future.

8. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. ASUN School of Journalism Senator, Vanessa Ribeiro

- Senator Ribeiro thanked Senator Keller for her work in the association.

b. ASUN School of Liberal Arts Senator, Jeremy Guevin

- Senator Guevin clarified the parliamentary procedure for fast-tracked resolutions.

9. MOTIONS TO FAST-TRACK APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments fast-tracked at the time.

10. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS OF SENATORS AND ASUN OFFICIALS

There were no appointments for approval at the time.

11. VETO MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

There were no veto messages at the time.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items for consent agenda at the time.

13. FIRST READING OF LEGISLATION

a. **S.R. 89 – A Resolution in Opposition of the Mandated Student Health Insurance Plan**

14. MOTIONS TO FAST-TRACK LEGISLATION

a. **S.R. 89 – A Resolution in Opposition of the Mandated Student Health Insurance Plan**

- **Motion from Senator Ribeiro:** Motion to fast-track S.R. 89 – A Resolution in Opposition of the Mandated Student Health Insurance Plan through unanimous consent.

Seconded by: Senator Wise.

- **Question from Speaker Schein:** Asked if there was any dissent to the motion. There was no dissent at the time.

- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

15. REFERRALS TO COMMITTEE

There were no pieces of legislation to be considered for referral at the time.

16. SECOND READING OF LEGISLATION

a. **S.R. 89 – A Resolution in Opposition of the Mandated Student Health Insurance Plan**

- **Motion from Senator Nithyanandan:** Motion to approve S.R. 89 – A Resolution in Opposition of the Mandated Student Health Insurance Plan

Seconded by: Senator Ngo.

- Senator Ribeiro delivered an authorship speech in favor of the resolution. She echoed the concerns shared in the public comment of students Trace Wolfgang and Cathrine Desplancke as well as that in the public comment of the two anonymous students. She shared additional perspectives from students who would be disproportionately affected by the plan, highlighting the impact it would have on minority and LGBTQ+ populations.
- Senator Ribeiro and Dr. Hug-English fielded questions from the senate body regarding the proposal. The discussion mainly considered NSHE's role in spending student money to subsidize the plan, the possibility of individual cost rising throughout the years, and the plan's disproportionate impact on minority and vulnerable students. Additionally, Senator Rowe asked Dr. Hug-English if she would approach the Board of Regents on behalf of the senate body and let them know about students' opposition to the plan; Dr. Hug-English replied saying yes.

- **Vote:** 23 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

17. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

a. Senate Committee Changes and Additions

- **Motion from Senator Rountree:** Motion to add Senator Rountree to the Committee on Academics and Student Affairs through unanimous consent.
- Speaker Schein asked if there was any dissent to the motion. There was no dissent at the time.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- **Motion from Senator Rountree:** Motion to remove Senator Rountree to the Committee on Safety, Sustainability, and Wellness through unanimous consent.
- Speaker Schein asked if there was any dissent to the motion. There was no dissent at the time.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

b. Senator Reports

a. Senator Rowe

- Senator Rowe reported on her progress drafting legislation regarding the secretaries.

b. Senator Jojan

- Senator Jojan reported on his outreach for the student health insurance legislation. He also discussed his difficulty securing a meeting with the Dean of the College of Engineering as well as his progress drafting legislation to increase student wages for on-campus jobs.

c. Senator McNaught

- Senator McNaught discussed his work alongside Senator Ngo in planning the upcoming Service Fair event.

d. Senator Ngo

- Senator Ngo elaborated on her work planning the Service Fair event. She also announced the time and date for the Taste of Reno event.

e. Senator Noble

- Senator Noble announced his writing a piece of legislation which would encourage the Board of Regents to enforce a mandatory COVID-19 vaccine.

f. Senator Wise

- Senator Wise discussed her work conducting outreach and drafting legislation with regards to Thacker Pass.

g. Senator Ribeiro

- Senator Ribeiro thanked a slew of senators for completing the intern pairing form.

18. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Senator from College of Journalism, Senator Rowe

- Senator Rowe thanked Senator Wise for volunteering at the School of Public Health graduation.

19. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Student, Trace Wolfgang

- Wolfgang thanked the senate for their work in passing S.R. 89 – A Resolution in Opposition of the Mandated Student Health Insurance Plan.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Speaker Schein adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm in the Rita Laden Senate Chambers, Third Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union