

Committee on Budget and Finance

Senate of the Associated Students 89th Session

Minutes for Friday, August 30, 2021 at 12:00pm

Presidents Conference Room, 3rd Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union & Zoom Meeting

Email Senator Ramirez at senatorramirez@asun.unr.edu for more information

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Ramirez called the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting to order on Friday, August 30, 2021 at 12:00pm via the Presidents Conference Room, 3rd Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom conference. Presiding Secretary, Hope Hopper.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Senators Pilks, Thompson, Fitzpatrick, Beltran, Luers, Pelayo, Ramirez, and Noble.

Absent Excused: None.

A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the time.

4. MINUTES

There were no minutes to be discussed at the time.

5. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to be discussed at the time.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Reflection on Past Semester/Goals for the New Semester (Combining Agenda Items 6a and 6b)

- **Discussion:** Chair Ramirez asked the returning senators in the body to share their learning from the prior semester, and she asked every senator to share their growth and goals for the committee in the upcoming session.
- **Senator Ramirez:** Chair Ramirez discussed the skills that she learned as she moved into the position of chair. She stated that she had asked many questions about the ASUN Fiscal Year 2022 Budget, learned how to agendaize for committee meetings, and how to create and upload spreadsheets. She encouraged the body to share their personal professional growth in addition to their goals for the committee.
- **Senator Luers:** Senator Luers shared how his understanding of budgeting grew during the committee's meetings with ASUN President Brown, wherein they discussed the details of the 2022 ASUN Budget. He added that he wished to help increase financial literacy in the ASUN Senate and in the UNR's student body.
- **Yesenia Pelayo:** Senator Pelayo discussed her experience in the Committee as a first-year senator. She stated that Director Rodriguez's presentations increased her understanding of budgeting practices.



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- **Senator Thompson:** Senator Thompson expressed interest in the details of the 2022 ASUN Budget and mentioned that the budget may change during the committee's financial reviews in the coming semester. He also discussed UNR's student enrollment status and its effects on ASUN programming and student initiatives. He stated that he wished to have ASUN Programmers explain the details of the Programming budget. Chair Pelayo commented that the ASUN Senate Committee on Oversight had discussed calling ASUN Executive officers into Budget and Finance meetings to facilitate more open communication between ASUN branches.
- **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble stated that he wished to find more creative ways for ASUN to save and reinvest its money in the coming semester.
- **Senator Fitzpatrick:** Senator Fitzpatrick expressed interest in student initiatives that were funded by ASUN. She stated that she wished to focus on the impacts of these initiatives on student success.
- **Senator Pilks:** Senator Pilks expressed interest in creating financial literacy programs for UNR students, specifically for credit, budgeting, and loans. He added that increasing the transparency of ASUN spending could help ASUN promote financial literacy in the student body.
- **Senator Ramirez:** Senator Ramirez reminded the committee that they could draft resolutions to comment on financial issues outside of ASUN. She gave the example of Senator Jojan's advocacy for a higher minimum wage in Nevada.
- **Senator Beltran:** Senator Beltran shared that she wished to gain a more thorough understanding of budgeting so that she could better contribute to meetings. Chair Ramirez suggested that the committee make more intuitive "layman" spreadsheets to help other ASUN officers understand the 2022 ASUN budget.
- **Senator Thompson:** Senator Thompson expressed interest in the bigger University initiatives that affected students. He explained that he wanted to be able to explain these programs to his constituents, including the Starship delivery robots and the Digital Wolf Pack Initiative. He also suggested that the committee give spending and budget-related updates during ASUN Senate meetings.
- **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble expressed interest in expanding the Pack Friendly Business Initiative, which provided UNR students with discounts at participating Reno businesses.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

- Director Rodriguez encouraged members of the committee to access publicly available information on prior ASUN and University budgets. She explained that the ASUN Budget Archives included an item called "Simplified Budgets," which was similar to a goal that had been discussed earlier in the meeting. She also discussed the percentage of the ASUN budget that was allocated for the wages of ASUN officers and other student workers. Lastly, she encouraged the committee to write resolutions to show ASUN's stance on various financial issues, even on state and national levels.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:27pm via the Presidents Conference Room, 3rd Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom.