

89th Session of the Senate of the Associated Students

Agenda for Wednesday, October 20th, 2021 at 5:30 P.M.

Zoom Meeting: Email Hope Cronan at senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu for details

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL**

Roll Call must be listed by Legislative Clerk

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The following minutes are up for consideration.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT (INFORMATION ONLY)**

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 Speaker may elect to take public comment on action items on this agenda. The Speaker may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak. Due to Governor Sisolak's executive orders, attendance at public meetings is limited.

Members of the public may participate in the meeting without being physically present by submitting public comment via email to Hope Cronan at senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu or by providing comment during our weekly Zoom meetings. Please email Hope for the meeting details through the email listed above.

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 Speaker may elect to take public comment on actions items on this agenda. The Speaker may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak.

VP Johnson

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

The Senate will receive communications addressed to the Senate and, if necessary, refer each to the appropriate committee. No action will be taken on communications other than referring them to committee unless placed on the fast-track agenda.

**POSTED ON OR BEFORE 9:00 a.m.
ON THE THIRD WORKING DAY BEFORE THE MEETING**

Online at www.nevadaasun.com

If you would like a copy of any of the agenda items listed, please contact Jakob Schein at 775-470-0048 or Speaker@asun.unr.edu.



7. REPORTS OF ASUN OFFICERS (INFORMATION ONLY)

The Speaker shall recognize any senior officer of the Association, including members of the Office of the Secretary, to offer a report on his or her official activities since the previous meeting and make any summary announcements he or she deems necessary for no longer than five minutes.

Reports will be heard in the following meeting.

8. REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES (INFORMATION ONLY)

The Speaker shall recognize the chairperson of each standing committee, in alphabetical order, and then each special committee, in alphabetical order, to report for no longer than five minutes on the committee's activities since the previous meeting

Reports will be heard in the following meeting.

9. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (INFORMATION ONLY)

The speaker shall recognize in turn senators requesting the floor for a period not to exceed two minutes. The total time for Comments and Announcements before the first reading of legislation shall not exceed fifteen minutes.

10. MOTIONS TO FAST-TRACK APPOINTMENTS (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

The motion to fast track a resolution or appointment confirmation shall be in order if recommended by the committee of relevant jurisdiction.

a. The following nominations were submitted to the Speaker of the Senate.

11. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS OF SENATORS AND ASUN OFFICIALS (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

The Senate will consider the following nominations for Association office. When the Senate has concluded its deliberations, the Senate may approve the nomination, reject the nomination, or take no action upon the nomination.

a. The following nominations were submitted to the Speaker of the Senate.

12. VETO MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

The Senate may reconsider acts vetoed by the ASUN President if they are returned by the President with his objections.

There are no veto messages at this time.

13. CONSENT AGENDA (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

The Speaker shall sequentially proceed through such acts of legislation that have been previously been placed on the consent agenda. Such acts shall be considered adopted by consent, unless a single senator rises in objection thereto. All acts so objected are immediately placed on the end of the agenda for second reading.

a. The following nominations were submitted to the Speaker of the Senate.

14. FIRST READING OF LEGISLATION (INFORMATION ONLY)

The following bills and resolutions will receive their first reading and may be considered under item 16 of this agenda:

a. The following legislation was submitted to the Speaker of the Senate.

- a. **A Resolution in Support of Improved COVID Policy in Order to Sustain In-Person Operation**

15. MOTIONS TO FAST-TRACK LEGISLATION (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

A senator may move that legislation under item 16 of this agenda be considered at this meeting. Such a motion shall only be in order provided that a one-day notice has been given to the speaker. The motion shall be decided without debate, and shall require the consent of a two-thirds majority of the senate.

- a. **The following legislation was submitted to the Speaker of the Senate.**

16. REFERRALS TO COMMITTEE (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

The Speaker shall refer all legislation read the first time and not fast tracked to committee.

- a. **The following legislation was submitted to the Speaker of the Senate.**
 - a. **A Resolution in Support of Improved COVID Policy in Order to Sustain In-Person Operation**

17. SECOND READING OF LEGISLATION (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

The following bills and resolutions will receive their second reading and may be considered:

- a. **The following legislation was submitted to the Speaker of the Senate.**
 - a. **A Resolution in Support of Pronoun Inclusion at the University of Nevada**

18. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

- a. **Senate Committee Changes and Additions**

The Senate may make changes to committee assignments.

- b. **Senator Reports**

The Senate will share progress they have made in ASUN-related activities that they have been working on.

Senate Legislation Workshop

Guest Speakers will be providing the senators a workshop on the decision-making process of legislation.

Senator Pelayo

Senator Fitzpatrick

Senator Luers

Legislation Tracker

19. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (INFORMATION ONLY)

The Speaker shall recognize in turn Senators requesting the floor for a period not to exceed two minutes.

20. PUBLIC COMMENT (INFORMATION ONLY)

The Speaker may elect to take public comment on items on or off this agenda. The Speaker may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak.

21. ADJOURNMENT

Notes:

Items on the agenda may be taken out of order. The Senate may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The Senate may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. Please email the Senate Secretary at senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodation should need any.

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

89th SESSION

2021-2022

S. R. 89-

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
PRONOUN INCLUSION AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA**

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

October 13th, 2021

SUBMITTED BY SENATOR KIDD, SENATOR ROWE, AND SENATOR FITZPATRICK ON BEHALF OF DIRECTOR LIM
AND DIRECTOR BRITT TO THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

A Resolution in Support of Pronoun Inclusion at the University of Nevada

1 *Whereas*, it is important to point out the difference between sex and gender;

2 *Whereas*, an individual’s sex is based on characteristics present at birth¹;

3 *Whereas*, gender is determined by a person’s sense, belief, and expression of self rather than
4 just an assigned sex at birth²;

5 *Whereas*, the use of pronouns have been used in most newspapers since the 1850’s³;

6 *Whereas*, in the later 1970’s there was an emphasis on the public use of all pronouns⁴;

7 *Whereas*, through the 2010’s the use of pronouns moved from use within primarily LGBTQ+
8 communities into a discussion on a broad, global scale⁵;

9 *Whereas*, in 2019, the singular use of “they” was added to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary⁶;

10 *Whereas*, constant misuse of an individual’s pronouns can lead to significant health
11 consequences and concerns;

12 *Whereas*, misgendering can lead to an individual feeling unseen or disrespected by their peers,
13 further impacting their mental health;

14 *Whereas*, depression, anxiety disorders, dysphoria, and suicidal ideations can develop from
15 being misgendered⁷;

¹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/whatisthedifferencebetweensexandgender/2019-02-21#:~:text=The%20World%20Health%20Organisation%20regional,expression%2C%20and%20how%20they%20behave>

² <https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/sma12-4684.pdf>

³<https://lgbtq.mit.edu/sites/default/files/documents/Transcript%20for%20Website%20-%20A%20Guide%20to%20Pronouns%20A%20Quick%20History%20and%20Best%20Practices.pdf>

⁴<https://lgbtq.mit.edu/sites/default/files/documents/Transcript%20for%20Website%20-%20A%20Guide%20to%20Pronouns%20A%20Quick%20History%20and%20Best%20Practices.pdf>

⁵<https://lgbtq.mit.edu/sites/default/files/documents/Transcript%20for%20Website%20-%20A%20Guide%20to%20Pronouns%20A%20Quick%20History%20and%20Best%20Practices.pdf>

⁶<https://lgbtq.mit.edu/sites/default/files/documents/Transcript%20for%20Website%20-%20A%20Guide%20to%20Pronouns%20A%20Quick%20History%20and%20Best%20Practices.pdf>

⁷ <https://aragonoutlook.org/2018/10/the-power-of-pronouns-how-misgendering-can-affect-student-health/>

1 *Whereas*, other mental consequences include low self-esteem, negative body image, social
2 isolation, and more can seclude an individual from society as a whole;

3 *Whereas*, mental health is important in any stage in life but is extremely important in an
4 individual in College because it can directly impact their academic performance by decreasing
5 motivation and drive to stay enrolled or actively engaged in their classes⁸;

6 *Whereas*, to reduce misgendering on campus, pronouns should be visible to anyone who
7 wants or can see them;

8 *Whereas*, an option to make pronouns more accessible to the public, the University could
9 make it an optional field when first logging into WebCampus (Canvas) as a UNR student;

10 *Whereas*, No Walls 2025, a “Student Vision for the University of Nevada in 2025,” put forth
11 by the Associated Students of the University of Nevada in 2016, calls for inclusivity on campus, and
12 promotes the idea that “Members of our Wolf Pack community in 2025 always look out for each
13 other, support each other, and listen to each other⁹;

14 *Whereas*, the misgendering of a student/s creates an environment that is a direct antithesis of
15 the aforementioned strategic plan;

16 *Whereas*, pronouns should be an optional field upon registering for attendance at the
17 University of Nevada, Reno on MyNevada;

18 *Whereas*, the employees on campus are seen and recognized by a large number of students
19 and faculty every day and should represent an inclusive environment;

⁸ <https://timely.md/blog/mental-health-services-on-college-campuses/>

⁹ <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/nevadaasun/2015/01/No-Walls-2025-AStudentVisOnForTheUniversityOfNevadaReno.pdf>

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

89th SESSION
2021-2022

S. Res. 89-

**A Resolution in Support of Improved COVID Policy in Order to
Sustain In-Person Operations**

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

OCTOBER 6, 2021

SUBMITTED BY SENATORS GOLISH AND RIBEIRO TO THE
SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

**A Resolution in Support of Improved COVID Policy in
Order to Sustain In-Person Operation**

Whereas, It is well documented that in-person learning results in a higher level of engagement and comprehension of material when compared to remote¹, as well as the benefits of socialization and physical activity on students' mental health and levels of stress.²

¹ https://mycourses.aalto.fi/pluginfile.php/1312470/mod_resource/content/3/Getting-the-next-phase-of-remote-learning-right-in-higher-education.pdf

² https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.4278/ajhp.111101-QUAN-395?casa_token=s15dr8gC4ZYAAAAA%3ADmpLazNNgup8tL_jSyxDPRSWj8AFzzvxJxPCj_MOOc2uncFC2vhHQvgO5W8_vKfsFCX8u_QbpgEp&

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno values the benefits of in-person instruction and the campus experience secured by non-remote operations³;

Whereas, It is for this reason, the Association must express the student concerns that have arose at the efforts made by the university to mitigate the coronavirus pandemic thus far, and to stress the importance of these improvements in order to sustain on-campus operations;

Whereas, There is a lack of consistency between departments regarding the availability of online options for students who are infected with the coronavirus, with many classes lacking any alternative remote options to accommodate for COVID-19;

Whereas, The absence of campus wide academic policy administering COVID-19 accommodations deters students from getting tested and staying quarantined out of fear of missing in class instruction, and overall create an inequitable experience for impacted students;

Whereas, Additionally, there is no campus wide policy mandating classes move temporarily online in the instance a COVID-19 outbreak occurs in their class or within the academic college;

Whereas, Melissa Burnham, a department chair and professor at the College of Education and Human Development, is quoted in the *Nevada Independent*, “As a chair, I’ve just told my faculty to use their best judgment,” in relation to moving online after COVID-19 outbreaks in classroom⁴, mentioning that any temporary transition to remote instruction must be approved by administration⁵;

Whereas, The University of Nevada, Reno only requires unvaccinated individuals to wear masks outdoors, and lacks any policy specifying that masks are required for outdoor events⁶, which oftentimes are congested and/or involve food;

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

⁴ <https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/unr-faculty-clash-with-administrators-over-alleged-lack-of-covid-testing>

⁵ <https://www.unr.edu/administrative-manual/2000-2999-personnel/2071-remote-work-arrangement-policy>

⁶ <https://www.unr.edu/coronavirus>

Whereas, The University of Nevada, Reno currently has no guidelines to maintain safe social distancing in classrooms, nor with planned SEAB events⁷;

Whereas, The CDC recommends social distancing of at least 3 feet in classrooms where community transmission is low or moderate⁸.

Whereas, According to recent data by Nevada Governor's Office & Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Washoe County and nearly all of its surrounding counties are still considered high risk areas of transmission for the coronavirus⁹;

Whereas, Professors and students alike have expressed concern over this lack of infrastructure in COVID-19 policy when these measures can be taken pre-emptively to protect all persons on site;

Whereas, The most notable recorded frustration by the campus community was an open letter to university administration, signed by roughly 145 faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students at UNR, with another 52 people signing the letter anonymously as of October 4th, 2021¹⁰;

Whereas, The Association recognizes many of the demands of campus community members revolve around increased testing and screening, which is the result a financial limitations felt at local, state, and federal levels;

Whereas, While these financial limitations may restrict testing access and availability, the other means of improvement are not out of reach for administration;

Whereas, The safety of students should be the number one priority of NSHE institutions, and second to that should be sustaining on-campus operations,

Be it resolved that, The Associated Student of the University of Nevada, Reno strongly support and advocate for on-campus operations, but expect the university to create more consistent and campus wide efforts in preventing the novelty virus;

⁷ <https://www.unr.edu/coronavirus>

⁸ <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0319-new-evidence-classroom-physical-distance.html>

⁹ <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/current-status-mitigation-measures/>

¹⁰ <https://www.scribd.com/document/526957257/COVID-Open-Letter-UNR-Faculty>

Be it further resolved that, A copy of this legislation be sent to the following parties:

- University President, Brian Sandoval
- Vice President of Student Services, Shannon Ellis
- Faculty Senate Chair, Amy Pason

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