

Committee on Budget and Finance

Senate of the Associated Students 90th Session

Minutes for Friday, May 6, 2022, at 3:00 pm

ASUN President's Conference Room, 3rd Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union & Zoom Meeting

Email Senator Noble at senatornoble@asun.unr.edu for more information

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Senator Noble called the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting to order on Friday, May 6, 2022, at 3:00 pm via ASUN President's Room, 3rd Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom Conference Call. Presiding Secretary, Nevaeh Wortinger.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Senators Noble, Ngo, Kermanshahi, Taglang, Greb, Salah, Kuhl

Absent Excused: Senator Brown

Tardy Excused: Senator Dean

A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the time.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- **Motion from Senator Ngo:** Motion to approve the minutes from September 20, 2021, September 27, 2021, October 4, 2021, October 11, 2021, November 22, 2021, and December 6, 2021, through unanimous consent.

Seconded by: Senator Taglang.

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

- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Present Stanfill

- President Stanfill discussed a presentation on the upcoming budget

- **Question from Senator Ngo:** Asked why there was a request for the Stronger with Nevada Committee to be allotted \$10,000.

- **Response from President Stanfill:** Answered that student leaders from every corner of campus would be invited to participate in a committee where they would hear speakers and discuss student issues.

- Senator Noble described that the budget for the 90th session was large and there was a lot to work on, and he expressed his goals for the session.



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- **Question from Senator Noble:** Asked who did not have access to the Box for the upcoming session.
 - **Response from Senators Greb and Kermanshahi:** Both raised their hands

b. Elections of Vice Chair

- **Nomination from Senator Greb:** Nominated Senator Greb to the position of Vice Chair of the Committee of Budget and Finance. Senator Greb accepted the position.
 - Senator Noble opened the floor to discussion for the nomination of Vice Chair.
 - Senator Ngo asked Senator Greb to elaborate on past leadership experience.
 - Senator Greb answered that he is President of a Jewish club on campus and is social chair of business student council
 - Senator Salah asked Senator Greb to elaborate on his goals for the budget and finance committee
 - Senator Greb answered that his goal is to do the best he can
 - Senator Ngo asked Senator Greb to discuss how he will hold himself accountable during his term
 - Senator Greb answered that he will ask for help when necessary
 - The body deliberated on the nominee
- **Vote:** 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

c. Senator Wages

- Senator Noble introduced the discussion of Senator Wages for the 90th session of ASUN. He introduced Attorney General Schein who summarized the discrepancies of the budgeting for Senator Wages.
 - Attorney General Schein read the summarized Attorney General's opinion.
- **Question from Senator Taglang:** Asked if these wages went into effect for the 90th session.
 - **Response from Attorney General Schein:** Answered in the affirmative.
- **Question from Senator Kermanshahi:** Asked if there was an adjustment for the resident's fees since he was not a resident of Nevada.
 - **Response from Attorney General Schein:** Answered that he could investigate the question further or that section of the SAS could be amended
- Senator Noble explained that any changes to the wages for the 90th session go into effect for the following session.
- **Question from Senator Ngo:** Asked for clarification on the proposal to recommend senator wages be increased through a ballot question

- **Response from Attorney General Schein:** Answered that he believed a ballot question is the best way to approach the situation.
- **Question from Senator Salah:** Asked about the comparisons of the Director's wages compared to the Senator wages.
- **Response from Attorney General Schein:** Answered where the pay rates came from and how they are practiced currently.

Senator Dean entered the meeting at 3:28 pm
- Senator Ngo asked for the full timeline in terms of how this information came about in terms of the pay.
- Attorney General Schein described where the error of understanding the budget had come from
- Director Rodriguez mentioned that she did not believe the Director should be able to higher or lower wages whenever they wanted. Senator Noble explained further that the formal budget amendment could not be changed, but that it was only valid until Fiscal Year 2023.
- Senator Kermanshahi asked about the distance education fee, and it was still being utilized
 - Attorney General Schein described the different utilization of the fees he mentioned and what they go towards. He also described his intent to investigate other fees to understand if they are still necessary.
 - Senator Kermanshahi commented on the poor usage of the word "aggregate."
- Attorney General Schein elaborated on the fact that Judicial Council just approved the opinion regarding wages but that they did not hold a hearing
 - Senator Noble asked if Senator Kermanshahi was interested in working with Judicial council to revise which fees should be included in the budget before the budget is passed.
- Senator Kermanshahi clarified that he would like the judicial council to make an opinion on what the word "aggregate" means in the SAS.
- Attorney General Schein clarified the additional registration and mandatory fees and explained to Senator Kermanshahi that he would be willing to work with him on this particular situation.
 - Senator Noble asked if Attorney General Schein could clarify the distinction between the Officer and Senator positions.

- Attorney General Schein explained the correct process of resignations for senators and the distinction between officers and senators

- Senator Kermanshahi asked for clarification on what a permissible letter of resignation can look like.
- Director Butler asked Senator Noble for clarification on his question to the attorney general regarding pay for those who have resigned from their position
- Attorney General Schein read aloud the official resignation of Senator from the previous session as an example of a permissible resignation notice
- Assistant Director of Accounting Patrick Alejaga clarified what days of the month ASUN official get paid
- Director of the Center for Student Engagement Sandra Rodriguez clarified that what matters most when an officer resigns is that their resignation is read unto the record
- Vice President Fitzpatrick explained the differentiation between elected versus appointed officials.
- The body deliberated on the conflict of interest of senators discussing senator wages.

d. S.B.90 – An Act to Approve the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023

- There was no dissent at this time. Senator Noble asked the committee to look into the budget and come prepared with questions for the next committee meeting.
 - **Motion by Senator Ngo:** motion to postpone the approval of the budget for fiscal year 2023
 - **Second:** Senator Dean
 - **Vote:** 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
 - **Motion carried**

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Vice President Fitzpatrick

- Vice President Fitzpatrick encouraged the body to continue having discussions on senator wages

b. Attorney General Schein

- Asked senators interested in discussing fees to stay after the meeting to speak with him

8. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Noble adjourned the meeting at 4:25pm via ASUN President's Conference Room, 3rd Floor of the Joe Crowley Student and via Zoom Conference Call.