

# Committee of Democratic Civic Engagement

Senate of the Associated Students 90th Session

Minutes for Thursday, May 26, 2023, at 11 a.m.

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

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## 1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Senator Claussen called the Committee of Democratic Civic Engagement meeting to order on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 11:02 p.m. via the ASUN President's Conference Room and zoom, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union. Presiding Secretary Neveah Wortinger.

## 2. **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Senator Claussen, Senator McCulley, Senator Ngo, Senator Dean, Senator Swackhammer.

**Tardy Unexcused:** Senator Noble.

**Absent Excused:** Senator Smith, Senator Cano-Sanchez, Senator Jojan.

A quorum was present.

## 3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at the time.

## 4. **MINUTES**

There were no minutes to approve at this time.

## 5. **REPORT OF DIRECTOR**

a. Director of Government Affairs Amanda Vaskov

- Discussed the upcoming senatorial debate and how she is still waiting for confirmation from the candidates that they will show up for the discussion. She also stated that there will be alternative plans, such as a gubernatorial debate or a town hall if the candidates for the senatorial debate do not agree to show up. She told the committee to review the budget wish list that was discussed at senate.

## 6. **OLD BUSINESS**

There were no old at this time.

## 7. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Discussion and Brainstorm of the United States Senatorial Debate Event on Campus

- **Comment from Senator Claussen:** Stated that she would like to hear from the committee about their thoughts on the upcoming debate and what they think it should look like.
- **Comment from Senator Noble:** Stated that he would like to involve President Sandoval, as his position as the former Governor of Nevada could increase the likelihood that both candidates agree to the debate. He also stated that he established



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communication with Senator Catherine Cortez Masto's event planner and would like to do the same with Adam Laxalt's team.

- **Comment from Director Vaskov:** Stated that she liked the idea of involving President Sandoval. She stated that she would like to create a plan b in case Adam Laxalt's team does not agree to the debate.
- **Question from Senator Swackhammer:** Asked if anyone has reached out to Adam Laxalt's team.
  - **Response from Senator Noble:** Stated that in the 89<sup>th</sup> Session, two senators were able to talk with the Laxalt campaign, and at the time they talked, the team seemed interested.
  - **Response from Senator Ngo:** Stated that she would be willing to reach out to the senators from the 89<sup>th</sup> session to get contact information from the party.
  - **Response from Director Vaskov:** Stated that she would like to get contact information from and for multiple sources in the Laxalt campaign, as they are planning multiple events on campus.
- **Comment from Senator Swackhammer:** Stated that they should make a timeline for the event. He then asked when the debate will occur.
  - **Response from Director Vaskov:** Stated that she agrees that a timeline will be beneficial and that the event will occur before November, most likely in September or October.
- **Comment from Senator Noble:** Stated that the event should occur near Nevada Day, as both Senators will be in Nevada at the time.
- **Comment from Senator McCulley:** Stated that having the debate near Nevada Day is a good idea, but noted that the candidates may be busy at that time.
- **Comment from Senator Swackhammer:** Stated that they should pick a date for the debate as soon as possible to ensure that both candidates can come. He also asked when they should plan on reaching out to the 89<sup>th</sup> session senators who have communicated with Adam Laxalt as well as when they will coordinate the date for the event with both candidates.
  - **Response from Director Vaskov:** Stated that she will not be reaching out to the Laxalt campaign before June 4<sup>th</sup>, as the campaign is busy planning other events on campus.
- **Comment from Senator Noble:** Stated that it could be wise to wait until both candidates win their primaries to reach out to them. He also noted that it might be beneficial to plan the debate before or during the time of early voting to further incentivize both candidates to show up.
- **Comment from Director Vaskov:** Agreed to reach out to them as soon as possible and stated that she believes that the candidates will show up even if they are not in Nevada, as there will be a massive amount of media coverage.
- **Question from Senator Swackhammer:** Asked if national media will come to a university event.
  - **Response from Director Vaskov:** Replied that national media will come since the election is so important in Nevada. She also stated that they can begin to plan the event before they reach out to the candidates.
- **Comment from Assistant Director of ASUN:** Stated that they should reach out to the JCSU to see if the ballrooms could be used as a venue.
- **Question from Director Vaskov:** Asked if a pack life form assessing interest in the debates and venue location is sent out, would it be binding.

- **Response from Assistant Director of ASUN:** Stated that it is not binding and can be updated.
- **Question from Director Vaskov:** Asked if she needed to get more contact information for the various venue options.
  - **Response from Senator Claussen:** Responded that she will be holding off contacting venues until they have a set date for the debate.
- **Comment from Senator Noble:** Stated that the committee should begin delegating tasks to different senators to get the ball rolling for the debate.
- **Comment from Senator Ngo:** Stated that providing a date and a venue to the Laxalt and Cortez-Masto campaigns would be a good place to start in terms of planning the event.
- **Comment from Director Vaskov:** Stated that she will begin delegating tasks and noted that someone should be in charge of tracking the cost of the event.
- **Comment from Senator Noble:** Stated that he will reach out to President Sandoval to discuss the debate and also noted that Senator Dean, as a finance major, would likely be the best option for determining the cost of the event.
- **Comment from Senator Dean:** Stated that he would be willing to determine the cost of the debate.
- **Comment from Director Vaskov:** Stated that she would like to be tasked with reaching out to the Laxalt team as she is aware of their upcoming events.
- **Comment from Senator Noble:** Stated that he would like Director Vaskov to share the potential conflicts with the Laxalt team with the committee so they can have more knowledge for planning the event.
- **Comment from Director Vaskov:** Stated that the Laxalt campaign is coming to Lawlor on June 4<sup>th</sup>, and has been unable to find an on-campus sponsor for the event, leading to frustration amongst the planners.
- **Question from Senator Dean:** Asked if an individual can sponsor the Laxalt campaign's event at Lawlor, and if not, why must it be a group on campus.
  - **Response from Director Vaskov:** Stated that the Laxalt team must be sponsored by a group on campus as the university has a policy that requires an on-campus, group sponsor.
- **Question from Senator Noble:** Asked if the committee will be delaying reaching out to the candidates until after the primaries end.
  - **Response from Director Vaskov:** Stated that they will not be waiting until the primaries are decided. She also stated that she will be meeting with the marketing team to help determine the best time for the event.
- **Comment from Senator Noble:** Stated that he does not mind waiting to reach out to the candidates, but tasks should be delegated now to get the plan set.
- **Comment from Director Vaskov:** Stated that she will email out a list delegating tasks.
- **Comment from Senator Claussen:** Stated that she will work with Director Vaskov to delegate tasks to the committee.
- **Comment from Assistant Director of ASUN:** Told the committee to begin looking at their availability for late October to be ready for the event.
- **Question from Senator Swackhammer:** Asked if there was a system in place for students to ask questions at the event.
  - **Response from Director Vaskov:** Stated she was working with Director Rodriguez to set up a poll for questions. She also stated that they were planning on having a live Q&A at the debates.

- **Comment from Senator Noble:** Stated that to make sure the questions are germane, having a poll that would determine students concerns before the actual debate would be beneficial.
- **Comment from Senator Swackhammer:** Stated that he thinks gauging questions beforehand would be beneficial but that a live Q&A would be too.
- **Question from Senator Claussen:** Asked if there should be a theme for the debate.
  - **Response from Senator Noble:** Said there should not be a theme, but rather divisions by topic.
- **Comment from Director Vaskov:** Stated that she will delegate collecting questions from students to a member of the committee. She also stated that the event will have the theme of student life in Nevada, since it is being hosted by a college in Nevada with Nevada representatives.
- **Comment from Senator Ngo:** Stated that she likes the idea of taking questions from students before the event. She also stated that applying a theme to the event might limit the discussion that could be had at the event.
- **Comment from Senator Noble:** Stated that they should pick students' questions before hand to make sure the same question isn't being asked multiple times.
- **Comment from Director Vaskov:** Stated that any committee member who wants to filed the questions should contact her after the meeting. She also clarified the process the Department of Government Affairs goes through to bring candidates to campus.
- **Comment from Senator Ngo:** Stated that the committee should reach out to professors within the department of political science so they can tell their students

**b. Discussion and Brainstorm of Service Fair**

- **Comment from Senator Claussen:** Stated that she will be letting Senator Ngo take the lead in this project as she has planned previous service fairs. Senator Claussen passed the gavel to Senator Ngo.
- **Comment from Senator Ngo:** Discussed how the service fair will work, who will be attending, and what students will be able to do at the event.
- **Question from Senator Swackhammer:** Asked for a brief, more specific description of the service fair. He also asked if the committee will be reaching out to the different organizations they want to see at the event.
  - **Response from Senator Ngo:** Stated that the event is a collaboration with the Department of Programming is putting on called The Taste of Reno. The service aspect will involve getting students involved by interacting with different local organizations and get food at the end. She stated she will email committee members with a community partners list.
- **Question from Senator Swackhammer:** Asked if an RSVP email or form has been sent out and how the committee can help run the event.
  - **Response from Senator Ngo:** Stated that she is waiting for the form to be made. She also stated that committee members can sign up for different organizations to reach out to. She concluded by asking the committee to email her with any questions they may have.Senator Ngo passed the gavel back to Senator Claussen.
- **Question from Senator Ngo:** Asked if access to committee lists could be sent out to all the senators to include more people in their meetings.
  - **Response from Senator Claussen:** Stated that she did not have access to the lists.

- **Response from Director Butler:** Stated that a tech request could be sent to gain access to the lists.
- **Comment from Director Butler:** Clarified that who could sponsor outside political organizations on campus.

**8. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

There was no miscellaneous business at this time.

**9. COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Director Butler clarified that who could sponsor outside political organizations on campus.
- b. Director Vaskov stated that she will gladly help anyone who would like to sponsor outside political organizations on campus.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Jojan adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m. via ASUN President Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union.