

# Committee on Budget and Finance

Senate of the Associated Students 90th Session

Minutes for Friday, June 10, 2022 at 3:00pm

Room , 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union & Zoom Meeting

Email Senator Noble at [senatornoble@asun.unr.edu](mailto:senatornoble@asun.unr.edu) for more information

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

Chair Noble called the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting to order on Friday, June 10, 2022 at 3:06pm via the Presidents Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom conference. Presiding Secretary, Ally Chavez.

## **2. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Senators Noble, Ngo, Greb, Kuhl, Kermanshahi, and Salah.

**Tardy Excused:** Senator Dean

**Absent Excused:** None.

A quorum was present.

## **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **a. Jocelyn Simmons, Commissioner of Social Justice and Policy for the ASUN Department of IDEA**

- Commissioner Simmons gave a comment in support of Brushfire. She listed the publication's many awards, detailed its long history, and argued for the importance of keeping the creative outlet on campus.

### **b. Maria Zamudio, Director of the ASUN Department of Programming**

- Director Zamudio gave a public comment on behalf of her department's Assistant Director of Budget and Finance, Olivia Rice. AD Rice's comment expressed support for the Brushfire and INsight publications and clarified that the Department of Programming did not wish to see their budget liquidated for Programming use.

*Senator Dean entered the meeting at 3:13pm.*

### **c. Phoebe Coogle, Editor in Chief of Brushfire**

- Editor In Chief Coogle first confirmed with the Committee that they would debate eliminating Brushfire's budget entirely. She then detailed the many differences between the Brushfire and Insight publications and described the student demand for Brushfire journals on campus and in the greater community.

### **d. Carlos Lara, Director of the ASUN Department of Campus and Public Relations**

- Director Lara gave a comment with his perspective as a student of the UNR College of Liberal Arts. He voiced his opposition to the elimination of the Brushfire budget, particularly considering that the Committee had not conducted student outreach before making their decision. He added that eliminating the budget would negatively impact students who were employed by the Brushfire.

### **e. Nicholas Huffman, Former Editor In Chief of Brushfire**

- Mr. Huffman expressed his support for the Brushfire Art and Literature Journal and gave examples of how the Brushfire brought Reno community members together. He added that the publication gave valuable learning opportunities to aspiring student writers.



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[www.nevadaasun.com](http://www.nevadaasun.com).

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**f. Adelynn Puett, Manager of Wolfpack Radio**

- Ms. Puett voiced her support for keeping the Brushfire budget and shared her positive experiences working with and around Brushfire contributors.

**g. Emerson Drewes, Editor in Chief of the Nevada Sagebrush**

- Chair Noble read a comment into record on behalf of Editor in Chief Drewes. The comment expressed support for Brushfire and expressed the opinion that student media had already been restricted for years. The comment also explained why the funding for all UNR student media outlets was already restrictive to the students who contributed to them.

**h. Wyatt Layland, Senate Secretary for ASUN/Center for Student Engagement**

- Senate Secretary Layland spoke in support of keeping the Brushfire budget. He also detailed the responsibilities of the ASUN Secretaries' Office and argued that secretaries' wages should be raised.

**i. Kimberly Claussen, ASUN Senator for the College of Liberal Arts**

- Senator Claussen expressed support for the Brushfire Journal and argued that eliminating its budget would be a blatant attack on student media.

**j. Amelia Bryan, ASUN Senator for the College of Engineering and Riley McCulley, Senator for the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources**

- Chair Noble read a comment on behalf of Senators McCulley and Bryan. Their comment condemned the Committee's idea to eliminate the Brushfire budget and argued that the Journal was a valuable creative outlet for minority students.

**k. Ashley Martinez, ASUN Chief of Staff**

- Chair Noble read a comment into record on behalf of Chief of Staff Martinez. The comment offered Chief for Staff Martinez's perspective as a student from the UNR College of Liberal Arts and the Reynolds School of Journalism. It condemned the possible elimination of the Brushfire budget and argued that there were few artistic journals to which students could submit their work.

**4. MINUTES**

There were no minutes to be approved at the time.

**5. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

**a. Report of the President of ASUN, Dionne Stanfill**

- President Stanfill did not give a report at the time.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. SB 90 - An Act to Approve the ASUN Budget for Fiscal Year 2023**

- Senator Dean clarified his previous proposal to eliminate the Brushfire Journal budget. He explained that he had wished to consolidate the funds for the journal into a different outlet or suboutlet while preserving the voices of students. He added that he had recently reviewed the line item Brushfire budget and stood by this statement.
- Senator Greb criticized Senator Dean's suggestion and argued that his own outreach had revealed extensive student support for the Brushfire. He added that the Brushfire's Editor In Chief, Phoebe Coogle, had sent detailed information justifying the journal's \$33,000 budget.
- Senator Salah argued that it was not the role of ASUN Senators to get rid of a program solely because they as individuals did not approve of it. She also apologized to Brushfire contributors on behalf of the Committee.
- Senator Ngo pointed out that, should the Brushfire budget be eliminated, there seemed to be a lack of planning as to where the \$33,000 budget would be

transferred. She emphasized the importance of student media in the context of student government. She then referenced the University Administrative Manual, Chapter 3005: Student Affairs to argue that UNR Student Media had its own governing documents, complied with Nevada Open Meeting Law, and had decision making authority, which therefore made student media a governing body by itself.

- Senator Noble pointed out that while it was the Committee's right to make budgetary cuts to programs that no longer served students, alternative measures also needed to be explored first.
- Senator Kermanshahi argued that the Brushfire budget should be decreased by consolidating the Brushfire budget with that of Insight and the Sagebrush. He stated that all student media-related funds should be sent to one authority, who could then reassess the funding allocated for Brushfire.
- Senator Dean responded to Senator Greb and argued that, from a business standpoint, the Brushfire budget was inherently wasteful.
- Senator Ngo responded to Senator Kermanshahi by arguing that lumping the Insight, Brushfire, and Sagebrush budgets into one student media account would not change the budget justifications for each publication, and would therefore not decrease any of the three budgets. She also detailed how each publication was distinct and unique from one another. She cited the University Administrative Manual, Chapter 3005: Student Affairs to argue that the publications were entitled to "sufficient editorial freedom and financial autonomy," and as such should be allowed to keep their current funding for the next fiscal year.
- Senator Kuhl argued against consolidating the budgets for the three UNR student publications and pointed out that letting the publications distribute funds amongst themselves, as Senator Kermanshahi suggested, would eliminate a need for the Committee on Budget and Finance.
- Senator Noble commented that the Brushfire budget could be audited and amended if the account's spending goals were not met by the time they were called for a financial review in fall 2022.
- Attorney General Schain made a comment, to which there was no dissent. He reminded the body that their meeting could not run past 5pm, and that they must favorably recommend the budget by then in order to have the budget passed before the deadline of June 30, 2022.
- Senator Greb gave an assessment of the budget justifications for the account of the Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. He stated that he had met with Director Wolfgang and Commissioner Simmons from the Department, and that he was confident that the proposed budget would be used effectively. He explained that the account would be used to create events and series of events to highlight and celebrate various religions, ethnicities, and other groups.
  - Senator Kermanshahi asked if the Department of DEI would be open to collaborating with the Graduate Student Alliance at UNR and Senator Greb answered that they likely would.
- Senator Salah gave an assessment of the budget justifications for the account of the Nevada State Undergraduate Research Journal. She presented the goals of the organization, detailed their budget by line item for the coming fiscal year, and shared her experiences and information gained from conducting outreach on the topic. She stated that the account totaled almost \$21,700, which included some funds carried over from the prior year. She clarified that while there was an increase in wages due to the addition of an editor, the budget would not be undergoing a net increase.

- Senator Ngo asked the Center for Student Engagement Director, Director Rodrigez, to explain the budget discrepancies between the budget estimate and the budget posted in the meeting agenda. Director Rodriguez clarified that the budget estimate was the most updated and accurate version of the ASUN Fiscal Year 2023 Budget and that the Committee would need to amend their version of the budget accordingly. She also clarified that the \$4,000 student wage discrepancy between the budget justification and the budget on the agenda was all being moved around within the allocated \$21,700 for the Undergraduate Research Journal account, and that there were no additional funds being moved into the account.
- Senator Kermanshahi gave an assessment of the budget justifications for the ASUN External Review account, for which he suggested no changes.
  - Senator Ngo asked if the external review would be conducted for ASUN only, and Director Rodriguez confirmed that it would.
- Senator Kuhl gave an assessment of the budget justifications for the ASUN Elections Account, for which he suggested no changes.
- Senator Ngo and Senator Kermanshahi gave an assessment of the budget justifications for the ASUN Senate Account. Senator Ngo detailed the Senate's meetings, trainings, and outreach costs and reminded the Committee that they had previously discussed increasing the outreach budget from \$2,500 to \$5,000. She also broke down the justifications for the Veterans' Luncheon line item, a budget which would be spent by the Committee on Democratic and Civic Engagement per Senate rules. Senate Secretary Layland gave a comment to explain the justifications for raising ASUN Secretary wages. Senator Kermanshahi explained his reasoning for advocating for increased senator wages. He added that he was willing to justify this increase to the ASUN Judicial Council and to President Stanfill if needed.
  - Senator Ngo pointed out that the ASUN President could line item veto the wage increase if it were approved by the Committee that day. She stated that President Stanfill and the Judicial Council would always be the ones to decide Senator wages. Attorney General Schein confirmed Senator Ngo's comment.
  - Senator Kermanshahi argued that senators who needed to pay more student fees, depending on their college, should receive sufficient senator wages to compensate for those differing fees.
- **Motion from Senator Ngo:** Motion to favorably recommend SB 90 - An Act to Approve the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023
  - **Seconded by:** Senator Kermanshahi
  - **Motion from Senator Kermanshahi:** Motioned to amend SB 90 - An Act to Approve the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023 by substitution to reflect the various changes in accounts as outlined in the file "FY 23 Budget Estmt 5.13.2022.xlsx" to reflect the following accounts: Campus Escort, Center for Student Engagement, Contingency Fund, Programming Board, and Clubs and Organizations.
    - **Seconded by:** Senator Kuhl.
    - There was no discussion on the amendment at the time.
    - **Vote:**
      - **In Favor:** Senators Ngo, Dean, Greb, Kuhl, Kermanshahi, and Salah.
      - **Opposed:** None.
      - **Abstentions:** None.
    - **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- Senate Secretary Layland reviewed his budget justification for Secretary wage increase. He clarified that with the adjustment for ASUN Secretary hours, the total

of the 2023 ASUN Secretary Budget would be slightly less than originally proposed. He stated that the new total would be \$19,872.

- **Motion from Senator Ngo:** Motioned to amend SB 90 - An Act to Approve the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023 by substituting under “ASUN Secretaries” the amount of \$19,872.
  - **Seconded by:** Senator Kuhl.
  - **Discussion and Questions:**
    - Senator Greb asked where the funds for the Secretary wage increase would be taken from. Director Rodriguez answered that the funds would be taken from the Reserve Account.
  - **Vote:**
    - **In Favor:** Senators Ngo, Dean, Greb, Kuhl, Kermanshahi, and Salah.
    - **Opposed:** None.
    - **Abstentions:** None.
  - **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- **Motion from Senator Ngo:** Motioned to amend SB 90 - An Act to Approve the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023 by substituting under “Host Outreach” the value of \$5,000.
  - **Seconded by:** Senator Kuhl.
  - There was no discussion on the motion at the time.
  - **Vote:**
    - **In Favor:** Senators Ngo, Dean, Greb, Kuhl, Kermanshahi, and Salah.
    - **Opposed:** None.
    - **Abstentions:** None.
  - **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- **Motion from Senator Ngo:** Motioned to amend SB 90 - An Act to Approve the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023 by adding an additional \$340 to the item Pack Internship Grant Student Employees under Milton D. Glick, Academic Initiatives, PG08742.
  - **Seconded by:** Senator Kuhl.
  - There was no discussion on the motion at the time.
  - **Vote:**
    - **In Favor:** Senators Ngo, Dean, Greb, Kuhl, Kermanshahi, and Salah.
    - **Opposed:** None.
    - **Abstentions:** None.
  - **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- **Motion from Senator Ngo:** Motioned to amend SB 90 - An Act to Approve the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023 by substituting under ASUN Senate, Student Wages, Senator Wages, the amount of \$133,902.50.
  - **Seconded by:** Senator Kermanshahi.
  - **In Favor:** Senators Dean, Greb, Kuhl, Kermanshahi, and Salah.
  - **Opposed:** Senator Ngo.
  - **Abstentions:** None.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- **Motion from Senator Noble:** Motioned to recess for five minutes at 4:50pm.
  - **Seconded by:** Senator Kuhl.

- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

*The body reconvened at 4:52pm.*

- The body verified that they had had ample time to review the most recently updated version of the ASUN Fiscal Year 2023 Budget.
- **Motion from Senator Ngo:** Motioned to amend SB 90 - An Act to Approve the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023 under Government Affairs PG 03044 by substituting "Government" in the first line item to read "Director of Government Affairs."
  - **Seconded by:** Senator Kuhl.
  - There was no discussion on the motion at the time.
  - **Vote:**
    - **In Favor:** Senators Ngo, Dean, Greb, Kuhl, Kermanshahi, and Salah.
    - **Opposed:** None.
    - **Abstentions:** None.
  - **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- **Vote to Approve the ASUN Fiscal Year 2023 Budget:**
  - **In Favor:** Senators Ngo, Dean, Greb, Kuhl, Kermanshahi, and Salah.
  - **Opposed:** None.
  - **Abstentions:** None.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

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

8. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

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

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no additional public comment at the time.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Noble adjourned the meeting at 4:56pm via the Presidents Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom conference call.