

Committee on Budget and Finance

Senate of the Associated Students 90th Session

Minutes for Friday, September 2, 2022 at 3:00pm

Presidents 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

Chair Nobel called the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting to order on Friday, September 2, 2022 at 3:01pm via the Presidents Conference Room, 3rd Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom conference. Presiding Secretary, Wyatt Layland.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Senators Noble, Ngo, Greb, Kuhl, Kermanshahi, and Brown.

Tardy Excused: Senator Salah

Tardy Unexcused: Senator Dean, Senator Taglang.

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 approved at the time.

5. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

ASUN President Dionne Stanfill had no report at the time.

6. OLD BUSINESS

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

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Legislation: S.B. 90 - A Bill to Update the Budget

- **Presentation:** ASUN Chief Justice Zane Taylor gave a presentation to propose a \$100 increase to the account of the ASUN Judicial Council, which had formerly had a budget of \$500. He detailed the operating costs on which this \$100 would be spent. He emphasized the Council's goal to increase student outreach, particularly for UNR Pre-Law students.
- **Discussion and Questions:**
 1. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble pointed out that the previous session's Judicial administration had purchased all of the graduation stoles for 90th Session graduating officers. He asked why the \$100 would be used to buy more stoles. Chief Justice Taylor responded that there were not enough stoles for all 90th Session graduates. Chief Justice Taylor added that all funds used to



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Chair Noble at senatornoble@asun.unr.edu

benefit 90th Session officers had to be taken from the
“Operations” line item.

- **Motion from Senator Ngo:** Motion to amend S.B. 90 - A Bill to Update the Budget by substitution on page 1, line 8, to read “Be it enacted that, the Budget Of the Associated Students for the account item “Judicial Council” will reflect Addendum A.”
Seconded by: Senator Kuhl
 - **Vote:**
 1. **In Favor:** Senators Ngo, Greb, Kuhl, Kermanshahi, and Brown.
 2. **Opposed:** None.
 3. **Abstentions:** None.
 - **Resolved:** Motion carried.
 - There was no further discussion on the legislation at the time.
 - **Motion from Senator Ngo:** Motioned to approve S.B. 90 - A Bill to Update the Budget.
 - **Seconded by:** Senator Kuhl.
 - **Vote to Approve A.B. 90 - A Bill to Update the Budget:**
 - **In Favor:** Senators Ngo, Greb, Kuhl, Kermanshahi, and Brown.
 - **Opposed:** None.
 - **Abstentions:** None.
 - **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- b. **Fall 2022 Financial Review Schedule**
- **Discussion:** Chair Noble explained the purpose of financial reviews, listed the accounts that would be reviewed in the coming semester, and stated the dates on which the committee would conduct each review. He stated that the first financial review of the semester would take place on September 23, 2022 and would explore the Executive account and the Clubs and Organizations account in the ASUN Fiscal Year 2023 Budget.
- c. **Committee Goals Brainstorming Session**
- **Discussion:** Senator Noble asked the committee members how they wished to conduct and prepare for financial reviews during the semester.
 - **Questions and Discussion:**
 1. **Senator Greb:** Senator Greb suggested that the committee members compile a list of questions to ask before each financial review. He added that the committee should send this list of questions to the parties presenting so that they would be able to give researched answers during the review.
 2. **Senator Kuhl:** Senator Kuhl expressed approval of Senator Greb’s idea but argued that the committee should be able to ask impromptu questions during financial reviews, as well. Senator Greb agreed.
 3. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble pointed out that questions should not be sent in advance because they would not be publicly available prior to the meeting. He argued that questions should be

formed and asked on public record only in order to uphold Nevada Open Meeting Law.

4. **Senator Ngo:** As a solution to the transparency issue, she recommended that the questions be discussed and finalized on public record during the meeting before the financial review.
5. **Senators Greb and Noble:** Senator Greb asked if the questions could be listed on the meeting agendas instead, to which Senator Noble argued that agenda items were meant to be more general rather than listing specific questions.

Senator Salah entered the meeting at 3:25pm.

6. **Director Rodriguez:** There was no dissent to Director Rodriguez giving a comment. She stated that the parties called in for financial reviews were required to send memos to the committee members 48 hours in advance of the review. She stated that these memos would detail the purposes and expenditures of each account. She added that the Center for Student Engagement encouraged account holders to provide statistics to show the success of their programs and initiatives.
7. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble recommended that committee members spend an hour of their required outreach asking students about the programs and organizations that were due for financial reviews. He encouraged them to ask for students' opinions in order to understand general student perception of the account holders. He gave the ASUN Department of Programming as an example. Senator Kuhl expressed agreement.
8. **Senator Greb:** Senator Greb argued that this outreach should be more structured so as not to be swayed by individual bias, as small sample sizes may make the feedback inaccurate.
9. **Senator Salah:** Senator Salah argued that each senator should gather student feedback as they saw fit.
10. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble asked the committee members to share their other goals for the committee for the 90th Session.
11. **Senator Greb:** Senator Greb stated that he wished to write legislation increasing ASUN Senators' wages. Senators Ngo and Kuhl agreed, and they both argued that higher wages made the position more accessible to UNR students.

Senator Kermanshabhi left the meeting at 3:47pm.

12. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble advised that the committee would need to favorably recommend a ballot question for the next ASUN election. He added that, if the ballot question was approved by the ASUN Senate, the NSHE Board of Regents would then need to approve the raise.
13. Through a show of hands, five of the committee members present expressed interest in exploring increasing senator wages. It was agreed that the issue would be discussed at future committee meetings.

8. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

a. **Committee Member Introductions**

- **Discussion:** Senator Noble asked each member of the body to answer questions on how they spent their money in order to get more familiar with one another.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. ASUN Senate Secretary Wyatt Layland

- Secretary Layland announced that Secretary Nevaeh Wortinger would cover meetings for the committee on Budget and Finance for the duration of the session. He also recommended that the senators meet with student leaders on campus in order to gather honest feedback on student programs.

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

- Director Rodriguez expressed agreement with Senator Greb and pointed out that senators should conduct more structured outreach when preparing for financial reviews. She warned the body not to relay individual student feedback on public record so as not to color the perception of campus and programs and initiatives.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Noble adjourned the meeting at 3:57pm via the Presidents Conference Room, 3rd Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom conference call.