

# Committee on Oversight

Senate of the Associated Students 90th Session  
Minutes for Monday, September 19th, 2022 at 7:00 a.m.  
Room 420, 4th Floor Joe Crowley Student Union  
Email [senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu](mailto:senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu) for more information

## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Speaker Thompson called the meeting of the Committee on Oversight to order on Monday, September 19th, 2022, at 7:08 a.m. via Room 420, 4th Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union.

## 2. ROLL CALL

**Present:** Speaker Thompson, Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo, Parliamentarian Taeubel, and Senators Bergren, Claussen, Gonzalez, Nithyanandan, Noble, and Salah.

A quorum was present.

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the time.

## 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

There were no minutes were approved at the time.

## 5. REPORTS

There were no reports delivered at the time.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed at the time.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Points Memo

- Speaker Thompson read the most up-to-date Points Memo into record.

### b. Censure Hearing for Senator Kermanshahi

- Speaker Thompson read the rules of deliberation for the forthcoming censure hearing, which was for Senator for the School of Public Health John Kermanshahi.
- The first part of the hearing contained discussion on Senator Kermanshahi's points. At the time, Senator Kermanshahi had eight and one-third points, which included four "absent unexcused" markings at Senate of the Associated Students meetings as well as one "tardy unexcused" marking for a Committee meeting.
- Senator Kermanshahi appealed to the Committee on Oversight to excuse the points, citing communication issues with Speaker Thompson and unrelated personal problems as the primary reasons for not attending meetings of the Senate. He stated that he made a personal promise to Speaker Thompson to attend all future Senate of the Associated Student meetings, be it in-person or over Zoom.



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- Senator Kermanshahi then fielded questions from the Committee, where he elaborated on his efforts as a Senator as well as his plans to maintain his inclusion both within and as a member of the Association. Senator Noble defended his decision to assign Senator Kermanshahi a “tardy unexcused” designation at the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting, though he agreed that the one-third point ought to be expunged from the Senator’s tally.
- The Committee on Oversight then deliberated on the censure. Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo suggested that Senator Kermanshahi deliver reports during Senate meetings to ensure that he remained engaged with Senate-related business, while Senator Noble recommended a soft censure for Senator Kermanshahi before pursuing more punitive measures. However, Parliamentarian Taubel advised the Committee to not excuse points this early in the Session, citing the Committee’s duty to hold Senators accountable. Ultimately, the Committee agreed that, though he should not be expelled from the Senate, Senator Kermanshahi should still face more minor punitive actions for the points he accumulated, such as sending a written apology to the Nevada Sagebrush for publication.
- The second part of the hearing concerned potential actions from the Committee on Oversight regarding Senator Kermanshahi’s points.
  - Many Senators—including Senators Bergren, Claussen, Nithyanandan—agreed that Senator Kermanshahi should be held accountable, but that more severe punitive measures, such as expulsion, should only be pursued if he accumulates more points.
  - Parliamentarian Taubel proposed, as a punitive measure enforceable by censure, an extra hour of outreach from Senator Kermanshahi per each accumulated point; Senator Noble agreed.
  - No points were excused at the time.
- **Motion from Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo:** Motion to recommend for the censure of Senator John Kermanshahi, and to require Senator Kermanshahi to do the following: Deliver an address to the Senate body about his plans to maintain self-accountability as a Senator; deliver a report about his Senatorial activities at four separate meetings of the Senate of the Associated Students; and report an additional hour of Outreach for the next four Outreach periods.  
**Seconded by:** Senator Noble.
  - The Committee deliberated on the motion; some Senators were confused about the Outreach requirement, though they ultimately agreed that reporting an additional hour across four Outreach periods was adequate.
- **Vote:** 8 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- Speaker Thompson informed Senator Kermanshahi that the full Senate body would be considering the censure recommendation at an upcoming Senate meeting. The Committee of Oversight then shared thoughts and recommendations to Senator Kermanshahi.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**a. ASUN Speaker Pro Tempore, Olivia Ngo**

- Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo complimented the Committee on Oversight for its professionalism and fairness of during the censure hearing.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Speaker Thompson adjourned the meeting at 8:10 a.m. via Room 420, 4th Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union, and via Zoom Conference Call.