

# Committee on Budget and Finance

Senate of the Associated Students 90th Session

Minutes for Friday, November 4th, 2022 at 3:00pm

Presidents Conference 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, November 4, 2022 at 3:02pm via the Presidents Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom conference call. Presiding Secretary, Nevaeh Wortinger.

## **2. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Senator Noble, Senator Ngo, Senator Kermanshahi, Senator Brown, Senator Dean, Senator Kuhl, Senator Claussen, Senator Fiorillo.

**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**

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

- President Stanfill had no report at the time.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Committee Legislation: An Act to Establish Partnership Between ASUN and the @One Digital Media and Technology Center**

- **Presentation:** Chair Noble introduced a previously-discussed piece drafted by Senator Kuhl, which would address technological inequities between UNR students via a collaboration between ASUN and the @One. He stated that the legislation at hand would aim to fund Chromebooks for UNR undergraduate students. Senator Kuhl added that the @One had agreed to match ASUN's financial contribution if the Association funded twenty to thirty Chromebooks, which would then be handed out to students. Senator Kuhl stated that this project could cost a total of \$15,000.
- **Discussion:**
  - Senator Dean expressed concern over funding a project in collaboration with the Student Technology Advisory Board (STAD), which had historically been very secretive in regards to their spending. Chair Noble answered that the project would in fact be in collaboration with the @One and would not involve the STAD.
  - Senator Claussen asked if provisions could be put in place to ensure that UNR undergraduates were given priority when the Chromebooks were distributed to students. Chair Noble expressed agreement. Senator Kuhl responded that the Chromebooks would need to be distributed on a first-come-first-serve basis.



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- Senator Brown suggested modifying an ASUN-funded program, like Pack Provisions, in the case that the Chromebooks were not distributed to undergraduates first. Senator Fiorillo expressed agreement.
- Senator Kermanshahi suggested that the inequity be addressed by raising the technology fee for undergraduate students. Chair Noble commented that this initiative would be achieved via a ballot question. President Stanfill expressed agreement.
- Senator Kuhl acknowledged that the legislation at hand would be a temporary solution to technological inequities on campus. He pointed out that the @One, being a center for the distribution of technology, would be an ideal space to give technology out to students because they already had the infrastructure to do so.

**b. Ballot Question Check-In**

- Vice Chair Brown proposed new language for the ballot question that the Committee had discussed previously. The language was, “Shall ASUN raise legislative Senators’ stipends to a total of \$5,000 for the purpose of restoring Senators’ original compensation level and for the purpose of standardization of pay in the Association?”
- Senator Claussen suggested stating the Senators’ current stipend as part of the question in order to provide context for the student body. Senator Brown expressed agreement.
- Senator Ngo pointed out that Senators’ current pay would need to be advertised to students before the student body voted. She emphasized that student outreach would be necessary in order to ensure the question was approved by students.
- Senator Noble announced that he would move forward with creating the ballot question in collaboration with the two Directors of ASUN Elections.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Election of a Vice Chair**

- Senator Kermanshahi nominated Senator Brown for the position of Vice Chair of the Committee on Budget and Finance.
  - Senator Brown accepted the nomination.
- Senator Kuhl nominated himself for the position of Vice Chair of the Committee on Budget and Finance.
- Senator Brown gave a brief presentation explaining why he wanted the position, as well as his plans should he be selected as the Vice Chair.
  - Senator Claussen asked Senator Brown why he joined the committee originally. Senator Brown answered that he had wished to educate himself on the ways in which ASUN spent student funds.
  - Senator Ngo asked Senator Brown what goals he had for the Committee for the remainder of the 90th Session. Senator Brown answered that he wished for the committee to improve its relationship with other ASUN departments and to conduct more outreach before each of its financial reviews.
- Senator Kuhl gave a brief presentation explaining why he wanted the position, as well as his plans should he be selected as the Vice Chair.
  - Senator Ngo asked Senator Brown what goals he had for the Committee for the remainder of the 90th Session. Senator Kuhl answered that he wished for the committee to continue its financial reviews, draft more legislation, and discuss redistributing funds to support new ASUN programs.
- **Deliberations:**

- Senator Kermanshahi endorsed Senator Brown as the Vice Chair due to his recent work developing the Senator wage ballot question.
- Senator Claussen stated that she approved of Senator Brown's goal of conducting more outreach prior to financial reviews. She also stated that she thought Senator Kuhl would be an effective Vice Chair due to his prior professional experiences.
- Senators Dean and Fiorillo endorsed Senator Brown as the new Vice Chair.
- **Vote:**
  - **Vice Chair Brown:** Senators Kermanshahi, Dean, Claussen, and Fiorillo.
  - **Vice Chair Kuhl:** Senator Ngo.
- **Motion from Senator Ngo:** Motion to approve the appointment of Senator Brown to the position of Vice Chair of the Committee on Budget and Finance.
  - **Seconded by:** Senator Kermanshahi.
  - There was no discussion on the motion at the time.
  - **Vote:**
    1. **In Favor:** Senator Ngo, Senator Kermanshahi, Senator Claussen, Senator Fiorillo.
    2. **Opposed:** None.
    3. **Abstentions:** None.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

**b. Financial Reviews**

- NSURJ
  - **Presentation:** Chair Noble explained that Dr. Tanya Kelly, the official head of the NSURJ account, was unavailable to give a presentation at the time. He added that she had sent a memo about the account's expenditures, which the Committee members were able to review on their own time.
  - **Questions and Discussion:**
    1. There were no questions or comments at the time.
- **Academic Initiatives**
  - **Presentation:** President Stanfill and the Director of the Center for Student Engagement, Dr. Sandra Roriguez, gave a presentation on the purpose and expenditures of the Academic Initiatives Account. Director Rodriguez stated that, in light of recent donations, they wished to transfer \$20,000 of the Book Fund into the Marczynski and Tuition Funds.
  - **Discussion and Questions:**
    1. Senator Brown asked what was funded by the "University Assistance" line item. Director Rodriguez explained that this line item was an emergency fund for students in need.
    2. Senator Ngo asked Director Rodriguez to explain the difference between each type of research in regards to how they were funded. Director Rodriguez explained each type of research and emphasized that current research was being funded with money allocated during the prior fiscal year.
    3. Chair Noble and Senator Claussen pointed out that students' textbook costs were decreasing based on the new availability of open source materials. The committee collectively approved the reallocation of money from the Book Fund.

4. Director Rodriguez explained that, per the precedent, President Stanfill had the authority to reallocate money from the bok Fund without the need for ASUN Senate legislation to that effect.

## **8. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

### **a. Outreach for Next Financial Review**

- ASUN Department of IDEA
- ASUN Department of Government Affairs
- Legal Services

### **b. New Projects Brainstorming**

- There was no discussion on this item at the time.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **a. Director of the Center for Student Engagement, Dr. Sandra Rodriguez**

- Director Rodriguez explained why she disagreed with the proposed partnership between ASUN and the @One. She added that UNR Legal Services would not assist with forming the proposed ballot question, and that this language would be approved by ASUN's legal counsel. President Stanfill expressed agreement.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Noble adjourned the meeting at 4:07pm via the Presidents Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom.