

Committee on Democratic Civic Engagement

Executive Board of the Associated Students 90th Session

Minutes for Monday, October 31st, 2022 at 7:00pm

Room 324, 3rd Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union & Zoom Meeting

Email Chair Claussen senatorclaussen@asun.unr.edu for more information

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Claussen called the Committee on Democratic Civic Engagement meeting to order on Monday, October 31st, 2022, at 7:02pm via Room 324, 3rd Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom. Presiding Secretary, Amanda Drew.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Claussen, Senator Ngo, Senator Cano-Sanchez, Senator Jojan, Senator McCulley, Senator Noble, Senator Smith

Absent Excused: None.

A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Samuel Kamke and Liesel Kimmelmeier, Center for Student Engagement

- Kimmelmeier and Kamke introduced themselves to the committee as the Directors of Elections for the upcoming Elect All the People.

4. MINUTES

There were no minutes for approval at the time.

5. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

a. Report of the Director of Government Affairs, Amanda Vaskov

- Director Vaskov announced upcoming events that her department would facilitate during the week of elections. She said that her department would have a Stick With It event on Wednesday, November 9th, where students could make caramel apples and encourage civic engagement after elections end. She continued that the Nacho Average Election event would take place on Tuesday the 8th, and that the event location was changed to be outside of the JCSU. Lastly, she said that the Paint Your Future Event would take place on Monday the 7th. Director Vaskov invited the committee to collaborate on future events with the department of Government Affairs.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Veterans' Luncheon Updates

- Chair Claussen reported that Chief James of the UNR Police Department confirmed to speak at the event, in addition to President Stanfill and Senator Noble. She also mentioned that the promotional designs had been finalized, and that they would soon be uploaded to ASUN's social media. She announced that the design for the banner was finished, and that she was working to secure a print job before the luncheon. Chair



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Claussen mentioned that all members of the committee were expected to be present and help facilitate the event. Finally, she explained that the Student Events Advisory Board stipulated that only members of the committee could serve food at the luncheon. Senator Ngo announced that the committee planned to formally approve the luncheon budget at the following meeting. She explained that the budget would not exceed \$2000, and that it would cover lunch items from Panda Express, drinks, and other miscellaneous items such as utensils.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Rural Nevada Civic Engagement Tour**

- **Discussion:** The body recognized President Stanfill and allowed her to speak with no dissent. President Stanfill asked the committee and Director Vaskov to consider going on a tour of rural high schools in northern Nevada, with the goal of increasing student interest in UNR, and to increase civic engagement in these areas, as well. She explained that she wished for the committee and possibly members of the Department of Government Affairs to travel to these rural schools to give speeches about UNR, student government, and civic engagement. She suggested that ASUN officers could plan this tour by sending letters to the principals of rural schools, requesting school wide assemblies or speaking to government classes.
- **Budget:** President Stanfill stated that the budget for this tour could be divided between the DCE Committee and the executive branch of ASUN. She continued that the committee could stay at her and Chair Claussen's houses overnight to reduce lodging costs, and that she expected the tour to cost less than one thousand dollars. Senator Ngo asked which aspects of the project would be covered by the ASUN budget. President Stanfill replied that the budget would likely cover gas, marketing resources and materials, and possibly a hotel stay. Senator Cano-Sanchez asked President Stanfill if the representatives would spend ASUN funds on any UNR merchandise to distribute on the tour. President Stanfill answered that they would likely distribute merchandise, but that no new merchandise would be ordered especially for the trip.
- **Benefits:** President Stanfill argued that the tour would be a compelling way to encourage students to vote and to consider attending UNR after graduation. Chair Claussen added that civic engagement in rural communities is very low, and that the tour would help President Sandoval's initiative to increase enrollment. Senator Noble argued that the tour, while an act of public service, did not serve current UNR students and therefore was not within the committee's purview. He added that the endeavor would drain student funds and ASUN officers' time. President Stanfill replied that she felt that it would be more transparent to use ASUN funds to pay for a tour that would both advertise ASUN and be coordinated by ASUN officers. She added that she would pay for this tour herself if the committee did not wish to participate, as this project would benefit community members who had been historically excluded from elections. Director Vaskov added that this trip would be beneficial because it would help increase rural civic engagement and would push the University to fund this campaign in the future. Senator Cano Sanchez suggested that ASUN officers test the success of the idea by giving speeches at local high schools. President Stanfill replied that the Nevada Association of Student Councils held conferences that were in line with Senator Cano-Sanchez's suggestion, and she emphasized the success of that conference. Senator Noble also proposed that, instead of a tour, the committee write a resolution encouraging the university to fund a similar campaign.

b. Legislative Priority Drafting Discussion

- Director Vaskov asked the committee to share their legislative priorities for the upcoming session. She mentioned that ASUN already had support for borrowers protections and a loan repayment plan, addressing sexual misconduct on campus via the NSHE task force, and for the indigenous student fee waiver. Senator Noble suggested that the priorities be narrowed down in order to ensure that all priorities were addressed during the coming session. He also asked how ASUN could ensure that the sexual misconduct piece was passed into law without any major changes. Director Vaskov replied that the department of Government Affairs would reference other state policies and discuss their concerns with Assemblywoman Selena Torres. Senator Ngo commented that she wanted the legislative priorities to address broader issues such as education and housing insecurity. Director Vaskov suggested that ASUN build institutional room for that in its priorities, as broad issues like housing and food insecurity may be addressed in bills by other legislators. She also explained that the priorities would guide ASUN and signify to other entities that ASUN is advocating for certain issues. She continued that this would help the association find like minded groups and build a coalition for change on certain policies. Chair Claussen announced that this discussion would continue at the following meeting.

c. Board of Regents Discussion + Collaboration Discussion

- Director Vaskov announced that ASUN would soon have an item on the agenda of the NSHE Board of Regents. She explained that ASUN was working to change an item in the Board's Handbook, which would allow the Nevada Student Alliance to submit items to be considered on the Board's agenda. She said that this issue was crucial to get students adequate representation from the Board, as NSA represents all NSHE student government organizations. She suggested that the committee coordinate an email campaign, where students would send emails to Board members to express their support for this proposal. Senator Noble suggested that ASUN coordinate an event with heavy marketing to bring mass awareness to the issue. He also suggested starting a petition, where signees could leave short notes in support of the initiative. Chair Claussen added that the committee should divide outreach opportunities among officers to be more efficient in their advocacy. Senator Ngo also suggested a social media campaign and asked if the association was still working to put a student member on the Board of Regents. Director Vaskov replied that there were not yet any sponsorships for this initiative, but that the initiative would serve as a way of planning the structure of the board in case it became an appointed body in the future. She added that there were currently groups that were lobbying to make the Board an appointed body, and that there was legislation in the works to get a ballot question on the issue.

8. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

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

9. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Senator Ngo

- Senator Ngo asked for an update on the Voting Is Sweet Event. Chair Claussen replied that the Voting Is Sweet event was tentatively canceled, as SEAB deemed the event electioneering. She mentioned that the supplies bought for the event were being repurposed.

b. Senator Noble

- Senator Noble expressed frustration with UNR's General Counsel, asserting that they were overly concerned with legal liability at the cost of student interests.

c. Chair Claussen

- Chair Claussen announced that Senator Swachhamer had left the committee, and that his former liaison responsibilities would be divided between her and Senator McCulley.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment at the time.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Claussen adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm via Room 324, 3rd Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom.