

Committee on Budget and Finance

Senate of the Associated Students 90th Session

Minutes for Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 5:00pm

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 Noble called the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting to order on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 5:02pm via the Presidents Conference Room, 3rd Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom conference. Presiding Secretary, Ally Chavez.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Senators Noble, Brown, Claussen, Fiorillo, Kuhl, and Ngo.

Tardy Excused: Senator Dean.

Absent Excused: Senator Kermanshahi.

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 did not give a report at the time.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Committee Legislation: AN ACT TO ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ASUN AND THE @ONE DIGITAL MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

- **Senator Ngo:** Senator Ngo reminded the committee that students would be asked to give feedback on the partnership at the upcoming “Cookies and Complaints” student outreach event. She requested that the committee discuss other student outreach strategies to gather feedback on the issue at their next meeting.
- **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble stated that relevant statistics on the issue would be available for discussion at the committee’s next meeting on Friday, November 17.

b. Discussion Surrounding Loanable Technology and Tech Fees

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

c. Ballot Question Check-In

- **CSE Director Dr. Rodriguez:** The Director of the Center for Student Engagement, Dr. Sandra Rodriguez, gave a comment, to which there was no dissent. She outlined the timeline to which the Senate would need to adhere to pass a ballot question. She stated that the ballot question could be passed as late as February 2023 in anticipation of the 2023 ASUN election, but recommended passing it earlier. She also emphasized the importance of educating student voters on the issue.



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- **Senator Brown:** Senator Brown stated that after meeting with ASUN Legal Services, the wording of the ballot question would be “Shall ASUN raise Senator stipends to \$5,000 to standardize pay within the Association?”
- **Director Rodriguez:** Director Rodriguez stated that simpler ballot questions tended to pass more often in student body votes.
- The body discussed the process of approving the ballot question with cooperation from the University. They also discussed how best to educate students on the issue.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Financial Reviews**

- **Department of Government Affairs Presentation:** The Director of the Department of Government Affairs, Amanda Vaskov, reviewed the department’s purpose and recent expenditures. She listed the positions within the department and detailed the breakdown of their \$79,000 budget. She explained that a parking charge was mistakenly paid for by the Government Affairs account and discussed their transition from voter education efforts to advocacy efforts.
- **Questions and Discussion:**
 1. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble asked if the department had any figures for the costs of future events. Director Vaskov answered that many of their plans were not concrete but that they would likely have cost estimates by the following week, if not by the end of the semester.
 2. **Senator Ngo:** Senator Ngo asked Director Vaskov if the department had explored collaborating with the Regional Transportation Commission to transport UNR students to the department’s Day at the Legislature event. Director Vaskov replied that they had explored this option and detailed the department’s transportation options for the event.
 3. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble asked Director Vaskov to explain why there was an unexpected extra charge in the Government Affairs account. Director Rodriguez explained that the unwanted parking charge was merely an administrative error that could be covered by the Center for Student Engagement account if necessary. Director Vaskov explained that it would be illegal for the department to charge parking costs to their account, as they were all intending to become registered lobbyists and this spending would be prohibited for them.
- **Department of IDEA Presentation:** The Director of the Department of IDEA, Trace Wolfgang, gave a presentation detailing the department’s upcoming events and recent expenditures. They listed the positions within the department and detailed each cost covered by their \$20,000 operations budget. They added that budget constraints were preventing the department from pursuing more events and initiatives.
- **Questions and Discussion:**
 1. **Senator Ngo:** Senator Ngo asked Director Wolfgang if the department’s planned outreach could be sustained by their current budget. Director Wolfgang answered that the department would be able to afford all of its planned work with their current budget, but that they were planning on adding a new position to expand the department. They continued that with an extra tier three student worker position in the department and a possible increase

in wages, they expected future IDEA departments to encounter budget constraints.

2. **Senator Ngo:** Senator Ngo asked Director Wolfgang if the department planned to spend its travel budget. Director Wolfgang answered that they planned to travel to the Circle of Change leadership conference, and that the department would only attend one conference due to budget constraints.
- **Legal Services Presentation:** Co Director of ASUN Legal Services Isaiah Griffith detailed the purpose and expenditures of the ASUN Legal Services account. He listed every employee and described the frequency of meetings with students, which had nearly doubled from the previous year. He also broke down the costs of operations, attorney fees, employee wages.
 - **Questions and Discussion:**
 1. **Senators Noble and Brown:** Senators Noble and Brown recommended that Co Director Griffith try new marketing strategies to gain more student interest in Legal Services.
 2. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble asked Co Director Griffith how the department paid its lawyer. Co Director Griffith answered that their lawyer was paid 2,500 every two months regardless of case load.
 3. **Director Rodriguez:** Director Rodriguez commented that the lawyer was not paid for his last two months of service during the prior fiscal year, and that this payment would go through during the ongoing fiscal year. She clarified that this error did not affect the budget of either the current or previous years.

8. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

a. **Outreach for Next Financial Review**

- **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble stated that the committee would conduct financial reviews for Insight Magazine, Wolf Pack Radio, and Brushfire Literature and Arts Journal at their following meeting.

b. **New Projects Brainstorming**

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

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at the time.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Noble adjourned the meeting at 5:50pm via the Presidents Conference Room, 3rd Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom conference call.