

Committee on Oversight

Senate of the Associated Students 90th Session
Minutes for Monday, November 21st, 2022 at 7:00 a.m.
Room 405, 4th Floor Joe Crowley Student Union
Email 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, November 21st, 2021, at 7:08 a.m. via Room 405, 4th Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union. Presiding Secretary, Wyatt Layland.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Tardy Excused: Senator Gonzalez.

A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the time.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

No minutes were approved at the time.

5. REPORT

a. **Chair, Committee on Academics and Student Affairs, Nivetha Nithyanandan**

- Senator Nithyanandan reported on the recent Committee meeting and remarked briefly on the upcoming meeting.

b. **Chair, Committee on Budget and Finance, Nathan Noble**

- Senator Noble reported on his Committee's work on the Senator wages ballot question initiative as well as on the digital equity/student technology lending project.
- Senator Noble elaborated on the digital equity project, stating that the Committee wanted to use ASUN funds to purchase new technology for the @One.

c. **Chair, Committee on Democratic Civic Engagement, Kimmy Claussen**

- Senator Claussen reported on her Committee's upcoming discussion on the Legislative Priorities legislation.
- Speaker Thompson congratulated Senator Claussen and her Committee for their work on the Veteran's Day Luncheon event.

d. **Chair, Committee on Government Operations, Fayza Salah**

- Senator Salah reported on her Committee's favorable approval of two pieces, which were amended by her Committee before being sent to the full Senate for passage.



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e. Chair, Committee on IDEA, Jaime Gonzalez

- Senator Gonzalez reported on filling liaison positions for members in his Committee; he also remarked briefly on the Spring 2023 Night of All Nations event.
- Senator Noble expressed concerns about Senator Gonzalez's past plans to hold a World Cup 2022 viewing party, citing ongoing protests against the games' host country Qatar. Senator Gonzalez replied by speaking on the community and cultural significance of the World Cup games in general, though he expressed solidarity for the protestors.

f. Chair, Committee on Safety, Sustainability, and Wellness, Emma Bergren

- Senator Bergren reported on the recent Committee meeting, wherein they had to reschedule a presentation from UNR's Executive Director of Residential Life, Dean Kennedy. She also spoke generally about the Committee's ongoing projects.

g. Parliamentarian, Brayden Taeubel

- Parliamentarian Taeubel expressed concerns about the Committee's increasingly lax approach to excusing points, citing the excusal of Senator Dean's points earlier in the meeting; he ultimately advocated for longer Outreach descriptions and more rigorous review on the Committee's behalf.

h. Speaker Pro Tempore, Olivia Ngo

- Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo reported on a recent Intern resignation and discussed upcoming internship meetings and opportunities.

i. Chair, Committee on Oversight, Andrew Thompson

- Speaker Thompson reported on the timeline for Senate meetings for the remainder of the semester, asking the Committee if a Senate meeting should be held on December 14th (Prep Day/Dead Day) and/or December 21st. The Committee opposed holding a meeting on December 21st unless the Legislative Priorities failed to pass at the previous meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Overlapping Liaison Positions

- The Committee on Oversight held a lengthy conversation about duplicate liaison positions across multiple Committees. Committee members sought to figure out which Committees had what positions, but the conversation sprawled as Chairs discussed the possibility of retaining the liaison positions while having Senators in each Committee reach out to different individuals in the overlapping organizations (e.g., the Residence Hall Association).

Senator Nithyanandan left the meeting at 7:55 a.m.

- Senator Noble (whose Committee, Budget and Finance, chose to not pursue liaison positions) critiqued the practice of liaising with organizations on-campus, calling it "arcane" and in need for a more flexible approach.
- Senator Gonzalez urged the need for consistency and coherence, arguing that ASUN offering multiple points of contact for organizations has caused confusion and eroded trust; meanwhile, Senator Bergren stated that Senators should have the freedom to share what organizations they are involved with and that prohibiting contact would be unproductive.

- Speaker Thompson encouraged establishing a “contact list” for all liaison positions across all Committees, and Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo agreed.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Points Memo**

- Senate Secretary Layland read the full points memo into record.

Senator Gonzalez entered the meeting at 7:11 a.m.

- Senator Dean approached the table and argued for the dismissal of his points, which totaled 4 2/3 at the time. He stated that he had forgotten to report his Outreach and Intern hours, and that the unexcused absence was due to a scheduling conflict. He then discussed his recent work in ASUN and detailed some of the projects he planned on pursuing.
- **Motion from Senator Noble:** Motion to reduce Senator Dean’s points by excusing the three missing Outreach hours and the absent unexcused marking for the September 23rd, 2022 Committee on Budget and Finance.
Seconded by: Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo.
- **Vote:** 8 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- **Motion from Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo:** Motion to reduce Senator Dean’s points by excusing the one missing Outreach hour.
Seconded by: Senator Claussen.
- **Vote:** 8 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

b. **Review of Senator Outreach**

- Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo discussed Senator Smith’s outreach. She shared that he disclosed difficulties with meeting his intern. Senator Noble spoke out against inviting Senator Smith to the Committee on Oversight, and Speaker Thompson agreed. No action was taken at the time with regards to Senator Smith’s outreach/intern engagements.

Senator Claussen left the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

c. **Guiding Effective Conversation in Committee**

- Speaker Thompson shared concerns regarding legislative engagement within Committees and stated that many chairs were taking the role of members. Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo and Parliamentarian Taubel affirmed Speaker Thompson’s remarks and stated that Chairs should embrace their role as a facilitator more vigorously.

Senator Salah left the meeting at 8:16 a.m.

d. Senator Participation and Engagement

- Speaker Thompson proposed calling on Senators at random during Senate meetings as a way of increasing contributions in legislative discussions. The Committee expressed skepticism for this idea.

e. Legislative Bonding

- Speaker Pro Tempore proposed holding informal events for Senators and Senate Interns in the week before Dead Day/Prep Day. She stated that the Internship Program had a \$500 surplus and that an intern social event would represent the best use of the funds; Senator Noble disagreed with the idea, stating that the funds could be used for advocacy efforts instead.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the time.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Speaker Thompson adjourned the meeting at 8:29 a.m. via Room 405, 4th Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union.