

# 90<sup>th</sup> Session of the Senate of the Associated Students

Minutes for Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Rita Laden Senate Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Joe Crowley Student Union, & Zoom Conference Call  
Email [senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu](mailto:senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu) for more information

## 1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Speaker Thompson called the Senate of the Associated Students to order on Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 at 5:34 p.m. via the Rita Laden Senate Chambers, Third Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union, and via Zoom Conference Call. Temporary Legislative Clerk, Amanda Drew, and Presiding Secretaries, Wyatt Layland and Ally Chavez.

## 2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

## 3. **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Speaker Thompson, Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo, Parliamentarian Taeubel, and Senators Bergren, Brown, Bryan, Cano-Sanchez, Dean, Fiorillo, Galvez, Gonzalez, Jojan, Kane, Kermanshahi, Landolfi, Meiszburger, Nithyanandan, Noble, Perez-Ramirez, Salah, Smith, Swackhamer, and Zheleznyakova.

**Absent Excused:** Senators Claussen and Kuhl.

A quorum was present.

## 4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

No minutes were approved at the time.

## 5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### a. **ASUN Director of Government Affairs, Amanda Vaskov**

- Director Vaskov announced two new vacancies in her department (namely, the positions of Projects Director and Advocacy Director).

### b. **ASUN Director of IDEA, Trace Wolfgang**

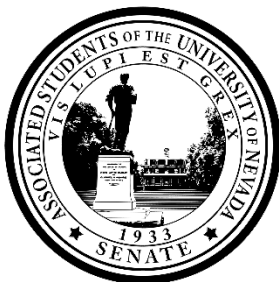
- Director Wolfgang promoted the upcoming Menorah lighting in celebration of Hannukah.

### c. **ASUN Attorney General, Jakob Schein**

- Attorney General Schein spoke on the potential inaccuracy of a “Whereas” clause regarding Senator pay dispersion in the S.B. 90 – An Act to Amend the ASUN Constitution for Raising Senator Pay.

### d. **ASUN Chief Justice, Zane Taylor**

- Chief Justice Taylor announced a charge recently received by the Council regarding the ASUN Elections Code.



---

Posted online at  
[www.nevadaasun.com](http://www.nevadaasun.com).

If you would like a copy of any of the agenda items listed, please contact the Senate Secretary at [senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu](mailto:senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu)

**6. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE SENATE AND REFERRAL**

- a. Nomination, Savannah Ceden0 to the Office of Commissioner of Social Justice & Policy for the ASUN Department of IDEA
- b. Nomination, Noah Klein to the Office of Chief of Internal Affairs
- c. Nomination, Cole Sawyer to the Office of Director of Campus and Public Relations
- d. Resignation, ASUN Assistant Director for the Department of IDEA, Helen Girma
  - Speaker Thompson read former Assistant Director Girma's statement of resignation.

**7. REPORTS OF ASUN OFFICERS**

There were no reports of ASUN Officers at the time.

**8. REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES**

There were no reports of Senate committees at the time.

**9. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no comments and announcements at the time.

**10. MOTIONS TO FAST-TRACK APPOINTMENTS**

- a. Nominations of: Savannah Ceden0 to the Office of Commissioner of Social Justice & Policy for the ASUN Department of IDEA; Noah Klein to the Office of Chief Internal Affairs; and Cole Sawyer to the Office of Director of Campus and Public Relations.
  - **Motion from Senator Noble:** Motion to fast-track the nominations of Savannah Ceden0, Noah Klein, and Cole Sawyer, through unanimous consent.  
**Seconded by:** Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo.
  - Speaker Thompson asked if there was any dissent to the motion. There was no dissent at the time.
  - **Resolved:** Motion carried.

**11. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS OF SENATORS AND ASUN OFFICIALS**

- a. Nomination of Savannah Ceden0 to the Office of Commissioner of Social Justice & Policy for the ASUN Department of IDEA.
  - **Motion from Senator Noble:** Motion to approve the nomination of Savannah Ceden0 to the Office of Commissioner of Social Justice & Policy.  
**Seconded by:** Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo.
  - Director Wolfgang introduced the nomination while Nominee Ceden0 prepared her presentation.
  - Nominee Ceden0 delivered a presentation in support of her nomination. She highlighted her experience as an ASUN Executive Branch intern during the 90th Session and detailed her multifaceted connections to the community, including her work in initiatives aimed at uplifting Indigenous and underserved populations. She rounded out her position by stating

her goals and plans while serving as the Commissioner of Social Justice & Policy.

- Nominee Cedeno fielded questions from the body; Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo and Senator Noble asked how she planned to bridge her Office with entities within and beyond ASUN, and she provided various proposals and plans that she planned to implement before the end of the Session.
- The Senate body then discussed the nomination. Senators Galvez, Kermanshahi, Noble, Salah spoke in unwavering support of Nominee Cedeno, with many Senators placing particular emphasis on Cedeno's accomplishments at UNR's Multicultural Center.
- **Vote:** 22 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- Chief Justice Taylor administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Cedeno.

*Senator Dean left the meeting at 5: p.m.*

**b. Nomination of Noah Klein to the Office of Chief of Internal Affairs.**

- **Motion from Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo:** Motion to approve the nomination of Noah Klein to the Office of Chief of Internal Affairs.  
Seconded by: Senator Noble.
- President Stanfill introduced the nominee.

*Senator Dean entered the meeting at 6:01 p.m.*

- Nominee Klein delivered a presentation in support of his nomination. He discussed his background as an ASUN Executive Branch intern during the 90th Session (serving directly under the former Chief of Internal Affairs) before detailing several of his past roles and the skills he gained from each role, including as President of UNR's Interfraternity Council. Nominee Klein then detailed his plans for the ASUN Winter Retreat and concluded his presentation by sharing a proposal for combining pre-existing fundraising events.
- Nominee Klein then fielded question from the body, who mainly asked for his thoughts about how to transform the position into something more campus and community engagement-focused. Additionally, Parliamentarian Taeubel asked Nominee Klein if he planned on implementing the former Chief of Internal Affairs' plans and proposals, and Nominee Klein answered affirmatively.
- The Senate body then discussed the nomination. Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo and Senators Kermanshahi, and Noble spoke in support of Nominee Klein, though Kermanshahi and Noble urged increased accountability for the Chief of Internal Affairs position in general.
- **Vote:** 22 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

*Senator Bryan left the meeting at 6:22 p.m.*

- Chief Justice Taylor administered the Oath of Office to Chief of Internal Affairs Klein.
- c. **Nomination of Cole Sawyer to the Office of Director of Campus and Public Relations.**
- **Motion from Senator Noble:** Motion to approve the nomination of Cole Sawyer to the Office of Director of Campus and Public Relations.  
**Seconded by:** Senator Swackhamer.
  - President Stanfill introduced the nominee.

*Senator Bryan entered the meeting at 6:26 p.m.*

- Nominee Sawyer delivered a presentation in support of his nomination; he discussed his experience as an ASUN Legislative Branch intern during the 90th Session and his engagement with the campus and community since moving to Reno the previous year. Nominee Sawyer then shared several goals and proposals aimed at increasing ASUN's exposure on-campus, citing his past lack of knowledge about the Association as a freshman at UNR.

*Senator Brown left the meeting at 6:27 p.m.*

- Nominee Sawyer fielded questions from the Senators, who were mainly concerned about increasing student engagement with ASUN (Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo and Senators Galvez, Nithyanandan, and Gonzalez asked Nominee Sawyer for further ideas and clarifications on his proposals). Additionally, Senator Noble asked Nominee Sawyer about his plans for elections-related outreach, and he replied stating that he would be working with each individual college to promote and advertise the election in March.
- The Senate body then discussed the nominee. Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo spoke in support of the nominee; Senator Noble also spoke in support of Nominee Sawyer, though he stated his intention to abstain from the vote as the nominee was his intern during the ASUN Legislative Branch internship.

*Senator Brown entered the meeting at 6:38 p.m.*

- **Vote:** 21 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstained (Noble).
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- Chief Justice Taylor administered the Oath of Office to Director Sawyer.

*Senator Perez-Ramirez left the meeting at 6:39 p.m.*

## **12. VETO MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

There were no veto messages at the time.

## **13. CONSENT AGENDA**

There were no items on the consent agenda at the time.

#### **14. FIRST READING OF LEGISLATION**

- a. **S.B.R. 90 – A Binding Resolution to Provide for the Winter Recess of the 90<sup>th</sup> Session of the Senate**

#### **15. MOTIONS TO FAST-TRACK LEGISLATION**

- a. **S.B.R. 90 – A Binding Resolution to Provide for the Winter Recess of the 90<sup>th</sup> Session of the Senate**
  - **Motion from Senator Galvez:** Motion to fast-track S.B.R. 90 – A Binding Resolution to Provide for the Winter Recess of the 90<sup>th</sup> Session of the Senate, through unanimous consent.  
**Seconded by:** Senator Kermanshahi.
  - Speaker Thompson asked if there was any dissent. There was no dissent at the time.
  - **Resolved:** Motion carried.

#### **16. REFERRALS TO COMMITTEE**

There were no referrals to committee at the time.

#### **17. SECOND READING OF LEGISLATION**

- a. **S.B. 90 – An Act to Amend the ASUN Constitution for Raising Senator Pay**
  - **Motion from Senator Swackhamer:** Motion to approve S.B. 90 – An Act to Amend the ASUN Constitution for Raising Senator Pay.  
**Seconded by:** Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo.
  - Senator Brown delivered brief remarks on behalf of himself and Senator Noble in support of the legislation. Senator Noble elaborated on Senator Brown's remarks, detailing the work of the Committee and the approach they took to wording the ballot question.
  - **Motion from Senator Fiorillo:** Motion to amend the legislation to add the word "approximately" before any figures reflecting \$5,000.  
**Seconded by:** Senator Kermanshahi.
  - **Vote:** 21 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
  - **Resolved:** Motion carried.

*Discussion was moved back to the main motion.*

- Senator Swackhamer asked where the money would be coming from, and if they planned on introducing a new student fee to accommodate the wage increase; Senator Noble stated that the money was already in the Association and that students would not be paying more.
- Parliamentarian Taeubel asked for clarification on describing the pay increase as a "standardization" of wages, stating that not all officers in the Association may be paid \$5,000 per year; Senators Brown, Kermanshahim and Noble argued that the language would not instigate debate and would on the contrary make the policy simpler to understand for those voting on the ballot question.

*Senator Galevz left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.*

- Senator Swackhamer proposed amending the ballot question to clarify that student fees would not be raised as a result of ratification, and Senator Noble replied no. Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo spoke against amending the ballot question, citing the conciseness and clarity of the current wording.

*Senator Kermanshabhi left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.*

- President Stanfill advised the Senate body that CSE's Legal Counsel will likely reword the question. She also reminded Senators that voter guides will include arguments both in support of and against the ballot question.

*Senator Kermanshabhi entered the meeting at 6:57 p.m.*

- **Motion from Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo:** Motion to amend the "Be it enacted" clause to include the phrase "per year" after the phrase "“Shall ASUN raise senator stipends to \$5,000.”"  
**Seconded by:** Senator Brown.
- **Vote:** 21 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

*Discussion was moved back to the main motion.*

- **Vote:** 21 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
  - **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- b. **S.B.R. 90 – A Binding Resolution to Provide for the Winter Recess of the 90<sup>th</sup> Session of the Senate**
- **Motion from Senator Kermanshabhi:** Motion to approve S.B.R. 90 – A Binding Resolution to Provide for the Winter Recess of the 90<sup>th</sup> Session of the Senate.  
**Seconded by:** Senator Noble.
  - Parliamentarian Taeubel encouraged increased productivity from the Senate body during the Spring semester, while Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo encouraged maintaining a line of contact with liaison assignments during the winter break.
  - **Vote:** 21 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
  - **Resolved:** Motion carried.

## **18. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

There was no miscellaneous business at the time.

## **19. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **a. ASUN Senator, John Kermanshahi**

- Senator Kermanshahi wished everyone a happy Dead Day and a happy winter break.

### **b. ASUN Senator for the College of Liberal Arts, Nathan Noble**

- Senator Noble thanked the Senators for their work over the past semester, including the Senators in the Committee on Budget and Finance.

### **c. ASUN Speaker, Andrew Thompson**

- Speaker Thompson thanked the Senate body for their work and wished them a happy winter break.

## **20. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **a. ASUN Vice President, Jada Maglinao**

- Vice President Maglinao discussed that evening's basketball, the Bryan food sacrifice, and RSVPs for the upcoming ASUN winter retreat.

## **21. ADJOURNMENT**

Speaker Thompson adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m. via the Rita Laden Senate Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union, and via Zoom Conference Call.