

# Committee on Budget and Finance

Senate of the Associated Students 90th Session

Minutes for Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 3:00 pm

ASUN President's Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union

Email Senator Noble at [senatornoble@asun.unr.edu](mailto:senatornoble@asun.unr.edu) for more information

## a. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Senator Noble called the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting to order on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 3:05 pm via ASUN President's Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom Conference Call. Presiding Secretary, Nevaeh Wortinger.

## b. ROLL CALL

**Present:** Senators Noble, Brown, Dean, Kermanshahi, Kuhl

**Tardy Unexcused:** Meisburger, Perez-Ramirez

A quorum was present.

## c. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the time.

## d. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

There were no minutes approved at the time.

## e. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

There was no report at the time.

## f. OLD BUSINESS

a. Develop strategies for loanable technology legislation.

- **Senator Kuhl** explained that the proposed legislation was a partnership between ASUN and the @One. He stated that he intended for the piece to authorize the purchase of technology that could be added to the @One's lendable technology fleet. He continued that he wanted ASUN and the @One to purchase 15 HP ProBooks and to be distributed to students via the @One. He stated that he was currently waiting for another quote on the laptops as the previous quote had expired, but that the current cost estimate was approximately \$15,000.
- **Senator Noble** mentioned that this legislation is to correct an inequity within the @One that graduate students are given priority over the undergraduate students for these lendable services.

## g. NEW BUSINESS

a. Evaluate Last Semester's Work

- **Senator Kermanshahi** stated that the semester went well but that he wished to see more legislation be drafted by the committee.
- **Senator Noble** stated that there were communication issues with some of the ASUN account holders and speculated that the committee and its financial reviews may have intimidated them.



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[www.nevadaasun.com](http://www.nevadaasun.com).

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He added that he knew that it was not any of the senators' intentions and that they cared only about holding people accountable.

- **Senator Brown** stated that he believed that the committee was nice enough to each of the account holders and added that he felt like there was not much more they could do to make them feel more comfortable. He argued that there was no reason for them to feel intimidated.
- **Senator Kuhl** stated that he felt that they have been going easy on the “grilling” that they could be giving account holders. He remarked that he was surprised that this specific issue was being brought up, and not that they were being too lenient with account holders.
- **Senator Noble** clarified that accountability was more important than making others feel good about themselves. However, he argued that the committee should still make compassion a priority.

*Senator Meiszburger entered the Presidents Conference Room at 3:21 pm.*

- **Senator Brown** stated that, despite what was mentioned before, that he could be better at communicating the committee's expectations to account holders. He also stated that if account holders had anxiety about their financial reviews, then it was not his job to make them feel comfortable. He mentioned that there had been some lackluster presentations that made him feel disappointed.
- **Senator Noble** also mentioned that there had been financial reviews that he had rescheduled because he was not satisfied with their first presentation. From their conversation, Senator Noble explained that the senators needed to take a harder stance and start questioning the account holders more.
- **Director Rodriguez** stated that she is only speaking on behalf of the Center for Student Engagement (CSE) account. She mentioned that one of the ways that they prepared students to give presentations on their accounts is to always be grateful for the funds they are being given. She mentioned that there were a lot of politics involved with ASUN and that she did not want those politics to seep over to the CSE. She suggested that the ASUN President should better prepare their directors so that they could understand the committee's expectations for financial reviews. She stated that the senators could take measures to ensure that financial reviews did not feel intimidating for account holders.
- **Senator Noble** stated that one way senators could be better prepared for financial reviews was to have one question prepared before each review. He mentioned that he did not believe it would be hard to find questions, if the senators looked at the line items and justifications for each account.
- **Director Rodriguez** reminded the senators that there was not much leeway for the CSE account due to its many set expenses. She also stated that the senators should be asking questions but also considering how

they were framing them. She also recommended creating a document about how they should be using their money.

b. Financial Reviews: External Review

- **CSE Director Sandy Rodriguez** stated that no money had been spent on external reviews. She explained that ASUN had lost two reviewers but gained two back between the months of November and December because of airline issues. Moreover, she explained that reviewers had to take vacation days from their institution to come and review, as it was unethical for them to be earning money for reviewing. Director Rodriguez stated that NASPA Advisory Services had agreed to come in to conduct the review.
- **Senator Noble** asked when this review would be taking place.
- **Director Rodriguez** stated that she had requested March.

c. Financial Reviews: Center for Student Engagement

- **CSE Director Sandy Rodriguez** reminded the senators that the CSE account funded all of the day-to-day operations of the campus. She explained that the two largest expenses were the Pack Life payment and the Give Pulse payment. Director Rodriguez also explained that the account paid for things like website domains and maintenance related expenses, like that a refrigerator broke and was paid for out of that account.
- **Senator Kuhl** asked about a refunded charge in the operations section of the CSE budget that stated there was an incident with a credit card fraud.
- **Director Rodriguez** explained that \$165.79 was spent by an unknown person, and after asking everyone who has access to the cards, they contacted JP Morgan and reported it as fraud. She stated that that specific credit card was canceled, they were refunded the money, and the CSE was sent another card.
- **Senator Kermanshahi** asked if the CSE had any plans to upgrade their vehicles to be more fuel efficient, noting that fuel was a large expense.
- **Director Rodriguez** explained that the Nevada Wolf Shop's 2.8-million-dollar deficit threw off many plans such as that one. She continued that after this debt was paid off, the CSE would fundraise for electric vehicles. Director Rodriguez noted that they were actively trying to get electric vehicles to campus but that they had to stop their plan when the COVID pandemic hit. She explained that the City of Reno had given the University a \$100,000 grant for Pack Provisions, so they used those funds to buy another van.
- **Senator Noble** asked about the Biggest Little Festival Budget coming from the CSE budget, and the circumstances that led to them receiving the money.
- **Director Rodriguez** explained that there were many positions in CSE that were not filled yet, or that were filled later in the fiscal year, and so they had salary savings. She continued that the left-over money was used for the BLF. Director Rodriguez mentioned that the ASUN President was required to appear before the Board of Regents, and that there was a \$900,000 dollar rollover that was frowned upon. However, COVID caused a lot of rollover money that ASUN has been trying to use up.

h. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

a. Outreach for next financial review

- **Senator Noble** announced that the committee's next financial review was scheduled for February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. He stated that the committee would be reviewing the Fall and Spring concert account.

b. New Projects Brainstorming

- **Senator Kermanshahi** stated that he wished itemize the committee's concerns, such as the outdated technology in the CSE.
- **Senator Noble** stated that he wished to implement a document with recommendations to the next ASUN president to help future sessions more accurately create the budget. He stated that each senator would report on an account and create recommendations for each one.
- **Senator Kuhl** asked how difficult it would be to create long-term funds that would be stored from each fiscal years' budget.
  - **Director Rodriguez** stated that plans like this would have to come from the capital account and reminded the committee of the importance of paying off the Wolf Shop debt.

i. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a. **Director Rodriguez** expressed appreciation for the initiative for new loanable technology; however, she asked where the funds were going to come from. She mentioned that ASUN had allocated \$72,000 for the pack internship grant, but that they were only able to spend \$38,000. She suggested that the money for the digital initiative could come from there.

ii. **ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Noble adjourned the meeting at 3:48 pm via ASUN President's Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Joe Crowley Student and via Zoom Conference Call.