

Committee on Government Operations

Senate of the Associated Students 90th Session

Minutes for Friday, February 3rd, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Conference Room 405, 4th Floor Joe Crowley Student Union & Zoom Conference Call

Email Fayza Salah at sensorsalah@asun.unr.edu for more information

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Senator Salah called the Committee on Government Operations to order on Friday, February 3rd, at 5:00 p.m. via Room 405, 4th Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union, and via Zoom Conference Call. Presiding Secretary, Wyatt Layland.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Senators Salah, Taeubel, Brown, Galvez, and Kermanshahi.

Absent Excused: Senator Swackhamer.

A quorum was present.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

a. **ASUN President, Dionne Stanfill**

- President Stanfill spoke in opposition of S.B.R. 90 – A Binding Resolution to Codify Hybrid Platforms for Senate Meetings, as well as its corresponding bill S.B. 90 – A Bill to Codify Hybrid Platforms for Senate Meetings. She argued that the current precedent for making accessible the Zoom meeting link was satisfactory, and that the changes outlined in the legislation would foster decreased accountability among Senators who simply do not want to attend meetings in-person.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. **Project Tracker**

- Senator Galvez stated that his bill establishing a Director of Lake Tahoe Affairs was “on the way.”

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **S.B.R. 90 – A Binding Resolution to Codify Hybrid Platforms for Senate Meetings**

- **Motion from Senator Galvez:** Motion to favorably recommend S.B.R. 90 – A Binding Resolution to Codify Hybrid Platforms for Senate Meetings.
- Senator Galvez delivered a presentation addressing both the benefits of the legislation and the concerns of Speaker Thompson and President Stanfill. He stated that, under the legislation, it would still be at the discretion of the Speaker to count Senators who attend meetings over Zoom as present, thereby ensuring accountability for Senator attendance. Senator Galvez emphasized that the focus should ultimately be on students who cannot access meetings in-person due to disability or location.



Posted online at
www.nevadaasun.com.

If you would like a copy of any of the agenda items listed, please contact Senator Salah at sensorsalah@asun.unr.edu

- **Motion from Senator Galvez:** Motion to amend the legislation by adding the following “Whereas” clause after the first “Whereas” clause: “Whereas, Speaker Thompson of the 90th Session provides access to Senate meetings via Zoom, with the intent of public access and Senator attendance only in the case of illness or other extenuating circumstances,” through unanimous consent.
Seconded by: Senator Brown.
Dissented by: Senator Taeubel.
- Senator Taeubel recommended having the new “Whereas” clause reflect the Speaker of the Senate in general, as opposed to Speaker Thompson of the 90th Session. Senator Galvez stated that Speaker Thompson wanted to be specifically credited in the legislation.
- **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

Discussion was moved back to the main motion.

- **Motion from Senator Galvez:** Motion to amend the legislation by striking “all Senators, and” in the fourth “Whereas” clause, through unanimous consent.
Seconded by: Senator Brown.
- Senator Kermanshahi asked if the amendment would limit the Zoom option for Senators; Senator Galvez replied yes.
- Senators Taeubel and Kermanshahi each voiced their concern about the amendment, stating that it changes the intent of the legislation. Senator Galvez assured that the amendment does not impose any new rules, nor does it drastically change the policy proposal within the legislation.
- **Vote:** 2 in favor, 2 against, 0 abstained; Senator Salah casts the tiebreaking “aye” vote.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

Discussion was moved back to the main motion.

- **Motion from Senator Galvez:** Motion to amend the legislation by striking the fifth “Whereas” clause, regarding Senator attendance over Zoom.
Seconded by: Senator Brown.
- Senator Galvez defended removing the clause, which he feared would “normalize” to an unnecessary extent Senator attendance over Zoom.
- **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

Discussion was moved back to the main motion.

- **Motion from Senator Galvez:** Motion to amend Addendums A and B of the legislation by adding after “count towards quorum” the following: “so long as the virtual attendance is approved by the Speaker in advance.”

Seconded by: Senator Brown.

- Senator Kermanshahi asked what would happen to Senators who want to attend over Zoom if the Speaker is not available to approve the request. Senator Galvez stated that Senators may correspond with the Speaker before, during, or after the meeting to have their attendance counted on the record.
- **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

Discussion was moved back to the main motion.

- Senator Galvez fielded questions about the newly-amended legislation from the body. Senator Taeubel asked about the longevity of the piece and of hybrid meetings in general, while Senator Kermanshahi asked whether he ever considered drafting a piece of legislation regarding extenuating circumstances for Zoom attendance.
 - Senator Taeubel ultimately spoke in dissent of the legislation, citing past experiences ensuring accountability and engagement among Senators who opt to attend over Zoom. Although Senator Kermanshahi supported the Zoom option for meetings, he agreed with Senator Taeubel and stated that the Committee should pursue other approaches to hybrid platform attendance.
 - **Vote:** 2 in favor, 2 against, 0 abstained; Senator Salah casts the tiebreaking “nay” vote.
 - **Resolved:** Motion failed.
- b. **S.B. 90 – A Bill to Codify Hybrid Platforms for Senate Meetings**
- There was no business conducted on the legislation at the time.
- c. **S.B. 90 – An Act to Amend the ASUN Constitution to Decrease the Credit Requirement for Appointed Justices.**
- **Motion from Senator Galvez:** Motion to favorably recommend S.B. 90 – An Act to Amend the ASUN Constitution to Decrease the Credit Requirement for Appointed Justices.
 - Chief Justice Taylor approached the table and delivered a presentation in support of the legislation, which established a ballot question regarding Associate Justice credit requirements for the ASUN 2023 General Election.
 - Chief Justice Taylor fielded questions from the body. Senator Kermanshahi asked why the credit requirement was set at the current level; Chief Justice Taylor stated that he was not sure why it was set at 60, beyond encouraging membership in the Judicial Council solely among senior members of the student community.

- Senator Galvez spoke briefly in support of the ballot initiative.
- **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

6. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no comments or announcements at the time.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the time.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Salah adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m. via the Room 405, 4th Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union, and via Zoom Conference Call.