

90th Session of the Senate of the Associated Students

Minutes for Wednesday, March 1st, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Rita Laden Senate Chambers, 3rd Floor Joe Crowley Student Union, & Zoom Conference Call
Email 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, March 1st, 2023 at 5:30 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 Kermanshahi, and Senators Brown, Bryan, Cano-Sanchez, Dean, Fiorillo, Galvez, Gonzalez, Jojan, Kuhl, Landolfi, Meiszburger, Nithyanandan, Noble, Perez-Ramirez, Smith, and Swackhamer.

Absent Excused: Senators Salah and Zheleznyakova.

A quorum was present.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

No minutes were approved at the time.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

a. **CSE Director, Dr. Sandra Rodriguez**

- Director Rodriguez presented the new Associate Director Akeia Sanders.

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

- Applicant, Senator for the School of Public Health, Alexandra Whitney
- Applicant, Senator for the College of Liberal Arts, Damijah Yarbrough
- Applicant, Senator for the College of Liberal Arts, Joel Martin
- Applicant, Senator for the College of Liberal Arts, Erin Shaffer
- Applicant, Senator for the College of Liberal Arts, Cole Sawyer

7. **REPORTS OF ASUN OFFICERS**

a. **President of the Associated Students, Dionne Stanfill**

- President Stanfill reported on her normal job duties and work on the Artemisia.

b. **Vice President of the Associated Students, Jada Maglinao**

- Vice President Maglinao reported on meetings with the Career Studio and gave details for future athletic games.



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c. Chief Justice, Zane Taylor

- Zane Taylor reported on tabling at events and work on legislation with Senator Kuhl and Attorney General Taeubel. The legislation changes the election code by which the judicial council reviews election cases.

d. Chief of Staff, Ashley Martinez

- Chief of Staff Martinez reported on work to revise the duties of her position.

e. Chief of Internal Affairs, Noah Klein

- Chief of Internal Affairs Klein reported work on the ASUN Banquet.
 - Speaker Pro Tempore asked if the interns were invited to the banquet.
 - Chief of Internal Affairs Klein stated yes.

f. Director of Clubs and Organizations, Tre Taylor

- Director Taylor gave details on the iServe events.

g. Director of Event Programming, Maria Zamudio

- Director Zamudio reported on updates for Biggest Little Festival.

h. Director of Government Affairs, Amanda Vaskov

- Director Vaskov reported on updates from Nevada Legislature
 - Speaker Pro Tempore asked for the bill number about menstrual product.
 - Director Vaskov replied 161.

i. Director of IDEA, Trace Wolfgang

- Director Wolfgang reported on events and the usage of all the department budget.

j. Director of Sustainability, Chris Rowe

- Director Rowe did not give a report at the time.

k. Director of Campus and Public Relations, Winter Nelson

- Director Nelson reported on work with Artemisia, inkblot, and a meeting with Associate Director Amy Koeckes.

l. Attorney General, Brayden Taeubel, Brayden Taeubel

- Attorney General Taeubel reported on agendas and legislation he helped with.

m. Secretary of the Senate, Wyatt Layland

- Senior Secretary Chavez reminded senators about outreach.

n. Speaker of the Senate, Andrew Thompson

- Speaker Thompson gave details for the future senate meeting.

8. REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES

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

- Senator Nithyanandan gave details for the next meeting.

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

- Senator Noble detailed the committees' future meetings.

- c. **Chair, Committee on Democratic Civic Engagement, Jefrin Jojan**
 - Senator Jojan detailed the committees' future meetings.
- d. **Chair, Committee on IDEA, Jaime Gonzalez**
 - Senator Gonzalez detailed the committees' future meeting in which they would discuss S.B. 90 – ASUN Recognizing Religious Holidays.
- e. **Chair, Committee on Government Operations, Fayza Salah**
 - Senator Salah did not have a report at this time.
- f. **Chair, Committee on Safety, Sustainability, and Wellness, Amelia Bryan**
 - Senator Bryan detailed the committees' future meetings.
- g. **Chair, Committee on Oversight, Andrew Thompson**
 - Speaker Thompson shared details for the upcoming Committee meeting.
- h. **Parliamentarian, John Kermanshahi**
 - Parliamentarian Kermanshahi reported work on legislation about the CF56 crash and continued work with Nevada Athletics.
- i. **Speaker Pro Tempore, Olivia Ngo**
 - Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo reported on Senate Panels.

9. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. **ASUN Senator Noble**
 - Senator Noble reached out to anyone who wanted to go to the legislature to show support of SB-161.

10. MOTIONS TO FAST-TRACK APPOINTMENTS

- a. Nomination: Senator for the School of Public Health, Alexandra Whitney, Senator for the College of Liberal Arts, Damijah Yarbrough, Senator for the College of Liberal Arts, Joel Martin, Senator for the College of Liberal Arts, Erin Shaffer, Senator for the College of Liberal Arts, Cole Sawyer.
 - **Motion by Senator Galvez:** Motion to fast-track all the appointments above through unanimous consent.
Second by: Senator Gonzalez
 - 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

- Nominee Joel Martin gave a presentation to the body in support of his appointment.
 - Nominee Martin fielded questions from Senator Gonzalez, Senator Noble, Speaker Pro-Tempore Ngo, and Parliamentarian Kermanshahi about his qualifications.
- Nominee Erin Shaffer gave a presentation to the body in support of his appointments.
 - Nominee Shaffer fielded questions from Senator Noble, Senator Gonzalez, Senator Galvez,

Senator Jojan, Senator Kermanshahi and Senator Cano-Sanchez about her qualifications.

- **Motion by Senator Noble:** Motion to approve the nomination of Joel Martin to Senator for the College of Liberal Arts.
Second by: Speaker Pro-Tempore Ngo
- The body deliberated.
- **Vote:** 18 yes, 0 no. 0 abstention.
- **Motion by Senator Galvez:** Motion to approve the nomination of Erin Shaffer to Senator for the College of Liberal Arts.
Second by: Senator Ngo
- The body deliberated.
- **Vote:** 18 yes, 0 no. 0 abstention.

Joel Martin and Erin Shaffer were administered the Oath of Office.

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

- **S.R. 90 – A Resolution in Support of More Signage for Gender-Neutral Restrooms**

15. MOTIONS TO FAST-TRACK LEGISLATION

There were no pieces of legislation fast-tracked at the time.

16. REFERRALS TO COMMITTEE

- a. **S.R. 90 – A Resolution in Support of More Signage for Gender-Neutral Restrooms**
 - **Motion from Senator Perez-Ramirez:** Motion to refer S.R. 90 – A Resolution in Support of More Signage for Gender-Neutral Restrooms to the Committee on Safety, Sustainability, and Wellness through unanimous consent.
Seconded by: Senator Jojan.
 - Speaker Thompson asked if there was any dissent to the motion. There was no dissent at the time.
 - **Resolved:** Motion carried.

17. SECOND READING OF LEGISLATION

- a. **S.B. 90 – ASUN Recognizing Religious Holidays**

- **Motion from Senator Nithyanandan:** Motion to approve S.B. 90 – ASUN Recognizing Religious Holidays.
Seconded by: Senator Gonzalez.
- Senator Gonzalez and Intern Aween Ali and Alyssa Lanza presented the legislation.
- **Motion from Senator Gonzalez:** Motion to amend the legislation from “many” to “33 incidents between 2018-2022” “replace NSHE board of regents” to the “members of Nevada Student Alliance and add 91st Director of Public Relations, Inkblot Director, Chair of the IDEA Committee for the 91st session”.
Seconded by: Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo
- Senator Noble expressed his dissent of the removal of members of the NSHE Board of Regents as recipients.
- **Motion from Senator Noble:** Motion to amend the previous amendment to reinclude NSHE board of regents and Chancellor Dale Erquiaga, through unanimous consent
Seconded by: Senator Perez-Ramirez.
- Speaker Thompson asked if there was any dissent to the motion. There was no dissent at the time.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- **Vote:** 23 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- Parliamentarian Kermanshahi asked if there was data about hate crimes from UNR PD.
 - Senator Noble discussed the hate crimes that he had researched while writing legislation for the 90th session.
- Senator Jojan showed his support for the legislation.
- Parliamentarian Kermanshahi asked what was considered a religious minority.
 - Alyssa stated if a student wanted their religion to be recognized the student could reach out and people would research the religion.
- Aween explained the process by which a religion would be recognized.
- Speaker Pro-Tempore Ngo stated there were multiple check points for misinformation to be fixed and asked if the bill was supposed to be a resolution.
 - Aween stated she would like to make it a resolution.
- Speaker Pro-Tempore Ngo asked why the duties would be given to the committee of IDEA.
 - Aween stated it would be a good responsibility for the committee. In their meetings they could discuss issues and have an actionable review of their information.
- Senator Noble stated Norse Paganism was a religion and there were student on campus that followed that religion.
- Senator Gonzalez stated he wanted to deconstruction the committee to make it more efficient and
- **Motion by Senator Gonzalez:** Motion to make the bill a resolution.

Second by: Speaker Pro-Tempore Ngo

- Senator Jojan stated his only worry is if there would be an issue reinforcing any changes.
- Speaker Pro-Tempore Ngo stated she understood the worry, but it would not take a create an issue with its intent.
- **Vote:** 23 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- Parliamentarian Kermanshahi asked if they could add cultural holidays to the bill.
- Senator Noble asked what type of holidays they were.
 - Parliamentarian Kermanshahi stated the holidays would be like Chinese New Years which would be a cultural holiday.
- Aween stated she focused on religious holidays since it was a smaller group and if they add cultural it would too big category. She stated the cultural holidays should be another legislation.
- Senator Noble stated he would support legislation that focused on cultural holidays.
- Aween stated not wanting to mix culture and religion since they are two different aspects of life.
- **Vote:** 22 in favor, 1 against (Swackhamer), 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

18. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

a. Committee Changes and Additions

- **Motion by Senator Martin:** Motion to add himself to Safety, Sustainability and Wellness and Academic and Student Affairs by unanimous consent.
Second 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.
- **Motion by Senator Shaffer:** Motion to add herself to IDEA and Safety, Sustainability and Wellness and Academic by unanimous consent.
Second by: Speaker Perez Ramirez
 - Speaker Thompson asked if there was any dissent to the motion. There was no dissent at the time.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- **Motion by Parliamentarian Kermanshahi:** Motion to remove himself from Budget and Finance by unanimous consent.
Second by: Senator Galvez
 - Speaker Thompson asked if there was any dissent to the motion. There was no dissent at the time.

- **Resolved:** Motion carried.
- **Motion by Senator Galvez:** Motion to add himself to Budget and Finance by unanimous consent.
Second by: Senator Cano Sanchez
 - Speaker Thompson asked if there was any dissent to the motion. There was no dissent at the time.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

b. Senator Reports

- **Senator Brown**
 - Senator Brown detailed his outreach.
- **Senator Landolfi**
 - Senator Landolfi reported on her liaison positions.
- **Senator Dean**
 - Senator Dean asked for help on legislation.
- **Senator Nithyanandan**
 - Senator Nithyanandan report on her teaching committee which wanted student feedback about professors. She asked senators to reach out to students for their opinions.
- **Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo**
 - Speaker Pro Tempore Ngo reported on work for AAPI Night and liaison meeting with Veterans Service. She gave Cabaret an amazing review.
- **Senator Gonzalez**
 - Senator Gonzalez reported on a film screening called “Courage” and Undocuweek.
- **Senator Jojan**
 - Senator Jojan Reynolds Article regarding use of funds amid UNR athletics.
- **Parliamentarian Kermanshahi**
 - Parliamentarian Kermanshahi replied to Senator Jojan and discussed the budgets.
- **Senator Swackhamer**
 - Senator Swackhamer asked for due diligence on unr athletics using donation vs student funds.

19. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no comments or announcements at this time.

20. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Director of Center for Student Engagement, Sandra Rodriguez**
- Director Rodriguez stated Akeia Sanders would supervise the secretaries, director of elections

and Shannon Owens.

b. Chief of Internal Affairs, Noah Klein

- Noah reminded senators of by Biggest Little Festival tickets.

21. ADJOURNMENT

Speaker Thompson adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m. via the Rita Laden Senate Chambers, 3rd Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union, and via Zoom Conference Call.