

Committee on Budget and Finance

Senate of the Associated Students 90th Session

Minutes for Friday, , 2022 at 3:00pm

Room , 3rd Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union & Zoom Meeting

Email Senator Noble at senatornoble@asun.unr.edu for more information

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Noble called the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting to order on Friday, March 3, 2023 at 3:07pm via the Presidents Conference Room, 3rd Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom conference. Presiding Secretary, Soraia Bohner.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Senators Noble, Kuhl, Galvez, and Perez Ramirez.

Tardy Unexcused: Senators Dean and Meiszburger.

Absent Unexcused: Senator Brown.

Absent Excused: None.

A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the time.

4. MINUTES

There were no minutes to be approved at the time.

5. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

a. Report of the President of ASUN, Dionne Stanfill

- President Stanfill had no report at the time.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Budget Priorities Update

- **Discussion:**
 - Senator Noble reviewed his plans for the committee's financial priorities legislation. He stated that the budget priorities of each of the ASUN account signatories would be taken into account during the drafting of this legislation. He stated that this legislation would likely be debated at the final Senate meeting of the 90th Session.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Financial Reviews

- **Department of IDEA Presentation:** Director Wolfgang of the ASUN Department of IDEA reviewed the department's recent and upcoming expenditures. They detailed the anticipated total costs of travel, officer wages, student outreach, and hosting. They mentioned that they were seeking a new candidate for the vacant officer position in the department and added that the department planned to spend all of its budget for the fiscal year.



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- **Questions and Discussion:**
 1. **Senator Kuhl:** Senator Kuhl asked for clarification on Director Wolfgang's claim that the entire IDEA budget would be spent. He asked if all future expenditures were planned out and accounted for. Director Wolfgang responded that the expenditures were planned and accounted for. They added that they preferred to spend the entire budget and explained that they hoped the next department head would make a new position for the department. They clarified that they thought it would be hard to argue for funding for more officer wages if the department did not spend all of its current funding.
 2. **Senator Galvez:** Senator Galvez asked how many funds would be coming from the IDEA Department's budget to cover the planned collaboration with the Brushfire Journal. Director Wolfgang explained that Brushfire would fund the entire collaboration, and that the collaboration was simply an IDEA theme for the zine that was already going to be published at the end of the semester.
- **ASUN Legal Services Presentation:**
 - **Motion from Senator Kuhl:** Motioned to recess until 3:40pm.
 - **Seconded by:** Senator Galvez.
 - There was no discussion on the motion at the time.
 - **Vote:**
 1. **In Favor:** Senators Kuhl, Galvez, and Perez Ramirez.
 2. **Opposed:** None.
 3. **Abstentions:** None.
- **Insight Magazine Presentation:** Kira Ewoldt, Editor In Chief of Insight Magazine, detailed Insight's recent wages and operations costs. She stated that much of these costs were associated with the publication of a new issue of Insight. She also proposed that some funds be transferred from student wages to cover travel costs for future years.
 - **Questions and Discussion:**
 1. **Senator Kuhl:** Senator Kuhl asked if taking funds from student wages cause a decrease in pay for student workers. Editor In Chief Ewoldt responded that wages would likely stay the same but that projected weekly hours may change. She pointed out that there was a substantial amount remaining in the wages line item and argued that there would be enough to fund travel as well as maintaining current student wages.
 2. **Senator Perez Ramirez:** Senator Perez Ramirez asked Editor In Chief Ewoldt to give a justification for the "Host" expense. She answered that the cost would be put toward an event called AMPS, a release party dedicated to student media on campus.
 3. **Senator Galvez:** Senator Galvez asked if conference attendance had helped student workers improve the quality of the magazine. Editor In Chief Ewoldt responded that the quality of the magazine was subjective, but that conferences in general were a valuable opportunity for aspiring professionals.
- **Department of Government Affairs Presentation:**
 - **Questions and Discussion:** Director Vaskov stated that the Department of Government Affairs promoted civic engagement for UNR's undergraduate student

population. She added that the department's budget totaled more than \$75,000 and that some recent expenditures had not yet been processed.

1. **Senator Kuhl:** Senator Kuhl asked if the department planned to use their host or travel budgets. Director Vaskov answered that there were no plans to use either, but that she was seeking assistance to cover the travel costs for her commute to the Nevada Legislature in Carson City. She stated that she was exploring avenues outside of the department's budget to have ASUN reimburse her for these costs.
 2. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble asked why the department's Day at the Legislature budget had allocated more than twice its actual cost. Director Vaskov clarified that the planned lunch had been sponsored by an outside organization.
 3. **Senator Galvez:** Senator Galvez asked Director Vaskov to explain how the Empower the Pack initiative served students. Director Vaskov explained that the initiative allowed students to attend workshops and breakout panels, which would allow them to voice concerns on various issues. She added that legislators and elected officials were often invited to these.
 4. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble asked which budget would be funding the Empower the Pack costs. Director Vaskov answered that the costs would be covered by the Government Affairs budget, as their budget was more substantial than that of ASUN Elections.
 5. **Senator Noble and Senator Perez Ramirez:** Senators Noble and Perez Ramirez asked questions about the department's plans to spend the remainder of their budget before the end of the fiscal year. Director Vaskov answered that the department did not plan to spend their entire budget by the end of the fiscal year but that the Government Affairs Budget should not be reduced in later years. She argued that the department would have reason to host the same amount of events during the following year as it was an election year. Moreover, she stated that she had not invested in several valuable tools for the department during the current session.
- **ASUN Elections Presentation:** Co-Director of Elections Samuel Kanke and Liesel Kimmelmeier gave a presentation detailing the recent and pending expenditures of the ASUN Elections account. They explained that after the ASUN Elections ended, the remainder of their funds would be spent on democratic engagement and education efforts.
 - **Questions and Discussion:**
 1. **Senator Galvez:** Senator Galvez asked the Co-Directors to detail the initiatives that they had planned to promote democratic engagement after the elections. Co-Director Kimmelmeier answered that those plans would be made following the spring break.
 2. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble asked what the expenses would cover for the remainder of the election cycle, besides room reservations and catering. Co-Director Kimmelmeier stated that funds may be spent on two promotional banners to encourage students to vote in the General ASUN Elections. She clarified that

these banners would be bought from a third party vendor and could be reused in future years, but that Campus Facilities had not yet approved the plan.

8. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

a. Outreach for Next Financial Review

- **Discussion:** Senator Noble announced that the ASUN Senate, Programming Board, and Legal Services accounts would be reviewed during the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting on March 10th, 2023. He added that committee members were encouraged to conduct outreach to understand student opinions on the accounts that were scheduled for review.

b. New Projects Brainstorming

- There was no discussion on this item at the time.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Director of the Center for Student Engagement, Dr. Sandra Rodriguez

- Director Rodriguez asked if the committee had been able to review all of the accounts listed in the agenda during that day's meeting. Senator Noble answered that ASUN Legal Services had been postponed until the following meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Noble adjourned the meeting at 3:44pm via the Presidents Conference Room, 3rd Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom conference call.