

Committee on Budget and Finance

Senate of the Associated Students 90th Session

Minutes for Friday, March 10, 2023 at 3:00pm

Presidents Conference 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 10, 2023 at 3:03pm via the Presidents Conference Room, 3rd Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and via Zoom conference. Presiding Secretary, Wyatt Layland.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Senators Noble, Brown, Dean, Kuhl, Meiszburger, Perez Ramirez

Absent Excused: None.

Absent Unexcused: Senator Galvez

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

- Chair Noble outlined the committee's upcoming project to be finished before the end of the session. He stated that he planned to collect responses to a Smarter Spending Initiative (SSI) Questionnaire from each department of ASUN. He explained that the committee would use these responses to draft legislation codifying ASUN's budget priorities for the following fiscal year.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Financial Reviews

- **Legal Services:** Co Director of ASUN Legal Services Isaiah Griffin gave a presentation detailing the purpose and expenditures of the ASUN Legal Services account. He stated that the expenses of ASUN Legal Services were very uniform from semester to semester and from year to year. He explained that the account's marketing costs were negligible as Legal Services handbills were provided by InkBlot. He added that the fringe account and operations costs were overseen by Director Rodriguez of the Center for Student Engagement.

- **Questions and Discussion:**



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1. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble asked how Legal Services planned to grow its number of students served per year, as pre pandemic numbers were substantially higher. Co Director Griffith answered that Legal Services had changed the criteria to define what counted as a “student encounter,” and that their current numbers were therefore not comparable to pre-pandemic numbers. He added that the Legal Services Attorney had reported more daily meetings with students than in prior months. Senator Noble also recommended that Legal Services use issue based marketing to increase its number of student contacts.
 2. **Senator Perez Ramirez:** Senator Perez Ramirez suggested that Legal Services base their marketing around new legislation being passed during the ongoing Nevada Legislative session. She continued that in addition to handing out generic handbills, Legal Services could offer information on how new state laws would affect students.
 3. The committee discussed methods that could be used by Legal Services in order to serve more students and Senator Noble suggested that Legal Services request more marketing funding in their SSI Questionnaire.
- **Programming Board:** Assistant Director of ASUN Programming Olivia Rice gave a presentation on the purpose and recent expenditures of the Programming Board’s account. She gave specific justifications and costs for more expensive line items. She clarified that the costs for several recent events were estimates, as the transactions were pending. She detailed the costs of Welcome Back Week, Mackay Week, Family Weekend, and the upcoming UNR Drag Show.
 - **Questions and Discussion:**
 1. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble clarified that the costs of the Biggest Little Festival would not be discussed as many of its expenses had not yet been determined. AD Rice stated that she would answer any questions regarding past events dating back to the beginning of the semester, as those events had been accounted for in the Programming Board’s Operations Account. She added that she would only discuss the Operations Account during this financial review.
 2. **Senator Brown:** Senator Brown asked if the Programming Board anticipated overspending or underspending their Operations budget. AD Rice responded that she and Programming Director Zamudio had allocated funds to each of their event weeks throughout the semester, and that every event except for Family Weekend had come in under budget. She explained that the leftover funds from other events should compensate for the overspending on Family Weekend.
 3. **Senator Meiszburger:** Senator Meiszburger asked if any materials were bought for events but not used. AD Rice explained that the Programming Board looked closely at expected attendance for its events to avoid overconsumption. She explained how various leftover materials were reused for other events and stated that leftover food was donated to Pack Provisions.
 4. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble asked how the Programming Board planned to use the \$16,000 in allocated funds for the UNR

Drag Show. AD Rice responded that \$12,000 would be spent to pay the talent and detailed the remaining costs, which included the cost of holding the event in the JCSU Ballrooms.

- **Fall/Spring Concerts:** The financial review for this account was postponed to the following week.
- **Senate:** Speaker of the Senate Andrew Thompson reviewed the information that he had sent to the committee pertaining to the ASUN Senate Budget. He reviewed the purpose and expenditures of the Senate account by giving justifications and exact costs for specific line items. He added that the cost of the Veterans' Luncheon was much less expensive compared to recent years and stated that there would be leftover wages at the end of the session due to several Senators leaving their positions.
 - **Questions and Discussion:**
 1. **Senator Noble:** Senator Noble asked how much money would be left from Senator wages at the end of the session. Speaker Thompson replied that he did not know, but that all left over wages would roll over to the following session.
 2. **Speaker Thompson:** Speaker Thompson recommended decreasing the Senate's outreach budget during the following session, as much of the Senate's student outreach was conducted at events that were funded by ASUN Programming.
 3. **Senator Perez Ramirez:** Senator Perez Ramirez discussed her plans to use some of the Senate Outreach Budget at the end of the 90th Session in order to put on an event for Denim Day. She stated that Denim Day, which would be on April 26, 2023, was intended to promote sexual assault awareness.
 4. The committee discussed the logistics of putting on a Denim Day event with the Senate's 90th Session Outreach budget, as the Session would end two weeks before the event would take place.
 5. **Senator Perez Ramirez:** Senator Perez Ramirez asked if the Senate's travel budget had not been spent due to lack of travel opportunities for senators. Speaker Thompson answered that senators had missed two travel opportunities, both conferences, due to rising travel costs and other logistical issues.

8. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

a. **Outreach for Next Financial Review**

- Chair Noble reviewed the Committee's business for the remainder of the 90th Session. He stated that the Committee would conduct financial reviews for five accounts: NSURJ, Academic Initiatives, Brushfire, the ASUN Fall and Spring Concert Accounts, and Wolf Pack Radio. He stated that the Committee would hold its last meeting of the session on Friday, March 31, wherein the committee would draft their Budget Priorities Legislation. Lastly, he encouraged the committee to consider how to spend the \$100,000 allocated to UNR Student media, should ASUN choose to eliminate their funding.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at the time.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Noble adjourned the meeting at 3:48pm via the Presidents Conference Room, 3rd Floor at the Joe Crowley Student Union and viz Zoom.