

Committee on Government Operations

Senate of the Associated Students 90th Session

Minutes for Friday, March 10th, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Email senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu for more information

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Senator Salah called the Committee on Government Operations to order on Friday, March 10th, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. via Room 405, 4th Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union, and via Zoom Conference Call. Presiding Secretaries, Wyatt Layland and Lennox Jacobson.

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

Tardy Excused: Senator Swackhamer.

A quorum was present.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

a. **ASUN Chief of Staff, Ashley Martinez**

- Chief of Staff Martinez spoke in opposition to S.B. 90 – A Bill to Create the Director of Lake Tahoe Affairs. She reiterated previous concerns about the longevity of the position and stated that there is an unreasonable level of responsibility on the position, considering the extensive liaison requirements with UNR @ Lake Tahoe.

Senator Swackhamer entered the room at 4:08 p.m.

b. **ASUN Director of Event Programming, Maria Zamudio**

- ASUN Senator Nathan Noble, speaking from public comment, read written remarks from the Director of ASUN's Department of Event Programming. In these remarks, Director Zamudio expressed support for S.B. 90 – An Act to Create Sustainable Event Best-Practices.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. **Project Tracker**

- There were no updates to the project tracker at the time.

b. **S.B. 90 – A Bill to Create the Director of Lake Tahoe Affairs**

- **Motion from Senator Galvez:** Motion to favorably recommend S.B. 90 – A Bill to Create the Director of Lake Tahoe Affairs.

Seconded by: Senator Swackhamer.

- Senator Galvez delivered a speech in support of the legislation. He reiterated the bill's purpose to create a "connection" between students at UNR @ Lake Tahoe with students at the main UNR campus. He also introduced to the body Anastasia Seator-Braun, a co-author of the legislation and the President of both UNR @ Tahoe's Student Activities Club as well



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as its the Residential Assistant Club; Seator-Braun she shared some remarks in support of the legislation and addressed Chief of Staff Martinez's concerns about the burden of responsibility of the liaison position.

- The Committee then deliberated on the legislation. During deliberations, Ms. Seator-Braun shared remarks about the lack of community knowledge from their main campus counterparts about Tahoe event programming, stating that students at UNR @ Lake Tahoe have been stripped of autonomy in planning their own events; Senator Swackhamer recommended amending the legislation to reflect and address this concern more clearly. Ms. Seator-Braun rounded out her thoughts by mourning the "loss" of SNU and urging additional support from UNR in establishing a connection between the two campuses.
- ASUN Attorney General Brayden Taubel approached the table and spoke in opposition to the legislation. He questioned the efficacy of the position and cited resources like Zoom access at ASUN meetings as pre-existing methods that bridge both student bodies. He later approached the table again and shared concerns about proper compensation for the position.
- Senator Galvez spoke about past ideas for UNR @ Lake Tahoe-related positions in ASUN, explaining that the Association had exhausted all other routes for an official liaison position. He later discussed Association shortcomings with UNR @ Lake Tahoe, citing stalled legislation and overall dissatisfied community engagement.
- Senator Kermanshahi delivered extensive remarks in opposition to the legislation. Senator Swackhamer also spoke in opposition, providing alternative ideas such as a Tahoe Student Council. They nevertheless spoke in support of a strong, supportive relationship between UNR and the UNR @ Tahoe campuses, with Senator Kermanshahi encouraging that ASUN members visit the campus directly to resolve any issues among the student body.
- **Motion from Senator Galvez:** Motion to amend the legislation by striking Section 03.2 from Addendum A, Chapter 210.
Seconded: None.
- **Resolved:** Motion failed.

Discussion was moved back to the main motion.

- **Vote:** 1 in favor (Galvez), 3 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion failed.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **S.B. 90 – An Act to Create Sustainable Event Best-Practices**

- **Motion from Senator Swackhamer:** Motion to favorably recommend S.B. 90 – An Act to Create Sustainable Event Best-Practices.
Seconded by: Senator Kermanshahi.
- Senators Bryan and Noble approached the table and delivered a presentation in support of the legislation.

- **Motion from Senator Kermanshahi:** Motion to amend the legislation by substituting in Addendum A, Section 3a(2) “the Director of Event Programming” to “the Chief of Internal Affairs.”
Seconded by: Senator Swackhamer.
- **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

Discussion was moved back to the main motion.

- **Motion from Senator Kermanshahi:** Motion to amend the legislation by amending Addendum B, line item J to reflect the following language: “Comply with the Sustainable Event Best-Practices,” through unanimous consent
Seconded by: Senator Swackhamer.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

Discussion was moved back to the main motion.

- **Motion from Senator Swackhamer:** Motion to amend the legislation to add the following language to Addendum A: “Officers shall attempt in good faith to adhere to all the above stipulations...”
Seconded by: Senator Swackhamer.
- **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

Discussion was moved back to the main motion.

- **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

b. Appointment of Committee Vice-Chair

- Senator Salah opened the floor for nominations to the Office of Vice Chair for the Committee on Government Operations.
- **Nomination from Senator Swackhamer:** Motion to nominate Senator Brown to the Office of Vice Chair for the Committee on Government Operations.
Accepted: Yes.
- **Nomination from Senator Galvez:** Motion to nominate Senator Swackhamer to the Office of Vice Chair for the Committee on Government Operations
Accepted: No.
- Senator Salah closed the floor for nominations, and Senator Brown fielded questions from the

body. Senator Swackhamer asked if Senator Brown's duties as Vice Chair for the Committee on Budget and Finance would conflict with the duties of Vice Chair for Government Operations, and Senator Brown stated no.

Senator Brown left the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

- Senator Kermanshahi spoke in emphatic support of the nomination, stating that he would “trust Senator Brown with my life.” Senator Swackhamer also spoke in support of Senator Brown's nomination.
- **Motion from Senator Swackhamer:** Motion to approve the appointment of Senator Brown to the Office of Vice Chair for the Committee on Government Operations, through unanimous consent.
Seconded by: Senator Galvez.
- Senator Salah asked if there was any dissent to the motion. There was no dissent at the time.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

Senator Brown entered the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

6. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Senator John Kermanshahi

- Senator Kermanshahi discussed his work alongside Senator Meiszburger and Senate Secretary Layland regarding a piece reinstating dedicated positions for traditions- and athletics-related university affairs.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. ASUN President, Dionne Stanfill

- President Stanfill shared additional thoughts about S.B. 90 – A Bill to Create the Director of Lake Tahoe Affairs, which was not favorably recommended by the Committee. On the public record, she encouraged UNR @ Lake Tahoe students to reach out to ASUN officers whenever they have concerns about UNR's oversight.

b. ASUN Senator, Amelia Bryan

- Senator Bryan recommended to Senator Kermanshahi that he fast-track his and Senator Meiszburger's legislation for the upcoming final Senate meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Salah adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m. via Room 405, 4th Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union, and via Zoom Conference Call.