Convening of the 91st Session of the Senate of the Associated Students

Agenda for Wednesday, April 12th, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
In-Person: Milt Glick Ballroom A, Fourth Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union
Online: Zoom Conference Call (Email senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu for link.)

1. CONVENING OF THE NINETY-FIRST SESSION OF THE SENATE*

The Secretary of the Senate will call the Senate to order pursuant to SAS 102. Pending the election of a Speaker, the Secretary of the Senate will preserve order and decorum and decide all questions of order, subject to appeal by a Senator-Elect.

2. OPENING CEREMONIES*

a. **National Observance**

b. **Land Acknowledgement**

c. **Inauguration of the ASUN President and Vice President**
The Senate will pause for the Inaugural Ceremonies of the ASUN President and Vice President. The Chief Justice will administer the oath of office to the ASUN President and Vice President.

d. **Inaugural Addresses**
The ASUN President and Vice President will deliver their respective inaugural addresses.

3. ASCERTAINMENT OF QUORUM*

Pursuant to the law and custom, the Legislative Clerk will call the Roll of Senator-Elects to ascertain the presence of a quorum. Only the names of those persons whose credentials show they were elected will be called. The quorum of the Senate is two-thirds of the members.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT*

The Secretary of the Senate may elect to take public comment on any action items on this agenda. The Secretary of the Senate may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak. Members of the public may participate in the meeting without being physically present by submitting public comment via email to senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu or by providing comment via the Zoom conference call. All public comment must be sent in by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12th, 2023.

5. ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER

The members of the Senate will proceed to the selection of a Speaker of the Senate, pursuant to Art. II,

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POSTED ON OR BEFORE 9:00 a.m. ON THE THIRD WORKING DAY BEFORE THE MEETING

Posted at the ASUN Offices in the Joe Crowley Student Union, Frandsen Humanities Building, the Pennington Student Achievement Center, the Mathewson IGT Knowledge Center and online at www.nevadaasun.com. The Associated Students supports providing equal access to all programs for people with disabilities. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically handicapped persons desiring to attend the meeting. Please call ASUN at (775) 784-6589 or email the Senate Secretary at senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu in advance so that arrangements may be conveniently made.

If you would like a copy of any of the agenda items listed, please contact the Secretary of the Senate at senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu.

sec.1(e) of the Constitution of the Associated Students. SAS 102 governs the process for electing a Speaker. Each nominee will be recognized to give a 10-minute presentation to the Senate. The Senate may question and debate the nominees. The Secretary of the Senate may not recognize persons who do not have the privilege of the floor without the consent of the Senate. At the conclusion of the debate, the vote will be taken by call of the roll. A majority of the votes is required for the election of the Speaker.

The Senate may consider the character, professional competence, physical or mental health, or other matters permissible under NRS 241.033, of certain individuals during consideration of this item. Under NRS 241.031, the Senate may not close the meeting.

6. ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS TO SPEAKER AND SENATORS

Immediately following the election of the Speaker, the Secretary of the Senate will administer the oath of office to the Speaker-elect. The Secretary of the Senate will then administer the oath of office to the Senators-Elect.

7. ELECTION OF THE SENATE OFFICERS

The Senate may proceed to the election of Officers of the Senate, pursuant to Art. II, sec. 1(e) of the Constitution of the Associated Students. The Senate may elect or appoint, without limitation, the following positions:

a. **Speaker Pro Tempore**

b. **Parliamentarian**

The Senate may consider the character, professional competence, physical or mental health, or other matters permissible under NRS 241.033, of certain individuals during consideration of this item. Under NRS 241.031, the Senate may not close the meeting.

8. CEREMONIAL RESOLUTIONS

a. **Committee to Notify the President**
The Senate will adopt a resolution to appoint a committee to notify the ASUN President that the Senate is organized and ready to proceed with business.

b. **Notifying the President of the Election of the Speaker**
The Senate will adopt a resolution to direct the Secretary of the Senate to notify the ASUN President of the election of the Speaker.

9. ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF THE SENATE

The Senate will consider a resolution to adopt Rules of the Senate, pursuant to Art. II, sec. 2(c) of the Constitution of the Associated Students.

10. DISPOSITION OF VACANT SEATS

The Secretary of the Senate will announce to the Senate the existence of any vacancies at the time of its assembly, due to resignation or otherwise.

11. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND SENATORS TO COMMITTEES

The members of the Committee may caucus during the meeting to make a recommendation to the Senate as to who should be the Chairperson of each Committee. Then, the Senate will consider a resolution to appoint Senators to Committees of the Senate established by the Rules of the Senate.

The Senate will elect Chairpersons and Senators to the following Committees:

a. **Academics and Student Affairs**
b. **Budget and Finance**
c. **Democratic Civic Engagement**
d. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (also known as IDEA)**
e. **Government Operations**
f. **Safety, Sustainability, and Wellness**

The Senate may consider the character, professional competence, physical or mental health, or other matters permissible under NRS 241.033, of certain individuals during consideration of this item. Under NRS 241.031, the Senate may not close the meeting.

12. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS AUTHORIZED UNDER SAS 102.04.b

SAS 102.04.b authorizes any two Senator-Elects to petition the Secretary of the Senate to place additional business on the agenda.

a. **S.B. 91 – An Act Codifying the Land Acknowledgment**
The Senate will consider referring the legislation to the appropriate Committee.

13. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE SENATE AND REFERRAL

The Senate will receive communications addressed to the Senate and refer each to the appropriate Committee. No action will be taken on communications other than referring them to Committee.

14. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS*

The Speaker will recognize in turn Senators requesting the floor for a period not to exceed two minutes.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT*

The Speaker may elect to take public comment on items on or off this agenda, except as otherwise provided by law. The Speaker may impose reasonable limits on the length members of the public may speak.

16. ADJOURNMENT*

17. NOTES

Unless otherwise marked by an asterisk, all agendized items are action items upon which the Senate may take action. Action items may be taken out of the order to be presented at the discretion of the Chair. The Senate may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The Senate may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. Any inquiries or requests for supporting material for an agenda item should be directed to the Secretary of the Senate at senatesecretary@asun.unr.edu.

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[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

91st SESSION
2023-2024

S. B. 91 -
AN ACT CODIFYING THE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

APRIL 3RD, 2023

SUBMITTED BY SENATOR-ELECTS JOJAN AND SALAH ON BEHALF OF SENATE SECRETARY LAYLAND AND DIRECTOR OF IDEA WOLFGANG TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

An Act
Codifying the Land Acknowledgment

Whereas, during the California Gold Rush of 1848 to 1855, countless Indigenous groups were forcibly and violently displaced, assimilated, and dispossessed of their land;[1]

Whereas, this land—which includes territory controlled among the states of California and Nevada—was inhabited before 1848 by a population of over 150,000 Indigenous people, which plummeted by 80% to around 30,000 in less than two decades;[2]

Whereas, state governments, state militias, and private individuals who likewise sought after the land harnessed several immoral and unethical methods to disrupt and decimate Indigenous ways of

[1] https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/goldrush-value-land/
[2] https://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/revealing-the-history-of-genocide-against-californias-native-americans

life in this region;

Whereas, these methods included, but were not limited to: enslavement, forced attendance at American Indian residential (assimilation) schools, and government-subsidized campaigns promoting violence and murder against Indigenous peoples;[3]

Whereas, it is estimated that over 1.7 million dollars (around 600 million dollars adjusted for inflation) was spent between state and federal governments on campaigns aimed at devastating the Indigenous community in California alone;[4]

Whereas, by way of the Morrill Act of 1862 and the Nevada State Constitution, the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) was established in 1874 as a land-grant institution;[5]

Whereas, consequently, the University of Nevada, Reno was situated on the homelands of the Numu (Northern Paiute), Wašiw (Washoe), Newe (Western Shoshone), and Nuwu (Southern Paiute) peoples;

Whereas, from its inception, the University (as well as other land-grant institutions) has acted, either explicitly or implicitly, to prioritize the comfort of white male students while excluding the presence and needs of others, especially Indigenous students; [6]

Whereas, every member of the UNR community has benefitted and continues to benefit from the use and occupation of this land, which still serves as a gathering place for its original stewards;

Whereas, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada (ASUN)—in upholding its values of "Learning, Leadership, and Life"—is dedicated to ensuring that students in Nevada "succeed personally, academically, and professionally";

Whereas, ASUN cannot ensure success within the boundaries of a land-grant-based institution without standing in solidarity with students who seek a better future for their community and who seek liberation from the very structures that allowed for land-grant institutions to exist;

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[3] https://www.kcet.org/shows/tending-the-wild/untold-history-the-survival-of-californias-indians
[4] https://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/revealing-the-history-of-genocide-against-californias-native-americans
[5] https://www.unr.edu/about/history
[6] https://lasvegas.adl.org/white-supremacy-presists-at-unr-2-years-after-charlottesville/

Whereas, ensuring student success also includes formally addressing and rectifying the legacy of colonialism and settler colonialism embedded in the institutional fabric of both the University and the Association;

Whereas, although symbolic, Land Acknowledgments serve as an important tool for institutions to: 1) Recognize the removal of Indigenous peoples from their homelands; 2) Acknowledge the historical and ongoing relationship between Indigenous communities and culture to their land; 3) Express appreciation and gratitude toward Indigenous peoples for allowing the institution to continue operating in occupied territory; 4) Advocate for policy change and reform with regard to the treatment of Indigenous communities and the repatriation of Indigenous land; and 5) Show respect and solidarity for the Indigenous community as a whole;[7]

Whereas, during the 90th Session of the Associated Students (2022-2023), it was customary that a Land Acknowledgment was verbally recited at the beginning of meetings of the Senate of the Associated Students;

Whereas, while customary, the practice of reciting a Land Acknowledgment was not codified into the Statutes of the Associated Students during the 90th Session, nor was it consistently employed in or enforced among Committee and Executive meetings at the time;

Whereas, codifying the Land Acknowledgment into ASUN's Open Meeting Law represents a meaningful development in institutional solidarity for Indigenous students and Indigenous members of the UNR community, encouraging a progression from symbolic and informal measures to more tangible policy action; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Associated Students, that Title IX, Chapter 901, Section 09.f of the Statutes of the Associated Students be amended to reflect the changes in Addendum A.

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[7] https://alaskawild.org/blog/the-importance-of-land-acknowledgments/

Addendum A

TITLE IX: OPEN MEETINGS

Chapter 901: Open Meetings

SECTION 09: AGENDAS AND SUPPORTING MATERIAL

f) CONTENT OF AGENDAS:

Each agenda shall contain the following elements, pursuant to the Open Meeting Law:

1) The time, place, and location of the meeting.
2) A list of locations where the notice was posted.
3) A list of all topics scheduled to be considered during the meeting including a clear description of each item on the agenda.
4) A clear denotation of items on which action may be taken.
5) An item designated for public comment. The agenda shall also include the following statement: "Action may not be taken on the matters considered during this period until specifically included on an agenda as an action item. Public comment may be limited tothree minutes per person at the discretion of the chair. Public comment may be taken oneach action item."
6) The following statement regarding consideration of agenda items out of the order presented: "Agenda items may be considered out of order at the discretion of the chair."
7) The following statement regarding assistance and accommodations for physically handicapped people: "The Associated Students supports providing equal access to all programs for people with disabilities. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically handicapped persons desiring to attend the meeting. Please call the ASUN at 775/784-6589 in advance so that arrangements may be conveniently made."
8) The following statement regarding requests for supporting material: "Requests for supporting material for an agenda item should be directed to the Archives of the Associated Students. All other inquiries should be directed to [NAMER AND TITLE OF PRESIDING OFFICER] at__."
9) The agenda need not contain a notice as to what time it was posted, but sufficient proof of posting in compliance with the Open Meeting Law shall be executed by the person who posted the agendas.
10) An item designated for the recitation of a Land Acknowledgment. Upon arriving at this item in the meeting, the chair shall verbally recite the Land Acknowledgment; in the absence of the chair, the second-ranking member shall recite the Land Acknowledgment. The Land Acknowledgment shall be phrased at the discretion of the chair, with input from either the Chair of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion or the Director of IDEA. Otherwise, the Land Acknowledgment may be recited accordingly: "The University of Nevada, Reno is situated on the traditional homelands of the Numu (Northern Paiute), Wašiw (Washoe), Newe (Western Shoshone), and Nuwu (Southern Paiute) peoples. We recognize that every member of the UNR community has benefitted,

and continues to benefit, from the use and occupation of this land since the institution's founding in 1874. It is essential to recognize and support Indigenous resistance and recognize Indigenous peoples' role as stewards in caring for this land. We stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples' efforts to seek liberation, and we call on the University of Nevada, Reno to acknowledge and respect Indigenous peoples' right to care for their own land, solve their own problems, and shape their own futures. By offering this Land Acknowledgment, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold the University of Nevada Reno more accountable to the needs of Indigenous peoples."