

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada 93rd Session

Agenda for Monday, March 2nd, 2026, at 4:30 pm

Frankie Sue Del Papa Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union

Zoom Link:

<https://unr.zoom.us/j/86571982903?pwd=ZV1gcn6SViRRQqbDZsvaVz3TW7bHUb.1>

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Chair Kith called the Committee of Academic and Student Affairs meeting to order on Monday, March 2nd, 2026, at 4:32 pm in the Frankie Sue Del Papa Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union on Zoom. Presiding Secretary, Doga Akyurek.

2. COMPLIANCE WITH NEVADA OPEN MEETING LAW

- a. Was the agenda posted three full working days by 9 am, not including the meeting date?
 - Yes.
- b. Is the meeting taking place on the day of the week, month, day, year, at the time and location listed on the agenda?
 - Yes.
- c. Is the Zoom link working and available to the public?
 - Yes.

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

“We acknowledge that the University of Nevada, Reno is situated on the traditional homelands of the Numu (Northern Paiute), Wašiw (Washoe), Newe (Western Shoshone), Nuwu (Southern Paiute) peoples. These lands continue to be a gathering place for Indigenous Peoples and we recognize their deep connections to these places. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on their territory.”

4. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Kitch, Vice Chair Hoang, Senator DeBarger, Senator Lawson, Senator Dayton, Senator Benuto

Absence Excused: Senator Bhardwaj, Senator Atkinson

Tardy Excused: Senator Issa, Senator Calderon,

A quorum is present.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment currently.

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- There are no minutes to be approved at this time.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion with Director Matthew Little from the Office of Community-Engaged Learning & Leadership regarding the Faculty Service Learning Award and the \$500 Award supported by ASUN

- Chair Kitch introduced Director Matthew Little to the committee and explained the Award and its mission as well.

Senator Benuto entered to the room at 4:35 pm.

- Director Little explained that since stepping into the role in August 2023, they have been working to shift their program's focus from traditional service learning to a broader, more inclusive community – engaged learning approach. This shift is influenced by the university's unique recognition as both a research-intensive institution and one with the Carnegie Community Engagement classification. Additionally, Director Little mentioned that they have been wanting to rename and expand the award to be more inclusive of both academic and administrative contributors. Director Little also noted that funding for the award is available (currently \$500, with possible expansion), and they emphasized the importance of updating the award in a way that aligns with policy.
- Chair Kitch expressed that she supports promoting the award and changing its name through a bylaw update, likely via a binding resolution, aiming to complete it in the next few meetings for the upcoming session. Chair Kitch invited senators to discuss on the matter.
- Senator Lawson asked when the award is given.
- Director Little answered that it will be in May.
- Senator Lawson asked a follow up question with saying if the piece is written, if it will affect next year.
- Chair Kitch and Director Little responded that it will affect next year.
- Senator DeBarger asked for clarification on how long the award was funded from the Director's office budget and whether there was a miscommunication, since funding had already been available.
- Director Little explained that when they stepped into the role, there was no record indicating ASUN was funding the award, so they only realized this connection and financial support this year.
- Chair Kitch noted that although the award is supposed to be handled by the ASA committee, it hasn't really been managed that way in the past, which she wants to fix. She added that she is unsure where funds currently are or if they get into to the Senate Budget.

Senator Calderon entered the room at 4:41 pm.

- Chair Kitch opened another discussion on changing the award name.
- Senator Issa asked if there is a proposed alternative name for the award.
- Director Little answered that there is no proposed names yet but they emphasized the need to expand the award beyond just service-learning instructors while they are being open to renaming and revising it to be more inclusive.
- Senator Dayton expressed that she is in favor of this name change.

- Senator DeBarger proposed “ASUN Community Engagement Faculty” as it could be new name for the award.
- Director Little expressed that they are in favor of this proposal.
- Senator Lawson proposed increasing the awards amount to \$750 or \$1000.
- Chair Kitch responded that it will be needed to discuss with Luis.
- Senator Issa suggested using committee funds to reimburse the office for past expenses.
- Senator DeBarger asks whether if reimbursement or increasing the award amount or number of recipients using the available excess funds.
- Director Little says budget limitations prevent reimbursement, but they are comfortable increasing the award to \$1,000 for the next to years as a temporary solution while a more permanent funding plan is developed.

b. Liaison Adoptions and Changes

Open Liaison Positions:

- Admissions and Records- VACANT
- Senator Calderon seeks motion to move himself to the Admissions and Records liaison position.
- Seconded by Senator Lawson.
- No descend found.
- The motion passed.
- Student Life Services- VACANT
- Senator Benuto seeks motion to move himself to the Student Life Services liaison position.
- Seconded by Senator Dayton.
- No descend found.
- The motion passed.

8. NEW BUSINESS (INFORMATION ONLY/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION OR POSSIBLE CORRECTIVE ACTION)

a. S.R. 93- A Resolution in Support of Including Steamers in Residence Halls

- Committee members generally supported the concept but raised several concerns as: Limited accessibility if only one steamer is provided per residence hall, lacking budget and grammatical errors on the piece.
- Senator Lawson moved to table S.R 93: A Resolution in Support of Including Steamers in Residence Halls indefinitely to allow for revisions and clarification.
- Seconded by Senator Issa.
- No descend found and the motion passed.

b. S.R. 93- A Resolution to Support Increased Accessibility of Peer Academic Support Services

- Committee members generally supported the resolution and highlighted its potential to improve accessibility. Committee emphasized the importance of broader access could potentially increase awareness and participation.
- Chair Kitch seeks motion to favorably recommend S.R 93: A Resolution to Support Increased Accessibility of Peer Academic Support.

- So moved by Senator Issa.
- Seconded by Senator Dayton.
- No dissent found.
- The motion passed.

c. S.R. 93- A Resolution to Publicize Student Data on Pell Eligible, Transfer, and First-Gen Students

- Committee members generally supported the intend of resolution but identified several areas for improvement. Committee emphasized that clearer language in date publishing date such as (GPA averages) would strengthen the resolution and ensure alignment wit its intended purpose.
- Chair Kitch seeks motion to favorably recommend S.R 93: A Resolution to Publicize Student Data on Pell Eligible, Transfer, and First – Gen Students to the ASUN Senate.
- Seconded by Senator Benuto.
- No dissent found and the motion passed.

9. SENATOR REPORTS

- a. Chair Kitch- Office of the Provost
 - Chair Kitch reported that she reached out to the provost Thompson’s Office and waiting their response.
- b. Vice Chair Hoang- Student Services, Residence Hall Association
 - No report at this time.
- c. Senator Atkinson- Academic Advising
 - No report at this time.
- d. Senator Bhardwaj- Nevada State Undergraduate Research Journal
 - No report at this time.
- e. Senator Dayton- Nevada Career Studio
 - No report at this time.
- f. Senator DeBarger- University Libraries
 - Senator DeBarger reported that she met with Catherine Cardwell, the Dean of Libraries, on February 23rd, and they discussed the Annual Report and updates to technology from the tech fee. Their four goals are to empower research, enrich the student experience and increase student success, foster inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in all aspects of their work, and cultivate an inspiring workplace culture. The main thing she asks senators’ help spread the word about open educational resources to our professors in respective colleges. They are primarily looking to apply it in broader classes where many students can benefit. OER is a grant that gets material used in the classroom to help students learn that have been made freely available online and licensed for others to reuse them such as free online textbooks, lab guides, etc. She noted that they are always looking to expand it so if a professor interested or a class you think would work well with the program, or contact Dean Cardwell’s office yourself. Senator DeBarger added that she is looking forward to joining Senator Kitch

at an upcoming liaison meeting to the Provost's office to discuss helping the other liaison position in IDEA, the Path to Independence, get an updated registration date. Senator Issa-Faculty Senate, Office of Digital Learning.

g. Senator Lawson- Greek Life

- Senator Lawson reported that he met with Ricky from the FSL office last week to introduce himself as the liaison for the office of Greek life. He added that they had a good discussion about Greek life, legislation, and UNR. Additionally, he asked Ricky what ASUN can do for the FSL and he was very appreciative as nobody had ever asked him that before.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment at this time.

11. ADJOURNMENT

- Chair Kitch adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm. On Monday, Marh 2nd, 2026 in the Frankie Sue Del Papa Conference Room.

NOTES

Agenda items may be considered out of order at the discretion of the Chair. The committee may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The Committee may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion of an item at any time.

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 contact Vice Chair Hoang at senatorhoang@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 Chair Kitch at senatorkitch@asun.unr.edu.

93rd SESSION
2025-2026

S.R. 93 -
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCLUDING
STEAMERS IN RESIDENCE HALLS

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

JANUARY, 27TH, 2026

SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS BY SENATOR NUBEL
SPONSORED BY: SENATOR EVANS

Whereas, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STEAMERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENT USE; and

Whereas, including steamers inside the residence halls will be beneficial to students across the university; and

Whereas, including steamers within the residence halls will promote students attending career fairs; and

Whereas, including steamers within the residence halls will promote students attending internship fairs; and

Whereas, including steamers would be beneficial to professional students across campus; and

Whereas, steamers are essential to maintaining a professional look; and

Whereas, many students do not have access to their own steamers while living inside the residence halls; and

Whereas, the use of steamers increases confidence when students interview or present to professional businesses; and

Whereas, the University of Nevada, Reno states that students should bring steamers when living on campus; and

Whereas, in addition to physical appearance, properly steamed clothes can impact self-esteem and professionalism; and

Whereas, providing steamers for check out at residence halls for students (instead of urging them to bring it themselves) will benefit low-income and out-of-state students;

THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA REPRESENTED IN THE SENATE, ARE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

Be it resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Nevada urges Residential

Life to include steamers within the residence halls; and

Be it further resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Nevada encourages and supports career and internship readiness and the inclusion of steamers within residential halls would only promote that; and

Be it further resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Nevada urges the University administration to implement the buying of steamers within the residential halls; and

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the following individuals:

- Vice President, Student Services, *Heather Speed*;
- Director, Center for Student Engagement, *VACANT*;
- Senior Associate Director, Center for Student Engagement, *Amy Koeckes*;
- Associate Director, Student Government, *Luis Aguilar-Herrera*;
- President, Associated Students, *Carmina Aglubat*;
- Vice President, Associated Students, *Ethan McNamara*;
- Speaker, 93rd Senate, Associated Students, *Leaf Acklin*;
- ASUN Senator, College of Science, *Dominic Evans*;
- Director, Department of Campus Wellness, *Emily Hohman*;
- Executive Director, Residential Life, Housing & Food Services

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

93rd SESSION

2025-2026

S. R. 93 -

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY OF PEER ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

FEBRUARY 11TH, 2026

SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS BY SENATOR BENUTO

COSPONSORED BY PARLIAMENTARIAN ISSA, & SENATOR ATKINSON

Whereas, peer academic support services at the University of Nevada, Reno such as PASS and SI Sessions are proven to improve student academic success by half to one full letter grade; and

Whereas, many students report barriers with regards to receiving peer academic student support, due to limited awareness and scheduling conflicts; and

Whereas, students balancing employment, care-giving or full courseloads may face disproportionate difficulties accessing peer academic support offered primarily during regular business hours; and

Whereas, equitable access to peer support services is essential to assuring that all students regardless of background or circumstance have the opportunity to succeed academically; and

Whereas, first-generation, transfer, and Pell-eligible students often navigate higher education systems with less institutional familiarity and may benefit significantly from accessible peer academic support networks; and

Whereas, disparities in utilization of academic support services may contribute to broader achievement and retention gaps among student populations; and

Whereas, improving accessibility, visibility, and coordination of peer academic support services aligns with the University's commitment to student success and inclusive excellence; and

Whereas, centralized and user-friendly communication of academic support resources increases student engagement and utilization; and

Whereas, expanding modality options, including hybrid, virtual, and evening support services can better meet the needs of Nevada's diverse student body;

Be it resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Nevada Senate formally support efforts to increase accessibility, visibility, and coordination of peer academic support services, including PASS and Supplemental Instruction sessions; and

Be it further resolved, that ASUN Senate encourages the expansion of virtual peer academic support options, including live Zoom sessions with recorded versions made available to students upon request, when appropriate and in compliance with university privacy policies; and

Be it further resolved, that the ASUN Senate urges the University to assess and address disparities in utilization of peer academic support services among first-generation, transfer, and Pell-eligible students; and

Be it further resolved, that ASUN Senate supports targeted outreach initiatives to ensure historically underserved student populations are informed of and encouraged to utilize peer academic support services; and

Be it further resolved, that the ASUN Senate encourages collaboration between academic support offices and student leadership to regularly evaluate accessibility barriers and recommend improvements; and

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the following individuals:

- *University President, Brian Sandoval;*
- *Executive Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Melanie Duckworth;*
- *Executive Director of Deans Future Scholars, Dr. Mariluz Garcia;*
- *Assistant Director of Deans Future Scholars, Manuel Ortiz;*
- *Associate Director First Generation Student Center, Dr. James Beattie;*
- *President, Associated Students, Carmina Aglubat;*
- *Vice President, Associated Students, Ethan McNamara;*
- *Director of Government Affairs, Associated Students, Isabelle Hatch; and*
- *Director of Latinx/Hispanic Community Relations, Ovaldo Jimenez-Estupinan*

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

93rd SESSION

2025-2026

S. R. 93 -

**A RESOLUTION TO PUBLICIZE STUDENT DATA
ON PELL ELIGIBLE, TRANSFER, AND
FIRST-GEN STUDENTS**

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

FEBRUARY, 9TH, 2026

AUTHORED BY SENATOR BENUTO Co-

AUTHORS: SENATOR CASTRO COSPONSORS

SENATOR DAYTON SUBMITTED BY SENATOR
BENUTO TO THE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC
AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

A Resolution

TO PUBLICIZE STUDENT DATA ON PELL ELIGIBLE, TRANSFER, AND FIRST GEN STUDENTS

Whereas, Data on topics relevant to Pell Eligible, Transfer and First-Gen student achievement is a) either not available publicly, or b) available on the website, but not found without excessive searching; and;

Whereas, the University of Nevada, Reno serves a significant population of Pell Grant–eligible, transfer, and first-generation students, many of whom face systemic financial, academic, and institutional barriers to persistence and graduation; and;

Whereas, the lack of widely publicized, disaggregated student data contributes to reduced visibility of these disparities within campus dialogue and decision-making spaces; and;

Whereas, acknowledging disparities is a necessary first step toward fostering transparency, awareness, and informed conversations around equity and student success; and;

Whereas, Pell Grant–eligible, transfer, and first-generation students are more likely to balance employment, family responsibilities, and financial insecurity while pursuing their education; and;

Whereas, ASUN Senate has a responsibility to represent and amplify the experiences of students whose challenges may otherwise be overlooked; and;

Whereas, recognizing and publicly acknowledging disparities faced by these student populations affirms their experiences and underscores the importance of equity-centered dialogue within the University of Nevada, Reno community;

Be it resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Nevada Senate formally acknowledges the existence of disparities in access, retention, and educational outcomes among Pell Grant-eligible, transfer, and first-generation students at the University of Nevada, Reno; and;

Be it further resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Nevada Senate affirms the importance of transparency and awareness in understanding the challenges faced by Pell Grant-Eligible, Transfer and First Generation students; and;

Be it further resolved, that this resolution serves as a statement of acknowledgment and awareness with the intent of informing future conversations and initiatives related to student equity and success;and;

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the following individuals:

- *University President, Brian Sandoval;*
- *Executive Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Melanie Duckworth;*
- *Executive Director of Deans Future Scholars, Dr. Mariluz Garcia*
- *Assistant Director of Deans Future Scholars, Manuel Ortiz*
- *Director of Financial Aid, Tim Wolfe;*
- *Associate Director First Generation Student Center, Dr. James Beattie*
- *Director of Transfer Recruitment, Stephani Price;*
- *President, Associated Students, Carmina Aglubat;*
- *Vice President, Associated Students, Ethan McNamara*
- *Director of Government Affairs, Associated Students, Isabelle Hatch;*

- *Director of Latinx/Hispanic Community Relations, Ovaldo Jimenez-Estupinan*

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