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Senate Meeting

Friday, March 1st, 2023

Presiding Officer: Vice President Brooks

Minute Taker: Chief Justice Zabaleta

1. **Call to Order:** Call to Order at 1:11 PM
2. **Roll Call:** Roll Call Complete at 1:12 PM
3. **Approval of Minutes from February 16th:** Motion to Approve the Minutes from February 16th by Saoji, Seconded by Senator Anson
4. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion to Amend the Agenda to add the Swearing in of New Members by Director Sharma, Seconded by Representative Torres

Motion to Adopt the Agenda by Representative Torres, Seconded by Director Sharma

1. **Public Comments:**
2. Updates:
   1. President: Timesheets are due tonight. I had a meeting with AVC Genia on Monday morning to work on our relationship with the LGBTG center. On Wednesday, I attended ABOD. Additionally, I attended the Campus Advisory Committee on Budget meeting, where we discussed the next steps for our proposals for this year. More information on the final decisions about the budget will be available in the next 2-3 weeks. I visited the Lawrence Street Center to talk with Chief of Staff Maxey. I began working on my speech for the upcoming system gala, scheduled in 2 months. I had a conversation with Representative Mauro about future plans and rounding off the year. We are planning a team bonding event, likely to take place in April. With elections approaching, if you are running, ensure that you fill out the necessary forms. We will be actively promoting the elections in the next couple of weeks. Vice President and I attended and spoke at the Black Education Conference, Regents James delivered a great keynote speech. Last Monday, I participated in the Colorado Springs Healing Walk following the incident at UCCS. We remain in contact with the UCCS President to provide ongoing assistance and support.
   2. Vice President: We met with the director of our tri-institutional LGBTQ center. Additionally, I attended both the budget meeting and ABOD.
   3. Chief of Staff: I met with all the chairs and will reschedule my meeting with Chair Mauro. I continued our conversation with Tyrell, the director of the LGBTQ center, about tri-institutional collaboration and expanding our partnership directly with the center. I am working with Chair Burns to develop legislation tracking with the civics committee and have some presentations scheduled for early to mid-April. The long bill will be introduced in the next four weeks.
   4. Civics: We are currently moving with Nourish, and a budget allocation bill should be coming up soon. We have been working on our Food Insecurity Initiative and contacted Victoria Watson from the food pantry to explore potential partnership opportunities. The Reflection Space is now open to all students.
   5. College Council

CAD: I met with President James Walsh to discuss Casa Mayan and its preservation. I will likely have another meeting in April. I have also been working on my presentation for the College Council.

CAM: The internship alumni fair that I had been planning unfortunately had to be canceled because only two employers registered by the deadline. Our staff believed it would not be too beneficial for the students if they saw only two employers at the fair. I have been working with Anthony to figure out more logistics so that we can plan something different and generate more momentum in the fall. We are collaborating with the career center to bring in those employers to present to classes or provide guest lectures so that students can access them if they choose to. I am meeting with Sarah to discuss the Student Advisory Council.

Business: Yesterday, we shot a video to promote our event happening on March 7th, which is open to all colleges. I also met with my chief of staff to discuss the efficiency of clubs in the business school and to implement plans to enhance their effectiveness. I have a meeting scheduled with the Dean's cabinet on March 28th.

SEHD: I attended the Spring 2024 enrollment update meeting. I also met with BESOS, and they expressed interest in collaborating with me to integrate their initiatives with my Student Advisory Council. On Wednesday, I sat in a portion of the ABOD meeting.

CEDC: I met with the Academic Integrity Director for our College of Engineering to discuss some statistics pertaining to the college. She provided me with documents to review as she has been actively addressing this matter. I have also been working on a question bank to have a meeting with Shana regarding academic integrity for international students and exploring collaboration between the College of Engineering and other colleges, given that engineering has its own academic integrity policy. Next Friday, we will hold our first Student Advisory Council meeting, with great student representation and faculty, including the dean.

SPA: The College Council has been preparing for our spring presentations scheduled in two weeks. Regarding SPA, I have been focused on organizing our day of service. Yesterday, I was invited to a luncheon with Westminster PD. I also met with a student who is interested in attending CU Denver, seeking information about the programs and the campus. I will be holding another planning meeting with the staff members in SPA.

* 1. Public Relations: I will be working on marketing for the elections. The science fair was fantastic; it was great to see all the projects. On Sunday, I attended the award ceremony with Pratham, and we took pictures. We will upload those for the science fair poster. Thank you to everyone who volunteered!
  2. Finance & Funding: We met on Wednesday, approved two allocation requests, and tabled the other three. We have been working on addressing those throughout the week. We approved five and tabled three to be resubmitted; once they are resubmitted, we will approve them. We also denied two due to time. We will also be working on legislation addressing some issues that have arisen in the past couple of weeks. We are going to be developing conflict of interest disclosure-type legislation. I would like to finish the conference funding legislation that Cade and I have been working on. The Finance & Funding member of the week is Laura, even though she is not an official member; she has been doing a lot of work behind the scenes for our committee.
  3. Judicial: We have produced our impeachment opinion. I have not had the chance to read it, so please do so. We are still working on a desk signup form. Unfortunately, we have lost a judicial member; Vrajesh resigned, so we will be reassigning duties.
  4. SACAB: We passed a resolution this morning about the postponement of the vote from ABOD. We made an amendment, and the committee seems to be supportive of that. I also attended ABOD. There are two open houses next week, one on Thursday and one on Monday.
  5. SSRC: I have been working on the endorsements and met with Cade to discuss them.
  6. Ex Officio: Timesheets are due today. There is a poll in the Teams chat for Spirit Thursday merch. Please vote on which item you would like in the poll, not by reacting to the chat.

1. **New Business:**
2. **Swearing in of New Members**
3. Completed at 2:32 PM
4. **Presentation from Grey Peckham, MSW (They/them) on New Grant Initiatives 1:30-2:15pm**
5. Motion to Move into Committee of a Whole by Director Sharma, Seconded by Director Galloway
6. Motion to Reinstate the Minutes by Senator Augustyn, Seconded by Representative Valdez
7. President Combs: I recommend a motion to recess for 5 minutes
8. Motion to Recces for 5 minutes by Senator Augustyn, Seconded by Senator Anson
9. At 2:16 PM
10. Back at 2:21 PM
11. **Judicial Opinion on Impeachment Inquiry by Chief Justice Zabaleta**
12. In all your involvement with SGA, whether large or small, there is a core compromise. This compromise means giving some of your time to SGA while withholding involvement in other opportunities, like classes that run from 1-3 or work commitments. While these other opportunities are essential for career development, they are not concurrent with SGA. Therefore, when you can no longer make this compromise, your time with SGA ends, either through resignation or other forms such as impeachment or firing. In the case of Director Cosentino, her inability to attend Senate meetings was first brought to my attention in November 2023. Since then, there has not been a single Senate meeting where I have interacted with Director Cosentino. This semester, I have not engaged with her in person, either in Senate or in the office. While I understand that Director Cosentino may have conflicting commitments, and there are larger issues at play, it is unfair to the people in this room and everyone associated with SGA, if we do not make the decision to impeach Cami today, it would be inconsistent with previous decisions to impeach others facing. Despite Director Cosentino’s past contributions to SGA, we must address this situation today. All of us have taken an oath to uphold the constitution, and when someone knowingly violates that oath without being accountable, it is our responsibility to hold them accountable. Therefore, I propose that we move forward with the impeachment of Director Cosentino today. I yield my time to the judicial committee to discuss further details of the case.
13. Associate Justice Wright read the impeachment opinion, and Chief Justice Zabaleta presented the evidence for Director Cosentino's absence.
14. Director Galloway: You mentioned Director Cosentino's lack of attendance at the Science Fair. With the impeachment, would it have been appropriate for her to show up anyway?
15. Chief of Staff Bachman: Even if the impeachment process has been initiated, you are still an employee of SGA and CU Denver Student Life until you are impeached. So, hypothetically, if she wants to clock hours today, she can still get paid.
16. Chief Justice Zabaleta: I want to stress the lack of communication we have received from Director Cosentino. We genuinely believed we could be of great help to her; however, we did not receive any communication, and she did not reach out to us before the impeachment proceedings or the start of the semester.
17. Associate Justice Wright: I want to emphasize that she currently does not meet the qualifications for office, and this should have been addressed at the beginning of the semester, so we are beyond mere absences.
18. Motion to Vote on the Judicial Opinion by Senator Augustyn
19. Motion Rescinded
20. Vice President Combs: Director Cosentino is on Zoom. If anyone in this room would like to propose a motion to grant her speaking rights and see if she wishes to address the body, that is an option available to you.
21. Representative Valdez: You mentioned a lack of communication prior to the disciplinary action. Did you discuss an improvement plan, and was there communication starting last year about making up for absences? I am aware we have our documents, but as mentioned, she has done a great job for SGA.
22. Chief Justice Zabaleta: We met on February 20th with Director Cosentino, providing her the opportunity to discuss the circumstances and potentially work towards a better remedy. Unfortunately, we did not receive enough information to even explore alternative remedies. While we appreciate all the work she has contributed to SGA, it is our duty to uphold our documents. Further commitments are necessary to ensure the fulfillment of her role's responsibilities until her position ends.
23. Chief of Staff Bachman: Previous work does not necessarily indicate quality present work. It would be one thing if Director Cosentino could not attend but was consistently producing solid work that advanced the body. However, I do not believe that is the case. For the first time, Carnival de Lynx is not going to be a major SGA-headed event. I am not saying this is a bad thing, but it is important to recognize why it happened. It occurred because our Events and Planning Director was not showing up and putting in the effort to realize these plans. While her past work was excellent, it is a different conversation now because the lack of attendance is coupled with a lack of effort.
24. Chief Justice Zabaleta: As a member, you have the right to submit an appeal if you need additional absences. You just need to communicate with us, and we can create a plan to help you fulfill your role as Director of Events. However, we did not receive any communication. We have provided Director Cosentino with enough avenues to work and find a compromise.
25. President Combs: In addition to that, as has been mentioned, Director Cosentino does not meet the enrollment requirements to be in SGA. This was not brought up before because we had not reached the census, but now that we have passed census, not impeaching Director Cosentino would raise concerns since there would be someone in our body who does not meet the enrollment requirements.
26. Motion to grant Director Cosentino speaking rights by Representative Valdez, Seconded by Senator Anson.
27. Point of Clarification by Chief Justice Zabaleta: You are not voting on the Impeachment Opinion; you are voting to Impeach Director Cosentino
28. Ex officio Spray: I might be mistaken, but it appears in the corner that she was speaking, though we could not see. I am uncertain whether she was not saying anything, or if the volume was not working, but we are trying to confirm.
29. Ex officio Brown (on zoom): I do not believe she was speaking; I did not see any activity on our back end.
30. Motion to Impeach Director Cosentino by Senator Augustyn, Seconded by Representative Torres
31. Roll Call Vote: 18-0-1
32. Director Cosentino has officially been IMPEACHED by the Senate body
33. **General Business from the Floor:**
34. Representative Valdez: The transportation survey is now a campus survey. I expanded on some questions based on our discussion, and I will put it on the general channel. If I can get some feedback today or over the weekend, I want to include it along with the advertising for the AHEC masterplan in the SPA newsletter.
35. President Combs: What day do you need our feedback by?
36. Representative Valdez: Hopefully by Monday. I was supposed to send the email yesterday, but I wanted to give everyone the opportunity to provide feedback.
37. President Combs: There are some shifts happening to ensure that we are more inclusive within our office of admissions. We will be called the Office of Admissions rather than the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. One of the things that came out of our SSRC meetings is happening. The administration is open to hearing from us. Looking forward to seeing what else happens as a result of our discussions from SSRC.
38. **Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn by Senator Augustyn, Seconded by Senator Anson
39. At 2:58 pm