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Senate Meeting

Friday, August 25th, 2023

Presiding Officer: Vice President Brooks

Minute Taker: Chief Justice Zabaleta

1. **Call to Order:** Call to Order at 1:03 PM
2. **Roll Call:** Roll Call complete at 1:06 PM
3. **Approval of Minutes from** **08/10/2023:** Motion to approve the minutes by Representative Martinez, Seconded by Representative Valdez
4. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion to adopt the Agenda by Senator Burns, Seconded by Senator Agarwal
5. **Public Comments:**
6. Student Resident at City Heights
7. Door bathrooms at city heights to be more accessible and practical for student use. Actual placement makes it difficult to access belongings, having more shelfs would make it easier to fold clothes instead of hanging them up. Consider relocating the shower shelf to a more convenient spot, avoiding water stream interference for better space.
8. Comment by Senator Burns and Senator Rodriguez for follow up.
9. Point of personal privilege by President Combs: Can we all speak up to assure the minutes are taken correctly?
10. **New Business:** 
    1. Swearing in New Members
       1. Complete at 1:14 PM
    2. Appoint F&F Chair
       1. President Combs and Vice President Brooks appoint Senator Augustyn as the new chair of the Finance & Funding Committee. Senator Augustyn accepts appointing.
       2. Call to question by President Combs, Seconded by Representative Martinez Gomez
       3. Vote of affirmation: 14-0-1
11. Chair Augustyn is confirmed as the new chair of the Finance & Funding Committee
    1. SB 2023-24-03: A Bill to Amend the Senate Bylaws to Include a Legislation Title Rule
       1. **Presented by Chief of staff Bachman**
       2. Motion by Senator Burns to add to Roll Call Senator Peshimam, Seconded by Senator Rodriguez
       3. Call to Question by President Combs, Seconded by Director Galloway
       4. Roll Call Vote: 16-0-0
12. The Bill PASSED
    1. SB 2023-24-04: A Bill to Amend the Senate Bylaws to Require Access to SGA accounts be Relinquished at the End of a Members Term
       1. **Presented by Chief of Staff Bachman**
       2. Question by Director Galloway: How are you going to make sure that people relinquish their accounts or have no further access?
       3. Chief of Staff Bachman: At the end of the 2-week period we will change the passwords. In addition. In the bylaws is your responsibility as an employee to relinquish access.
       4. Point of information by Representative Lacey: Did something recently occurred that has made this bill necessary to put forward?
       5. Chief of Staff Bachman: It recently came to my attention that certain people had hold access to accounts and student’s information was not treated with due diligence.
       6. Senator Burns:We need to better define “Student Government Association Accounts” to adopt better clarification. Last year in the Constitution we added a line because an SGA member lost access to their account with valuable information.
       7. Question by Representative Lacey: Is the 2-week period too long as it is for student security?
       8. Motion by Senator Augustyn to remove the word “affiliated” and replaced it with “owned,” Seconded by Representative Martinez.
       9. Question by Director Galloway: Do you have a specific idea of who gets access to the accounts?
       10. Point of Clarification by Chief of Staff Bachman: We are not discussing who gets access but rather what to do with access once that time has expired. If we would want to have structure or an account sharing guideline that would have to happen through an executive order or a bylaw.
       11. Point of information by Senator Rodriguez: Who will be in charge of marking sure that members are relinquishing their accounts?
       12. Chief of Staff Bachman: Those individuals whose responsibility is to interpret the course of bylaws. It also falls under the responsibility of people since it is a bylaw rule for members who have access the SGA accounts to relinquish their accounts one their period in office is over.
       13. Point of information by Chief of Staff Bachman: Are we okay with the 2-week week period?
       14. Call to Question by Senator Burns, Seconded by Chief of Staff Bachman
       15. Roll Call Vote: 16-0-0
13. The Bill PASSED
    1. Pro-Tempore Selection
       1. Point of information by President Combs: Is the floor open to nominations?
       2. Representative Valdez nominates Representative Lacey, Representative Lacey accepts
       3. Senator Augustyn nominates Representative Mauro, and Representative Mauro accepts nomination
       4. Vote of affirmation: Representative Mauro is our new Pro-Tempore
14. **Updates:** 
    1. President
       1. Vice President Brooks and I had a meeting this morning with Dr. Snowden, the administration is excited and open for collaboration. We also had a Tri Institutional SGA meeting past Wednesday; our other constituents are excited about collaboration this year as well. They are excited to do a Tri Institutional SGA event. Our fist SGA related event is Constitution Day on Monday, September 18th, Fall Fest on September 20th so we will be quite busy that first half of the week. Just know that we are busy, the administration wants to collaborate with other different departments so look forward for the rest of the year.
    2. Vice President
       1. I was assigning a lot of tasks to Cade mostly. We have been trying to reach out to ASCP to come to get stuff taken care of in our room and having the shelf removed from the back. We will be expecting an answer this week so we can schedule something with Mark. We received an email from one of the Tri executives Chase about going to lobby at the Capitol; we will have more updates next week. Policy 7029 will be going into effect September 1st. I assigned Cade to itemize the office snack list into an excel sheet and send it to Kelsi. Everyone’s wishes were heard so snacks should be here soon.
    3. Chief of Staff
       1. I have been working on bills, I do have bylaws changes coming. I have been looking through organizations I have been part of and taking the best practices and bring them to you. I have a lunch meeting with the Chancellor’s Chief of Staff next week to be in contact on where we are now. I have been reaching to Chase in Boulder, reaching in to ASCP. Also, I am sorting out our hiring situation and moving to schedule interviews.
    4. Civics
       1. We had elections on Monday, Senator Flores is our Vice Chair. We plan to send out a form about the reflection rooms subject. We are on a fact-finding mission with people to bring information down from the administration to them, specifically with the allocated space. We have been sending out emails to administrations to meet and furthering our civics action plan. Dago went to check the food pantry at the Wellness Center. We are looking into AHEC to see where our student fees are going.
    5. College Council
       1. CAM: I was part of CAM’s open house that welcomed first-year students at City Heights. I am going to be sitting on the next all hands CAM meeting to see what the root of the disagreement between faculty and staff is. I nominated myself to be in the Dean Search Committee. I met with the President, Vice President, and Treasurer of MISA to walk them through MyLynx. I showed them the F&F guidelines and how they can start requesting funds.

Point of information by President Combs: Are they planning to do Lynx Live again this year?   
CAM: They are. Denver Lynx radio has reach out to me to inquire about how to request funds from SGA. I plan on meeting with other student organizations, hopefully next week.

* + 1. Education: I got an answer from the Dean; he directed me towards his assistant, but she is not answering. I sent out a Canvas message to all my classes to offer my support. I am in the process of setting up a group to see what the future of special education looks like. I spoke with a representative on Monday about assistive technology so I will be attending a couple of events.
    2. CLAS: I reached out to my dean for more updates and information about advisory council. See if we work to invite more people to advisory council, people from student organizations, hopefully open to the idea. MSU student council reach out to ask about single stop and who look for it. I sent emails to the Single Stop office, but they have not responded yet. Organization registration ends on September 1st so I will send emails to student organizations.
    3. Point of Clarification by Representative Torres: Single Stop is a program in the wellness center that helps with food and security, more specifically with SNAP benefits on campus.
    4. SPA: I met with the program director that I have been working with for student outreach for SPA. There is more support from advisory council, so I will start working on recruiting members for our honors society. I was to meet some first-year students from SPA to talk about the school. With College Council, we worked on setting goals for the semester. I have been emailing my dean about setting specific college pages on MyLynx as well as starting the college’s budget review.
    5. Point of Information by Senator Saoji: Information about the Food Pantry
  1. Public Relations
     1. I will talk about my deadlines for the semester. If you need assistance for events, you will need to notify me 2-3 weeks in advance. I put out a google form to introduce SGA members on Instagram; please send your pictures separately and make them appropriate, no heavy filters. I got TikTok marketing requests, but nothing is settled yet. I will work on putting legislation back on Instagram. I contacted a couple of student organizations, so I have a couple of meetings for next week. In conversations with Advisor Kelsi, we agreed that the Cultural Diversity event would be referred as a Festival.
  2. Finance & Funding
     1. We covered our first three proposals; one is to open MyLynx on Monday, our Dental Association Proposal and for the DIncuvator. We have about three pieces of legislation coming up. Next week we should have a bill asking Student life to purchase Costco membership. The week after that, we should have legislation about giving $100 to student organizations for discretionary spending requests. Final piece of legislation will be putting numbers and stipulations on internal committee requests. The announcement that MyLynx is now open is going in the Student Life announcements on Saturday and Monday. I expect next week we will have a suitable number of requests to go through.
  3. Judicial: No updates
  4. SACAB

1. I have not heard anything from SACAB advisor. I asked her for documents related to AHEC spending and their annual budget. Hopefully, we can get that if not we will go through a CORA Request. I had a meeting with Nick, our Chief of Staff last year about what he did in SACAB and catch up on what has been done before. SACAB may be meeting once a month.
   1. SSRC
      1. I have written the RFP forms that AVC Jen sent out to the departments for whatever they are requesting. Working on allocation for budget and financing for higher education. Kelsi had a meeting with Jen to connect on expectations from SSRC and the direction is taking this year. We are going to prepare around the archives. Last year was focused on the fees spent by the department but this year we are focused on the services, how well the money is being spent.
   2. Ex Officio
      1. You all receive notifications to attend the Director of Student Life search; I encourage you all to attend it. Remember that our office is a space for you to do formal work that you can clock on your timesheet, also informal work. Make sure to reserve the conference room if you want to use it for committee meetings. We are having our first gen Senate on September 8th in Student Commons 2500. The absence form is now live for you all to register future absences. The Campus Activities team is hosting a Puppies and Popsicles on Tuesday. They might be looking for additional people to assist the event and they are looking forward to work with us this year. Your student ID will get encoded to have access to Tivoli 301. Thank for you commitment to the institution!
2. **General Business from the Floor:**
   1. Representative Valdez: How do we reserve the conference room?
   2. President Combs: I want all Committee chairs to send me what dates and times are meeting this year; we will have a “strictly reserved” sheet for the conference room.
   3. Senator Burns: AHEC does not post an itemized budget, they tend to post a summary around September. We do not get anything outside the fact that they collected $4.2 million dollars in student fees, so we do not know where those fees are being allocated. Based on the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA), we want to create a scope document to get the information we are asking for. For the CORA request is twenty-five cents a page, whether online or printed, and $25/hour after the first hour. We would want to introduce legislation to set aside money in the budget to pay for the CORA request.
   4. President Combs: Vice-President Brooks and I were attached on an email that was sent Chancellor Marks from Staff Council. The letter included concerns regarding the budget cuts approved last year which included the elimination of several vacant staff positions. Staff council urges Chancellor Marks to consider the impact of cutting open staff positions because staff is forced to add more tasks to their workloads with no additional compensation. Staff counsel is interested in our shared governance and our endorsement to this letter. I get the scope and idea of the issue; not necessarily support the way the letter was worded.
   5. Representative Torres: What specifically do you not like about the wording within this letter?
   6. Representative Torres: I shed a light on the staff issues and grievances that were brought up with faculty. Within the College of Arts and Media, staff is taking on a lot more workload that their job is supposed to be. For the longest time CAM had only one advisor for the entire college. We had now hired two advisors, but they are not familiar with the innerworkings of CAM. The reason the Business School does not have any type of representation on Staff council is because their staff is burnout.
   7. Senator Augustyn: I agree with this, cutting any open staff position would harm students. The only problem is the line that says only approving position cuts when all other alternatives have been exhausted, because I cannot think of any other alternatives.
   8. Point of Personal Privilege by Vice President Brooks: Director of Events and Planning, could you put your last name on your placard?
   9. Director of Events and Planning Cosentino: I agree with President Combs. The wording is aggressive, and they could have been kinder and more professional.
   10. Senator Burns: Last year when they presented budget cuts, they said they were cutting staff positions that were being left open and then restructured into other positions. We could write resolutions withing SGA that focuses on what budget cuts have brought to us and how those are going to be restructured. We should treat that with extra scrutiny for the next two semesters.
   11. President Combs: Administration is open to receiving information from SGA in terms of budget realignment. We can work to bring and take information to that discussion.
   12. Representative Valdez: I support the idea of writing a resolution because staff cuts are going to hurt us.
   13. Motion for 5-minute Recces by Senator Burns, Seconded by President Combs
       1. At 2:29 PM
       2. Call to Order at 2:35 PM
   14. Point of Personal Privilege by Senator Augustyn: Does anybody have a laptop charger?
   15. President Combs: The response from Chancellor Marks reads as follows. We have seen the impact staff has made throughout the university. As the presence of significant budgetary challenges ahead of us, we are confident that we will find path forward that serves our students and employees. No decisions about phase two of the budget alignment have been made yet and will not be made until after census. I look forward to your partnership and insight to reduce expenses, strengthen enrollment and make positions stronger.
   16. Point of information by Senator Burns: When is census happening?
   17. Advisor Dew: Census is the third Wednesday every semester, typically Wednesday after Labor Day. Students do not have a commitment to CU Denver until after census and then are financially liable for everything that they are in.
   18. Point of Information by Representative Torres: Since they are going to start making decisions after census, does that mean that they are going to have meetings to discuss what phase two is going to look like?
   19. Representative Lacey: I am wondering if we should make an endorsement letter or a resolution? It feels dismissive.
   20. President Combs: Does not mean that they are dismissing the issue. Decisions cannot be made before census, but they are open to have conversations.
   21. Senator Augustyn: Anything that they are going to talk about in the next months is already decided just by the numbers. However, it is important to do something even if nothing is going to be done after.
   22. Motion to Straw poll in favor of writing a Resolution letter to Staff Council
       1. Straw Poll taken: 15-1-0
   23. Representative Valdez: I want to echo the point that it might not lead to anything. However, it is important to make an official statement as a body.
   24. Chief of Staff Bachman: There is an increasing number of concerns of people following students from the King Center to their way to Lynx Crossing after 8 PM classes. It is the highest priority for campus safety.
   25. Point of Information by Representative Valdez: Were students directed to sources to file a police report?
   26. Chief of Staff Bachman: Yes, I will let them know how to continue.
3. **Adjournment:** 
   1. Motion to Adjourn by Senator Augustyn, Seconded by Representative Martinez
      1. Adjourned at 2:47 pm