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Senate Meeting

Friday, September 8th, 2023

1. **Call to Order:** Call to Order at 1:08 PM
2. **Roll Call:** Roll Call Complete at 1:10 PM
3. **Approval of Minutes from September 1st:** Motion to approve the Minutes by Representative Lacey, Seconded by Senator Agarwal
4. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion to adopt the Agenda by Representative Valdez, Seconded by Senator Burns
5. **Public Comments:**
   * 1. Student Alejandro Salazar: As the first time attending a Student Government Meeting, it is very good to be here for the people who are acting as a voice in the school. We are getting a better understanding of how you all represent us.
6. **New Business:** 
   1. SR 2023-24-01: A Resolution Expressing Support for the First-Generation Students of the University of Colorado Denver
      1. President Combs: This resolution was created for this specific event; we want to make sure that as SGA (Student Government Association) our First-generation students understand that we appreciate them, and we do acknowledge them. We thank them for choosing CU Denver as their home.
      2. Motion to Pass the Resolution by Senator Agarwal, Seconded by Director Cosentino
      3. Roll Call Vote: 15-0-0
         1. The Resolution PASSES
   2. RFI Presentation by Director Sharma
      1. I made changes to the RFI document that we send to the AVCs to procure information about the functioning and allocation of services. The previous RFI was structured in way that it gave us a general overview of the sources, and in my experience in SSRC (Student Services Review Committee) meetings, we had to set extended sessions on the presentations. I created this with specific questions, the focus being is being able to get the answers we need or get a direction. I will help us to communicate with the unit AVCs and work together to understand the challenges and administrative issues they are facing before endorsing.
      2. Motion for a 15-minute Caucus by Director Sharma, Seconded by Senator Burns
         1. At 1:17 pm
         2. Call to Order at 1:32 pm
      3. Comment by Senator Augustyn: The RFI was great, I was impressed by how quick this was put together and the quality. It is smart to ask all the questions we are trying to get answers to.
      4. Comment by Representative Valdez: I am impressed by the quality of questions and the follow-up to the questions we asked last year.
      5. Point of information by Representative Valdez: Are we voting on the RFI?
      6. Representative Lacey: I want to mention question 5 “How does your unit support cater to the diverse needs of Graduate and Undergraduate students? Could be reworded to support/cater or keep one of those.
      7. Motion to Open Public Comment by Director Sharma, Seconded by President Combs
      8. Public Comment by Student Alejandro Salazar: I appreciate the effort made by the SSRC to get that transparency, especially because it is difficult to get information from representatives to students. I appreciate what is being done to get that information in a concise manner not only for Student Government but for students.
      9. Question by Senator Burns: What is the timeline for SSRC now?
      10. Director Sharma: We are planning to send this RFI to the AVCs by September 15th, discuss this for a month and have our executive meeting.
      11. Motion to Add Senator Saoji to Roll Call by Senator Agarwal, Seconded by Director Sharma
   3. SB 2023-24-05: A Bill to Request that the Office of Student Life Purchases a Costco Business Membership
      1. **Presented by Senator Augustyn**
      2. Comment by Senator Espinoza: It is a great idea because Civics last year went through a lot of barriers, we ended up buying from Walmart which was inconvenient for us due to costs.
      3. Question by Director Sharma: Did you discuss the use of other memberships, such as Sam’s membership for instance?
      4. Senator Augustyn: Sam’s has a cheaper membership, but we deduced from the benefits from the $120 card, we are confident that we will get a lot more than the $60 and the 2% cashback over the year, which I will also provide in my utilization. We decided to choose the Costco Business card because we plan to have expenses totaling over $2000. It opens a lot of opportunities, minimizing our costs and maximizing return.
      5. Point of information by Senator Burns: Can we recognize the speaker for the transparency of the minutes?
      6. Representative Valdez: I want to echo support. This would be much wiser use of the funds we get for students. It is good timing considering the Amazon membership expiring.
      7. Senator Burns: I want to make sure that Student Life will be on board with the request and how do you communicate that to them?
      8. Senator Augustyn: Since we do not have a Director of Student Life currently, my next option was to talk to Lance Glunz who gave us the original idea of requesting this to Student Life. This would be a better obligation for Student Life rather than SGA. I am confident with Lance’s support that this is something they will be able to do but beyond that I have not talked to anybody else.
      9. Advisor Dew: Lance as the “procurement officer” for Student life’s account, gave us permission for the idea to be moved forward. T is larger benefit that student life can benefit from, I want to recognize the 2% cashback as some sort of fundraising option we never had before for Finance and Funding.
      10. President Combs: Regarding asking student life whether they are board or not, this conversation about getting a Costco membership has been in the table for over a few years.
      11. Call to Question by Representative Torres, Seconded by Senator Saoji
      12. Point of Information by Senator Saoji: My vote was not taken in the Roll Call Vote. Counting was fixed afterwards.
      13. Roll Call Vote: 15-0-1
          1. The Bill PASSES
   4. SB 2023-24-06: A Bill to Reduce the Finance and Funding Conference Spending
      1. **Presented by Senator Augustyn**
      2. Senator Burns: The bill makes sense, last year we had a $5400 fund allocation for a conference for about 12-15 people. Is there a reason it is just a percent and not money cap?
      3. Senator Augustyn: The reason for choosing a percent instead of a specific amount is about the financial obligation and weighting the interests. I agree that a small request is more procurable, but I want us to weigh it equally because the events are still directed at a selected group of individuals. I want to make this equal for all organizations to share the financial burden with us regardless of the amount of the request. I am open to amending the legislation to add a cap.
      4. Senator Burns: Setting a minimal amount could be beneficial to the bill.
      5. Senator Augustyn: I would be open to an amendment saying, “capped at 40% of the procurable conference fees after the first 250 or 500 dollars.” I would like to keep the discussion on the floor and ask what dollar amount would be appropriate. As the Chair of Finance and Funding, I would recommend capped at $500.
      6. Point of Information by President Combs: My interpretation for the bill was 40% of total conference fees, not including other requests. Do we need to put a dollar amount considering student organizations do not usually request the total cost?
      7. Senator Augustyn: That is why I put 40% of procurable costs under the Finance and Funding guidelines because I do not want to fund 40% of total student conference fees.
      8. Point of Information by Chief of Staff Bachman: If we are putting a dollar amount, the language we use is very important. The language needs to specify that we are funding up to $500 and if the cost exceeds that amount, we fund 40% of the total cost.
      9. Motion by Senator Burns to amend the language to “fund conference spending up to $500, or, if the funded amount exceeds $500, to fund at a rate of 40% of the remaining expenses of items that are procurable”, Seconded by Senator Saoji
      10. Roll Call Vote: 16-0-0
          1. The Amendment PASSES
      11. Point of Clarification by President Combs: The amendment passed not the bill.
      12. Point of Personal Privilege by Senator Burns: Harshit can you go back to the previous bill? We are still voting on it.
      13. Motion for a 5-minute Recces to amend the legislation, Seconded by Representative Valdez
          1. At 2:03 PM
          2. Call to Order at 2:08 PM
      14. Point of Clarification by Chief of Staff Bachman: You can ask for any opposed for a friendly amendment and if no one is opposed the amendment passes.
      15. Motion to Amend the language of Funding Bylaws to Funding Guidelines by President Combs, Seconded by Senator Agarwal
          1. No opposition, the Amendment PASSES
      16. Point of Clarification by Representative Valdez: The way the bill reads right now sounds like it is 40% on top of the $500
      17. Point of Clarification: Can we read the NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED so everybody understands the language now?
      18. Motion to Call to Question by Senator Burns, Seconded by Representative Valdez
      19. Roll Call Vote: 15-0-1
          1. The Bill PASSES
   5. SB 2023-24-07: A Bill to Allocate $100 to Each Registered Student Organization’s Financial Account
      1. **Presented by Senator Augustyn**
      2. Motion to amend the legislation and remove the word “affiliated,” Seconded by Senator Flores
         1. No opposition, the Amendment PASSES
      3. Question by Senator Burns: How will this money be distrusted? How will student organizations know? Will be the same 10% ($750) for the spring semester?
      4. Senator Augustyn: I only want to start with the fall semester to see if it is successful and go from there. Regarding how this will be communicated, I tried to outline what our marketing will be like and include that this will be communicated as the “General Meeting Fund” via email. I will be working with our PR team on this. Our procurement coordinator will go into the speed type accounts and they will add $100 to each registered student organization. Instead of coming for a budget request, they will be able to do purchase request through their account. I talked with the procurement coordinator, and they do not see any hurdles but as an accomplishable task.
      5. Advisor Dew: We are in a new system with finance, if the bill passes this can be done in a business day
      6. Representative Martinez: If they already have money in their account, who makes sure that the money is not dipping into money the student organization already has or will it be two different on the account?
      7. Advisor Dew: The transaction name will be this bill for safe keeping. I will make sure to be specific in the transactions
      8. Senator Augustyn: I tried to include the discretion of the Finance and Funding Chair and Procurement Coordinator because I recognize that by trying to streamline this process, I am pushing more work to the coordinator. If this works, I will include this in the Chair obligations to act more as the SGA’s fiduciary and procurement. This way, our meetings will be more focused on the big presentations and things we need to talk through.
      9. Representative Martinez: Will there be a similar deadline for this?
      10. Senator Augustyn: This will adhere to FF guidelines and subject to the Appeal process, they will have to put it in 3 weeks in advance.
      11. Senator Burns: If this is successful, we will allocate $1500 for the fiscal school year, will there be a cap in case more organizations appear? Will there be a push to acquire more funding to limit that burden on the $70000 budget?
      12. Senator Augustyn: Because this is an experiment, I only want to see the effects of utilization. Policy will be written when we find out the effects of this.
      13. Point of Clarification by President Combs: The executives are currently in talks with our higher ups about different budget realignments which it hopes would come with increasing our funding for FF, so student organizations have more access to money.
      14. Call to Question by Senator Agarwal, Seconded by Senator Saoji
      15. Roll Call Vote: 14-1-1
          1. The Bill PASSES
      16. Point of Personal Privilege by Senator Burns: Can we have a verbal acknowledgement for future seconds?
   6. Swearing in of New Members
      1. Complete at 2:30 PM
   7. Confirming of Parliamentarian
      1. Vote of Affirmation: 16-0-0
         1. Chief Justice Zabaleta is confirmed as Parliamentarian
7. Updates:
   1. President
      1. We got our Constitution officially endorsed by Chancellor Marks. We had a Tri Institutional SGA meeting; we are looking to have them biweekly. AHEC (Auraria Higher Education Center) had both open houses this past week. It was interesting to see the open house set up on Wednesday. AHEC is doing things for the campus, and it is imperative that we make sure that the student voice is heard. We attended the Board of Regents meeting; we were able to talk to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance Ann Sherman about our thoughts on AHEC and CU Denver budget. We will set up a meeting to discuss budgetary matters and understand the inner workings. We talked to Beth Myers, our AVC for academic planning and institutional effectiveness; we discussed everything, she is open to answer our questions and point us in the right direction. We met with Chancellor Marks, Regent James, and Regent VanDriel. It was communicated to us that Regent Smith was added to the Auraria Board of Directors, we will be getting those updates for you soon. We had a meeting with Allan Golston from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, he is focused on enhancing the student experience. We are getting ready for the National SGA conference in Washington DC, we will get more updates soon. Vice President Brooks and I are getting ready for the Donors celebration that will be held on October 5th, more information to come. Policy 7029 is going to be updated to our CU website soon, we will start communicating with student organizations through student newsletters. With this policy, all registered student organizations get to ask for funding from SGA now; instead of associate and affiliated the language is now affiliated and sponsored. Affiliated is anything that falls under CU Denver with no national ties, sponsored organization does have national ties with funding coming from national chapters. We will be setting up a meeting with Dr. Snowden to discuss budget realignment, understanding what the administration is looking for and getting more funding to SGA to be disbursed to all students.
      2. Senator Burns: Census was this week as well, right?
      3. President Combs: Census was this past Wednesday. We should have that information by the end of next week. Budget talks will start after the second week of October.
   2. Vice President
      1. We had a meeting with President Cromwell, one of the tri executives at the Boulder Campus with Chief of Staff Bachman. We talked about how we can collaborate with them to lobby our student perspectives and initiatives at the Capitol. From my understanding, we will have private meetings with Ann to look for AHEC budget details, I did not talk to Ann about coming to Senate specifically.
      2. Point of clarification by President Combs: For more detailed things, it will be a smaller group. For a bigger after findings, would be Senate.
      3. Vice President Brooks: We talked to Dan and Chancellor Marks at Board of Regents, and we do not own the Wellness Lawn. Is it not legally ours, the issue is with agreements of usage and not legal ownership.
      4. President Combs: The concerns and disputes with usage that have come from the Wellness Lawn are with the higher ups.
      5. Representative Lacey: Did they let you know who owns the wellness lawn?
      6. Vice President Brooks: AHEC. We met with Allan from the Gates foundation, we relate to him the nuances and difficulties that we have on campus. That we sometimes sacrifice the student experience by working with a seemingly private business and how students feel that the campus is not always student focused. We are looking forward to the Donor Celebration, we are also looking to attend the Colorado Remembers 9/11 event on Monday. We are looking to schedule a meeting with the Sentry on conducting formal interviews with SGA representatives so they can get information on issues they are writing about. We are looking to schedule a meeting with Jen to get feedback on the RFIs (Request for Information).
   3. Chief of Staff
      1. I met with Dan Maxey, Chancellor Mark’s Chief of Staff, to talk about our initiatives and how we can collaborate on different things this semester. I have created a conference room scheduler that will be posted in the next few weeks. Until it is posted talk to me about conference room times. We have three new members joining us: one Judicial justice, another representative and an FF senator. I attended both AHEC open houses and I am beginning work on a larger report talking about the issues present on both houses. I am focusing on how relegated the student, faculty and staff voice is, and calling out AHEC on things that could have been improved. Shawn, Sid, and I attended the Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC), hearing AHEC break down the feedback they got from the open houses. Some comments will be added to the report as some of the things were genuinely concerning as student office campus. At the Tri executive meeting I attended with Bria and Savannah, Leo the President at CCD mentioned getting EBT readers in the food vendors on campus. I will work on bringing forward additional legislation on the bylaws.
   4. Civics
      1. We have a plan for the upcoming Voter Registration date and Constitution Day. We intend to inform ourselves on the type of bills and legislation being passed in the state, helping voters, and informing them on new tabling events. We plan to communicate with PRC and another civics member Cesar on putting flyers and QR codes out. We will have Genia to talk about the reflection space on St. Cajetan and whether AHEC has allocated that space and future preparation for the basement. I have involved myself with AHEC, but we are focusing on the larger scope of Civics. I will be at the Colorado Remembers event as a volunteer and the Donors event as a UHL (University Honors and Leadership) representative. I look forward to seeing SGA member representation.
   5. College Council
      1. CAM: I met with Sarah, the assistant to the Deans for CAM, and we discussed when I am meeting with them and plans for the Student Advisory Council this year. It came to my attention that the big push that the Deans want to do is focus more on supporting student organizations that fall under CAM. Sarah has reached out to most of the student organizations to talk about ways that the Deans, faculty, and staff can support their initiatives and build connections. We talked about sitting down with representatives within faculty assembly and staff council, I am trying to build that shared governance as I know it is important for the executive’s mission. Hopefully, I will be sitting at CAM meetings once a month. I have been invited to sit on the board for the Dean search committee, directed by the SPA (School of Public Affairs) Dean. They are going to start doing that search in October, hopefully we will find them soon because our two interim deans miss teaching.
      2. Motion by Senator Augustyn to extend the meeting, Seconded by Senator Saoji
      3. Business: I had back-to-back meetings with people in the business school. I reached out to the business school’s Chief of staff, and she was open to the initiatives I provided. We set the advisory council in motion, I had sent the elaboration forms and she started to choose students that expressed interest. I have been officially added to the business school alumni network because I wanted to start initiatives about how to collaborate with job opportunities and what alumni are doing after graduation. I am collaborating with the Director of the career center in the school, happening at the end of the month. The goal of the business school is to expand our presence on LinkedIn, we are looking for events and opportunities to be represented on the platform.
      4. Education: I have not been able to meet with the Dean Marvin Lynn and staff. I have spoken with Chief of Staff Bachman to try to reach out to them more effectively. I will start attending special education department events on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.
      5. CLAS: I am going through the student organizations that have registered for student life to see the ones that fall under CLAS to make sure they are filling out the requirements to have them present at advisory council meetings. Hopefully, they reach back out because student life is open to help them register and offer them more opportunities. I am still trying to contact my dean about advisory council starting in October. I am trying to reach out about the My lynx page.
      6. SPA: College council moved their meetings for Tuesday now. We have about a dozen people interested in advisory council. I am meeting the Deans and coordinators about how this will be like. I was talking with Lance about the community service projects and how we will have those since we do not have a budget for that. I have been working with the Veteran and Military services office because they also have some opportunities for people to get involved. I saw that Public Administration or a new organization, so I am going to try to connect with them. I am planning to attend the remembrance event; I hope to see you all.
   6. Public Relations
      1. I posted the fall fest graphic, which is in two weeks. We were talking about the low student engagement from last year, so for fall fest we are starting an email blast with our SGA email to have them scan QR codes and receive updates on events, nothing is set yet. I am making bill posts on Instagram to show students what things we have been doing in senate, that will be in our highlights section. Can each committee/chair give me a blurb on what they have been working on, their goals for the semester and what they do? This for our brochure to show who we are and the goals for SGA. I brought my camera for headshots. We are working on our event coming up on October 11th, working on t-shirts and stickers for the event. We are going to be working on marketing and MyLynx Instagram for the fall festival and get more people to come to events. I am connecting with people at TRIO.
   7. Finance & Funding
      1. This week we approved one request with the presentation from the Asian Student Association. We approved $1100 for their October meeting and supplies. We denied 2 requests, one due to time and one due to an issue with exclusion of religious services. We tabled a request for Denver Lynx Radio that we will bringing to you because the budget request goes over the $5000 limit. I met with the Master Steering Committee. I want to apologize and admit fault for the past years of FF; it came to my attention with the denied budget request, that we have been funding this event when it should not have been funded. I am going to be rectifying that now and for the future.
      2. Point of information by Senator Burns: Can you clarify the event?
      3. Senator Augustyn: It is a Christian Student on Campus Conference, because we are public funded institution, we cannot fund religious services or ceremonies. They do have morning devotional and worship ceremonies and we did not receive those agendas in the past. With the latest information, this is not the event we thought it was years prior.
   8. Judicial
      * 1. We have been working on the Absence guidelines, hopefully those will be updated and reflected in the form by the next meeting.
   9. SACAB
      * 1. We had our first meeting, and I was confirmed as Vice Chair. We have Dave from MSU as the ABOD (Auraria Board of Directors) representative. We set our meetings times to first and third Tuesdays, please go. We have some discrepancies with getting the ABOD minutes and agendas, hopefully by the next update I will those documents. We are hiring a secretary for SACAB, $21/hour 2-5 hours per week. We had public comments at the meeting. We had discussions about goals for SACAB, understand our roles. Last year they were trying to get SACAB and FACAB representatives onto the Board of Directors, so I am contacting Skippere Spear, the General Counsel for AHEC, to guide us in the right direction. The Master Plan Steering Committee is also getting a SACAB representative.
        2. Point of information by Representative Valdez: What is the time for the SCAB meetings?
        3. Representative Mauro: 4:30 to 5:30 in Senate chambers 320
        4. Motion to extend time to 3:30 by Representative Lacey, Seconded by Senator Agarwal
   10. SSRC
       1. I met with Kelsi to decide a couple of things; we discussed the RFIs, and I sent them over to Jen, from which we received feedback this morning. I will get to it today, to see what she has mentioned in the emails. I am working on developing a process for the SSRC meetings and deliberations. I am thinking of reviewing the information we get from the meetings and creating a statement to give to the Sentry.
   11. Ex Officio
       1. You are getting nametags, make sure you name is correct; I need to send that off by the end of today. For working visa folks, I need you to pay attention to the number of hours you are working. If you are working more than 25 hours, you will be in jeopardy of losing your visa, talk to me. They are hour caps for your position. You agreed to the terms in your letters, so if you are working additional hours, ask for permission. I want to call attention to the SGA website; students now can ask for historical documents. They can reach out to the SGA email account or my personal email.
8. **General Business from the Floor:**
   1. No general Business
9. **Adjournment:** 
   1. Motion to Adjourn by Senator Augustyn, Seconded by Senator Burns
      1. Adjourned at 3:14 PM