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Senate Meeting

Friday, October 18, 2024

Presiding Officer: Vice President Mauro

Minute Taker: Chief Justice Zabaleta

1. **Call to Order:** Call to Order at 1:00 pm
2. **Roll Call:** Roll Call Complete at 1:02 pm
3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion by Senator Leaser to amend the agenda to include the swearing-in of new members, seconded by Senator Vega.

Motion to adopt the agenda by Senator Halember, Seconded by Senator Gothwal.

1. **Approval of Minutes from October 11:** Motion by Senator Leaser to amend the minutes to correct the spelling of Advisor Dew's name.

Motion to Approve the minutes from October 11 by Senator Vega, Seconded by Representative Valdez.

1. **Public Comment:**
2. **Unfinished Business:**
   1. Resignation Acceptance

* **Presented by Advisor Dew**
* Advisor Dew: Our CLAS representative, Nick Pham, has resigned. The position is posted, and we are seeking a new representative. In the meantime, we are voting to accept this resignation as part of best practices.
* Vote of Affirmation: 14-0-0.
* RESIGNATION IS ACCEPTED.

1. **New Business**
   1. Swearing in of New Members

* **Presented by Advisor Dew**
* Completed at 1:06 pm.
  1. SB 2024-25-04
* Motion by Senator Leaser to add Senator Elliot, Representative Cohen, Director Mwambo and Representative Delarosa to Roll Call, Seconded by Senator Vega.
* **Presented by Director Thomason**
* Director Thomason: This bill aims to improve relationships with organizations presenting at SSRC, as they generally have a negative view of the process. I hope it will enhance the overall experience.
* Representative Lorden: What will be included in the goodie bags?
* Director Thomason: My initial idea was self-care products and a few snacks. I’m considering asking Director Shelton for some of the tote bags he’s creating. We’ll finalize the brainstorming process next week in my meeting with Mitchell and Savannah.
* Motion for a roll call vote on SB2024-25-05 by Senator Vega, seconded by Senator Halember.
* Roll Call Vote: 18-0-0
* SB2024-25-05 PASSED.

1. **General Business from the Floor:**

* Representative Valdez: Were we supposed to give speaking rights to Mitchell?

1. **Reports:**
   1. President: I want to start by thanking our Civics Committee for organizing a wonderful Nourish Now event. You all did an amazing job with limited time, and I appreciate your hard work. I’m sorry I couldn’t attend due to prior commitments. This week, I focused on the Chancellor Search Committee, and most of my work there is done. This morning, I attended a Cafecito hosted by Rosemary de la Rosa. While there, I met a director or board member from the Performing Arts Center, who offered us discounted tickets for \*Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter\*, a play coming up. We’ll look into this as a potential team bonding experience for SGA or our student organizations. We’re also planning to present the Academic Transformation Project next week, which is exciting. Additionally, I hope to get a presentation from Chief Mollendor about campus safety. The campus police department is working on a video to mend relations with the community after last year's protests, and we may have the opportunity to participate in that.
   2. Civic Engagement: We've been really busy, so first, thank you to everyone for showing up this week, especially for Nourish Now. I’ve had a tough week, and your support means a lot. We had a fantastic turnout of 270 students, and we hope to double or triple that number for spring. We donated leftover food to the food pantry and left a case of water and some hygiene products in the office for anyone in need. In terms of side projects, our involvement with AHA has led to a new partnership, which I’ll discuss at the upcoming Senate meeting. We’re also planning to collaborate more, like we did with Civics, and our next big project will likely involve maintaining the reflection space, which we’ll discuss in detail next week. I want to welcome the new members of our team.
   3. College Council: I’m glad we’re almost filling our positions in the College Council. While I'm sad to see Nick go, I’m happy to welcome our new member. We’ll drop the survey link in the general chat for the Senate body to fill out before tabling on Monday in North Classroom, Atrium C. Thanks to Kelsi and Addison for helping set things up! My representatives are working hard to send out surveys specific to their schools and will connect with the dean next week. In the Business School, we’re taking on a project called Reimagining Business School, with three new initiatives. There's also an event called Breaking into Consulting for anyone interested, happening at the Jake Jabs Center on October 24th.
   4. Finance & Funding: As you can see from the agenda, we discussed outreach to club leaders with Amy, our ex officio. We’ve faced communication issues with student organizations and amended our guidelines accordingly. However, there’s still a need for direct communication from the Finance and Funding Committee. We plan to hold a presentation or workshop to guide student organizations on submitting or editing requests and addressing any concerns. We’ll update you soon on the timing of this workshop. Today, we approved six requests and are using our funds effectively. However, there was an issue with the University of Colorado Dental Association submitting an incorrect request through MyLynx. Although their request was approved, they later stated it shouldn't have been submitted. We’ll send a warning email to ensure proper use of student funds in the future. We denied one request today, and due to time constraints, we'll review a few more at our next meeting.
   5. Judicial: This week has been slow for me as I’ve been focused on the search committee. Next week, the Judicial Committee will start working on the rules for appeals, evidence, and procedures for the appeals process. We anticipated an appeal from D Incuvator, a student organization, but they missed the 10-day deadline, so they can’t appeal their request from Finance and Funding. Moving forward, we’ll focus on amending the process and improving communication with student organizations that approach the Judicial Committee.
   6. Public Relations: This past week has been more of the same. In our executive meeting on Tuesday, I shared some designs for merch like stickers, shirts, and beanies for upcoming tabling events. I also created a flyer for Representative Favorite regarding the College Council survey. Additionally, I attended Nourish Now and Pumpkin Palooza.
   7. SACAB: We had our meeting today to discuss our budget and potential uses for it. We’re considering getting new swag for upcoming tabling events and town halls, as well as for our subcommittees and the Tivoli Reimagined committee. There are two town halls for RTD: one on October 28th and the other on November 14th. If you have any opinions or questions, please attend those. We’ll be working with Director Shelton on marketing since Auraria's website isn’t very engaging. We finalized some plans for team bonding and continued our discussion on RTD, exploring alternative transportation options for students. I’ll be working with Alyssa to reach out to companies like Lyft, Uber, and Lime to see what student discounts they can offer. We also reviewed our committees within SACAB, focusing on outreach. There’s still an opportunity to join the feminine hygiene products subcommittee—please reach out to me if interested. Regarding the public safety building interviews, we now have marketing materials on the SACAB channel. Annarose had a meeting about the ABOD vote, and we’re planning to meet with ABOD representatives to gain their support before bringing our proposal to the legislature in the upcoming session.
   8. SSRC: This week was about writing the bill and preparing for November. We'll have back-to-back SSRC presentations, with many meetings featuring two presentations each. It’s going to be intense, so I’m just getting everything in order and trying not to stress out since I’m handling it alone. Overall, I'm doing well.
   9. Advisor Hernandez: I serve as an advisor on the F&F committee and as the coordinator for student organizations. We invite everyone to participate in our ofrenda, an offering altar located outside 345 in the Tivoli’s club hub/sentry space. Additionally, I’d like to offer my assistance in proofreading bills or any other documents. I have a master’s in English and a certificate in copy editing, so feel free to reach out if you need help with grammar and spelling.
   10. Ex Officio: I apologize for being out of the office Monday through Wednesday and not communicating this better. I’ve been dealing with severe motion sickness, but I’m okay now and available next week if anyone needs time. Last week, I reached out to potential work-study candidates and will send information to new members soon. For those I contacted, please let me know if you have questions about the form, which allows you to request up to $2,500 for both fall and spring. I also spoke with Mitchell about purchasing two new wagons for our use. They will help us engage with constituents more effectively. We have some important items happening in SACAB, the Student Advisory Council to the Auraria Board. They represent CU Denver at the Auraria level and advocate for all constituencies on the Auraria campus. As you may know, RTD has been struggling recently, and we have an opportunity to attend two open houses on October 28th and November 14th. This is particularly important as it directly impacts our community. If you have been affected by public transit, please attend these open houses to hear what others have to say and share your input. Currently, RTD's negotiation tactics are concerning, which is why many of our students are paying upwards of $300 for a pass each semester. We need to interrogate this issue as a body. Your input is vital, and we need to operationalize our thoughts into actionable resolutions and legislation. You must operationalize what you want; your work must be quantifiable. Ways to quantify your work include submitting resolutions and legislation. I’ll keep this brief, but I’m disappointed that we’re nearing the end of the Senate process with only 132 resolutions completed. We have only seven meetings left this semester, so I encourage everyone to think about what we can accomplish. Remember, this is your meeting, and your contributions matter. We will not have short meetings. Please bring items to the floor. As Director Thomason mentioned, we are about to start the SSRC season, the Student Services Review Committee. It’s crucial that you show up for your committees and get the work done. On a lighter note, your executives would like to schedule a movie night on November 1st, and Mitchell will provide more details on that. I understand that we work hard, but we also play hard. I want to emphasize that while your friendships here are a bonus, your job comes first. I also want to give a big shout-out to Civics this week, particularly Mike and Jalissa, for their hard work. Lastly, I’d like to remind everyone about our business casual dress code. It’s important that we present ourselves professionally as we prepare for future roles.
2. **Adjourn:**

* Vote of Affirmation to Adjourn: 18-0-0
* Adjourned at 1:38 pm