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Senate Meeting

Friday, September 13, 2024

Presiding Officer: Vice President Mauro

Minute taker: Justice Zabaleta

1. **Call to Order:** Call to order at 1:01 pm
2. **Roll Call:** Roll call completed at 1:02 pm
3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion by Senator Halember to adopt the agenda, Seconded by Senator Mehta
4. **Approval of Minutes from September 6:** Motion by Senator Leaser to approve the minutes, Seconded by Senator Peshimam
5. **Public Comment:**
6. **New Business:**
   1. Senate Resolution 2024-25-01 (10 Minutes)

* **Presented by Representative Valdez**
* Senator Rodriguez: As a first-generation student, I love this legislation. Is there a reason why we want to bring this to the floor?
* Representative Valdez: Because we are holding a First-Gen Recognition Day, and some of them are attending the Senate today.
* Motion by Director Thomason to adopt the Resolution, Seconded by Senator Anson
* Vote of affirmation: 13-0-0
* SR 2024-25-01 PASSED.

1. **Unfinished Business:**
   1. Update and Discussion on Student Life and Campus Community Travel Expenses (45 Minutes)

* **Presentation by Director Brown**
* Director Brown: Brian Moffitt was funded from our student life budget at my discretion due to surplus funds at the end of the fiscal year. In Student Affairs, we often collaborate across departments, and it's common for Student Life to sponsor initiatives for other offices, depending on budget and feasibility. This reflects our shared commitment to supporting one another and working towards common goals. The funding listed under Jessica Godo was allocated to cover travel expenses for bringing Director of Student Life candidates to campus, including flights and other travel arrangements for the three candidates. For lodging for the Leadership on Broadway, not all Student Life Pro staff have travel cards. For example, when Addison and I went to Seattle for a conference, his travel was charged to my travel card. So, while the expenses might appear higher under my name, it's because I was the one making the purchases. We received $7,500 from the DEI Grant to help lower Student Life travel costs. Additionally, I was awarded various scholarships, including the DEI Scholarship for the NCORE conference, which covered my registration and lodging. That trip didn't use any student fees. We always seek other avenues to help subsidize travel costs in Student Life. This year’s travel budget is set at $15,000, which is $5,000 less than last year. This was determined after reviewing the conferences staff are scheduled to attend and considering costs across all functional areas. The budget is also influenced by this year's funding reallocation and increased focus on other priorities within Student Life. Before I arrived in November, Student Life had already allocated $20,000 for travel. Upon reviewing with the budget team, we discovered $30,000 in one-time salary savings that had to be spent by June 1st. After consulting with my supervisor, I decided to invest this back into the staff for their extra efforts during the understaffed period. We used about $44,000 of the $50,000 for the 2023-24 travel and early bird registrations to offset costs. The $7,500 DEI grant further reduced our travel expenses to $37,000. The remaining $12,000 was allocated for swag, supplies, and events for the school year. Attending conferences benefits the student experience by providing staff with new insights on trends in student engagement, leadership development, and program enhancement. Networking with peers at these events helps us bring back successful models from other universities, which we can implement here. It also rejuvenates staff, boosting their energy and creativity to better support students. Some successful initiatives we've brought back include The Hunger Games event, Rock the Mic with speaker Monty Washington, and The Power of the Student workshop, scheduled for next Friday. We've also collaborated with Housing and Dining to offer summer camps where SGA and CAT members can attend conferences for free.
* Representative Valdez: What were some other ideas or potential uses for that one-time funding before you decided to allocate it for conferences?
* Director Brown: My first thought was to invest back in our staff, aligning with the university's mission and strategic plan to be the best place to work. Some faculty and staff hadn't attended a conference in years, so this funding allowed them to do so. However, this was an anomaly; the $30,000 in one-time funding isn't something we can expect every year. I made this decision to ensure my staff is invested and energized to do their best work in supporting the student experience.
* Senator Anson: if I recall correctly, the total expenses amounted to about $88,000. Could you provide the percentage of that total funded by student fees?
* Director Brown: We had $7,500 in grants for Pro staff and $2,500 for SGA, totaling $10,000 in funding from grants for Student Life. So, out of the overall expenses, $10,000 was not from student fees. If we're focusing solely on Pro staff travel, it amounts to $7,500.
* Senator Leaser: Is the non-rollover of last year's money a decision made by Student Life? If so, could you clarify why this approach is beneficial?
* Director Brown: No, that's a budgetary decision. I was informed that I had to use the funds by July 1st. For more details on why we need to spend money by that deadline and not roll it over, you’d need to ask Jen St. Peter. It’s not a decision I made.
* Motion by Senator Vega to add Representative Pham to the roll call, Seconded by Senator Rodriguez
* Representative Pham: Could you reclarify how much of that travel came from student fees?
* Director Brown: All of it besides $10,000 is student fees.
* Representative Pham: With about $60-50,000 in student fees allocated, how would you justify this spending on travel to a student who is not involved and might not see the direct benefit, especially considering that CU Denver is a commuter school where many students work on the side and might not appreciate their fees being spent on these activities?
* Director Brown: At CU Denver, our Student Life office encompasses nine functional areas, so our travel budget might seem larger because it covers various specialized conferences and professional development opportunities. We attend these conferences to stay updated on trends and practices in higher education, for example how to engage with Gen Z students. This ongoing learning helps us improve the student experience. The larger budget reflects our broad scope of responsibilities, not just a single area.
* Director Thompson: You mention attending conferences to better relate to our generation. Why not just ask us directly for feedback instead of consulting with other professionals who might be doing similar things at their schools?
* Director Brown: We attend these conferences to gain new insights and ideas that enhance the student experience, beyond just understanding Gen Z. For instance, we learn about how other schools are handling current issues like the presidential election, integrating AI, and introducing innovative programs like new speakers or events. While we do seek student feedback, these conferences help us stay current and bring fresh, innovative ideas to campus. My own perspective from previous roles also helps identify areas for improvement that might not have been apparent before.
* Senator Rodriguez: Can you elaborate on what the salary staff savings funds can be used for? Are there specific restrictions on these funds? Also, regarding the staff reward: was the use of these funds for conferences intended as a reward or as an investment in staff development?
* Director Brown: The salary savings from vacant positions, including mine and Amy Hernandez's, amounted to $30,000. We decided to use these funds to attend the Leadership on Broadway conference, as it aligns with our goal of staff development and leadership enhancement. This investment not only rewarded staff for their extra work but also supported our university's mission to be a great place to work. Any remaining funds were used for swag, supplies, and events for the upcoming year. Additionally, a speaker we had on Wednesday was paid from last year's budget to help offset this year's expenses.
* Representative Pham: While conferences help us learn about trends and innovations, are there initiatives specifically focused on improving student life aspects like mental health, wellness, and career networking? For example, increasing funding for programs that make students' lives easier, support their mental well-being, and help them secure jobs after graduation.
* Vice Chancellor Herndon: The funds we're discussing today are specifically allocated for engagement and support in this area. Your concerns about mental health, wellness, and career networking fall under different budget categories. Yes, we are investing in those aspects through separate funding sources. While Jarrick may not have details on that, we are aware of the needs of our commuter campus and offer various programs to support students, though they are not directly related to this particular funding pool.
* Senator Halember: Have you implemented any initiatives to share what you’ve learned from these conferences with students? For example, have you conducted events to communicate these insights or cross-checked the student experiences discussed at the conferences with what our institution offers?
* Director Brown: Yes, we’ve brought many ideas back from the conferences. For example, on September 20, we’re hosting a workshop on student activism and using student voices, inspired by what I learned at a conference. This workshop is open to faculty, staff, and students. Additionally, next semester, we’re planning a student leadership conference on campus, integrating insights from Leadership on Broadway. We are actively working on implementing these ideas, though it may take some time.
* Senator Vega: For the spring semester, do you have a list of planned student events based on what you’ve learned from the workshops?
* Director Brown: For the spring semester, we’re planning to bring Step Africa to campus in February, focusing on the history of stepping and its connection to African American culture. Additionally, we’ll have a student leadership conference modeled after Leadership on Broadway. We have a detailed calendar of events, which we can share, showing other events we’re planning. Most of our events involve vendors or ideas we've brought back from conferences.
* Senator Rodriguez: Were there other potential uses for the salary savings, such as department-wide development, instead of conferences? Did you discuss or consider other avenues for spending that money?
* Director Brown: Yes, I discussed the use of the funds with my supervisor and leadership team, as it was a significant amount. We decided that investing in conferences would help motivate and bond our team while also providing valuable learning experiences to elevate the student experience.
* Senator Rodriguez: From my perspective, I'm concerned that the funds could have been used differently. While I understand the need to motivate staff, I feel that money could have been better spent on improving the department overall rather than just funding conferences. From a student’s standpoint, it seems like the funds could have been used to enhance student life more directly. I believe there were other ways to achieve the same motivational outcomes while also benefiting the broader student body.
* Vice Chancellor Herndon: I understand that there are many ways to approach this issue. It's important to have these conversations and explore how we can maximize our funding. When Jarrick brought this proposal to me, I had to consider the long-term impact on both staff and students. Our team has been understaffed for years, and this funding not only recognizes their hard work but also helps them learn and grow to better serve our campus community. The work our staff does is integral to various departments, and I expect them to bring back valuable insights from these conferences. Additionally, with new staff members, this was a prime opportunity for them to build relationships and collaborate effectively. Over my 15 years here, I’ve always prioritized the student experience in my decision-making, and while there are different ways we could use this money, I felt this was the best approach for this situation. Moving forward, I will continue to challenge our team to consider various perspectives and integrate student feedback into our budgeting decisions. I acknowledge that investments today may yield benefits for students in the future, even if those outcomes aren’t immediately visible. I strive to be a good steward of our resources and recognize the importance of balancing our budget across different priorities each year. This year, I chose to invest in our staff and their development, recognizing the need for growth and support within our team.
* Representative Valdez: Since you mentioned that this was a one-time expenditure and not a regular occurrence, what will the budget for travel look like in the upcoming year? How much will be allocated for staff and student travel?
* Director Brown: Right now, we have allocated about 15,000 which is 5000 Less than where it was when I originally got here last November. That's just from the Pro staff.
* Justice Zabaleta: In the document drafted by ex officio Glunz, it states that you attended NACA Live in your capacity as the Regional Chair. Why was student fee money used to cover expenses for a role outside of your capacity as Director of Student Life?
* Director Brown: So, attending NACA Live in the role of Regional Chair was part of my professional development. In these volunteer leadership roles, you gain valuable skills that benefit your primary position, like supervisory skills. For instance, Jodyanna, if she takes on a leadership role at a conference, can leverage those skills for career advancement. My registration was waived, and the travel costs were subsidized, but the main goal is to enhance our professional skills and bring valuable ideas back to campus for you.
* Ex officio Glunz: Last Spring, the Student Government Senate decided to send three executives to a conference in Washington, DC, which ended up costing almost $7,000—over $2,000 per person. While half of those costs were covered by a grant, that still left $3,500 spent on just three executives. It’s valid to question whether that money could have been used more effectively elsewhere, like benefiting other students. However, it's also important to ask those executives what they learned and how they plan to share that knowledge. Travel is expensive, and while I believe sending them to DC was a good decision, we should be mindful of the costs involved. As we consider the total student life budget for the next 15 months, we might want to reconsider the extent of our travel expenses across the board, not just for staff but for everyone.
* Senator Leaser: Why were the locations for these trips selected? Moving forward, can we consider keeping travel to in-state locations to make it more accessible and affordable for both faculty and potential students?
* Director Brown: It depends on the association. For example, NACA doesn’t have regional conferences on this side of the country. Each conference rotates locations yearly, so the destination is determined by the association, not by us. We attend based on where the conference is held.
* President Brooks: I want to provide context regarding what Ex Officio Glunz mentioned about the three executives going to D.C. last year; I was one of them. Our Senate body approved the budget allocation for the executive team, and we presented this to the student body for approval. In my view, the allocation of student fees toward elected student representatives, as approved by the Senate, is very different from funding professional staff development without consulting students. Many of us on the executive team feel that the recent decisions don’t seem to prioritize student needs. The conferences funded by student fees appear to focus more on staff reward and enjoyment rather than on professional development. I’m concerned about the possibility of family members attending these trips. While I understand that this doesn’t directly involve student fee dollars, it raises questions about whether these trips are genuinely student-focused or more about personal enjoyment. I understand that your mother was on this trip, which I find concerning. I’d like to hear your thoughts on how this remains job-focused when family members are included. It gives the impression of a vacation rather than an investment in student life or future opportunities.
* Director Brown: My mother did not use any student fee allocations. She paid for her own plane ticket and covered her own food. She did attend all the sessions with us, but her presence did not involve any student fee funds. So, I believe this question is not relevant to the discussion about how student fees are utilized.
* Senator Rodriguez: I can echo what our president mentioned. From a student perspective, while it's great for our professional staff to attend conferences and learn, it raises concerns when it feels like a vacation. Inviting a significant other to a conference can give the impression that the focus shifts from learning and conducting business to just having a good time. I believe this concern is relevant. I hope that moving forward, these conferences are approached as opportunities for professional development and business rather than just enjoyment with loved ones.
* Senator Vega: I was curious about the NASPA payment mentioned in the travel document. I noticed there were also early registrations for next year's event, so could you explain what that event is and how it benefits the professional staff?
* Director Brown: NASPA is one of those key organizations that support professional development for staff members. For example, last year, I learned about entrepreneurial learning in the context of the co-curricular transcript. I'm currently exploring how to integrate the student experience curriculum with our experiential learning transcript and apply insights from NASPA. For instance, Addison Lemons, who oversees student organizations, attended the conference and gained valuable knowledge about freedom of speech, which is relevant to his role. Unlike NACA, which focuses on specific programming, NASPA covers race, diversity, and overall professional growth in higher education.
* AVC Herndon: I think some of the questions you're raising may need an HR perspective. Our professional roles include certain allowances for travel and involving family members. This isn't necessarily about misuse but more about personal preference and professional allowances. Engaging with HR practices and understanding the full scope of these allowances might help clarify these concerns. These practices are part of attracting and retaining skilled staff, which in turn benefits our campus and student community. It might be helpful to have further discussions and education around these HR practices to better understand how they fit into our broader goals and investments.
* Representative Valdez: From my perspective as a grad student who now works professionally, I understand both sides. As a freshman, I was frustrated with conference locations and costs. However, having attended conferences myself, I see that it's common for professionals to bring spouses. I recognize the concerns from both viewpoints and understand the balance between student concerns and professional experiences.

1. **New Business:**
   1. SSRC Presentation – John Rogers: University Engagement (60 Minutes)

* Motion by Senator Rodriguez to move into Committe of the Whole until the end of the presentation, Seconded by Senator Vega
  1. Acceptance of Resignations (15 Minutes)
* **Presented by Ex officio Dew**
* Ex officio Dew: We had resignations from individuals who didn't complete the necessary training. We have not received communication from Kyler Peisert, who won a General Senator seat, and we need a voting member for that seat. Jesus Canales also resigned due to a scheduling conflict with his lab. Our Director of Events, Zainab Khan, stepped down due to other commitments in her first year. I appreciate their decision to prioritize the organization, and we will fill these vacancies to ensure we are fully operational and update our roll call.
* Motion by Senator Rodriguez to accept the resignation of Kyler Peisert, Seconded by Senator Anson
* Roll Call Vote: 14-0-0
* The resignation is ACCEPTED
* Motion by Senator Halember to accept the resignation of Zainab Khan, Seconded by Senator Mehta
* Roll Call Vote: 14-0-0
* The resignation is ACCEPTED
* Motion by Senator Rodriguez to accept the resignation of Jesus Canales, Seconded by Senator Pradhan
* Roll Call Vote: 14-0-0
* The resignation is ACCEPTED
  1. Lynx Day of Service Information (10 Minutes)
* **Presented by ex-officio Gallegos**
* Ex officio Gallegos: We’re partnering with Project Helping to do Kind Kits, which are volunteer projects in a box. One includes dignity bags for the unhoused, which will be taken to Denver organizations. We’re also making toys and blankets for shelter animals. We’re teaming up with the Auraria Sustainability Campus Program for a creek cleanup (limited to 30 people). We’re making blankets for Children's Hospital. For our online students, we have a 'Love for Your Elders' letter-writing program. A guide will be available Monday if you'd like to participate.
* Senator Anson: For the RSVP questions, the descriptions for Kind Kit 2 and 3 are reversed.
* Ex officio Gallegos: Yes, that's correct. I'm updating the description now. I was tied up with presentations this morning for First Gen, so I haven’t had a chance to update it yet.
* Justice Zabaleta: Is there a schedule for the activities?
* Ex officio Gallegos: This is a come-and-go event with no set shifts. Everything starts at 10 AM with a keynote from the CEO and founder of Project Helping, who will explain where our products and services are going. For community service hours, remember that compensated work at the event won't count unless I specify otherwise. If you're helping with a service project while working, you can count the service hours, but not the paid work hours. We've kind of agreed that you can do one hour of compensated work and three hours of community service, but this is still up for discussion. I genuinely want this experience to be about giving back to the community.
* Ex officio Dew: For those needing hours for the week, let's discuss your options. I can find additional work for you. Remember, community service means giving your skills and time to help the community. We have various projects available, and if you need hours, let’s chat. On Friday, September 27th, we’re hoping for a strong participation.
* President Brooks: Is the ask that the Senate body consider cancelling Senate that day to attend Lynx Day of Service?
* Ex officio Gallegos: That is a resolution we're trying to figure out with civics, which is why I wanted to provide context today.
* Senator Halember: The form asks us to select a specific type of event. If the event lasts all day, is there a particular time for each activity, or will everything be ongoing throughout the day?
* Ex officio Gallegos: Everything will be happening all day. You can pick up a Kind Kit box, complete the tasks, and return it by 3:00 PM. This setup gives you the flexibility to volunteer on the go.

1. **General Business from the Floor:**
2. Senator Anson: I attended Staff Council this week, and RTD Transit mentioned that they plan to return to normal hours by the 29th, so hopefully, commuting issues will ease. However, there's a major concern that buses from Union Station to Larimer no longer run, which is especially tough for people with disabilities who now have to walk to campus or take Ubers. Every governing agency, including us, Staff Council, and Faculty Assembly, want discounted RTD passes and campus parking. RTD’s scheduling problems are also causing students to be late for classes, and it's getting worse. One significant issue was raised by Laura Harvey from CAM admissions. She shared that Lynx Crossing residents are facing problems during Broncos’ game days. Students have to get off at Mile High station, walk to Lynx Crossing, and are then barred by Denver police citing security restrictions. This has made it difficult for them to get home, especially since the Mile High station has a fence and students have to walk around. CU Boulder students and staff get RTD passes for free. It's unclear if the university covers the cost, but RTD seems to show Boulder more leniency and favoritism than us.
3. President Brooks: Thank you, Senator Anson, for serving as a representative for both Staff Council and Faculty Assembly as the undergraduate rep. They really appreciated your contributions last year and are excited to have you back. Regarding your report about CU Boulder's RTD pass, I want to clarify that Boulder students do pay a fee—around $60 to $70. It's not free, though it may seem that way. Their contract is different, and we can discuss the details of why our students pay more. From conversations with Ann, Jen, and Boulder’s student government, their entire student body contributes to this fee. CU Denver no longer has that fee, and now AHEC subsidizes the pass at $20. The reason given for the higher pass fee is that CU Denver pulls from much farther away to transport students, unlike Anschutz, which has a cheaper RTD contract because their students are situated much closer. I wouldn’t say it’s favoritism, just to maintain professionalism and credibility.
4. Senator Rodriguez: As someone part of Housing and Dining as an RA, I just want to clarify the Lynx Crossing parking situation. There's usually communication about a week before Broncos games, letting students know they need to use the exit gate instead of the entrance gate for parking. In my experience, this is not an issue. However, if this is an issue for anyone, I'd be happy to discuss it further to see if Housing and Dining can help resolve it.
5. Representative Valdez: President Brooks, could you provide more information about the contracts, so we have the full picture before discussions? Regarding the station closures, a bigger issue beyond Lynx Crossing is that anyone trying to access those lines can't use the station. Sometimes they close as early as 4:30 on a Thursday, which forces me to either navigate to Mile High or Union Station or leave earlier to find another line due to the closure.
6. Representative Favorite: As someone who lives in Lynx Crossing, I wanted to share that they usually send an email about game days, but a new issue this year is that they completely block off the area I normally walk through. I live near the parking gate, so I can't even walk through the station to get to the other side. I have to go all the way around, which is manageable, but it's really crowded with people and bikers on game days. You can't walk through the station anymore, so you have to take the long route around the street.
7. Representative Pham: I wanted to provide additional context on the CU Boulder transit fee. As a former CU Boulder student, I can confirm the fee is $101.18, so it’s not free. CU Boulder also serves many out-of-state students who often struggle to get to the airport, especially during winter break, and end up paying around $70 for an Uber. This fee has also significantly increased over time.
8. President Brooks: A student raised concerns about campus safety, particularly at the City Heights Dining Hall. They mentioned aggressive individuals not affiliated with the university entering the dining hall on multiple occasions, making students feel unsafe. One incident involved a disheveled person sneaking in through the back gate, swearing at students, and arguing with dining staff. There have also been similar incidents reported around Lynx Crossing. We're looking into how we can assist, including possibly hiring security personnel for the dining hall if people are interested, and we'd appreciate feedback from others who may have experienced this.
9. Senator Rodriguez: The concern about the transient population in the dining hall has been an ongoing issue since last year, and it's impacting students' experiences this year as well. Our location and security measures aren’t very effective at deterring these individuals. It's always been on our radar, and the RA on call is the main security measure we rely on. There have been instances where RAs were called to handle situations in the dining hall. This is tangential, but there have been concerns from RAs and City Heights residents about conflicts between older residents and younger freshmen. That's something I would encourage you to talk to Housing and Dining about.
10. **Reports:**
    1. President: Yesterday, we attended the CU Board of Regents meeting and kicked off our start with ICSF (Intercampus Forum for Student Governments). We met with the Boulder student government, presented our priorities and concerns about RTD to the board, and were contacted to have another meeting with an RTD representative. We also attended the Urban Peak Gala at the Performing Arts Center. Urban Peak supports youth homelessness in Denver, and Vice President Mauro and I are exploring direct volunteer opportunities with them. Beth Myers and Alan Richards will be coming to present their academic transformation project soon and are looking for feedback from us. They’ll be sending draft documents for discussion. We will also present the demographic data when we have a less busy day.
    2. Civic Engagement: Mike is still working on the MyLynx survey, and Sarah and Mike will attend Constitution Day next Tuesday. We successfully ran the presidential debate watch party last Tuesday—Kelsey even had to order extra pizza because we ran out of food. I’m proud of our collaboration with the Political Science Department. We’ve discussed with our ex-officios a timeline for upcoming civic events this semester, given it's an election year, and we’ll share ways for others to get involved. We’re also working with Jodyanna on the Lynx Day of Service and might propose legislation for mandatory attendance and canceling Senate for that day. I’ll email Victoria Watson about collaborating on Nourish Now, potentially with flyers or tabling. We’re looking to do a bigger collaboration with the Wellness Center in the spring and I’ll also reach out to Tony Rush for updates on the Reflection Space initiative.
    3. College Council: Representative Favorite is contacting Leo Darnell to discuss the logistics of an online Student Advisory Committee. Representative Pham recently introduced himself to the CLAS Dean and is awaiting a response. Representative Lorden has a meeting with Mary Lovit on Monday.
    4. Finance & Funding: We discussed with the ex-officios revising approvals to avoid confusion in emails, so student organizations will receive messages from just one email. We appointed Senator Anson as our Vice Chair. Today, we received almost 9 requests. A few were denied due to timing, but we approved both requests from the Dental Association. MSA came to present to us, but we didn’t see a CU representative, we’ll be in communication with them to fix this. We approved a $497 request, down from $500, to fit our guidelines, and a $200 request for the Sociology Club’s Pizza and Game Night, including a tip. We tabled a request due to time constraints and will vote asynchronously. We’re adding two new questions to the MyLynx form: one about accessibility and one about event success, to clarify the rubrics for student organizations.
    5. Judicial: I worked on the attendance form. If you have questions about excused or unexcused absences, we can schedule a meeting to discuss them. It's crucial to communicate with the Judicial Committee and executives, as too many absences could lead to impeachment. Next week, I'll be working with Heather to start a project on amending the appeals process, to make it more accessible and effective for student organizations.
    6. Public Relations: N/A
    7. SACAB: SACAB had our first meeting today, and Representative Valdez was elected as Chair. We postponed the ABOD representative vote since Annarose is out with COVID; we elected an interim rep for Wednesday’s meeting and will do a formal vote on Friday. For now, our meetings will be held every Friday. MSU will lead the Sustainability Committee, and CCD will head Student Affairs. I’ll be working with Alyssa on scheduling speakers, including an RTD rep, along with other priority topics we’ve agreed on for SACAB.
    8. SSRC: This week, we had our first presentation. Last week, I forgot to ask John for his RFI, but we’ve sorted things out. Our next meetings are on November 1st with Margaret Wood and Pamela Tony.
    9. Ex Officio:

* Ex officio Gallegos: Just a quick update from the start of the semester: I had a student experiencing homelessness come to me in need of essentials. I want to let everyone know that we have a basic needs cabinet in Student Life. If you or someone else needs anything, please feel free to use it. It's important to spread the word, especially since some students on campus are facing hardships. I want to make sure the cabinet is utilized by all our students.
* Ex officio Lemmons: Thank you all for welcoming our first-gen students. Attendance doubled from last year, and we received great feedback—they really enjoyed being here. Special thanks to Savannah and Mitchell for their welcome. First-gen students are a significant part of our campus, and your warm reception made a big impact
* Ex officio Spray: Timesheets are due by 10pm tonight.
* Ex officio Dew: This group has done a great job, so let’s give a round of applause for getting paid on time—thank you for being so timely. Quick update: The Political Science Department wants to team up with us again for the Vice-Presidential debate watch party on October 1st. Special shout out to the Civics Committee for stepping up and doing great work. Tuesday, September 17th is Constitution Day, and we’re teaming up with the School of Public Affairs to show a documentary called Join or Die? I also bought a bunch of copies of *How to Run for Office,* civics let's hand these at our events. Jarrick helped us get 'Vote' shirts, so let’s hand those out too as reminders to vote. Next week, we’ll host Constitution and Civics trivia with questions at the 5th-grade level. And don’t forget, Lynx Day of Service is at the end of the month. Please consider serving that day, even if it’s not a full shift. We have lots of great projects and plenty of flexibility. A huge round of applause for Chair Valdez of SACAB—it’s a big deal to have the chair for a second year in a row Senator Pradhan let’s talk about your office hours after this. If anyone else needs to work out their schedule, let’s connect. Thank you to everyone who picked up or adjusted shifts this week. I know you all have a lot going on, and the more we communicate, the better we can support each other.

1. **Adjourn:** Motion by Senator Vega to adjourn, Seconded by Senator Peshimam

* Vote of Affirmation: 14-0-0
* Senate adjourned at 3:27 pm