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Senate Meeting

Friday, September 6, 2024

Presiding Officer: Vice President Mauro

Minute Taker: Justice Zabaleta

1. **Call to Order:** Call to Order at 1:01 AM
2. **Roll Call:** Roll Call completed at 1:04 AM
3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion by Director Shelton to adopt the agenda, Seconded by Representative Valdez
4. **Approval of Minutes from August 30:** Motion by Representative Valdez to amend the minutes to correct Advisor’s Dew name.

Motion by Representative Craig to approve the minutes from August 30th, Seconded by Senator Halember.

1. **Public Comment:**
2. **Presentation:**
   1. Faculty Assembly (30 Minutes)

* Recess ordered by Vice President Mauro
* Back at 1:15 pm
* Motion by Representative Craig to move into Committee of the whole, Seconded by Senator Peshimam

1. **Unfinished Business:**
   1. Desk Shift Scheduling (15 Minutes)

* Advisor Dew: You can take extra desk shifts for now as we're still hiring. If you end up taking 3 or 4 extra shifts, please know that if a new member joins, I’ll prioritize giving them an hour or two that fits their schedule. For now, feel free to take on additional shifts to help cover gaps. We’ve filled in some gaps already but let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the desk shifts.
* Senator Pradhan: I’ve posted my schedule on Teams but haven’t received any feedback yet.
* Advisor Dew: I apologize for the misunderstanding. I thought people signed up last week, not just shared their availability in the chat. I’ll go in and fill that in and rectify the issue as soon as I can. Thanks for letting me know. When you're at the desk, please focus on SGA-related tasks and provide excellent customer service. A smile and a friendly greeting can make a big difference. Make sure to ask clarifying questions, like which university someone attends, as we often get visitors from other institutions. If someone is looking for rooms in the tower, guide them to the correct elevator—it's a bit tricky to find. To clarify, 'office hours' means coming to the office to work on SGA tasks, while 'desk shifts' refers to managing the desk and assisting visitors.
* Senator Vega: Is there a minimum or maximum number of desk shifts we need to take each week?
* Advisor Dew: I'd like everyone to have at least one desk shift, but I understand Mondays and Wednesdays are challenging for coverage. Right now, we're only opening the desk at 10 AM and running until 4:50 PM on most days, except Fridays. You should be completing three to four office hours each week to stay on track with your projects. If a desk shift doesn't fit your schedule, that's okay; we're flexible and will work around your classes.
  1. Finance and Funding Rubrics (45 Minutes)
* Motion by Representative Sivakumaran to add Representative Pham, Seconded by Representative Lorden
* Motion by Senator Leaser to accept the Professional Development Request Rubric, Seconded by Senator Vega
* Vote of Affirmation: 16 – 0 – 0
* Motion by Senator Halember to accept the Event Request Rubric, Seconded by Senator Pradhan
* Vote of Affirmation: 16 – 0 – 0
* Motion by Senator Halember to accept the Club Development Request Rubric, Seconded by Senator Pradhan
* Vote of Affirmation: 16 – 0 – 0
* Motion by Senator Peshimam to accept the Campus Club Marketing/Promotions Request Rubric, Seconded by Senator Vrajesh
* Vote of Affirmation: 16 – 0 – 0

1. **New Business:**
   1. Executive Memorandum 2024-25-01 (30 Minutes)

* Straw Poll in favor of reading Executive Memorandum 2024-25-01: Divided
* President Brooks: We are requesting resignations from those unable to commit sufficient time. Several members have already submitted theirs, and the Senate body must formally accept these resignations before the termination process can proceed.
* Representative Craig: I was hoping for some clarity on the intention and context behind this. Could you give us some examples of what it looks like to operate at full capacity?
* President Brooks: One example is a member who ran last election but hasn't attended training, responded to emails, or joined Senate meetings, though they did accept their hiring papers. There's been no communication with Judicial or Kelsi about absences. Members should notify us if they can't attend an event or cover office hours so we can adjust. While we understand commitments like school, internships, or jobs, we expect engagement and communication to ensure members can serve in the role they were hired for. No calls, no shows are a concern, but we just ask for open communication and for members to meet hourly requirements as much as possible.
* Senator Leaser: What do you mean by misuse of paid time?
* President Brooks: This was given to us by our advisor Dew, who is our supervisor and approves our timesheets. Misuse of paid time could include clocking hours that Kelsi didn't approve or submitting overtime without authorization. For example, if your limit is 10 hours, but you submit 15, or if you were at an event booth without clarifying that you'd help with setup or takedown, those would be issues. If you have questions about what counts as work, Kelsi is the go-to person. She's very clear when help is needed and where we should be.
  1. Executive Memorandum 2024-25-02 (30 Minutes)
* Straw Poll in favor of reading Executive Memorandum 2024-25-02: 12-4-0
* **Memorandum 2024-25-02 read by President Brooks**
* President Brooks: Yesterday, we had a meeting with Katie Linder, Jen St. Peter, Genia Herndon, Jarrick Brown, and our advisor Kelsi Dew, along with Tyler from HR, to discuss these issues. We're finally moving forward, and we’ve been told to expect answers soon. Student Affairs is reviewing where they can pull funds to restore F&F funding, as well as campus activities. Mitchell and I emphasized these two areas as our top priorities because they impact the most students, and the general SGA budget as our third priority. Jen has invited us to collaborate on a policy to prevent student fees from being used for professional development. We're also discussing future budget allocations within Student Life to set parameters for the travel budget and ensure general university funds are used instead of student fees. We’ve started using a RACI framework to establish accountability within Student Life, so we know who is responsible for what and ensure students are part of these key discussions to avoid unintended impacts.
* Representative Craig: Can you explain the purpose of the memorandum? Who is receiving this?
* President Brooks: The purpose of this memorandum is to update the Senate on what the executives are experiencing and doing regarding this contentious issue. Last year, the executives introduced a lot of legislation to the Senate, but this year we’ve stepped back from that role since, functionally, it doesn’t make sense for the executive branch to bring legislation when we're not voting members. This is our way of informing the Senate about our actions and encouraging you to create legislation to strengthen legitimacy. This is also for the student body, to show that we’re not just a homogeneous group, but that we have clear functions. The memorandum is meant to keep you all informed and ensure we're aligned.
* Senator Leaser: You had mentioned there was a typo. I was wondering if it's too late to change it, because it changes the meaning of the sentence.
* President Brooks: We have the Sentry here because of the Senate's sentiments to ensure students are informed about recent events. We're discussing with them the possibility of including this information in their next issue.
* Representative Valdez: I appreciate the efforts of the executives to ensure transparency. We had a lively discussion in the last Senate, which raised important questions, but I'm hesitant to make further statements until we hear the presentation next week. My main concern is ensuring our student body receives accurate information. We want to avoid blowing things out of proportion before we have the facts needed to decide on our actions as a body.
* President Brooks: The meeting is to discuss the timeline and the current feelings of the Senate. We're not encouraging any slander, but rather informing them of our concerns as we gather more information. We want to know when they plan to publish the next issue and if they would be interested in including what the student government wants the students to know.
* Point of Information by Representative Craig: On the agenda, we have an update and discussion on Student Life and Campus Community Travel Expenses. Are we addressing that now?
  1. Appointment of Finance and Funding Chair (10 Minutes)
* Senator Halember is appointed as the Finance and Funding Chair
* Vote of Affirmation: 16 – 0 – 0
  1. Update and Discussion on Student Life and Campus Community Travel Expenses (30 Minutes)
* President Brooks: Discussions are progressing, and we’re expecting a presentation next week from Director Brown and Associate Vice Chancellor Herndon to address the impact of the recent large investment of student fees, their plans to prevent similar issues in the future, and how they will involve students in decision-making. The grants received by the team were not included in the spreadsheet we reviewed and have not yet been provided. We expect to receive this information in next week’s presentation.
* Chief of Staff Gough: To clarify the timeline, we were told we'd have an answer by the end of September. The earliest we can discuss it as a body will be Friday, October 4th.
* Representative Craig: I’ve discussed writing resolutions related to this with a few people. Should we wait until after the first meeting in October to draft something, or do you think we can write a resolution before then?
* President Brooks: I’d leave it up to the body’s discretion. If you want to pass a resolution about not allocating student fees toward professional staff development, that could be done now. If the resolution involves condemning actions, it might be better to wait for more information.
* Advisor Dew: Just to clarify, next week you'll receive a detailed presentation from Director Brown and Associate Vice Chancellor Herndon about the expenses and their outcomes. The September date mentioned by Chief of Staff Gouth is related to reimbursements for the speed types you’ve asked about. By the end of September, executives will know if there will be any potential reimbursements or reallocations. I wanted to differentiate between these timelines to help you direct what you will write.
* President Brooks: I want to address a comment from Associate Vice Chancellor Herndon in a meeting yesterday where it was said that “we value people over pizzas.” I find this oversimplified. Our budget isn’t just for pizzas; it’s about investing in our students and their experiences. Supporting events like the Muslim Student Association and other event fosters a sense of belonging and community. It’s how we show students that we value them and the identities they represent. We’re committed to protecting this funding and securing permanent reallocation to Student Affairs or Student Life to ensure it benefits not just F&F, but also campus activities and our general fund.
* Senator Halember: Having been in Finance & Funding for over a year, I've seen requests for more than just food; they’re focused on student development across campus. This is student money, and if it isn't used for student resources and growth, that's not right. For instance, we received a request today for funding to help build resumes. We need to address those making such comments and emphasize the importance of supporting student development.
* Senator Vega: Thank you to our executive team for addressing this issue and ensuring it doesn’t happen again. I appreciate you taking the initiative and starting the conversation.
* Senator Leaser: Last Senate was emotional, but those feelings are valid. I believe we shouldn’t wait, let’s start making resolutions now, so we don’t have to push this issue to the next body.

1. **General Business from the Floor:**
2. **Reports:**
   1. President: The university has decided to update the advising software for students in the portal, and we just received the data, which I will be sharing with the body. Katie Linder brought this to us as we’re transitioning from Civitas to Navigate. There’s extensive data and planning behind this decision, and staff, faculty, and students have shown better engagement with Navigate. We’re excited about the change but want to hear your thoughts and address any questions. Additionally, we'll be presenting the demographic data for the system next week. Another priority is getting Senator Leezer and the civics team going on MyLynx to push out their survey. We're also looking forward to SSRC presentations, organized by Director Thomason, who is doing a fantastic job.
   2. Civic Engagement: We had our first official meeting on Wednesday, where we elected our chairs. I'm happy to announce that Senator Rodriguez is the chair, and I, Senator Vega, am the vice chair. We began delegating tasks, including the MyLynx survey, which will be posted soon. We plan to gather student feedback on various services and issues. We’re also planning updates on last year's events. Our meetings are on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:45 AM. We’d love for the Senate body to attend the presidential debate watch party this Tuesday.
   3. College Council: My fellow college council representatives are still trying to get in touch with the deans. They’ve been sending emails, talking to constituents, gathering feedback, and working on creating the advisory board.
   4. Public Relations: Senator Leaser approached me earlier this week about designing a graphic for our social media to promote the survey that Senator Vega mentioned. I've also been exploring design ideas for 'mini minutes' and considering graphic packages for Instagram, TikTok, and other platforms so people can easily recognize SGA content when they visit those pages.
   5. Finance & Funding: We approved the F&F rubric, which was also approved by the Senate body. I want to thank my team members for reviewing the rubric, providing great amendments, and helping us make the necessary changes. This week, we had four requests come in and approved one from the UCD Dental Association for $19.90, which was for snacks at their 'Building Your Resume' event. Some requests were denied due to late submissions, but we’ll email them to resubmit via MyLynx. We’re also expecting a presentation from the MSA next week, as their request is around $500. Overall, we’ve done a great job today.
   6. Judicial: It has been a slow week for judicial. Me and Heather are meeting after Senate to discuss committee meeting times, absence form, and reviewing transition documents.
   7. SACAB: SACAB couldn't meet this week due to CCD's unavailability, but we are scheduled to meet next week. After that, we will select our chair and ABOD representatives. Hopefully, Anna Rose and I can meet with our FACAB counterparts before then to start some discussions.
   8. SSRC: Our first SSRC presentation is next week on the 13th from John Rogers, who has already sent his slide deck. Most of our presentations are lined up, except for a few details we're still working out with Gina.
   9. Ex Officio: Thank you all so much for your willingness to help with the student life extravaganza. I'm sorry it got canceled. On Tuesday, September 10th, we're hosting a presidential watch party in collaboration with the Area Votes Committee and the Political Science Department. I'll need some help with door access and general wayfinding, so if you're interested, let me know. Also, be mindful of the political atmosphere—choose diplomacy and kindness, remember you can express your views, but others have the same right to respond. Lastly, on September 11th, there's the Rock the Mic series with Monty Washington for anyone interested in professional development. Thank you to all the committees for setting up meeting times. Director Shelton and I will try to get a graphic made for the committee times. We’re pleased to see a minimal overlap in meeting schedules this year, though SACAB and F&F might have some. Civics meets on Wednesdays at 9:30, PR is fluid for now, and SSRC is managed by one director.

Ex officio Lemmons: We have the 1st Generation Student Retreat next Friday, and one of the breakout sessions includes attending student government. So, you may see more people than usual. There's still space available, and if you know any 1st generation students, regardless of their year, let them know it's on MyLynx. It’s a cool event with free lunch and all that good stuff. Just a heads up, you'll see about 20 students here.

* 1. 15-minute recess ordered by Vice President Mauro
* At 2:57 pm
* Back at 3:12 pm

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

* Vote of Affirmation: 15-1-0
* Senate adjourned at 3:13 pm