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Senate Meeting

Friday, September 29th, 2023

Presiding Officer: Vice President Brooks

Minute Taker: Chief Justice Zabaleta

1. **Call to Order:** Call to Order at 1:07 PM
2. **Roll Call:** Roll Call complete at 1:10 PM
3. **Approval of Minutes from September 22nd:** Motion to Approve the Minutes by Senator Burns, Seconded by Representative Valdez
4. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion to Adopt the Agenda by Representative Valdez, Seconded by Senator Rodriguez
5. **Public Comments:**
6. **New Business:** 
   1. SR 2023-24-02 A Resolution of Congratulations to Chief Mollendor
      1. Senator Burns: As a criminal justice student, I admire his dedication to the students and this campus. His willingness to communicate with students, as well as his overall leadership ability makes me proud to be a criminal justice major and have gotten to know him.
      2. Representative Valdez: Having to intern with the ACPD and to have Chief Mollendor as my supervisor, I appreciate his service to our campus community and students. The best person to be our chief here.
      3. Point of personal privilege by President Combs: Can we all speak up so the recording can hear us for latter documentation?
      4. President Combs: Once again congratulations. We are excited to collaborate with you this year and from years on to come.
      5. Senator Anson: The amount of degrees that he has in criminal justice is relieving to hear. We do not see many chiefs of police with these qualifications. It is an honor to have you here on campus.
      6. Motion to Call to Question by Senator Burns, Seconded by Representative Valdez
      7. Roll Call Vote: 13-0-0
         1. The Resolution PASSED
   2. Presentation by Chief Mollendor on Campus Safety
      1. It is no secret that the last few years, especially for law enforcement, have been challenging. There have been a lot of social issues and a lot of that broke down the community’s trust in law enforcement. Safety must be our main priority. We have always worked tirelessly to make sure we have a safe and supportive environment on this campus to learn, thrive, and grow. Our police department works incredibly hard for that, we have around 31 police officers, working 24/7 to help students when they need us. We have a response time of under 3 minutes to any emergency, we are going to get there incredibly quickly. Through our website ahec.edu under emergency management, we offer resources such as Active Harmer training and it is a great way to learn information on how to stay safe and what you can do to have a better outcome. I want to build better programs to serve the community's needs. We have gotten a lot of requests for self-defense classes, but it is harder than it sounds. One of my biggest priorities is connection with our community and students, we have had good opportunities these past couple of years. We can build our trust and get to know each other, which makes us feel better about working together to produce new initiatives to keep our campus safe. I want to do a better job of connecting with other people when they first come into our community to help them have a successful career. I want to change our culture to normalize feeling safe on campus.
      2. Representative Torres: Do you plan to do events such as round table discussions to keep open communication with students on campus?
      3. Chief Mollendor: I want to keep an open avenue of dialogue to connect with students. Town halls are tricky because we do not typically get enough people. Talking one on one with people is a great way to get information out on a less formal level. I am open to hosting events to discuss ways of keeping students safe and figure out what we can do better. I am all open for doing townhalls.
      4. Motion to Add Representative Sivakumaran to Roll Call by Senator Burns, Seconded by Representative Torres
      5. Representative Sivakumaran: I am from the Business School, and we don’t usually see police escorting us after late night classes, how can you address that?
      6. Chief Mollendor: Our campus boundary technically ends at Speer. We do not have police services; we do not usually patrol there but if you call, we will send somebody to pick you up and drop you off, the police department provides this service 24 hours a day.
      7. Senator Burns: We want to stay in touch and open a line of communication on campus, as student representatives we talk to students about campus safety, including the new locking of the doors. We are making good progress with campus safety.
      8. Chief Mollendor: The doors initiative came from the institutions, with AHEC we have been trying to incrementally inform people of changes. On October 2nd, all doors are going to be secured. You must have an ID. There is still going to be the potential for issues, there are still going to be people in the buildings that should not be, but the initiative keeps us a lot safer while you are in class. It is a way to help ensure people are safe. It is a work in progress, we are going to see how it goes. This is a change in our philosophy as a campus being this open inviting environment.
      9. Representative Martinez: Will CU Denver buildings be only accessible to CU Denver IDs?
      10. Chief Mollendor: As long as you have an Auraria ID for our campus you should be able to get into any campus building,
      11. Representative Valdez: How does the locking change the way that buildings that offer food to the public operate?
      12. Chief Mollendor: The only two buildings on campus that are public are the library and Tivoli. But all our other buildings have always been considered private, so people from the outside should not hang out in the North classroom building. Even if there is a food option, that is really for the students, staff, and faculty, not public. We are not going to be checking IDs, so if there are issues, we will contact them like we do now, but we will not stop people looking for IDs.
      13. Valdez: I saw concerns about the admin building being locked because that is where the dispatch office is. If people get their wallets stolen or IDs to be able to get in, how do you feel about the security aspect of that?
      14. Chief Mollendor: We have very few walk ups to our window, and outside the door, there is a call box to contact us directly. Also, there are emergency towers throughout campus that are just like 911 calls. You do not have to just come to the police department because we are very mobile.
      15. Director Sharma: Do we need an additional activation for our student IDs?
      16. Chief Mollendor: Everything should work fine. They are automatically programmed to read your card and identify you as a student. The difference is if you need after-hours access, you must get approval, then your card gets special access.
      17. Representative Martinez: When you graduate will the IDs be deactivated?
      18. Chief Mollendor: We are still working through the nuances; I am not sure if your ID will be deactivated right away. There are about six buildings that will have a door open because there is a receptionist. I am all open for doing townhalls.
      19. President Combs: Possibly the ID will get deactivated once the expiration date goes out. And then if you have an expiration date and you are still here continuing your education, then you will just need a new ID.
      20. Justice Wright: What is the cutoff time for after-hours access for people with late classes?
      21. Chief Mollendor: They will keep them open through the last class, but then they will close it off, so we prevent burglaries late at night.
   3. SB 2023-24-10 A Bill to Create the Auraria Campus Committee
      1. **Presented by Chief of Staff Bachman**
      2. Representative Torres: Since I am assuming Mitchell would be spearheading the committee, would he be able to appoint whoever he deems fit to be a part of?
      3. Chief of Staff Bachman: The committee membership is determined by either the willingness of the executives or by a consensus of the SACAB representatives. There may be issues brought to the executives' attention that might not be brought to the representatives. Also, I made it a consensus of the SACAB representatives because they need to agree on who they want to work with.
      4. Call to Question by Representative Torres, Seconded by Senator Flores
      5. Roll Call Vote: 14-0-0
         1. The Bill PASSED
      6. Motion to 5-Minute Recess by Senator Burns, Seconded by Senator Flores
         1. Motion Rescinded
   4. Presentation from CU Radio Club for Funding
      1. Mariana Cooper: We are Denver Lynx Radio. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to hear about the possibility of our expansion. To get CU Denver's first radio station on the air, there are a few critical things that we need.
      2. Advisor Dew: How helpful would Adobe Suite be to your organization?
      3. Annie Bennett: It makes a difference between being able to edit the podcast and not. If we get the studio, we will be editing our radio shows through Audition.
      4. Representative Valdez: How many members do you have in your organization right now?
      5. Annie Bennett: On board Nine, I think. We have board meetings every Tuesday at 5 p.m. We usually have about 15 in attendance at our board meetings. We have had a rotating cast of between 50 to 75 overall.
      6. Representative Valdez: How does collaboration with Met Media look like either? How long do you think you will be able to stay there?
      7. Annie Bennett: They have at least allowed us through to the end of this year. It is at least tentatively offered for next year if we do not have space by then. I would ideally like to find our home within CAM.
      8. Senator Burns: How much are you asking in total for the allocation? And how do you plan to manage annual costs? Would you plan to come to this body for those?
      9. Maddie: Around $7000. The treasurer will oversee that licenses are getting renewed. Most likely if we do not get additional funding.
      10. Representative Gebremariam: How are you thinking of working with faculty and your specific college like CAM? Because maybe there are connections that you can find with professors or advisors.
      11. Annie Bennett: We have an advisor; his name is Matthew O’Brien who has been checking in on us. Every staff and faculty member that we have spoken to has been supportive. With the podcast, most people have been student bands or people here on campus or in the Denver area.
      12. Mariana Cooper: The faculty of the Music department has been so supportive and exciting for us. The space in which we are recording our podcast right now is under the library and a professor told us about that space.
      13. Senator Jonnalagadda: How are you going to spend the $7000?
      14. Annie Bennett: That is in the business proposals that we passed out last week. The website itself is $1925, the individual licensing each is close to 1000. And the studio is $2000.
      15. Senator Anson: Can you go more in depth over the website?
      16. Mariana Cooper: It is where we can have just the DLR website, you can access the radio stream and the podcast all in one platform. Radio King will be an easy transition for our licensing. They are user-friendly with college radio stations. It also was one of the cheapest options we found that had the most functionality.
      17. Senator Burns: How much money have you raised so far then?
      18. Annie Bennet: We have raised about $1000 for ourselves, most of that being from yard sales and from the guitar hero fundraiser.
      19. President Combs: We will make sure that everybody has the handouts that they had last week. If there are any questions about itemized budget, you can look at everything that they had for us last week.
      20. Annie Bennett: We did not have the studio space amount included in the proposal because we did not know yet so we will send an updated version.
      21. Point of Clarification by Senator Burns: Are we going to draft a recommended resolution for F&F?
      22. President Combs: Yes. There will be a resolution in next week's agenda, we want to give people time to look at the itemized budget and everything that they have presented.
      23. President Combs: I want to be cautious of our time. If we feel the need, we can have a discussion now.
      24. Point of information by Representative Valdez: We can leave this discussion for general business if we have additional thoughts
   5. Presentation of Appeals Resolution by Judicial Committee
      1. **Presented by Chief Justice Zabaleta and Associative Justice Wright**
      2. Justice Zabaleta: We wanted to have this time to share our appeal process. On September 13th, we received an appeal by CSOC because their request for funding of registration fees was denied. F&F denied the request under religious ceremonies or services, citing the presence of a morning devotional, among other events that were in the schedule. The appeal called for a review of the F&F guidelines. CSOC argued that the request was wrongly denied under the exclusions for Campus Activities instead of Professional Development. On September 14th, we notified both parties and we scheduled interviews for the next week. We reached out to both parties again to follow and we produced this opinion.
      3. Justice Wright: After the investigation, F&F notified us that all exclusions were meant to apply to all categories. But from a student perspective this was not made clear in the Funding Guidelines, it looked like each exclusion was for that specific category. There is a grey area around the legality of the decision but given the information that we had at the time, there was nothing prohibiting this as a religious service or event. We later learned from the Legal team that this would not fall under the legal exclusion of public institutions not being allowed to fund religious services. Our resolution was based on the fact that the Funding Guidelines were not clear that all exclusions applied to all categories
      4. Justice Zabaleta: We are recommending in this case that we work with F&F to create better and explicit guidelines. If they are going to apply all exclusions to all categories, you should state it explicitly. Our decision to approve the request was to hold F&F accountable for the lack of clarification and acknowledge our responsibilities as a body.
      5. Representative Valdez: Now that legal has responded, how does this change the interpretation of the guidelines?
      6. President Combs: Legal said that the policy that we currently have makes sense, however, in like cases like this there are grey areas. Legal conveyed that it is plausible, but going forward, we must make sure that we are consistent in all cases. As the Chief Justice mentioned, the legal is completely open to meeting with judicial, F&F and SGA to make sure that our guidelines are clearer than they currently are. Their concern was not necessarily the content of the conference, it is just making sure that in requests that may resemble or have anything to do with things such as religion or identity, we just rule consistently throughout the year.
      7. Senator Burns: My assumption is that funds may have been already released, are we going to be consistently releasing those funds for larger allocations that may involve religious ceremonies?
      8. President Combs: For now, the ruling will be similar for all things like this going forward no matter the money amount because at this point, there, there's a possibility now that we've gone through this entire thing if there were any anybody else to come to us with something similar like this and we denied it, it would affect us.
      9. Justice Zabaleta: The decision is fully up to F&F. We used language such as “strongly recommend,” we cannot obligate F&F to do anything. However, we will work with them to make sure these decisions are correctly made.
      10. Savannah: Any further discussion? Do the justices have any final comments?
      11. Justices: Thank you for listening to us.
7. Updates:
   1. President
      1. We had Constitution Day; I am so proud of everybody for doing what they needed to do. Last week, the executives met with the Judicial Committee to check in, set expectations for this year and how we can collaborate. I went to the Lawrence Street building, and I shot a video for the DEI symposium. It is set for November 1st, so RSVP so they have numbers on who will be there. We also had a meeting with Civics Chair Burns about the reflection space and recent updates. We will also be having a meeting with Genia on the 20th to get an update on what is going on with the reflection space and how we are moving forward. I went to ABOD on Wednesday, it was nice to see the other leaders from our other institutions and I got to see Chancellor Marks. I went to the Black Student Service Initiative event, Dr Snowden and Dr Tracy Adams were also in attendance, as well as I think the CEO of Initiatives, she is the one who gave us the grant for the Black Student Service Initiative. After that, we met with judicial a little bit during their meeting. Vice President Brooks, Chief of staff Bachman and I met to do a rundown of where everything currently stands. Also talking about our trip next week. The executive team will be out October 5th at the end of business day, and we are not back in the office until Monday morning.
   2. Vice President
      1. We have our Senator at large interviews this week and we have a second-round next week and then we will start to see the next influx of new hires. We have a meeting with Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance Ann Sherman on October 17th, and we will discuss budgets in relation to CU Denver and Auraria campus. We will also have Dr. Snowden, Genia, and Jen St. Peter in attendance. I have been emailing CCD’s new advisor Danny because CCD does not have SACAB representatives. I am helping Mitchell to get the office up and running, making sure that he has people to work his desk shifts. Bria and I attended ABOD on Wednesday, and we represented CU Denver very well. We also saw MSU there, Mitchell gave public comment and introduced himself and his role. We went to the Black student Initiative with Doctor Snowden and Dr Tracy Adams, President Combs and I got to meet the students that were there before we were called away for matters in the office. We are looking to schedule a meeting with Cary Weatherford, who is the Executive Vice Chancellor of facilities. We saw Cary yesterday when we were looking for Chris from legal. He is open to collaboration as we said before.
      2. President Combs: Budget meetings are getting ready to start, Vice President Brooks and I will be in representation of the student body. We will be bringing back updates. This is specifically CU Denver budget so if there are any concerns or questions, please let us know so that we are well informed and we can adequately represent the student body.
      3. Vice President Brooks: The reason we did not vote today or had a formal budgetary presentation was because Chair of F&F Sidney, is not here.
   3. Chief of Staff
      1. I have been working on conducting and scheduling interviews to fill out our positions. We have two SACAB interviews, four senator at large interviews and SCHD interview and hopefully a CAP interview. If everything goes according to plan, we will be fully staffed by the end of October. If you are a Chair, a director, or a Justice, share your outlook calendar with me to reflect your availability so I can make sure that all meetings work for you. I met with Kelsey last week before Senate on Thursday to get in contact; I mentioned a professional development opportunity I am working on. It will be about how we approach legislation, argumentative writing, argumentative presentation, debating, answering hard questions, in a more unique format. I have also finished the preliminary writing for the report about AHEC. I am presenting it to chairs and directors to get feedback before bringing it to the Senate. On my personal updates, I started applying to law schools at Yale and UC Irvine. If you would be interested in reading my personal statements, please let me know because I need help.
   4. Civics
      1. Civics did a great job at the block party on Monday and Tuesday, and having our meetings with the execs. We laid out structures for our projects and this week, we tackled them. I created a reflection space briefing; it has been shared with the execs and the rest of civics team. We tabled at Fall Fest, we got more answers on our reflection document, we are up to like 60 responses now. Cesar has finished a flyer about what SGA is, we are figuring out places for the flyers that would make sense and help educate people. I also sat in an Academic Integrity Committee meeting, which presented their structures and how they functioned during orientation in August. There's room for improvement with better outcomes in how they make decisions. This week we talked about our brief and collecting information on all the reflection spaces on campus because there is no centralized space for students to know where these reflection spaces are already at. Civics’ goal is to also create some documentation on all those places and distribute it to people. Dago, Sarah, and I went on a call with the leaders of the Muslim Student Association and the Middle Eastern Student Association. We gave them an update on what things are starting to look like and gathered more feedback. We want to continue to build that partnership, elevate their concerns and relay information coming down from admin.
   5. College Council
      1. Motion by Representative Torres to Extend time by 10 minutes, Seconded Representative Valdez
      2. Cam: I had two meetings over zoom, with our faculty assembly members and with our staff council members within CAM. For the faculty assembly meeting, I met with the chair of UC Dolly, which is the non-tenured faculty assembly. Non-tenured faculty usually have lower wages and they make up about 60% of the faculty on campus. We had a conversation about how I want to promote the executive teams and shared governance between the different systems. I met with Jeffrey, a part of Faculty Assembly and faculty council at the CU System. Within CAM they want to focus on fundraising and looking into opportunities because unfortunately, the only real fundraiser money we get is from alumni. He sent me a sheet of what we are currently doing and what Boulder is doing with their fundraising efforts that are not solely focused on alumni. He was open to having SGA create some type of collaboration and connect with faculty Assembly. For the meeting I had with our staff council representative, he brought up that within CAM financial aid is a big struggle because we do not have a lot of scholarship opportunities. He also said that he would communicate with their executive team to further build that connection with Staff Council and SGA, and they would like to try and sit in on one of our senate meetings. I also discussed making a couple of surveys regarding CAM life and getting student feedback so when I sit in our All-Hands CAM meeting, I can bring forth student concerns. I am sitting in on the CAM dinner to meet with first-year students and introduce myself as the CAM rep and include SGA to hopefully get interested members for my student advisory council.
      3. Business: Last week I met with a with people to get feedback on how they feel about the Business School and if they have any concerns. I look forward to discussing this in our first advisory council meeting, around October 19th. We had our business school career fair; we had a couple of recruiters come to talk to us about expected candidate traits. I also reached out to the marketing team of business school and admissions team, I am looking forward to working with them and listening to their plans with social media and LinkedIn. We are having our Student Appreciation Week; I have sent out flyers to all the student organizations inside the business School. We have an alumni network meeting coming up October 4th, and there an organization leadership meeting on October 5th. I am looking forward to meeting all representatives from different organizations and talking to them about SGA. Today, we had the career fair for business schools all over Colorado, we had good turnout from CU Denver students.
      4. Engineering: I have been observing what the College of Engineering would need and trying to talk with the other college council members on what they have done, so that I can orient my time this semester. I have emailed our college’s team to set up a meeting to talk about things I want to do this year. I have also been talking with student organizations within our college that have active members but also those that have been inactive for a while. One major thing is our honors society which is known, but I have not seen much activity from that, I plan on meeting with them this week after I met with the Dean. We have an internship and job fair coming up on October 25th. There have been areas where students have not even heard about it, so I plan to reach out to students and student orgs to market this event. I have been talking with the college council members and looking into our student organizations to see how to set up an advisory student council. I was at the Fall Fest looking for different tri-institutional organizations and I found similarities between their goals. I plan to interact with organizations like BLACXERA to interact with our college club, which is known as the National Society of Black Engineers.
      5. CLAS: I have been talking to the Dean about study spaces. The focus has been on the advisory meetings next Friday. We are going to be talking about student proposals for the coming year and commencement planning. I reached out to student organizations, some of them have sent me their newsletters for their events because I want to do a CLAS newsletter where I can add CLAS updates, dean updates and communication between the school and students. Another event is Pizza with the Dean, so she would be serving us pizza and connecting more with students. At our college council meeting Jessica brought up a good idea to do a STEM and non-STEM Success Looks Like Me event because CLAS is huge. Last Monday I took photos with UComm. CLAS DEI Council had their meeting last Thursday and their consensus was to bring a speaker on targeted political attacks and harassment on DEI faculty and courses during the fall semester. The Hispanic Heritage Month event is next Thursday from 5:30 to 8 in the Lawrence Street Center. It is in partnership with the Campus Activities team, Black Student Alliance, and International Affairs Office.
      6. Motion by Representative Valdez to Extend time by 10 minutes, Seconded by Senator Burns
      7. SPA: Success Looks Like Me pilot is coming up; it has been moved from the 3rd to the 10th, so we have time to market it. Chief Mollendor will be one of the panelists as well as hopefully a couple of other alums that I have had worked with. On Tuesday I am meeting with Joan Fischer to finalize some of the details. I connected last week with my new Associate Dean about initiatives. I am hoping SPA will get more involved in the Success Looks Like Me event. This coming Tuesday I am also meeting with Jodyanna about community service initiatives for the Honors Society. I am meeting with a student who wants to do a day of service for SPA. I am also going to connect with Jodyanna about some of those ideas and then with Addison about converting to a registered student organization so they will be able to apply for grants.
   6. Public Relations: Absent
   7. Finance & Funding
      1. For the CSOC appeal, Sidney has been talking with judicial about their opinion, yesterday, we came to a resolution to overturn our denial and approve them for funding. Due to CSOC and many other organizations coming up, we have decided to also update our policies. So, we will work through that soon. We have moved everything to MyLynx for Finance and Funding, so everything being communicated through email, we go through my links. Harshit and Namratha have been meeting with student organizations and how they are directed to MyLynx for funding requests. We should be expecting more organizations to be requesting funding. Sidney has been working on the ISA, it has been finalized. We have also voted to reimburse the incubator and give them funding for events.
   8. Judicial
      * 1. We worked on the appeal; we had a great time meeting with both parties and drafting our opinion. We also met with the executives and talked about expectations for Judicial this year and a couple projects we want to take on. We will also contact committee chairs about sitting in committee meetings and taking minutes. Last week Laura sent out a message on the General channel about the attendance form and expectations for attendance according to our Constitution and bylaws. Please remember how many excused and unexcused absences you have and do not forget to fill out the form for committee meetings too. Hopefully, we will schedule a meeting with F&F to discuss the appeal, and what we can do better to support them in the future. We will also be working with them to create better funding guidelines and documents that can serve students’ needs and F&F
   9. SACAB
      * 1. ABOD, it was great to go to their first official meeting. We have a SACAB meeting, so please come on Tuesday at 4:30. I am the representative for the Campus Master Planning Steering Committee for SACAB, so I will have a catch-up meeting on Monday. The first official meeting will be on Friday morning, I will have updates for next Senate. I had a meeting with the chair of FACAB, I hope to work with them more. I am going to go to a FACAB on Wednesday morning. I will have several meetings with Kelsey. We went to tour the Tivoli, there has been a lot of information about that. If you have any questions, we could bring in the Auraria subcommittee on that.
   10. SSRC
       1. We have four meetings scheduled for the SSRC presentations, one is on 27th, on the 10th and one on December 1st. I have been emailing the four people who have registered for the meetings and confirming that they are happy with the changes, because they have been changing quite a bit. I am working on a docket describing what the presentation and meetings will be like. So that I can give it out to the AVCs, and they can have a primer in addition to the meetings that Kelsi and Jen might have with them.
   11. Ex Officio
       1. You can have hard conversations without being hostile to people on the Senate. I know we are all learning to develop and grow and have conversations, but the thing you will not do is accuse your fellow members of Senate of not doing their job or not doing their research. If you have ailments of any kind, I might want to know that as your boss to see if I can help you in any way. I have only seen Public Relations and Civics utilize their budget. I want to remind you that you have a budget to utilize, please go ahead and do that as that can enhance a lot of the events that you are trying to put on. Ask your chairs how you can help them, your chairs need help. How can you maximize your time to assist your chair in getting things done? I got some feedback this week from professional staff not getting the answer that they were looking for. I want you to know what other members of this body do, so you can represent this Senate body to anybody who comes in the door. I need assistance on a few different committees. I need representation for the Science fair. We are looking for student representatives for the Women and Gender Equity Leadership conference. We need representation on staff counsel because I have resigned, we need somebody to rely on information to us. I will send more information out but for my general senators, these are opportunities for you. If you exceed your seven hours, I will compensate you.
8. **General Business from the Floor:**
9. **Adjournment:** 
   1. Motion to Adjourn by Senator Burns, Seconded by Representative Mauro
      1. Adjourned at 3:21 PM