A picture containing text

Description automatically generated

Senate Meeting

Friday, October 13th, 2023

Presiding Officer: Vice President Brooks

Minute Taker: Chief Justice Zabaleta

1. **Call to Order:** Call to Order at 1:02 PM
2. **Roll Call:** Roll Call Complete at 1:04 PM
3. **Approval of Minutes from October 6th:** Motion to Approve the Minutes by Representative Torres, Seconded Senator Agarwal
4. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion to Adopt the Agenda by Representative Mauro, Seconded Senator Saoji
5. **Public Comments:**
6. **New Business:**
7. Updates:
   1. President
      1. Vice President Brooks and I attended the Donor Celebration, where we met with many of our donors. Some of our cabinet members and Deans were also present. President Saliman was in attendance and said it was the best donor celebration he had attended on any of the four campuses. We also attended Future Fest to learn about the school's vision, where we are in the implementation of our 2030 strategic plan, and how CU Denver's internal workings affect students. We had the opportunity to speak with Chancellor Marks and Dr. Snowden. They also launched the CU Denver brand rebranding/refresh; we now have teal in our colors. We spoke with our Pro Tempore last week, and she did an excellent job. We missed our meeting at the Capitol because we were stuck in JFK for 12 hours. Hopefully, it will be rescheduled during our representatives' visit to the state. We had the AANAPISI celebration this week; 15% of our student population is AANAPISI. We are working to get back our Hispanic/Latinx designation. We had MOF, and PR did an outstanding job. Me and Vice President Brooks met with Dr Snowden, and Genia and Jen St Peter were also present. We started to envision what budget cuts would look like and how the student engagement process would work. There are three main areas of focus: the AHEC budget, budget cuts, and student fee restructuring. Those are all distinct ideas that belong to different people. Our budget meetings for CU Denver begin in two weeks and are directly related to budget cuts. We will be releasing more information about the actual engagement strategy. I'd like to draw everyone's attention to the fact that everything from MOF is still sitting in the office; we want to keep our office clean, so everything needs to be organized into storage. Because of the data leak, all CU Denver employees must retake the Skillsoft information and data security training. It must be completed by November 30th, which is a strict deadline. I made connections with different colleges at the DC conference. I had the opportunity to meet with representatives from other colleges and discuss salaries, structures, relationships with administration, and everything else related to student government.
   2. Vice President
      1. Bria covered most of our updates. For me, the highlight of the DC trip was sitting in a conference breakout with Zach Greenberg, an attorney with the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression. He discussed student governments and potential lawsuits they may face for suppressing student voices when allocating funding to organizations. I spoke with Zach about some of the issues we had with Finance and Funding, and he stated that as a public institution, it is probably safe to fund everything in terms of religion. We could host Zack here, but it would probably be cheaper to have him over Zoom. The meeting with Genia, Dr. Snowden, and Jen St. Peter was very productive; we discussed budget losses and how information will be disseminated.
   3. Chief of Staff
      1. During my trip to Washington, DC, I attended two conferences about student government administration and how to strengthen SGA. The first conference focused on marketing yourself and communicating with students. Things we can take back to our own government and start implementing, such as putting our name on things we fund and putting ourselves out there in ways we haven't done before. The other conference I attended was about elections and how to increase voter turnout. Our election process differs from that of many other universities across the country. We start our campaigns late, whereas other universities start in November. People campaign for their own candidacy from October to February, and then for the election itself from February to April voting. In each election, schools that use these features typically have a turnout of 1,000 to 5,000 students, which we could replicate in our own elections. We could make major legislative changes to our system. We should think about putting these ideas into action this year in order to make next year's election stronger. I've been scheduling interviews for two of our legislative positions, which should be filled by the end of this week. Beginning next week, we will start filing for the judicial committee. The hiring process is going very well, and we're almost at full capacity.
   4. Civics
      1. We tabled for MOF on Monday following our meeting, and we also tabled for MOF on Wednesday. We've discussed going into our budget to get some swag. Dago and Deb are looking into Nourish Now, a free grocery and product distribution event that we may plan for November 6th. I've been meeting with Bria, Savannah, and Addison to discuss how to proceed with getting information to students about reflection spaces on campus. Due to paperwork and tax-exempt policies, I may bring some late legislation regarding the purchase of a Sam's Club card instead of a Costco card.
   5. College Council
      1. CAM: I've been reviewing applications for the Dean search committee; we have approximately 76 applications. We're supposed to send in a straw poll by the 16th, indicating which candidates we prefer to begin interviews. Lance had asked if I wanted to try and meet with the campus activities team to discuss the plans for Lynx Live because there are a lot of students in CAM wondering who the headliner will be this year. I'd like to see if campus activities have any suggestions, and perhaps I can assist with sending out surveys and encouraging participation. I'm hoping to schedule a meeting with them soon. I need to contact a member of my faculty assembly so we can talk more about the Know Your Rights campaign we're working on for College Council.
      2. Business: My marketing team has asked me to be a Business School ambassador. I've been helping the marketing team and some of the business school clubs distribute flyers. We also have two events on October 1st, one for Women in Business and the other for ISA, both with panelists. I participated in a focus group conducted by the CU Denver marketing team to conduct research between CU campuses. I was able to speak about my time at CU Denver and the differences between campuses.
      3. Engineering: I have been representing SGA in our college. We had three events on campus this week: snack and relax, which I attended on Wednesday. I met with the Director of Enrollment and the Marketing Leader to discuss contacting organizations within the school and how to get in touch with the Dean. They are interested in collaborating with SGA to promote the college and make connections. I also attended a Society of Women Engineers event and met with the President to discuss SGA and possible avenues for funding.
      4. Point of Personal Privilege by Justice Zabaleta: Can you speak louder for the minutes please?
      5. SPA: Despite some advertising challenges, we had 16 students and 12 participants for Success Looks Like Me. We received positive feedback and requests to repeat the event in the spring. My dean has finally responded; he and his Associate Dean are interested in assisting with the setting up of the advisory council. We'll get together and try to get things organized for the next semester. We are still putting the finishing touches on our day of service. Last week, I worked with Jodyanna on SPA's November Community Service project. I spoke with one of the graduate student assistants in veteran services, as well as the director. We're thinking about doing a blanket-making project in November.
   6. Public Relations
      1. This week was MOF. We were grateful to everyone who assisted with the event. I've heard the food was good and tabling went well. I had the opportunity to speak with the president in person. I received some suggestions for additional activities and will consider them. Thank you for taking part.
   7. Finance & Funding
      1. We received 12 applications last week, of which six were approved and six were tabled. We received 13 applications this week, approved seven, denied one, and tabled five, with two of those expected to be resolved asynchronously by next Friday. We approved the Denver Lynx Radio request as well as the 17th annual Edge Event hosted by Information Systems. We also received a large request for film equipment, as the club is planning some amazing student productions. Harshit and I are currently creating a video for our F&F applications. We will most likely have legislation in the form of changing our own F&F bylaws next week. If we have to make more emergency decisions in the future, we need to change our own bylaws to allow for an emergency decision. F&F will send out a message stating that for events that we fund, we would like to have sponsorship on all marketing information flyers. I'd like to thank our judicial members for attending our meetings and taking detailed minutes. Senator Jonnalagadda is this week's F&F member of the week. Namratha was extremely helpful in streamlining the process and communicating with ISA in preparation for the 17th annual Edge event.
      2. Point of Personal Privilege by Vice President Brooks: Senator Augustyn is excused to leave
   8. Judicial
      * 1. We've been taking minutes for all committees; we still have some to go, but we're trying to work around our schedule. We are working on incorporating our evidence rules and appeal process into our bylaws. If you need support or if we can assist you, please send us a message or schedule a meeting with us.
   9. SACAB
      * 1. We met with AHEC's Director of Finance Tristy Hillestad and Chief Financial Officer Zach Hermsen. We received a good presentation from them; we will collaborate with them and provide student input. On the 10th, we held a special meeting to discuss the location of the hub and what we plan to purchase for it. We hope to have that open by the end of the month. We'll have another meeting on Tuesday. I've been preparing for a meeting with Chancellor Marks, Dr. Snowden, and Genia on Friday. I'd like to work on refreshing the SACAB office so that it looks nice.
   10. SSRC
       1. I've reminded the two AVCs who have yet to schedule a presentation with us. One AVC mentioned that she had scheduled a meeting with us, but it had been accidentally removed from the Signup sheet, so I requested another time so that we could accommodate. I intend to meet with Ariana because she stated that she is available on August 3rd, but I am not. I'll try to work another time, but if that fails, Tatiana can assist us.
   11. Ex Officio
       1. The new director of Student Life, Jarrick Brown, will be visiting campus next week. On Wednesday, 9-10:30 a.m., the student life team and I will host him on campus. If anyone is interested, I sent out calendar invites. We're looking for a new student organization coordinator. Alexandra Wilsford will be interviewed on Zoom on Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. Amy Hernandez will be here on Wednesday from 3:00 to 3:30, and we would appreciate student feedback.
8. **General Business from the Floor:**
   1. Representative Valdez: This morning, I met with the Veteran and Military Student Services office, which is severely understaffed. If people are interested in applying, please let them know. They prefer that people have some sort of military connection. They would also like assistance in resharing their Instagram posts and events, so those of us who manage SGA accounts can promote some upcoming events. They would like to collaborate more with Student of Life and SGA to recruit more people to represent the community. If you are interested, you can contact them directly or I can put you in touch with them. They are showing an open-to-the-public film about the struggles of veterans after WWII. On November 14th, there will be a stand-up panel discussion or a dodgeball tournament between veteran against non-veterans.
   2. Chief of Bachman: The desk shift roster appears to be out of date. I'd like to extend the offer to anyone who is interested; you can forego your desk shifts and I'll hold them for you. The goal is to have enough people relinquish their desk shifts and shuffle things around to make things more convenient and reduce scheduling conflicts. If you want to volunteer for desk shifts, please send me a message on teams and then send me the top five hours that work for you so that I can rebuild a schedule that works for everyone. Sidney and I are going to work on legislation to establish the SGA alumni network. Anyone who has been a member of SGA in the past, present, or future can join this network, have their accomplishments immortalized, and return to help current members build their career skills.
   3. Representative Valdez: Veteran Services has an office in Tivoli; if you are a veteran or are connected, you can go study there; they want students to come there so that they can continue to receive funding for their office. What if you don't have a desk shift and would like one? Can we send our information?
   4. Chief of Staff Bachman: Our team is expanding, so we can give up some double desk shifts and move down to one desk shift per person to reallocate shifts as needed. That way, everyone has a chance to be involved in the office.
   5. Senator Burns: I would like to bring legislation to the table.
   6. Point of order by Chief of Staff Bachman: You would have to amend the agenda and the agenda has already been approved.
   7. Vice President Brooks: We can change the agenda to include it as new business, but since it is general business, we can simply discuss it.
   8. President Combs: We cannot call to question because it is not on the agenda. We can review it today, but we cannot vote on it.
   9. Senator Burns: Could we ask Judicial about it? We found earlier this week that Costco membership is not feasible for student life because they do not accept tax-exempt payments, which requires student life to fill out a form for approval. This bill would require Student Life to purchase a Sam's Club business membership.
   10. Chief of Staff Bachman: You can amend the agenda, but it requires two-thirds vote.
   11. Motion to Amend the agenda to add legislation by Senator Burns, Seconded by Senator Rodriguez.
   12. Roll Call Vote: 16-0-0
       * 1. Agenda AMENDED
   13. Senator Burns: I believe we can save 50% if we purchase the business membership this week. I'll go over the bill.
   14. Motion to Call to Question by Senator Rodriguez, Seconded by Representative Valdez
   15. Roll Call Vote:16-0-0
       * 1. The Bill PASSED
   16. President Combs: We frequently receive phone calls through the office phone. If someone calls the office phone while you are at your desk, you should respond, "This is the CU Denver Student Government office, give your name, and how can I help you?" I've seen people miss phone calls because they don't know how to answer. If they require the assistance of another person, take out their information and share it so they can be directed to the appropriate person.
9. **Adjournment:** 
   1. Motion to Adjourn by Representative Mauro, Seconded by Senator Flores
      1. Adjourned at 1:54 PM