Minutes for ASUN Senate September 2nd, 2015

A regular meeting of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN) was held on Wednesday, September 2nd, 2015 in the Colonial room of the City Campus Union. The meeting convened at 6:31 p.m. and the regular chairman Josh Waltzier was presiding. The previous meeting’s minutes were electronically distributed and adoptions were made regarding the committee chair names. All Senators were present except: Excused- Stentz

Appointments

It was moved to adopt Appointment 32 and the vote passed unanimously.

Open Forum

The President of the University of Nebraska, Hank Bounds, spoke of a search firm that is to put together a position profile to select four individuals to spend time on our campus in order to select the next chancellor of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. President Bounds also spoke of the importance of creating a unified University of Nebraska among all campuses across the state. One of the main goals of the University system is to grow the enrollment number in order to produce a better education and increase graduation rates. Bounds asked the Senate to help him understand how he can better engage with the students of the University. Senator Otoski asked how the University would better incorporate Veterans. Senator Reed asked how we were to better our public relations. Bounds answered that we need to define 2-3 areas where we can competitively succeed in. Senator Zumpfe asked what the plan is to change the perception of food production. President Bounds answered by expressing the importance of early education and how that will continue to affect a student’s academic career. Senator Hartman asked what the plan is for the global extension of what the Land Grant University means. President Bounds explained the need to redefine what the Land Grant University means. Senator Correas asked if there is a strategy as to which the University wants to recruit both locally and globally. Bounds answered that there are various strategies that work but believes that there should be a solid enrollment plan. Senator Devine asked how we are to target foreign language studies. President Bounds answered saying that he is not aware of this issue and will look into this. Senator Sliwinski asked if the University is focused on increasing cross-disciplinary collaboration. President Bounds answered that the University is focused on doing so and exploring the possibilities to push this issue. Senator Himes explained that she was looking forward to knowing her chancellor better. President Bounds closed by explaining that his most important asset is his time. He asked for the body to help him be thoughtful with his time.

The Chief of UNL police, Yardley, spoke about the safety of the blue phones on campus. After researching the usefulness of the phones it has been gathered that the phones are not used often. The expense outweighs the purpose and practicality of the phones. The department would like to phase out the phones and expand surveillance cameras. Senator Sliwinski asked what other Universities are doing with their blue-phones. The Chief answered that it depends on the setting of the
University. Universities that are located in cities comparable to UNL’s size have followed our potential actions. Senator Otoski asked if there have been cases where the phones are used for emergencies. Senator Scott asked what would be the best policy for emergency situations if these phones are not available and a student doesn’t have a way of communication. The chief answered by saying that most students surveyed said they wouldn’t stop at the blue phone in an emergency situation in any case. Senator Nasrati asked why we have not advanced with a phone app. The chief said that the pilot was not successful. Senator Correas suggested that the blue phones provide a way to call anonymously and asked if there will still be a way to do this. Senator Zumpfe asked if there has been advertisement for the blue phones in the past? The Chief answered that there has been advertisement. Senator Himes questioned if this will hurt the safety rating of the University. The Chief suggested that this may be possible but that we need to focus on using the latest technology and be proactive based on the environment that we live in. Senator Shea asked where the money that is used for the phones would go to in the future. The chief explained that this has not been looked into yet.

Executive Reports

Brief summaries of the Executive reports are as follows:

President Chau
- Spoke with Dr. Draco about the Health Center being run by the Nebraska Medical Center. The staff would remain the same but the management would change.
- A firm will lead UNL Chancellor search. During next week’s meeting the firm will come and an open forum will be held on the September 10th for the student body.
- Diversity Video was a great success!
- Meeting with the Academic Planning Community was held. If you have any interest in this committee let me know
- Chinese Students are being specifically targeted. If you are concerned please contact me.
- President Bounds wants to be directly involved with the students. If you are interested in helping him find ways to get engaged with students please contact him.
- Meeting will be held to better represent ethnic minorities on campus. If you know of a group that we should be reaching out to please contact me.

Internal Vice President Waltjer
- Workshops will be on October 4th
- Diversity Inclusion Meeting
- Going to RHA meetings as a liaison

External Vice President McKeever
- Working with UNLPD to form a student UNLPD advisory board
• Working with the Parking advisory board. Please let me know of any concerns.
• Working with Transit advisory board. Please let me know of any concerns.

Speaker Hartman
• Will be gone next week and will be working via email. If you have anything you want submitted for legislation please contact me quickly.

Chief of Staff Heirigs/Janke
• Promote Transparency to student body through a blog that the community, the chancellor, and students can be a part of.

Graduate Chief of Staff TBA
• N/A

Appointments Chair Correias
• There are 10 days left to hand in applications for appointments. Please do not hand in late applications. We want this process to go quickly. There will be an article written about open positions in the Daily Nebraskan. Senate and FCLA positions need to be filled.

Government Liaison Committee Chair Devine
• Online voter registration opens September 22nd
• Expect a bill to be purposed next week
• September 11th

FCLA Chairs Bonds & Mc Kerlie
• Please push FCLA applications to make sure we are representing the freshmen class as a whole.

Committee For Diversity & Inclusion Chair Sandoval
• Committee meeting to be held at the end of the week.

Environmental Leadership Program Chair Janke
• Recruit underclassmen to apply

The Big Event Co-Chairs Billam & Barla
• Excited for this year’s plans

Committees
Academic Committee Chair Stenz
• No Report

Technology Fee Committee Chair Neujahr
• There is one spot open

Campus Life & Safety Committee Chair Schelstaste
• No Report

Committee for Fee Allocation Committee Chair Waldo
• Need members!
• The tailgate dates are available. The sign-up sheet is available. These spots should be filled.

Communications Committee Co-Chairs Bartels & Oetken
• Everyone should share materials of the Facebook page
• Share the applications on social media
• House Announcements will be held
• Senator Spotlight each week
Environmental Sustainability Committee Chair Battes
• Meeting will be held on Monday
Graduate Committee Chair Reed
• First meeting will be held next week
Student Services Committee Chair Meyer
• Please let me know about events to be announced

Unfinished Business
There was no unfinished business.

New Business
Bylaw A: Communications Committee Bylaw Amendment was brought to the floor, and Senator Correas was yielded to for many of the technical questions. Debate followed and a roll call vote was taken, the bylaw passed unanimously.

Announcements
Announcements were held.

Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned on September 2nd at 8:06pm

Claire Weber- Recording Secretary