

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
STUDENT SENATE
THIRTY-FIRST SESSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 4, 2019
ASNAU OFFICE, UNIVERSITY UNION, 7:30 PM

Date: March 12, 2019
Date of Senate Meeting: March 4, 2019

Number on council: 14
Number present: 10

Prepared by: Alyssa Cox

Ronni Marks, Vice President of Academic Affairs, called the special Senate meeting of the 2018-2019 Associated Students of Northern Arizona University Senate to order at 7:34 PM in the ASNAU Office, University Union.

Roll Call

Senators:

Senator Ambrosio
Senator Hernandez
Senator Burke
Senator Gibson
Senator Martinez
Senator Zabala - Absent
Senator McClintock
Senator Schonbrun
Senator Freitas
Senator Nardi
Senator Alba- Absent
Senator Ward
Senator Rose- Absent
Senator Majkrazk - Absent

Approval of Minutes

Call to the Audience

Unfinished Business

Item A: Election Commissioner: Breanna Hushaw

Statement: Thank you for taking the time to consider me for the position at Northern Arizona University. I am very excited about the possibility of being a part of your organization. Utilizing my skills and abilities to benefit your organization is an exciting possibility for me. I have over four years of customer service experience, and during my tenure at Harkins Theatre, I was responsible for the support, administration, and organization of a wide variety of tasks for the theatre team. I have taken charge of the management of box office, daily administrative functions, and other vital organizational project tasks. My expansive skill set includes planning, scheduling, document creation and management, project support, and other general administrative duties. During my time at Harkins Theatres, I have played a crucial role in the successful completion of many vital customer service projects, which have helped drive efficiency.

I understand how crucial it is for your staff to have the administrative support they need to ensure timely and organized project progress. I truly appreciate your time and consideration regarding this vital role at your organization. I believe that I possess the skills and abilities which are critical to this position and would be thrilled to become the next member of your team. Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions you may have or to further discuss this opportunity.

President Graham: Breanna has done an amazing job so far in the election commission. As soon as I appointed them they were immediately trained and started election business quickly since we were on a fairly tight timeline. We need to have elections completed 40 business days before the end of the spring semester so that's why it's so early in March. I think Senator Gibson mentioned what happens if we delay it. We could, and that's always up to the election commission based on if they don't have a full commission and if they aren't able to handle the full workload. However if these two individuals aren't confirmed, not only have they already done all this work for us, but whoever I would appoint next wouldn't have anything to do because all the work has already been done. Delaying it would always be a possibility but I believe that we would have to hold a vote to suspend the by-law measurement that would push the election back, and the senate would have to approve the new election timeline. We will probably lump it together with the special elections

Chief Election Commissioner, Lorenzo Miloscia: She's had a limited ability because she's been on NAU sanctioned trips but when she was available to work with us she was always answering texts and emails and really helped us with this election so far.

Motion: Senator Hernandez

Second: yes

Discussion:

Senator Hernandez: I was the one who brought this up last week and my concern was that it wasn't fair to the rest of the election commissioners who provided a statement and we approved them. But now that she has I am happy to approve her.

President Graham: I appreciate that you have tabled that item and that I was able to speak on her behalf. She does have obligations right now but if you have questions I feel that I know Breanna pretty well now and can answer them.

Opposed: none

Pass/Fail: Motion passes

New Business

Voting Period

Open Forum

Item A: Presidential Veto - Election Commissioner: Citlaly Mendoza

President Graham: I want to hear some of your thoughts or if you have any questions for me. I will mention that I wrote the veto because I am a little disappointed about some of the discussion points. I do want to mention that I do appreciate the work that you've done and trying to find someone qualified to run the elections. I know that's really important to find qualified people from experienced NAU students. I do want to mention that Citlaly has done a lot of great work so far and my biggest thing was that I have trained everyone who becomes apart of ASNAU. She has the training and has acted very professionally

on behalf of ASNAU which is the same thing that I expect out of all ASNAU members. I think my veto sums everything up. I get a little harsh when I get passionate about things and I apologize if anyone was offended by it. I do respect your opinions but I really appreciate the opportunity to explain my appointment and my reasoning. If you have any questions I will answer them but I also want to mention that I don't think my resume had any experience or was very professional when I was a freshman. We're all trying to get more experience and she has noted to me that she has learned a lot and she has represented ASNAU very well.

Senator Ward: I'm so glad that you vetoed this. Looking back as a freshman, last year, I didn't have very many things on my resume and I came to college to do that. I think it's important for us to support other students and I think ASNAU is a great place to do that.

Senator Schonbrun: I have a question about how a veto works. Can a veto be used to appoint someone? Because if someone gets rejected doesn't that render the senate kind of useless if you can veto it and appoint them anyway? I don't disagree with the veto, I'm just wondering.

President Graham: I can appoint them and per the by-laws I can veto any senate measure. That's one of my presidential duties. I really have the power to do anything I want. I don't take that power for granted and you always do have the power to overturn my veto with a 2/3rds vote. You can do that if you like, but essentially I can do whatever I want.

Senator Burke: I think our decision last week as a senate was hasty and instead of denying it I think we could have tabled it.

Senator Nardi: My rationale for denying it was based on the information that I had. All I had was the resume and the statement and in fact I didn't even know that she was approved through you initially. The statement had numerous grammatical and spelling flaws I thought it lacked information that I was looking and based on that information was what I had to base my vote on. I apologize that if you felt our discussion points were not valid but because new information has come to light I feel the veto is appropriate.

President Graham: I appreciate those points. I was trying to figure out why a decision was made so quickly and that's a good point. There was miscommunication between me and the election commission about what an appointment and a confirmation looks like so I do apologize that statements weren't available at the meeting. I think if I were there I would have been able to explain my appointment a little bit better.

Citlaly Mendoza: Thank you for vetoing the vote and I'm sorry my resume didn't have much to show about me but I can assure you that I am ready for this position because I have been doing the work for the past two weeks already. I have learned from that experience and I really like it and I hope I can keep doing it.

President Graham: I do want to mention that she is officially confirmed based on my veto so if any action were taken it would require a 2/3rds vote to overturn my veto. I do encourage the legislative committee to review the fact that if something doesn't happen that I want to happen I can still make it happen. It's just something to think about.

Announcements

President Graham: This is on behalf of Tori. The student regent forum will be tomorrow in the Grand

Canyon Room. Lauren is unfortunately unable to drive up and I would hate to have her drive up just because of Tori, but if you're able to make it it will be a skype call. I think a few student advocacy groups will be there to try and talk with her so that will be kind of interesting to hear. Diversity week is also going on so I encourage you to stop by for five minutes if you can. The provost candidates are on campus this week so try to attend at least one of them to see what next years provost will be like because I think a lot of you are returning either as a student or in ASNAU. For the HLC fee. I know I've asked you to table for a lot of fees lately, but I would ask that if you can table, please do so. I will be tabling next week and I will let you know the times I will be in the union. If you can't I wont hold it against you but I think it will be really interesting. There has been a lot of support for the sustainability increase but I think mental health is a bit more important. I really appreciated Senator Schonbrun's comments about increasing the green fee when there's also a possibility of an increase in the HLC fee.

Senator Burke: Would we be able table in the union instad of our colleges? The spot our deans asked us to table in doesn't get a lot of traffic.

President Graham: Yeah, you can table wherever.

Senator Hernandez: Do you know how much the fee increase will be? Because last week it was either \$40 or \$50 and they weren't sure yet.

President Graham: When I had a conversation with them it was one of two options. It would be in either two phases where half the increase would happen this year and half the increase would happen next year, but I'm not sure if it's per semester or per year. The other option would be the full increase next year. But I will get that final amount that they are requesting or what they're asking us to vote on.

Senator McClintock: They also said if we don't like them increasing the HLC fee then they would also be willing to create a mental health fee and I personally like that idea a lot better because the HLC fee goes towards a lot of different things and I think students would rather see a fee that's going straight to mental health and counseling services.

President Graham: I think the increase of the HLC fee was the original intent because apart of the HLC fee already goes to counseling so to create another fee would make it seem like counseling has two fees. It would kind of seem shady that they're getting money from two places. I don't know if we created a mental health fee that if they would stop funding them through the HLC fee and have that other money go towards something else. I think a mental health fee a lot of students would be able to get behind because the ones at U of A and ASU have seen nothing but support.

Adjournment

First: Senator McClintock

Second: yes

Discussion: none

Opposed: none

Pass/Fail: Unanimous. Motion passes.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM on Monday March 4, 2019.