

Student Senate Meeting

Wednesday, September 29th 5:00 pm || Pearson Alumni Center

1. Roll Call and Approval of Proxies
 - a. No proxies
 - b. No senators absent.
2. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Approved
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Approved
4. Open Floor Guests
 - a. President Rankin: COVID numbers are currently five or six positive cases. Enrollment dropped about 60 students this year – down 2.5 % in headcount. Also, down a little bit in FTE (Full Time Equivalent). Incoming freshman are up 8% and we have a lot of transfer students.
 - b. SD Mines is doing \$15 million in research, and this grows every year. We have had 6 research awards. One is \$11.2 million for the army for the Cold Regions Research – out of Materials Science and it researches how tanks and equipment operate in very cold weather.
 - i. SA Chair Harroun: How do you quantify research?
 - ii. President Rankin: We have to document all expenditures to sponsors. We received about \$17.5 million in awards, but it might take a few years to spend it so that's why we look at expenditures.
 - c. Carnegie classifies universities at different levels. We want to be a Research 2 University. In order to do that, you need \$5 million in research and 18 doctoral graduates each year. We hit 18 last year, so we could become a Research 2 University.
 - d. New programs:
 - i. Aerospace Engineering minor in the Mechanical Department. There were about 60 people who showed up for the info session.
 - ii. Avionics minor in Electrical Engineering Department. Talked to Raven about why this is important - avionics is electronics applied to aviation. Electronics applied to precision agriculture is what Raven does.
 - e. 97% placement rate continues to be good. If you did an internship before graduating, starting salary was 24% higher than if you did not do an internship.
 - f. The library will be ready by July of next year. In it will be a coffee shop, the Slide Rule, Career Services, Student Success.
 - g. Mineral Industries building fundraising is happening. The building will be between O'Hara and Paleontology. The goal is to start construction in the spring of next year.
 - h. The Board of Regents have approved purchase of the Ascent Innovation Center for \$5.25 million. We will turn that into a research space which will allow us to move things around on campus – Graduate School would move out of the Chemistry building and into O'Hara. After renovating Surbeck, Admissions would move out of O'Hara and into Surbeck.
 - i. Senator Marshall: How will that affect people still in the building?
 - ii. President Rankin: It becomes state property so there would be no rent.
 - iii. Senator Marshall: Are you looking to consolidate labs into that space?

- iv. President Rankin: There is about 30,000 square feet of lab space that we can take over. We would like to see CAPE move in, but we would need to build an addition on. That is in our future plans.
 - i. The city has a vision fund. We have applied for \$5.75 million to renovate the stadium. There is no women's locker room. We would make a 60 person men's track locker room, a 40 person women's track locker room which would open up into a 100 person football locker room for high school games.
 - j. Renovating M hill - trying to raise \$155,000
 - i. Senator Naufal: Will it stay the old M or the new M?
 - ii. President Rankin: It will be the old M. The renovation plan includes a trail with switchbacks. The goal is to have that done by M Week of next year.
 - k. Senate Bill 55 is a bill that the legislature passed two years ago. They told BOR to study what efficiencies we can do with the six universities. It started out as combining BH and SD Mines, but now it is an efficiency study. They will be on campus Tuesday, October 5th 7:00 PM in CB 204. We are looking at combining some departments to be more efficient – travel expenditures, IT, etc.
 - l. BOR wants us to have an Opportunity for All center. We don't know what it will look like yet. We have to present to the Board on what we think it will look like next Wednesday. We have until January 1 to reorganize. They are interested in what Nebraska Lincoln has – called OASIS. How do we help everyone succeed when they come here, not just academically but fitting into the fabric of the school?
 - i. Senator Marshall: Are we getting rid of the term “center” from non-academic titles?
 - ii. President Rankin: “Center” and “institute” are often reserved for things related to research and not administrative offices.
 - iii. SA Chair Harroun: Would OASIS help first generation college students?
 - iv. President Rankin: Yes. It would include Inclusion, International Office, and Wise - how do we capture all of that and academic success?
 - v. Senator Naufal: Will the Opportunity for All replace all those groups?
 - vi. President Rankin: Our vision right now is that it will be an umbrella.
 - vii. Senator Benzmilller: Would there be any change to the administration or leadership in the departments? Or will there be another set above them all?
 - viii. President Rankin: I don't see a change right now. They want us to have a central focus with a reporting line to the president. That will probably be the provost. There was an article in the Argus Leader about USD. They had a big discussion about their Diversity Centers. Last week SDSU had the BOR there to talk about Senate Bill 55 and it turned into an Opportunity for All discussion.
 - ix. Senator Nix: Are we planning on doing an open forum for questions?
 - x. President Rankin: If we do, we will wait after next Tuesday when we hear what BOR says.
 - m. On Thursday, we have a donor that will rename the Chem E department after Karen M Swindler – first one named after a woman in the US.
- 5. Unfinished Business
 - a. None
- 6. New Business
 - a. Resolution 21-F-002
 - i. Senator Quizon motions to suspend the rules.

- ii. Senator Nix seconds.
 - iii. Motion approved.
 - iv. Constitution Chair Hagel motions to vote.
 - v. Senator Nix seconds.
 - vi. Motion approved.
- b. Resolution 21-F-003
- i. Senator Marshall: The notification was only sent out to the current senators as of last year. I feel that was a limited pool to pick from. In addition, given the Clock Tower Incident and the appearance that it gave to the school, I don't think it would be a good look to have Jacob B West be VP so that is why I will be voting "no".
 - ii. Senator Dennis motions to suspend the rules.
 - iii. Constitution Chair Hagel seconds.
 - iv. Motion approved.
 - v. Senator Nix motions to vote.
 - vi. Constitution Chair Hagel seconds.
 - vii. SA Chair Harroun: Did we check all the boxes constitutionally with Marrayn leaving and opening the application for all students?
 - viii. VP West: When a position opens up, it is open to everyone in succession. There was no response, so I fell next in line, and I served as interim and then it goes to a 2/3 majority vote.
 - ix. Senator Zaug: Can we talk about Senator Marshall's comments?
 - x. VP West: I did not push things; the committee was in place for over a year and COVID timed itself poorly. I was serving as CFO at the time. We voted online for the clock tower, and it passed in the Senate for \$120,000. The president sent out a memo a few days later that all budgets would be cut by 50%, it also included student orgs. I was not aware that was happening. After that a student created a petition and got the proper signatures. It went to a school vote and then it was rescinded.
 - xi. Senator Marshall: The timeline was as I recall, when we first presented the resolution to the Senate. The students did not receive it well. A lot of students were not aware of the clock tower even though there were supposed to have been surveys sent out. A lot of students felt there was rushing to get it approved because it would be cheaper to do it alongside the McLaury renovations. It was pushed quickly before we could really evaluate the student opinion.
 - xii. Senator Maag: I was not on Senate at the time. In my circle of people there was a lot of talk about the clock tower. The problem was not that it was being rushed. I think it happened long enough ago that most people don't even remember the clock tower or that VP West was in charge of it. No one talks about it anymore.
 - xiii. SA Chair Harroun: That was two years ago, meaning approximately half the student body is gone that was involved with it. VP West has served four years in the Senate and the position was open to everyone. I don't think there is anyone better for the job and that is why I will be voting "yes".
 - xiv. Senator Nix: I would like to second what Senator Maag said, and I was also not on Senate when this happened. The project was handled appropriately, it was turned down, and now we have Mahan Plaza which was VP West's idea. He clearly found a solution that made the students happy and honored our past dean.

- xv. Senator Marshall: I don't agree that because it happened two years ago is enough time. I would say that the legal initiative should not have happened if the student body had been adequately polled. That was a failure on our part as a Senate.
- xvi. Constitution Chair Hagel: As engineers, we learn from the past. VP West has obviously done that. In the past year and a half since this happened, he has been in many other leadership rolls all around campus and he has proved himself worthy of this position so I will be voting "yes".
- xvii. Senator Dennis: Why was this not brought up in the first meeting?
- xviii. President Jurrens: We were waiting for the freshman senators to be sworn in.
- xix. VP West: If anyone has any other questions about it, you can come talk to me. I never had any malicious intentions. That committee started when I was a freshman and the vote happened when I was a sophomore. There was a lot of time, planning and discussion that went into it. I did not fight when it went down. After the student voice was heard after the Senate voted "yes", we did not pursue further to erect it or put it somewhere else.
- xx. Senator Dennis motions to vote.
- xxi. Senator Nix seconds.
- xxii. Senator Marshall dissents, Senator Naufal abstains.
- xxiii. Motion approved.

c. Resolution 21-F-004

- i. Constitution Chair Hagel: Casting club will be presenting next week.

7. Open Discussion

- a. Senator Tomac: I recommend that we have a designated space in the Senate office for the Pigskin Problem.
 - i. CFO Emery: We usually have it against the wall near the trashcan.
 - ii. VP West: We did have the wrong answer. Dr. Kowalski sent me a writeup of the answer he got and the answer he should have gotten. The person who won the \$50 got the answer right.
- b. Senator Marshall: I would like to speak about Resolution 21.S.010. I disagree with the interpretation of the constitution as far as the appointment of the Ad Hoc committee. Refer to Article 3 Section 2.4.D. This is a tool by the executive branch. The executive branch is not the only ones allowed to form Ad Hoc committees. With the verbiage of 21.S.010, it was to be established this fall with the chair being appointed by the CFO. It was brought to me that I should clarify the intentions of the committee. It came to my attention the amount of money that was being put into athletics by the institution. As it came closer to GAF, I decided to analyze GAF funding. Each student pays a general activities fee with every credit he takes. This fund makes up about \$1.3 million every year. The money goes to auxiliary services that the school offers that we would not be able to fund just from the school's overhead. We fund Student Health, Counseling, Student Engagement, intramurals, the King Center, Surbeck Center, SOAP and athletics. Athletics took up 1/5 of this budget. The average contribution to GAF by each student every year is 500 dollars. The average allocation to athletics per student athlete is \$800. Athletics is different from all the other organizations funded by GAF. It is exclusionary by NCAA eligibility requirements – GPA and credit load. I brought this up at the athletics GAF presentation last spring. I could have easily proposed a decrease to the \$500 average contribution, that way students are getting out as much as they are putting in. Instead, I proposed an Ad Hoc committee to further to look into this issue and get

students' opinions of how much funding is being put into athletics through GAF. \$300 of athletic funding comes from a non-athletic source. And to look into the less tangible benefits of athletics – what it does for our recruitment, donation dollars every year, retention rate. That was the purpose of the Ad Hoc committee. At the center is student opinion. The committee will present a report in the spring to the Senate prior to GAF.

- i. Senator Nix: You talked to your constituents; did you talk to any athletes?
 - ii. Senator Marshall: A few – they do not have a say in how the budget is allocated. This is not meant as an attack on athletes. It is about making the budget more inclusive and representative.
 - iii. Senator Nix: Last semester, CFO Morrison had me interview about 100 athletes, asking how much athletics influenced their attendance at Mines, along with their scholarship, etc. I can consolidate that information.
 - iv. Senator Marshall: I think that would be perfect for the committee.
 - v. CFO Emery: West got an email from VP of Finance. He drafted a new policy. Essentially, there will be a SOAP committee and a separate committee for all the GAF that isn't involved with SOAP. Members of this committee will be recommended by the Senate to President Rankin, and he will choose from those and a representative from NFE and CSA and a faculty member and the Dean of Students and the VP of Finance.
 - vi. VP West: It will go to the executive council of the school – the faculty senate. It will have a first reading at the end of October and then they will vote on it at the second meeting. We will make sure it gets sent out to everyone.
 - vii. Senator Maag: Do we have an individual responsible for settling constitutional disputes?
 - viii. Director Headley: Historically it has fallen on the Constitution Chair, we do not have a parliamentary position.
 - ix. Senator Marshall: I encourage the executive body to make this Ad Hoc committee. Not making this committee throws out the voice of the students who have these concerns. My understanding of the goal of the student body this year is to bridge the gap between athletes and everyone else. Not forming this committee would be directly against that goal.
 - x. President Jurrens: If you could provide more written clarification, we are planning to meet with Spindel and discuss how this committee would work with the new proposal.
 - xi. CFO Emery: It's not a terrible idea. I don't want athletics to be singled out, and I don't want to have to make a GAF committee for each branch of the GAF fee.
 - xii. Senator Braaten: What are athletic GAF funds spent on?
 - xiii. Senator Marshall: Conference fees, travel for away games. Not every sport is funded by GAF. There are some club sports that are funded by SOAP.
 - xiv. Senator Nix: Athletics also has a fundraising expectation.
 - xv. Senator Marshall: That is not a requirement by GAF, it is more a necessity.
 - c. Senator Naufal: I have been writing all sorts of things for the office on the board. I am willing to make the sacrifice if I can be reimbursed for it. Can we buy a clock?
 - d. Swearing in new freshmen.
 - e. Swearing in VP Jacob B West.
8. Chief Financial Officer's Report

- a. SOAP workshop went well, about 50 clubs showed up. There is another tomorrow in CBEC at 6:00 PM. I am expecting a supplemental request for a club that forgot to put a competition on their SOAP application.
- 9. Vice President's Report
 - a. Welcome freshmen. You will be getting an email about committee assignments. If you have questions, please talk to me.
 - i. Senator Naufal: Do we dress formally for head shots?
 - ii. VP West: Yes, they are going on the Student Association web page. We are meeting at 4:30 PM in the quad, if the weather is bad, we will be here. The meeting will probably start a little late.
- 10. President's Report
 - a. A coach stopped me and is thankful for the help getting students to go to the games. VP West and I are meeting with Joel Lueken tomorrow.
- 11. International/Veteran/Graduate/Non-Traditional Senator Report
 - a. International: None
 - b. Veteran: Chili cook off is set for November 9th in the ballroom.
 - c. Grad: None
 - d. Non-Trad: None
- 12. Committee Reports
 - a. Constitution: We had our first resolution today. We will be seeing more orgs in the next few weeks who want to reactivate or become a new org.
 - b. Public Relations: We are trying to advertise more on the Navigation App, along with Slide Rule in the MI building room 320.
 - c. Governmental Relations: We have freshmen senators now. We talked about having guest speakers at Senate meetings.
 - d. Student Affairs: We did not meet last week because of M Day. I reached out to Jarelyn Roberts about hammock poles. Nancy sent out an email about donating supplies.
 - i. Senator Maag: We discussed how we aren't allowed to fund the Hygiene Bank through Senate. I heard that USD does that. Are they interpreting the rules wrong?
 - ii. Director Headley: I will check on that. There are machines in the restrooms already, we are looking for keys so we can use them.
 - e. Campus / Ad Hoc Committees
 - i. Security advisory committee: We met today, discussed where we want to go with the committee. We want to use cameras for two reasons: deterrents and identification after the fact. We need quality cameras. One aspect they don't think is achievable is being able to catch crime in real time. There aren't enough staff to watch cameras. We want to get a little bit of money from senate for trials.
 - ii. Platform Committee: We have a demo for a new platform to replace Mines Link
 - 1. Director Headley: We are recording the demo and I will send it out to all organization leaders. If all goes well, we have a timeline with the company to get it implemented by next fall.
- 13. Upcoming Senate Business
 - a. Senate Bonding 10/3
 - b. Headshots 10/6
- 14. Announcements
 - a. Senator Marshall: 2071 hours until Christmas.

- b. Senator Dennis: We are doing a donut fundraiser for the Hope Center.
- c. GR Chair Else: Circle K is going trick or treat canned foods.
- d. Senator Naufal: I've tried to write questions on the Senate board to have fun. Please give question suggestions.

15. Adjournment

- a. Senator Quizon motions to adjourn.
- b. CFO Emery seconds.
- c. Motion approved.