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Senate Meeting

Friday, March 29th, 2024

Presiding officer: Vice President Brooks

Minute Taker: Chief Justice Zabaleta

1. **Call to Order:** Call to Order at 1:04 PM
2. **Roll Call:** Roll Call complete at 1:05 PM
3. **Approval of Minutes from March 15th:** Motion to Approve the Minutes from March 15th by Senator Nahata, Seconded by Senator Burns
4. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion to Adopt the Agenda by Representative Valdez, Seconded by Representative Gebremariam
5. **Public Comments:**
6. **New Business:**
7. Presentation by Civics Committee (1:00-2:00pm)
8. Motion to Move into Committee of a Whole by Representative Mauro, Seconded by Director Galloway
9. Motion to Reinstate Senate Rules by Representative Mauro, Seconded by Senator Augustyn
10. Ratification of the Election Code
11. **Presented by Associate Justice Wright and Chief Justice Zabaleta**
12. Motion to Amend the Legislation to include “Whereas, the Election Commissioners for the 2023-24 SGA Elections serve concurrently as professional staff members with the department of Student Life, but due to significant budget constraints, SGA could not hire eligible candidates for the Election Commissioner roles, and; Whereas, we recognize that this is unprecedented, and we are still committed to ensuring students’ involvement in the election process and hope to return to the traditional practices next election cycle, and” by Representative Mauro, Seconded by Senator Augustyn
13. Point of information by Senator Burns: Could we have a discussion on the amendment before we vote?
14. Senator Rodriguez: Let’s make sure we hire election commissioners next year.
15. President Combs: Let me provide context regarding why we did not hire election commissioners this year. At the time, our Senate body was almost at full capacity, with everyone working their maximum hours, and there were also a few developments regarding the minimum wage increase. With our tight budget, we wanted to ensure that everybody was being paid, so we made the decision to entrust the elections to our professional staff, with assistance from graduating members. Hopefully, next year we will be in a position where we can hire new election commissioners.
16. Motion to Vote on the Amendment by Senator Augustyn, Seconded by Senator Burns
17. Vote of Affirmation: 17-0-0
18. Senator Augustyn: I move to amend the election code to include my previous amendment from last year. As an election commissioner, I worked hard to get that passed because I was told that, as an election commissioner, I wasn’t allowed to bring it to the floor. Therefore, I had to bring it to the floor as a Senator. There was a lot of debate over this amendment, and I want to reintroduce it into the code because it is so important for transparency in this process. I would like to add, under the Voter Tabulation Process Section D, the following: “The election advisor will provide the total number of votes per candidate with the election results to ensure transparency.”
19. Representative Valdez: I support the amendment. When I first ran, that's how it was done. It would be best to maintain transparency and fairness.
20. Senator Burns: It's important for the public to see how many votes people cast in Student Government elections. Not only does this validate our representation as the voice of the students, but it also makes things more transparent.
21. Representative Gebremariam: Could I ask why it changed from being released to not being released?
22. Senator Augustyn: I have an email from the former Director of Student Life from 2022 that details this. I requested election results due to issues regarding one of the executive tickets being disqualified due to the infraction system. The reasoning provided was that former SGA members felt it was embarrassing when their election results were made public. As representatives in Student Government who aspire to higher positions of office in the future, one of the most important characteristics should be humility. This is a great example of how we exercise humility. I did not think being embarrassed was a valid reason. We need to disclose how many people are participating in the elections.
23. Representative Torres: Is there a way we can pull up the Election Code to see where the amendment is going to be placed?
24. Senator Burns: Will there be a notification sent out to the candidates on the ballot about the changes made to the Election Code?
25. Ex Officio Dew: For those who attended forum, I did state that there would be a number of votes posted, not a percentage. That’s already known to the candidates, they will be reminded when it is posted next week
26. Senator Augustyn: I would place the amendment under Voter Tabulation Process Section D as the last sentence. Everything else in section D is important to keep there because it ensures that the election commissioners have access to the data they need. Last year, the former election advisor told me that I was not allowed to have that information, which significantly hindered my ability to conduct a successful election because I had no idea how many people were voting.
27. Point of information by Senator Augustyn: Are there any other questions or comments about this before I move to a vote?
28. Motion to Amend to the Election Code to include in Voter Tabulation Process Section D: “The election advisor will provide the total number of votes per candidate with the election results to ensure transparency” by Senator Augustyn, Seconded by Senator Espinoza
29. Roll Call Vote: 17-0-0
30. The Amendment Passed
31. Senator Burns: I want to include a comment from Director of Student Life Brown: “I’m traveling for a funeral to New Orleans but the ballot results with all votes will be posted on the SGA door and via Instagram. Although the election code said we have until the following Monday to post the results my hope is the post it same day.”
32. Representative Torres: Do we still have to pass the bill?
33. Call to Question by Representative Torres, Seconded by Senator Augustyn
34. Rescinded
35. Motion to Replace “2 years” with “3 years” in the Election Code for SACAB Residency Eligibility by Representative Mauro, Seconded by Senator Augustyn
36. Roll Call Vote: 17-0-0
37. The Amendment Passed
38. Call to Question by Representative Torres, Seconded by Senator Augustyn
39. Roll Call Vote: 17-0-0
40. The Bill Passed
41. Point of Information by President Combs: Has Representative Favorite been added to the roll call?
42. Motion to Add Representative Favorite to the Roll Call by Representative Mauro, Seconded by Senator Burns
43. **Updates:** 
    1. President: I attended the Board of Regents University Affairs Committee meeting on March 19th. I had check-in meetings with administration at the Lawrence Street Center on Wednesday and Thursday. I also had an executive meeting with Chief of Staff Bachman and Advisor Dew. Next week, the Student Life birthday celebration is happening. Vice President Brooks, Chief of Staff Bachman, and I will be lobbying next Tuesday regarding higher education funding within the long bill. I have a luncheon meeting with President Saliman and university administration alongside Senator Rodriguez. The Board of Regents meeting is the week after next, being held on our campus. If you are able to attend, the public session starts at 1 pm. There are two more Senate meetings left, with April 12th being the last official Senate session. Please keep your calendar clear on that day, as we have several bills to thoroughly review. The Senate will run from 10 am to 3 pm, with the first session from 10 am to 12 pm, lunch from 12 pm to 1 pm, and the last session from 1 pm to 3 pm. Once the legislation comes through, I need everyone to be well-versed in its contents. Spring Fling is on April 17th, which is a tri-institutional event. Advisor Dew has more information on Congress to Campus. The SGA Inauguration will be held on Friday, April 26th.
    2. Vice President: I attended the University Affairs Committee meeting to learn about all the degrees they are proposing for all the institutions. I'm looking forward to the lunch with congressional members and transitioning documents.
    3. Chief of Staff: Transition documents are forthcoming. You should expect to hear from us at the beginning of next week regarding our expectations. Here's the workflow you can anticipate: The week of the 12th to the 19th should be focused on committee-specific transition documents, clarifying what you want the committee to look like, and identifying areas for improvement. From the 19th to the 26th, the focus will shift to the chairs and their identified needs for their position and the committee. Expect to hear from me next week regarding a meeting I want to schedule with everybody in the committee and an additional meeting with the chair. Please continue to introduce legislation early if possible. Next Monday, you should look for legislation introduced by Senator Augustyn and me—the Records and Transparency Act.
    4. Civics: We had our meeting on Monday without Victoria. Instead, we focused on our presentation as well as touching up on Nourish Now. Nourish Now had a significant impact, with 362 students stopping by. A shoutout to CAT and everyone who helped set up. There were a lot of people interested in who we were, what the elections were looking like, and the reflection space.
    5. College Council

CAP: The director of the graduate program is leaving. CAP is organizing a public lecture for each candidate, so students can provide feedback. I am planning to attend those sessions. I am reviewing the Inclusive Excellence Plan to identify areas for improvement.

CAM: Reviewing my transition documents and planning to update the survival guide for CAM reps. Looking forward to the election and gearing up for campaigning. I'm trying to schedule a meeting with a couple of members of the advisory council to discuss what they've observed throughout the semester and identify areas for improvement in CAM. I want to gather their ideas so I can discuss them with Sarah because our dean will be arriving soon, and I want to have a list of concerns and goals ready for when she arrives.

Business: I have been working with the Dean's Cabinet, setting up events and promoting our new courses for all students. We had an event yesterday with city council members to discuss capitalism and the US economy. I am closely collaborating with the Alumni Network to promote the committee and fundraising efforts.

CEDC: I'm working on promoting our Student Advisory Council. I reached out to the dean, who wants to send an email to all students. I provided him with a summary of what the council does and our plans. I'm also collaborating with our marketing director to include the council on the website. We are reviewing the Inclusive Excellence Plan and I am planning to set up a meeting with Dr. Masters, chair of the bioengineering department at the medical campus. Finally, I'm preparing for our next council meeting.

SPA: We have been reviewing the Inclusive Excellence plan and are planning to meet with our respective representatives for the colleges. I want to note that the page where the plans are located had 307 views when we first looked at it, and now it has 400, which are good numbers. We will be including the results of that with our transition documents. We have been looking over our goals and figuring out any last legislation we might want. We've also started working on our transition documents. The pizza with a professor event has been rescheduled for April 11th, and we have two more faculty members confirmed. The Day of Service is scheduled for April 18th.

* 1. Public Relations: I have finished the candidate guide that you will see on Instagram and for the elections. Next week, I will be working on the voting posters for the voting stations, so students can vote, and we can achieve good numbers. I am open to any projects; just give me the deadline, but don’t give it to me the day before because I am not going to do it.
  2. Finance & Funding: The committee approved one request and tabled the following four. We are about to finish our budget; we have $1,834 left, but we are waiting for resubmission for $1,100. We closed our applications this afternoon. We are hopeful to expect money to be recouped from Denver Lynx Radio because we think that their licensing might not cost as much as the expenses were originally listed for. This would allow for the last items on our agenda to be approved. If not, we may come to Senate with additional legislation asking for money out of the operating budget to help accommodate what already made the agenda. We spent an hour today workshopping some pieces of legislation; you should see our conflict-of-interest legislation; I'd like to thank Lance for providing external resources. We also worked on additional legislation to impose budget caps for next year. We began to discuss a piece of legislation that surrounds a resolution to call upon the university to preserve the F&F and SGA budget for at least three fiscal years. This week's committee member is all of our members, I am proud of what we accomplished this year.
  3. Judicial: Thank you for passing the bill to ratify the election code. We are currently working on our transition documents. Officially, the university has hired a director for the Counseling Center. Dr. Matthew Heermann, who previously served as the assistant director of the counseling center at CU Boulder, will assume his new role with an official start date of May 6th.
  4. SACAB: My time was spent on Nourish Now, which was a good event. I also had two or three impromptu meetings with Advisor Dew. We had SACAB this morning, during which we discussed an amendment to the bylaws that we hope to present at the May ABOD meeting. There is an ABOD meeting next Wednesday at 8; please attend. I look forward to seeing you all if you do go. Next week, SACAB is busy, so if you have availability, please stop by at 10.
  5. SSRC: I have finished all the drafts for the endorsements except for the LGBTQ center due to some meetings happening with Tyrell, and I hope we get a new FRI soon. All the finished endorsements are in the SSRC channel, and I have organized them in a way that you have access to the resources I used to create the endorsements. I have attached a screenshot of what the SSRC website will look like. I am scheduling a meeting with some members of this Senate, with the help of Cade, to go through all the drafts and hopefully present them at the next Senate meeting before sending them to Jen St. Peters and all the respective departments.
  6. Ex Officio: I am seeking election support on April 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th. We have two voting stations: one in the North Classroom and the Tivoli station, which will be in conjunction with MSU and CCD. For Congress to Campus, I am looking for one more person to attend the lunch on April 16th. We have two former members of Congress attending: Democrat Loretta Sanchez from CA and Republican Dennis Ross from FL. Student Life has decided to host Grad Bash this year on May 3rd in the Terrace Room.

1. **General Business from the Floor:**
2. **Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn by Senator Augustyn, Seconded by Director Galloway
3. At 2:26 PM