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Senate Meeting

Friday, September 1st, 2023

Presiding Officer: Vice President Brooks

Minute Taker: Chief Justice Zabaleta

1. **Call to Order:** Call to Order at 1:05 PM
2. **Roll Call:** Roll Call complete at 1:08 PM
3. **Approval of Minutes from August 25th:** Motion to approve the Minutes by Senator Agarwal, Seconded by Representative Martinez
4. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion to adopt the Agenda by President Combs, Seconded by Senator Agarwal
5. **Public Comments:**
6. **New Business:** 
   1. Presentation from Student Survey Committee
      1. Doctor Beth Myers, Associate Vice Chancellor for academic planning and institutional effectiveness. Strategic plan project around investigating the strategy around surveying on campus. The goals for the survey strategy project are improve response rates and reliability of results, improve consistency on data sharing, identify resource investments and returns on surveys, ensure result transparency, improve intentionality, survey, and distribution practices. Last semester we needed to understand what surveys were being done on campus, asking for input from different academic units. We brought together faculty and staff to talk about that survey and categorize what do they think is the most important as it relates to surveying on campus.
      2. Senator Augustyn: What response rate do you get from student surveys?
      3. Dr. Myers: Our response rate varies widely depending on the survey and population. For campus wide surveys sent to all students, the response rate is between 5% and 30% or 40%, low on average. We must be cautious to assume that 5% is representative of all populations. Providing invectives improves response rates, in some types of surveys (i.e., research) incentives are not allowed because they can influence who takes the survey.
      4. Senator Burns: How do you communicate surveys with the student body?
      5. Dr. Myers: Often, we send them out via email with individualized Qualtrics links. It might be better to use other forms of communication based on feedback.
      6. Senator Burns: Tabling is a good opportunity to get the student body to care because email surveys are not very impactful.
      7. Senator Augustyn: Is there a timeline or number target for increasing general student survey response rate?
      8. Representative Sivakumaran: Apart from the turnout rate, are there any other pinpoints related to student surveys?
      9. Dr Myers: It is mostly the low engagement, there may be topics that people do not want to disclose.
      10. Advisor Gonzalez: What incentives do you provide or recommend for student surveys?
      11. Dr. Myers: Gift cards, raffles, sweatshirts, socks, coffee mugs with the CU Denver logo are effective incentives. In tabling, I have seen small incentives such as candy bars. I do not think that incentives combat fatigue, but they incentivize response rate. Some of the best practices to combat survey fatigue are shortening surveys and not asking questions that already have an answer to.
      12. Senator Burns: Could you provide numbers for survey response rates?
      13. Dr. Myers: We have dashboards for campus wide surveys. The Campus and Workplace Culture (CWC) Survey had a 21% overall response rate, we had higher response rate than recent surveys. This semester, we will be doing other polls, a smaller version of this survey.
      14. Motion to Suspend Minutes by Senator Burns, Seconded by Director Cosentino
      15. Motion to Suspend the Rules of the Floor, Seconded by President Combs
      16. Motion for 5-minute Recess by Representative Torres, Seconded by Representative Martinez
          1. At 1:39 PM
          2. Call to Order at 1:45 PM
      17. Motion to Readopt the Rules of the Floor by Senator Rodriguez, Seconded by Senator Augustyn
   2. SB 2023-24-06 CORA Allocation Fund
      1. **Presented by Senator Burns**
      2. Senator Augustyn: The Finance & Funding Committee reviewed and decided to recommend this legislation. Although we might not have an actual number, the estimate of $500 is an appropriate number for what the CORA Request might cost.
      3. Representative Lacey: Based on my research, it was an hourly charge of $33.48 so we only could have about 14 hours’ worth of request, and I am unsure if it is going to be enough. So, where are the information and rates coming from?
      4. Senator Burns: Under AHEC stipulations it is 0.25 cents a page and $25 dollars after the first hour. We hope with a narrowed scope it will not take too much time to produce but it depends on the information requested by this body. Also, we limit the amount of money from our budget because it comes from student fees. This follows F&F guidelines when it comes to presenting and setting aside money from the budget.
      5. Call to Question by Senator Rodriguez, Seconded by Senator Saoji
      6. Roll Call Vote: 16-0-0
         1. The Bill passed unanimous
7. **Updates:** 
   1. President
      1. Timesheets are due at 10 pm. Monday is Labor Day, do not work. Vice President Brooks and I along with the Trustee Representative from MSU were able to meet with Colleen Walker, the Chief Executive Officer of AHEC; the introduction meeting went well. We talked about building relationships with AHEC this year and improving communications as we are all on the same campus. Police 7029 has been signed by Chancellor Marks, now all registered student organizations get to come to SGA for funding. Last Saturday I was able to attend the Servicio de la Raza gala, one of the top nonprofit organizations in the community and I got to meet congressperson Joe Neguse. Vice President Brooks and I were able to attend a BLACXERA event, they are one of the student organizations from MSU. Looking forward to our Chair meeting after Senate. I will attend the Intercampus Student Forum (ICSF), it is a collaboration between all the CU Student Government executives. There is a Board of Regents meeting next week, Vice President Brooks and I will be in attendance. We have a meeting with Dr. Snowden, updates next week. I would like to remind everybody that we are truly following our Bylaws and Constitution that includes absences and tardies. If you have three or more unexcused absences or 5 or more excused absences, you will be subject to disciplinary action. This includes absences and tardies in your committee meetings, so Judicial will stay connected with committee chairs for reports.
   2. Vice President
      1. I have been talking to Cade about getting business cards for our Committee Chairs. We got the metal shelving removed today. We have been attending weekly Tri-Institutional meetings with MSU and CCD and are looking to appoint a chair to centralize our actions. Our other two institutions are looking to do collaborative events and want to connect with our senators so I will check some time to do meetups. Cade had a meeting with Chancellor Marks’ Chief of Staff to be in contact on where they are right now. We are looking to write an Executive Advisory Committee bill to form an Ad Hoc committee of executive advisors. Next senate is our First-generation senate, look forward for more updates.
   3. Chief of Staff: Absent
   4. Civics
      1. Debbie and Dago have publicly posted our reflection space form. We are working on drafting an article on MyLynx for an SGA page, that should help to get more purpose statements and actional steps for student organizations. We also got to visit the reflection space with Genia and other administrators in the basement of St. Cajetan’s and they brainstormed some ideas for the pilot space before deciding to invest. We also have a meeting with Genia on September 11th to get more updates, they will pilot the space this month once/if they get approval from AHEC. We got published on the Sentry article, I spoke with Omar, and they are looking forward to getting more information on us about where the student campus is. We are looking on the inner workings of AHEC and its systems, so the Bill we presented can be used responsibly.
   5. College Council
      1. CAM: I sat in with MISA and Denver Lynx Radio to talk about F&F guidelines and how to request funding from SGA. I am excited for Denver Lynx Radio; we have the department backing them up and the Recording Arts Studio trying to help them to find a space to get the studio up and running. I have a meeting with Sara, who is the assistant to the Dean, to discuss student advisory council. I had sent an email to our marketing within CAM to set up a MyLynx page for CAM as whole, but I have not received an answer. I attended some of the Director of Student Life panel this week.
      2. Business: I met with the Associative Dean and Chief of Staff of the business school; we discussed setting up an advisory council for the Dean. business school is interested in working and setting goals with SGA. They are concerned about the safety of faculty, staff, and students because of night classes, looking for safety measures. The Chief of Staff wants to conduct a survey of business school’s students and create an information gathering session. We have a meeting with student organizations within business school, along with an event called Student appreciation week to recognize students and make them feel included. I am trying to contact the Director of the Business Career Center to discuss Job opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students.
      3. Education: I had people responding to my emails, they stated that they are excited to work with me but when I try to schedule a meeting, I do not get a response. I have an email scheduled to send out Tuesday morning to all the administrators of the School of Education. I have a meeting on September 11th with one member of the faculty.
      4. CLAS: I sat in the director interviews for Student Life, as well as TRIO’s director interviews. I have not heard back from my Dean about the MyLynx page. I have been researching between professors and people who might be interested in being part of Success Looks Like Me so more students can reach out.
      5. SPA: We had discussion on Success Looks Like me this week; Joan Fishburn from the career center came to our College Council meeting, she is excited to work long-term with us and hosting these events depending on majors and areas of interest. We have the first Success Looks Like me event planned for October 3rd, specifically for Public Administration and Criminal Justice. I sat in some of the TRIO and Student Life interviews. I sent out emails to all students, I got some responses and people wanting to get involved. I created a Teams channel to reach and connect SPA students. We have our first speakers planned for our society’s meetings; we have the Lynx Connect office to talk about resources.
   6. Public Relations
      1. We officially changed the festival's name to the Multicultural Organizations fair on October 11th. The reason for the change is to motivate students to learn about the organizations and not only about the food; the goal is to be an educational and fun event. We are planning to use the Fall Fest to get the word out, Daphne is working on flyers and posters. I have been meeting with organizations to learn about the things they would want and like to see at the festival. I talked to the BIPOC alliance, and they offer to do a video of the event as well as the President talking about the organizations. I have a meeting with the Campus Activities team to see what we can do together. Also, the First-Generation and Multicultural (FaM) Business Program showed appreciation for the event and wanted to be part of it. I was part of the First-Generation admission committee, and they want to be there as well. I talked to Daphne about tracking students in and out and creating a check in QR code to get feedback after the event. Tatiana will be performing after the conference.
   7. Finance & Funding
      1. We looked over 5 requests, we approved 2 totaling $160.02, we tabled another one because we needed further information, and we tabled another two because we need to set up those presentations. Next week we will have the Costco membership legislation, a bill to allocate $100 to all student organizations. Also, a bill to put a stipulation on how much funding help SGA can give to student organizations’ conferences. Covering up to 40%, to balance with the rest of organizations on campus.
   8. Judicial: We discussed the two bills passed last senate and will be updating the bylaws to reflect that. We are working on excused absences guidelines to include in the absence form and in the bylaws. We will be reviewing transition documents, bylaws, and the Constitution to see where better language and legislation could be implemented.
   9. SACAB: Absent
   10. SSRC
       1. I met with Jen and Kelsi to discuss changes we are planning for SSRC.

We will be working on modifications to the RFI to make it more customized to each of the departments to include previous feedback. I created a general RFI to send out to other departments as well as the AVC’s for the meetings. I will send RFI to Jen and Kelsi for review. Jen and Kelsi proposed to create an SSRC website and add it to the CU Denver website to have access to the minutes, recording and the feedback we get.

* 1. Ex Officio
     1. First generation senate is next Friday. What are we going to do to make it meaningful? I would suggest passing a resolution supporting their attendance or suspending some rules on the floor. There is a First-generation retreat happening that day in the morning. After lunch, they will have breakout sessions, our senate happens to be one of them. Think of how we are going to deliver that next Friday. Fall fest is happening Wednesday September 20th, we will be working as an SGA table. We have two events on September 30th, first one Family Day on the downtown campus, they are looking for SGA support. At the medical campus, there is a high school to college transition event for Denver students, I would love representation from this body. We have $500 in the operating line from the budget, but I want to be accountable to the budget to know what line items are coming out from. F&F are reviewers, go to the committee to get feedback on internal budget matters. We received an email about the safety concerns, giving us a deadline of when the buildings on campus are going to be ID encoded; more details to come.
     2. President Combs: AHEC is starting a pilot on ID Badges for buildings, and it goes fully into effect October 2nd. Tivoli is completely open, all other buildings that have classrooms will be locked and you will have to use your ID to enter; they will have one door that is open for a limited window of time.
     3. Advisor Dew: Director of Student Life interviews concluded, there will be recording for you to give feedback. This person will set tone and culture for the CU Denver campus. Delegate to each other, do not be the sole person to carry an initiative, ask if you question.
  2. Motion to Reclaim Time by Senator Augustyn, Seconded by Senator Burns
  3. Finance and Funding
     1. Senator Saoji is our new Vice Chair for the Finance&Funding committee

1. **General Business from the Floor:**
   1. Representative Lacey: Has anything been decided about creating a resolution in response to the letter we discussed last senate?
   2. Senator Augustyn: There is nothing done this week, but we will work on it in the weeks after. We need time to recollect our thoughts after our discussion.
   3. Representative Torres: Would we like to have an open discussion about how welcome bash played out?
   4. Motion to Straw Poll in favor of keeping the discussion out of the minutes
      1. Straw Poll taken: No
2. **Adjournment:** 
   1. Motion to Adjourn by Senator Augustyn, Seconded by Senator Flores
      1. Adjourned at 2:43 PM