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Senate Meeting

Friday, March 8th, 2024

Presiding Officer: Vice President Brooks

Minute Taker: Chief Justice

1. **Call to Order:** Call to Order at 1:05 PM
2. **Roll Call:** Roll Call complete at 1:06 PM
3. **Approval of Minutes from March 1st:** Motion to Approve the Minutes from March 1st by Representative Mauro, Seconded by Senator Saoji
4. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion to Amend the Agenda to include a Strategic Plan presentation by Senator Burns, Seconded by Senator Rodriguez

Point of information from Director Sharma: Is there a specific reason why we are conducting updates before new business?

Vice President Brooks: There is not a specific reason, but it works more efficiently this way to get to our presentation at 2.

Motion to Adopt the Agenda by Senator Burns, Seconded by Representative Valdez

1. **Public Comment:**
2. **Updates:** 
   1. President: I volunteered at the Stop and Serve for Essentials on Monday, and we had an excellent turnout. I had a check-in meeting with Kelsi as well. On Wednesday, I attended the financial aid and scholarship advisory committee meeting; the new team is working hard to improve the financial aid office and ensure that students are served. This morning, I met with a few people from the CU system to plan the system gala. Your task is due tonight at 11:59 p.m.; if you need any extra information, it is available on Teams. Submissions received after the deadline will be considered a miss.
   2. Vice President: I went to the masterplan open house on Thursday. We are looking forward to another senate presentation and next week's SESS Leadership Transition meeting with Dan Maxey.
   3. Chief of Staff: I continued the executive's correspondence with the LGBTQ Resource Center, exploring ways to expand collaboration between offices and improve the services provided to students. I finalized several pieces of legislation addressing transparency issues, record accuracy, and the preservation of institutional knowledge. Attended the AHEC open house, with another one scheduled for Monday. A strategic meeting is set for Monday morning in the office to plan more detailed questions. Legislative updates include the State of the Union address last night—please familiarize yourself with the key points. In the state legislature, the appropriations bill was referred unamended to the Committee of the Whole. In the upcoming three weeks, pay attention to developments, as this bill will determine tuition increases and aid for next year. As we approach the end of our session, it is crucial to prioritize business and treat it with the same importance as other Senate matters. If you have legislative work or wish to recognize any social cause, now is the opportunity to propose legislation.
   4. Civics: We are preparing for our meeting with Victoria in the week of the 25th. I met with Cade to discuss the rest of the civics committee's role until April 12th, when we enter a transitional period. I attended the AHEC masterplan open house; I encourage everyone here to do the same to learn more about how it will affect the campus's future. You will see sign-up sheets for Nourish Now, which will take place the week of the 25th. The reflection space is open, and we are getting feedback and pushing communication.
   5. College Council:

CAP: I have been working on the advisory council, filling two positions, and figuring out how to increase interest.

CAM: I met with Kelsi and Addison about a request from Denver Lynx Radio, which is looking into becoming a university-sponsored student organization. We are trying to schedule a meeting to discuss logistics, how it would look, and other alternatives because they are rapidly growing and affecting the students. I will be meeting with Anthony and our finance team to explore what it will look like to consider them as student employees.

Business: Yesterday, the business school organized an event with United Airlines' former CEO. Senator Halember and I had the chance to attend. I am working with the business school's inactive groups to enhance their activity and reach. This week marks the end of the eight-week business school courses. On March 13th, we will be hosting an event called Breaking into Tech, which I encourage everyone in business school to attend.

CEDC: College of Engineering will hold its first student advisory council meeting right after Senate. In April, I was also invited to an Admitted Students Day faculty/student panel session.

SPA: Our staff members who are preparing the community service event did not meet this week. We are working on a grant application for materials for that. There will be a Pizza with a Professor event this week, involving faculty from both programs, which we believe will attract more students than splitting up by majors. It will also be cohosted with the other Honors Societies. I spoke with Cade about what the rest of the semester will look like for College Council. We are ready to give our college council presentations next Friday.

* 1. Public Relations: Next week, I will be focusing on election marketing, creating fliers, and posting them on social media. Please let me know if you need any marketing for Nourish Now, please let me know. I will make some stickers for the election; if you need anything for the elections, please let me know.
  2. Finance & Funding: We allocated approximately $1400 to student groups; the Asian Student Association has submitted an allocation request for $4800, which we have asked them to reduce to $2500. We are left with approximately $11000 for the coming month. April 5th is the deadline for student organizations to submit requests. We have voted on the Nourish Now endorsement, and you will receive more information about it soon.
  3. Judicial: We are working on an allocation bill for next week. Last week, there were two open forums for the two final candidates for Director of the Counseling Center. Genia has made her decision, and an offer was made to Dr. Matthew Heerman. I met with Kelsi to discuss elections and the opportunity to ratify the election code.
  4. SACAB: We had multiple meetings about the town hall. I met with Shaneis, the chief of staff of AHEC, and Carl. The town hall went well, and there will be another one next week on Monday from 12 to 1 in the multicultural lounge. Sigi's hub will have its grand opening on Wednesday from 3:30 to 6. Vice President Brooks or President Combs will deliver a speech. SACAB was this morning, and it seems like it was productive. today. We have added another CCD representative, so we are at full capacity.
  5. SSRC: I have been working on finishing the endorsements. I will complete the drafts on Monday. After spring break in the first or second senate, I will present them to the body for approval and distribution to Jen St Peters by April 12th. I have been working on adding a page to the SGA website and met with Kelsi to plan it out.
  6. Ex Officio: We have two volunteer opportunities for spring break. First, we will be volunteering with the Denver North Care Center, working with elderly folks. Although this facility may not be the best funded, there are plenty of spots available if you are interested. Feel free to reach out to either me or Jodyanna for more details—all the information is on MyLynx. Additionally, we have another volunteering opportunity with Ferret Dreams. If you are interested, Jodyanna has a fantastic presentation.

Ex Officio Gallegos: The commitment for Denver North Care is two hours every day, and for the other opportunity, it is from 10 AM to 2 PM on Friday, where you get to play with ferrets. If you choose to participate, there will be a celebration for you at Dave and Busters that includes unlimited food and games. Please RSVP by Monday, and these hours will count towards your leadership certificate.

Ex Officio Dew: Consider returning to the Senate by submitting your "declare to run" form. You have the flexibility to run for any position, but nothing is guaranteed. We have external applicants as well, so if you feel you have more to contribute, think about returning to the position you desire.

1. **New Business:**
2. Allocation Request for Civic Engagement Committee’s Food Nourish Now Project
3. Point of information by Senator Burns: Cesar is less mobile than usual; I believe he will be okay presenting from his chair.
4. President Combs: I propose amending the bill to include the year. In the future, the food pantry will be so good that we will not have to do Nourish Now, or it will be replaced by something else, like a finals boost.
5. Director Sharma: Are there any adjustments to the items you plan to purchase for the event based on previous Nourish Now?
6. Senator Rodriguez: We made some changes. We realized that our ramen supply would run out quickly, so we ordered more. We concentrated on providing students with more full meals rather than just chips. The Excel sheet on the Civics channel; if you have any concerns or input, please contact us and we will make modifications based on your feedback. We made it more equitable for students to receive substantial meals.
7. Representative Mauro: I have a question about the longevity of Nourish Now. I know that when Nourish Now first started, the intention was not to be a long-term event, but rather to be held only a few times. Are there any ideas or methods established by civics to ensure that Nourish Now does not become the solution to the ultimate goal?
8. Senator Rodriguez: Nourish Now is not our final solution; I have been working hard with Victoria Watson on the food pantry. Nourish Now provided a temporary solution to campus food insecurity. Nourish Now provides an excellent opportunity to engage with Student Government and raise awareness. Having it once a semester is probably what we will do.
9. Senator Burns: We are meeting with Victoria during the week of Nourish. Now, while she is not going to be involved and there are no current direct collaborations, we intend to educate ourselves on what the food pantry looks like and generate some long-term knowledge that future SGA can use to inform themselves on what plans and partnerships they want to form. The food pantry has come a long way, and it is critical that we first understand why certain items are in place when compared to the MSU food pantry. We intend to learn more about the food pantry so that the next SGA may determine the next steps in food insecurity.
10. President Combs: The thought process that I offer to next year's SGA is to have Nourish Now present and to use next year as a transitional period to learn about the food pantry while scaling down the event scope. Something that civics can use to stay regularly connected to the student body.
11. Friendly amendment by Representative Torres: change “contribute” to “contributing” in the second Whereas clause and add 2024.
12. Vote: 17-0-0
13. Representative Valdez: I am glad this event is happening again; it was a great project, and I am glad civics is continuing it. I would like to reiterate my support for President Combs' remark, transforming it. I noticed that all the food pantries are positive, which I believe is heading in the direction we want to see. As it happens, I like the idea of a finals boost. It would be a fantastic day for SGA and civics to stay connected with the students.
14. Motion to Call to Question by Representative Valdez, Seconded by Representative Torres
15. Roll Call Vote: 17-0-0
16. **The Bill PASSED**
17. Motion to Recces until 1:55 PM by Senator Burns, Seconded by Senator Rodriguez
18. Back at 1:58 PM
19. Strategic plan Presentation
20. Point of Personal Privilege by Representative Mauro: Can you speak up please?
21. Motion to Move into Committee of a Whole until 2:45 by Representative Mauro, Seconded by Senator Nahata
22. **General Business from the Floor:**

Ex Officio Dew: The Milo Awards are now live. It is the responsibility of SGA to nominate a campus partner whom we believe has gone above and beyond for our organization. Nominations can include yourself, someone else, student organizations, or events.

Ex Officio Spray: Nominations are due on the 18th by 11:59. All the necessary information is available on MyLynx. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jodyanna or me.

President Combs: Do we need to RSVP for the Milo Awards for you to know that we are there?

Ex Officio Spray: It is invite-only, and the actual event is reserved for the award winners. We have 30 awards, we will have individual certificates, and it will be a substantial event. If space opens for us to allow additional people, we will send out RSVPs.

President Combs: This morning, Advisor Dew posted the results from the censure. Please look at those. March Madness is getting ready to happen, I have created an SGA March Madness bracket. We will use this as an opportunity for bonding. There will be a formal team bonding event after spring break. Additionally, we are in the process of getting SGA jackets, so please inform Kelsi of the size you need. This year, we will have an SGA inauguration—a formal event. If we are serving our constituency and claiming to mirror our state and federal government, then we need to act accordingly. Details are coming, tentatively set for April 26th.

Senator Rodriguez: I strongly encourage everyone to attend the masterplan open house on Monday. I especially encourage returners to participate in the planning meeting. We need to ask them tougher questions this time. The more people we have there, the stronger our voices will be felt.

1. **Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn by Senator Agarwal, Seconded by Senator Rodriguez
2. Adjourned at 2:55 PM