



Associated Students of the University of Washington Senate Floor Minutes | Session XXVI

Date: November 5, 2019

Location: EXED 110

Called to order at approximately 5:00pm

APPROVAL OF THE SENATE AGENDA

Clara Coyote asks for amendments, additions, or deletions to the senate agenda. She says she has a few to make; first, she motions to remove Justin Camputaro and David Franz from forums today and replace that with an international student forum

Seconded

No objections

Clara Coyote motions to make the Legislative Agenda a Special Order of the Day; for folks who might not have followed, it was sent back from Board, so we need to take another look at it, so she would like to make it a Special Order of the Day under Forums

Seconded

No objections

Clara Coyote motions to move committee meetings under the Special Order of the Day. She says her logic is that we have a bill within the General Affairs committee that is time-sensitive and we are hoping to get it into second readings today

Seconded

No objections

Clara Coyote motions to move old business under committee meetings. She says her logic there is that hopefully the bill on medical excuse notes will have moved into second readings and may be able to pass by the end of the day

Seconded

No objections

Clara Coyote calls for any other amendments to the agenda

Edward Wei nominates himself for AAA Chair

Clara Coyote says she would like to point out that nominations will be opened once we get to that agenda item, however, it is okay to do it now. If there are any further nominations, she asks that people wait until we get to that agenda item

Evan Eggerud calls point of information, asks if the speaker intends to make AAA Chair elections after committee meetings

Clara Coyote says yes; we need committee meetings to happen then for that piece of legislation to pass out of committee meetings and into second readings in old business. She understands that that puts us in a bit of a bind in terms of AAA Chair elections.

Evan Eggerud moves to approve the agenda

Seconded

No objections

Passed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clara Coyote says that there is the Campus Climate Survey; that is the best way to give data to folks in positions of power. This is essentially the census of UW and it's so important that you fill that out. It closes November 8th. It does take a little bit of time, but that's because it's in-depth and asking specific questions. This is perhaps the biggest legacy you could have is giving some great data, so go fill out the Campus Climate Survey; if you google that, it will come up immediately. Clara Coyote calls for other announcements

Cooper Robertson says he wants to plug the volunteer.asuw.org website. He says there are still many wonderful volunteer opportunities for people within this body or to bring back to your constituents. They give people the opportunity to get some leadership experience.

Kelty Pierce says that this evening at 6:30—but you're welcome to go just after senate—congresswoman Pramila Jayapal will be having a town hall in Gowen 201.

Clara Coyote reminds senators that our vote at the end is what counts as your attendance, however Lukas Illa will be taking attendance throughout; she knows she'll be there after senate too

SPEAKER'S REPORT

Clara Coyote introduces herself. She says that due to scheduling conflicts, our next meeting will be at 5:30, so please write this down or take a picture. It's not 5—7, it's 5:30—7 in the same room. She welcomes the guests that we have today; it is so special to have a large group of guests with us who are our fellow community members and

students. One great part about senate meetings is that they are open to anybody, and it's a great reminder of our responsibility to everybody throughout campus, the U-District, and beyond. We are excited to hear from many of you folks at our international student forum. Furthermore, the senate internship applications close this Thursday, the 7th, so let's all mosey on over to the senate agenda; there is a link to internship applications, so pull that up and look at it. She wants as many of you to apply as are interested. There is a full description so you have an idea. It's just a few hours per week, and there are 2 types of interns, the internal and external interns, with different job requirements. We're looking for qualifications, but more than anything, we want passion, so she would love it if you start this application right now in senate; type your name in and you can finish up the application later. You can see there are just a few questions: why did you become a student senator, what past experience gave you the expertise to become a senate intern, and how could you strengthen your experience in senate by being an intern? It's pretty simple; it's only a few questions. We would love to have you, and you'll get to hang out with senate leadership a little bit more, and if you want to take our pretty sweet positions next year, a great way to figure out how to do that is by becoming our intern, so we would love it if you filled that out.

VICE SPEAKER'S REPORT

Bryn Sinclair says everything is still going along smoothly, handling things as they come. Again, they want to plug the internship application; we would love to have any of you work with us in the office. It's a great way to get involved and see the inner workings of ASUW and student senate. This week's Board report will be given by Sarah Shaklan in just a moment, as Bryn Sinclair was not at Board last week.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Lukas Illa introduces himself. He says it's been a rocky start, but because of our website being down, we have had to take attendance manually, and he really wants to stress using your name card or writing your own with sharpie. That brings him to his second point about sending out emails next week warning people if they are close to losing their voting rights for next quarter, because if you have three unexcused absences without proxies this quarter, you will not be able to vote next quarter or the rest of this quarter. There are a few people who are in the danger zone or who have already lost voting rights. You can also talk to him to remedy that, but if you don't communicate, there's nothing he can do. On a positive note, we're almost halfway through the week.

Clara Coyote says if you feel more comfortable talking to different members of leadership, please let us know; she would be happy to take your email if you say "I've had the worst month of my life, but I still want to be in senate," let her know, and we will make that accommodation. Next we have our Board report from the lovely Sarah Shaklan.

BOARD REPORT

Sarah Shaklan introduces herself and her position liaisoning to different communities on campus. At the Board meeting last Thursday, they spent most of their time talking about the Legislative Agenda, which will be discussed later. They also appointed quite a few people to different positions. They appointed Grady Thompson and Lorie Zullo to the Office of Inclusive Design Task Force, Robin Cheung to the HUB Board of Representatives, David Frantz as the EAC committee chair and Michael Sandquist as vice chair, and Leila as the MESC director. They allocated about \$3,000 to the Japanese Student Association for one of their events. At Board, they do a thing called "word on the street," so she'll do that now; it's from the Director of Campus Partnerships, Bianna. The UPASS Advisory Board is a super important position on campus this year; the price of the UPASS is going to increase or it won't be included within student tuition anymore, so it's important to have student voices on that board, and that

application will be open again. Also, the ROOTS shelter will be coming to Student Safety Advisory Board this week on Friday 2–3pm, and it's an open forum to discuss the new shelter that's going up on 19th Ave NE. They also have Humblefeast coming up on November 14th and the Legislative Reception on November 15th.

FORUMS

International Student Forum

Cooper Robertson introduces himself, says he is not coming to all of you as the Director of Internal Policy today, he is coming as a student. He is not an international student, but there are over 9,300 international students around us, making up almost 17% of our student population. Currently, there is not a dedicated entity in ASUW to advocate on behalf of the needs of international students, and he thinks this is something very important that needs to be discussed. Hopefully next week there will be a bill introduced for the Office of International Student Advocacy, Outreach, and Involvement; but he's not here to talk about himself, he's here to let international students have a voice and a platform, so he welcomes a few international students, Ziva and Bacha.

Bacha says good afternoon students, senate, and ASUW members. He introduces himself as an international student from Mongolia. He is here to talk about his experience as an international student and why it is important to him to establish an Office of International Student Advocacy, Outreach, and Involvement. Back in 2015, staff conducted the International and Multilingual Student Academic Survey, and it mentioned several issues such as discrimination, lack of diversity and global perspective, difficulty adjusting to new education environment, and highlighted other issues that international students face. As an international student, this study repeated what they already know. We are all college students who leave a piece of ourselves when we come to college, but imagine yourself as a freshman international student, having left your friends, family, pets, and all of your support system to adjust to this academic institution; this is reasonable, but at that point, issues of discrimination that he experienced in classes seemed minor compared to the issues that he had already been dealing with. A lot of the time, faculty members were oblivious to the issues he is exposed to, but he considered this the status quo of the institution. Examples of discrimination against international students can be seen by many people in this room. Take Student Legal Services, for example: only this year they hired a specialist for immigration to support international students. This new role opens opportunities for international students' issues and needs, but the main question is why it took so long for this role to be established. This is why we need the International Student Office. There is no entity in ASUW that advocates for international students. On this campus, students' voices do carry a lot of weight, but in order to make actual change, these concerns have to come from students and that's why this entity is really important because our voices drive many changes at UW. So what can the Office of International Student Advocacy, Outreach, and Involvement do for him? It would make it much easier for him to voice his concerns and to realize that his concerns are valid. From his cultural background, he does not treat faculty the same way domestic students may treat them. He would feel much more comfortable speaking to a fellow student whose job it is to collect these stories and present them to ASUW. More importantly, let's talk about the value we as UW students share in this room: diversity, inclusion, collaboration—words written on our school home page. These are the values of the institution, and it's up to us as students to help carry these out. Senators are in a unique position to make a positive, lasting impact at this institution, so think of your own legacy. So let's work together on this; there are so many people who are passionate about this. [He calls for international students in attendance to snap.] There's a lot of us who want this to happen, and it's not just a community of Chinese students or certain students, it's everyone, as you can see represented by their flags. Let's work together to do it smartly and with a sense of urgency.

Gloria Fu asks if the office will be similar to American Indian or Asian Student Commission

Cooper Robertson says that they recognize that international students are such a broad spectrum that there's not a way to have one commission handle all international students; it will be similar in goal to advocate for international students and to give international students programming and opportunities to feel more at home at UW

Gloria Fu asks if the office will be something to connect the different commissions

Cooper Robertson says no, the commissions are already connected through the JCC; this office's goal would be to provide a perspective for international students when asked. If someone were to ask what some of the needs of international students are and how could we address those, it would be the point of contact for students.

Florent Huang asks what the difference is between ISS and the International Student Office

A senator says he wants this commission to be student-oriented. ISS is faculty-oriented programming, which is just different from what the International Student Office is trying to achieve, which is student-to-student advocacy for campus involvement and inclusion. There is no entity within the ASUW that exists solely for international students, so this would connect that existing gap.

Clara Coyote says that R-26-3, which is about all this, is under New Business, so we will learn all about it when we are able to get to New Business. She reviews rules for second readings.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

LD-26-1

Spencer Lively says there are some amendments that Bryn Sinclair is pulling up now

Clara Coyote reminds students to raise their placards in order to make a statement. There are guests today who are able to make statements, but voting privileges are reserved for senators. She calls for amendments, deletions, or additions.

Nathan Mock asks if Board is allowed to make amendments

Clara Coyote says Board is able to suggest amendments. There are some folks from Board who are ready to suggest amendments today, but some of them don't seem to be here yet

Kiara DiAngelo says she is from Evergreen; she moves to add "Supporting the establishment of a state-wide Green New Deal to help address greenhouse emissions including those from public institutions of higher education."

Seconded

Camille Hattwig objects

Kiara DiAngelo says the issue of climate change impacts the majority of students, being young people. We have 12 years to address the climate crisis and we also have a supermajority in our state. We also have a governor who claimed that he's going to take the energy that he's mobilized on a national level to fight climate change and bring that to Washington State. She says we have support for developing a statewide green new deal, called the

“Evergreen New Deal,” that would be informed by young people and students to address climate and emissions throughout the state, and that would work to address emissions on campuses.

Camille Hattwig says she thinks it’s a great idea, but asks Spencer Lively whether this amendment is relevant enough to students

Spencer Lively says it definitely impacts students as a priority population, as young people will be here the longest and face the consequences of inaction on the issue. It is also referring to things that the institution is doing and ties in well with WashPIRG’s work in terms of renewable energy, so this would be at the state level as opposed to just UW; so yes, he thinks it’s fine.

Passes

Daniella Calasanz-Miño introduces herself, moves to add “menstrual product to be exempt from the state sales tax” under “Addressing Inequities”

Seconded

Sophie Carter calls point of personal privilege, asks Clara Coyote to continue to remind people to speak up in order to hear them for the minutes

Clara Coyote introduces Sophie Carter, reminds people to speak up, and says she will be reminding them to speak up throughout the meeting

Esaac Mazengia calls question of intent, asks the sponsor if this is relevant to the Legislative Agenda, as it is supposed to speak to student issues, while this is a statewide issue, so it affects students but also others.

Spencer Lively says he shared those thoughts at Board, but they still wanted to send back this recommendation. He still prefers the initial language that was passed previously, so if someone wants to recommend language that would incorporate both, such as “increasing access to menstrual products for students.” He would consider that language not germane to the document, and he brought that up at Board too.

Camille Hattwig objects

Daniella Calasanz-Miño says that this exact wording was in the 2016–2017 Legislative Agenda, so she asks why we would decide in 2016–2017 that this is relevant to specifically students and the general population and then all of a sudden in 2019–2020, it no longer is. So it has been passed through another Board and another Senate, and just like the Green New Deal, it does affect the general public but it also specifically affects students, specifically women as well as the LGBTQ community as well as people of lower socioeconomic status.

Camille Hattwig says it’s obviously an important issue, but she wants to defer to Spencer Lively’s judgement, as he’s the one who will be lobbying in Olympia, so if he finds the other wording more pertinent and impactful, specifically for helping students on this issue, she thinks that we should stick to the original language. She’s not sure why in 2016–2017 Board and Senate decided to pass it like this, but we should trust Spencer Lively’s judgement on this one.

Trevor Hunt asks whether the addition of this bullet point would injure Spencer Lively’s ability to lobby on what we previously said anyway; he asks if this will detract from the previous bullet point

Clara Coyote reminds people to refer to the sponsor as “the sponsor”

Spencer Lively says he thinks we should be mindful of the length of the document and not be adding language that we can't lobby on. It would not be a good use of space on the document.

Alece Stancin asks if this would be in addition to the bullet point above or replacing that point

Daniella Calasanz-Miño says it would be in addition

Evan Eggerud says that if the Green New Deal language affects students directly, then you can make the exact same argument that students are disproportionately poorer than the rest of the population on average, and this is a generally regressive tax, so students are more directly affected by the tax than the rest of the population, as we will be affected more by climate change than the average person in the population.

Bryn Sinclair moves the previous question

Seconded

No objections

Passes [32-19-8]

Spencer Lively says that he would consider these separate amendments to vote on because there are distinct topics for them per bullet point

Clara Coyote says that she wants to point out that if Spencer Lively wanted to make a motion to add five different amendments all at once if you'd like, or you can divide the question to vote on each separate thing if they refer to different topics, so we are going to vote on each separate thing that Spencer Lively proposes

Spencer Lively moves to add "funding tuition waivers for students enrolled in a federally recognized tribe"

Seconded

Gloria Fu objects

Spencer Lively defers time to Charles Atkins of Evergreen

Charles Adkins introduces himself as a tribe member, an Evergreen student, and the Vice President of Federal Affairs for WSA. He says the tuition waiver bill is something he has been working on for the past few sessions. The idea is to bring Washington in line with other states like Minnesota and Montana that already currently offer tuition waivers for tribe students, and the idea there is to bridge the inequity gap that a lot of tribal students face. A lot of tribes aren't able to give their kids money to go off to college; his tribe gave him about \$250 for college. He wants to make sure that we can bridge that attainment gap. Only 17% of Native Americans go on to do anything in postsecondary, including higher education, any kind of accreditation program, apprenticeship, or anything else. The next lowest is 60% for the African American community and 80% for the white population. This is a small step we can take to help bridge that gap and help Native American students to have the tools they need.

Gloria Fu says she agrees with this amendment; she asks if it would be better if we addressed institutions for higher education specifically or if would be covering students of all ages. She poses a friendly amendment to change "funding tuition waivers for students enrolled in a federally recognized tribe" to "funding tuition waivers for students enrolled in a federally recognized tribe and are currently enrolled in institutions of higher education"

Spencer Lively says he is confused as to the intent of the amendment

Bryn Sinclair says they want to clarify that this is specifically for university tuition waivers

Spencer Lively says he would take it as friendly to say “funding tuition waivers for students enrolled in a federally recognized tribe to attend public institutions of higher education”

Nathan Mock asks if this is for students enrolled in federally recognized tribes

Charles Adkins says yes

Stuart Heslor asks why it specifies federally recognized rather than both federally and state-recognized tribes

Charles Adkins says there’s federal dollars related to it but we can backfill some of the funding that is not there for state-recognized tribes. It is legal to discriminate currently in favor of American Indian students who are enrolled in a federally recognized tribe, which is not the case for state-recognized tribes.

Robin Cheung says he is a little confused about the current wording; he asks whether a student is enrolled in a tribe or are they enrolled in a university

Charles Adkins says both; federal enrollment status is when you’re born, you’re enrolled in a tribe if you meet what a tribe self-defines as what its membership is, so that’s termed “tribal enrollment.” That’s not an educational thing, that’s purely whether you have Indian blood.

Passed

Spencer Lively motions to strike “No longer requiring that state agencies give preferential treatment to the products of prison labor in purchasing” and replace with “Repealing RCW 72.60.100, recognizing incarcerated workers as employees”

Seconded

Clara Coyote asks Spencer Lively to clarify the purpose of that for folks

Spencer Lively says that this is language worked out addressing the nuances of the prison later thing going on right now through conversations with formerly incarcerated students just to make sure that the institution is promoting fair and legal practices—

Clara Coyote says she meant clarify “striking and replacing”; before he speaks to this motion, she will ask for any objections

Gloria Fu objects

Brianna Asman says regarding the language that we used last week, the United Students Against Sweatshops sent a letter to the president and in her response back she clarified that UW isn’t actually bound to the state law that requires state agencies to give preferential treatment; rather, the reason why UW contracts with correctional industries is because of the state competitive bidding system. That’s why we are trying to strike this language, because it’s not relevant to the UW, and instead repeal the law that says that incarcerated workers are not employees so therefore they are not subject to fair labor conditions, which would then go against UW’s code of conduct, so

that way we're arguing for UW to cut its ties with correctional industries and also advocate for fair labor standards for incarcerated workers because they would be treated as employees instead of a source of free labor.

Gloria Fu says she was confused about how this is related to higher education

Gabriel Symer says when they worked out this wording, they were thinking that it was linked to higher education and the UW because of UW's code of conduct, which essentially only concerns employees. When determining who to purchase goods from, only workers who are legally classified as employees are considered. If this RCW would be changed, the UW's code of conduct would take into account the working conditions of incarcerated laborers, which would affect the UW's purchasing policies

Robin Cheung moves to close debate

Seconded

Passes

Spencer Lively moves to strike "Expanding the scope of SB 5800 to provide support for a greater proportion of students experiencing housing instability" and add "Providing a one year waiver for On campus housing on a space available basis, support for students eligible for the College Bound Scholarship who had previously experienced homelessness" and "Expanding the scope of HB 1893 to provide monetary assistance to students of public four year institutions experiencing unforeseen emergencies that affect the students' ability to attend classes."

Seconded

Evan Eggerud calls point of information, asks why the sponsor only did one year as opposed to four

Spencer Lively defers to Charles Adkins

Charles Adkins says that to provide some background on the issue, this is a legislative bill for the past few years that he has been working on with Representative Hudgins. In previous years they tried to do all four years, but unfortunately public four-year institutions' representative group, the council of presidents, just opposed it at each step. Even with this "one year" language they are opposing it, saying that they will be losing revenue and will have to pay to get homeless students housing and they don't like that the state is not going to be providing the funding for it, so the one year is just there as a compromise measure

Alece Stancin calls point of information, asks whether the sponsor thinks this amendment will limit the scope of what Spencer Lively can lobby on in terms of housing instability because it is much more specific

Spencer Lively says they still have the top bullet point to cover more broadly if it comes up so that we don't have to do an entirely new legislative directive on something related to housing affordability.. It wouldn't impact that, but the previous language we had about SB-5800 isn't really applicable because it is a pilot program and it will be hard to expand; it's going to be expanded eventually anyway, whereas the first thing passed the House and is currently in the Senate and has a real possibility of passing this session, and the second one is regarding something that already passed but was only applicable to community colleges and technical colleges, whereas we want to expand that to four-years as well. So that's a more specific thing in there if a legislator comes and, say, they're in the state senate to our Legislative Reception, it would be clear that students support this. That's just a benefit of having it there, but it wouldn't impact his ability to lobby on housing instability writ large.

Kelty Pierce calls point of information, says the sponsor has stressed the importance of having a short Legislative Agenda, however he's also motioning to add multiple bullet points that were not brought to Legislative Steering and are now brought to this late stage of the game. She asks why that was the case.

Spencer Lively said things came up after Legislative Steering ends; steering ended four weeks ago and the point of having this body is to bring these questions to a larger body of students to deliberate on them. Ideally it would have been brought up in Legislative Steering, but things come up, so it's important to do it now while we can take advantage of having it in senate again rather than writing a new legislative directive and waiting two weeks for it to pass. Things come up that you can't anticipate; he wishes it came earlier than now, but it didn't.

Kelty Pierce asks why the Legislative Steering Committee ended so soon if there are other things he believes need to be debated

Spencer Lively says Legislative Steering is a body of only 10 members, whereas senate is currently 106. In general, it's better to have more diverse student opinion where we can share different ideas, even ones we disagree with, to put together an agenda that we can all support as a community. That is why he wanted to get it out of Legislative Steering so quickly; also, we are reaching the deadline for this agenda, so if it got out of Legislative Steering a week later, we would be pushing the date for our Legislative Reception, not even counting designing the pamphlet and program materials for the dinner as well as the printing, distributing, and shipping, which are all things they need to get done between Thursday, when hopefully this passes Board, and next Friday. So logistically, that's one reason, and value-wise that's the other. He believes senate is a more representative body than Legislative Steering Committee, which historically has taken way too long to get things out, which he knows from being on Legislative Steering Committee for the past two years

Mia Belting objects; asks if the waiver would be funding on-campus housing or just saying that the student does not have to pay for it. She says she is worried that if we are giving waivers, which she thinks is incredibly important especially because of how expensive housing is, that they are bumping up the rates for other residents, so she wants to make sure we take that into account before passing this.

Charles Adkins says the mechanism that they're using is specifically through any unreserved slots that a university may have. This bill would require the college to use any space left over to provide for homeless students' housing, as well as some extra provisions that require the college try to find housing accommodations for students over breaks. He says that his first winter break he was told that he needed \$700 to stay in Evergreen's housing, and he just didn't have that money, so eventually he found a friend to stay with. However, statewide, $\frac{1}{3}$ of their students leave for their first winter break and never come back because they can't afford housing. This bill ensures that we have housing for those nontraditional students.

Cooper Robertson poses friendly amendment to specify advocating for funding to be provided as opposed to having the university fund it

Robin Cheung calls point of personal privilege, says he's concerned he won't be able to see the screen in five minutes because the computer battery is getting low

Charles Adkins says one of the issues with saying that it is to provide funding for the waivers is that the waivers do not need to be funded, because it is homeless students getting housing that right now is not going to any student. We see a lot of universities now say that there is a financial impact, but that is because these empty dorms that we are trying to use for homeless students they have been trying to sell out to use for different conferences and events, so that is unbudgeted, extra money that they're getting, and they will talk about funding, but at the end of the day, this bill does not cost a dime.

Clara Coyote clarifies that this amendment was not taken as friendly

Shaheer Abbasi says here at UW, he knows that to sign up for housing on campus he has to have a dining plan. If students can't afford housing, is it fair to say that we will have to pay for their dining plan?

Charles Adkins says that under the wording, we are specifically saying that it's housing for homeless students who are recipients of the College Bound scholarship, which would cover the meal plan.

Tim Billings says he doesn't understand how this is relevant to UW, as UW is currently at 113% capacity, and the sponsor has said that this housing will go to students when it is not currently being used, and right now there's a lot of people still in temporary housing, so he does not believe this will apply to UW. The other sponsor just spoke about how this document needs to be shorter to be more effective, so for it to be relevant to UW's point of view, so he thinks they should strike that wording

Camille Hattwig says she disagrees with the previous point made because the point of this is that it will be made into state law, so if we were to have empty housing this would directly impact UW. This year, this would not directly impact UW, but in 5–10 years, it would potentially. This is getting at one of our most vulnerable populations; you've heard the statistics stated. We know that homeless students are significantly more likely to be queer, disabled, or students of color, so we need to consider this amendment. Also, Spencer Lively has clearly thought this through and thinks it's important enough to be included in this document.

Evan Eggerud says he believes we are now better able to reach the demand for housing because of the amount of housing built over the last few years, so he thinks that is less true. Secondly, this is specifically dealing with higher education students, so it does directly affect UW and its students.

Elizabeth Mayans says she knows the speaker mentioned winter break housing, asks if this is advocating for more dorms open during winter break for homeless students. The sponsor said that this bill wouldn't really cost anything, but the school has to pay RAs and people to staff those dorms.

Charles Adkins says it would just be at-cost janitorial costs. Overall they expect the cost to be very minimal, at most around \$72/week/student. This legislation affects only about 100 students statewide, so we're not talking about a lot of students.

Mia Belting would love to look into this idea. A big thing RCSA is trying to combat this year is the housing crisis; however, she does not feel that this body right now can look over every part of this bill. She would like to bring this back to the senate in the scope of HFS and make sure it wouldn't be increasing the price for everyone else who lives in the residence halls and that HFS could reasonably support this. She moves the previous question.

Seconded

Spencer Lively calls point of inquiry, asks if we're voting on the top bullet point or both bullet points

Clara Coyote clarifies that we are only voting on the first point and striking the old language

Passes [34-12-12]

Clara Coyote says the next motion is on the next bullet point down, "expanding the scope of HB-1893 to provide monetary assistance to students of public 4-year institutions experiencing unforeseen emergencies that affect the student's ability to attend classes"

Seconded

No objections

Passes

Spencer Lively clarifies that this is an expansion of a grant that only applied to CTCs

Daniella Calasanz-Miño moves to amend under “Promotion of Health and Wellness” add an amendment that says “taking specific action toward suicide prevention on higher education campuses”

Seconded

Spencer Lively objects

Daniella Calasanz-Miño says this bullet point is especially relevant to college students. People between the ages of 10 to 25 have an especially high rate of suicide, and all these people— she says she forgot to let people know that she will be talking a lot about suicide

Clara Coyote says folks are welcome to leave the room at any point; let your committee chair know and they will come out and get you. She will give people about a 45 second break.

Daniella Calasanz-Miño says this bullet point is especially relevant to college students because the age of high suicide rates is 10–25. And the majority commit suicide during droughts in health services, so I see we have a few bullet points about counselors and that is great but she thinks this should be in addition to all of that because it is especially relevant to college students, especially now.

Spencer Lively says the point of the structure of the Legislative Agenda is to have headers for everything that comes underneath them so that if they were to bring forward a bill regarding suicide prevention, that means he could work on that. That’s why that language there to give him the broad ability to lobby on things as they come up because it’s chaotic. Mental health and wellness is directly related to preventing suicide; that is the #1 reason to make sure students have access to counselors and other resources. People from Hall Health and UW counseling have told us that it’s about providing counselors, it’s also about supporting DRS, paying counselors more. When we do have more counselors, we have more outreach. WSU’s ratio of counselors to students is 1:1000; ours is 1:1755. That is the level of difference in our mental health institutions. Hall Health said that this was the #1 issue that that’s why this is on there. He asks if the sponsor has a specific proposal for “specific action for suicide prevention,” if she has a specific action she wants taken as opposed to what’s on there currently.

Daniella Calasanz-Miño says if you want to edit the language, that’s okay, but she wants language that addresses suicide prevention directly. Honestly, having that on there alleviates some of the stigma about talking about it. She understands that it does fall under mental health and wellness but she doesn’t think he understands that it’s separate. Yes, it’s amazing to have more counseling positions, but a lot of people who commit suicide don’t even reach out to those people, so having something specifically about suicide prevention is its own thing.

Camille Hattwig says that she thinks this is a super important issue, but she wants to push back on the idea that this is a comprehensive list of things impacting student mental health and wellness. Unless we are proposing a specific action she doesn’t think we should discuss it. She also thinks reducing stigma should be done through a different avenue, as this is a legally binding document. She will once again defer to Spencer Lively’s judgement and oppose this amendment.

Sophia D'atri says that she likes the idea of having a specific action; if there is a specific action that can be taken it would be beneficial to have it in here. She says she agrees with Camille Hattwig and Spencer Lively that having it as a vague statement doesn't really work

Camille Hattwig says unless we want to create some variety of statewide program, suicide prevention is better addressed at the university level to address the needs of its students, similar to not mandating how anyone's health services are run. So if you want to propose a statewide program, which we could do, she thinks this is something better addressed at the university level while providing funding and support from the state legislature

Kevin Mendez reminds everyone that this is the Legislative Agenda for ASUW and our student lobbyist is there to lobby on issues we all care about; these people were all elected and appointed as senators for a reason and he just wants to encourage you all to vote your opinion, and if you think this is an issue that should be included, please include it.

Reidan Cheung moves the previous question

Seconded

Fails [14-19-21]

A senator moves the previous question on the Legislative Agenda

Seconded

R-26-1 passes [56-0-1]

Spencer Lively says he only has so many hours in the day and he is very busy; he doesn't have the capacity to do all of these. He asks for volunteers to help him work on this to research these bills. If you have an interest in any of these policies, any help is welcome. Please help, because it is a lot and for him to do his job well, he needs to ask like 20 people to help with this work. He has cards, please take them, and he will be in the back if you want to talk to him afterward.

Trevor Hunt says he wants to remind the body that the Legislative Agenda has to go through Board this Thursday and if it does not pass it will be back in senate next Tuesday, so keep that in mind. The Legislative Reception is also on Friday, so keep that in mind as well.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Clara Coyote explains that if they pass this bill out of committee meetings, it will then go to second readings, where we get to hear from the chair of the committee about what the committee thought about it

Maddie Kopf-Patterson says they have no proposed amendments and have discharged this bill unanimously as favorable

OLD BUSINESS

R-26-2

Camille Hattwig says we heard this bill and there were no proposed amendments. This bill is time-sensitive because if we pass it today, Sam Akeyo will be taking this to one of the faculty councils next Tuesday. This is a specifically, narrowly tailored bill to address this specific issue, so if there were any recommendations to broaden it, she recommends saving those for another bill

Cooper Robertson says he trusts the judgement of the sponsor and the General Affairs committee. He moves the previous question.

Seconded

Madison Easley objects, proposes friendly amendment to add defining short term illness as “any illness that causes a student to miss school that requires a doctor’s note that does not fall under disability accommodations.” She says that in hall caucus they discussed what sort of things would fall under this bill and that they weren’t sure, so she thought adding this would give it more clarity

Bryn Sinclair asks where the senator would like this inserted

Clara Coyote says this would typically be a WHEREAS clause

Madison Easley accepts

Clara Coyote asks where she would like to put it in the scope of the bill

Madison Easley moves to strike “short-term illness” from the first THAT clause and add “defining short-term illness specifically as any illness that causes a student to miss school that requires a doctor’s note that does not fall under disability accommodations.”

Seconded

Sam Akeyo objects

Madison Easley says that in caucus they talked about whether mental health fell under this bill or whether a migraine condition or something like that, which is a long-term illness, however it does not require disability accommodations so it may fall under this bill but she doesn’t believe this is explicitly stated, so she wanted to add something that would encompass that.

Sam Akeyo says its not necessary for it to be predefined. We don’t want to be defining definitions of university policy to faculty. Additionally, we don’t want to sidetrack the faculty senate conversation.

Camille Hattwig says the other reason they left this undefined is that there are a number of barriers to accessing disability accommodations. It takes access and resources that many marginalized communities do not have, so this could help them as well. She thinks for both logistical purposes as well as for equity. She moves the previous question.

Seconded

No objections

Fails [17-35-4]

Mia Belting moves the previous question

Seconded

R-26-2 passes [49-0-2]

ADJOURNMENT

A senator moves to adjourn

Seconded

No objections

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm

Minutes prepared by Sophie C. Carter
Administrative Assistant to the ASUW Senate