

Senate Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2007
4:30 PM – HUB 310

Respectfully submitted by Senate Secretary Alex Gwozda

I. Call to Order (4:30 PM)

Hala Dillsi called the meeting to order at 4:38 PM.

Hala said **Rob McKenna** will be coming soon, and we will proceed through the agenda until then.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Jon Solomon moved to add OA-13-10 as item c under New Business, 1st readings.
Seconded. Without objection.

A senator moved to approve the agenda. *Seconded. Without objection.*

Chair's Report

Hala overviewed the meeting agenda as well as elections time limits sent in an email:

- 1) 1 minute introduction for each candidate;
- 2) 2 minutes for questions for each candidate running, i.e. if we have 5 candidates, there will be 10 minutes for questions, with a 30 second response time from each candidate; with one question from Steering and the any available questions from the floor;
- 3) 10 minutes discussion time for each position, after candidates have left the room.

Hala said Senate Steering meetings are planned to begin 10 minutes after Senate, and final meeting room will be 204F.

Hala said all legislation is due Tuesday because of this.

Chris asked if it should be done before committee meetings.

Hala said yes.

Hala said over spring break senate feedback forms were compiled, and people can ask her after Steering.

Hala said **Courtney** from the UW Alumni Association has a quick announcement.

Courtney Acitelli said she heard some worry over discontinuing a grant program, for which they were also interviewed in The Daily. She said it was just on hiatus. She said they were not integrating people into the Association, and not encouraging involvement with the Alumni Association, and would like to ensure that happens with the reinstatement of the grant program.

Courtney said the UWAA has supported the Pow-wow for 10 years, and that grant and other traditional events are still funded, but the individual RSO grants are not available this year. She said they are coming back next year.

Courtney said April 12th there is the Husky Career Lunch in the HUB East Ballroom.

Hala thanked **Courtney**.

Hala said we are privileged to have so many guest forums, and overviewed the spring's planned forums. She said Thursday, the 12th, there will be a focus group with the HUB architects.

Presidential Privilege (5 min)

Cullen said the Medal of Honor memorial project has over <<<\$12,000?>>> now, and they expect large gifts still coming. She said the Vision of Valor exhibit will open next Wednesday in Suzzallo-Allen library, which honors all Medal of Honor recipients.

Cullen said they have many designs submitted for the Husky Tee Design competition. He said applications for student regent are due April 13th.

III. Public Forum – Rob McKenna, Washington State Attorney General (30 min)

Hala introduced **Rob McKenna**.

Mr. McKenna said he was involved in ASUW for 5 years. He said it is one of the most effective student governments in the country, and has much more involvement and influence. He said there are historical reasons from the 1960's. He said then there was a great deal of student activism, which frightened administration with protests and demonstrations. He said UW administration tried more to involve the students more in the government of the university, at that time partly to placate students.

Mr. McKenna said when he joined ASUW he soon became a member of committees and other bodies with administration overseeing the University of Washington. He said students were not allowed on the budget committee. He said the provost ran the budget committee. He said when he became ASUW president he worked with the GPSS president to allow inclusion on the budget committee.

Mr. McKenna said the push for a Senate came from a student on the board of control originally from Washington State University. He congratulated us for being involved in the student government.

Mr. McKenna said when he was the ASUW president and other positions, he drew on leadership skills learned from when he started off being involved. He said he learned valuable lessons in dealing with media, including The Daily. He said he learned to work with The Daily as a valuable tool in getting opinions out about tuition and even hot dog prices. He advised being accessible, knowledgeable, and quotable when dealing with media. He said he has never thought of the media as an enemy, but they are just trying to do their job.

Mr. McKenna said he is the lawyer of the people of the state of Washington as attorney general. He said the UW has its own full-time lawyer.

Mr. McKenna overviewed a variety of initiatives and litigation his office does for the state, often involving health care, worker rights, and court cases. He said he hopes students keep his office in mind if they are interested in pursuing careers in law.

Andrew Everett asked about Davenport v. WEA. He asked what it was like to stand before nine people of significance, and **Andrew** asked his views on the issue.

Mr. McKenna said an individual sued because the union was using his contribution fee without getting permission, and he refused to join the union. He said his job was to argue to the Supreme Court that the state's law was in fact constitutional. He said it was most interesting when justices were arguing with each other through questions to him.

Kim Chung asked for successful campaign tips.

Mr. McKenna said for political campaigns the best way to learn is to get involved, not just take courses. He said campaigns are about messaging, communication, organization, and tactics. He said candidates running for office must know what the election is really about. He gave an example involving property taxes. He said for the presidential campaigns each will try to figure out what the next election is about.

Aditya Ganapathiraju asked his opinion on the current issue of attorneys being dismissed by the Federal Attorney General.

Mr. McKenna said that was a "FUBAR" as they would term it for a military action. He said the president can fire any US attorney for the government. He said they work closely with the US Attorney General's office often, so willingness to work together is important for many criminal cases among others. He said they are hurting now there are many unfilled positions.

Jon Solomon asked advice about students interested in studying law.

Mr. McKenna said many lawyers have a dark attitude about their job. He said he believes, instead, that the law is an important and noble profession, that can greatly help people solve problems. He said as an undergraduate study whatever a student wants, as it barely matters to law school admissions. He said it is important to do well in whatever you love. He advised studying hard for the LSAT. He said also law schools are now more interested in the overall involvement. He said if a student does not have involvement in the community and other extracurriculars, that is not attractive.

Melissa thanked him for working with ASUW and GPSS on the online voter registration. She said was researching landlord tenant laws recently, and saw that their office is sometimes listed as the contact person for a mediation resolution on landlord tenant laws.

Mr. McKenna said there is a landlord-tenant Protection Act. He said his office is not authorized to directly help with tenant rights, but can refer people to other organizations. He said this current legislative session, however, is considering authorizing his offices to provide services for RV mobile homes.

Jono asked his opinion about expanding student conduct code.

Mr. McKenna said the issues never really change in student government. He said student governments lack institutional memory. He said conduct code expansion gives the university more leverage where there are problems. He said the board of regents should tread very carefully, though, since there are difficulties with liability. He said both sides need to be carefully considered.

Shawn Fisher asked about politics in the attorney systems. He asked about how party support plays into decisions.

Mr. McKenna said all judges are elected. He said they have a tradition of not politicizing the Attorney General's office, and they try to just do the right thing. He said there will be philosophical differences about the law and how to interpret law. He said voters want to select their judicial officers, and one can quickly lose credibility if the person politicizes issues.

Nicolle Perisho asked about his most rewarding experience.

Mr. McKenna said he feels rewarded in helping people, including community service and nonprofits, by identifying problems and needs and coming up with solutions. He said he is happy every one of his bills so far this session has passed with bipartisan support, and derives motivation and satisfaction from accomplishment.

Hala asked how students can contact him.

Mr. McKenna said they can email at rob.mckenna@atg.wa.gov .

Board of Director's Report (5 min)

Sam demonstrated an ASUW Change project collection box. He said some members of the HUB steering committee went to other universities.

Sam said they liked the stain concrete, and they have an amazing board room that was high-tech and had daylight.

Sabrina said they had cameras connecting it to two other rooms.

Sam said architects will be on campus from April 10-14th . He said the schedule is not yet finalized.

Sam said ASUW Elections are approaching and encouraged students to talk with current directors.

Angelena Crown said the Sexual Assault Awareness (SARVA) week is approaching.

GPSS Report (5 min)

Yutaka Jono said the Law School Loan Repayment bill got revived and is awaiting the governor's signature.

Yutaka said two resolutions will be presented at GPSS Senate, one presented by Melissa Aar in support of the Pub in the HUB and also the ECC/T renovation and expansion.

Yutaka said April 27th is the deadline for Special Allocations funding.

Meet with Committees for Check-In and Placards (5 min)

Orders of the Day

Hala called the meeting to order again at 5:38 PM.

A. Nominations and Elections

Nominations for Student-Parent Service Taskforce

Erin Shields said it will talk about the possibility of creating a service for student parents. She said the meetings are set for Tuesdays prior to Senate as well as Friday. She said they will have a website.

Anna Zagelow nominated **Doug McManaway**. *Accepts.*

Chris Paredes nominated himself.

Shawn Fisher nominated **Nicolle Perisho**. *Declines.*

Jono Hanks nominated **Anna Zagelow**. *Declines.*

Nominations and Elections for the Student Regents Selection Committee

Travis Grandy nominated **Sabrina Fields** for not being afraid to give her opinion. *Accepts.*

Austin Young, **Kim Chung**, and **Shawn Fisher** withdrew their nominations.

Hala reminded senators of a 1 minute introduction for each candidate.

Rob Barnum-Reece said he believes he will be listening to job interviews and the major qualification is to be open to all sorts of potential candidates, someone that the students would want.

Chris Bruno said he is technically not a senator yet, but he would be very good because he is very judgmental in a good way.

Sabrina Fields said she is a first-year senator and sophomore. She said the student regent holds a lot of power. She said the student regent must understand not only being a student but the processes behind the scenes. She said she would like to have a forum. She said she is passionate about what she feels.

Hala asked what the top 3 qualities or traits most important for a student regent application are.

Sabrina said the student should be accessible and recognized by students, and someone who knows the inner workings of the university, and who knows what resources there are for students.

Chris said communication is most important.

Rob said the student regent also has to be stubborn, since the student may be the sole voice to many decision-makers.

Shawn Fisher asked what they think about our current regent.

Chris said he does not know about our current regent.

Rob said **Jenny** does not get much attention. He said that may be a good thing if we value behind-the-scenes work.

Sabrina said **Jenny Faubion** is doing a great job because **Sabrina** knows who she is, and she came to Senate about the legislative agenda.

Jono Hanks asked if it's more important to choose regents with clear positions already, or those who have no position of their own and take student opinions.

Rob said the student regent should be flexible and have some desire to represent students.

Sabrina said having a clear position would harm the role.

Chris said the student regent needs a balance between the student regent's ideas and representation.

John Stevens asked about their first or worst time at a job interview.

Sabrina said something.

Chris said he was a student grader at his community college, and the teacher actually came to him and offered it.

Rob said he served the selection committee for the RHSA director and the interviews were long and arduous, as were the decision-making processes. He said he knows how hard it is from the other side of the table.

Kim Chung asked if they have the time commitment available.

Chris said he planned to have plenty of time set aside.

Rob said he only has Senate as a prior commitment.

Sabrina said she would not stand up here if she did not have time. She said her schedule is pretty full but she knows she has time.

Hala said they would now each fill out their ballots and step outside during our 10 minute discussion period.

Melissa moved to eliminate discussion period. *Seconded. Objection.*

Hala said it is Instant Runoff Voting, and explained that.

Austin asked if discussion time can be shortened.

Hala said there are 11 members, including representatives from GPSS, SAB, RHSA, and others, with one from Senate.

Cullen gave membership details.

Division called on motion.

45-22-3 discussion period eliminated.

Candidates have returned.

Shawn Fisher removed himself from chair nominations.

Melissa Aar nominated **Doug McManaway** for chair. *Declines.*

Melissa Aar removed herself from chair nominations.

Stephanie Adler removed herself from chair nominations.

Alex Kim asked when there are only two candidates if paper ballots are still required.

Hala said yes, within our bylaws, as far as she knows.

Sameer Kanal said in debate before break he thought it was clear that Senate wanted opportunities to consider and submit recommendations for reform. He said people can come with problems and they can try to fix it. He said organic acts are stronger if worked on in conjunction.

Maggie McLaughlin said she is the research assistant of OGR and interim legislative coordinator and first-year senator, junior. She said she has no strong opinions about anything, so she would act as an unbiased chair and should be approachable.

Hala asked how they will prioritize all the possible amendments and bring them to committee and present them to Senate.

Maggie said as chair she would want to bring up everything and come up on a consensus with priorities within committee. She said she feels she would act as a liaison, so it is up to membership.

Sameer said the committee would be able to prioritize itself with time sensitivity and strength of vote.

John Stevens asked about previous leadership experience and mediation skills.

Sameer said he chaired the legislative steering and legislative planning committees. He said he has experience mediating informally as a friend.

Maggie said she has no official mediation training.

Alex Kim asked candidates to tell us two or three things that are not optimal about Senate and how to improve them, and how they each will make sure those opinions will not automatically become the committee's recommendation.

Maggie said is bothered by senators missing meetings, and people should want to be here. She said she sees that senators voted that this committee is necessary.

Sameer said he said he would make sure people get cut off with time limits as a recommendation, with time limits being instituted.

Kim Chung asked why they would both rather be chair than members of the committee.

Sameer said he would rather be the chair because he has a bunch of ideas and drafted many organic acts with other senators, and he wants to make sure others have the opportunity that he had. He said he wants to ensure this is an open, safe place to do that.

Maggie said she does not have strong opinions about Senate, that she would act as a great unbiased person.

Hala said **Mikhail** is looking up if we need ballots when two people are running.

Austin moved to limit discussion time to 5 minutes. *Seconded. Objection.*

Motion passes.

Chloe Ameh moved to eliminate discussion. *Seconded. Objection.*

Hala said we actually do not need ballots for two-person elections. She thanked **Alex Kim** for bringing that to their attention.

Debate not closed, 43-22-1.

Austin Young said she would favor **Maggie** because she is more unbiased, whereas Sameer has a lot of strong ideas coming in. He said **Maggie** would facilitate discussion better, as chair.

Bobby Stoumbos said **Sameer** would be a great addition as a member, but not as committee chair.

Nicolle Perisho said **Sameer** is biased but he is very willing to listen.

Kim Chung spoke in favor in **Sameer** because he gave a good answer to the question, and he was president of the model UN and was very good at that.

Hala said we currently do not have majority and it was an exact tie.

Austin asked if the chair decides.

Hala said yes, and she decides to abstain.

Jon moved to reopen discussion for 3 minutes. *Seconded. Objection.*

Penny Li asked why we are reopening discussion.

Hala said this motion is procedural and we should not have discussion on it.

Debate resumes.

Alex Minami said he agrees with **Austin** and the chair should be unbiased, and **Sameer** would have to work very hard at it.

Salil Mathur supported **Sameer** because the chair should be able to lead the committee, and he has the leadership skills more than Maggie in this case.

Tim Shigeta said **Sameer** came up with this committee and has a lot of ideas, and he doesn't think his ideas will impede his ability to be impartial in discussion.

Melissa Aar said she believes he does not make a great chair for committees because they're sometimes so much fun that things don't get done, and he should be on the committee but not as the chair.

John Stevens said **Maggie** should be the chair for the reasons already stated.

Nicolle said just because a person has an opinion that doesn't mean it will interfere. She said **Sameer** is very goal-oriented.

Holly Jones since he created the committee he might encourage a lot of change, whereas Maggie might be more open to the possibility as well that many things in committee are currently strong.

Chloe Ameh said bias and motivations for being chair are the issue, and she believes **Maggie** is more neutral. She said other members of the committee may be very passionate like **Sameer**.

Tim moved to extend discussion for 2 more minutes. *Seconded. Objection.*

Debate closed.

Hala announced **Maggie McLaughlin** as the Select Committee on Senate Reform chair.

Hala announced **Sabrina Fields** for the Student Regent Selection Committee.

Kim Chung asked about the time commitment for the committee.

Hala said the committee will meet at least once a week depending on the chair.

Tri Le nominated **David Kim**. *Accepts.*

Rob Barnum-Reece removed himself.

Alex Cutler removed himself.

Stephanie Adler removed herself.

Alex Minami nominated himself.

Penny Li nominated **Nicolle Perisho**. *Accepts.*

Travis Grandy asked about the procedure for candidates speaking.

Hala said there is a 1 minute introduction per candidate and questions as before.

Travis moved to limit introductions to 30 seconds. *Seconded. Objection.*

Motion passes, 40-12-4.

Kim Chung said she is a freshman and she has been a very devoted member of Senate. She said she would like to learn what people see need to be fixed.

Holly Jones said she is the RHTA head senator, and she wants to dedicate herself where there are flaws, though many things are strong.

Austin Young said he wants to learn a lot about Senate and he has many ideas for Senate and for the Senate Reform committee itself.

Tim Shigeta said he is a first-year student at the UW. He said he has enjoyed his first year in the Senate, and there are a couple minor things that we might fix. If Senate wants larger changes, he said he is open to that.

Nicolle Perisho said he is passionate about Senate and has some ideas to help everyone enjoy it a bit more.

Neil Rotta said he wants to be on because he has been concerned about the Senate legitimacy and viability. He said he wants to make it more efficient, respond to student concerns more efficiently.

Alex Minami said he is a first-year student and he has done this before, three times, in other clubs and organizations. He said they were in disarray and he was instrumental in fixing them, and he was the author of the bylaws of two of the clubs.

Shawn Fisher said he has been involved in student government for 7 years straight, and he knows the rules and bylaws and Sturgis.

David Kim said he is a second-year senator and he feels it is important to put in his input. He said he would like to participate in this way now.

Sameer said he has introduced himself already.

Hala asked what message of feedback they will use to incorporate student feedback and relay the information to Senate.

Alex said he is very available and he is also in Hall Caucus and word gets out from there as well.

Tim said he would like a committee forum with the Senate initially. He said he is very accessible through email. He said he would speak during chair reports.

Sameer said he has talked with most of the senators from different groups already.

Kim said it is most important to have one-on-one connections. She said she will be knowledgeable, accessible, and quotable.

Holly said she highly values the personal approach, for instance as the chair of Hall Caucus she asks people's feedback after those meetings.

Austin said feedback from committee to Senate should be through the chair.

David said he is on the Office of Minority Affairs Student Advisory Board, so he is used to being approachable.

Shawn said he would seek surveys, emails, questions, forums, anything to get feedback.

Neil said he is very accessible.

Nicolle said she would relay informally through herself and formally through the chair.

Gargi Chakraborti asked how they see themselves as being a team member of the committee.

Nicolle said she believes she is very good at listening.

Neil said he respects everyone's voice.

Shawn said he has been on too many committees, so he has a lot of teamwork experience, including through his extensive class work experience.

David said he would be a more relaxed listener, but give strong opinion when necessary.

Austin said to be a team player he needs to take and give criticism respectfully.

Holly said each person should be committed to preparing for the meeting.

Kim said no-one here would be a bad team member for the committee. She said she is running because she believes she would do a good job.

Sameer said each of his organic acts has a different list of cosponsors, and he works with a wide variety of people.

Tim said commitment, open-mindedness, and commitment are important, but also one needs to know when to do extra help and sacrifice for the good of the team, including when it's appropriate to put another's opinions in front of his own.

Alex said the most important thing is having an open mind. He said he has quite a bit of experience having his own strong opinions but recognizing the value of others' ideas when they are better.

Jono asked if they believe they should bring a polished recommendation or things to debate, to Senate.

Neil said what this body needs is to make something passable.

Shawn said it needs to be both.

David said there needs to be a balance of both.

Austin said their job is to produce a polished product, with some debate in Senate.

Holly said a polished product is necessary.

Kim said this committee is where we can talk about these issues.

Sameer said it should be neither, and it should be something that could reform Senate, and he doesn't care if it's controversial.

Tim said if there is something that alienates just 10% of senators, it needs to be explored.

Alex said he hopes they are able to come up with viable solutions, ideally a fine-tuned product, but he understands that might not be the case.

Nicolle said it's not about the product but about the process in this committee, eliciting debate.

Sabrina moved to end questions. *Seconded. Without objection.*

John Stevens asked for each to say their name.

Jon asked for each to also say their year and major.

Each said their name, year, and major before leaving.

Jon said he would like everyone to take note of people's years and how much experience they have in Senate. He said it is important to have both those with prior experience and those who are newer.

Doug McManaway moved to close discussion. *Seconded. Without objection.*

Doug moved to refer OA-13-7 (An Act to Reform Senate Officer Elections) and OA-13-6 (An Act to Further Strengthen Senate Legitimacy) to the Senate Reform committee. *Seconded. Objection.*

A senator moved to divide the question.

OA-13-7 is referred to the Senate Reform committee.

Yutaka Jono moved to rescind hasty action since there was no debate. *Seconded. Without objection. OA-13-7 no longer referred.*

Doug said it would give the committee something to work on and give us a helpful recommendation.

Melissa said people already know a lot about it, and she believes the point of the committee is dealing with new ideas.

Salil asked if OA-13-7 or OA-13-6 are time-sensitive.

Hala said OA-13-7 is.

Austin said it should go to this committee.

Jono said we should have OA-13-6, on second readings, continue through Senate. He said OA-13-7 we do not know much about.

Hala said OA-13-7 is on second week, but still on first readings so the sponsor could be with us.

Tim said OA-13-7 is time-sensitive because it deals with this year's elections.

Shawn said LD-13-3 needs to be worked on immediately, and we should continue.

Alex Kim said the OA's have already been considered heavily in Steering. He said he agrees the committee is for new ideas.

Doug moved to close debate. *Seconded. Without objection.*

Debate closed.

OA-13-7 is not sent to Senate Reform committee.

Sameer said there's no reason to send it back for another advisory opinion, and it's not deadlocked. He entertained a motion to close debate.

A senator moved to close debate.

OA-13-6 is not sent to Senate Reform committee.

Hala said our committee members are **Nicolle, Holly, Neil, Sameer,** and **Shawn,** and we need a runoff between **David Kim** and **Kim Chung** by placards.

David Kim is elected the 6th member.

Yutaka moved to place OA-13-7 on second readings, without proceeding to it. *Seconded. Without objection.*

Shawn said SB-13-1 is first.

Tim moved to adjourn with announcements. *Seconded. Objection.*

Matt York asked to hear more.

Shawn said we just need to go through SB-13-1 first readings this week so we can understand it for next week.

Tim said it's time-sensitive, but we should suspend the rules next week and go to second readings directly after first readings. He said not many people are here.

John Stevens asked if there is a forum.

Hala said **Ana Mari Cauce** is coming.

Hala said there appears to not be quorum in the room, but there is no need to officially call it, if we don't move forward with the agenda.

Erin said it's still possible to discuss items but not vote when there is quorum.

Yutaka asked if it's possible to have quorum with proxies.

Mikhail said there were 43 people in the last vote.

Sam asked if it will be able to move to second readings.

Mikhail said we just cannot debate or make decisions, and he read details from bylaws.

Sameer asked how many people we have purged from OA-13-6.

Charles said that has not passed yet.

Sam asked if there is a motion.

No objection to adjourning with announcements.

Announcements

Adjournment

Adjourned at 7:32 PM.