

STUDENT SENATE
April 8th, 2008
HUB-310

*Chaired by **Shawn Fisher**.
Minutes by and respectfully submitted by **Gerald Corporal**.*

I. Committee Meetings

Committees met in their respective locations to discuss legislation & other ASUW-business.

II. Call to Order

***Shawn Fisher** called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.*

III. Approval of the Agenda

Jono Hanks moved to add "Senate Bill 14-2 under R-14-17 as an item under A. New Business. This is the Senate Bill giving the Vice Chair a vote and he was asked to put it on there since it is time sensitive.

Seconded by **Neil Rotta** with no objections and it was added to the agenda.

Shawn entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

So-moved by **Natalie Bankson**.

Seconded by **Lydia Bylsma**.

IV. Chair's Report

*Presented by **Shawn Fisher**.*

Shawn yielded to **Tim Mensing**.

Tim came up and presented Pangea Day. He is the philanthropy chair for his fraternity Theta Xi and he wanted to show a trailer created for it. He said more information is available on Pangeaday.com.

Shawn said the Student Regent Selection Committee finished its work last work and the three finalists have been sent to the Governor. THE THREE FINALISTS ARE.... (get later). Shawn said that next week is the Senate Forum for elections. There are 29 candidates for two and a half hours of a meeting so that's about five minutes per person. He hopes that the meeting goes well and that the room is filled to capacity. Shawn thanked Gerald and Jon for filling in last week for himself and for Sameer. Brandon Webb is working on T-shirts and they should arrive two weeks from today.

VI. Orders of the Day

A. R-14-17 Resolution in Support of Public Financing of Political Campaigns

Matt Steele came up to read the legislation R-14-17. He said the intent was for it to be sent to legislatures so that they know that the student body is interested and in support of public financing.

Jeff Tone? Introduced himself and said that they are alumni of UW. This legislation would be helpful is because the Seattle City Council is contemplating on putting something on the ballot in November. He said he previously lived in Portland before he came here and they have a Public Financing Program. Seattle likes that program. How the program works is if someone wants to run for a certain office, they have to get certain signatures and dollar donations. The focus is on accessibility. Through public financing, it allows for more people to run for office: women, people of color, lower-waged people and younger people. It also changes the connection of special interests.

3rd person- said that Seattle is in a special time where there is a chance that public financing may be passed. In the past few years, cities and counties have been prevented from using public financing.

Neil asked if the public financing program puts regulations on candidates on how they can campaign and if it is a required program if instated.

3rd person said that in other places, it is an option program. It is up to the individual if they want to run a privately funded or publically funded campaign. This program encourages everyone to run a publically funded campaign and there will be ways to make sure that the public funds are not misused.

Yutaka Jono said he understood most of it but was confused that some of the elected positions will have to deal with large chunks of money, and if being able to raise money reflects the candidates. He rephrased by saying that being a part of the job is raising money, and this would reflect that.

3rd person said that it is hopefully to be connected to people who can help positions.

Sameer Kanal asked how this plays into primaries and parties.

3rd person said that the example in Portland is that a lot of candidates try to get this money, but there is relatively few people within the time frame to do what is necessary to receive that public funding. People attempt to qualify, and if they do, they get money for the primary.

Salil asked if it is possible for a candidate to be publically funded and receive contributions as well.

Jeff Tone? Said that is true to an extent. Certain rules apply where people can use some of their own money. Again, everything is voluntary with public financing.

Tim Shigeta asked if public financing would restrict donating to a person's own campaign.

3rd person said that would happen because of free speech issues. If people voluntarily agree to this program, they have to abide to the rules of that program.

Alex J moved to suspend rules and place it on second readings.

Seconded by ZBTs.

Objected by Jon Solomon.

Shawn asked if they consider it time sensitive.

3rd person said it is time sensitive in terms of the Seattle City Council meeting and discussing this, and having ASUW opinion would be great.

Senate voted 21-12-5 and the motion failed.

Sameer moved to close debate.

Seconded by **Gerald** with no objections.

SB-14-2 A Senate Bill Givin the Vice-Chair a Vote

Jono came up to read the legislation.

Tyler asked if it is passed for submissions for additions to the constituional ballots.

Ehsan Alesiz said they talked and the deadline has been passed for submitting this.

Shawn said that if this were to be passed, then it would go for next year's instead of being placed nex year.

Sameer said that Andrew Everett had specific text that he wanted to add in. If this were to be passed by the Senate and Board, Judicial would likely come back and say that it needs specific text.

Tyler suggested sending it back to committee to be cleaned up a little bit.

No one seconded and the motion failed.

Yutaka asked why the GPSS Secretary is singled out in the WHEREAS clause.

Jono said that according to Andrew Everett, GPSS is a parallel to ASUW.

Shawn closed first readings and SB-14-2 will be on second readings next week.

B. Old Business- Second Readings

OA-14-2

Shawn moved to dispense with readings.

Seconded by **Natalie** with no objections and the Senate moved to first phase.

Shawn entertained a motion to move on to the second round.

Sameer moved to amend the second THAT clause to add “and Senate’s position with ASUW

Seconded by Jono.

Objected by Jon Solomon.

Sameer said his rationale was that they talked about bylaws and rules and a lot of the issues they debate deal with Senate. He felt it would be necessary to look at Senate overall, and it was such a strongly worded clause.

Jon said he just wanted to hear the reason so he withdrew his objection.

Jono said with the third THAT clause, he moved to strike the word “and” and put in “who can”, striking the comma after proxy.

Shawn said that will be taken as friendly.

Sameer moved to close debate.

Seconded by M’liss Dewald with no objections.

Senate voted on OA-14-2 and it passed unanimously. Shawn said Steering will schedule elections for this in the future.

II. R-14-18 A Resolution Calling for Increased Support of Student Organizations

Shawn said that Senate is currently working on three WHEREAS clauses. He reminded everyone that there was quite a lengthy discussion last week and that will continue today.

Sameer made a trailing motion to amend the amendment to reflect the conversation he had with Jon Evans today. He said that he talked with Jon Evans, who submitted these amendments, and he had concerns. Sameer’s concern is that he wanted to make a broad amendment for RSO’s, where his excluded specific issues. Sameer wants to amend the amendment. He made the motion to amend the amendment as follows:

In the 1st WHEREAS clause, have a citation citing the Senate Minutes of February 26th of 2008.

The 3rd WHEREAS clause would not be struck and the words “lack of support” would be changed to “restrictions on support.”

The 4th THAT clause would say “all the aforementioned” would not be struck at all and have no changes at all.

The second to last THAT clause would be kept in, and after the comma would say “encouraged aid to these...”.

Seconded by Aditya Ganapathiraju.

Objected by M'liss.

M'liss said she doesn't understand why the last THAT clause is being taken out.

Tyler said the acronym against "turnaround" is KISS (keep it simple stupid). He asks why they are specifically listed, and only a few are being highlighted. To highlight just a few seems out of place when there are so many other RSO's that are just as important. It is fairly vague and does not have a lot of information. He also talked with Rene and research still has to be done if off-campus event funding is even allowed.

Sameer said in response to M'liss' concern, Jon and himself felt that if there was a taskforce, it should not be forwarded on until the results of the taskforce are final. In response to Tyler, its an amendment to the amendment to clarify the proposed change to make the proposed change clear. With regards to applicable state law, there are five places where restrictions can be made.

M'liss withdrew her objection.

Objected by Tyler.

Sameer continued by saying that there are places that are off campus that can be considered on campus or vice versa. There are events that are funded that only a few students attend but are important in the school's mission.

Eric Shellan asked if there was anything in the bill that talked about off-campus.

Sameer said that his amendment would have a clause that addresses that with the "aforementioned" clause.

Jon moved to close debate.

Seconded by M'liss.

Objected by Jono.

Senate voted and debate was closed. Senate then voted on the amendment to the amendment and it passed.

Alex J made an amendment to the amendment and restore all the clauses that have been crossed out. And add the changes to the THAT clause saying "with the purpose of informing, and not making a policy change".

Shawn said that the amendment was out of order because it would be dilatory, but he would take the second part of his amendment.

Seconded by Yutaka.

Objected by Ehsan.

Alex J said he believes that this taskforce should not be lookikng to inact something, but should present to the Senate and the BOD and not bring about policy change.

Ehsan yielded to Tyler.

Tyler said that policy changes are made by the Board of Directors. Student Senate is student opinion and they could make opinion on how policies should be made. The taskforce is a committee of the Board of Directors, so the presentation should be given to the BOD first.

Holly said she is also objecting to the amendment because there wouldn't be a point of a taskforce if they don't have the incentive of making changes on policy.

Buddy Waddington said the benefits of having the taskforce would expedite the process of getting work done and it could be comprised of senators if people are intersted in being a part of this amendment.

Tyler reminded everyone that Senate gets a liaison to every taskforce.

Yutaka moved to close debate.

Seconded by Aditya.

Senate voted against the motion and it failed.

Tyler said before this closes, he said it is important that the THAT clauses get stricken. Having a THAT clause saying that there should be increased support and he would like the legislation to be kept simple.

Austin Young moved to close debate.

Seconded by Aditya.

Objected by Sameer.

Senate voted in favor of closing debate. Senate then voted on the amendment. For the WHEREAS clause being edited passed. "WHEREAS VICE PROVOST"

“WHEREAS one of the primary”, motion was to remove. Senate voted 12-14-13 and the motion failed and it is not stricken.

WHEREAS the LACK” to be changed to “restriction”. Senate voted in favor of changing that.

THAT the Board of Directors be encouraged to form a taskforce...” Senate voted unanimously in keeping the legislation.

THAT the ASUW supports increased administrative funding...” Senate voted in favor of removing the THAT clause.

THAT the ASUW supports increased funding for RSO’s to be available...” Senate voted in favor of removing the amendment.

THAT this increase in the funds available...” Senate voted unanimously in removing it.

THAT the ASUW supports administrative support” Senate voted in favor of removing the clause.

Changing the THAT the ASUW supports and write the word “encourages” and “to” and Senate voted unanimously in changing the wording.

“THAT upon a passage, a copy” Senate voted unanimously in removing the clause.

Jono moved to strike the words “the aforementioned”.

Shawn said the motion would not be necessary and it would be changed to say “any”.

Tyler said with the WHEREAS clause “one of the primary” that was not stricken was is false. It should be changed to say “on campus or off campus” events. It is inaccurate.

Sameer moved to amend and had two parts: add a number 4 to the list that the taskforce would look at and to say “revisions and amendments to university policy and procedures” and strike the words “possible” in number 2 and 3. and the WHEREAS clause to say “it causes an undue burden upon RSO’s and RSO events to have the restriction to be eligible.”

Seconded by Buddy Waddington with no objections and the amendments passed.

Tyler said with the last THAT clause, it is worded vaguely. There was a policy decision by the BOD to be put on the ballot. The way this is worded, it could justify BOD’s decision to put that on there, where the BOD thought it wasn’t right to have it that way. This goes against that policy decision made this year.

Austin asked if Tyler could clarify some more.

Tyler said that SOURCE wants to help out all RSO's, and they came up with issues when it came to SAF. What the Board discussed was that the Board would try to work with them but the way the clause is made, contradicts what the Board is trying to do.

M'liss said that she thinks this Bill has been changed too much already. She said she has been here for five years, and this is the most she has ever heard a Board member speak at the meeting, especially the President. However, she hopes that the Senate comes up with their own opinion and not based on what the Board wants. She encourages everyone to talk, express opinion and what their constituents want and not what the Board wants.

Shawn wanted to highlight that Tyler is a full member and has those privileges of being a senator.

Tim Patry said he appreciates the input from the Board.

Buddy said he wanted to bring up a comment that Hala made last week in terms of Senate voicing themselves. The Taskforce being brought upon and he thinks it's a great idea if this is passed.

Chris Paredes wanted to remind everyone that the purpose of the bill is to create access to spaces. When doing this, access to spaces can be created. He wanted to remind everyone that this is a resolution as opposed to a Senate Bill. There has been talk for many years among the Board of Directors to look at this and not get caught up on the details.

Ehsan went back to the last THAT clause that Tyler was talking about. He doesn't see any references to the STAR system, it seems that this supports SOURCE and the idea for that. He yielded to Tyler.

Tyler said that the clause says the RSO's in support of funding groups, the problem he has with it is that it is vaguely worded.

Sabrina moved to close debate.

Objected by Sameer.

Senate voted in favor of keeping debate going on.

Austin said he wanted to echo what M'liss said and that the heart of this legislation is what is trying to get across. He thinks that Senate is committed to looking at ways of how RSO's can be funded.

Salil said with the last THAT clause, if it is read, it supports the efforts of students to support funding, that is something that Senate supports. It says that RSO's, including SOURCE as an example, it doesn't exclude other RSO's. He believes removing this clause or changing it too much would take away from the purpose of the legislation.

Jon moved to vote immediately.

Seconded by Tim Shigeta.

Objected by Yutaka.

Chris had a point of information if it was to vote on the entire legislation.

Jon said yes.

M'liss had a point of information with how many speakers are left.

Shawn said 4.

Jon asked how many are new.

Shawn said none.

Senate voted in 22-10-6 and debate was closed.

Tyler called for quorum. Sameer and Jon counted 47, where 40 is quorum.

Senate voted 34-0-9 and the legislation passed.

II. R-14-14 A Resolution in Support of the American Freedom Agenda Act of 2007

Tim Shigeta moved to suspend the rules and go on to Presidential Privilege.

Seconded by Lydia.

Objected by Yutaka.

Jon reminded everyone that no legislation will not be looked at because of the ASUW Candidate's forum.

Senate voted against moving on to Presidential Privilege.

Shawn entertained a motion to suspend with readings.

So-moved by Gerald.

Seconded by M'liss.

Aditya came up to speak on behalf of the legislation. He said he wanted to enter into the debate the common objection regarding one of the clauses with habeus corpus and the right to the Geneva Convention. He read a letter written by 43 retired admirals. They wrote this letter to Congress saying that this is the defining issue for America and should make it clear to US personnel that the US will not engage or use prisoners to uphold the Geneva Convention.

Jono had a point of order and said there was a minority opinion. Tim Patry had the minority opinion and yielded to him.

Tim said the main issue he had is that he doesn't think that this Senate Bill could ever be effective because it covers so many things. He thinks that separately, something could get done, but as it stands, he doesn't think there is anything that can be done to get things done. He agrees that there are some serious issues that need to be dealt with, but trying to get it all done at once is ambitious.

Alex J wanted to address the concern and he doesn't think that this is going to change the White House's policies, or if it was broken up. He does believe that it is Senate's civic duty to stand up and show Senate opinion and show what they believe in. If students believe this, then it should go forward.

Mikhail had a point of information and asked if someone could look into this Bill's status in Washington DC.

Tim P said another problem, is that this is an up or down vote. He thinks that in the debate that might be had, people may find that they disagree with some stuff. He has problems with a few of the clauses as well.

Shawn placed the readings on the second phase.

Ehsan moved to strike the last part of the THAT clause about kidnapping starting with "but allows".

Seconded by Alex J.

Objected by Mikhail.

Ehsan said he thinks that part of the bill is wrong, and it shouldn't be kidnapping but arresting and prosecuting where necessary. In his view, they are specifically endorsing that part of the bill, so senators should be aware of that.

Mikhail said he disagreed with that. He doesn't like that part of the Freedom Agenda Act, but if there is a bill like that, it can't simply be ignored and say the entire thing is supported.

Eric Shellan asked if this it was a summation or a part of the actual bill.

Aditya said it was a summation.

Kadey Kloetsch said she had the current status of the bill and it has not been moved since November 2nd, 2007 when it was placed in a committee.

Tim S echoed what Mikhail said and that it is a THAT clause. If Senate doesn't like what the Bill says, Senate can't just cut it out and pretend that it doesn't exist. If Senate doesn't support the clause, then that needs to be stated within the legislation.

Alex J said this isn't the exact way the bill was written. This is a summation, and he doesn't know why there is a THAT part in it, but he doesn't see anything wrong with striking it if Senate doesn't like it.

Eric Shellan said that anything could be included in there, but by striking it doesn't do anything to the bill but keeps the status quo the same.

Aditya said he doesn't like the wording or the incinuation and Senate shouldn't lose sight of what is important with the issue. The fact is that this is going to go on, and whatever Senate writes on this legislation or how it is sent forward probably won't do much, but he believes opinion should be stated and sent forward.

Austin moved to close debate.

Seconded by Yutaka with no objections.

Senate voted against the amendment and the motion failed.

Yutaka moved to vote immediately.

Seconded by M'liss.

Objected by Tim P.

Senate voted in favor of voting immediately. Senate then voted 31-3-5 and R-14-14 passed.

Shawn entertained a motion to proceed onto announcements.

Seconded by Buddy.

Objected by Austin.

Senate voted in favor of moving to announcements.

VII. Announcements

Neil said that he, Mikhail and Sameer went to a national MUN convention in New York City and won Distinguished Delegation.

Jon S said that Relay for Life is this weekend and everyone should get involved.

Jono said that Experimental College is hiring and those positions will be closed as soon as those positions are filled with applicants.

Shawn told everyone to get the word out about the forum next week.

Mikhail said that this is the last week to apply for the University Book Store Board of Directors. The benefits said they get to serve on the Board of Directors, get a 25% discount on everything at the BookStore.

Sameer urged everyone to start going to Caucus meetings and people should get involved.

Salil wanted to let everyone know that the head senator position for RHSA is open for next year.

VIII. Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 7:03 pm.