



Associated Students of Boise State University

Joint Meeting Minutes

10/26/2023 3:03PM-4:09PM

Location: Simplot Ballroom, Student Union Building

Zoom Meeting Link:

I. Call to Order - 3:03PM

II. Welcome

III. Attendance/Approval of Minutes

A. Absent: Tryphene Bulape Mishambo, Walker Jackson, Zachary Jorcyk, Madison Klundt, Kaiya Schmidt, Chiara Brancacio

B. Approval of 10/19/2023 Minutes

Approved by unanimous consent

IV. New Business

A. Angel Venegas: I work with a non-partisan and non profit organization out of DC that provides speakers and grants to students on campus. We are non partisan but work with more conservative students. We train students that help students land political jobs in Georgia and Texas. It's free—we pay for everything—and we offer free internships in DC as well. We have a media department now as well. We pay students to write about what's going on on campuses, so we pay students for journalism and can help you get a job in the media field. We also work with student governments and elections, so we can guide you with campaigns and help train you. Our big thing is training, talk to me and I can help you with the applications. I'll give you all business cards.

B. Provost John Buckwalter: One of the disadvantages of my position is that I don't get to interact with students often, I'm really looking forward to this. I'm sure you're all wiser than I was when I was in your position. My role here is to oversee the academic mission/part of the university. Each of you have majors in departments in colleges that report up from a dean...I sit over the deans and supervise all the academic departments. I have a lot of help including Kristin, my executive assistant. We are responsible for Academic Leadership and Faculty Affairs. Academic Planning and

Institutional Effectiveness is where we decide things like adding new majors. We're accredited by NWCCU. Depending on what major you're in, there may be different accreditation. This office also includes the reports we do for the state legislature. Community Engagement and Belonging: this is about finding ways to make sure we're serving all of our students. Our policy is: how does that affect different university faculty groups? Undergraduate Studies: as an incoming freshman/transfer student, you went through an enrollment process. There's an academic advising office within the provost for students who haven't decided what to major in. The UF classes also run through that portion. Center for Global Engagement: this helps with visas, passports, etc. Boise State, unlike other public institutions, is very dependent on tuition and fees to operate. At the University of Idaho, they get roughly \$12k per student compared to BSU's \$6k per student. 56% of our budget comes from our tuition and fees. Any undergraduate student enrolled in fall/spring pays \$50/semester for undergraduate advising. This fee was to enhance the level of service we are able to provide. We have some advice that is university level. Currently, we don't have advisors that can specifically advise students on how to get into law school, for example. There is now a process of interviewing the first pre-law advisor on campus. That is what we're using this money for. We will also use it for the Math Learning Center. The bulk of this money is actually going towards the colleges that the students are paying for. \$731,950 went to BSU's colleges this year. Based on student enrollment—who are paying the fees—the money is allocated to enhance the advising within those colleges. We've had more turnover in advising than I'm comfortable with. Some have high numbers they're advising, some aren't satisfied with the pay. That is what some of this money is helping. We have some money in reserve if issues come up, like if students need a refund. After we do this for a few years, I no longer want to have this 10% reserve. We advise the students that don't have majors, so we keep some of that money for university-wide initiatives, like the Honors College. 60% of the funds are going back to the colleges, which will be close to 70% a year or two from now. This is only for the fall semester, we'll get about the same amount in the spring. 100% of these funds will be used for advising activities. We are in the midst of implementing a new student success club, which will provide support to get these activities up and running. Because this money is so new, I can't point to specific things the funds are being spent on. I'd like to come back and give an account of where this money has been spent in the spring.

Silva: Why does BSU only get \$6k per student compared to \$12k for U of

I? Provost Buckwalter: This is because of historical reasons (BSU is a newer institution) and a lack of political pressure by students, as well as the 2008 recession. Dominik: Do colleges decide how to spend their portion of money? Buckwalter: They can propose to use the funds for what they need; I didn't want to dictate what they're allowed to do. I have required them to be explicit in what they're doing with this money so I can show you where their funds have gone. I looked at other schools...it's not uncommon to actually have college-specific fees. We tried to pick a number that was enough to make a difference but not too much to burden students. Ethan: If the Honors College were to make a request from that 30%, could it go towards the salary of a professor? Provost Buckwalter: It could. Chey: there's been miscommunication that's been trickling down about salary increases, and having to give 50% back. Buckwalter: We have a group working on this. Creating a career ladder with salary bands...the colleges are committed to looking at that to increase their salaries. It's an opportunity for professional advancement.

- C. Mia: I feel like we can all agree that there have been frustrations and a disconnect between the Senate and Assembly recently. Ethan and I met and concluded that this is because of a lack of interpersonal connection. It can be hard to find similarities when we are focused on policy and helping students. Ethan and I had the idea to step back from policy making after a shorter meeting and do a more informal meeting to focus on getting to know each other as people, not politicians. The hope is for next week, if we have a shorter agenda, to move to a more informal setting and do some more "team bonding" and getting to know each other and foster interpersonal connections and facilitate open discussion that allows everyone's opinions to be heard without putting anyone on the spot. This is to connect us with each other—there's at least another person in this room that shares the same values as you, even if you don't know it yet. I wanted to put that out there as something to look for in the future. Jason: Mia presented this to Exec on Monday where there was pretty much unanimous support. Kennedy: If the agenda is extended next week, we can still look forward into the future, right? Jason: Yes, I don't want this to be a one time thing. Ethan: Mia speaks for both of us, she did all the legwork to get a plan together. One way or another, I'd like to have food there—I might just buy something since there has been feedback that we're spending too much money on ourselves.
- D. Bill #2: Amelia: This is a continuation of the Ready for Kindergarten bill. I was out with Covid. We know that about 20% of college campuses are made up with student parents. Childcare and parent support drastically

helps with these students, which is what ASBSU is about. This bill is for \$15k, which would go to 60 students to help provide educational toolkits and childcare. This is not a solution to childcare, but it is a way to engage parents. I think of it as therapy—the skills you learn will continue for the rest of your life. This is with the Children's Center on campus, who will be leading workshops and providing childcare at the same time, who will be led by the director of the center. This program is successful all across the US. This is a way for BSU to reach out and build a bond with student parents and the Children's Center.

Hali: How long is the workshop going to be? Amelia: We'd have a 2 hour workshop once a month. There would be 3 workshops around math, english, and social skills.

Ethan: Did I hear you say that programs like this are shown to improve childcare/education? Amelia: Yes. This program was formed over 20 years ago and has research that shows that these efforts have positive effects later on in school. The skills learned significantly impact students and their children.

Katie: Why did you specify that it's for 60 parents? Amelia: We wanted to balance reaching out to students and the cost. Normally this program costs \$500 per seat, but we have a discounted cost of \$250 per parent. We want to be conscious of the budget, but we know there is a big demand at the children's center. There is a 1.5 year long waitlist for childcare. We could definitely fill those 60 seats. There is a much larger demand for childcare on campus, but this is a good step.

Ethan: Have we reached out to these students? Amelia: It's been an interesting balance between not promising people while also getting engagement, but we have talked to many student parents who have shown significant interest.

Olivia: Kalista noted this is taking up 75% of the Sponsored Projects section. Why should we spend so much money on just one bill? Amelia: The Sponsored Projects account has \$60k with a line item of \$20k for student projects. This budget is 75% of that line item, but 25% of the total budget. These line items are flexible, and money can be allocated differently later. More than 20% of students on campus are caretakers. This is reaching a quarter of these students at least. We are also already a quarter of the way through the school year.

Alexis: Is this for the whole year? Amelia: Yes. It would allow for two sessions to take place, from Nov-Feb and Jan-Apr. It would be for the full school year. It's acting as a pilot program, so if it's successful, we would discuss next steps to continue this program.

Makena: If the bill doesn't pass, are there other funding opportunities? Amelia: There are none that I know of. The Ready for Kindergarten Program works by seeking out grants and funding, like ASBSU, to fund this program. They've specifically reached out to ASBSU

to fund this program, knowing there aren't other places to get funds on campus. I want to show that this is a united front. Matt: Presuming this bill passes, there are 20 people per session? Amelia: These 30-person chunks will have 6 hours of instruction. Matt: You talk about the research that's been done for over 20 years—do we have evidence that indicates that this is beneficial to the university in the sense that these students are more likely to stay in university? Amelia: The US Department of Education found that student parents that had engagement strategies and access to childcare were significantly more likely to stay in college.

V. Senate

- A. Hali: I'm iffy on the cost. It's \$250 per person but I'd like to see how that's broken down. Is including things like lunches necessary? Makena: She brought up that there's a 1.5 year long waitlist. Why can't we delegate this money to the actual childcare issue? Stella: The bill states that these parents often experience poverty, so including lunch isn't a big ask. This is about the child. This bill will help parents get support. I've worked at the children's center, I've seen what they've done, and it promotes support for parents. If you don't support this bill, you're not supporting the 20% of student parents and their children. Angel: In the beginning, I was unsure of this bill because of budget and impact concerns. I think Amelia has done a great job of providing research that shows that there are clear developmental impacts. I think it's a good moral duty to be supporting these student parents. Ethan: I share a lot of concerns about cost, but I'm kind of where Angel is. I started out opposed to this, but Amelia has put a lot of effort in this. It's us or it's nothing. We didn't used to have the campus food pantry—we didn't used to have that, it started with ASBSU. If we show our support, the administration might look at it and expand this program. We're not going to be spending \$15k every year for this program—if we can show that ASBSU supports this, it would be a great idea. As far as I know, parents on the waitlist won't get their deposit back. Nick: Do you happen to have the total number of funds that we have for BSU? It's a great initiative, but it's a lot of money. This is only benefitting 60 people from Boise State. We have to consider if there are other things to spend money on. Bella: I would caution against saying that if you don't vote for this bill, you don't support parents. I'm concerned if it will meet the goal that's stated in the initiative. I'm concerned about dropout rates. This bill seems to be leaving out the student aspect of it, and just focusing on the "parent." I think there is inconsistency with the skills the parents will receive. The take-home is just free childcare when they're in that session, and at the end of it they get to take home puzzle pieces. If we're looking at

student support, we need to get more options available for the center itself and not this program. Mark: The children's center is completely different from the program. This program is \$40 per kid. That's not a lot of money. We just paid a lot of money for us to paint rocks, and we're worried about helping out 20% of the student population? It's not about breaking the program down to individual parents. Parents will spend quality time with their kids in this program. Everest: Is this for two batches of parents? Why can't we just start with 30 to begin with, see the response, and bring another bill in? Mark: It's the same cost as 60, because we got a good deal from the initial cost. It should already be \$500 per family. Beth Oppenheimer called me last night and said we were cut a really good deal—Amelia cut the deal. They offered us a one-time deal. I asked the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to get us more money, but they don't have any more money in their budget for it. If we show this is a great program, someone else might pick this up. We're a pilot project, that's why they gave us the bill. Ethan: We get around \$430k from student revenue—this bill is only 3% of that total budget. Admin has asked us for money for pretty asinine stuff. If we focus on what actually impacts students, we'll be okay. I've already talked with Amelia about rearranging funds. Angel: This bill specifically helps students with kids from 0-3 years old, so they can carry this throughout their whole lives. Nick motioned to end debate and move to voting by unanimous consent. Roll call vote.

Yes: 8 (Mark, Angel, Olivia, Adrian, Ethan, Gavin, Charlotte, Stella)

No: 2 (Joe, Nicholas)

Abstain: 4 (Bella, Makena, Hali, Everest)

Total: 14

Bill #2 passes in the Senate

VI. Assembly

- A. Bridget: This is a lot of money so are there more direct ways to help the parents? Amelia: The design of this program was to give parents tools. Alexis: What's your interest in this program if demand eclipses supply? Amelia: If that happens, then we'd like to reconsider to increase funding and make this a permanent resource. Kennedy: If we passed this bill, is there a way moving forward we could initiate childcare facilities or employees? I would love to pass this bill but I worry about student parents' access to childcare. Amelia: I totally understand and agree. This bill will help student parents in the meantime. Josie: I'd like to add that this is a great opportunity for student parents to make connections. Motion to end discussion and move to debate passed unanimously. Roll call vote.

Yes: 19

No: 0

Abstain: 4 (Alexander, Caden, Tori, Katie)

Total: 23

Bill #2 passes in the Assembly

- B. Maggie: I just want to remind everyone to take care of themselves. Also, Ian has something he wants to say so I'd like to give him the floor.
- C. Ian: I was hoping to give this to Joint but for anyone who hasn't met me, my name is Ian and I am the AVPSR. I served as a mediator between Ethan, Nathan, and Chey when the code was being written. I have mediated conversations amongst the Executive Cabinet about the non-confirmation of Nathan. We were unable to come to a decision and it was left ambiguous as to who held the office of AVPEA. The remainder of his statement can be found [here](#).
 - 1. Diego: Point of information. Currently ongoing Ethics Complaints should not be brought up in these Legislative spaces. Jack: Objection, Executive members cannot make motions without being recognized by Assembly members. Diego: I just feel that we should... Zane: Point of information, that was not a point of information. Diego: Ok, do whatever you want and face the consequences. If you want to burn it down then burn it down.
- D. Jack: I would like to make sure the minutes reflect that Max Harris was in the room present for this presentation.
- E. Josie: I would like to make a statement in favor of being generous with our empathy towards Diego. He is under a lot of pressure and has stepped up to a new position.
- F. Isaac: I would like to make you all aware that after further consideration, I rescinded my name from the ethics complaint.

VII. Announcements

- A. Kalista: Pre-Law society is hosting a dinner next Thursday at 6pm.
- B. Jason: I've convinced student governments from other Idaho universities to come down. 1:1s: I want to know how all of you are doing.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned - 4:09PM