

Committee on Democratic Civic Engagement

Senate of the Associated Students 88th Session
Minutes for Friday, February 19th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting: email Kate Torres at senatortorres@asun.unr.edu for more information

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Senator Torres called the Committee on Democratic Civic Engagement to order on Friday, February 19th, 2021, at 6:01 p.m. via Zoom Conference Call.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Senators Torres, Franzen, Priess, and Zullo.

Absence Excused: Senators Casildo-Rios, Magana, and Stanfill.

Tardy Unexcused: Senator Lambert.

A quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the time.

4. MINUTES

There were no minutes approved at the time.

5. REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Director Rangel was not present to deliver a report at the time.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion on the Legislative Priority Teams

- Senator Torres briefly outlined and discussed the legislative priorities and projects of the Committee.
- Senator Priess discussed her progress advancing English Language Learners/Translingualism legislation alongside Senators Franzen and Stanfill. She discussed her contact with the writing center as well as a recent draft of their legislation utilizing newly sanctioned research regarding the topic.
- Senator Franzen reported on her outreach to environmental organizations in her efforts to support legislation to increase recyclable and sustainable materials on campus.
- Senator Torres listed the committee's six legislative priorities for Senator Zullo, who had only recently joined the committee and was not assigned a topic.



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If you would like a copy of any of the agenda items listed, please contact Senator Torres at senatortorres@asun.unr.edu

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of a Vice-Chair

- **Nomination from Senator Franzen:** Nominated Senator Priess to the position of Vice-Chair of the Committee on Democratic Civic Engagement. Senator Priess accepted the nomination.

Senator Lambert entered the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

- Senator Torres closed the floor for nominations to the position of Vice-Chair of the Committee on Democratic Civic Engagement. The only nomination was Senator Priess.
- Senator Priess delivered a brief presentation in support of her nomination. She discussed her background and qualifications, highlighting her lengthy tenure on the committee and her role in planning a team bonding event for ASUN.
- **Question from Senator Franzen:** Asked how her experience on the committee has prepared her for the position of Vice-Chair
 - **Response from Senator Priess:** Discussed her prominence in holding events and advancing legislation passed in the senate during the session.
- **Question from Senator Lambert:** Asked what experiences in specific prepared her for the position.
 - **Response from Senator Priess:** Emphasized the collective past 10 months and discussed instances where “sharing her voice” have led her to take on more responsibility as a senator.
- **Question from Senator Zullo:** Asked if Senator Priess will be able to manage her position as Vice Chair on this committee while maintaining her positions on other committees.
 - **Response from Senator Priess:** Stated that she is only on one other committee, although her class schedule tends to be busy. She assured the committee that she will be able to manage her time effectively.

Senator Priess entered a breakout room at 6:17 p.m.

- Senator Torres closed the floor for questions and opened the floor for debate around the nomination. Senators Franzen, Lambert, and Zullo spoke in support of her nomination, highlighting her dedication to the committee, her track record, and her honesty.
- **Vote:** 3 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.
- **Resolved:** Motion carried.

Senator Priess entered the room at 6:20 p.m.

b. Discuss New Committee Collaborative Piece of Legislation

- Senator Torres outlined several ideas for legislation, which included a resolution in opposition to Governor Sisolak's recent 'Innovation Zones' proposal. Senators Franzen and Priess both expressed interest in collaborating with Senator Torres to write the resolution.

c. Team Bonding Event

- Senator Torres opened the floor for ideas regarding an in-person, socially-distanced committee bonding event.
- Senator Lambert proposed a bowling night, and Senators Franzen, Priess, and Torres concurred.
- Senator Torres moved to plan the specifics of the event in future emails and correspondence.

d. Senator Reports

- **Report of the Senator for the College of Education, Nicolina Priess**
 - Senator Priess reported on her work alongside fellow College of Education Senator Keller in starting an advisory board for the college, particularly regarding recent applicants to the proposed board. She also discussed plans for exit counseling and overviewed progress on various legislative goals.
- **Report of the Senator for the College of Business, Kendell Lambert**
 - Senator Lambert aired her concerns over rapid COVID-19 testing and shared details around her resolution in opposition to Yukka Mountain testing.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the time.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Torres adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m. via Zoom Conference Call.