

March 15, 2022 | Zoom Link

- 1. Welcome
- 2. Cabinet Election Results
- 3. SB004 Senate Election Overhaul
 - Discuss new edits

OW - i don't think we are going to pass these today but it is good to work on this. ST is in quarantine and they said that as DOE the only technicality that occurred was instead of running a major election at the beginning it is at the end. It is for the next class of senators not a big deal. We haven't established the timing of union reps. How do we want to address this are we addressing unions or another member by the spring should we wait until the fall that is the first thing. Next how do we deal with committee assignments, this may put the last three elected at a disadvantage. In the cabinet we talked about maybe not assigning them and having them work in general groups. Also we never established the beginning of the cabinet term, if it is day one that affects the number of people we need to present to vote on anything. If not all seats are filled. The three seats that rollover are open to the student body to vote.

IC - we do this in the spring to work with the newly elected, we are meeting this week and next week for SPAC because a majority of the executive board are seniors. That works for us really well. It is not as nerve wracking to start in the spring

OW - union or other orgs are less formal than senate. SPAC could email me tomorrow and I would just say ok, it is generally easier for unions, or orgs with representation in the senate to swap out. I am concerned if we ask for reps in the spring will we not get first years

AC - because of unions being informal I think we could senators over in the same way that we are doing it right now.

OW - what about committee assignments? Any thoughts. Committees cannot change appeals or funding until them. This year, you all acted as the finance committee, we can use the senate as a placeholder until the senate is full

AC - that is a good idea, a lot committee members are looking for more voters as well

OW - not only did we not have an active finance committee, the DOA could not even pick a meeting time because everyone had to make it if the senate acts in the place of other committees it gets confusing. We can shuffle them around

IB - doesn't it defeat the purpose of the bill to have senators fill in? Would it drastically matter that much, unless they are super passionate about one thing or another, if anyone is thrown on a random committee it would be a first year student

OW - i got to give y'all a little bit of an option, when i was a senator i was assigned to a vacant seat. It is still up to

shuffling. We do not have a consensus, do we want assignments?

Rocky - how much does it matter, they are still choosing blindly. I liked this in the cabinet, that this gives committee members a sense of what happens in other committees. Could be a good way to give exposure to other committees

IB - it is totally cool to choose committees in spring.

AC - in the constitution under the role of the vp committee assignments are up to the VP if they want to wait until fall

OW - it could vary based on what needs to be done. This year we needed a functioning finance committee. It is not binding. it depends on your availability and interests, but we could pass a bill and move you

Rocky - the way you want to do this affects the bills quorum. If we go the route deciding that senate acts on behalf of all of them the quorum of day one may be more important

AC - my understanding under this bill, is that 12 senators and union reps, does it account for senators who aren't elected yet?

OW - in the past we have not counted vacant seats. nSU is a vacant seat, we do not count that in the quorum.

AC - then this should function the same way and we would not count these vacant seats

OW - there are two vacant seats

AC - that would be a friendly amendment to the bill

OW - i dont think this is ready to be voted on right now, shall the entire cohort not be elected, to all continuing.

SC - i was going to give a speech on this, motion to amend the section four part

OW - i wanted to make a motion to table it

Second -

4. Brainstorm on Note Taking Reforms

- Bill in progress
- Discussion/brainstorming/feedback on note taking

OW - this is in progress, i was working on this with ET. We mentioned this in the past and tried this out in the cabinet today. CR takes minutes, senate minutes are available to the public. This bill makes it so that at the beginning of every meeting we vote to accept or deny the minutes. If we deny, we vote to an editing session and people can propose changes

SC - have we ever not been able to make amendments that could not be changed

Rocky - I go to almost every senate and cabinet meeting because something was missed or does not make sense. It is hard to capture every word, the reason

OW - we do not have full transcription, but who manages recordings and where would we store them and for how long and where do we publish them

MM - for the finance committee we just record for allocating for budgets. Verbatim style is really hard and it is impossible to copy word for word. We are moving away from that as a whole.

OW - something slight that is wrong, but we should not have discretion to change what the minutes say. If there is dispute over the minutes, then we can discuss. If someone said that but it is not what they meant, we can see how it was perceived to the group

SC - maybe i don't understand why, if i feel my voice is misrepresented, you can go in and suggest stuff on the document.

OW - that puts pressure on the notetaker. What if i said something that was inflammatory towards admin, i said that

it is not what i meant, i can say that isn't what i said. Bringing it into a group discussion, we also don't have a standard practice for it.

- ET 1. There is a problem that there is no standardized training, the way that notes are taken will not settle with everyone. This is an attempt to standardize it so that the notetaker's style does not have to try to appeal to everyone. When we are talking we tend to say bigger words and buzz words that as someone is writing they only catch. If you get into a heated argument there are some issues with the notes and heated discussions. We need a standardized way to record that so the notetaker is not responsible.
- OW when we publish things and someone gets upset, whose fault is it? If we approve meetings we are accountable for what was in them. Note Taking is involved in most bills and bylaws.
- AC I think we can just have one big bill for all of it.
- OW next year senate and the notetaker could be different. Just because CR does it this way doesn't mean the next will

5. Land Acknowledgement Check-In?

- https://indigenousnh.com/land-acknowledgement/
- OW no one engaged with me in the documents.
- SC I have been looking into decol lately. I found a website from NH that gives ideas of how to acknowledge the land without sugarcoating the history. We want to bring hope and inspiration to people to make change and move forward.
- OW I want to give people a few minutes to look through it and you can find the parts that resonate with you. Does anyone have any ideas/thoughts moving forward
- LB there is an article at the bottom saying that we should view this as more than a symbolic gesture
- SC something important in this article is that land acknowledgements must be respectful and give action to take after the acknowledgement. Land acknowledgements if done right are hopefully going to get people in the mindset to make change and recognizing that you are on that land according to them is pretty important.
- OW acknowledgement is important even if it is a first step it begins a critical discussion
- LB if it is a scripted one, it becomes embedded and loses value. Maybe introducing a new land acknowledgement every week, acknowledging more than the land and the people, the cultures, and much more to make it more intrapersonal. It should not be a lets read this and get on with the meeting,
- SC i just thought we should talk about it a bit more
- ET I wonder if it depends on the space and what we hope to gain/think we are losing with a land acknowledgement as the senate space. We are not the ones to decide for a land acknowledgement in all spaces, just our own
- IB you're exactly right, why are we doing an acknowledgement in the first place. Honestly I don't know. I am the farthest demographic away from understanding. What can a white guy do or know?
- OW I hadn't heard of them before I came here. I thought that we did it at LC because it was Lewis and Clark. I am very thankful I was exposed to that, I wonder if that allowed me to see it in a more censored way.
- AC what are we hoping the outcome of this conversation will be?
- OW this is what we are reading now, a group of students wrote this. First, do we want a land acknowledgement and if we do what do we want it to say. That is the question.
- ET Similarly, I have never been in a space where we read a LA. Obviously there are a few reasons for that. When I first came to the senate and read the land acknowledgement I didn't know the names of the tribes whose land we were on. To that extent, at least the first time it lets you know where you are being so out of touch with it is the problem we are trying to solve. Even if it gives some recognition of what's going on that is all you can do. We can just do our best within the systemic problems that exist
- OW when I read a lot of these documents, some say to stop giving land acknowledgments and start giving money or land. We cannot give money or land, we aren't allowed to make donations and we do not control the school. What is within our scope? It sounds like we want exposure and to continue a land acknowledgement.

SC - I think that if we keep the LA, the current one needs a lot of work. It says we are on this land but does not say what else we can do to go further. We should come up with a list to add on to it, what we can do to help these people given the space we are in, what have we benefited from. We need a list of stuff, the website has a list, we should make a list of what we want acknowledged here.

OW - i don't think i should be the one to write it, i think we should all participate.

ET - not to run the risk of argument in senate, but i wonder if we as there is not indigenous representation in the room, are we the ones to write it? There is a template that Sam shared that was made with indigenous people? Would that be more beneficial?

LB - should we write it or not? If we had someone indigenous do it for us we aren't doing the research or looking into what we can do.

OW - i think it can be a combination, we can use resources and templates and fill in personal details

SC - we can tie this into local tribes in the community, what do they want in our land acknowledgements, would reaching out be beneficial? We do not want to ask them to educate us but researching would be beneficial.

OW - it sounds like at least now we want to continue using a LA. What I can do is do some research to come up with alternatives/suggestions. I need other people to also engage in this. Next time we have a discussion can we work on something?

6. Allocations Coming Up!

o Early April

OW - either the 1st or 2nd week of april. As the senate, we will vote on the overall budget. Right now the student orgs on campus are submitting budgets for next year. The finance committee, JS and NR (& more) vote to approve/deny budgets. They vote on every budget with around 500k. Fluctuates on enrollment and students abroad. We vote by april 17th. We all have biases in what we see as valuable, we do not want to fund inappropriately, if you want to be a part of this email me it is super important. One of the biggest roles.

Rocky - you make the decisions, you can recommend to the senate and be a part of important decisions.

OW - every club comes up with a max and minimum. There is always a buffer. 2020 we left a 15% buffer and gave them 15% less money then we said we would, we thought everyone would defer. Also how much can we overallocate? You will get a spreadsheet of max mins and budgets that we will approve/reject. If you want to be more involved let me know. This is one of the most important things to influence the student experience.

7. 🌈 Community Updates 🌈

5 more senate meetings! Spend your outreach \$\$!

Ow - You each have outreach money! You can combine, give money to the rose garden. Last year we put together CAB to do an end of the year event. Last year we had a lawn party. You could have a table and give out donuts from senators, it is not hard!

Rocky - people have been really creative and we have asked the residence halls what students have to say. It is really loose.

OW - you could have a pizza night in your residence hall! An end of the year gift! Give everyone something for the end of the school year

No meeting next week: Spring Break!

Events!! See below:

OW - the peer collective summit - this is for ASB members! It is free. Also tomorrow from 9-1 spring break bake sale to fund student travel to DC for spring break

MH - march 30th is the SPAC forum at 5pm Wednesday after SB. director of SRR and campus safety.

OW - the bus stop, no chase policy... anything you want to ask about

SC - last week I asked you to DM me if you are interested in working on it with me. There are only a few weeks left of the year, make sure to dm me if you're interested.









