

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
2465 Campus Road, Campus Center Room 211A  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

Executive Committee Meeting #3 of the 105<sup>th</sup> Senate  
Tuesday, June 20th, 2017

**OPENING**  
**Call to Order**

President Dela Cruz called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM in CC 310.

**Roll Call**

Present:	President Dela Cruz, Vice President Urasaki, Secretary Ruan, Senator-at-Large Lao, Senators Finau, Hortizuela, Ng [7]
Excused Absent:	Senators-at-Large Leval, Honda [2]
Unexcused Absent:	[0]
Excused Late:	[0]
Unexcused Late:	Senator Utashiro [1]
Excused Early Departure:	[0]
Unexcused Early Departure:	[0]
On Leave:	Treasurer Hinshaw, Senator-at-Large Chen, Senator Arenivas [3]
Advisor:	Advisor Manini [1]
Guests:	[0]

**Reading and Approval of Minutes**

**a. EMM #2, 105th Senate - June 7th, 2017**

<i>SAL Lao</i>	Move to accept the reading and approval of minutes for EMM#2 for the 105th Senate.
<i>VP Urasaki</i>	Second.

<i>SAL Lao</i>	Move to correct all grammatical, typographical, formatting, and Hawaiian diacritical mark errors.
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<i>Senator Finau</i>	Second. Motion carries.
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Motion carries.

**Official Correspondence**

**a. Billy Meinke, Open Educational Resources (OER) Technologist, UH Mānoa Outreach College- Dean's  
Office**

<i>Billy Meinke</i>	I'm Billy Meinke and I do the Open Education Resources, and we are focusing on textbooks. I have a small presentation for you in which I will make the case on why textbooks need to change, and what we are doing about it. Does the cost of textbooks affect you at all? Yes of course, it actually affects us more than we thought. There was a survey done of 22,000 students down in Florida, about textbooks and the behavior behind
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buying them and not buying them. What they found is that students take fewer courses, don't register for specific courses, they drop or withdraw because of the cost of the textbooks. Raise your hand if you skipped buying a book. Yes, sometimes a class will assign 5 books and you buy only 3 or 4. You might just borrow or share that last book. Another survey said that  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the students forwent buying a book knowing that their grades will suffer. So what we wanted to know is if that was affecting the students here, because who we care about is you guys, the undergraduate population. My counterpart sent out a survey to the undergraduate population, in which 450 of you responded about textbook and material in courses.  $\frac{4}{5}$  of you said that you have recently skipped buying a book,  $\frac{2}{3}$  said you did it knowing that it would hurt your performance in your class, and  $\frac{1}{5}$  of you said you spend at least \$400 a semester on books. Most of the books in science classes here at about \$300. When it comes to textbooks here at Mānoa, I am your person, I am your advocate. We are here to learn, and we shouldn't have those barriers. The increase in the price of textbooks have out-paced everything, including the rate of inflation by 4 times. Its because of a couple things, and one of those things is that you guys are in a captive market. What that means is that the publisher who's creating those textbooks would call up your professor and say hey, we are going to give you a free copy of the book and all you have to do is assign it to your students. It doesn't cost your professors anything and sometimes they fly the professors out for training as a sort of thank you for assigning \$40,000 of books to your students. You guys are captors and you have no say in it. The big picture here is that you guys know who Pearson is? They are 1 of 5 that control 90% of the market. When you buy the book, you get a version that will be out of date very soon and you can't sell it back for much. You don't always use the entire book, and you often have homework access codes that disappear and there's no selling back stuff like that. Part of my job here, is to do an analysis of the 50 highest enrolled classes here are and what the associated cost of textbooks are. When I did that for Fall 2016, if every student of those courses bought the book at full price, it would run about 2 million dollars per semester. \$134 is the average cost of materials, but we know that some would require more if you have to add on access codes and stuff like that. It is a solvable problem, we have something called the OER. They are textbooks that free, and there are also textbooks that come with a reuse rights. If you have a OER right you could always hold on-to it, make a copy, change the content, or share it. We got the department of physics and astronomy to switch to an OER textbook, so Physics 151 and 152. Over the last year it's been over \$132,000 in savings for those classes alone. What we are doing is identifying which courses have the highest cost in textbooks and figure how to persuade our Professors to move to an OER. My background is in technology, so I am trying to set up software to make it easier for Professors to make their own courses and books. Because you can change the content in it, Professors can actually find the textbook they need and adapt it to what they want. We are not the only ones who to do OER, MIT was actually the biggest ones to do that. They've release 15,000 courses online for free, and actually drew more people to them. There are many courses that already have open textbooks, like the psych and soc classes. OpenStacks from Rice University have come up with textbooks that look good, feel good, and you can order a print copy for \$50 or you read online totally free. There is also another group called BC Campus that are actively finding open textbooks and developing them to put them out there, so instructors don't really have an excuse not to do this.

Some tasks, if your professors use OER's let me, I know about some, but I need to know so that I can help them and promote what they are doing. Many instructors and students do not know about OERs, so it is kind of an awareness thing. Last month, Outreach College put \$50,000 for instructors to adopt OERs. ASUH has already shown formal support for OER, so there are two things that I would like you to help me with. One, I have been talking to members of the faculty senate, and I would really want ASUH to help prepare and propose a resolution to be passed by faculty senate in support of OER. If students supported things like a resolution will carry a lot of weight because you guys pay the bills here, so what you think and support will be a huge boost for this. I will be working with others to pitch OER to all the Deans of the colleges by the end of August.

*SAL Lao*

I would be willing to help out however I can in bringing conversations about OERs to the Deans, colleges and faculty members.

*President Dela Cruz*  
*Billy Meinke*

We will also ask our other senators not here about showing support for this. Great! This could lead to ongoing savings of textbooks for many semesters to come. Do you guys have a graphic designer on hand? I have a lot talking points and data points that would nice to have a little infographic on, especially when I meet with the Dean's counsel. It could also be tweaked a bit to be handed out to the students. It would be huge if some students can come to tell their stories when I present to the Dean, such as needing money for gas or to feed their families. For now, I will keep in contact with all of you through emails!

## **REPORTS**

### **Executive** **President**

#### a. Emails

*President Dela Cruz*

In my most recent email I sent you all a google doc to fill out, it's a timeline of potential or tentative events that we're planning in our committees so that we don't have dates that clash together, and to give our graphic designer time to create designs for those events. There are deadlines for each of the months for the events, so that we can advertise as early as possible. I also included an attachment regarding the UH Board of Regents directives that they had for UH Mānoa to this agenda.

#### b. Meeting with GSO (Graduate Student Organization)

*President Dela Cruz*

Yesterday me and Chase got to meet with Taylor, the President of the GSO and their Vice President Hannah, in order to better understand each other better and see if we could work together on any priorities that we have in common with each other on for the year. The importance of that is so that we could strengthen the student voice here at the school. We talked about possibly having a GSO and ASUH mixer, to talk to each other more.

*Advisor Manini*

I think it's great that you all are collaborating on shared issues, but you have to always remember that the most important thing is that everything you do always benefit the Undergraduate students here.

#### c. UHM Welcome Celebration: "Welina Mānoa: And the Adventure Begins"

*President Dela Cruz*

I was contacted by the Vice Chancellor of the student office, who said that members of the Chancellor's office, Vice Chancellors and other Deans in UH decided to organize a Welcome Celebration on the first day of school. I'm not sure if this was something that was done before, they are seeking that ASUH work with the Vice Chancellor for students to see how we could get more student attendance at the event, mainly for undergraduates. It's going to be around 3:30-6:30 pm. It will be a food truck event and alongside it, a resource fair with RIO's, entertainment, services department and colleges table. The first meeting was today so I'm not sure if things are still tentative, but for now I will be representing ASUH in terms of planning for this event. I have kept Campus Life and Externals Chair in the loop, since the event is important in promoting ASUH and planning events. The event will be called "Welina Mānoa, And the Adventure Begins". It will take place around the Campus Center area and are planning to have the program at Andrew's Amphitheater, the service fair around Legacy Path and Correa Road, and the food trucks will be between those two areas.

#### d. Legislation & Agenda Items Deadline: Fridays, 5 pm

*President Dela Cruz*

Just a reminder that the Legislation & Agenda Items Deadline is Fridays at 5 pm.

#### e. General Senate Meeting: June 28, 2017 (6 pm, CC 310)

*President Dela Cruz*

The next General Senate Meeting is June 28th at 6 pm, in CC 310.

**Vice President**

**a. Senator Orientation & Chair and Vice Chair Workshop**

*VP Urasaki*

The Chair and Vice Chair Workshop will be on Friday, June 30th from 4 to 6 pm. We will be only going over the rules and responsibilities of Chairs and Vice Chairs, Robert's rules of order, and how to run meetings. I wanted to also to do some strategic planning for your committees; so short term goals for the semester or the next months, and long term goals for what you want your committee to get started on that could potentially go into next year and the year after that. I will be sending an email by the end of the week with more information.

**Treasurer**

**Secretary**

*Secretary Ruan*

No report.

**Administrative**

1. Advisor
2. Operations Manager

**Judicial Branch**

**Standing Committees**

**Campus Life**

*Chairperson Finau*

As an update, we are still in discussion but the Homecoming date will be on Friday, October 13th. The only thing different with this Homecoming is that there won't be a volleyball game right after, which was how they got a majority of people to come. The football game will be the day after, so as an idea we were thinking about possibly giving away ASUH promotional items away to one bus that goes to the game. We will also be finalizing the dates for the fall term events.

**Elections**

*Chairperson Utashiro*

No report.

**External Affairs**

*Vice Chair Utashiro*

Please check your emails, everyone on the committee should've received 2 emails from Chair Leval and everyone on senate should have an email as well.

**Finance**

**Internal Affairs**

*Chairperson Lao*

Had first meeting with my committee today. I provided a brief overview of Internal Affairs, campus wide committees, and rule revisions. We planned out our first steps in how we would do those things, and I'm having my committee read the rules by our next meeting. Before that, I hope to get in touch with some campus administration and last year's delegates for campus wide committees.

**Investments and Long Range Planning**

*Advisor Manini*

We are now at the point where it looks like the agreement will be signed off, because the UH Vice President's finance and business side has signed off on it. Now we just need either the ASUH President or Treasurer to sign off on it as well. He may have it looked over one last time, so hopefully it'll be signed by the end of this month which is also the end of the fiscal year. As soon as it's transferred to Greystone and it has control of all the money, let's be in touch so that the advisors and committee could build a relationship. It is important that everyone else knows about this because the portfolio is where the bulk of your budget comes from.

**Student Affairs**

**Undergraduate Academic Affairs**

Vice Chair Hortizuela      No report.

**SPECIAL ORDERS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OPEN FORUM**

*Senator Finau*

*President Dela Cruz*

Do you know when the budget will be passed?

We've just received the draft today, the budget will go through the next Exec meeting.

**CLOSING**

**Adjournment**

*SAL Lao*

*Senator Utashiro*

Motion to Adjourn

Second.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Peiqi "Kelly" Ruan  
Secretary, 105<sup>th</sup> Senate