

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

Executive Committee Meeting #16 of the 108th Senate
Wednesday, January 27th, 2021
Zoom

OPENING
Call to Order

President Albano called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM on Zoom.

Roll Call

Present:	[8]	President Albano Secretary Gogue SAL: Anuszevska, Kaeo Senator: Chua, Crowell, Pierce, Renteria
Excused Absent:	[1]	Senator Columbres
Unexcused Absent:	[1]	Interim Treasurer Saari
Excused Late:	[1]	Senator Keim
Unexcused Late:	[2]	Vice President Kim, Senator Hokama-Paris
Excused Early Departure:	[0]	
Unexcused Early Departure:	[0]	
On Leave:	[0]	
Advisor:	[1]	Advisor Manini
Guests:	[0]	

Reading and Approval of Minutes

a. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes #15, 108th Senate - January 11th, 2020

Senator Renteria Motion to accept the reading of Executive Committee Minutes #15 of the 108th Senate.

Senator Keim Second.
Vote was unanimously in favor; Motion carries.

Senator Crowell Motion to approve Executive Committee Minutes #15 of the 108th Senate.

SAL Anuszevska Second.

APPROVED BY THE 108THY SENATE THE 10TH OF FEBRUARY 2021

*Vote was unanimously in favor; Motion carries.
The minutes of Executive Committee Meeting #15 with amendments was approved.*

Official Correspondence

REPORTS

Executive President

February BOR Meeting Campus Report

President Albano

I sent you folks a draft of the slides that I'm planning to use. You'll notice it is really brief. The reason for that is that we were asked to give three to four minutes each because it is not just ASUH presenting. GSO, the faculty senate, and other people from UH Mānoa will be giving updates just about things happening in the organization to the Board of Regents meeting on February 18th. The deadline to submit material is tomorrow, so I wanted to share with you folks to get any kind of feedback. It is really brief. Three to four minutes goes by quickly, and I know it is kind of a bit of a time crunch because some organizations may speak more than others. But I basically wanted to share about things that we've done so far, and that we're planning to do this semester like ad-hoc committees and things we are doing right now. Does anyone have any suggestions on things I could add or make changes to before I send this to the Provost's Office tomorrow?

Senator Renteria

It looks good.

President Albano

Thank you Senator Renteria.

Proposed Phase 2 Administrative Reorganization

President Albano

The survey that we sent out to obtain student feedback has closed now. Basically what I did was try to compile the feedback that we received into a memo that I will be sending to Provost Bruno with ASUH's feedback. We did only receive a few responses like less than ten, so what I did is obviously incorporate that. The draft memo that I currently sent you folks is really short, and I myself took quite a bit of time to look through it. You'll notice even with the things I said that it is more like things are being renamed and placed under different offices as they are being renamed. In addition to a creation of a Mānoa Cares Office which deals with diversity inclusion on a macro level, and also the Office of Institutional Equity and Title IX to help set up our students with civil rights issues and academic and formal grievances.

You'll notice in the document I sent you folks. I might change the wording about this, but I incorporated some of the feedback that students gave into this draft memo. One thing that I kind of wanted to emphasize is that there were positions swept from the legislature from the CSCD Office. I know that mental health has been a priority in ASUH not just in the past but especially now more than ever with the pandemic and economic crisis we are enduring. It is important that we continue to emphasize that that is still a priority, so I kind of put a little piece that I put in just to urge administration to consider that mental health and student health always be a priority in considering all of these administrative reorgs. Of all the things happening in the proposed reorg, if it does happen, all of the resources are readily available to students and easily acceptable whether it is online or in person. You can see here and it kind of just incorporated things.

I also wanted to emphasize that on this feedback, the office of the Ombudsperson is supposed to be removed and those duties are being shifted to the Office of Institutional Equity and Title IX. Basically I emphasized that with confidential advocates for students, there would be effective training for both informal conflict resolution situations and formal grievances, so that the person who fills those roles instead of an Office of an Ombudsperson kind of just has the training in that sense. I know that is a conversation that happened within that particular group that was working on the draft.

Vice President Kim

To clarify it is basically the same job functionally speaking with a different title?

President Albano

Yes pretty much. The details and the job description is being removed and the office itself is being deleted.

Advisor Manini

I actually have been contacted last semester about the Office of the Ombudsperson, that is a position that used to exist years ago and hasn't existed recently. I take that it is still in the old org charts. I think when it gets compiled with things like Title IX and so forth, because Title IX is so important and is a federally mandated expectation that other issues that students may have with the university, gets buried by a federal mandate. Ombuds office when it operated separately was able to receive all types of concerns and complaints, and help people remedy and find solutions to all types of concerns and complaints. It functioned like anything that they could have concerns about they could speak about. If it is going to be compiled with items like Title IX, I fear that students will not have as much freedom to go easily because these other types of trigger words, issues, or mandated programs will take priority over what might be seen as lesser concerns but are very important to the individuals. I think that is a red flag for me as someone who often hears about people's issues on campus

Vice President Kim

Adding onto what Advisor Manini, I think conversely it could have the other effect too that putting that burden on the Title IX office, could take away from Title IX's ability to focus on Title IX as well. This is a really really big general thing that we are adding on to their duties, and especially because their job specifically is to address issues with Title IX. What resources will students have or what resources will go towards students who have this specific issue?

President Albano

Yes that is a really good point. Thank you both for bringing that up. I think that was something that GSO talked about that they were concerned for. It could have both the effects of suppressing duties and the priorities of the office, if it's going to be focused on Title IX and institutional equity because it is so broad, it might suppress and prevent things from becoming more of a priority with different student situations. I think that is a really great point.

It says it will be reassigned to the Mānoa Cares office. It says, "The Office of the Ombudsperson has been deleted and the specialist will be reassigned to the newly established Mānoa Cares office, and continue to provide advocacy services." I think the Mānoa Cares Office and the Office Institutional Equity will work hand in hand with concerns about this. I will do more research, but you both bring up a really good point.

Vice President Kim

Going back on that, the benefit of the ombudsperson's office was that they were supposed to be a very neutral party, so I was wondering if they were being put in any kind of position that would compromise that in any way. Would the neutrality be compromised in any of these reassignments?

President Albano

That is a really good point. I think that there is a potential risk of that happening. The Mānoa Cares Office itself is a proposed new office in its entirety, I'm not even sure how to envision what that would operate as. But yes that's a good question. I have my quarterly meeting with Provost Bruno this Friday, the deadline for this actually, so I can ask him questions about this in terms of meeting with him.

Senator Chua

Do you possibly know, in relation to the Ombudsperson office being cancelled, does the Mānoa Cares office seek to tackle a really broad range of issues? That's something we haven't heard about yet? What are they set out to do?

President Albano

Yes, give me one second, I'll pull it up right now. Here's a little bit of information regarding the Mānoa Cares office. Both Office Institutional Equity and Title IX which is one office and with the Manoa Cares office those are two kinds of brand new offices. Here are the proposed actions that would occur with this.

Advisor Manini

Donavan ideally, and Jungha because you have been articulating an interest in this area, I think primarily what you all would want to do is pull the original functional statement for the ombudsperson. Make sure that the language from the old functional statement, the old arc chart that that language is captured in any office that they are creating to fulfill the functions that were previously filled by the ombuds office. It is almost like making sure that the language is captured.

President Albano

We can definitely incorporate that feedback. I will look more into the Office of the Ombudsperson and articulate any concerns about that. Thank you very much for your feedback.

Student Success Center Steering Committee

President Albano

I sent you all information, we've been asked if anyone from ASUH would like to be part of the Student Success Center Steering Committee. They haven't met in a year but it is basically it is to help guide conversations on the plans around the new student success center. With Sinclair library and those kinds of things. I sent the information to you guys earlier, so you can take a look at those documents there. The next meeting is happening February 12th, so if anyone is interested in looking into shaping the conversation on the future of Sinclair and what it could look like, or if you're interested in architecture or student services, please feel free to let me know if you would like to serve on that committee.

Vice President

Vice President Kim

In terms of conferences we can go to because we are currently in a pandemic and things are online, I have noticed that a lot of conventions have cut their flat fees because more people can attend. People don't have to pay for travel expenses and things like that, so I am going to be sending an email asking for a list of conferences that are coming up from February till the end of the school year and I will be asking people what type of conferences they would want to go to dealing with advocacy.

Treasurer

President Albano

It doesn't look like Interim Treasure Saari is with us this evening, but he did send out the rate sheets this morning. If you have any questions about that, please feel free to reach out to him. I think also operations manager Sonoda Pale also mentioned that the fiscal processing like checks that got approved. If you have any questions feel free to let her, or any questions to interim treasure Saari, please feel free to let her or him know.

Secretary

Secretary Gogue

No report.

Administrative

Advisor Manini

No report.

Judicial Branch

Standing Committees

President Albano

Campus Life

Chairperson Hokama-Paris

Our Progress

-No report

Our Plans

-No report

Issues

Elections

President Albano

Our Progress

-No report

Our Plans

-No report

Miscellaneous

-Please help advertise our special elections!

External Affairs

Chairperson Chua

Our Progress

-Held committee meeting on Monday, Jan 25th

-Discussed plans for the semester

-Possible newsletter-format updates to be sent out to undergrads regularly

Our Plans

-Continue planning for the semester - AS(You)H week, legislative session, updating website and social media

Issues

Vice President Kim

Have our legislative priorities been decided yet?

Chairperson Chua

Yes and no, yes in that Donovan Kaylie and I have been meeting weekly to keep up with the legislative session, but we also met with Stephanie Kim to go through what kinds of advocacy we can work on. Due to the fact that no money can be appropriated as of right now, we couldn't push forward with initiatives that we were wanting to like mental health or other student needs, so no in that we couldn't really advocate for anything that had to do with money. That's really unfortunate but we will be talking with key legislatures to talk about what they have planned, but even right now in the leg there isn't a lot happening because of the money situation. I hope that helps.

Vice President Kim

There's a few that I've been tracking for a few days. They are not exactly student advocacy, but it does affect students. It is LGBTQ advocacy more so, and I was wondering if it would be okay if we advocated for social issues that affect general populations but also affect student populations as well.

Chairperson Chua

I would personally say yes, but with ASUH we have had to follow resolutions, so I can't confirm. I would also love to hear what you've been keeping up with outside of the meeting time.

President Albano

Thank you! I definitely think we could talk about those kinds of things, and I think it might be different with the leg session this year because there won't be money going over. But that doesn't mean we can't support social issues impacting the community around us. That is a really great idea. Thank you Vice President Kim.

Finance

APPROVED BY THE 108THY SENATE THE 10TH OF FEBRUARY 2021

Chairperson Anuszevska

Our Progress

-No report

Our Plans

-Meeting next week

-Need new Vice chairperson

Issues

Internal Affairs

President Albano

Our Progress

-New Vicechairperson!

Our Plans

-Review plans for upcoming semester

Issues

Investments and Long Range Planning

Chairperson Pierce

Our Progress

-No report

Our Plans

-Email Committee members and Peter Backus to schedule a meeting next week.

-Also try to schedule the second meeting in advance.

Issues

Student Affairs

Chairperson Crowell

Our Progress

-Meeting last Saturday

-UPASS: Not needed for this year.

Our Plans

-Mental Health Resources

-Service Grant

Issues

Vice President Kim

I love that especially because we have barely touched our funds due to the pandemic that we're looking out for our students in that way.

Undergraduate Academic Affairs

Chairperson Renteria

Our Progress

-Scholarships

-Need Vice chair

Our Plans

-Senate Bill 03-21: Textbook Refund Giveaway

Issues

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Senate Bill 03-21: To Appropriate Funding for an ASUH Textbook Fund Giveaway

President Albano

I would like to refer Senate Bill 03-21 to the Finance Committee.

OPEN FORUM

CLOSING

Adjournment

Senator Crowell

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

SAL Anuszevska

Second.

Voting unanimously in favor.

Executive Meeting #16 was adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mikaelyn Marie Gogue
Secretary, 108th Senate