

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

General Senate Meeting #14 of the 102nd Senate
Wednesday, October 22, 2014

OPENING

Call to Order

President Nishihara called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm in CC 310.

Roll Call

Present:	President Nishihara, Vice President Zakimi, Treasurer Takara, Secretary Belisario, Senators-at-Large Lee, Nishihara, Omokawa, Onishi, Senators Borge, Callihan, Coria, Garma, Grunenwald, Kamakea, Kawagishi, Kamoshida, Kwon, Mitsui, Nguyen, Oshiro, Samiano, Sanchez, Schulz, Tagaban, Uyeda [25]
Excused Absent:	Senators Baxa, Elarco, Lawi-An, Mandado, Wainwright [5]
Unexcused Absent:	[0]
Excused Late:	[0]
Unexcused Late:	[0]
Excused Early Departure:	[0]
Unexcused Early Departure	[0]
On Leave:	[0]
Advisor:	Bonnyjean Manini [1]
Guests:	[0]

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Senator Kamoshida Motion to accept GSMM #13.
Senator-at-Large Lee Second.

Senator Nguyen Motion to correct all grammatical and typographical errors.
Senator Grunenwald Second.
Motion carries.

Senator Nguyen Motion to add verbiage in President Nishihara's report.
Senator Kamakea Second.
Motion Carries.
Motion Carries.

Official Correspondence

REPORTS

**Executive
President**

- a. Change to Executive Policy Chapter: Chapter 6, Tuition, Financial Assistance, and Fees

President Nishihara This is expanding off of what I talked about last week. I was going over the different alternatives on what will happen and why this policy is being accumulated. You will see in the memorandum. I got another email the other day detailing what changed in the policy. They have to cross out some things. UH Manoa was on a plan to go up 20% but Chancellor Apple bumped it up to 19%. For merit aid is based off of the Academic Year 2014-2015. You can't have both together if it doesn't reflect 20% going back to students. If you look at the memo, Kelly and I wrote as Caucus delegates. You've heard talks that BOR wants to keep our tuition the same. I broke it down by using the total 14,000 undergrads. We actually received 6.4 million USD student aid. 10% or half goes to merit base and financial need base. If tuition stays the same, to find out what we would actually "save" is 5.2 million USD towards tuition. As long as they're working on a detailed analysis and with tuition staying constant, we would agree to this proposal.

Senator Mitsui You're saying that this proposal is to change this policy?

Senator Grunenwald It's not feasible to keep tuition the same and amend their proposal to keep it at a percentage.

Senator Nguyen I concur with senator Grunenwald because the BOR has already passed a bill to raise tuition. Building off on the second point that senator Grunenwald brought up, just to clarify, you don't want this policy change? And keep it as a percentage?

President Nishihara Yes.

Senator Nguyen If they're so gung ho about keeping tuition the same, then that's something we can use. But to ask to keep tuition the same is asking a lot.

Senator Schulz I'm having a hard time which is better. I'm not sure which makes more of an impact to us. You should think about that before approving this memo.

Senator Grunenwald Keeping tuition at the same rate is unrealistic.

Senator Garma I think the main idea is, what are we gonna do on keeping us from paying more amount of money. If we do do this and keep tuition dollars fixed, I think they would be more open about it if we have actual numbers that we can see visually where our tuition dollars is going to.

Senator Schulz I think the BOR is not going to take us seriously if we say we want to keep tuition the same.

Senator Nguyen Right now, the discussion is straying away from the initial purpose of this memo. From what I'm seeing, we are using this memo as a bargaining chip for tuition. I agree that this is what we should be doing this but this will be very difficult. We need to find some way to lessen the tone of tuition staying constant to something more open to President Lassner and the BOR. As a senate I hope we can come up with a solution.

- Senator Garma* So President Lassner is open to change?
- Senator Nguyen* He's open to feedback on the Executive Policy change.
- Senator Mitsui* If there is a chance where we can change the wording of this memo, then I would like to change the fixed dollar amount to a percentage amount.
- Senator Schulz* I'm assuming that the reason why President Lassner is changing the policy is to get more money. But where is the money going to? Asking him for a plan is a lot more feasible than asking for tuition to stay the same. The plan is the easy part but we don't even know what they do. I think getting a plan from them will be awesome. Asking them about what they do with our money is more feasible.
- Senator Nguyen* What we could consider is supporting the decrease of percentage and working with them.
- Senator Schulz* So 2.5% is an approximate value? Rather than 6 or 7%?
- Senator Nguyen* Yes. There was a plan to slow the 6 or 7% to 2.5%. They tabled that until the legislature meet because they want more G Funds.
- Advisor Manini* I hope this is helpful in simplifying. The reason why I don't think it will cause laughter if you ask for tuition to stay constant because you will allow them to have more room for the operating budget. You give them an ability to have more in their operating budget and this will give them motivation to keep it constant in the next couple of years. I don't think this is naive. All campuses are different and different needs. Some chancellors would be fine with the 80% operating budget and some won't be fine. It's just making things clear to show you that there's a possible increase in the operation budget.
- President Nishihara* One of the things Chancellor mentioned is that we increase the size of the pie, they can take more but us as students will still save. They will have more to operate with.
- Advisor Manini* If they increase the operating cost and the amount is fixed, they will have more to the operating budget which will help the budget. Manini
- Senator Garma* Whats the pros and cons of doing a fixed amount?
- President Nishihara* For a fixed amount, the pros are if the tuition revenue is lower than AY 13-14, then students will still receive the same amount of merit based aid from AY13-14. However, if tuition revenues increased, then merit based aid does not have to exceed the amount given in AY13-14.
- President Nishihara* Personally I don't want this change to happen. But since he's asking for feedback, this memo will be the best feedback to give to the president.
- Senator-at-Large Lee* How long will they keep this fixed dollar amount? Until they change the policy again?
- Senator Grunenwald* I don't think that's the issue. The issue is that they wouldn't be changing the policy annually. Maybe they will change it in 5 or 10 years but at that point it will still be low.
- Senator Garma* What's wrong with the current percentage rate?
- Senator Nguyen* They don't get as much money as he would want. President Lassner wants to increase it to get more money for the operation budget.

Advisor Manini He wants to provide the chancellors more flexibility campus to campus.

President Nishihara We will make changes to this memo. I will send this memo out to the senate and ask for feedback. Please let me know what kind of changes you would like to make before this Saturday.

Advisor Manini Please keep in mind that they are only 2 out of 25 people on the Caucus Committee. What the Caucus decides will reflect on the 25 delegates not just from the 2 from this campus.

b. UH Manoa Budget Process Task Force

President Nishihara The chancellor has created a budget process task force. The purpose of this is to come up with a formula to allocate tuition money. I ask that whatever college you are a part of, please talk to your department heads and see where your college is having trouble on and report back to me. We are hoping to create a formula to help the university in regards to our budget.

Vice President

Vice President Zakimi Thank you for writing encouragement notes to the senate. We have a workshop next week Wednesday at 5 pm in CC 310. If you absolutely can't make it, please let me know. This is mandatory.

Treasurer

Treasurer Takara We have about \$200,000 in the C account.

Secretary

Secretary Belisario No report.

Advisor

Advisor Manini We are turning things over to the auditors. As soon as we get more information, we will share it with all of you.

Standing Committees

Campus Life

Chairperson Oshiro We have homecoming this weekend. In order to get a shirt, you have to volunteer. We will be sending out an action plan to the committee on what we will be doing on that day.

Senator Mitsui Manoa Maniacs and SAFC will be doing carnival games. If you would like to participate, please let me know.

Elections

Chairperson Grunenwald The fall special elections finished on Monday. Please look over the unofficial results. Please disregard the TIM results. It's been removed. Motion to accept the results.
Senator-at-large Lee Second.
Motion Carries.

Senator Grunenwald For special elections, this is good for us. For general elections I hope it will be beter.

External Affairs

Chairperson Nguyen We will be meeting tomorrow at 3 pm.

Finance

Chairperson Kawagishi The RIO funding packets will be sent out tomorrow. We have a meeting next week Thursday.

Internal Affairs

Chairperson Schulz We had a meeting today. Kelly and I updated the rules.

Investments and Long-Range Planning

Chairperson Lee I'm planning to have a meeting in the next 2 weeks.

Student Affairs

Senator Mitsui We had a meeting yesterday. We talked about couple issues we want to focus on.

Undergraduate and Academic Affairs

Chairperson Onishi We will be having a meeting next week Wednesday at 4 pm.

SPECIAL ORDERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Senate Bill 21-15: November/Thanksgiving Event

Senator Sanchez Motion to accept SCR 24-15.

Senator Grunenwald Second.

Motion Carries.

Senator Grunenwald Motion to accept SCR 35-15.

Senator Nguyen Second.

Senator Schulz Motion to change the date to October 22.

Sanchez Second.

Motion Carries.

Motion Carries.

Senator Sanchez Motion to accept SB 35-15.

Senator Grunenwald Second.

Senator Borge It's pretty straight forward. Thanksgiving is important.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Vice President Zakimi, Treasurer Takara, Secretary Belisario, Senators-at-Large Lee, Nishihara, Omokawa, Onishi, Senators Borge, Callihan, Coria, Garma, Grunenwald, Kamakea, Kawagishi, Kamoshida, Kwon, Mitsui, Nguyen, Oshiro, Samiano, Sanchez, Schulz, Tagaban, Uyeda [24]

Nays: [0]

Abstentions: [0]

Motion Carries.

OPEN FORUM

CLOSING

Adjournment

Senator Oshiro

Senator Grunenwald

Motion to Adjourn.

Second.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cassandra Belisario
Secretary, 102nd Senate