SSA Congressional Committee Agenda

12/01/2020 10-11am via Microsoft Teams

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Present | Absent | Excused |
| Director Wiseman | X |  |  |
| Director Reed | X |  |  |
| Senator Korte | X |  |  |
| Advisor Mell | X |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

1. Call to order: at 10:02 am
2. Roll Call:
3. Approval of the Minutes: Approval of 11/20 minutes motioned by Reed second by Korte-approved

Have to go back and 10/17 minutes as there is an issue with the document

1. Old Discussion:
   1. Vice Chair elections (!): Senator Korte wants to nominate himself and try out the position. Director Reed asks what he wants to get out of the position.

Director Reed votes aye

Senator Korte votes aye and it is passed that Korte is the Vice Chair for Congressional Committee!

1. New Discussion:
   1. Virtual lobbying trip: Having to do virtual this year because of COVID. Advisor Mell supports this. Other organizations this year have already talked about doing some sort of virtual rallying (Chippewa Valley rally, St. Croix Valley rally). Capitol is closed right now and probably still will be in January, which is the best time to go. Advisor Mell would be able to help out as best he can and give us pointers. It may not be possible or even worth it do in person lobbying. Director Reed thinks this is a good opportunity to brainstorm how a live stream event might work. Turn lobbying trip to a live event? Maybe hosting a speaker would be more useful? Maybe having the closest reps to us? Maybe having a speaker come? Gathering questions beforehand.

What happened last year? Previous Director McConville gave us ideas for issues that we wanted to talk about but we mostly got to choose which issues we wanted to bring forth.

Boils down to communication with legislators and students. (Dir. Reed thinks this should be happening much more often) legislation hears from staff and administration much more and needs to hear a lot more from students. Important opportunity for elected student leaders to press legislators about issues in higher education. Given the time and electronic factor, its probably going to be very restricted. What is the most effective way to reach legislators if not in person? Phone, emails. Advisor Mell sitting on committee that several state senators will be on via zoom this week. Not a public meeting. Thinks you might be able to get 4-5 legislators on a meeting and talk to them that way. SSA might have to get together and talk beforehand. Host the session like a townhall? Do we open it up to senators only? Previous Director McConville had it open to only SSA members and I had been thinking of doing the same thing. Have them come to senate meetings? Patty Schactner came last year and spoke for senate. It’ll be easier for senators to be there and not worry about scheduling conflicts, can schedule another session if needed. Have a 30 minute back and forth discussion. It is important for senators to hear from legislators and it may spark some interest in the congressional committee. Have to talk to president Dumke about if it would be something that we could put on the agenda without it getting too congested. Also, is Jan 26th too late to have the sessions? Dir. Reed thinks this is a good topic for EBC to talk about agenda items for next semester. Budget is passed around valentine’s day so talking about it beforehand would be helpful.

* 1. Last meeting of the semester on Dec 15th: Last meeting on December 15th, senate will be meeting that night but will be mindful of people’s time and finals starting the next day. Should we meet? Probably should meet to talk about the lobbying project so that we can get started on it as early as possible. Also wanted to plan out a meeting time for this committee at this next meeting. Can also send out an email or teams message to get it set up as well.
  2. Director Reed moves to change the agenda to read December 15th instead of 14th. Second by Senator Korte. Approved.

1. Announcements: Director Reed-student help desk is hiring
2. Adjourn at:10:47 am