SSA Congressional Committee Agenda

11/17/2020 10-11am via Microsoft Teams

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Present | Absent | Excused |
| Director Wiseman | X |  |  |
| Director Reed | X |  |  |
| Senator Korte | X |  |  |
| Advisor Mell | X |  |  |
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1. Call to order (unofficially): 10:01
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Minutes: Could not approve
4. Old Discussion: none
5. New Discussion:
   1. Vice Chair: Senator Korte still interested, move election to next meeting
   2. Reconstituting Bylaws: cannot find them anymore and may need to rewrite them. Advisor Mell will look through old emails, Senator Korte does not have them. I will check in with Darrin to see if he might have them.
   3. Discussing election day: how it went: Not sure what the numbers look like yet, ward numbers might give us an understanding of what on-campus numbers look like, but off campus will be a lot more fuzzy. Participation numbers come from a different universities longitudinal study on college voter turnout, but am not sure when we will get those results. Mell says that UW system numbers were down but that could be explained by the big push for absentee voting and more students voting from home locations. Sandi Scott was pretty happy with election day and how the polls were ran (not too crowded) Advisor Mell said that he will talk to UW system about numbers.
   4. Off of agenda: Advisor Mell asked if we were still planning to meet online for this committee after Stout decided to go online after break. Still planning on doing it. Not too much has changed in regards to SSA with going online and this committee never met in person anyways. Also it will be important to keep meeting because state legislature will start meeting in Jan and gov. budget will be introduced in the middle of Feb. Lots of legislature will be happening the first 2 or 3 weeks of Jan. Sate budget announcement will be the biggest thing for spring. Rewrites happen around April and May, and its finalized July 1st. A list of past billed that didn’t get passed will probably come back. Maybe next congress committee will have to watch for mostly Tony Evers appointees. That board will likely remodify or resend the freedom of expression bill from 2017. Dems do not have the majority in either houses. Freedom of expression policy: introduced by Scott Walker type of board. Though conservative voices were drowned out on college campuses. Previous Director Schoeneke spoke out about it. SSA protested but it still got passed. Advisor Mell will send it out to us, as well as videos of Coltans speech.
   5. Off of agenda: Advisor Mell announced his retirement in the first week of April. There will need to be a new advisor for the committee at that time.
   6. Going back to voter registration efforts, VR events were a little messy and a lot at once (the VR marathon), the League of Womens Voters back on campus helped us out a lot. Two weeks before elections went smoothly, senators and directors came out to help with VR. Don’t have a big congressional committee so had to reach out to other SSA members to help out. It is hard to reach out to students unless it is a face to face interaction. Hard to get people involved in this committee as well as VR efforts in general. Training in VR may have made it harder for students to find the time to go (a two hour block of time) Maybe next time get directors to train senators? Maybe even just doing an open forum? How much training should they have? Less training for them? Don’t need to be experts in VR, but I still wanted them trained so that they would not feel too lost in the process (can be very overwhelming) Connect students to resources if we do not know the answer. SSA had to do a lot of the VR this year because LWV could not be there for most of the time. Election day table: Dir Reed only talked with 1 person at the table. Involvement center did an event in person and online. Lots of the events were slow, was that helpful? Can tweak the times, locations and amount of advertisement. Have tables next to events that are already going on (more foot traffic) Do a better job with signage. Ask dir. Stolen if VR marathon was anywhere on social media. Signs on election day – get more signs and were the locations clear?
6. Announcements: none
7. Adjourn at 10:54