



USA Meeting Agenda

September 1, 2020 | 6:00 pm

- Welcome – Sami Ahmed – President, Utah State University
 - President Ahmed: This is our first official meeting. We met as a Presidency yesterday. Hopefully, we can get a sense of direction for the upcoming year. I'm looking forward to the work ahead of us.
- Approval and Introduction of Dexton Lake, Chief of Staff
 - *Motion to Approve: President Corbett/ Second: President Mills / Voting Body: Approved*
- Presidency Report
 - House Rules
 - President Ahmed: There are twelve bullet points, I will read through them really quick.
 - *Reading of the House Rules*
 - President Ahmed: Any questions with the House Rules? (*No questions*). Now, I would like to turn the time over to Matthew to discuss the website.
 - USA Website
 - President Griffin: We are updating the USA Website. I need from you all an autobiography of 150-175 words to add to the

website with initiatives, goals, and why you ran for president. Also, we need portraits for the website. I will send an email with this information as well. We need this information by the end of the week, preferably Sunday. If you have any questions on what it needs to look like, reference the website.

- President Ahmed: Please no full body photos.

○ Fees

- President Mills: I will talk to you all about budget and fees. We will not be collecting fees from universities since we will not be meeting at universities this year, we will be meeting over Zoom. We have a fee that needs to be paid to use the website. That cost is with *GoDaddy*. It's \$140.87.

- Linda Zimmerman: It is to keep the domain name and to use *WordPress* as a backend service as well.

- Motion to use \$140.87 to pay for the USA Domain

- *Motion: President Mills/ Second: President Ferney/ Voting Body: Passed*

○ Budgetary Update

- President Ahmed: Some of you may have noticed that the Chief of Staff stipend and other stipends in the budget, those don't need to be approved because it's part of the constitution.
- President Corbett: How does each institution contribute to these fees?

- Linda: It is all through full-time equivalent. We started with the Commissioner's Office. We continued paying the fifteen cents per full time equivalent. We dropped it down to thirteen cents last year and I believe the year

before. We have had a carry over the last couple of years. Last year they didn't spend a whole lot of money. It depends on the initiative. It depends on the full-time equivalent on how we issue fees.

- Representative Damron: Where does that money generally come from in each institution?
 - Linda: Some use student fees. At USU, Sami has a discretionary fund from the President that we pull from. It is solely up to the institution.
- Utah System of Higher Education Student Representative Report
 - Representative Damron: I sent an update in the Slack Channel. I will go through it again. We approved a bond for Dixie State. We introduced the Equity Resolution. Our inclusion and diversity group worked really hard with the Commissioner's Office to put that together. They are going to put together a couple of committees to have priority goals set on how we want to move forward in closing gaps and stopping state inequity. As we go forward with that, I may come to this board for student opinion on how we can fill these gaps. We don't have a budget per se, the system has given a guideline to follow on how to request a budget for the 2021-2022 year. We won't be hearing new building funding and other budgetary items this year because of COVID funding. As of right now, we are having the institution's report back on what they need for funding. I asked what you feel students are most concerned about. Could we open that discussion so that we as a board may know how to support students?
 - President Griffin: This has been a big discussion at my school. The big two points are safety surrounding COVID-19. There

are still safety concerns even with masks and social distancing. The bigger issue is what happens when they get it. Some students feel like they are an outcast if they get it and are discriminated against.

- President Corbett: I feel like for UVU, the concern is what we are doing to prevent racial injustice. This includes addressing equity in curriculum.
- President Kum: At the University of Utah, we have had trust issues with the administration. First, trust in the university to keep students from the virus. Students also think the university is just trying to get a money grab by ending classes after the drop day. Additionally, the trust issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Peoples are worried the university won't act on statements of being anti-racist. The last one is safety outside of COVID-19. I think the actions and the lack of actions from our public safety department has left some hard-to-heal scars among our students. Students at the university are not very trusting of the university.
- President Ferney: I would echo what Danielle said and add mental health. With the lack of in-person contact and using digital, it is making students feel isolated.
- President Cullen-Buford: Isolation and the uncertainty caused stress. Many BYU students are raising concerns about student housing. Provo housing recently switched from semester-to-semester to year-long contracts. Additionally, local landlords are doing similar things while not improving safety.

- President Kante: SUU can relate to all the different things people have said. The university has taken a lot of quick action on racial issues. But students still feel like more should be done. Something else students are struggling with is the financial aspect. Candyce, do you know if there are going to be any further budget cuts?
 - Representative Damron: I'm not sure. The government is holding special legislative sessions to discuss appropriations. Hopefully we will hear more by October, but no guarantee.
- Representative Damron cont.: Penny and I are discussing student fees on a committee we sit on. What are you hearing from your students about paying student fees? We don't have to have this discussion now, but I would like to have it.
 - President Kum: There have been a lot of conversations about this. There have been a lot of emails about why we still have to have student fees. We had to explain CARES Act funding as well as how bonds still have to be paid. That was the most we could do at that point. Recently, the U announced a \$150 credit. While that is good news for students, it raises the question on why we have certain student fees, if we will lower student fees, and if this is permanent.
 - President Ahmed: The hardest thing with fees is understanding the concept of student fees being an investment. There is some murkiness surrounding how not paying student fees one year will have ripple effects. Bridging that gap is probably the hardest thing.

- President Corbett: I wish there was more transparency with the state on student fees. I was going to send out a statement on student fees but then the state changed their minds on student fee positions.
 - President Kante: We cut 40% of our fees. A lot of our students were very happy about that because we aren't having athletics or larger student events. We still have issues with students complaining about paying student fees when they aren't on campus. We have to work on having a clear understanding perpetuated to the students.
- President Ferney: What is your official title?
 - Representative Damron: Student Representative for Academic Education.
- President Ferney: At the beginning of your time you mentioned other topics you may discuss, if you could send those out before the meetings, that would be helpful.
 - Assistant Lake: If you send them to me, I can include them in the discussion, Representative Damron.
- New Business
 - Discussion on New Initiatives
 - President Ahmed: I'm hoping to have an idea of what each of us would like to see this upcoming year. Hopefully by the end we can come around one or two ideas. We can get started on that. After that we need to schedule meetings for the rest of the time we are in office. We just had a set time when we did this. Before we do that, I want to open it up to ideas.

- President Kum: I feel very passionate about what I campaigned for. I feel we can tackle multiple issues at once. I feel like we should tackle equity as a whole. We can address inequities and discrepancies in higher education, as well as health and financial equities. If we make higher education in the State of Utah as equitable as we can during our tenure, we can have a historic year for this year.
- President Corbett: Mine is quite similar to Ephraim's. What was done the last couple of years with mental health has been great, but I would like to see more of a focus on some of the root causes of poor mental health such as: equity for housing, lack of student health resources, food insecurity. Rather than using mental health as a blanket statement, we should be actively pursuing why poor mental health exists at our different colleges, and chances are it will be different for each institution. (I.E. BYU may focus on housing equity whereas UVU may focus on food insecurity.)
- Representative Damron: I love both ideas. This is more of a Fall Semester idea: I feel we need to improve the student voice and that they are using their voices to be heard. I think voter registration is an important topic since we have a gubernatorial and presidential race this year.
 - President Griffin: Is everyone involved in the Campus Cup sponsored by the Lieutenant Governor?
 - Linda: The Lieutenant Governor may want to come to one of our meetings. I'll look into who we need to talk to.
 - President Griffin: Everyone should participate in this.

- President Ahmed: I have two main proposals. The biggest thing I would like to make people aware of is our time constraint. Higher Ed Day in February is our crowning moment to present what we have worked on. Other groups have complained they have great ideas but not enough time. My first idea is having COVID-19 vaccinations be free across all campuses should that become available and cleared. Preliminary proposals are in the \$30 range. I would like to see this be a state-sponsored thing for part-time and full-time students. It would be about \$22 million which sounds like a lot, but it really isn't within a state budget. I think this is topical. Movement on a COVID related topic is likely to move quickly. This also encourages students to take a precaution. I also think this will leave a good legacy for us should this become available in 2020 or 2021. Next, tackling issues within our university and bringing them to USA to collectively work on them as a group. Additionally, improving reporting of student fees and tuition in our institutions. We can compile this into a report and then the next group can hit the ground running on issues that they can tackle that we brought up. Lastly, can we have voting stations on campus?
 - Linda: At USU, we have ballot boxes that people can drop off their ballots that the county picks up.
 - President Corbett: I think the issue is going to be write in ballots and having accessibility to post offices. The other will be actually having to travel to polling stations.
- President Ahmed: Let's open it up to discussion now.

- President Mills: I really like what has been proposed. The plan is hard to envision. It is hard to pick one that will be accomplishable in the time that we have.
- President Kum: The other issue is when that impact will go into effect. I think it is important to consider timing as well.
- President Ahmed: Anything we do has to be a well thought out plan so the next group will desire to pick it up. Moving forward to execution, once we decide what we want to do, we move forward with subcommittees and work on accomplishing our goals.
- President Griffin: I think mental health is still the biggest issue facing students with not a whole lot being done. I feel like we should address COVID-19 and getting vaccines across the state of Utah.
- Representative Damron: I think a lot of it will be using our local elected officials. We will need to discuss with them now on how to support us in preparation of going into session in February.
- President Ahmed: We don't even have to have an initiative. USA can be an outlet for helping each other on institutional issues.
 - President Kum: I think it is essential for us to have initiatives since we have such a unique path ahead of us.

- President Ahmed: For those of you who have submitted ideas, do you have a plan to carry this out?
 - President Griffin: I think we can get a broad idea of what the state of Utah needs for higher education, but it will ultimately be up to each one of us to determine what our individual university needs.
- President Ahmed: I think the best way for us to get this done is for those of us who have submitted an idea to submit a plan and we can do an electronic vote. After that we can start making plans for subcommittees on what we can do. In an email, send to everyone what your idea is and what your plan is to carry that out. By Friday submit your plan and by Monday or Tuesday vote electronically. This will give us the weekend to review plans. So, I'm clear, we have Ephraim and Danielle who proposed equity, Candyce was voter registration and civic engagement, and mine was COVID-19 vaccines and reporting tuition and fees.
 - President Ferney: Can anyone submit an idea after today?
- President Ahmed: Yes, but the deadline is Friday.

○ Meeting Schedule

- President Ahmed: Last year, we picked to meet every second Friday and met once a month. How often would this group like to meet and what day of the week would we like to meet?

- President Cullen-Buford: Monthly is good and doing them Friday is good.
 - President Ahmed: How about we just say the second Friday and adjust the time?
 - President Kante: Are all our meetings going to be over Zoom?
 - President Ahmed: As of now, yes. Ultimately, it's up to us to decide along with university policy.
 - President Griffin: What about Thursday? Thursdays are usually good days.
 - President Kum: We usually have our executive cabinet meetings on Thursday evenings.
 - President Ahmed: How about the first Thursdays at 6 p.m. If we need to change it on a case-by-case basis, then we can. For instance, if we want to meet in person on a campus, then we can. Then it is official: **our meetings will take place the first Thursdays of every month starting at approximately 6 p.m.**
 - Representative Damron: Can we send out calendar invites?
 - President Ahmed: Yes, Dexon and I will work on that.
- Campus Updates
 - President Ferney: I have two mental health advocates in my cabinet that are working on Suicide Awareness Week in October. I think they are working on doing monthly things. Also, I started, what I call, Friday with Ferney. This year, with the lack of in person accessibility, I am going to do this weekly. I created a QR Code that has a form

called Feedback for Ferney. The last thing I want to do is speak for the students if I'm not talking with them.

- President Griffin: Face-to-face classes are going well. People are wearing masks. Residential halls are kind of struggling. Snow is doing well. I have a question: how are you guys reporting those who aren't following COVID-19 guidelines? The issue is parties being held in residential halls and doing off-campus events. We just don't know how to report it.
 - President Ahmed: We are doing a nonconfrontational approach. We have a reporting mechanism that goes to our Student Code of Conduct. We have temporary code that requires students to follow these guidelines. The first offense is a warning, the second is a disciplinary paper or report, the third is a transcript notation and will go onto probation.
 - President Kum: I think it is important to have it as part of the student code. We also have a hotline, but I think that is more for students who have contracted the virus.
- President Mills: There was a flood here last week. Students are still adapting. We are trying to figure out how to deal with that. I think overall, we are doing ok. I really like Ben's idea. I may do something like that. We haven't had many issues with masks and members of campus. I'm looking into student fees right now, so it is very cool to sit on that committee with Candyce.
- President Kum: The first week of school has felt like a month. I've largely mentioned what I wanted to report. We've been trying to combat COVID-19 the best we can. We are doing a lot of testing including testing the sewer and saliva-based testing. Approximately

80% of our learning is online. 87 have been reported positive of the 60,000+ on campus.

- President Cullen-Buford: First day was yesterday and everything has been great. BYU is doing a mixed model of classes. I'm doing the same thing as well with remote office hours every week. Our Instagram has a highlight bubble specifically for student engagement. Our student association has a research grant that is exploding. It is exciting to see people wanting to get involved.
- Lyra Peterson: Salt Lake Community College started last week. As far as I can tell everyone is complying pretty well.
- President Siaki: Everything is going well. This is our second day of classes. Most students are following guidelines—wearing masks and trying to social distance. I think we are doing alright so far.
- President Kante: Things are great at SUU. We have orientation this week. We have a lot of students back on campus. We are doing blended classes that students can choose what they would like to do.
- President Ahmed: USU has had a hectic summer working on policy. We are doing a lot of preventative measures for COVID. We are testing wastewater. We had high levels and had some dorms tested and quarantined. It has been pretty calm these last couple of days. Nothing has melted down yet. Please make sure that you submit your proposal by Friday to Dexon and I. Candyce, if you can pass this on to Danielle that would be great.
 - President Griffin: Please send in autobiography and pictures.
- Adjourn
 - Motion to Adjourn:

- *Motion: President Kum/ Seconded: President Mills/ Voting
Body: Passed*

In Attendance: Sami Ahmed, USU; Spring Cullen-Buford, BYU; Penny Mills, DSU; Matthew L. Griffin, Snow College; Norman Kante, SUU; Ephraim Kum, U of U; Sione Siaki, USU Eastern; Danielle Corbett, UVU; Benjamin Don Ferney, WSU; Candyce Damron, Student Representative-Academic Education; Lyra Peterson, SLCC Dexton Lake, Chief of Staff; Linda Zimmerman, Advisor

Welcome Lyra!

From [Danielle Corbett](#) to [Everyone](#): 6:22 PM
Candyce, I believe UVU uses student fees. I can talk to Marissa and get you that info.

From [Candyce Damron](#) to [Everyone](#): 6:22 PM
That would be great, thanks!

From [Danielle Corbett](#) to [Everyone](#): 6:40 PM
I think for the most part students at UVU were upset about paying the fee for Athletics, which was cut.

From [Penny Mills](#) to [Everyone](#): 6:41 PM
Something DSU is struggling with is adjusting in general.. with Covid-19, quarantine, connecting with other students, etc.

From [Danielle Corbett](#) to [Everyone](#): 6:57 PM
And also getting them to vote LOCALLY!! Preach Candyce.

From [Lyra Peterson](#) to [Everyone](#): 6:57 PM
Transportation to poling places is hard too for some students.

From [Danielle Corbett](#) to [Everyone](#): 6:58 PM
^^^ maybe we tackle voter suppression as a part of that if we choose to make that a focus?

From [Candyce Damron](#) to [Everyone](#): 6:59 PM
Yes yes yes @ lyra & danielle

From [EPHRAIM KUM](#) to [Everyone](#): 6:59 PM
YES. Voting inequity is rampant and something we could def tackle

From [Danielle Corbett](#) to [Everyone](#): 7:00 PM
RIP at me and the other 41,000 students at UVU

From [Lyra Peterson](#) to [Everyone](#): 7:01 PM
An email would be good for Emily

From [Ben Ferney-WSU \(he/him/his\)](#) to [Everyone](#): 7:01 PM
Great! Thank you Matthew!

Supplemental conversation that
took place in the group Zoom chat.



USA Meeting Agenda

October 1, 2020 | 6:00 pm

- Welcome – Sami Ahmed – President, Utah State University
- Approval of Minutes
 - Motion to Approve Amending the Agenda for a Quote Fix and Adding the Zoom Conversation:
 - President Ferney: **Motion**/President Kum: **Second**/Voting Body: **Passed**
 - Motion to Approve Minutes:
 - President Kum: **Motion**/President Hernandez Alzamora: **Second**/Voting Body: **Passed**
- Presidency Report- President Sami Ahmed
 - President Mills: The renewal of the USA website was \$0.18 more than originally approved. We approved \$140.87 and it ended up being \$141.05. So, we need to approve that.
 - Motion to Approve Budget:
 - President Griffin: **Moved**/President Ferney: **Second**/Voting Body: **Passed**

- President Ahmed: I was approached by a Utah food insecurity group. They are wanting to get in contact with USA leadership to present to us about food insecurity issues around the state. I told them we would be interested, but I wanted to make sure that was the case from you all. The organization is called Utahns Against Hunger. That is something we likely all deal with on our campuses.
- USA Website Update
 - Mr. Lake: I updated the USA website. Make sure your contact information is correct and that your biography is how you would like it.
- Student Regent Report
 - R516 Revision Draft- Candyce Damron, Student Regent
 - Representative Damron: We had our board committee meetings two weeks ago. First of all, I want to say that I appreciate all the feedback that you all gave me. The board members loved it. As far as things that are going on, our biggest conversations have been equity and diversity inclusion. We are trying to have an equitable mindset in everything that we do. The committees are looking into forming goals to focus on. I'll let you know about that when those are decided. We are still working on college access advisors—those are college advisors for high school students to learn about secondary education and the steps to apply. We are still working on that big student fee conversation. We had another meeting recently. Dexon sent out the drafted policy. If you have any feedback, feel free to email me or Slack me. If you have any concerns or issues on those flags, please let me or Penny know. In regards to campus safety, that is an

ongoing initiative. The legislature has advised universities to study campus safety, particularly with campus security and police. I'll have a better update about that next month. We had a really good meeting with our safety board and the System regarding equity and safety. We want to make sure students feel safe on our campus.

- **President Ahmed:** In the policy, under 5.1 under general student fee purpose, it discusses how fees should cover educational resources. At USU, we increased student fees for our library because the students wanted more open educational resources. Would that limit us and cause that resource to shift from fees to tuition?
 - **Representative Damron:** That is a very fine line we are trying to walk. The conversation is student fees should be coming from the students. I'm going to take note of your question and try to get a good answer on that.
- **President Ahmed:** Under 6.1 it says that faculty and administrators can be appointed to the student advisory board. Is that optional? It almost seems like it's a suggestion. Should it be a board of exclusively students?
 - **Representative Damron:** I think this is emphasizing that it is up to the institution. I get the impression they are using interpretational words to allow institutions freedom. They are advising that administrators are included as a reference of history and serve as an advisory role.

- Luke Kerouac: Is there any of the institutions here now whose president doesn't chair the fee board.
 - *University of Utah and Utah State University*
- President Kum: Will this policy change standing University policy?
 - President Ahmed: I think across the board the idea is to have a student leader chair it. Luke, do you have suggestions?
 - Luke Kerouac: I agree. I think it would be wise for USA to suggest having a student chair that. In 6.1, simple wording could be added to have a student chair it and have additional administrators and faculty as members.
 - President Ferney: I think that is a great suggestion. I chair it with our VP for Student Affairs and it creates a good balance.
- President Ahmed: Candyce, please take these considerations to the System.
- New Business
 - Initiatives of USA- President Sami Ahmed and President Matthew Griffin
 - President Griffin: If you look at the scores, we have four proposed initiatives. Because we ranked 1,2,3,4, the one with the total lowest score was the top choice. COVID-19 Vaccine was the top selection because it had the lowest score.
 - President Kum: I never got the email.

- [illegible]

- **President Ahmed:** It appears that we have Student Fees first and Equity in Race & Ethnicity second. We will still honor the top two. Our plan is to divvy out the group into two subgroups to tackle both initiatives. I think it is fair to still honor that. The Presidency will have to meet again to discuss who is in charge of what.

- President Corbett: What if we did one initiative per semester?
 - President Mills: I like that idea.
- President Kante: I think it is important to consider time manner. I don't think it will be practical to tackle an initiative while running an election in February.
 - President Ahmed: I agree with that. We will all be involved in the initiatives in all aspects. There will just be groups that will mobilize the efforts with the help of everyone.
- President Ferney: Would we have a stronger impact if we just focused on one initiative?
- President Griffin: I think it would be best to focus on one at a time so that we can maximize effectiveness. In my opinion we should focus on one all year long. Once we feel like we have completed that one, we can move to the next one. Focusing on one at a time could be most effective.
- President Corbett: I just wanted to reiterate that student fees is part of our initiative. We wanted to focus on socioeconomic, health, and race equity as one initiative. If we focused on this with what the System is doing, then we may get more help from them.
 - President Ahmed: The idea with the student fee report initiative is we will be compiling a comprehensive report on the fee and tuition

approval processes for each institution. This is in an effort to have students be more informed about tuition and fee increases as well as where to go to have their voice heard. This will also help compare and contrast what other institutions are doing to improve the student fee process. For instance, U of U and USU got audited and that report shows us how we can both improve. This initiative is more of building a foundation for the next group to improve student fees.

- President Corbett: Since the system is already requiring this, we could just throw the link onto the USA page.
- Luke Kerouac: Does anyone not have a document that they submit to their administrators or their trustees?
 - President Hernandez Alzamora: That is something we are starting this year.
- Luke Kerouac: It sounds like this may already exist but we just need to compile it.
 - President Ahmed: The objective is making sure that we are pulling the most pertinent information for students across the state. I feel we can accomplish this quickly, according to the diligence of the presidents here.

- President Kante: This is a big, bold initiative. This can be a resource for students. It's just a matter of bullet pointing them for everyone's use.
 - President Ahmed: Like I said, I think we can accomplish both initiatives if we split it up. The Presidency will meet again to redistribute the work. So those will be our two initiatives. The Presidency will meet soon to figure out what aspect we will assign you to tackle. If you have special interest in something, email me directly.
- Campus Updates
 - President Ferney: Following up from last time, I talked about Fridays with Ferney to interact to students. Fridays weren't busy days so it's moved to Tuesday called Ferney Wants Feedback. I've also done a social media push. My mental health group has done a great job of pushing resources to students. Homecoming is next week starting with our Diversity Conference. Most events will be online. Weber State is very proactive about wearing masks and adhering to protocols.
 - President Corbett: Everyone is doing alright wearing masks and following protocols. The issue is most sicknesses come from off campus sources, so we are trying to push safety on and off campus. We are doing a push to encourage people to register to vote. We are also having an event discussing voter suppression as part of My Voice Matters. We are also holding a scholarship ball.
 - President Griffin: What we are happiest about is a low COVID case count. We are doing everything we possibly can to make sure students know what opportunities they have if they get sick such as free meals and free testing. We have done a great job marketing that. We have

been working on closing the diversity gaps by attending their events and having service activities that can serve as an opportunity for people to interact. We have Sexual Assault Awareness Week coming up. Congratulations to Weber State for currently winning Campus Cup. We want to make sure every student has a vote in this election, so we are pushing registration hard.

- **President Siaki:** A good amount of our students are quarantining right now. We have been affected by that. For National Voter Registration Day, we did an event to kick off Campus Cup. We have been lucky enough to have in-person activities and events, but since students are quarantining, those will be moving virtually. So, if you have ideas for virtual events, hit me up.
- **President Mills:** We are open and trying to stay open. We have an organization trying to have a Halloween party that we are trying to shut down. Please tell your students not to come down. We are worried that students aren't reporting that they are sick and that's why our numbers are low, but I'm not sure. Inclusion Week is this week. We've had a lot of great events. It has helped students feel involved and a part of the campus. Just like Sione was just saying, we are trying to form a virtual side of activities, so if you have suggestions I would like them. I think Campus Cup is going well.
- **President Kum:** We've been keeping our cases manageable, but that's tough because we are in a heavily populated city. We have stayed in orange on campus. We have quite a few cases in number. We have students quarantining in guest housing to isolate cases. The majority of these cases account for all students, staff, and faculty and most of them live off campus. We are trying to get students to not do risky

things on campus. We are trying to purchase more masks for students and ship them out to them. On National Voter Registration Day, we had quite a few students register to vote. Our large campus population doesn't allow us to win by the percentages. We were able to get a resolution passed to have Election Day a non-instruction day. We are trying to make our arena a voting location. We are getting ready for the debate that is taking place on Wednesday. This week and next we are just doing online only to decrease on campus interactions. I am worried that it will just increase off campus interactions. We are trying to fundraise for the George Floyd Memorial Fund and fundraise for our undocumented student support fund.

- **President Hernandez Alzamora:** We have had a lot of virtual events. We had a flu shot party. We have had students across our campuses getting the flu shot. Our rates of cases come from off campus interactions. I have been working with our COVID task force since May. Our students are good at wearing masks. We send media pushes to continue to encourage that. We are hosting a Halloween event that will be in person and virtual. We are working on an inclusivity policy. I will find out more information about Campus Cup.
- **President Kante:** From August 27-September 30 we had less than ten cases per week. We are doing a good job at keeping SUU open. We have three students in quarantine right now. They are in hotels that are paid for by Student Affairs. We have given away free masks. We had a faculty member pass away. Things are ok here. Last week was Homecoming Week and it was all virtual. We had a concert and comedy show.

- President Buford: We are doing pretty poorly off campus. We are doing a joint initiative with Provo and Orem. Instead of it being a negative thing, they are trying to push positive reinforcement. They are giving away airline tickets for travel, so hopefully that will incentivize. We have given out COVID care bags. We are worried about mental wellbeing, so students can submit names of others who may be struggling and we deliver a bag of goods. We had a panel yesterday about race, ethnicity, and culture yesterday. We have these panels monthly and it was very successful. We have virtual game nights like JackBox and Among Us. We are also doing something called Cougar Quest. Organizations give out missions and quests to go see locations around campus and town since there aren't as many people seeing what's on campus. We started a new social media initiative to interview students from every college and every major. We will be discussing their stories and who they are. Clubs are all online.
- President Ahmed: Every student was given a COVID care kit. We bought one for every student on our campuses. That was our big push. We stayed flat with our enrollment. We only lost like twenty people. Our retention is looking great—especially among minority students. In our Latinx population, retention went from 70% to 80%. USU is happy.
 - President Mills: Will you guys message me about how you organized your COVID kits that you gave out to students.
 - President Kum: Can we share that on Slack?
 - President Ahmed: I know we used CARES Act funding.

- President Buford: We used a fund that we originally have for in person events that we aren't having.
- President Ahmed: Lastly, if you proposed an initiative, you will likely stay on the subcommittee for that.
- Adjourn
 - President Kum: **Motion**/President Griffin: **Second**/Voting Body:
Passed

In Attendance: Sami Ahmed, USU; Spring Cullen-Buford, BYU; Penny Mills, DSU; Matthew L. Griffin, Snow College; Norman Kante, SUU; Ephraim Kum, U of U; Sione Siaki, USU Eastern; Danielle Corbett, UVU; Benjamin Don Ferney, WSU; Candyce Damron, Student Representative-Academic Education; Lyra Peterson, Emily Hernandez SLCC; Dexton Lake, Chief of Staff; Luke Kerouac, Advisor

Zoom Group Chat	
From Ephraim Kum (he/him) to Everyone: Sorry, just got out of my cabinet meeting	6:01 PM
From Candyce Damron to Everyone: My heart is so happy every time I see all of you.	6:02 PM
From Ben Ferney to Everyone: ^^ me too!!!	6:02 PM
From Nouman Kante to Everyone: Hi y'all	6:03 PM
From Candyce Damron to Me: (Privately) Could I get added to the contacts page? Also, I sent my bio and picture in- am I supposed to be on the page? If not, no worries, just curious. But I would like to be added to the contacts list.	6:14 PM
From Me to Candyce Damron: (Privately) Yes, if you'll send that to me directly then I will get it added :)	6:14 PM
From Sami Ahmed to Me: (Privately) are you recording this meeting. ?	6:16 PM
From LukeKerouac to Everyone: in the fee policy 6.2.4, the word 'may' is repeated (the 2nd may is unnecessary)	6:20 PM
From Candyce Damron to Everyone: I will take note of that. Thanks!	6:20 PM
From Candyce Damron to Everyone: I apologize, I am going to hop off for just a second to figure out my wifi. I will be right back!	6:31 PM
From Ephraim Kum (he/him) to Everyone: Also the Equity Initiative is titled "Equity in Opportunity & Resources"	6:36 PM
From Me to Everyone: The rank order is as followed. Please include the numbers with your rank: 1. COVID Vaccine 2. Student Fee Tuition Report 3. No initiative 4. Equity in Race & Ethnicity	6:37 PM

Figure 1 Supplemental group Zoom conversation.



USA Meeting Agenda

November 5, 2020 | 6:00 pm

- Welcome – Sami Ahmed – President, Utah State University
- Approval of Minutes
 - Proposed Amendment- Dexton Lake, Chief of Staff
 - Motion to Approve Change to “President Hernandez Alzamora”
 - President Corbett: **Moved**/President Griffin:
Second/Voting Body: Passed
 - Motion to Approve Minutes
 - President Mills: **Moved**/President Ferney:
Second/Voting Body: Passed
- Public Forum
 - Gagan Kaur (United Way of Salt Lake)
 - Gagan Kaur: What we are trying do is address food insecurity across Utah by providing information about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education and resource education. We realized information and data collection is very limited. We are trying to implement a universal survey or questionnaire for institutions across the state. We would like to

try to get your buy-in so we can have a better understanding of what student needs are in the food and basic needs space. What we would like to do is address the root of the problem. The only way we can do that is if we have an appropriate understanding of the problem. It is also important we address the individual needs of each campus. We are trying to implement a basic needs coalition across the state. Having a long-term coalition would allow the exchange of ideas and make sure an understanding of student needs is presented—especially if it is led by students and individual institutions. If you could approach the person who leads your food bank and have them approach us, that will help us grow the coalition. We are just asking that you use your influence to get the conversation going to get the appropriate momentum going.

- President Griffin: Who will we need to contact? And are you just asking us to give the survey to administration?
 - Gagan Kaur: I will provide my contact in the chat. And then we just need the name of the administrator who is over distributing surveys to help us circulate the survey, probably the VP of Student Affairs for your institution. They may be hesitant to share data or distribute this, but our goal is to help them understand the importance of this being uniform across the state.
- President Ahmed: Do you have a universal data plan you are proposing?

- Gagan Kaur: Partners in the community have suggested using the USDA Survey they have. We are considering adding some questions to make sure that it addresses Utah needs specifically.
 - President Ferney: Would there be a possibility for us to receive information from you so we can pass that on to our administrators and those over our food pantries?
 - Gagan Kaur: I can absolutely draft a formal letter if that helps.
- Student Regent Report
 - Representative Damron: We had a board meeting this last Friday. First and foremost, the 2021-22 budget request has been released. A new part is 'compensation and mandatory increases funded with 100% state funds.' I think we should advocate for this as it will reduce cost, particularly as students are struggling financially right now. The buildings that were requested last year are being requested again this year. I will put this document in Slack. Next is student fees. The board was impressed that we reviewed the policy change and they appreciated the feedback. They approved the policy change. This will be effective immediately.
 - President Ahmed: The biggest thing for us to consider is that they are looking to move some student fee services to tuition. This will give students control over what goes on in regard to fees. I would encourage everyone to read this carefully. I've already met with my institution President about this. If there are things that you don't think should be added to tuition, make

your voices heard. It also says the boards need to be chaired by students, so that may change some of your institution structures.

- Representative Damron: Conversations will start happening quickly about fee changes, so start having those discussions in your institution. Students still have every right to create fees. Take a very close look at every fee in your institution.
 - President Corbett: We have already been in student fee meetings. We concluded that a lot of what we would be rolling into tuition is salary and wages since students cannot pick who is being hired. Our question is: what are your institutions doing with your athletics fee? Where are your institutions going with that?
 - President Ahmed: I've had this discussion at USU, our athletics fee is \$138.33 and part of that goes to salary. We are having the discussion about moving that into tuition so that the fee is exclusive for seats and athletic related activities for students.
 - President Corbett: If you could just Slack me what your institutions are doing, I would appreciate it. We don't want to reduce student fees just to increase tuition a high amount. It's just something for everyone to think about.
 - President Kum: I still need to learn the breakdown of our athletics fees. I imagine facilities and salaries go into it as well as the ticket to the game. As far as student fees in general, the University

hasn't done much. Instead, they are providing alternative funding to compensate for those.

Recently there was \$150 discount, so it was kind of a refund but none of those fee amounts actually changed. I also know they used CARES funding as well to soften the blow of student fees.

- Representative Damron: We want a greater responsibility to be put on the Board of Trustees regarding fees. There are new general principals that the Board of Trustees for each institution that will need to be followed. The board has created a strategic plan for the next five years. The top four priorities are access, completion, affordability, and workforce alignment & economic impact. Each is broken down into strategies and sub-goals.

What does everyone think of those four priorities?

- President Kum: What parameters do we have as far sharing this to get feedback?
 - Representative Damron: I will have to ask. The commissioner is starting a taskforce that I think will start next week. I will report back to you all about how public we can take this after the first meeting.
- President Corbett: What was the thought process of separating access and affordability? I think it could be more streamlined if they combined them.
 - Representative Damron: I wasn't really a part of this discussion. It might become a little clearer as time goes on. The legislation is pushing

affordability, so I think they wanted to separated that out to make sure it was its own priority. With access, I know they are wanting to include college access advisors and discuss how some counties might have more access to higher education resources. I think this might be clearer as we figure out our sub-goals. I may have to return and report on that.

- President Kum: I think its important for USHE to emphasize that they are there for students from beginning to end.
- President Ahmed: If we advocate for the 100% coverage, that will be a big thing to make higher education more affordable. For example, at Utah State University something like 75% of salary comes from the legislature and the rest comes from the institution. If we can highlight the state doing that 100% match compensation, you will see easier what your institution is doing when they propose tuition increases.
- President Kante: I think these are good goals for the state to work on. Some of the schools are already on top of this. Does this mention health care, specifically mental health care, at all?
 - Representative Damron: I know that mental health is a big priority of the system as a whole. As we break down these priorities more and finalize the strategic plan, I have confidence that mental health

can be included. I will bring this up with the taskforce. That could be included in the barriers that prohibiting students from going beginning to end in their education. I will send all the documents in the Slack channel.

- Initiative Updates

- Student Fee Initiative Report.

- President Ahmed: With this new update, this changed our plans dramatically. Essentially what we want to do is put something like this policy on the USA website and adding student fee structure on the website for each institution.
 - President Griffin: I think this ties in well to what Candyce showed us. We want to give every student the opportunity to see what they are paying for at each institution. I think transparency needs to be a high priority. We are gathering information from everybody in an effort to publish this in the most transparent way possible. We are likely going to have to change course. However, we are just gathering information about what we do know as of now.
 - President Ahmed: We want to post how each fee board structure works, who chairs it, and who you contact regarding student fees. We want all three of these things included on the website. Along with that, we want a blurb from each institution about their fees.
 - President Kum: Do we want procedures to be uniform to? Like a fee proposal?

- President Ahmed: A big part of that discussion will be with your institution president. Procedures are a big part of student fees and including that on the website could be important.
- Equity in Opportunity & Resources Initiative
 - President Siaki: We have three pillars that we are working under: racial, socioeconomic, and health equity. We split into partnerships and each is going to tackle a pillar.
 - Representative Damron: Within the board, we have an equity and diversity subcommittee. I think it would be great if members of this USA subcommittee could present to the system's subcommittee.
 - President Corbett: I think presenting in January would be most realistic because we hope to have data then. Do we have a Facebook page we can do outreach on?
 - Dexton Lake, Chief of Staff: We have an active one, the problem is keeping it active from year to year. I will report next month.
 - President Ahmed: We will recreate one and try again.
 - President Ahmed: If there is anything that requires state officials for your initiatives, it may be wise to contact those officials before January in preparation for the legislative session. Spring, would you be ok if we helped address concerns

your student body has aside since your school doesn't have student fees.

- President Cullen-Buford: Let me get back to you next month on that one.
- President Ahmed: I would appreciate it if you all would try to reach out to those in charge of traveling so we can potentially have an in-person meeting. Float the idea with those in charge so they are aware. Check and then get back to me by next Thursday. We will send out a reminder email to do that.
- Dexton Lake, Chief of Staff: Please make sure the descriptions are accurate on the USA Website.
- Campus Updates
 - President Kante: Our cases have been low. Our students have been diligent. This week we had Education Week. It was super fun. My government is doing well. We passed a couple of bills in the Senate. We passed a sexual assault peer advocate bill. The next bill is promoting peer outreach since it is harder for students to connect. We want to create an app for students to connect and make friends. We are forming a team that will be reviewing student fees. We are going online after Thanksgiving Break.
 - President Siaki: We had our first fee meeting this morning. We have a group of our student government team and general students on that board. We are getting ready to move online for the semester starting November 23rd.
 - President Cullen-Buford: BYU has been pretty tight on COVID-19 restrictions; however, last week we were able to hold a Halloween event across the whole campus. It was a lot of fun! COVID care

packages have been going great. The research part of our student government has been doing research about student poverty. We are worried students aren't obtaining the resources they need, so we are trying to tackle that issue.

- **President Mills:** Everyone here is feeling burnt out. We have had to cancel our big events, so that was a real bummer. We had to cancel football and powder puff as part of Homecoming. Our cases are increasing on campus. We are focusing on campus safety as we are continually growing. I met with some city officials to make cross walks on campus and across the city. We are also making bike lanes. We are doing a lot of to-go events such as a paint night. We are starting our student fee allocation stuff the beginning of December. Our campus is staying open after Thanksgiving, so I think a lot of students will be staying.
- **President Kum:** Since everything is bad statewide as far as coronavirus, it is bad here in Salt Lake. The U is trying to create a strong culture of guideline observance, but that's only on campus. I worry that administrators think that we are doing super well even though we are a commuter school. We are a little worried. The U of U hospital is at capacity. I'm excited about the student fee board meetings now since we are needing to make changes. I wanted to run through some cool initiatives. Our vice president for student relations is spearheading a free facemask initiative. In addition, we are battling administration on two different fronts that are both related to mental health wellbeing. We aren't having a spring break next semester. At face value it makes sense; however, we have noticed that students are worried they are going to burn out worse than they are this semester.

We are wanting to push for mental health excused absences. For fall semester, we are trying to reinstate the credit/non-credit option for students. The circumstances now are significantly worse than last semester. We will fight tooth and nail on this. The Lauren McCluskey legislation just passed that we were working on. We hosted interviews with candidates in preparation for the election. We did a flu shot initiative.

- President Corbett: We had our VP debate event and that was great. We did a voter initiative that Candyce started last year called My Voice Matters and had a lot of activities surrounding that. We are going online after Thanksgiving but the campus will still be open. The modality of teaching is unchanging. Our provost told our faculty they couldn't switch once it was decided. We aren't cancelling our spring break. We decided that with so many students doing class online, it wouldn't change anything. We are providing people with a publicity package if they want to run for student government. We are trying to figure out ways to work around the GPA requirement for application.
- President Ferney: We haven't seen any spikes in the virus. We will be staying in the same format through the semester. We had almost 4% of the student body register in the election. We are starting our first student fee recommendation committee.
- President Hernandez Alzamora: We started meeting as a student fee board. One of our goals is setting up a student resource directory and putting it on Canvas. We are holding hybrid Executive Council until the day before Thanksgiving Break. Afterward, that will be the case until the end of January.

- President Ahmed: Things are good at Utah State University. We are trying to give students as much opportunities to engage with almost 200 approved activities and events that are safe to attend. We were recognized in a national magazine for COVID response and assimilation of students. Our campus community is staying healthy. We won't be having spring break. We understand the purpose and are happy that our safety is being put first. We are dismissed after Thanksgiving; however, we anticipate students to stay since their contracts won't expire. Campus will remain open.
- Adjourn
 - President Corbett: **Moved**/President Ferney: **Second**/Voting Body: **Passed**

In Attendance: Sami Ahmed, USU; Spring Cullen-Buford, BYU; Penny Mills, DSU; Matthew L. Griffin, Snow College; Norman Kante, SUU; Ephraim Kum, U of U; Sione Siaki, USU Eastern; Danielle Corbett, UVU; Benjamin Don Ferney, WSU; Candyce Damron, Student Representative-Academic Education; Lyra Peterson, Emily Hernandez Alzamora SLCC; Dexton Lake, Chief of Staff; Linda Zimmerman, Advisor, Gagan Kaur

Zoom Group Chat

From Emily Hernandez Alzamora (she/Her)- SLCC to Everyone:

sorry guys, just finished a meeting and have to finish something in the office, I will turn on cam when I am done :)

6:01 PM

From Me to Everyone:

admin.ususa@usu.edu

6:13 PM

From ACS - Gagan Kaur to Everyone:

alexis.bucknam@uw.org

gagan.kaur@cancer.org

6:13 PM

From Emily Hernandez Alzamora (she/Her)- SLCC to Everyone:

yes

6:13 PM

From Candyce Damron to Everyone:

Go for it!

6:15 PM

From Danielle Corbett to Everyone:

Sami, if you want my agenda item has to do with this policy?? I can just ask it now.

6:20 PM

From Linda Zimmerman to Me: (Privately)

I had to take a phone call about the COVID and the squad. Be right back

6:28 PM

From Linda Zimmerman to Me: (Privately)

I am back

6:35 PM

From Ben Ferney to Everyone:

Can we scroll down to the affordability page?

6:35 PM

From Spring Buford - BYU to Everyone:

^

6:36 PM

From Ephraim Kum (he/him) to Everyone:

*maybe that would help us gauge the differences?

Differences**

6:36 PM

From Penny Mills to Everyone:

Ephraim, did you have a comment?

6:42 PM

From Ephraim Kum (he/him) to Everyone:

I am a regular student!

6:44 PM

From Candyce Damron to Everyone:

6:55 PM

To:

Linda Zimmerman

 (Privately)

Type message here...

From Candyce Damron to [Everyone](#):
We'll plan for January!

From Matthew to [Everyone](#):
I'm so sorry everyone but I just had a phone call with a family member and I need to leave the meeting for an emergency. Love you all!

From Candice Damron to [Everyone](#):
The sooner the better. We should start the conversations ASAP.

From Danielle Corbett to [Everyone](#):
I WANNA MEET IN PERSON SO BAD

From Candice Damron to [Everyone](#):
PLEASE

From Spring Buford - BYU to [Everyone](#):
Same! 7:02 PM

From Danielle Corbett to [Everyone:](#)
DISNEYWORLD

From Spring Buford - BYU to [Everyone](#): 7:02 PM

From Candyce Damron to [Everyone](#):
Yes plz

Uh yes. Crying. Literally tearing up

From Nouman Kante to [Everyone](#):
thanks Spring!

From Ephraim Kum (he/him) to [Everyone](#):
Danielle could you Imk more talking points in support of Spring Break? Or even getting y'all's President to talk to ours 🤔

From Danielle Corbett to [Everyone](#):
Yes!! I will compile some of our talking points from UVUSA's council. I will reach out to our VP of Student Affairs and see if there isn't some way we can reach out to your administration.

From Candice Damron to [Everyone](#):
YOU'RE ALL THE BEST EVER

To: **Linda Zimmerman** (Privately)





USA Meeting Agenda

January 21, 2021 | 6:00 pm

- Welcome – Sami Ahmed – President, Utah State University
 - President Ahmed: Thank you for coming to the meeting. We have two guests: Isabelle from DSUSA and Katie WSUSA.
- Approval of Minutes
 - Motion: President Griffin/Seconded: President Corbett/Voting Body: Passed
- Presidency Report
 - President Ahmed: I just wanted to talk about the initiative regarding incentivizing students to get COVID-19 tested. As we discussed last time, we talked about allocating \$5,000 in prizes with the hope of reaching \$10,000. How do we want to approach it now? Do we still want to do \$5,000 and ask our institutions to come up with another \$5,000?
 - Representative Damron: The commissioner wants to see universities match funding. The commissioner's office will not be contributing.

- President Kum: If our institutions can't come up with the remaining \$5,000, what about just using \$5,000 that is in our account.
 - President Ahmed: That would leave about \$8,000-\$9,000 in our account. How does everyone feel about that?
- President Corbett: When I was reporting to my counsel, they asked if we would get more money since we contribute the most student fees. I'm not married to that idea. Would Westminster be involved, would BYU?
 - President Ahmed: Not Westminster. BYU would be up to us as a board. If we split it by size, that could cause an issue because each institution also receives money from the state based on the size of students they have. The state already accounts for student size when allocating money, so I don't see the need to allocate based on size on our end. Doing so could maybe discourage other colleges from participating.
 - President Corbett: Like I said, I'm not married to it. It was just something my council expressed. When we talked about just doing scholarships, they wondered if UVU would get two scholarships while a smaller school would just get one. So not necessarily a lower cash amount, but just more scholarships for the bigger schools.
 - President Kante: Maybe we need to look at the by-laws for something like this.

- President Ahmed: Linda, correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't money contributed based on size and then it's up to the board to decide how to use it?
 - Linda Zimmerman: Yes. Everything as far as state funding and how we do fees is based on full time equivalent. It is the same amount of money per person on each campus. It is up to you as the presidents to decide how that money is used.
- President Ahmed: I would suggest going on an equal approach.
 - President Griffin: I see what Danielle is saying and I think it makes sense. I think it is a fairer approach.
- President Ahmed: So, it looks like everyone is in support of keeping it at \$5,000? Ok, great.
- Representative Damron: What are we doing with the remaining \$9,000 left in the USA account?
 - Linda Zimmerman: Typically, we save about \$9,000 for the new presidents. You all didn't have to pay into USA this year. We use that money for travel and conferences and there are conferences that are available to go to prior to the end of the fiscal year. I would have a hard time, as the advisor, wanting to put all that money towards scholarships and prizes because we need to think of the next council. How many scholarships are you thinking of doing?
 - President Ahmed: We haven't discussed that yet.
- President Ahmed: The big thing with the remaining money is if people are allowed to go to conferences, then us spending

money would impact their ability to go. We are still using money from 2019. Linda, how much money is typically spent before the end of the fiscal year?

- Linda Zimmerman: Well we have to get eleven rooms for regent interviews. And typically, we have to have money for Higher Ed Day, although that will look different this year. Regardless, I would suggest leaving \$8,000 in the account.
- President Ahmed: So, does everyone feel good about \$5,000? Looks like everyone is. Once we discuss that with Spencer we will figure out how to divvy that out.
- Student Regent Report
 - Candyce Damron: We have continued the conversation with the innovation task force that USHE created. The country seems to be putting a lot of resources into online education and Utah is trying to keep the same. They are trying to define access and create attainable goals for student access to online learning. It is a heavy conversation as there are many barriers that need to be taken down. As far as DSU goes, we supported the name change. As well with USU, we decided to release a statement in support of President Cockett. The legislative session has begun. Although we haven't been able to include students much, if there is something that comes up, I will let you know. President Watkins is stepping down, so we are beginning a search for a new president of The U. We had a safety summit last week. Throughout the next several months we are going to be having safety workshops. The state got a report back on survey that was sent out. That report is available online.

- Initiative Updates

- President Ahmed: I wanted to talk about the fee initiative and where we are on that. We wanted to give you all a template on what to follow. We want all the fees from each institution to be on the USA website so people can cross match fees across the institutions. The idea is to add a tab that has student fees. I don't think it would be fair to require videos with such a short amount of time. We want all the fees that students pay into with a description of how the fee is used and its history. If each president can give us a blurb on there student fees and the history behind that, we want to throw that onto the USA Website. The history is very important as fees get created under one purpose and oftentimes those purposes change, so students should know that. We will model it after USU's student fee page. We can send a link of this so you can model this.

- President Griffin: Would we just send that information to you or Dexon?

- President Ahmed: Both of us. As long as we have it, we can start compiling it for each university. We need the most updated information. Hopefully we can get this done by the end of February, so that is kind of the deadline for that.

- President Corbett: One quick update and change I'm proposing about health inequities, we talked about mental health and gyms and such. I was approached by a company who makes feminine products available more accessible with the goal to make them free. Would anyone be interested in that?

- President Ahmed: We have a senator working on that here, so we would be interested. I think that is a great idea.
- President Kum: As part of the racial equity, I was working on the resolution to make racism a public health crisis and that resolution was taken up by Representative Sandra Hollins. This will help students be more aware. Once I find out more about that, I will provide more information.
 - President Ahmed: Is that something you need USA's support for, such as signatures or a statement?
 - President Kum: I think that will be part of it. Additionally, making each of our institutions aware so they communicate their support.
 - President Griffin: What exactly is the resolution and where can we find it?
 - President Kum: I can get an original copy from the student who authored it. It declares racism a public health crisis in Utah. I will see how Representative Hollins is wording it.
- President Siaki: We have recently been meeting with different organizations discussing our initiative, particularly on socioeconomic equity. We are going to work on addressing food insecurity on campuses. My plan is to work on ensuring there are standards set for food pantries and addressing food insecurity across all campuses.
- Campus Updates
 - President Kante: Had a wonderful spring orientation. Fewer students than we typically get. It was fun to get new students to campus. The testing side is going well. We are getting low numbers this week for

testing since students got tested last week. Sports are up and running again. Our events are fine and most of them are virtual which means less participation. We did a campus resources fair the first week. Our positive rate is a little low. Our student body is doing well overall. I am reporting our fees to the Board of Trustee's tomorrow.

- **President Kum:** This week is our first week back and everyone is trying to get the feel of things. There is an undertone of hope for this semester. I'm hoping between our weekly testing roll out and as more and more of our students get vaccinated, it will all result in a safer campus. It looks like a lot of professors are implementing an emotional wellbeing element to their classes. Hopefully that will help a lot of students. Our president is stepping down. Now we are just trying to figure out our search process. We have more conversations about that coming.
- **President Corbett:** We had the State of the University address today. It was a great address. You can find that on YouTube. We just got done with our student fee hearings today and we are hoping to reduce fees by about \$87.00. We are discussing increasing the fee for student health services. They didn't ask for an increase, but we appreciate the work they are doing to help students.
- **Isabelle Peck:** We had our student forum for the proposal of the name change, that was a positive thing. We had our club rush yesterday. We have sports going as well as COVID testing.
 - **President Ahmed:** Do you have a new name idea?
 - **Isabelle Peck:** They have yet to choose a name yet in order to get community input. We are currently taking suggestions.

- Katie Nicholson: Our legislative branch is working on making changes to our constitution. We discussed making the pronouns more gender inclusive.
- President Siaki: We are working on some constitutional changes as well to include Eastern in the Statewide System. We had our Welcome Back Week which was successful despite being virtual. We are going to try to do a popup event on campus on Monday to pass out kits to students. We have COVID tests as well and we are just trying to get the word out on that.
- President Griffin: We have made huge jumps with COVID. We have a low amount of cases. So, we are starting up all activities with limitations of course. The student body officers have been making a huge push to get COVID testing by offering prizes and incentives. About forty percent of the campus has been tested in the last three days. We are creating a new position that will be responsible for promoting diversity and reaching out to diverse students to help them have a more inclusive experience.
- President Ahmed: We have been working on structural changes as President Siaki mentioned in an effort to be more united across the institution. I have been working on changing our communication with the student portal to make it more attractive and engaging. We are currently at 290 for COVID cases. That includes students, faculty, and staff. We started the swing of election declarations as well.
- Adjourn
 - Motion: President Corbett/Seconded: President Kum/Voting Body: Passed



USA Meeting Agenda

March 31, 2021 | 1:00 pm

- Welcome – Sami Ahmed – President, Utah State University
- Approval of Minutes
 - President Corbett: Moved/ President Mills: Second/ Voting Body:
Passed
- Public Forum
 - George Gemelas and Emily Hales Walker, Citizens' Climate Lobby
 - George Gemelas: It is so good to see you all. I'm coming with updates and some more opportunities. Young people care about the climate issue and we are looking for smart and sensible solutions. Utah rocks in terms of addressing the issue. The final pieces are coming together in our plan.
 - Emily Hales Walker: I graduated from BYU a little over a year ago. I volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL). We lobby for carbon fee and dividend legislation. We also work to create a meaningful will for climate change solutions. We have five levers of political will: lobbying congress, media relations, grassroots outreach, grassroots engagement, and group

development. In my conversations with Rep. John Curtis, he has changed his mindset on climate change because of his conversations with young people. There's lots of ways you can get involved. You can sign up for CCL's monthly calling campaign, write about carbon fees and dividends, and encourage university leadership to endorse carbon fees and dividends.

- President Cullen-Buford: Have you been in contact with the Sustainability Union of Utah Students?
 - George Gemelas: No, but we will definitely reach out!
- President Ahmed: How can we help you guys?
 - George Gemelas: The letter is ready to go and will go out very soon. We will keep you up to date about that. A few of you have offered testimonials or quotes, so I may reach out to you about that. If you want to write pieces or stories, that help shapes the conversations. If you want to do more, reach out to Emily.
 - Emily Hales Walker: You can also join CCL without a serious time commitment.
- Student Regent Report
 - Representative Damron: We got some buildings funded and some one-time funding passed through the state. The Utah educational system is getting some extra funding through the recent stimulus bill. We are still trying to get college access advisors funded. Every institution presented their tuition and fee increases. The state approved

an average of a 1.98% increase. We are going to create mandated training for college safety officers. Hopefully that will help shed a more positive light on campus safety officers. We passed a draft of a resolution called *Resolution to Recognize the Positive Impact of Dreamers in the College Education System*. It is meant to support DACA students. We are looking over our strategic plan. We added another goal of system unification. We talked about non-traditional students. I've been pushing for additional child care services. We have a board transfer council that helps students transfer institutions and instituting transfer pathways. Applications are due Monday for the student board member positions. Keep pushing that out.

- President Ahmed: With so many of you coming back next year, we think we can make it possible for incoming and outgoing presidents to attend. So, try to keep your April 8th and 9th open if you aren't returning next year but want to attend the interviews. Per the constitution, each institution would get two votes for the regent. I think for the returners, you should get both votes rather than bring a representative with you to just help with logistics.

- New Business

- USA Structural Change

- President Ahmed: All of you should have a piece of legislation regarding a structural change. Please take the people out of the issue and focus on the challenge as a whole. USU Eastern is part of USA which I considered odd because they are part of USU. Let's read the legislation first and then we can discuss. We want this to take place in 2022.

Reading of Bill to Remove Utah State University Eastern President from the Utah Student Association Committee

- President Ahmed: USU Eastern is a statewide campus and each has representation. It doesn't make sense to have an appendage of a university on a board like this. If that continues, then other universities could be compelled to have the same thing. Like I said, this will take place in 2022 and will allow USU and USUE to figure out more merger goals. It was voted in favor by all USU except Eastern as a new structure. On Eastern Campus, it failed by less than one vote. For USA, the existence of USU Eastern on the board doesn't make sense because it isn't a separate institution. We are doing a restructuring at USU internally to have more uniform representation.
 - Representative Damron: Would this need to be something that we need to hand off since it didn't pass at USU Eastern?
 - President Ahmed: I don't think it necessarily matters since the issue is still the same. USU Eastern is here because they were once the College of Eastern Utah. Nobody has acted on the change. The reason I'm bringing it now is because it gives the next group the chance to work with the new structure and hopefully won't create tension with the pending changes at USU.
 - President Siaki: These are things that are already taking place. We have a meeting with President Cockett as well tomorrow.

- President Ahmed: I have the letter from President Cockett indicating her support on your tables as well. The main thing here is we need to look at it as “does this make structural sense” and right now it doesn’t. Administration and student government see it as not making sense too. The honest truth, USU Eastern was not in favor of this initially because of all the perks for being in USA. Internally, they don’t sit on the Board of Trustees or university committees. I’ve made decisions that Eastern has had to live with as the university recognizes me as the student body president. I’ve been here for two years and understand the problem thoroughly. Sione has been an amazing president. It’s just more of looking at the problem.
- President Mills: I see the issue that needs to be fixed, so how do we make sure that USU Eastern still has a voice? I think going forward this will just be a problem that doesn’t get fixed if it isn’t addressed now. Is President Cockett the president for both campuses?
 - President Ahmed: Yes, she is.
- President Griffin: Do you represent USU Eastern too, Sami?
 - President Ahmed: The reason they stayed separated was because the people of Price weren’t too happy because they had their own college and mascot and wanted to keep it that way when they

merged with USU. This merger has been gradual. For instance, last year we just merged all of our student fees.

- President Mills: Why would they do that? How can Eastern still have a voice?
 - President Griffin: We all have branches of our main campus that we represent. If we keep this same structure, then USA will need to get a lot bigger to have representation for every single campus and its appendage campuses.
 - President Siaki: The USU system has a lot of issues and that is what we have been trying to figure out. We looked at all the campuses and discussed together that the role of the student body president needs to have communication with all campuses and represent all campuses, which is not the case right now.
 - President Ahmed: Sione was part of the structure change and the constitution restructuring so it wasn't done in the night. Regardless of USA, USU is going to make the internal structural changes and we have to get rid of incentives here that don't make sense. Those incentives dissuade from having a streamlined system. In order to approve this, we would need a seventy-five percent majority vote. It won't impact next year's group, like I said.

- Representative Damron: What would next year's responsibilities for the USU President and USUE President be?
 - President Mills: That would go to the next USU President, right?
 - President Ahmed: Correct. There are ways that I currently hear about USUE, but the incentive to stay on this board is still there. This new structure streamlines representation. That is an internal issue that we can fix and move forward with. The administrators over USUE think the way it is doesn't make sense. We are very concerned about the representation for USUE. That's why we spent three days together rewriting the constitution. Sioni was an integral part of that. We need to make the hard decisions now so we can keep moving forward.
- President Kante: My only concern is visibility because we don't want the students to struggle finding their leaders. How do you make the Student Body President visible for all campuses?
 - President Ahmed: Each campus will have their own government entity that students can go to. What we are changing is Sioni and I will now have a formal connection. Right now, anything and

everything that happens at USUE, I don't hear about. There will only be one student body president and then that position will be a vice president.

- President Griffin: If this passes here and then USUE doesn't approve your internal changes, does that change our decision here?
 - President Ahmed: That can always change. We could vote to have USU Salt Lake on here. This right now is just a stumbling block that needs to be overcome now.
- President Corbett: We have a similar structure. If we vote to make this change, I think it would be valuable to thoroughly explain the changes to the next group.
- President Griffin: So, there already is a solid plan on representation? With USUE being here, I don't find it fair that USU has more votes than any other institution because it only benefits Utah State University.
 - President Ferney: I would also say that extra vote isn't aligned with our constitution.
- Motion to Approve the Bill
 - President Griffin: Moved/ President Ferney: Second/ Voting Body: Passed
- Campus Updates
 - President Cullen-Buford: Commencement is online. We are pushing for more transparency from administration. Just passing the baton.

- President Kante: We have activities happening, clubs being created, initiatives passing, and funding requests being approved. I also won reelection.
- President Corbett: I'm wondering if we change the structure to have the regent chair this since they don't vote? Then this would eliminate any potential biases.
 - President Griffin: What would be the point of having them chair?
 - Representative Damron: I'm elected to be a non-bias opinion already by serving in this position. We thought this position could chair to just be non-bias and represent the entirety of the system as they already do.
 - President Corbett: We could have the board member serve as the chair and then have an election for VP and Chief of Staff. I just feel there's a disconnect for legislation. If this position chaired, then they could say "here's the student body presidents" and then they can directly instruct on Higher Ed Day, legislation, etc. This could also give potential for higher scholarships.
 - President Ferney: Would the workload be realistic?
 - Representative Damron: I don't see that being an issue.
 - President Ahmed: In the interest of time, can we move this to a discussion with next year's group? I would like to even meet before that first meeting and hash out the details. Right now, I'm not in support but I would like to schedule a time to discuss this more so I can hear the complete idea and let you all be heard.

- Representative Damron: Absolutely, and it would just be a discussion item that they would discuss as a group.
- President Kum: We had a great year. The Equity Townhall is tonight at 6:00 p.m. Donovan Mitchell is our commencement speaker. I wrote an op-ed for the Deseret News about our George Floyd Memorial Scholarship.
- Ayana Amaechi: We wrote a piece of legislation regarding interpersonal abuse. It is in memorial of Lauren McCluskey. It was passed within the University of Utah Senate. It includes a syllabi statement, hosting a day of memoriam to remember Lauren, furthering the goals outside the U, and ensuring the work of violence prevention continues.
 - Motion to Support These Initiatives
 - President Corbett: Moved/ President Siaki: Second/
Voting Body: Passed
- President Griffin: Snow was able to be ninety percent face-to-face for the entire year. We are continuing our school's mask mandate through the end of the year. We have a lot of fun activities happening now through the end of the year. We were able to present our student fee's transparency initiative and we created a document of fees that any student can look at and understand how their money is being spent.
- President Mills: We are continuing our mask mandate as well. House Bill 278 passed both chambers. A change was required that creates a group to be formed to come up with name ideas and get public opinion. We have a lot of fun events coming up too. We have been discussing fees here too and how to make them more transparent and

useful. There was a student death from a drunk driver on our campus. I'm appreciate of your support.

- President Siaki: We have the structural changes. I want to commend everyone's work this year.
- President Corbett: We lowered our student fees. We have reformed our scholarship structure. We also now have our third female student body president.
- President Ferney: You are all wonderful. There will be a virtual component of commencement. We had an inclusion week last week. We plan on keeping our mask mandate. We are doing a survey on tobacco usage on campus. We passed a lot of bills in the election cycle. I was reelected.
- President Ahmed: Like I said, we've been working on our restructuring. We have a new student body president, Lucas Stevens. We had a big fee and tuition restructuring. I've enjoyed working with all of you.
- Adjourn
 - President Griffin: Motion/ President Ferney: Second/ Voting Body: passed