



USA Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
January 8th, 2025 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Meeting Start Time: 8:04

1. Campus Board of Regent

Muskan- The student board member application is opening on Monday. We should all receive emails from Taylor on January 13th. Applications close March 2nd. Interviews on April 11th.

Bella: Taylor reached out and will be in the next February meeting with more details on that.

2. Day on the Hill

Bella: All the student body presidents attend the USHE day on the hill. We are invited to attend and have lunch with legislatures on February 13th from 11:30 to 1:00pm. Invitation is sent out to all presidents.

Joe: What happens in the lunch meeting?

Bella: I went last year for our own day on the hill. You get to share information to the legislatures and connect while they are in their general session. Conversations and updates with the legislatures.

Matt: We are waiting for a response but we are seeing if the governor could meet with us earlier in the day. I will have more details on that later.

Linda: It is very connected and it is important so please try to be there.

Bella: I hope to see everyone there.

3. Student Fee/ Legislative Updates

Bella: This is an ever changing conversation. The Legislature is looking into higher education and at budget cuts. I am not super informed on the potential bill of budget cuts. I want to give an update of the student fee discussion. They have found more

issues with course fees and taken focus off of student fees. I want to shift our focus so we have already advocated for student fees when a bill gets brought up. One thing that I worked on, I listed all of the senators and representative in the Higher Ed Appropriations subcommittee. I listed who is connected to different universities. For example I had a meeting with one of our representatives. I reached out to our government rep here and set up and meeting with the three of us.

a. Shift Focus to Building Connections

Bella: Now that the focus has shifted we can still have those meetings and build connections with our representatives and senators with the goal of making connections as student body presidents and letting them know how students feel.

Joe: Can you provide a few bullet points to guide the conversation? Like if there were any points that were helpful or impactful in the meeting.

Bella: I am actually meeting with the director of IOP so we can have a conversation about writing a document about this conversation and the argument that we are trying to make. It will help us all stay on the same page. They are still looking into user fees in the future so a list of pros and cons for user fees would be helpful. It is more individual to each institution because different fees are more important to different schools.

Joe: There are definitely differences that would be helpful to know and if there are any overarching points that would be helpful to have.

Bella: Muskan have you heard anything regarding this?

Muskan: We have asked USHE to provide updates on this and we have heard nothing. I think that it is on the back of people's minds. I think the proactive approach is good.

Bella: Does anyone else have different approaches or ideas?

Joe: Are there any senators that are pushing it harder than others?

Matt: There are definitely some house reps that are more forward about higher education in general. I can send some names later.

Joe: I guess it would be helpful to know who is leading the conversations behind the scenes on these topics. I definitely want to see if we can kill the bill before it happens. I personally think that the user fee model does not make any sense and is the opposite of affordability.

Muskan: I can ask Katie to see if there are any specific names and share them.

Matt: As legislative vice chair, I will try to be in Salt Lake as much as possible to keep any higher ed related issues on the radar.

Bella: I wanted to use the IOP as an example. The IOP here does events to keep students informed on politics. Because there is a lot financially involved in higher education this session, we are hosting an event to tell students how the financial changes could affect higher education. One of my vice presidents will be making an effort to inform students on the process as well.

4. USA Initiatives

5. Campus Climates

Bella: I want to talk about anything going on on campuses that we can share.

Mimi: We just introduced wolverine access at our university. All students are enrolled in a \$250 course to cover textbook costs. It is an automatic opt-in that is basically withheld from their student account. I heard that USU uses this and it is very successful there. If anyone else uses that and has advice or insight.

Matt: We did implement that last year. We had a similar reaction about not spending that much. But there are definitely students that are paying more than that. Our campus bookstore that rolled it out had events and told students how to opt out. You can still have access and pay for just the books you need.

Mimi: UVUSA is going to run a similar campaign to help students opt out of that.

Matt: If other schools don't have this program then we probably will. I can send the banner that we use out to everyone.

Bella: Any other climates to mention?

Emily: I let you all know about the impeachment proceeding that happened here. I want to be transparent and answer any questions on that.

Bella: How are you feeling and how can we support you?

Emily: It is just very sad and has created a bad environment in the office. It has been hard to see people leave over this issue. With elections coming up it has scared people off from running and created a fearful dynamic. I am trying to stay positive and move on. It is not beneficial to the students. Our student government is such a small percentage of our students.

Joe: Just to echo what Bella said, we are here as a support system. Don't be a stranger, we would love to support you.

Bella: Joe we are both doing a silent disco on the same night.

Mimi: We are doing one on Friday too! Do you guys have themes?

Bella: It's just silent disco as our first one. It is for our week of welcome.

Mimi: This year we are calling it Club 801 and it is taking up the top floor of our business building.

Bella: How do we feel about the initiative conversation? Do we want to wait until February when we are all here? I think that if we brought the legislation idea into the initiative that would be very cool. Bridging the gap would be very beneficial. Setting up those meetings and building connections could become our initiative for the year. I am more than happy to do something else. Doing our part in advocating for students and being that voice. We had talked about two other options of finances and HB261.

Joe: Do legislatures meet with all the presidents in Utah?

Bella: I am not sure... if anyone else knows?

Muskan: I believe so. USHE is all about bringing all of the presidents in.

Joe: Oh wait... I was having the same idea as Day on the Hill.

Bella: I don't want to shorten the meeting but I understand we are busy with the start of the semester. Anything else to talk about? Ok! I will see you all in February!

Bella: Motion to end the meeting.

Motion passes unanimously.