



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. Dexton 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.

- President Hernandez Alzamora: I never got it either.
- Mr. Lake: According to the email, it was sent to everyone.
- President Ahmed: We will allow everyone to vote again. We will direct message Luke with our ranking and readjust.

The screenshot shows a Google Sheets spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	USA initiatives	covid	student fee	no initiative	Equity							
2			4	2	3	1						
3			4	2	3	1						
4			4	2	3	1						
5			1	2	4	3						
6			3	2	4	1						
7			3	2	1	4						
8			1	2	3	4						
9			1	3	4	2						
10			1	2	3	4						
11			4	2	3	1						
12			26	21	31	22						
13												
14												
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22												

- 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.