



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

- 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 6:15 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: 6:55 PM
We'll plan for January!
- From Matthew to Everyone: 6:58 PM
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 Candyce Damron to Everyone: 7:00 PM
The sooner the better. We should start the conversations ASAP.
- From Danielle Corbett to Everyone: 7:02 PM
I WANNA MEET IN PERSON SO BAD
- From Candyce Damron to Everyone: 7:02 PM
PLEASE
- From Spring Buford - BYU to Everyone: 7:02 PM
Same!
- From Danielle Corbett to Everyone: 7:02 PM
DISNEYWORLD
- From Spring Buford - BYU to Everyone: 7:02 PM
^^
- From Candyce Damron to Everyone: 7:02 PM
Yes plz
- From Penny Mills to Everyone: 7:02 PM
Uh yes. Crying. Literally tearing up
- From Nouman Kante to Everyone: 7:12 PM
thanks Spring!
- From Ephraim Kum (he/him) to Everyone: 7:27 PM
Danielle could you lmk more talking points in support of Spring Break? Or even getting y'all's President to talk to ours 🥺
- From Danielle Corbett to Everyone: 7:28 PM
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 Candyce Damron to Everyone: 7:34 PM
YOU'RE ALL THE BEST EVER

To: Linda Zimmerman (Privately)



[Type message here...]