



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