University of Iowa Student Government

STUDENT SENATE SESSION
December 3rd, 2019

A.) Call to Order (7:00)

B.) Quorum Call – Roll Call

C.) Public Access (40 minutes)

✓ Alex Linden- Office of Leadership

- Presentation
  - I’m here to discuss the new project that UISG has funded the community space. Here is some background on why we decided to go with this project. The university of Iowa was the only Big ten school with no central space for student volunteers and civic engagement. We believed that centralizing resources for civic engagement will help students in the future get involved. Right now, the community space is located on the first floor of the IMU. It offers a space for the university and the community to get involved in civic engagement and service. This space also employs students to work the office. This past semester we have had 524 visits, 202 unique visitors so these are affiliates of the university. Most students who have swiped in around 1 to 2 times and were mostly students who were political science majors. The largest amount of people was second years and 23% first generation. The main reason why people are going into the space are there to attend a meeting. A few student organizations use the space to host meetings and staff use the space as well. 20% are students holding office hours, so they have a centralized place to meet. 29 students have registered to vote, and the student employees have been trained to register someone to vote. 42 of students have sought volunteer advising, a lot of students don’t have a lot of information on where they could volunteer and there is not a go to person to meet with them on how to volunteer and where to volunteer. We also have events held in the space as well. Next semester we want to reach a larger student population, have
more diverse programing, more accessible hours, and we want to be more flexible and listen to students.

- **Questions**
  - Senator Harvey: What kind of outreach has been happening?
    - Very little outreach in general. Right now, we are starting with student orgs and initiatives that are already happening.
  - Senator Pinho: Are most of the visitors who are not students, what are they there for?
    - Sadly, swipe doesn’t take a lot of information if you’re not a student, so we don’t really know. We have had a lot of faculty that works with different initiatives on campus so we can believe that they are going there for those. Local nonprofits may come to the community space there as well to host meetings.
  - Senator Khassai: Can anyone utilize the space as meeting space?
    - As far as weekly meetings, right now that are constricted to student orgs that fall under our service and civic engagement. But for random meetings or workshops anyone can use the space however, we want them to fall under the civic engagement and volunteering.
  - Senator Heid: How many people can you comfortably fit in that space.
    - I think around 10 people can comfortably fit in the work room.
  - Senator Haider: When I first heard of the community space, I thought it was a study space. How would you remove that impression on that space?
    - We don’t want it to become a study space and we want it to be a place for students to work on projects. But in order to get students in the space, we have kind of leaned on the idea of a study space but eventually we want to get out of that.

✔ Mara Smith- Internal Affairs Committee

- **Presentation**
  - Hi, I just sent out a survey on UISG so please take it.

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D.) Old Business

E.) New Business

✔ S.S.B#23- Election Code I

- **Presentation – Senator Correa, Senator Roeder**
  - Currently the election process starts forming the spring semester and people form tickets. Candidates must go to an interest meeting and then gather signatures that go through the student election commissioner. For the first bill, there are better definitions, 200 signatures provision to switch affiliations until the approved candidate meeting, campaigning period is going to be extended to 3 weeks of campaigning and
5 days of voting and campaigning is allowed during voting. There was also an accessibility section added. There is also some budget changes as well.

- **Questions**
  - Senator Smith: The new bill made it so more people can vote?
    - The new system would just extend the amount of time of people to vote
  - Senator Thompson: What are the
  - Senator Hamstreet: Along with extending the amount of time is there also something that can help increase voter turnout?
    - President: This is something that we are going to work
  - Senator Heid: Have students outside of UISG been consulted about extending the time?
  - Senator Hagedorn: How does this effect the calendar?
    - It’s going to be in the code itself. It would still be immediately after spring break but just extend a week.
  - Senator Kerst: With allowing campaigning during the voting week also allow t-shirts and buttons etc.?
    - We wanted to lift some of those
  - Senator Thompson: How did you decide to make the budget $1,000 for the exec ticket?
    - We decided that the president and VP get the most attention, so they get the most money.
  - Senator Smith: Didn’t we change the joint ticket amount of money from last year, was there any conversation about how that worked?
    - The only conversation we had was actually to lower the amount of money so people don’t have to spend a ton of their own money.
  - Senator Qi: Is the cut off for the voting like last year?
    - Probably
  - Senator Folkers: It looks like the limit for the senatorial ticket it $2,000 is that right?
    - We will discuss that in bill II.
  - Senator Haider: There is a discrepancy with the budget in bill 1 and bill 2 what is happening?
    - So whatever bill 2 passes
  - Senator Smith: Why are we doing the 2 bill passes?
    - I think we will answer your question in bill 2.
  - Senator Smith: I know last year there was a lot of restrictions in where we could table or hand out flyers?
    - That restriction is not something we specified instead that is something the IMU has put out.
  - Senator Smith: Is there somewhere in the bill that is going to specify where someone can campaign?
- It depends on where you’re campaigning, and you need to get permission from that specific administration in that area.

**Discussion**

- Senator Heid: I’d like to propose an amendment in section 8 d, e and keep that in so people can be responsible for their own material.
  - Seconded by Senator Rodriguez
  - **Debate**
    - Senator Mara Smith: I have a question; I know last year there was some confusion on what 48 hrs meant and I just want to make sure that it is 48 after the election.
      → That is going to have to be
    - Senator Correa: The way that we structured it was that 48 hours would be after the results are put in. We can change that to 11:59 on the Thursday of elections.
    - Senator Heid: Propose an amendment to the amendment to change it to the 11:59 of the third Thursday of campaigning.
      → Seconded by Senator Correa
      - **Khassai:** Why does it have to be so specific?
        - Because it is just following the language of the rest of the election code.
  - Senator Heid: Call previous question
    - Nays have it
  - Senator Miller: I would be more comfortable if there was something where the senators could be reminded of this.
  - Senator Correa: Point of clarification, this is something that we were going to take out, but Jacob wanted to put it back in, it shouldn’t effect anything.
  - Senator Roeder: Call previous question
    - Aye have it

- Senator Qi: Propose an amendment to section 6, h, i. I would like to change it back to the second Thursday and begin voting on the second Monday. I understand the idea of the longer period, but I am thinking, it would be just a higher intensity for a longer time.
  - Senator Khassai: I think
  - Senator: Could we potentially host something that can tell people that we are actually hosting an election and what UISG does.
  - Senator Roeder: We need to make sure that we understand that we annoy people and during that
  - Senator Hamstreet: I think we can all agree that we want to reach more people and I think that this will be effective
o Senator Cooke: I’ve been on the voting side and I think we should annoy people at other times outside of the actual campaign season.
o Senator Barron:
o Senator Miller: I’m concerned limited the time period because of the accessibility part of it. It can take 5-7 days for accommodations to even happen and having a limit to only 2 weeks.
o Senator Haider:
o Senator Mueller: Is this one week of campaigning and on week of campaigning and voting? Or two weeks then one week of voting and campaigning.
o Senator Qi:
o Senator Caleb Smith: Previous question
o Aye have it

- Voting
  o Aye have it. Amendment has been incorporated.
- Senator Roeder: Limit all debate time per person to 90 seconds for the remainder of this particular legislation.
  o Seconded
  o Aye have it.
- Senator Drahos: Previous question
  o Seconded by Senator McGovern.
  o Nays have it
- Senator Heid: Make a motion to table this to the next administration. It could be helpful so
- Senator Hamstreet: Out of respect of the people’s time they put into this I think we should at least vote on it.
- Senator: Previous question
  o Seconded.
  o Nay
- Senator Thompson: I’d like to make an amendment to change the executive ticket spending to $600.
  o Senator Qi: Previous question
    ▪ Seconded
    ▪ Aye have it.
  o Aye have it, amendment has been included.
- Senator: Amendment to change the cap to $1,500.
  o Senator Dickens: Propose an amendment to the amendment and have the $150 changed to $100.
    ▪ Seconded
    ▪ Aye have it.
    ▪ Incorporated.
Senator Kepner: I will be in support of the amendment because it is more financially sound.

Senator Meyer: I think that it could be good because I was concerned that tickets were going to let people into their friends onto the ticket to get more money and this solves it.

- Senator Heid: Previous question
  - Seconded by Senator Drahos
  - Aye have it

■ Voting
  ✓ S.S.B#24- Election Code II

■ Presentation
  - The biggest thing is that executive and senatorial tickets run separately. The budget is going to change depending on if this is going to pass or not.

■ Questions
  - Senator Heid: Is this going to go into effect next election period?
    - Yes
  - Senator Smith: Are there any restrictions with who the exec ticket can endorse?
  - Senator Folkers: Is there a part of the code that endorsements come as money?
    - Yes, that’s covered in the section of in-kind donations.
  - Senator Smith: Why do you think this is going to be better than how it actually works now? Also is this going to be confusing for voters?
    - There is that document with the pros and cons discusses both of those questions. Right now, we are just going to explain what this is doing and we can talk about pros and cons during debate.
  - Senator Hamstreet: For the in-kind donations that comes out of the overall limit, right?
    - Yes.
  - Senator Miller:
    - I personally think that we should lower it because we don’t want that barrier to running.
  - Senator Haider: Why did we want the amendments to happen between September and October?
    - So, any changes can be announced beforehand, and we won’t
  - Senator Heid: You mentioned that this legislation is going to be vetoed can you talk more about it?
    - I think I can’t talk on that right now, but we need to remember that we are going to vote what our constituents want and what happens outside is irrelevant.

■ Discussion
- Senator Kepner: I will not be in support because of the way it splits executive and senators. I think with the executives it makes sure that they are actually getting senators that they can extend their reach.
- Senator Roeder: I wanted to join a ticket, but I couldn’t join one was because the only one that asked beforehand has dissolved before. How it works now is that you need to know the executive before you even get invited. Because of how it is now it’s hard for the average student to even get into a ticket or even know publicly know that tickets are even forming. The whole point of splitting up the ticket is so we have a more bottom to top system cause right now it is going from executive choosing and you have to know someone to get in.
- Senator Heid: I agree right now there can be so much bias in choosing who is actually going to be on an executive’s ticket. It can give people more opportunity because it can
- Senator Harvey: Making sure that we are separating these things, it can help to solve the problem and perception of UISG being an elitist organization. It can also help us be more inclusive.
- Senator Kepner: Right now, you can form senatorial tickets, joint tickets are just what have been the norm.
- Senator Mara Smith: In a senator ticket someone still has to take the initiative to join that. I think that is best done with a presidents and VP who have a vision. There is no drive to make sure that
- Senator Harvey: Why would people form senatorial tickets when they don’t have a chance of getting elected because someone with an executive gets more press.
- Senator Kerst: I agree that even it was senatorial ticket, people would still have to go to get people from other backgrounds. You need to take a lot of what was said in the pros and cons
- Senator Rodriguez: I think that splitting the tickets will help the confusion of that executives and senators work on the same thing.
- Senator Roeder: There has been 0 times that a senatorial ticket has been formed. Because of how much press that the president and VP get press. It doesn’t matter what community you get but if you get one then you will win.
- Senator Nammeny: I think it is really important to get voter turnout and why would people try to learn about it now?
- Senator Stucky: I think that this could cause it to be more exclusive and if you’re a president and VP you already know that it is important for to reach out.
- Senator Thompson: I think that we should also increase the amount, of independents because I don’t think that people would actually run if we get rid of the joint tickets.
- Senator Correa: I would like to make a few points. One is that ideally that this would be presented earlier. There is an institutional advantage for people that are already in the organization forming tickets. Also, I think that the joint tickets are already making
executive overreach because they’re filling the senate with people that they want to see in senate.
- Senator O’Connor: I wanted to speak in support because it makes the student government as a whole more accessible.
- Senator Dickens: I’ve been going back and forth because in the end I’ll be in favor because it makes it more accessible and paired with UISG to make it more accessible. I think having to go and find the executive and try to influence the executive to put you on their ticket.
- Senator Hamstreet: I think we need to look at it more of we are not already in senate and I think it gives people a chance to actually create a platform that doesn’t mean have to conform to what the executives want.
- Senator Folkers: I would like to remind people of the students that are not here, and we know about our personal struggles but remember the people who are
- Senator Kepner: I wanted to speak again not in support and tell people that it is not impossible to create a joint ticket. I think that this is going to make things way more confusing.
- Senator Heid: I agree that we need to pay attention to who is not at the table and that can be for and against this legislation. I think there is already a bias because the executives choose who they want to represent. If we go into small communities then there could be more people that can run and be representing.
- Senator Rodriguez: Previous question
  o Ayes have it

- Voting
  - Passes