University of Iowa Student Government
GENERAL SENATE MEETING

November 15th, 2016

A.) Call to Order at 7:00 pm

B.) Quorum Call – Roll Call

C.) Public Access (20min)

  ✓ ITS-Maggie Jesse

  Unizin is a consortium of likeminded institutions that have come together to move forward a vision to improve student learning experience by improving access, affordability, and content delivery. Unizin will help students by providing insights to students, offer digital content to students, and offer UI library content. Many similar institutions across the nation is a part of Unizin.

  Director Namanny: Will Unizin replace Icon?
  Maggie Jesse: The tools from Unizin will be plugged into Icon, our online platform.
  President Zuckerman: How will faculty be trained on how to use these new tools?
  Maggie Jesse: A new initiative will help facilitate training with faculty.
  Sen Ajose: What is UISG’s role in the initiative?
  Maggie Jesse: If we work together on making content and education more affordable, we will be stronger.
  Sen Ajose: What is Unizin?
  Maggie Jesse: Unizin is a membership. All the institutions pool money to hire staff and develop software for all the institutions to take back to plug into their campus ecosystem.

D.) Old Business

  ✓ SSR10-Solidarity Against DAPL

  Sen Finn motioned to move SSR 10 off the table and was seconded by many senators. The bill was taken off the table.

  Sen Finn emphasized that the resolution, as written, does not take a stance against pipelines. The reason it is brought up in the resolution is to make a better argument. There was a petition that 300 students and 29 student organizations signed to support the resolution.

  Sen Dunn: How will this resolution change after the Army Corp of Engineers announced their future talks to the Standing Rock Reserve?
Sen Finn: It does not change the resolution because we do not have any information about how the conversations will go.

Sen Ehmeke: On line 29 through 34 how are the environmental impacts listed on the resolution unique to the DAPL pipeline?
Sen Finn: The environmental impacts in the whereas clauses are included because in the previous clauses, mentioned that the Standing Rock Reservation was concerned about how the pipeline will alter their landscape and their access to natural resources.

Sen Prehdan: The last resolved clause involves some large organizations and have those contacts been identified?
Sen Finn: No, a plan of action will be taken if the resolution passes tonight.
Sen Ehmeke: What is the intended impact from passage of this resolution?
Sen Finn: Personal hope is to have the pipeline terminated in its current state. The expectation is to gain the attention of some people and get them to slow down and think the project through more.
Sen Haar: What will proceed if the pipeline is terminated and oil will be transported using rail or vehicles.
Sen Finn: This will show companies that we want to move toward sustainable energy.
Sen Li: Have they started to build this pipeline?
Sen Finn: They have started construction.
Sen Prendergast: Is it correct that the Standing Rock community is just asking to move the pipeline instead of complete shutdown of the pipeline.
Sen Finn: There are people that are in support of moving the pipeline and others that are in support of it being terminated.
Sen Burns: Were the students that signed the petition given access to the resolution?
Sen Finn yielded the floor to Sen Armstrong: The bill was attached to the emails that were sent out to student organizations and there was a letter written to students that echoed the resolution.

Period of Discussion over the bill:

Sen Dunn motioned to make an amendment to strike lines 27 to 28, strike line 30 from “with” to line 31 “years,” strike line 33 from “and” to line 34 “occur,” and add “president elect Trump” to the final resolved clause line 47.

Period of Discussion over the amendments:

Sen Finn would like to keep the resolution in its original form.
Sen Dunn believes that these amendments will make this a bill one easier to stand behind.
Sen Ajose: The issue of environmental impacts is very central to the resolution itself so they should remind together.
Sen Ehmeke: He supports the amendments because they could help us avoid conflicts with state legislators. The amendments will focus the message to be standing in solidarity with Standing Rock and not against pipelines.
Sen Bhalero: Does not view this as a political issue. Iowa is a state that is moving towards more renewable energy.
Sen Kirschbaum supports the amendments made by Sen Dunn because it helps sharpen the message to support Native students.
Sen Finn: Making these amendments are just cutting out facts and it would be shameful to do so just to avoid potentially stepping on toes of legislators.
Sen Pokorny: The facts that are stated are not specific to the DAPL pipeline. She feels that this sets a poor precedent.
Sen Rayner: The facts that are stated applies to pipelines in the United States and the DAPL pipeline would be contributing to these facts and numbers.
Sen Finn: Since the DAPL pipeline is not in operation, the facts can only be based on historical precedents.
Sen Ehmcke: We are endorsing history is the resolution is passed with those lines still in there.
Sen Ajose: Does not see this as a statement of endorsement but a statement of fact.
Sen Kimbrough: Does not agree. It makes the calm that pipelines are not sustainable which is a fact. It does not say that UISG is always against their existence.
Sen Dellos: This debate has proved that this resolution is political.
Sen Noah Kirschbaum: He sees this as two pieces of legislation. With the facts in there it would show that UISG is against the pipeline because of environmental issues as opposed to because of violation of Native lands.
Sen Finn motioned to call the previous question.
Sen Li abstained from voting
Voted 20 aye
Voted 18 nay
The amendment passed

Debate over the bill:

Sen Ajose: Proposed a friendly amendment to add “largely overlooked up until November 14th, 2016” after “overlooked” in line 16.
Sen Owens accepted the amendment.
Sen Apple: Does not believe this is a topic that UISG should be commenting on.

Sen Armstrong: Add after line 40 as a whereas clause to include “300 students at University of Iowa in addition to 29 student organizations have expressed interest to support of stopping construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline”
Sen Finn accepted the amendment.

Sen Noah Kirschbaum: Is fully in support of this amended resolution to support a group that have been oppressed over and over.
Sen Burns: Voiced her support of this resolution.
Sen Rayner: Voiced her support of this resolution.
Sen Haar: How did you reach out to the student organizations?
Sen Armstrong: An email was sent to the student organization leaders and the students signed the petition.
Sen Ehmcke: This resolution adds an important narrative on student climate on campus and feels that it is important to be talking about these issues.
Sen Stier motioned to call the previous question and was seconded by many senators.

The bill passed with 36 votes.

E.) New Business

F.) Recess and Move to Committees (65min) (may be changed)

G.) Announcements

Director Namanny: Hawkeye Caucus training December 6th to get senators ready for Hawkeye Caucus in our state legislator. There will be an open access the week before to talk about our legislative agenda.

Director Leal: Holding discussions about benefits of having international students on campus. There is a social in collaboration with Oasis tomorrow in the Ohio State Room from 5 to 6 pm to hold a discussion.
Director Cain: Met with sustainability director of FSL. Plan to set up a sustainability charter committee made up of members from different Greek chapters. The environmental coalition will hold an information session Thursday at 6 pm in the Office of Sustainability.

Sen Ponce: Help promote UI Rideshare on social media.

CFO Inani: JFC met and made decisions on recognition and renewal for collaborative funded organizations.

H.) Adjourn at 9:02 pm