ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT SENATE MEETING
BENNION STUDENT UNION
7:00PM
OCTOBER 1, 2014

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Tingey, in the Bennion Student Union, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

ROLL CALL
ASISU Secretary Zara Sivertsen took roll. All Senators were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE


GALLERY QUESTION & ANSWER
1. Rachel Bishop- She disagrees with Bill 475. This is a merit based scholarship, and thus it should not take the amount of scholarships a person receives into account. By doing so, ASISU is taking need into account. She noted that tuition is a small fraction of the total cost of attendance. Some jobs pay students in scholarships, and that could make a student ineligible for the ASISU Scholarship. She doesn’t think this is fair when similar jobs pay in hourly wages, which allows those students to apply for this scholarship. She feels that costs other than tuition and fees can affect a student’s ability to attend school. She stated that this scholarship is generated through ASISU fees, so all ASISU fee paying members should be able to apply. She thinks that Bill 476 is great and allows more students to receive scholarships.
2. Tynan O’Neil- He thanked the senators for accommodating him. He stated that if a student receives money from their parents to cover all of their tuition and fees, they can still receive the ASISU Scholarship. However, if a student receives scholarships to cover tuition, this only covers a quarter of their costs, but they are still not eligible for this scholarship. He thinks that the senators should vote no on Bill 475.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
President Son met with Vice President Terrell today. They are working on a transformative gift. This would be a one-time donation to the students. He is tasked with writing a report on how they would spend that money. He noted that there are no specifics on the dollar amount of the gift. He asked the senators for ideas that he could include in his report. He is also spearheading a new take on an old tradition. Descend on the Dome kicks off on October 11. They will rally the students on Cadet Field, get them pumped up for the game, and fire a cannon to signal the students’ walk up to Holt Arena. They need volunteers to promote the event and help put it on. Students can submit feedback on penalties for violating the non-smoking policy before October 6. Plans to get rid of Student Health Insurance (SHIP) are being discussed, due to increased costs and decreased enrollments in the program. He asked the senators to discuss this with their students. He thanked the ad-hoc committee for working on the scholarship bills. He thinks these are good changes. They worked with Deb Green on these bills, and she gave her blessing on these changes. He thinks that it is important to hear from constituents, but he feels that the senators should make their decisions based off the opinions of multiple students, not just one or two. Past scholarship recipients have written thank you notes, and most used the money to pay for tuition and fees. He thinks that they owe it to their Idaho Falls constituents to make these important votes at this meeting. He noted that none of these changes were meant to hurt students. He thinks it is wrong for people to say that was the senators’ intent with these bills. He noted that not every student is going to receive the scholarship and other students have to subsidize these scholarships with their fees. Concerns were brought to him
about the changes hurting veterans and international students. President Son talked to Todd Johnson who said that these bills will not hurt veterans. International students who receive full rides will not be able to receive this scholarship, but others who don’t have their schooling paid for will be able to. He thinks that Bill 477 makes good changes. Some people were concerned about using Bengal ID numbers as a form of identifying students instead of using their names, but he noted that the scholarship committees are comprised of students and faculty, who will keep these numbers safe. The Fall Freak Out is the upcoming UPC event. They still need some volunteers, and he asked the senators to contact UPC if they were interested. Senator Pitcock noted that many students don’t like SHIP. He doesn’t think that it is cost efficient for students or the providers. President Son noted that the committee will be promoting other insurance options if they stop offering SHIP. Senator Cleveland noted that the price of prescriptions has gone up for students as well who have SHIP. Senator Withers noted that the SHIP Committee is already working on promoting other insurances. Senator Perry noted that the national government is now requiring students to have insurance so ISU doesn’t need to mandate students to have insurance. Tynan O’Neil noted that if students make under a certain amount of money, they don’t have to have insurance according to government. He thinks it is the State Board who mandates that students must have insurance.

CHAIR/COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance Committee, Senator Valencia- Finance did not meet this week.
2. Rules Committee, Senator Thayer- Bills 475, 476, and 477 have been released from Rules.
3. Appointments and Reviews Committee, Senator Pitcock- They will be completing a review of the governing documents this year. If any senators notice anything that needs changes or clarification, please let him know. It is hard for the committee to catch all the changes on their own.
4. Outreach Committee, Senator Ricks- They had nothing new to report.
5. Communications Committee, Senator Knapp- She thanked the senators for their nominations. They will start taking nominations for faculty member of the month too. The committee is working on the video script. The nominations for athlete were Jim Bagley, Tressa Lyman, and Hayley Farrer. The senators voted, and Jim Bagley was athlete of the week. Student of the week nominations were Kevin Tsai, Lindsey Schroeder, and Kitanna Belnap. Kevin Tsai was voted student of the week.
6. Service Committee, Senator Smith- They were unable to meet today. She would like to do the service project on October 25.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bill 475, Scholarship Eligibility- Reading by Senator Mandal. Senator Pitcock noted that his constituents were not in favor of people who received a full ride to also be eligible for this scholarship. He thinks that this is a way to be more accountable with the student’s money. Senator Valencia noted that the senators are blessed, and many students don’t receive the same scholarship opportunities as they do. She feels that this scholarship should be available to average Joes who don’t receive many scholarships. She noted that ISU is a non-traditional university, and most students probably don’t have as many scholarships as the senators do. Senator Withers has hesitations with passing this bill because there is a lot of confusion that students have about the bill. Senator Smith thinks that every fee paying student should be eligible to receive the scholarship. She thinks that they should table the bill until they can speak to more students about the bill. She feels that they are making a decision too hastily on this bill. Senator Pitcock would be okay with tabling the bill. He asked any senators who are confused about the bill to talk to the authors of the bill for clarification. Senator Cleveland noted that people who have a full ride are probably less likely to apply for this scholarship. If they are applying, they probably need the money for something. Commuter students from Idaho Falls, for example, might need it for gas money. She also wondered if a student might be deterred from coming to ISU, because they weren’t eligible to receive this scholarship. Idaho Falls Vice President Hansen noted that if they table the bill, they should also talk to students who are non-traditional as well. No one she had talked to had received a full-ride. She also wondered if the scholarship makes a large difference in a student’s bottom line and ultimate decision to attend ISU.
Senator Shelden noted that he has received the scholarship for five semesters straight, even though he doesn’t need the money to pay for school. He just uses the money to pad his savings account. ASISU cannot control what a student uses the scholarship for. He noted that students could use the money on vacations, etc. He noted that the students he talked to that would not be eligible for the scholarship understood, and agreed that the money should go to students who need it. Senator Mandal noted that he has a graduate assistantship which is considered a full ride. He could use the money, but he understands that others need the money more. Senator Thayer noted that these issues that they are trying to solve with these bills have been brought up in the past. He doesn’t think this is a hasty decision. The changes have been discussed for years, but have never been brought forward until now. He wants the money to go to people who aren’t as blessed to get other scholarships. He feels that most of the students would probably use the money on something academically related, but he would like to see the money going back to the university. He noted that transfers and freshmen aren’t allowed to get the scholarship anyway, so it wouldn’t sway their decision to go to ISU. Senator Pitcock noted that the amount that a student receives varies, anywhere from $250 to $1,000. Senator Knapp noted that she works five jobs and applies for multiple scholarships. All the money she earns goes towards her schooling. She thinks that students who work hard to receive other scholarships are being punished for their hard work, by not being eligible to receive this scholarship. She thinks that if someone worked hard enough for the scholarship, they should receive it. She feels that if someone really needed that scholarship, they should be able to apply. She doesn’t think that ASISU should be able to say when a person has enough scholarships already. Senator Smith noted that some define a full ride as more than just tuition and fees paid for. She also feels that the senators shouldn’t downplay the amount of these scholarships. $500 is still a significant amount of money and could impact a student’s ability to pay for their books, etc. Senator Johnson noted that the scholarships just go towards a student’s account balance in BengalWeb. They don’t get to choose what scholarship pays for what. Senator Shelden noted that Deb Green helped make the changes, and the ad-hoc committee took these bills seriously.

MOVE TO EXTEND TIME FOR DISCUSSION BY 15 MINUTES. Perry/Valencia. Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED. Senator Perry noted that the senate is an extension of the student voice. Most students are either confused about this bill or they don’t agree with it. MOVE TO REJECT BILL 475. Perry/Cleveland. Objection. Discussion. Senator Perry thinks that the current wording of the bill is unclear. Senator Thayer noted that there has been a lot of talk about how it impacts each individual senator. Senators represent thousands of students and they need to take that into consideration. He thinks the bill should be tabled until next week. Senator Cleveland doesn’t think that tabling the bill is going to change the student’s opinions on the bill. She also stated that just because she is in ASISU, doesn’t mean that she is blessed. She doesn’t get anything handed to her, and she is forced to pay for her expenses on her own. Senator Valencia thinks that senators should not make a decision about the scholarship changes based on their own selfish reasons. She is going to vote on behalf of the students. Senator Saahene doesn’t think that senators are in a position to decide who should be eligible this scholarship. He thinks they should deliberate and discuss this bill with their constituents. President Son hopes this bill does not get rejected. He would rather it be tabled. He thinks that they need to make a decision on this bill sooner, rather than later or it may not get discussed. Previous. Roll Call.

DEBBIE BECKSTEAD-YES
TRISHA BEUKELMAN-NO
KAILYN CLEVELAND-YES
KATIE JOHNSON-YES
KELLY KEMMERER-NO
NABIN KHANAL-NO
KENDRA KNAPP-YES
ANIL MANDAL-NO
KOURTNEY MCONNELL-NO
DANIELLE MONIAK-NO
SAM PERRY-YES
MORGAN PITCOCK-NO
ALLEN RICKS-NO
KOFI SAAHENE-NO
DANIEL SHELDEN-NO
MACKENZIE SMITH-NO
ADAM THAYER-NO
JUSTIN UNDERWOOD-NO
BEA VALENCIA-NO
JORDAN WITHERS-NO

MOTION FAILS. Senator McConnell would prefer to not table this bill, since they have already had a week to talk to students. She wonders why senators haven’t talked to their students already. She pointed out that the bill specifies that students who have tuition and fees paid for by scholarships are not eligible. Senator Withers noted that many senators have been approached by students versus approaching students to find out their opinions. **MOVE TO TABLE BILL 475.** Underwood/Valencia. Unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.**


DEBBIE BECKSTEAD-YES
TRISHA BEUKELMAN-YES
KAILYN CLEVELAND-YES
KATIE JOHNSON-YES
KELLY KEMMERER-YES
NABIN KHANAL-YES
KENDRA KNAPP-YES
ANIL MANDAL-YES
KOURTNEY MCCONNELL-YES
DANIELLE MONIAK-YES
SAM PERRY-YES
MORGAN PITCOCK-YES
ALLEN RICKS-YES
KOFI SAAHENE-YES
DANIEL SHELDEN-YES
MACKENZIE SMITH-YES
ADAM THAYER-YES
JUSTIN UNDERWOOD-YES
JORDAN WITHERS-YES

**MOTION CARRIED.**


DEBBIE BECKSTEAD-YES
TRISHA BEUKELMAN-YES
KAILYN CLEVELAND-ABSTAIN
KATIE JOHNSON-YES
KELLY KEMMERER-YES
NABIN KHANAL-YES
KENDRA KNAPP-YES
ANIL MANDAL-YES
KOURTNEY MCCONNELL-YES
DANIELLE MONIAK-YES
SAM PERRY-YES
MORGAN PITCOCK-YES
ALLEN RICKS-YES
KOFI SAAHENE-YES
DANIEL SHELDEN-YES
MACKENZIE SMITH-ABSTAIN
ADAM THAYER-YES
JUSTIN UNDERWOOD-YES
JORDAN WITHERS-YES

MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

GALLERY QUESTION AND ANSWER
1. Kyle Son- He asked Senator Withers how he got student feedback on Bill 475. Senator Withers noted that he received emails from students, and he asked students in his classes about their opinions. President Son noted that issues were brought up about student confusion on the bill and senators not talking to enough students. Senator Withers feels that all of the senators now have a better understanding of the bill, after discussing it in great depth tonight. They can readdress the bill with the students who were confused about it and talk to additional students. Senator Smith noted that she was unable to address specific wording of the bills with the students until today. She had 75 students email her after talking about the bill in her classes. President Son asked her if emailing out the specifics of the bill would be helpful. Senator Smith thinks that including the actual wording of the bill is important. Students can also refer back to the recorded Senate meeting to hear the senators’ debate on the bills. Senator Johnson thinks some of the confusion might come from students who don’t know the specifics of the scholarship itself. Senator Cleveland noted that most pharmacy students have a separate email addresses, and she can forward emails about this to them. President Son noted that they could send out the direct YouTube link and a survey. Senator Beckstead noted that many of her constituents don’t check their email. She suggested going to their cafeteria during lunchtime to discuss the bills with students in person.
2. Zipporah Gholson- She noted that most students will think about themselves when formulating an opinion on this bill. She works multiple jobs and still feels like there are people who need the scholarship more than she does. She thinks that this bill expands the number of people who can receive the scholarship who really need the money. She feels that since it is ASISU’s scholarship, they do have the right to decide who can receive it. Senator McConnell appreciates Zipporah’s comments. Senator Valencia thanked Zipporah for voicing her opinions on this topic.

OTHER
1. Shelden will be meeting with President Son about Theatre and Dance ISU.
2. Pro-Tem Vote of Confidence- Senator McConnell remains pro-tem.

ISU FIGHT SONG

ADJOURNMENT
MOVE TO ADJOURN. Beckstead/Valencia. ASISU Secretary took roll. All senators were present. Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.