

9-30 Senate Meeting

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

students, senator, sga, questions, resolution, diversity, proctor, bill, lounge, campus, callahan, week, fund, meeting, senators, people, execs, minutes, motion, speak

SPEAKERS

Senator Ngetich, Senator Crenshaw, Unknown, VPLA LeBlanc, Senator Bellow, Senator Callahan, Senator S. Johnson, President Romero, Senator Fretz, Senator Ivan, VP Jayson Ray, Senator Plasse, Senator Mott



VPLA LeBlanc 00:00

I call this meeting to order at 5:03pm. next I will call the roll when you hear your name just say present or hi. ***Calls Roll*** With 17 senators present we do meet quorum. Alright guys next is the approval of the agenda. Are there any corrections or changes to today's agenda?



Senator Mott 02:55

Brendan Mott, Jr. at large motion to add on Housing and Dining committee to the agenda.



Senator Plasse 03:19

Seconded, Senator Plasse senator at large



Senator Bellow 03:28

Sir senator Alex Bellow Interdisciplinary Studies. I would like to make a motion that we move the discussion of the diversity center deal after the discussion of the immediate

removal of the proctorU resolution.

S Senator Plasse 03:53
Second Senator Plasse sophomore, Senator at large.

V VPLA LeBlanc 03:57
Any objections?

S Senator Fretz 04:01
Curiosity more.

S Senator Bellow 04:07
President Romero requested a little bit more time to join us for the conversation. She's on her way home from work.

V VPLA LeBlanc 04:22
Are there any other amendments to the agenda at this time? Okay, I actually would like to amend and I would like to motion that the food business items be moved to New Business. Sorry, guys. That was a error on my part. So I motion that the old business be moved to new business as it stands. Second, Senator Amber Johnson College of Liberal Arts All right, are there any other amendments to the agenda? Hearing none, we'll move right along. Next is approval of the minutes. Everyone should have received September 9 minutes, about an hour ago if you've reviewed it, are there any objections to the minutes that we currently have?

S Senator Fretz 05:36
senator Haley Fretz graduate at large, I was able to read through them as quickly as possible. I first want to say that they're beautiful. I love the way that they were organized this week. So thank you so much. To Amber. I did want to make note that our 4650 and 5031 it's listed as myself. That is not me speaking. I do believe that that is senator C. Lair speaking, not myself.



VPLA LeBlanc 06:07

Wonderful, is our clerk here today? I think she said she was gonna be a little late. But I have written that down. And I will get that information to her and she'll have to type in this week's minutes. We'll get it fixed.



Senator Fretz 06:29

Thank you.



VPLA LeBlanc 06:33

Are there any other corrections or changes to September 9 meeting minutes? Hearing none we will move right along. Next is Senator communication and announcements. Are there any senator communications that are not needed at this time? Hearing none, moved to a non senator communications and announcements that are non SGA related. Do any of our guests have anything that they would like to share? I see our advisors hand is up. You have three minutes to speak. I am hosting tomorrow at 12:30 via zoom, a discussion of elections, told through the songs of Hamilton. I don't know if any of you are Hamilton fans, I am have a really nerdy obsession. It's gonna be a great time. Please come if you're interested. Okay, are they any other non senator or do any of our guests have something to share with us? This is the first of two times that you all will be able to speak with us. Okay, hearing none, We will be moving to committee reports. Governance. Does governance have a report for us this week?



08:38

No, sir.



VPLA LeBlanc 08:42

Rules. Does rules ever pulled for us this week?



08:46

No, sir.



VPLA LeBlanc 08:49

Finance. Does finance have a report for us this week?



Senator Fretz 08:54

Yes, I just have a quick report. Finance was able to me and vote on the resolution and on the bill. And although there wasn't any comments on either one of those from any of my committee members, I know that I'm very much looking forward to speaking about the diversity lounge later on this afternoon. An additional part of our meeting, I mentioned in the previous meeting, I had some questions about the reserve account. So I did speak with the finance committee and we have spoken to Joy and asked to have her invite the CFO of the university to an exec meeting so that we can get some questions answered about some of our concerns with the reserve amount. If any of you have questions, please get them out to me, sooner versus later. Although I think it would be great to have her here in front of everyone. We have a lot of questions and I think it'll be in the exec I also think it's going to be better fit in a private conversation. So send me all of your questions, so that I can ask on your behalf and then relay them back to you and we'll go from there.



VPLA LeBlanc 10:03

Wonderful, Next is Student Affairs. Does Student Affairs have a report for us today.



10:12

No report.



VPLA LeBlanc 10:15

Thank you, on campus dining and housing, do you guys have a report for us today.



Senator Mott 10:22

So I have a short report. So we're still in the in the formation stages of our committee, t so what I've done and I have talked with some more residents of the pontchartrain halls, and a few have said they wanted to get involved, but I haven't had anyone directly reach out yet, but I'm trying to get more people involved. And um, for those of you who said you want to be a part of this committee, make sure you're reading your emails, checking the discord, because that is really important, because I'm, I'm trying to look for suggestions because this is a team effort, not just my committee, this is all of us. So I want to make sure that everyone who's a part of this on contributes in some way.



VPLA LeBlanc 11:14

Great, did any senators have any questions for the committee heads at this time? Hearing none, we will move right along to other reports. In this section each of us will have six minutes to speak followed by three minutes of q&a. Madam President, do you have a report for us today?

P

President Romero 11:42

You know I do. So it's actually really short today. If y'all haven't come to get masks in our office, we're open nine to four every day of the week. So come get a mask, it's the cute UNO ones with our logo on it. Also, if you want to donate to the Hurricane Laura victims, I came to my office. If you donate, you get entered to win three different prizes: two \$25 gift cards, and a UNO swag bag. Lastly, Alex Bellow already said it, thank you so much. I usually don't have to speak after my report. I usually do my report in my car and then listen to y'all on my way home. But I don't want to drive and talk about the bill. So that's why we pushed it back. But I'm excited about this bill. Administration has asked us to help out. And after talking it over with the execs and our advisor, we decided that we had enough funds to do it. So I'm excited to talk about it. And that's all. Any questions?

V

VPLA LeBlanc 13:07

Does anyone have any questions for the president at this time? and hearing none, we'll move along. Thank you, Madam President. Vice Presidents report. Does the Vice President have a report for us today.

V

VP Jayson Ray 13:23

Yes, our operating account has \$38,488 and 68 cents on it. I don't have the number on any further reserve account, but it is the same as last week and I have a date for our retreat, which will be October 15.

V

VPLA LeBlanc 13:58

Are there any questions for the Vice President at this time?

S

Senator Fretz 14:02

Haley, Fretz graduate a large. Could you repeat that date? Was that October 15?



VP Jayson Ray 14:07

Yeah, October 15. It's gonna be a Thursday. I don't have a time set yet. But I have a date. And the agenda will be coming to y'all either the week before the week of



VPLA LeBlanc 14:21

Thank you. Any other questions for the Vice President at this time? Senator Johnson Sarah Johnson



Senator S. Johnson 14:31

Senator Sarah Johnson College of Liberal Arts. Would you mind repeating that number one more time for us.



VP Jayson Ray 14:43

Yes, operating account is \$38,488 and 68 cents.



Senator S. Johnson 14:50

Thank you.



VPLA LeBlanc 14:58

Next is The Vice President of Legislative Affairs report, that would be me. And I do have a report. I have spoken with the Governance Committee head, we will be starting the Governance Committee reform. And we'll be discussing our code of laws and the Senate rules and procedures, we will definitely be revamping those. We plan to have them to you guys, within a couple of weeks. The committee head and I are discussing, you know, who would be interested in joining, we've pre selected some folks, we're going to reach out to them to see you know, how they would feel, if any other senators have made may have been interested in it, please reach out to Senator Noble. But you will be receiving an email from me shortly after the meeting, if you have already been pre selected, again, for any others editors will be interested. If you haven't been emailed by, by this evening, just let me know. And we'll just fill you in where we need to. Proxies. I did receive some folks that are proxying. If you are a proxy, could you just relay back to them? If they can just give me at least a 24 hour notice. So that way, I can make sure to have everybody together on the agenda? Because sometimes I'm not looking at the email right before our meetings. Other than that, that's about it. Does anyone have any questions for me at this time? All right,

hearing none, we'll move right along to the Vice President of programming. She did send me and Senator Amber Johnson, her report. Senator A. Johnson, could you read your report for me? I'm sorry, not you Senator A. Johnson it was the other Amber. She said SAC hosted our first in person event on last Thursday and had a great turnout and good feedback. Number two, we are currently creating the official schedule for homecoming week. And we'll keep you posted. Number three, for police brutality. week we are till deterring ideas. But so far we have come up with doing a "take what you need law". Number four, this Friday, we will be going over our calendar for the remainder of the semester. If anybody has any questions for the president of SAC I will place her email in the chat. All right, next on the agenda is the advisor advisor Ballard do you have a report for us? Yes, but it is short. So first of all, welcome, again, all of our guest. Happy last meeting of privateer plunge. So you will no longer be getting credit for coming to Senate meetings. But let me say that I would not be sad have you kept coming? I think that there is certainly value in opinions and having people here. And we really have enjoyed having these meetings. So even if you cannot commit to join the senate by coming every week. I do hope that you'll pop in. We are here every Wednesday at five o'clock. So please come be a part of what all is going on. Because there's a lot of stuff students definitely during this time need people to advocate for them. So please come be a part stay in touch. That's my schpeel. Elections are next week, the fifth and six which is exciting. We have a few people running not very many So that being said, there are still tons of seats for appointments, there are going to be lots of open seats after elections. So anybody here that is interested in joining, there are open seats, any of our senators, if you have friends, people that want to be involved, please recruit, um, I say this exact a lot. But I will say to all of you, I do not think it is fair for 19 people to make decisions on behalf of the entire university, we have 50 Senate seats for a reason, they are proportionately shared by all of the colleges. If we don't fill those seats, then our Senate is not proportional and does not work correctly to represent students that meet so yeah, Desmond dropped his stuff in the chat. Please email him, please join. Senators recruit. Thanks. And finally, next week through the 13th SGA is sponsoring an event called Dear World. So normally SGA sponsors a lot of privateer plunge events, because when we're in person, we have lots of food, we have lots of stuff happening. This year, obviously different. So SGA chose to instead invest all of that money in a lump sum instead of on multiple events into one powerful, meaningful event. I think it is going to be a fantastic event for our campus community. And I would like all of you to participate in some way. So some of you have already signed up to be certified storytellers. If you signed up to be a certified storyteller, I need you to finish your training, please, pretty, please. Um, and after you finish that training, email me at least two times next week that you would be interested in hosting your session, I've gotten a couple back from some people that I haven't gotten to respond to yet. But if you haven't sent those in, please give those to me today or tomorrow, if you can. Now, for everyone else that doesn't apply to you, please attend a storytelling session.

So what these are, is you'll sit down with some of our fabulously trained student leaders, and go through a process called the brain tattoo Academy. So what it is, is, you will identify a story that has meaning. And we truly believe that all stories have meaning. So it doesn't matter if it is something small, or if it really was a life changing event. Big or small, we want to celebrate students stories. So you will share your story with a group of other students and talk about it. Then on October 13, some students can elect and it's completely optional to share their story with the university. And we're gonna have a big event, we a whole lot of fun, it is virtual, but I promise it's going to be fun, some really good production. And we are going to make students look fantastic and share their story with the campus community. Because I think right now in this like virtual time period, it is important that we find space to connect, it is important that we remember that we are all human because I haven't seen a lot of humans lately, right? I'm just seeing the few that wander past my office and I miss that connection. So being able to sit down and connect on a real level with our students and talk about what makes someone a member of our UNO community. Anyway, it's going to be fantastic. It's going to be inspirational, you're going to love it. So sign up for a storytelling session. The link is on our social media, and I am about to drop it in the chat. There are only four sessions available right now. But as people start getting me their sessions, there will be more sessions opening up for more students. So I'm gonna drop that now. Y'all gonna be the first people to sign up. Everybody else? Give me your ****UNKNOWN**** And I yield the rest of my time. Does anyone have any questions for the advisor at this time? Any senators? Hearing none, thank you. Joy for your report. Next, the fun stuff. We're going to be moving on to new business. first piece of new business is the immediate removal of Proctoru resolution. Will the principle author and sponsor, please take themselves off mute, and introduce yourselves as well as to give us a little history on this resolution.



Senator Fretz 25:11

Hello, everyone. I'm the author of this particular resolution, Haley Fretz graduate at large. I do have a sponsor who's here today as well, he's going to chat. I just want to go through some basics real quick with you the reason why we're writing this and then I know that all of you can read and probably have read the bill. But I just wanted to go through some of the most important parts of this particular resolution. As you guys are aware, I'm the head of Finance. So when a financial issue kind of arose, it kind of like made me Listen just a little bit deeper, we had a student come in and give us this information that a Testing Service was charging students more than what they already pay through tuition and fees. And then from that expired a couple other issues. So I just wanted to read a couple of things from the bill and then I'm going to leave or excuse me from the resolution, I'm going to leave the rest up to Senator Callahan. Whereas Testing Service Proctor use an additional expense for students not fully included in the university's follet system. Whereas

testing services ProctorU violates the privacy and confidentiality of students computers and connection devices, or Testing Service Proctor you test the limits of personal privacy and offers an unnecessary level of discomfort to our students, or assessing service ProctorU adds to the already stressful and challenging obstacles of the 2020 at 2021. school year, ***UNKOWN*** is remarkably unreliable and unprofessional for not only students but for teaching staff as well. And finally, whereas Testing Service ProctorU demands and unachievable requirement of students resulting in lower test scores for the university unrelated to the student's actual testing performance. So this resolution is to remove the testing services ProctorU because of those reasons. And I'm going to remain the rest of my time over to Senator Callahan.

S

Senator Callahan 27:06

Hello, Sandra Callahan. so yeah, like she said, there's a lot of financial concerns. For me, it's a little bit more I am concerned about the finances, but it's more of the security problems. For one ProctorU is not accredited by the Better Business Bureau, which I was actually surprised to find out whenever I was trying to find information about them. And despite this, they're rated more bizarre. And all of the ratings on the Better Business Bureau are testimonies from test takers and it's just horrible stories where they were failed for things that were out of their control. Similar situations to the things I've read there have been happening here at UNO, I have a list here on my computer, a short list of things that people have told me were problems during their ProctorU test such as the proctor would just not speak to them. Like they would ask the proctor questions and they would just not respond or the proctor would take control and try to change their password or change their settings on their computer. One person said that the person the proctor tried to change their Moodle password when they couldn't get in. And then when they couldn't get in and they could change the password they just weren't able to take the test. One Proctor kept their mic on for the entire exam, the person could hear kids in the background pets in the background, the proctor would bump the mic and it would jolt them. Not only is it unprofessional in this type of situation but in their privacy policy they have they have no respect for any of the information that they gain from us because they they have you download something into your browser that can basically read everything that's on your browser. And they're not even they're not even like cheeky about it. They just say plain as day and their privacy policy yeah we take all this information and then we share it with our third parties who can share it with their third parties. And if you just Google ProctorU besides the proctorU website almost everything is problems with proctorU, How is Proctor you dangerous, is Proctor you spyware, and it it concerns me. I feel like it should concern everybody a little bit because I mean, I'm at the University of Santa Barbara has a whole thing going on right now because they refuse us ProctorU and ProctorU is I think suing them for defamation. I'm very nervous about the whole situation.

And I also had to do one of my exams with ProctorU and I had similar situations to everyone else where they wouldn't communicate with me or they just disappeared. So yeah, that's why I'm sponsoring the bill. I think it's it's a safety issue. But it's also a financial issue as Haley said.

S Senator Fretz 29:52
I think that's it for us Desmond

V VPLA LeBlanc 30:00
Thank you guys for that information. You guys will now have 10 minutes for questions from senators. do any senators have any questions for senator Callahan and Senator Fretz at this time? I do,VPLA LeBlanc. Will, this resolution also go to faculty senate, or is it just going to our university president

S Senator Fretz 30:33
I'm under the impression that it would only be going to the President. If there's a possibility for it to move in another direction, I would happily do that. As of right now, I think that the evidence that we provided will hopefully convince them enough. And if not, then maybe we can move on to the faculty senate as well.

V VPLA LeBlanc 30:53
Thank you. Does anyone else have any questions for the principal author and sponsor at this time?

S Senator Crenshaw 30:58
Senator Crenshaw college of Biological Science. Okay,my question is, we're already a little bit into the year and I was wondering if there was any indication or information on what will happen to the students who have already spent a lot of money on ProctorU.

S Senator Fretz 31:24
I do not have a positive answer for that. I would be fairly confident. And this is Haley, Fretz Sen. Graduate at large, um, I would be confident to say that that money would be forfeited, you would not get that back. But in the future, we're having to avoid you having to spend any more.



Senator Callahan 31:44

Yeah. And Senator Callahan. I also think that it is sad that we'll be losing the money. But like I said, about the security thing. I think I paid like \$15 for my first exam. It sucks that that happened, but because of my experience, I now will potentially just keep it from happening at all anymore. So it's one of those. It sucks that it had to happen. But it's it's done after this if we can pass this.



VPLA LeBlanc 32:13

gotcha. Disappointed information. When we're speaking, just make sure when you announce yourself also announced the college that will have you help our clerk when she is doing our minutes. So when you state your name, and then the college that you're from, as well. Are there any other questions ?



Senator Fretz 32:39

I just wanted to do Haley Fred's graduate large, just a clarification. We if we pass today here in Senate, it will go to the president and then they have to pass. So this is just one step in the process. So although this, this is a good step in the right direction, there is much more to do. Just want to make sure that everyone's clear on that.



Senator Ivan 33:06

Senator amber Johnson College of Liberal Arts, I do have one question regarding how ProctorU's payments are dispersed. Do you have to pay a grand total in the beginning of the year? Or are you paying as you go?



Senator Callahan 33:28

Senator Callahan of the College of Engineering. For me it was we just paid for the first one. But I think there are ways that you can pay for multiple but the teacher the instructor has to have all of the exams set out. So if there isn't a set day current, like if they have to change it, then everything would be changed. So as of now, I think everyone's just going by the Pay per test. And then the price is changed per the amount of time per test.



VPLA LeBlanc 33:57

yeah. I just spent just a point of information. I just spent \$20 on a proctoru test yesterday. Now I'm taking Friday. All right. Any other questions for an author and sponsor? Okay,

hearing none, we will now move to an initiative debate to any senators rise in opposition of this resolution sorry. The first three minutes will be controlled by the senator who rises in opposition. Hearing none, the next three minutes will be controlled by the principal sponsor of the bill. Do you guys have anything else you would like to share with us?

U Unknown 34:50
I don't think so.

V VPLA LeBlanc 34:52
Okay. Since not, at this time, which is the next these three minutes will be given to the first senator to rise in support of the Resolution. Are there any senators, with the exception of Senator Callahan and Senator Fretz that rises in support of this resolution.

S Senator Bellow 35:11
Senator of Alex Bellow Interdisciplinary Studies, I rise in support of this resolution. I believe, as the resolution stipulates we are in a very unprecedented time. Several people, including students are facing financial challenges and the university allowing a product to charge students additional money on top of what we've already paid, I believe is unnecessary given that there are other proctoring services out there that have a proven track record of success and are free. And so I want to rise in support of the resolution, and send a loud and clear message, you know, to the administration that our students need greater support from them, especially in a very, very, very challenging time and a difficult period to be a college student. And you all, we all are juggling all kinds of other things in life, that the universities need to be doing everything that it can to make life for their students, as easy as possible.

V VPLA LeBlanc 36:34
Thank you Senator Bellow, are there any other senators who rise in support. At this time,

S Senator Ivan 36:41
Senator amber Johnson College of Liberal Arts, I would like to rise in support of this bill, especially regarding the privacy issues that have been brought up to our attention. I feel our privacy is very important, especially when we are using our technology that we purchased and we spend our money on regarding having to have spyware on your computer or a virus that you could have gotten from ProctorU. It does present a liability

issue. And I feel like that is a great way to resolve any of this in help the University of New Orleans out.



VPLA LeBlanc 37:24

Thank you. Okay, we will now move to amendments. Are there any amendments to this resolution at this time? Hearing none, now into final debate. The first few minutes will be controlled by the senator to rise in opposition of this resolution. Do any senators rise in opposition to the resolution at this time? All right. The next three minutes will be controlled by the principal sponsor of the bill. Do you have any final things to say? All right, if not, this time will be given to the first senator, to rise in support of the resolution. Okay. We will now conduct the roll call vote on this resolution. All right. When I call your name, please. State how you are voting. *** Role Call Vote*** With 15 YESes, zero NOs. And two abstentions. This resolution passes. Wonderful. I will make sure that this information is on the resolution. All right. Congratulations, Senator Fritz and Senator Callahan. Great. Next we will be moving to the diversity bill. Will the principle author and sponsor, take themselves off mute, and introduce yourselves first and then you will have six minutes to introduce your bill followed by to 10 minutes of question.



President Romero 41:21

Hey everyone. Jullianne Romero president and Alex Bellow is a sponsoring senator on here. I'll let him introduce himself real quick.



Senator Bellow 41:33

I'm Alex Bellow College of Interdisciplinary Studies.



President Romero 41:42

All of us execs were approached with this bill a few weeks ago, probably about three weeks ago, before we got the reserve account number. So obviously, as execs we were hesitant to offer to help fund the diversity engagement center renovation, because we had no number. So why would we fund things? We don't have a number? Well, last week, it was announced that we have a reserve account number, I believe, or the week before, so then I went ahead and wrote the bill. The bill is for \$29,335 and 36 cents helped me out Alex? So the reasoning behind that number is the whole project is about \$58,000. And the President Nicklow said that he can get donors to fund half of it. So that's why he asked us to fund the other half. And the reasoning behind the numbers is I wanted to be strategic on where we spend the money. Yes, on the SGA standpoint, so about 12,000 of those

dollars is going towards furniture and the renovation, and then the difference from the \$29,305 is going to general construction. So the walls, wiring. And I made sure to put in there that you know we're not responsible for staffing and doing things like that, because we did come into a position where when we funded things like the captains quarters downstairs, the game lounge, you know, we have to staff and pay these people to work in there. So we just made sure to include that. I also copy and pasted a few things within the bill about the reasoning behind funding this Diversity Engagement Center. Obviously, in our resolution we passed during the summer for diversity inclusion, Black Lives Matter. We said that we supported the efforts of administration when it comes to the diversity Engagement Center. And since we have the money, I feel like this is a great project and it's a great place for people to link up and you know, have a safe place to be on campus. I'll let Alex say what he wants to say.

S

Senator Bellow 44:23

Thank you President Romero, so the exact numbers for the total project is \$58,670 and 72 cents. So our bill will be exactly 50% of that. We have been advised by Dr. Anderson that we do have a donor an alum who is a local attorney who has committed to the other 50% if SGA does come to the table with the other half. I met with Dr. Anderson earlier this week to talk about her vision for this space and what she's seeking to accomplish with the creation of this space, and she sent me tremendous details, I have emails that I will be glad to send to whomever if you want to read on the theories that that she created, or that she's utilizing to operate this space, as well as I have blueprints or architectural renderings, and a complete total cost breakdown. But the vision is to create a space where students can go and find support, and build community. It's also a space where students will be able to build coalitions between the multiple campus communities that you know that exists on our campus. Thirdly, she's hoping to increase engagement between students and faculty and staff. And you all know that the more a student is engaged on campus, the greater the likelihood for completing the degree, the greater the likelihood to have a higher GPA. So engagement is critical. And then this center is going to serve as a one stop shop of sorts where students can go to lounge and linger. They can connect with the various services on campus, as you all know, If you're not familiar with the campus, you kind of have to piecemeal, where do you go for this? And what do you go for that this should be a one stop shop. And again, that engagement piece that I don't think you could place a price tag on this place, will be modern, but it's going to also speak to multiculturalism in that, you know, there will be flags representative along the cultures on campus, there'll be artwork to represent the various cultures, there's going to be a library with multiple cultural pieces, you know, students can check out and or sit there and read. And then of course, the programming is going to be there. So I believe this is a worthwhile bill, I believe SGA stepped in to the table to to fund this...***time***



VPLA LeBlanc 47:37

Time has been called the next 10 minutes will be for questions.



Senator Ivan 47:47

Senator Amber Johnson College of Liberal Arts? I have a question regarding Where will the diversity center be located?



President Romero 48:01

the Diversity Engagement Center is in the the gallery lounge if I'm not mistaken. It's kind of ducked off right now. You wouldn't really see it if you were walking back there. So the point is making it more eye appealing and that we can see it and people are more attracted and wanting to go there. But it's in the gallery lounge in the back right corner.



Senator Fretz 48:37

Haley Fretz graduate at large. So obviously, construction will not be able to start until we have the funds for it. But I was curious when the projected use of this Lounge is suspected. Right now, we can't even be together for an SGA meeting, let alone hang out in a lounge. So I'm a little concerned about the timeline that the university has shared with you guys.



President Romero 49:03

I can answer that as well. So the way it's looking is it's gonna take about six months or so to do the construction, which with the timeline of the pandemic, hopefully, that falls well. So we're probably not going to be together and spring the way vaccines are looking. So by fall 2021, it should be completely done.



Senator Fretz 49:33

I have another maybe a point of inquiry. I'm not really sure Haley Fretz graduate at large. Because I have some questions about the resolution or excuse me, the reserve amount. I personally am a little hesitant to approve this because I'm not confident in the numbers that I received for the reserve and that's where this funds will be coming from. Is there an opportunity to motion a table For this until we can hear from the CFO on where all of our funds have been allocated before we make this big decision. Although I think it's a great decision. I just want us to have all of the answers before making a choice.

- V VPLA LeBlanc 50:15
That is a good question Haley, If you motioned that, that motion will be on the floor.
- P President Romero 50:24
That's what I was about to say, you know, y'all can table anything anytime y'all want, y'all can make any motion. I completely understand it.
- S Senator Fretz 50:35
I don't want you to lose out on an opportunity to have a funder. I don't want to lose that thunder, I'm sure that they're, you know, they've just chosen their money wisely. And they want to, you know, see it come to fruition. I'll wait a little longer to see if anyone else has anything to say before I make a motion.
- V VPLA LeBlanc 50:54
Are there any other questions for the principal, author and sponsor at this time.
- S Senator S. Johnson 51:00
Senator Johnson? Hi, senator Sarah Johnson of College of Liberal Arts I just had a question. Have you all considered the International Center on campuses already a great resource as far as multiculturalism. So I was just wondering, Have y'all reached out in any way for collaboration, or to investigate which resources we already have on campus.
- P President Romero 51:34
basically, so we hired a new dean for diversity and inclusion efforts. So this would primarily be like her office. And also like, you know, she's in charge of programming. So that's where she would do the programming. It's not necessarily for like, international affairs, where I'm also sure that they're, they might do collaboration efforts, but it's more to ensure diversity and inclusion. If that clarifies.
- S Senator S. Johnson 52:13
I just want to say, it sounds like to me, this is kind of in response to what's been going on over the summer, and up to now about Black Lives Matter. And I would just want to clarify and make sure that if we're going to fund something like this, it genuinely has a real effect

on our community. You know, it's great that we're offering this but um, as far as like targeting this kind of issue of within our community, I just want to make sure it's genuinely effective, and it doesn't just become another resource that's unused on campus.

S Senator Bellow 52:47

I would like to speak to that Senator Alex Bellow Interdisciplinary studies. I spoke about that exact thought with Dr. Dr. Anderson this week. I wanted an assurance that this would be a true multicultural experience, or I move a true multicultural space. So in other words, not just in response to Black Lives Matters, and everything is catered towards Black Lives Matter or just African American community. And she assured me that this is, you know, this is a genuine multicultural, the vision for this as a genuine multicultural space where all cultures on campus will be welcomed, and and served and can find community.

S Senator S. Johnson 53:44

Would you mind dropping your email in the chat so possibly, so I can talk about this further?

S Senator Bellow 53:49

Sure!

S Senator S. Johnson 53:50

Thank you very much, I appreciate it.

V VPLA LeBlanc 53:53

Thank you Senator S. Johnson. Are there any other senators that have questions for the principal author and sponsor at this time?

S Senator Callahan 54:01

Senator Callahan the College of Engineering, um, I like everything that I see. But like someone said earlier, um, it's really it's kind of bad timing because I know the projected it been so far in the future and we hope that by then everything will be clear with Corona. We We also hope that we will be back this semester.

- V VPLA LeBlanc 54:25
This is the questioning period. Sorry, Senator Callahan. Do you have any questions for the principal author and sponsor at this time?
- S Senator Callahan 54:35
I guess I was just gonna ask if they'd like considered bettering anything.
- V VPLA LeBlanc 54:42
Okay. Can you restate the question?
- S Senator Callahan 54:52
Im just worried that it's not the right time. If it isn't the right time to say that then I can wait and say that later.
- S Senator Fretz 55:11
Senator Fretz raduate at large. I think what Senator Callahan was saying is that we suspected that we would be together right now, and we're not. And so I'm, I think she may be nervous, and maybe some of us, others may be nervous that we're going to fund something that we don't get to even enjoy, even if it is six months in advance.
- S Senator Callahan 55:29
Yeah, that's exactly what I'm saying. Senator Callahan
- P President Romero 55:34
I think everything takes time. You know, when it came to the game lounge that took a long time to deal with, everything just takes a long time to build and to, reconstruct. It's uncertain times I mean, we obviously can't predict the future and what's going to happen. But also at least is there for whenever we can meet, maybe would be my defense on that, you know, if we do fund it, and if y'all do decide to fund it, at least whenever we can get together, we can ensure that there is a place for multicultural and diverse students to meet. I don't know if you have a different answer than me, Alex, or a clear answer.



Senator Bellow 56:16

I think I would just Alex Bellow Interdisciplinary Studies. I think I would just say, um, I completely respect everyone's concerns. I think let your concerns be voiced via vote, if a motion gets put on the table to table this issue. You know, I completely understand it's uncertain times and, and I respect it.



Senator Fretz 56:50

I think with that being said, I'd like the motion to table this so that we have another week to discuss and that hopes that I can get some more information about the reserve account.



VPLA LeBlanc 56:58

Emotion has been called to table the diversity bill. Is there a second?



Senator Crenshaw 57:08

Second, Crenshaw College of Science.



VPLA LeBlanc 57:12

The motion has been called and properly seconded. Are there any objections at this time? Hearing none, so moved. The diversity bill has now been tabled to be reviewed at next week's meeting. Right. Next, we will move to open forum. Here. This is the second final time for our guests as well as our senators to interact. And this is for the betterment of SGA. We have 12 minutes on the clock to discuss things and again, this is all for the betterment of SGA. Would anyone like to start us off?



Senator Ivan 57:57

Senator Ivan College of Liberal Arts just tabled a bill for next week, but just want to make a quick statement on the diversity center. based off what madam president said about how it would pretty much be an office or base of operation for the new dean of diversity. It seems a bit odd for the SGA to put toward over \$20,000 for an office for a new faculty member when Senator Sarah Johnson brought up a great point about how we already have an international student center. And if if the main purpose of the diversity center is to really be a base of operations, for new faculty member, I don't think the SGA should be funding over \$20,000 for it.



58:48

I hundred percent agree.



VPLA LeBlanc 58:53

Just a point of information when you do decide to speak state, your name and the college that you are a part of



59:03

College of Liberal Arts,



Senator S. Johnson 59:07

Senator Johnson College of Liberal Arts, I just like to make it clear that I do support this bill. I think it's a great idea. I just want to make sure that we're actually being decisive and very specific and what we're trying to do here, especially because we're investing so much in it. And I think recent events, current events have shown how important this kind of thing is. So I really appreciate president Romero and Senator Bellow for doing this. I have a lot of respect and I appreciate y'all. I just want to discuss it further.



President Romero 59:47

Just got clarification. My mistake. I said it wrong. It's not an office. I'm so sorry, guys. It's it's a diversity Engagement Center. I guess I assumed because the Dean of diversity engagement wrote the proposal for it and stuff that she would be there, but it's not she is not an office. I'm sorry. My mistake.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:00:18

Thank you for that clarification man president



President Romero 1:00:27

Julianne Romero Presidednt,congrats on the proctor you resolutions. That's awesome. We had faculty senate meeting Tuesday night. And I just wanted to have clarification. Faculty also really don't like a proctorU most of them it's very inaccessible for them as well. They have had a lot of problems. They're looking at other modes of proctoring. So I think that this resolution is a good stepping stone to push the issue, because right now I feel like it's

just a lot of talking about it in faculty senate meeting. So I think pushing for this response, will get the ball rolling and figure out what we actually need. So congratulations on that.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:01:28

Thank you. Anybody else have anything else to share?



Senator Fretz 1:01:40

Haley Fretz graduate at large. Just to jump from the resolution with the proctoru just a thank you to everybody for working really hard to get those responses in. I appreciate it and really excited that it made the agenda. I also wanted to kind of jump off of what Senator Sarah Johnson said, I'm also totally for the diversity lounge and the essence and theories of it. I'm just really excited that we were able to second that motion on that table and give us just a little bit more time because these are really big, important decisions. So thank you, everyone. And again, as much respect to the two of you who put it together and understand its worth and what it's for. I'm just really looking forward to some more time.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:02:26

Thank you, Senator Bellow?



Senator Bellow 1:02:28

Yes, Sir Alex bello Interdisciplinary Studies, I have received some information from Dr. Anderson regarding the the details of the diversity center, as well as the theory that gave rise to this vision. So So if somebody could direct me to who I can email this to so that it can be sent out to anybody who may be interested in reading it, I can do that.



Senator Ngetich 1:03:04

Senator Ngetich College of Liberal Arts. Why don't we have all this information put in the discord where people can readily access it? Like at their leisure before the next meeting?



Senator Bellow 1:03:22

Okay, Senator Alex Bellow, Interdisciplinary Studies. I would have to send that to somebody else. I'm very unfamiliar with the Discord. I apologize for that. I will be glad to

send it to whomever. Who knows how to do all of that.



Senator Fretz 1:03:42

Haley Fretz graduate at large I think Senator Brendan Mott has been very detailed with the discord he might be able to help, especially since a lot of students will have opinions on this.



Senator Mott 1:03:54

Yes, this is Brendan Mott Jr. at large. So I'm sorry, I didn't catch that.



Senator Fretz 1:04:05

Discord. We have some information we'd like to put in there. And I think Senator Alex Bellow would like to connect with you in order to do so. I'm unfamiliar unless someone else has another suggestion.



Senator Mott 1:04:15

Okay, so I'm not very good at explaining how to use the software like that I kind of like figure but I can try to find like tutorials and stuff that I can email to you all that would explain how to like use it better if there's an accessibility issue. I can also look for maybe other means if this is not a very good means for yall. I just think that communication for all of us is important.



Senator Callahan 1:04:40

Senator Callahan College of Engineering.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:04:45

And I'm sorry, do you make them Senator Bellow if you email me all of this stuff, I will email it to the people that can't work discord and I will put it in the discord for the people that like Discord. I can make all of that happen.



Senator Bellow 1:05:00

Yes, ma'am.



Senator Callahan 1:05:07

Senator Callahan College of Engineering, I was actually just gonna say, yeah, you could like email it to me, because I don't have to pin them to the top of the university resources, chat area. And I could just, or I could contact one of the people who are also moderators.



Senator Mott 1:05:23

I'm Senator Callahan, we were actually talking about the SGA Discord server, I'm not our I'm not the one that we have for other students Brendan Mott Jr. at large



VPLA LeBlanc 1:05:35

Thank you. Does anyone else have anything you'd like to share with us at this time,



Senator Ngetich 1:05:43

Senator Devin Ngetich, College of Liberal Arts, I had a couple of things. Obviously, I don't know what information you're going to be sharing what information you have on this whole diversity center situation, I would suggest however, if you want to convince some of us who are not really on board. I personally, and I'm sure other people would like to know more about how it's going to help students because as it stands, it sounds like a general meeting place, which sounds like it more helps the school rather than directly helps students. So if y'all could detail, direct effect it's going to have on students, that would be very helpful. Um, so in, in your information that's just for future when you get that information together and put in the discord for us to like view. The second thing is, I'm a new senator, I've never written bills or anything before, I do have a vague notion of something I would like to develop with someone. If anyone's interested, it's an idea about getting students more involved in the community in New Orleans, our local community and with, like, community organizations and activist groups and whatnot, that we have here that make impacts in our lives. I can go into, into detail if you want or not, I'm more just kind of fishing for someone who'd like to help me, kind of eyeball it, and like, develop the idea.



President Romero 1:07:52

Okay, just to respond to your first part of senator Ngetich. When I sent the bill, I sent, like the 15 page proposal that had all that information in I don't know if Desmond send it out if he didn't, I can definitely send it to Joy so she can put in the discord. But I got full approval from Dr. Anderson and Dr. Golz to share all of that information with y'all. And it's 15 full

pages of reasons why we need it. So and what they plan on doing. So here's proposals a lot to read, but I think that'd be really helpful for all of you. So I'll make sure to send that to Joy she could put in the discord.

- S** Senator Bellow 1:08:54
Senator Bellow regarding the 15 page proposal that has just been sent to joyas well as the working theory that will be that will drive the vision for this would space.
- S** Senator Fretz 1:09:20
Haley Fretz graduate at large just to not ignore you, Senator Ngetich. If you put your email in the chat if anybody's interested in maybe working with you, hopefully they'll respond to you. If not, you can always email one of your execs, myself, Ivan, tonisha or Amber, we will help you for sure.
- S** Senator Plasse 1:09:42
Sen. Linda Plasse a sophomore at large. I also just wanted to add about the diversity center. There are already efforts being made to actively help students and actually Dr. Anderson recently hired myself and a few other students to be peer equity and resource educators.... ***time***
- V** VPLA LeBlanc 1:10:03
Time has been called
- U** Unknown 1:10:04
motion to extend time
- V** VPLA LeBlanc 1:10:13
Reset the time to 12 minutes. Live whoever was speaking may continue.
- S** Senator Plasse 1:10:22
That was Senator Plasse to continuous. Myself and a few other students were recently hired on to be part of the diversity Center staff as pure equity and resource educators. So we will be directly helping with resources offices and research to help update the website

to keep resources out there for students who are willing to learn about diversity and inclusion, pass just what was offered in the Moodle bias and equity training, as well as like staff, the center and help with any students that might have questions because our main driving focus primarily for at least the beginning half is to educate those who are willing to learn. Um, so it's not just an idle center, like it's not just going to be a lounge, per say, where you can just hang out and do whatever, there's also going to be active resources for learning. And we will be there staffed as students to help with this learning and to continue with programming to continue to promote diversity inclusion on campus. So I just wanted to add that for anyone who is having any other questions or concerns

V

VPLA LeBlanc 1:11:28

Since this is the diversity and inclusion thing I would like to ask if anybody knows this, or have you set it up as knows. I heard you mentioned that you say that you have been hired to staff this this area? Am I correct? Okay, has there been any others from the minority community has also been hired to staff, this department as well.

S

Senator Plasse 1:12:05

I have not personally met the other people who were hired yet because we were still we were just hired on this past week. Um, but we will be having training soon and I do believe that ***unknown***a diverse staff. I know we have a smaller staff to begin with, but I assume that as we grow larger, and she said once this center is built, and she will plan on hiring more people on and having longer office hours.

V

VPLA LeBlanc 1:12:26

Gotcha. So we are not sure if the initial staff at this time has anyone from the minority community of UNO yet, right? We don't want you don't. Okay,

S

Senator Plasse 1:12:36

yeah, I personally do not.

S

Senator Bellow 1:12:41

Alex Bellow Interdisciplinary Studies, I was in a meeting last week with Dr. Anderson in the momentum, men's group, which is for African American males as she was still making an appeal for interested parties to to work in this in the space. Again, that was last Thursday. I don't know if she's filled them all yet.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:13:12

Okay, is there anything else that anyone like to share with us at this time?



Senator S. Johnson 1:13:19

Senator Sarah Johnson college, if you don't mind, if I just ears here? Okay, I've noticed but I've had to leave the library since I've been in this call, because the library closes at six o'clock. And I just wanted to kind of start a conversation with you all about my understanding, the library was supposed to be open 24 hours, five days a week to accommodate students are on non traditional schedule, they may have children, they may work long hours at odd times a day. So I just I mean, it's definitely inconvenient for me, but I have to imagine for people who work much harder, I have a lot more responsibilities. This must be incredibly inconvenient. And it's concerning because UNO has a lot of non traditional students and has a great diversity of students with very diverse needs. So to me having the library as a sanctuary to kind of learn and all the hecticness of life is very important. So it's kind of inconvenient and a disservice to our student body that this library closes so early. I think it's not even open on Saturdays, and I just wanted to point that out.



Senator Mott 1:14:31

Brendan Mott Jr. Large, I would also like to agree with Sarah as well, because I've heard from one of my roommates who was a student worker at the library, they cut the library's budget because they were intending on there being a lower student body this semester. That's also why they cut their hours. Yes, we actually had an increase in the student population. So I don't understand why the library is still having these short hours. when that wasn't originally the case.



President Romero 1:15:12

Execs have a monthly meetings with Dr. Nicklow and Dr. Golz and the provost. we mentioned this issue because it was brought up in a previous meeting. And when we mentioned it, the provost said that he would talk to the Dean of the library and see about extending the hours, even if it's just by a few hours. I've never gotten an answer back about that, So I will definitely follow up tomorrow, and email him and probably the Dean of the library and see what's going on with that, because they did mention that. They would talk to the deans, but they never let us execs know anything further.



Unknown 1:16:35

Okay. Does anyone else have anything else they would like to share at this time?



Senator Fretz 1:17:10

Haley Fretz graduate at large motion to adjourn.



Senator S. Johnson 1:17:14

Second Sarah Johnson College of Liberal Arts.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:17:17

All right, motion has been called and properly seconded. Any objections? Hearing none, I now motion to adjourn this meeting at 6:20pm. You guys have a great rest of your evening.