

# 11.18 Meeting

📅 Thu, 11/19 10:20AM ⌚ 39:42

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

day, sga, senator, amendment, jayson, resolution, objections, semester, wednesday, report, classes, friendly amendment, students, thursday, add, questions, retreat, linda, mott, graduate

## SPEAKERS

Senator Bryant, VP Jayson Ray, VPLA LeBlanc, Senator Clotilde Lair, Senator Ngetich, Senator Fretz, Joy Ballard, Senator Plasse, Senator Mott

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- V VPLA LeBlanc 00:00

I would like to appoint senator Brendan Mott to serve as the temporary pro tempore today, and our pro tempore is not in. I call this meeting to order at 5:02pm All right. So next I will call roll \*\*\*Roll Call\*\*\* With 17 out of 21 Senators here we do meet quorum. All right, guys So we will now move on to approval of the agenda. Are there any corrections to today's agenda? With no objections to the agenda it is approved. Next is the approval of the minutes. I don't think we have those as of yet for the past couple of meetings. So we will continue along with that. I'll get with joy and our clerk of Senate to see you know if we can get those for next week. Okay, so we will move along to communications and announcements. Are there any communications and announcements that are non SGA related? If so, you will have three minutes to speak.
  
  - J Joy Ballard 04:42

I would like to draw attention to the chat that Linda Plasse motioned to be to me recognized.
  
  - V VPLA LeBlanc 04:51

So okay, with 18 out of 21 senators here we still need quorum All right. Just want to fix that in the role. Okay. All right. So next any non senator communications and announcements?

Alright. We will move on to committee reports. You each will have three minutes to speak, followed by three minutes of q&a. First we have governance. Does the governance proxy have report from her?



Senator Fretz 05:42

Haley Fretz graduate at large proxy for senator Noble. The only report that she left me is that when you have finished the rules and procedures code of law, modifications and edits, and she was waiting on the procedural amendments, which I will explain more in the finance report.



VPLA LeBlanc 06:08

Hey, thank you. Next is rules, does rules have a report for us today.



06:15

No report.



VPLA LeBlanc 06:16

All right. Thank you. Next is finances. Finally, the report for us today?



Senator Fretz 06:22

Haley Fretz graduate at large just a quick report that I have completed the procedural amendment and our advisor joy was able to look over that. And so hopefully, Jasmine will be sending that out to everyone shortly, I just want to reiterate that Joy made some edits today that made it a lot more helpful for me to read it, and I even wrote it. So I just recommend that you all take your time when reading it and look for the spots that say to read. And that's what we are changing it to. Just because it is a little bit complicated. If you need any help understanding anything, please reach out to me. I'll put my email in the chat. And I hope that everyone takes a good look at that, because it does make a really big difference. That's everything. I yield the rest of my time for questions.



VPLA LeBlanc 07:11

Are there any questions for finance committee here at this time? All right, hearing none, we'll move to Student Affairs, Student affairs do you have a report for us today? Thank

you next is on campus dining and housing.



Senator Fretz 07:35

Brendan Mott just a really quick announcement. So we are going to be having a open forum with with the director of Dining Services, Richard Curtis, if anyone is interested in coming to that you get on Jimmy an email and want to put my email in the chat. And if you have any questions, I yield the rest of my time.



VPLA LeBlanc 07:59

Are there any questions at this time? You say I do have a question. What was the date again for this event?



Senator Mott 08:09

And it's tomorrow at 9:30am?



VPLA LeBlanc 08:14

Thank you. All right. And if the execs if you don't mind, if you haven't just put your emails in the chat just in case anybody has any questions that come up. I would appreciate that. Thank you. All right. Next, other reports, first report is president and she is not here today. Okay. All right. Next is the vice president. Vice President Ray do you have a report for us today?



Joy Ballard 08:59

Yes. So from our operating account is \$38,488.68 cents. And the reserve account is \$193,088. And I'm putting it in the chat box now. I yeild the rest my time for questions.



VPLA LeBlanc 09:20

Any questions? Okay, we will move on to my report, I don't really have much I just say that you know, we are at the end of our fall stretch. Thank you to everybody who has come and has rode this wave with us until the end. None of us knew with this COVID source Master, we'll have a look back, but we all made room. So thank you for that. We do have some stuff that is coming up next week. I have talked with joy, because that's the day before Thanksgiving, we will be tweaking, with approval of Senate Of course, tweaking the way the agenda will go. So that meeting can be as quickly but as efficient as possible.

Because I know everybody wants to get home to their families and enjoy their time off. So I will make sure to make that meeting as short and sweet as you will guys will allow us to. Um, other than that, I don't have anything else to say. Does anybody have any questions for me? All right, hearing none, we long to the Vice President of Programming.



11:38

Hey, um, my report is short. We finished up our last event for homecoming. And that will be like our last in person event. All of our events from now on will be posted online. We are going to start a social media challenge next week. Also the interviews for presidency is next Friday. This will probably be my last meeting with you guys.



VPLA LeBlanc 12:14

Does anyone have any questions for vice president programming at this time. Oh, thank you, and congratulations. Next, we will move along to the advisor of as valid your report.



Joy Ballard 12:39

I do. I will keep it short, though. Um, so the only real matter of business I have for y'all is we have set dates for our winter retreat that we do every year. So that is going to be January 21. And 22nd. Typing that in the chat Um, so this is a retreat put on by SIL So it's not just SGA specific, we do a lot of general leadership work. It will count for a senate retreat, though, because we do have breakout sessions throughout it. But instead of being the more informal retreat that we normally do for just us, this is a little bit more formalized, it's put on by our pro staff. So it should be a good time. Even if you've already went to the Senate retreat, I encourage you to come. It's great way to build your leadership skills and meet other students. So save the date. You'll hear a lot more from me about it in your emails. But for now, put that on your calendar. Then I want to thank you all for just everything you've done this semester, we've got business coming up again, I'm excited about that. But also, please remember to take care of yourself and take some time off. It has been a rough semester, and now the school has released y'all to go back to your homes. So I want you to take time. I know that virtual school is a lot different than your in person classes. And that will take more time that will take more effort. And so I want to make sure you are focusing on that. As well as making some time to do some things you enjoy while you're at home. Do something for self care that just makes you happy. Tonight I'm going to watch the NBA draft and eat pizza and I'm pretty excited about it. So whatever that moment is for y'all. I hope that y'all will take some time and do that for yourself. And also stay home. We send you away from campus for a reason. The numbers

in the city are going up, numbers at UNO are going up. Please stay at home. That way. You can see your Family over the holidays in a safe manner. So you can't come to campus. But please, there's a reason don't come to campus. And my final thought is, if you are a graduating senator, sometimes people's timelines get all confused. And that is 100%. Okay, but I can't keep up. If you are graduating Senator, this year, please shoot me a message so that I can make sure we celebrate you. Normally, we would do something fun in person. I can't do that. But I do want to make sure that I do something to celebrate that achievement, and your time that you spent with us. So shoot me a message if you are graduating. And with that, I yield the rest of my time for questions.



Senator Plasse 15:47

Linda Plasse sophomore at large, I did have one quick clarifying question about the retreat that will be on zoom correct?



Joy Ballard 15:56

Okay. It will be virtual.



Senator Plasse 15:58

Okay, thank you so much.



Senator Clotilde Lair 16:06

Clotilde Lair College of Engineering. Um, this is kind of off topic. But um, do you know what happened when we put the school lawyer up for bid because I never heard anything about that.



Joy Ballard 16:19

Yes, so it has not gone out to bid yet. And as part of the bid process, we discussed that we wanted to do that somewhat in person. And that opportunity has never presented itself with everything going on. So hopefully, in the spring, we will be looking into that process. It has not been forgotten, it has just been pushed, and pushed. So yes. And if y'all are open to doing that process somewhat virtually, we can talk about that we just need to have clear stipulations on what a lawyer is going to do for students in a virtual



17:04

Can we talk about how the process works? Or is that something we should discuss later



Joy Ballard 17:09

I can give a quick rundown. So basically, we will have a committee meeting with some members of SGA. ourselves, and the purchasing office. And we will put together a list of things, basically a contract of what we want this person to do, we will then run it in the newspaper and on the school website. And attorneys that might be interested in the job will write in, they'll tell us what of those things they can do and how much they would charge us to do it. Then we as a group, sit down, we look at those things. We talk about the pros and the cons, who can do what for what price. We don't always go with the cheapest offer because the cheapest offer may not be the best offer. But as a committee, we would weigh their choices. That's a real simplified version. But that's pretty much the process.



VPLA LeBlanc 18:08

Okay, thank you for the information advisor Bailard. Any questions at this time for the advisor? Next, we don't have any old business we're going to go straight to new business and we have our mental health resolution. We'll go ahead and share my screen. Yes. Okay. So will the principal author and sponsor please take themselves off mute? just introduce themselves followed by an introduction of the bill and just give us a little spiel on how came about



Senator Plasse 20:09

Hi, I'm Linda Plasse. I am the sophomore senator at large currently in the SGA Senate And I was really excited to sponsor this bill that Jayson brought me. So Jayson, if you want to introduce yourself?



VP Jayson Ray 20:24

I'm Jayson Ray. I'm the SGA vice president. This bill's kind of brought up I'm in a student body presidents groupme with Jullianne and a bunch of different presidents were talking about how their schools are implementing mental health days in place of their spring breaks getting taken away. And I thought it was a really good, a really good idea that we should also follow up on because I had a lot of people tell me this semester that they're struggling, I struggled myself, because we don't, we didn't really have a break, there's no

fall break for good reasons. Because of COVID. Obviously, we don't want people to get sick. But we agreed that we needed to do something about this. So I put together this resolution along with Linda, and I'll just go through it a little bit. So this resolution is implement to mental health days, throughout the spring 2021 semester, preferably on Wednesday, March 10 2021, and Wednesday, April 7 2021. And on the during these days, there should be no exams or assignments due. So basically how I came upon these things. So we aren't having spring break next semester, so that people don't have the opportunity to travel and potentially contract to COVID and spread along our campus. So I figured that having a day off on a Wednesday would be very good on that. So we don't have like a three day weekends that doesn't give people or have an opportunity to go travel. So if it's on a Wednesday,during the middle of the week, they so everyone still gets the break, but it prevents the desire for people to travel off campus. We also did a survey, just asking if I think it was nine or 10 questions that we sent out to the entire student body, and we had 1,015 students complete it. And that was how I based my whereas statements on the resolution. The survey results were also sent out along with the agenda for this week. Linda, do you have any anything else to add?

S

Senator Plasse 22:49

I would just like to say, like you had said, Jayson, one of the things that we've mentioned in the survey was actually asking people whether they would be more likely to travel with a one day like weekday vacation day. And I can see. Desmond has the the survey pulled up right now. And again, this was sent to everyone. But the large majority did say like this was not something that they felt like they would travel with, they agreed the rest of the student body probably would not travel much on a single weekday break. And again, the large majority of students definitely agree that stress and mental health issues are at an all time high this semester. So if there's anything that we can do to help the student body and help like with just the success rates and the coping mechanisms of our students that this is a great opportunity for that.

J

Joy Ballard 23:44

And one last thing, if this resolution does get passed, and it's approved by President Niccolo, I'm planning to correlate some planning with counseling services, so that we can have more availability of counselors on that specific day. So if people wanted to speak with counselors, just to talk about how school is going different things, whatever is on their mind, they can and they have more of more of an opportunity to

V

VPLA LeBlanc 24:28

All right. Thank you guys, for your introductions. We will now move to any amendments to this bill. I need someone to make an amendment and I think Joy's gonna say the same thing.

J

Joy Ballard 25:05

I don't know what your amendment was, I would like, first of all, thank you all very much. And this is a just excellent work. even have a survey like with 1000 respondents. So like, legitimately, thank you, this is fantastic. Um, I think that it would be appropriate to add a friendly amendment. And this does not change the bill. And we do not even have to vote on it. But I think, a friendly amendment to add in why you selected those two days. So I know that y'all said it in your debate here. It is very logical. But unfortunately, Dr. Nicklow only reads what you wrote. And so sometimes, then he comes back to me and is like, why did they pick this random day? So and then I say it and he doesn't give you credit, because I said it right. So if y'all could just in that where you picked those two days, just add a sentence like, we picked a random Wednesday, so people won't travel and those things. I think that would really strengthen your work here. But that was my only amendment.

V

VP Jayson Ray 26:19

Point of information. One of the statements does, it say whereas implementing mental health days on Wednesdays would significantly decrease the chance of UNO students traveling during during the day off? Would you like more for that? Or is a good enough?

J

Joy Ballard 26:38

I looked for it and couldn't find it. And it was clearly there. So I take back everything I said. Fantastic. Without me talking.

V

VPLA LeBlanc 26:52

Desmond Leblanc VPLA. It was just a quick, friendly amendment about the spelling of the spring 2021 semester, if we can change that to just, you know, take out the zero. All right. Are there any other amendments to this bill?

S

Senator Ngetich 27:15

Senator Ngetich College of Liberal Arts. I don't know if this comment would go here. I think the days are a little impractical in that having two Wednesdays, impacts, because



classes go Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and then Tuesday, Thursday. I think that's going to present a problem in like impacting Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes more than Tuesday, Thursday classes. it could be just moving one of the Wednesdays to a Thursday, that's still in the middle of the week. But they usually in scheduling classes balance out those those days off where they equally affect both classes.

V VP Jayson Ray 28:19  
Yes, we can.

V VPLA LeBlanc 28:24  
Senator Ngetich, are you going to be making an amendment for that to be correct?

S Senator Plasse 28:31  
Yes, yes. So that's what I'm saying. I'm a little inexperienced with this.

V VPLA LeBlanc 28:37  
I'm sorry. Okay. So real quick. You just say I would like to make an amendment to change XYZ.

S Senator Plasse 28:47  
Okay, I would, I would like to make an amendment to change one of the Wednesdays to a Thursday. So it equally impacts both types of classes. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Tuesday, Thursday classes. Okay.

V VPLA LeBlanc 29:09  
Any particular day?

S Senator Plasse 29:13  
I do not have strong feelings on a particular day.

S Senator Fretz 29:17

Haley Fretz graduate at large point of information. The chat is displaying the change of dates.



VPLA LeBlanc 29:31

alright an amendment has been called to change Wednesday, April 7 mental health day to Thursday, April 8. Are there any objections to this amendment? Hearing none, it is approved. So we will make the adjustments to change Wednesday, April 7 to Thursday April 8. Are there any other amendments to this resolution?



VP Jayson Ray 30:11

Jayson Ray Vice President, I propose a friendly amendment since we are changing Wednesday, April 7 2021, to Thursday, April 8 2021. To also change in there whereas statement that says whereas implementing mental health days on Wednesdays would significantly decrease the chance of UNO, students traveling during the day off and add on. So let's say whereas implementing Mental Health Day on a Wednesday and Thursday, would significantly decrease the chance of UNO students traveling during the day off



VPLA LeBlanc 30:54

Time has been called, are there any objections to this amendment? Hearing none, it is approved.



Senator Fretz 31:05

Haley Fretz graduate at large, did we add the amendment to explain why we chose those days?



VPLA LeBlanc 31:16

Would the principle author like to respond?



Joy Ballard 31:19

In the whereas statement, that's where we were saying why we chose Wednesday and Thursday. Are you asking if? Or if we're adding a second where statement to explain the the reasoning and the dates being chosen? Or?

**S** Senator Fretz 31:53  
I guess I'm confused. I thought that Joy had said that we needed to add something as to why we chose it because Dr. Nicklow doesn't read the extra stuff

**J** Joy Ballard 32:07  
It was already there. Sorry, everyone.

**S** Senator Fretz 32:11  
So do we need to add the balance between Wednesday and Thursday and why we chose one day and the other day because of classes. I think that that might just boost the credibility a little bit as well.

**V** VP Jayson Ray 32:23  
Yeah, I agree.

**S** Senator Fretz 32:27  
So I'd like to make an amendment that we add a whereas that states by we chose Tuesday and Thursday for the balance. Oh, Haley, Fred's graduate at large. I'm so sorry, Amber. To add that that's why we chose a Monday, a Wednesday and a Thursday to effect Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes along with Tuesday, Thursday classes.

**V** VPLA LeBlanc 32:50  
Alright, an amendment is on the floor. Are there any objections? Hearing none, it is approved. All right. Are there any other amendments? Okay, next, we will open the floor up for debate to discuss the Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you, Senator Plasse and vice president Ray. for introducing this again. We do appreciate it. So next, we will be moving to initial debate to discuss the resolution as it stands and including the amendments. Okay, is there any anything anybody would like to share with us?

**S** Senator Bryant 33:50  
Senator Bryant College of Liberal Arts I would like to make a motion to move to voting for this resolution.

V VPLA LeBlanc 33:57  
Okay, are there any objections?

S Senator Fretz 34:00  
I actually have some stuff I would like to say and Brendan Mott Jr. at large.

V VPLA LeBlanc 34:10  
Point of inquiry advisor Ballard when an objection is called, don't we have to do a roll call. For the purposes of us being on zoom, can we just let him go?

J Joy Ballard 34:23  
Normally, we do a hand vote, which is hard because everyone doesn't have their screen on. But we can do a verbal vote as well. As long as no one objects that.

V VPLA LeBlanc 34:38  
Okay. Gotcha. Okay, so an objection has been called are there any objections to the objection. Okay, hearing none, it's moved Mr. Mott you have the floor

S Senator Fretz 34:57  
Okay, so I agree with the idea of this, however, there's I personally can't follow having breaks in the middle of the school week because that really affects people's workflow. And also like it's not going to, like if the university to be totally closed that day, or is it just going to be classes off? Because like, in that case, you still have to go to your on campus Jobs and stuff. So it's not really changing a lot. And I also like to say that we actually did have a three day weekend during the fall semester, we had labor day off on a random Monday. So I just, I just don't think having breaks in the middle of the school week is appropriate. I agree with mental health days. I just don't like the idea of being off on a random Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Hayley Fretz graduate large, senator Mott, I think you may have misinterpreted the resolution, we're not going to have off that day. We're going to ask our teachers not to give us any assignments or tests that day. So you may still have class, you may still have homework to do, but you won't have the pressure, and please correct me if I'm wrong Jayson or Linda, of an actual assignment or test that day. So it will give you the opportunity to slightly mentally relax.



VPLA LeBlanc 36:15

Okay, is there anything else? All right. Hearing none, we will move along to a roll call vote. For the resolutions as it stands Alright, when you hear your name, please let me know how you vote. \*\*\*Roll Call Vote\*\*\* With 15 yeses, Zero no's, and three abstentions. This resolution passes. Congratulations, Vice President Ray and Senator Plasse. We do appreciate you guys. All right, so Next, we move along. Open Forum. We have 12 minutes on the clock and this is anything for the betterment of SGA. If no one has anything. I will entertain a motion to adjourn.



Senator Bryant 39:02

Senator Bryant college Hello bars make a motion to adjourn this meeting.



Senator Fretz 39:07

second. Graduate large Haley Fretz.



VPLA LeBlanc 39:11

Motion has been called and properly seconded. Are there any objections? Still moved. I adjour this meeting at 5:42pm you guys have a great rest of your week. See you next week.