

63-R-45 Attachment A



Johnson, Charles Harris

Thu 3/26/2020 5:04 PM

STUDENT.SENATE.EXEC; STUDENT.SENATE ▾



Good evening,

As it has been a little over a week since my last update, I am reaching out to provide you with some additional information regarding the situation we are currently in.

As this virus is growing at an exponential rate, and all experts point to this extending into the summer, I can tell you it is unlikely we will meet again as a large group. With that being said, there are certain pieces of legislation (budgetary) that must be passed. I am currently looking at options to ensure this can take place.

Along with that, **all in person commission meetings are suspended indefinitely**. Directors, should you chose to conduct your meetings online, you may do so starting April 6th.

Finally, next week Vice President Ziebell and I will be meeting with the Chancellor to discuss bringing Senate to a close this semester. Nothing is official, but do not count on elections taking place this spring. I understand this brings about countless other questions, and I will have a final decision and point of direction to you by the end of next week.

As always, stay safe and healthy.

Best,
Charlie

Charles H. Johnson

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63-R-45 Attachment B



Johnson, Charles Harris

Fri 4/3/2020 4:23 PM

Meier, Joel David ▾



Director Meier,

Yesterday you took it upon yourself to create a poll in the 63rd session facebook page as you felt it necessary to re-evaluate the internal communication of Student Senate. While you are the Communications Director and certain communication aspects are under your purview, decisions surrounding if, when, and how meetings take place is not.

Within this post, you make the implication that Student Senate is no longer open; this message has never been conveyed and can't be further from the truth. Both I and Vice-President Ziebell have made it clear, through numerous emails, that Senate is temporarily on hold. Due to University policy, and the fact we have been on spring break for the past three weeks, holding any sort of Senate meeting during this time was off the table. However, on all occasions, we took the initiative to inform everyone commission meetings will resume on April 6th.

In my most recent email, I recognized the fact it is unlikely we will continue to meet as a full body regularly. I also recognized the need for a meeting to take place to wrap up any budgetary pieces of legislation that had yet to be completed. If you had a concern about this and had reached out to either myself or Vice-President Ziebell to discuss it, we would have informed you we will be meeting two additional times in late April to achieve what was previously mentioned. Instead, you went over the both of us, and this action will cause confusion and anger, which will be directed at myself when I make the announcement we will not be having regular online meetings.

An email was going to be sent out today describing these changes and what Senate will look like for the rest of the semester. Now, due to how Senators and Directors are reacting to your post, I have to change my message to address the fact that this decision was made before the poll was posted and will remain the same.

As a reminder, one of your duties as a Director is to remain in contact with your respective check-in liaison. I would encourage you to do so, as to avoid running into this situation again.

There are less than two months left in this session, do not let this happen again.

-Charlie

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Meier, Joel David
Sun 4/5/2020 9:31 PM

Johnson, Charles Harris; DuChene, Travis Lawrence; Gulbranson, Austin Jesse; Luleff, Grace Reine; Caruthers, Bailey Marie; Barnes, Liam Michael; Thomas, Pralutz, Sullivan Robert



Hello,

Firstly, I would like to apologize for any confusion that has come from my post, I purposefully wrote it in an attempt to limit confusion and was looking for feedback about how to handle my commission just as much as I was interested in seeing how Senate at large felt about GA meetings.

That being said, I do not regret making that post as I feel the discussion of the structure of Senate during this crisis needs to include more than just yourself, Vice-President Zebell, and the Chancellor. Those who are most impacted by this decision, the senators, must be included. Although the President is the official voice and face of Student Senate, and this may just be my opinion, but I feel it is not the role of the President to make decisions for Senate by themselves. Additionally, why was this information not shared with Senate if it was already decided before my post and if the sentiments of a majority of Senate are contradictory to that decision, doesn't that show it might not be the best course of action?

There have been times within my short term as Director that I saw myself as solely responsible to fulfill the duties of my commission, rather than my actual role as a member of the executive team. We should not be the ones making any decision, whether that's about legislation, a new project, or in this case, what Senate will look like for the next two months. We are here to support our commissions and senators which is why I sought the input of the Senate before coming to you as I have my own vision of what Senate could be, but as a leader, I am responsible to look past my own opinions and bring a voice to those I serve. If we are not internally transparent and open for feedback, why should we expect that from our professors and administration?

I've talked to multiple senators who have expressed much confusion and stress about the future structure of Senate as well as the mixed messages about the future. In previous emails, you've said, "It is unlikely we will meet again as a large group" and "Discuss bringing senate to a close this semester" and it can easily be understood that senators, who were not at the emergency executive board meeting, see it as just a matter of time before Senate is officially closed. These senators also wanted an opportunity to express their disappointment in what the future of Senate is looking like as they took an oath to represent and work for the student body. My post did this and showed that a significant amount of senators want Senate to officially stay in session until the end of the semester like University Senate and University committees are. If we do not make every effort to fulfill our oath to serve the student body, we are no longer deserving of being members of Student Senate. This is exacerbated by the fact that other UW Student Senates are finding creative solutions to continue to meet.

I hope that you take into consideration the fact that 15 members of the Senate are in support of continuing to represent and give voice to the student body in a time where it is needed more than ever to seek all of Senate's opinion on this issue before making an official decision.

Regards,

Joel Meier

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