

MINUTES¹

USG Senate Meeting

Thursday, February 3rd, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:12 pm. Meeting held in Wang Center – Lecture Hall #1.

Agenda item 1.0: Attendance

The roll was called:

Senator Allen Abraham	Present
Senator Tahir Ahmad	Present
Senator Ory Baum	Present
Senator Spenser Cushing	Present
Senator Samuel Cushner	Present
Senator Ray Fan	Present
Senator Frank Fanizza	Present; Left at ~7:40 pm
Senator Christian Giraldo	Present
Senator Mahyar Kashan	Absent
Senator Sidrah Khan	Present
Senator Thomas Kirnbauer	Present
Senator Yan Leyfman	Present
Senator Deborah Machalow	Present
Senator Kirin Mahmud	Late – 7:45 pm
Senator Shivani Rampersad	Present
Senator Masood Rustemi	Present

¹ Typically, minutes should only contain the essentials of a meeting. This includes the meeting time and location, a list of those who attended, as well as a record of all motions made and their outcome. Debate or even a summary of debate is usually not included. I include it here at the request of the Chair. Mistakes and omissions are likely, so Senators are encouraged to e-mail the Secretary with corrections prior to the next Senate meeting, so that the record reflects what was actually said at the meeting and so corrections can be made efficiently.

Senator Najee Simmons	Present
Senator Harminder Singh	Present
Senator Priya Sohi	Present
Senator Michael Spinelli	RESIGNED
Senator Peter Stratoudakis	Absent
Senator Russell Williams	Present

President Matthew Graham	Present
Executive Vice President Alexander Dimitriyadi (Chair)	Present
Treasurer Mark	Present
Vice President of Academic Affairs Forbes	Present
Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Jennifer Chan	Absent
Vice President of Communications David Mazza	Present
Vice President of Student Life Peter Molloy	Absent
Senior Class Representative Dexter Daniel	Present
Junior Class Representative Emilissa Trotman	Absent
Sophomore Class Representative Neville Hall Jr.	Present
Freshman Class Representative Rodriguez	Absent

Quorum established.

Agenda item 2.0: Announcements

The Chair announced that there is a room change for this semester. The location, for the time being, is Wang Center – Lecture Hall #1. No food or drink allowed in the room.

The Chair further announced that Senator Spinelli resigned. The President and PPT will appoint a new Senator. Senators are invited to send the credentials of interested students to the EVP.

The Chair further announced that Senator Mahmud resigned as PPT.

The Chair further announced that Senators presenting an act should step to the podium.

The Chair further announced that Nathan Shapiro is the Interim Administrative Director as the current AD is on maternity leave.

The Chair further announced that FOIL (NYS Law) requires a final vote tally for all votes. All "final" votes will be by roll call to satisfy the requirements of the law.

Agenda item 3.0: Approval of the Minutes from 12/9/2010

- Senator Cushing moved to approve the minutes.
 - Approved without objection.

Agenda item 4.0: President Pro Tempore Election

- Nominations:
 - Senator Abraham nominated.
 - Senator Kirnbauer nominated.
 - Senator Machalow nominated.
 - Nomination process closed without objection.
- Process for electing PPT: Majority vote required. If no majority obtained in the first round, only the top two nominees will proceed to the next round. All votes will be by roll call vote, to satisfy the FOIL (NYS Law) requirements.
- Senator Abraham made a brief statement indicating why he would be a good PPT.
- Senator Kirnbauer made a brief statement indicating why he would be a good PPT.
- Senator Machalow made a brief statement indicating why he would be a good PPT.
- Statements by Senators:
 - Senator Ahmad made a statement in support of Senator Abraham.
- Senator Khan moved to vote on the nominees.
 - Approved without objection.
 - Roll call vote #1²:
 - Votes for Senator Abraham: 4
 - Votes for Senator Kirnbauer: 3
 - Votes for Senator Machalow: 7
 - Abstentions: 4
 - Total votes cast: 14
 - Majority required: 8
 - Outcome: No candidate received majority of votes cast. Senator Kirnbauer eliminated. Senators Abraham and Machalow proceeded to second round of voting.
 - Roll call vote #2:
 - Votes for Senator Abraham: 6

² Breakdown of all roll call votes, indicating how each Senator voted, are attached.

- Votes for Senator Machalow: 10
- Abstentions: 2
- Total votes cast: 16
- Majority required: 9
- **Outcome: Senator Machalow was elected as the Senate's President Pro-Tempore (PPT.)**

Agenda item 5.0: 2011-2012 Academic Year USG Budget Timeline

- Treasurer Mark presented the timeline.
 - The timeline is included as part of the 03-Feb-2011 agenda.
 - The Treasurer recommended that "Time Line B" be removed.
- Senator Machalow moved to approve the "2011-2012 Academic Year USG Budget Timeline."
 - Senator Machalow moved to strike the entirety of "Time Line B" as well as the text stating "Time Line A."
 - Motion approved without objection.
 - Senator Cushing stated that March 5th and 6th is insufficient time to hold budget hearings.
 - Senator Machalow: The budget committee also had concerns, but it is expected that most of the Senate would also be able to help, and that they believe that this would all work.
 - Senator Ahmad: I am concerned that enough people would attend on the weekend. Making the hearings a week-long event might make it easier to hear everyone.
 - Senator Machalow: Constitutionally, every Senator is required to serve on a budget sub-committee. This would fulfill the requirement and help ensure attendance.
 - Senator Ahmad: I like the idea of having a week instead of two days in order to do this. A two-day window to do a mandatory budget workshop would be difficult to work out. I would suggest adding two more days at least.
 - Senator Machalow: We believe that a majority of people would be able to make those days. If there are issues with meeting those days, we would hope that clubs would contact the Treasurer ahead of time, and a separate time on another day would be set aside for those instances. We need time to look over club budgets before meeting their representatives.
 - Senator Rampersad: We will publicize this as much as possible. The EVP also proposed posting the information on ALLOCATE.
 - Senator Ahmad: Will questions asked of the clubs be publicized ahead of time?
 - Senator Machalow: Yes, these questions have not been finalized yet, but they will be publicized at the Budget Workshop.

- Senator Ahmad: In order to facilitate the process, it might be a good idea to require written responses to the finalized questions by March 1st, in order to finalize the process.
 - Treasurer Mark described what items would be required of clubs by March 1st.
- On the motion to approve the “2011-2012 Academic Year USG Budget Timeline,” the vote was: 16-2-0 (Roll Call #3,) and the motion was approved.

Agenda item 6.0: Open Agenda

- Senator Kirnbauer moved to suspend the rules to allow the consideration of three contracts which were not provided to Senators by 2 pm of the day the Senate was in session.
 - Motion was approved without objection.
- The EVP, citing impartiality concerns, vacated the Chair.
 - PPT Machalow chaired this portion of the meeting.
- Senator Kirnbauer presented the following legislation: “Men’s Rugby Contract for Daniel Yarusso,” “Men’s Rugby Contract for Mark Moulton,” and “Men’s Rugby Contract for Mike Barnett.”
 - Senator Ahmad moved that the USG Senate stand at ease for three minutes to consider the documents presented.
 - The motion was approved without objection.
 - The Senate returned to order at 7:49 pm.
 - Senator Rampersad asked Senator Kirnbauer to clarify who the individuals named in the contract are.
 - Senator Kirnbauer listed the qualifications and job requirements of the named individuals.
 - Senator Abraham: Are any of the individuals university/USG employees?
 - Senator Kirnbauer: Mark works for USG as its A/V Director.
 - Senator Abraham: Who is the A/V Director for USG?
 - President Graham: Mark is a student consultant, not the Director of the A/V agency.
 - Senator Ahmad: Is Mark being paid twice with the Student Activity Fee?
 - EVP: I would ask that the Statutes for Compensation be checked.
 - At the request of the Chair, and without objection, the Senate stood at ease to consult the relevant documents.
 - The Senate was called back to order.
 - Chair: Section 5009 states: “No individual may collect monetary compensation – 1. “From more than one position in the USG simultaneously.” The Chair believes that the position of Rugby Coach would not qualify as a “position in the USG.”
- Senator Cushing moved to refer all contracts to the Budget Committee.
 - Various speakers made statements on the merits of the motion. Some Senators (e.g. Ahmad and Simmons) were in favor of the motion, in order to protect the

ethics of USG by scrutinizing all the contracts. Other Senators (e.g. Khan) believed that the issue in dispute is not a budgetary matter, and that the contracts for the other two individuals should be voted on now.

- VP Forbes: Referring the matter to the Budget committee is a poor precedent, as 150 students signed a petition to bring the matter directly to the Senate floor.
- EVP: I agree with VP Forbes. There is a constitutional process by which to bring legislation to the floor.
- Senator Kirnbauer: These three contracts are urgent. These individuals have been working for a long time without being paid and should be compensated. If a petition to bring legislation to the floor, then there is no ethical dilemma.
- On the motion to end debate, the vote was 17-0-0 (by show of hands – listed as #4), and the motion was approved.
- On the motion to refer the three contracts to the budget committee, the vote was 5-11-1 (#5), and the motion failed.
- Senator Cushing moved to approve “Men’s Rugby Contract for Daniel Yarusso.”
 - Outcome: #6: 14-0-3. The motion was approved.
- Senator Sohi moved approve “Men’s Rugby Contract for Mike Barnett.”
 - Outcome: #7: 14-0-3. The motion was approved.
- Senator Abraham moved to refer “Men’s Rugby Contract for Mark Moulton” to the Budget Committee.
 - Outcome: #8: 9-7-1. The motion was approved.
- The EVP returned to the Chair.
- VP Mazza gave an update:
 - USG Website is being updated and is mostly up-to-date.
 - Business cards for Senators who asked for them have been ordered. Senators can still request them.
 - Aziz Ansari posters and advertisements are being done on a massive scale. That kind of effort will be done (or close to it) for future events.
 - Senator Simmons: I was impressed with the advertising campaign for the Aziz Ansari event. I definitely saw a marked improvement in that area.
 - Senator Ahmad: I would like to commend VP Mazza for his efforts in promoting the event. Thank you.
 - President Graham: Because of David’s efforts, this has built the hype for everyone on campus. The goal of building more Stony Brook pride and community is being helped tremendously. We are on the right track this semester.
- No further business from the Senate.
- Arthi (Project Coordinator for NYPIRG) was recognized.
 - Arthi gave a brief history of the organization.
 - Arthi advertised a three-credit internship in working with NYPIRG.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

	Roll Call #1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8
Abraham	Abstain	Abstain	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ahmad	Abraham	Abraham	Y	Y	Y	Abstain	Abstain	Y
Baum	Machalow	Machalow	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cushing	Machalow	Machalow	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Cuhner	Kirnbauer	Machalow	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fan	Machalow	Machalow	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Fanizza	Machalow	Machalow	Y	Abstent	Abstent	Abstent	Abstent	Abstent
Giraldo	Machalow	Machalow	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Khan	Abraham	Abraham	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Kirnbauer	Abstain	Machalow	Y	Y	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain
Leyfman	Machalow	Machalow	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Machalow	Abstain	Abstain	Y	Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair
Mahmud	Abstent	Abstent	Abstent	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Rampersad	Abraham	Abraham	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Rustemi	Kirnbauer	Machalow	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Simmons	Machalow	Machalow	Y	Y	Y	Abstain	Abstain	Y
Singh	Abraham	Abraham	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Sohi	Kirnbauer	Abraham	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Williams	Abstain	Abraham	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Total:			16-2-0	17-0-0	5-11-1	14-0-3	14-0-3	9-7-1
Decision:			Passes	Passes	Fails	Passes	Passes	Passes

Y = Yes; N = No; A = Abstain; Ab = Absent
Total is in Y-N-A format.