MINUTES[1]

USG Senate Meeting

Thursday, October 14th, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm. Meeting held in SAC Ballroom B.

Agenda item 1.0: **Attendance**

The roll was called:

Senator Allen Abraham	Present
Senator Tahir Ahmad	Present
Senator Ory Baum	Absent
Senator Spenser Cushing	Present
Senator Samuel Cushner	Present
Senator Frank Fanizza	Present
Senator Christian Giraldo	Present
Senator Mahyar Kashan	Present
Senator Sidrah Khan	Present
Senator Thomas Kirnbauer	Present
Senator Yan Leyfman	Present by Proxy (Shamell Forbes)
Senator Deborah Machalow	Present
Senator Kirin Mahmud (PPT)	Present
Senator Shivani Rampersad	Present
Senator Masood Rustemi	Present
Senator Najee Simmons	Present

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[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 Harminder Singh	Absent
Senator Priya Sohi	Present
Senator Michael Spinelli	Present
Senator Peter Stratoudakis	Present
Senator Russell Williams	Present

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President Matthew Graham	Absent
Executive Vice President Alexander Dimitriyadi (Chair)	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	Absent
Junior Class Representative Emilissa Trotman	Absent
Sophomore Class Representative Neville Hall Jr.	Absent

Quorum established.

Agenda item 2.0: **Announcements**

The Chair announced that Senate reports, which are constitutionally required each month, are due on Monday, and should be sent to the Executive Vice President's assistant.

The Chair further announced that ALLOCATE should be launched next Wednesday. The Chair asked Senators to let club leaders know.

Agenda item 3.0: **Approval of the Minutes (from 7-Oct-2010 meeting)**

- There were no objections or modifications; the minutes were approved without objection.

Agenda item 4.0: **Appropriations Act #2 for Fiscal Year 2010-2011**

- USG Code requires that a two-thirds majority is required to consider this agenda item, as it was submitted too late.
    - A two-thirds majority agreed to consider agenda item 4.0, by a vote of 12-4-3.
    - Senator Mahmud moved to postpone consideration of the Appropriation Act #2(superseded by Senator Cushing's motion).

- o Senator Cushing moved to refer "Appropriations Act #2" to the Budget Committee.
  - ▪ The motion was approved by a vote of 19-0-0.

Agenda item 5.0: **Science Fiction Forum Grant**

- Senator Ahmad moved to postpone consideration of the grant proposal until next meeting.
  - o Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Agenda item 6.0: **Confirmation of Presidential Nomination for Chief Justice**

- Senator Ahmad spoke on behalf of the Vetting Committee with respect to the nomination.
  - o President Graham's nominee was vetted this past Monday.
  - o The report is attached.
  - o The committee unanimously voted in favor of referring his nomination to the Senate.
  - o Very knowledgeable candidate for the Chief Justice (CJ) position.
  - o Displayed a great deal of initiative in moving the Court's work forward.
  - o His experience as Interim Chief Justice for the past two cases was helpful.
  - o The nominee is present today.
- Julian Cordero was given the floor to speak on his nomination.
  - o I feel like I am the right person to be CJ at this moment because I have been doing this position.
  - o I believe I have run my court very smoothly.
  - o My fellow Justices voted unanimously to make me the Interim Chief Justice.
  - o I am involved on campus. My time management skills are excellent.
    - ▪ The candidate referred to his resume, which was included in the agenda packet.
  - o I look forward to being a part of USG.
  - o I would be happy to answer any questions.
    - ▪ Senator Cushing: In the past, it seems that the courts have been run by one person, generally the CJ, and everyone else follows their lead. How can you diversify that?
      - I am the type of person who does not necessarily say "my way or you can't do it." I take everyone's opinion, and we formulate a decision as a group. That is not how I lead.
- Senator Kashan moved to confirm Julian Cordero as Chief Justice.
- No objection to conducting the vote by secret ballot.
  - o Article V: The confirmation of the Chief Justice requires a 2/3 majority of those present and voting to be approved.
- On the motion to confirm: Julian Cordero was confirmed as USG Chief Justice, by a vote of 18-1-0.

Agenda item 7.0: **Elections Board Nominee**

- Christopher Cheung was given the floor.
    - I am currently a junior at Stony Brook.
    - I want to be on the Elections Board committee.
    - I believe the elections are not as publicized as they need to be.
    - Very few people vote in the elections – most of those who vote are somehow connected to USG.
    - We do influence, in one way or another, the daily lives of all students.
    - Election Booths in the SAC Lobby or other similar ideas would increase awareness and participation in elections.
        - Senator Simmons: That sounds like a good idea. How do you plan to educate students in terms of finding out information about candidates?
            - Similar to elections in the US. We should have "Meet and Greets" with the candidate. Candidates can tell students about themselves and have them ask questions.
        - Senator Ahmad: How would you undertake the rather difficult task of publicizing the elections to the student body?
            - Making flyers and asking friends to do the same; speaking in the SAC area; talking to students in classes; encouraging other students to publicize as well.
        - VP Mazza: Are you familiar with the recently enacted USG Bylaws; do you have time to be an Elections Inspector?
            - I will make it a point to go through them line by line, so that all elections are run precisely according to the rules.
        - Proxy Forbes: What is your time availability?
            - I am involved in numerous clubs and organizations, but I find a perfect balance between my work and responsibilities.
        - Senator Ahmad: How many hours per week would you be able to work?
            - 15-20 hours.
        - Senator Machalow: Who nominated this candidate?
            - The EVP did. Any Executive Council or Senate member can nominate Elections Board candidates.
        - Proxy Forbes moved to approve the candidate's nomination.
            - No objection to conducting the vote by Secret Ballot.
            - Christopher Cheung was approved by the Senate to the position of Elections Board member, by a vote of 15-4-0.

Agenda item 8.0: **Nomination of VP Mazza for SUNY Assembly Voting Delegate from Executive Council**

- VP Mazza recounted his experiences as a delegate last year.
    - Senator Machalow moved to approve VP Mazza as SUNY Assembly Voting Delegate

- The motion was approved by a vote of 19-0-0.

<u>Agenda item 9.0:</u> **Open Agenda**

- Senator Abraham informed the Senate that he was working on the SSC Bylaws.
    - Hoping to get it done by next week or the week after.
    - Hoping to get it through the Programming and Activities Committee, and then have it before the Senate as soon as possible thereafter.
        - Senator Ahmad: Would it not be more appropriate to refer the legislation to the "Legislative Review Committee" rather than "Programming and Activities?"
            - If everyone sees it fit, I would run it through the Legislative Review Committee.
        - Senator Machalow: Why "Programming and Activities" instead of the Rules Committee or Legislative Review?
            - It would get the committee involved in the bylaws which directly affect programming and activities on campus, but if everyone is in favor of going through the Legislative Review, I will send it there.
        - Proxy Forbes: How about Budget Committee?
        - Senator Machalow: Is there a process for dual review of legislation by multiple committees?
            - EVP: There is no bar to it, but it might be confusing if numerous committees looked at it.
            - EVP: The legislation would be visible on the USG website 48 hours before it reaches the committee, and Senators could bring concerns to the Committee.
        - Senator Cushing, Proxy Forbes, and Senator Ahmad made further comments.
        - Senator Machalow: I agree with Proxy Forbes. We would get the best document if multiple versions of the bill are on the Senate floor, and we could then pick and choose the best aspects.
        - Senator Ahmad: I highly disagree with having multiple versions on the Senate floor. It is more important that it goes through whatever committee the sponsor chooses, and then goes through a second committee afterwards.
        - Senator Abraham: I feel like the Programming and Activities committee would have the best knowledge, and if you have any ideas before submitting it to committee, please e-mail me those ideas and I will try to incorporate them if I feel the ideas are appropriate.
        - Senator Ahmad: If the sponsor chooses, he can send the bill to one or multiple committees.
    - Aarti (from NYPIRG) gave an update on the recent activities of NYPIRG.
        - Registered (to vote) 1000 students.
        - Will be doing a campaign to get students to go out and vote on Election Day.

- There is a petition going around in the SUNY campus and in 19 other campuses, asking students to support the Transport Bill in Congress, which improves environmental standards and will lead to less health problems.
- Please spread the word about the petitions and sign them.

- With no further business for consideration, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.