



MINUTES¹
USG Senate Meeting
Thursday, November 17th, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:09 pm. Meeting held in Wang Center Room 201.

Agenda item 1.0: Attendance

The roll was called:

Senator David Adams	Present
Senator Oluwasegun Adedapo	Present
Senator Emily Alcott	Present
Senator Shon Augustine	Present
Senator Lance Bertrand	Present
Senator Tiffany Bibby	Present
Senator Nicholas Ela	Present
Senator Ray Fan	Present
Senator Frank Fanizza	Present
Senator Max Gunther	Present
Senator Eric Lau	Present
Senator Anna Lubitz	Present
Senator Adam Meier	Present
Senator Sean Moore	Present
Senator Corey Platt Amanda Jaeger)	Present by Proxy (Ms.
Senator Masood Rustemi	Late (7:24 pm)
Senator Alexandra Santiago	Excused Absence
Senator Najee Simmons (PPT)	Present
Senator Priya Sohi	Present
Senator David Szeszler	Present
Senator Andrew Tausz Jason Sockin)	Present by Proxy (Mr.
Senator Ryann Williams	Late (7:14 pm); Left
Early	
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President Mark Maloof	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 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.

*Pending approval of Programming and Activities and a Suspension of the Right to be Fully Informed on Legislation

Executive Vice President Deborah Machalow	Present
Treasurer Thomas Kirnbauer	Absent
Vice President of Academic Affairs Adil Hussain	Present
Vice President of Student Life Deron Hill	Excused Absence
Senior Class Representative Emilisa Trotman	Excused Absence
Junior Class Representative Dennis Nmecha	Absent
Sophomore Class Representative Christopher Priore	Absent

Quorum established.

Agenda item 2.0: Announcements

The Chair announced that Senators on the Programming and Activities committee will meet at 4 pm on Tuesday for SSC business.

The Chair further announced that each Senate committee must meet at least once per month.

The Chair announced that Senate reports are due soon. Please make sure to submit them.

Agenda item 3.0: Approval of the Minutes (11/10/2011 Meeting)

- Senator Adedapo moved that the minutes from the 11/03/2011 meeting be approved.
 - Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Agenda item 4.0: Tobacco-Free Policy Resolution

- Senator Simmons moved to suspend the rules, in order to allow members of the gallery (Miranda Guerrero and Damien Moscow) to address the Senate during the consideration of item 4.0.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 20-0-0. (Roll Call #1).
- The Chair announced that someone will be filming the meeting during this portion.
- Mr. Damien Moscow presented a six minute speech on the general impacts of smoking, including second-hand and third-hand smoke.
- Senator Bertrand: Where do you get the statistic that 80% of students are non-smokers?
 - Mr. Moscow: I know of figures that, at the most, 23% of college students are smokers, although NY State has a smaller smoking population.
- Proxy Sockin: You stated that students who broke the smoking rules in other circumstances were placed on “probation.” What does that mean?
 - Mr. Moscow: The ultimate resolution is expulsion from the university. That never happened in the case I indicated (University of Kentucky.)
- Senator Simmons: Can you clarify the point regarding “not worrying about how the smoking ban will be implemented?”
 - Mr. Moscow: We should not worry about the implementation of the smoke-free policy. That should be left to the administration and what they believe is appropriate. When deciding on their policy, however, I would hope that the administration would keep in mind student input.
- Senator Moore moved to approve the “Tobacco-Free Policy Resolution.”
 - Senator Fanizza: I am in favor of this policy, not only for health reasons, but for cleanliness on campus. I was at the University of Kentucky over the summer and can attest that it is very clean. There are no cigarette remains outside.
 - Proxy Sockin: My complaint with this is the punishment aspect of enforcement. What do you about students who are addicted to smoking? What happens to

those students? I believe this might adversely affect students, including their grades.

- Senator Gunther: Think about how difficult it is for commuters to get on and off campus. It is not easy to leave the campus premises in order to smoke outside.
- Senator Adams: I do not think that anyone here will deny that cigarette smoke is dangerous. What I believe is that everyone has the choice to do it, as it is legal. I don't think that smokers should force non-smokers to be affected by their smoke, but we are a large campus, and I do not believe such a policy is necessary. We already have rules regarding no smoking within 25 feet of any building, and I think this should be enforced and for students who break that rule to do community service picking up cigarette waste.
- Senator Moore: I agree with Senator Adams regarding not trampling people's rights. I would like to say that many smokers do congregate, especially outside of the main library. Would Senator Adams be in favor of implementing smoking zones?
 - Senator Adams: Yes, I would be in favor of that. I also believe that current rules banning smoking within 25 feet of buildings are an excellent way of managing this issue.
- President Maloof: What another SUNY school did is implement smoking zones, and they had a much easier time of implementing those rules. Other schools which did not have smoking zones and which tried a smoke-free approach have met with significant resistance and limited results.
- Senator Augustine: I am not a smoker, but I agree with Senator Adams. Smoking is a right. I believe this resolution is too drastic in trying to make the campus completely smoke free. Perhaps we can gradually move towards a smoke-free campus, but we should first enforce current rules, perhaps bring up smoking zones, but doing it right now would cause hysteria.
- Senator Williams: Could you elaborate on the smoking zones that other campuses tried?
 - President Maloof: Some sort of gazebo or domed structure where smoking was permitted.
- Senator Meier: I believe that the resolution clearly states that "gradually implementing" a smoke-free policy is the issue. We should first start by enforcing current rules and gradually move up to a completely smoke free campus. I want to stress that this approach is still in support of the resolution.
- Senator Bertrand: "Gradual" is a relative term. I was also not aware of the 25 feet rule – perhaps we can increase it to 50 feet? This resolution will also affect faculty and staff. I really think it would be a bad idea to immediately implement a smoke-free campus.
- Senator Simmons: I think the point of this resolution is whether or not we wish to approve the spirit of having a smoke-free campus, not worry about how the resolution will be implemented. I hope Senators keep that in mind while voting.
- Senator Adams: I do not like the idea of deciding for future students, whom we do not even represent, regarding the implementation of a tobacco-free policy.

- President Maloof: I would also like to emphasize the resolution calling for a “gradual” move to a smoke-free campus.
- Proxy Jaeger: I think implementation is pretty important in discussing this. I believe students have a right to do what they want to do, as long as they are not affecting other students. We cannot simply support a “smoke-free” campus without thinking about how we would get there.
- Senator Szeszler: I just wanted to say like most other non-smokers, I do not like have smoke blown in my face and in general dealing with the smell and “nastiness” of smoking. Going back to what Senator Gunther was saying – I believe we need to consider Stony Brook’s situation. We have many commuters, and it would be difficult for them to leave the campus in order to smoke. If “gradual implementation” is the goal, perhaps we should have a resolution that is more targeted towards the short-term goals. If we are currently having trouble enforcing current rules, I do not see how going smoke-free completely will work.
- Senator Williams: Does anyone know why there is not more present enforcement of the current 25 foot rule?
- Proxy Sockin: I have two separate points. The first one is regarding smoking zones. If you look at the academic mall, all the buildings are pretty close together. Putting a zone away from buildings would be hard to do in such a way that would allow students to conveniently access it. I also believe that students have a great appetite for protest, and this would be exactly the kind of measure that they would rally in opposition to.
- Senator Gunther: It is really up to the administration as to how a smoke-free policy would be implemented. I believe the purpose of this resolution is just to express our will and our consensus regarding what we feel should happen to the campus.
- Vice President Hussain: We are talking about a tobacco-free policy. I do not promote smoking, but we also have to keep in mind that creating smoking zones is not trivial, and will involve considerable planning and costs. As for the current rules prohibiting smoking near buildings, they are difficult to enforce. I do not think they will be effective.
- Senator Williams: Why does VP Hussain believe that current rules will not be effective?
 - VP Hussain: You have to construct a building, figure out how to clean it safely, etc.
- Senator Lubitz: I am in support of the resolution, because I endorse the idea of a tobacco-free community. I think that we can start off with the 25 foot rule, and we can then move from there.
- Senator Moore: Just two things. The current resolution does focus a great deal on counseling and advertising. I also want to point out that this resolution is on whether or not we support a tobacco-free campus in principle, not necessarily developing the means to enforce such a rule.
- Senator Meier moved to amend the resolution, by inserting at the end: “University police increase enforcement of existing rules regarding tobacco use.”

- Senator Adams: While I like the addition of this amendment, anything that specifically says that undergraduate students must implement a tobacco-free policy, I cannot support.
 - On the motion: Motion passed by a vote of 17-1-3. (Roll Call #2).
 - President Maloof: I would like to quote an article published in 2008, which reported on the implementation of a smoke-free zone in all of the Stony Brook East campus. Smoking is prohibited in those zones and applied to all students, faculty, and visitors. Does anyone that frequents the HSC care to comment on this article?
 - Senator Adams: I have a friend who is a major within the HSC. I asked her about this. The response was “dismissive” and stated that there was very poor enforcement of those policies on the East side of campus.
 - Senator Moore: I have rarely seen smoking on that side of campus, but my visits there are limited.
 - Senator Augustine: It is hard to say. Employees there do smoke. It is not heavily enforced. I do not believe that policy is being enforced.
 - President Maloof: I want to point out that the current resolution is for a tobacco-free policy.
 - Senator Williams moved to amend the resolution by inserting a new paragraph stating: “The USG shall only support this policy if it has direct input in the process towards the facilitation of a gradually implemented tobacco-free policy at Stony Brook University and in the formation of enforcement procedures.”
 - On the motion to amend: The motion passed by a vote of 12-6-3. (Roll Call #3).
 - Senator Adams moved to amend the resolution, by striking items 1 and 3 of the resolution.
 - Motion failed for lack of a second.
 - Senator Lubitz moved to amend the resolution, by striking “tobacco-free policy” in resolved clauses 1 and 3, and replace with “smoking free zones.”
 - Senator Fanizza: I believe this goes against the intent of the authors. We should vote on what they want.
 - Motion failed by a vote of 1-19-1. (Roll Call #4).
 - On the main motion: Motion failed by a vote of 7-11-2. (Roll Call #5).

Agenda item 5.0: Amendment to the 2011 Responsible Hall Council Funding Act

- Senator Ela presented the act.
- Senator Ela: This act defines what a resident assistant (RA) is, and states that RAs shall be allowed to vote on Hall Council expenditures but that they would not count towards quorum.
- Senator Adams: What is the current policy?
 - Chair: The current policy is that RAs do not have the right to vote. This would change the policy.
- Chair: Quoting Section 122 of the code. This states that members should not vote on matters in which they have a direct or indirect interest.

- Senator Simmons moved to approve the “Amendment to the 2011 Responsible Hall Council Funding Act.”
 - Motion passed by a vote of 14-3-3. (Roll Call #6).

Agenda item 6.0: Event Grants

-HSCSA

- Senator Fanizza presented the event grant request.
- We granted \$1500 out of the \$2500 for this HSC event.
- Senator Adams: Did the Treasurer give approval for this funding request?
 - Senator Fanizza: Yes, Treasurer Kirnbauer approved the request, which was needed since the catered food request exceeded \$1000.
- Senator Meier moved to allow HSCSA to be considered for an additional \$500 of funding. (Motion required a 2/3 majority.)
 - Motion passed by a vote of 20-0-0. (Roll Call #7).
- Senator Simmons moved to approve HSCSA’s event grant request for \$1500.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 20-0-0. (Roll Call #8).

-Men’s Rugby

- Senator Fanizza presented the event grant request.
- Senator Fanizza: The name and date of the event are incorrect. Can this be amended on the floor?
 - Chair: I believe this would need to be returned to the Budget Committee for their approval.
- Senator Fanizza moved to commit the “Men’s Rugby” event grant to the budget committee.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 16-3-1. (Roll Call #9).

-Women’s Rugby

- Senator Fanizza presented the event grant request.
- Las Vegas Women’s Rugby tournament requesting \$2700 for tournament related expenses (hotels, vans, and registration fee.)
- Senator Sohi moved to approve the Women’s Rugby event grant request for \$2700.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 20-0-0. (Roll Call #10).

Agenda item 7.0: Asset Grants

-Animated Perspectives

- Senator Fanizza presented the asset grant request.
- The supporting documents show what the club requested and what we approved. We cut out some of the video games requested as well as some of the furniture.
- Senator Simmons moved to approve the Animated Perspectives asset grant application for \$3200.99.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 19-1-0. (Roll Call #11).

-DDKY

- Senator Fanizza presented the asset grant request.

- Senator Fanizza: The large amount allocated to shipping and handling is because these items are bulky and need to be shipped internationally.
- Senator Adams: Could they not get these items locally?
 - Senator Fanizza: Some of the items are not available locally, and those that are available are cheaper internationally.
- Proxy Sockin: Does this club just meet and perform amongst themselves, or do they have events?
 - Senator Fanizza: In meeting with the club representative, the representative indicated that they perform events.
- Senator Sohi moved to approve the DDKY asset grant for \$4426.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 20-0-0. (Roll Call #12).

-Soccer Club

- Senator Fanizza presented the asset grant request.
- Proxy Sockin: Do they keep the jerseys, or are they school owned?
 - Senator Fanizza: USG retains ownership of the jerseys.
- Senator Meier moved to approve the Soccer Club asset grant for \$3897.24
 - Motion passed by a vote of 20-0-0. (Roll Call #13).

-Wrestling

- Senator Fanizza presented the asset grant request.
- The request is for 25 singlet uniforms.
- Senator Sohi moved to approve the Stony Brook Wrestling asset grant for \$2007.50.
- Senator Bertrand: What do the uniforms consist of?
 - Senator Fanizza: They are singlet uniforms.
 - On the motion to approve: Motion approved by a vote of 20-0-0. (Roll Call #14).

Agenda item 8.0: Undergraduate Student Government NYPIRG Contract

- Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the contract.
- President Maloof: Is everything correct? Will we need to refer this contract back to the Budget Committee again?
- Senator Adams moved to suspend the rules to allow the NYPIRG representative to address the Senate.
 - The motion was approved by unanimous consent.
- NYPIRG representative: I have thoroughly read the contract and all of the information – names, dates, and numbers – it is all correct.
- Senator Fanizza moved to approve the Undergraduate Student Government NYPIRG contract for 2011-2012.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 19-0-1. (Roll Call #15).

Agenda item 9.0: Open Agenda

- Senator Moore: We vetted Jackie Cowles for the position of SPA Director.
 - She is in a probation period, already working for USG.
 - The candidate has a great deal of experience and has many fresh ideas.

- The vetting committee unanimously approved the candidate.
- Senator Fanizza moved to confirm Ms. Jackie Cowles for the position of SPA Director.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 19-0-1. (Roll Call #16).
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: I sent out an e-mail to everyone regarding obtaining ties. Please respond via e-mail if you are interested.
 - Senator Moore: Do we just give the money to you?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: Once we get the ties, I will collect payment upon giving you the ties.
- Senator Szeszler: We have run into an issue with former VP Abraham who told many clubs that they can have \$1750 budget per semester, whereas they should only be granted \$1750 per year. Clubs were not aware of this situation. We need to come up with some solution to this problem, perhaps by coming up with temporary legislation to fix this. If any Senator has ideas, please provide them.
- Proxy Jaeger: How much money are you looking at providing in excess of the \$1750 cap to provide to these clubs? Is there any money to do this?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: SSC only has \$20,000 budgeted in it. Clubs are already spending the money allocated to them and I do not think that we have any further funds within the SSC budget.
- Proxy Sockin: How many clubs are we talking about here?
 - Senator Szeszler: There are at least two clubs that have already spent most of the \$1750 they have this semester. There is also the additional problem that if we do not grant them additional funds in the Spring, they would not qualify for line budget status due to the rule that clubs must be funded by SSC for the Fall and Spring before they can apply for a line budget.
- President Maloof: Are we positive that the clubs know about this situation?
 - Senator Szeszler: I would like to yield to the Chair.
 - Senator Machalow: The applications clearly delineate that those organizations only planned events for the fall with the amounts granted to them.
 - Chair: If any Senator has any ideas to share, please e-mail Senator Szeszler or any member of the Programming and Activities committee.
 - Senator Szeszler: Right now we are leaning towards getting temporary legislation in place to try to find a solution that accommodates clubs that have already been given funding.
- President Maloof: Please let anyone whom you think is qualified for the VP of Clubs and Organizations or VP of Student Life to please e-mail me with a resume and cover letter, if they wish to be considered for the positions.
- President Maloof: SUNY Farmingdale's student government has been decertified.
- President Maloof: I would like to announce Proclamation #001, a declaration on Thanksgiving. I will be filling the vacant VP seats by December 1st.
- Mr. Kenneth Myers (gallery): You approved Jackie Cowles for SPA director. I like her on a personal level but not on a professional level. I believe she is very confused as to what her job is. Mr. Myers quoted from the minutes of the previous SPA meeting. VP Machalow, I ask that you read to me the duties of what the SPA Director consist of.

