

MINUTES¹
USG Senate Meeting
Thursday, October 13th, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:09 pm. Meeting held in Wang Center Room 301.

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	Excused Lateness
Senator Sean Moore	Present
Senator Corey Platt	Present
Senator Masood Rustemi	Present
Senator Alexandra Santiago	Present
Senator Najee Simmons (PPT)	Present
Senator Priya Sohi	Present
Senator David Szeszler	Present
Senator Andrew Tausz	Present
Senator Ryann Williams	Present

President Mark Maloof	Excused Absence
Executive Vice President Deborah Machalow	Present
Treasurer Thomas Kirnbauer	Present
Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Allen Abraham	Present
Vice President of Communications Farjad Fazli	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

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.

Quorum established.

Agenda item 2.0: Announcements

The Chair announced that Treasurer Kirnbauer's report will also serve as the State of Finance report. The Chair further announced that budget funding proposals the Special Services Council require approval by 2/3rd filled seats. Abstentions will be considered a "nay".

The Chair also announced that the Rules Committee meeting that was scheduled for today was rescheduled for next week at 10:30 AM, as they did not meet quorum today.

The Chair further announced that there are still outstanding Senate reports and the next reports will be due the end of October and reminded Senators that there is a minimum expectation of checking and responding to emails received each day.

The Chair requested that, when item 5.0 comes up on the agenda, a Senator move to suspend the rules to allow for representatives of student clubs/organizations in the gallery (with funding requests pending approval during this session) be allowed to answer questions regarding the request. The Chair also announced that item 9.0 would be stricken from the agenda and will be included on the agenda for the next Senate meeting.

Agenda item 3.0: Approval of the Minutes (10/06/2011 Meeting)

- Senator Simmons moved that the minutes from the 10/06/2011 meeting be approved.
 - Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Agenda item 4.0: Fall Revisions Budget

Presentation by Treasurer Kirnbauer

- Senator Adams: Could you explain the increases to the FSA fee, Ticket office, and Campus Recreation budgets?
 - Treasurer: Use of the ticket office has been increasing and the additional budget reflects that. The FSA fee reflects what USG has spent in terms of services and is not something we can control. As for Campus Rec, that went through the normal budget process and they hold a lot of events for students, like flag football, which merited additional funding.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: Advent Youth Ministries forgot to initially apply for a budget, so they were eligible for up to 66% of their previous budget, which is \$1155.
 - Ballroom Dance: They were cut significantly from \$26,000 to around \$15,000. I did not approve their entire application, but they will be eligible for up to \$3000 additional under the event grant scheme.
 - Blackworld: They were cut severely. By giving them just under \$5000, this will allow them to operate.
 - Boxing: Their e-board has been recently revamped. \$399 is the most they can receive.
 - Coalition: They are allocated a little more than an extra \$1000. The Budget Committee approved all their requests, save the "Open Mic" night events.
 - JSO: Did not apply last Spring. Received maximum possible under the 66% rule.
 - Linguistics: Same reasoning as JSO.

- Sailing Club: Came over from Southampton. Any club that came from Southampton was given Line budget status, as they were established previously at Southampton. This is not a cheap sport. In the budget hearing, the Sailing Club President indicated that the bare minimum the club needed to operate was approximately 11-12 thousand dollars. They would also be able to apply for an asset and/or event grant.
- Minorities in Psychology: They asked for \$250 for scholarships, which is inconsistent with USG Financial Bylaws. All other requests were approved.
- Science Fiction Forum: This club asked for books, magazines, etc.
- Soccer Club: They asked for much more than the maximum allowed for them.
- Table Tennis: This club asked for balls, paddles, and other items related to their club.
- Wrestling Club: This club was given the maximum amount, so they can start wrestling competitively against other universities and colleges, which they have historically not done.
- Suffolk County Response: The budget was cut down to zero. The contract did not pass the Budget committee. We felt that we could better appropriate our money to clubs and organizations on campus.
 - Senator Adams: Do we have all the services offered by Suffolk County Response?
 - Treasurer: I believe that CPO does, except that Suffolk County Response has a 24 hour hotline, whereas CPO operates during business hours. Due to privacy regulations, we have no idea how many students specifically are served by Suffolk County Response, whereas CPO is more oriented directly to our students.
- Contingency Fund: The Executive Council can use this funding (\$15,000) in an emergency case scenario.
- Event Grant: \$85,000 allocation. This is to stress to clubs that this is a powerful resources for clubs to get money to run additional events. Only clubs are eligible to apply for this fund.
- Department of Web Technologies: We have had several meetings with the ALLOCATE company. They accepted \$8000, so the additional \$2k allocated has been reclaimed.
- SBU-TV: Cut of \$10,000. Even after they are fully restructured and operational, we do not anticipate they will need more than the \$10,000 allocated.
- Early Move Ins: Not applicable for this semester.
- Travel: Also cut, as a separate "SUNY Assembly" line should take care of all USG travel expenses.
- Salaries (Professional Staff): A small cut reflecting the discount USG has in hiring a new Administrative Director in comparison with someone with years of experience.
- FSA Management Fee: Small cut.
- Total USG Funds: \$3,005,644.0
- Total Allocated Funds: \$2,928,214.10.
- Total unallocated is: \$77,429.90. This pool of funds will be used for asset and national tournament grant allocations.

- Senator Fanizza moved to approve the Fall Revisions Budget.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 21-0-0. (Roll Call #1).

Agenda item 5.0: Special Services Council Recommendations

- Senator Simmons moved to suspend the rules for the purposes of allowing representatives from organizations under consideration the opportunity to speak for the purpose of answering questions from Senators.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 21-0-0. (Roll Call #2).
- Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Abraham presented the SSC Recommendations.
 - South Asian Student Alliance: VP Abraham discussed the merits of the club in its application for SSC eligibility.
 - Senator Platt: Article III of SASA’s constitution describes different types of meetings, could you elaborate?
 - VP Abraham: I would like to refer this to a representative from the organization.
 - SASA Representative (Binu Kuriakose): General Body meetings are held only once per semester, whereas biweekly meetings are held every two weeks.
 - Senator Simmons moved to recognize South Asian Student Alliance for SSC eligibility.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 20-0-1. (Roll Call #3).
- Business Leaders Club: VP Abraham discussed the club.
 - Trips to NYC and Wall Street to set up business meetings and entrepreneurship/consultant events.
 - VP Abraham: Is the prize going to one winner?
 - Business Leaders Club Representative (Mr. Choudhry): The appropriation of \$150 is not going to one individual. \$50-\$70 will be and all other funds will go to the event.
 - VP Abraham: As per our guidelines, we are not allowed to spend more than \$25 per gift.
 - Senator Tausz: What was the particular gift you had in mind?
 - Mr. Choudhry: We had not planned it yet.
 - Senator Tausz moved to approve the budget request for Business Leaders.
 - Senator Williams moved to reduce the allocation for “Entrepreneurship Competition” to \$120, and the total amount allocated to \$770.
 - Motion approved as friendly.
 - On the motion to approve the total budget request for \$770:
 - Motion approved by a vote of 19-0-2. (Roll Call #4).
- Focus Magazine
 - They wanted \$500 per semester for printing costs and funds for two events.
 - We felt that, as a magazine oriented club, they needed to focus exclusively on the printing side.
 - Senator Adams: What is a “Post Secret Social”?
 - VP Abraham: This was an SAB event.

- Senator Adams: How about the “Guest Speaker” event. Would you be open to allocating money to them for that purpose?
 - VP Abraham: SSC unanimously struck this down.
 - Senator Simmons: Point of Inquiry: I thought SSC allocations were done semester-to-semester, not on a yearly basis.
 - Chair: I believe you are correct. The relevant section states that requests should be submitted on a semester-to-semester basis.
- Senator Moore moved to approve the FOCUS budget request.
 - Senator Adams: Since all the requests are done on a yearly basis, should we not refer this back to SSC for further processing?
 - VP Abraham: I urge you to approve the pending requests as clubs have waited an enormous amount of time for approval.
- Senator Moore moved to strike the “Spring 2011” allocations in the FOCUS budget request.
 - Approved as friendly.
- On the motion to approve FOCUS for \$250.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 21-0-0. (Roll Call #5).
- Investment Club:
 - VP Abraham described the budget request.
 - \$650 will go into a simulation program.
 - Senator Szeszler: Where would the software be installed?
 - VP Abraham: It is run through a browser.
 - Senator Williams: Will any of these trips or food or advertisements be used for Spring Semester?
 - Investment Club Representative (Roham Sumdar): No, we have a trip planned to JP Morgan in November. There would also be one trip planned for the Spring.
 - Senator Williams: Will these trips cost an equal amount of money?
 - Roham: Yes.
 - Senator Williams: How many will go to these events?
 - Roham: We have 25 active members who would likely go.
 - Senator Gunther moved to approve the Investment Club budget request.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 21-0-0. (Roll Call #6).
- The Photography Club:
 - VP Abraham described the budget request.
 - Food cut down to \$200, as per the universal rule.
 - Total recommended by SSC was \$852.80.
 - Senator Tausz: Why did the NYC trips get cut by 50%?
 - VP Abraham: Refer to Senator Gunther.
 - Senator Gunther: We want to encourage clubs to remain on campus and not fund free trips to the city.
 - Senator Szeszler: Why did the request for a digital camera get turned down?

- Breakdown of tournament needs and costs. They have already missed their first two tournaments.
- Senator Szeszler moved to approve the budget request for SBU Speech and Debate.
 - Senator Simmons moved to amend the SBU Speech and Debate budget request by striking the \$331.21 (Trip to Rutgers University) item.
 - Senator Platt: As the trip is so early in the Spring, perhaps we should approve funding at this time.
 - SBU Speech and Debate Representative (Ahmed Rab): The tournament expenses will be due this semester.
 - Senator Simmons moved to rescind his motion to amend.
 - Motion to amend rescinded by unanimous consent.
- On the motion to approve the budget request, the motion passed by a vote of 22-0-0. (Roll Call #12).
- Stony Brook Quidditch
 - VP Abraham presented the budget request.
 - Senator Williams: The World Cup event is in New York City?
 - VP Abraham: Correct.
 - Senator Williams: How about the Chestnut Hill tournament?
 - Quidditch Representative (Jason Caballes): On the outskirts of Philadelphia.
 - Senator Tausz: When and where do you meet?
 - Mr. Caballes: Every Wednesday during campus lifetime at the Physics field.
 - Senator Tausz moved to approve the Stony Brook Quiddich budget request.
 - Motion was approved by a vote of 20-0-2. (Roll Call #13).
- Undergraduate Anthropology Society
 - We did not pay for any T-shirts, department events, and we cut down the city trip costs by half.
 - Senator Lau moved to approve the Anthropology Society budget request.
 - Senator Williams: Do you know how many people will go?
 - Undergraduate Anthropology Society representative (Barbara Saur): 10-15 people.
 - Barbara Saur: For the program we are running in the Spring semester, it is not run through the department. It is our student program that we invite the department Professors to.
 - VP Abraham: The counter-argument is that student activity fee funds should be spent for students only.
 - Senator Platt: As the event is in the Spring, we can deal with it then.
 - Senator Szeszler moved to approve the Undergraduate Anthropology Society budget request:
 - Motion was approved by a vote of 21-0-1. (Roll Call #14).
- Young Americans for Freedom

- Most allocations were approved, except no funds were given for T-shirts (universal policy.)
- Total for approval is \$1470.
- Senator Williams: If you have money left over in this budget, does it go over for the Spring?
 - VP Abraham: We would take the money back if any was left over before the Spring.
- Senator Platt moved to approve the Young Americans for Freedom Budget Request.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 22-0-0. (Roll Call #15).

Agenda item 6.0: Senate Resolution Supporting the Students' Request for More Field Space

- Senator Lubitz presented the resolution.
- Senator Lubitz moved to suspend the rules to allow sports club leaders to address the Senate.
 - Motion approved by unanimous consent.
- This resolution asks the administration to provide more space for students to utilize for recreational activities.
- Senator Williams: What space are you suggesting?
 - Senator Lubitz: There is additional space in the South P lot which is rarely used. Opening up these fields for students would be of great benefit. Students are currently paying hundreds of dollars in fees, and deserve additional space.
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: Can the sports club leaders also take part?
 - Senator Adams: We have fourteen minutes left. I urge the Senate to move quickly.
 - Senator Meier: Is there any additional space besides that near the South P lots?
 - Senator Lubitz: This resolution would seek to put pressure on the administration to find creative solutions for field space.
 - Sports club leaders (Mr. Graham and others): This is for all the students, not just the sports clubs. Students and Campus Recreation are constantly using these fields. Students are having a lot of difficulty because the recognized sports clubs are being given undue priority for field space. We have only about 4 acres of space, whereas peer universities have more than ten times the field space. Sports clubs constantly struggle for space for practices and home games. This is an important issue. You can go on "Facebook" and urge your constituents to support the relevant petition.
 - Senator Fanizza: Do you have a University close to Stony Brook you can compare us to in terms of field space?
 - Mr. Graham: There is plenty of University owned land in the Research Park and elsewhere, which is undeveloped and could be opened up for recreational use.
 - Senator Williams moved to approve the resolution.
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: I support this resolution. I believe we need to stress the fact that ordinary students are also heavily affected by this issue.
 - The motion was approved by a vote of 19-0-3. (Roll Call #16).

Agenda item 7.0: Event Grant Applications

-SB UNICEF Event Grant

- Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the event grant request.
- Senator Simmons to approve the SB UNICEF event grant request.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 21-0-1. (Roll Call #17).

-SB Company of Archers

- Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the proposal.
- Senator Williams moved to approve the SB Company of Archers event grant request.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 22-0-0. (Roll Call #18).

- Senator Moore moved that the USG Senate adjourn.
 - Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

