MINUTES[1]

USG Senate Meeting

Thursday, December 2nd, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:11 pm. Meeting held in SAC 302.

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 Frank Fanizza	Present
Senator Christian Giraldo	Present
Senator Mahyar Kashan	Present by Proxy (Maansi Amin)
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	Absent
Senator Peter Stratoudakis	Present
Senator Russell Williams	Present

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President Matthew Graham	Late (8:16 pm)
Executive Vice President Alexander Dimitriyadi (Chair)	Present
Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Jennifer Chan	Late (7:15 pm)
Vice President of Communications David Mazza	Late (7:50 pm) – Left 9:31 pm
Vice President of Student Life Peter Molloy	Absent
Senior Class Representative Dexter Daniel	Late (7:49 pm)
Junior Class Representative Emilissa Trotman	Absent
Sophomore Class Representative Neville Hall Jr.	Absent

Quorum established.

Agenda item 2.0: **Announcements**

The Chair announced that there would be adequate time at the end of the meeting to speak. A Speaker's list would be created and a three minute time limit on speeches enforced.

The Chair thanked the Budget Committee for their hard work in finishing the "Fall Revisions Process."

The Chair passed out the "Special Rules of Order for USG Senate" to all Senators in attendance and expressed his wish that the Senate not deviate from it.

Agenda item 3.0: **Approval of the Minutes from 11/18/2010**

- Senator Machalow moved to approve the minutes.
  - Approved without objection.
- EVP requested that Appropriations Acts #6 and #22 be stricken from the agenda, since documentation was not available.
  - Approved without objection.
- EVP requested that the USG Senate consider all items on the agenda, even if the 2 pm deadline for placing the documents in every Senator's mailbox was not observed.

- o Vote: 19-0-0 (2/3 majority required.) Motion approved.

Agenda item 4.0: **Undergraduate Student Government NYPIRG Contract 2010-2011**

- Senator Kirnbauer introduced the contract.
- Senator Ahmad moved to approve the "Undergraduate Student Government NYPIRG Contract 2010-2011."
- No debate.
  - o Vote on the main motion: 19-0-0. Approved unanimously.

Agenda item 5.0: **Appropriations Act #'s 3, 4, ~~6~~, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16(1), 16(2), 17, 18, 19, 20, ~~22~~, 25 for Fiscal Year 2010**

- Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #3 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o Senator Khan moved to approve Appropriations Act #3 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o On the motion, roll call #1, 18-0-1. Motion passes.
- Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #4 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o Senator Khan moved to approve Appropriations Act #4 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o On the motion, roll call #2, 18-1-0. Motion passes.
- EVP read out statement, saying that club officers should not vote on appropriations directly or indirectly affecting their clubs.
- Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #7 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o Senator Machalow moved to approve Appropriations Act #7 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o On the motion, roll call #3, 18-1-0. Motion passes.
- Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #8 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o Senator Abraham moved to approve Appropriations Act #8 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o On the motion, roll call #4, 19-0-0. Motion passes.
- Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #9 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o Question: Senator Ahmad: How many members does the Handball Club have?
    - ▪ Requesting 75 shirts, although this might not be the total number of athletes.
    - ▪ Possibly 27 athletes – last tournament.
    - ▪ Proxy Forbes: I think it is silly to give them so much money, $4000 to one club, especially a membership club where membership is exclusive to some extent.
    - ▪ Senator Khan: They are carrying out their mission.
    - ▪ Senator Kirnbauer: We are not granting the whole amount of $9000, we are merely subsidizing that amount.
    - ▪ Proxy Forbes: I will not deny the importance of collegiate clubs; however they are able to fulfill their mission statement without needing access to these additional funds.
    - ▪ Senator Khan: They have 27 members who want to go, but we only gave funding for about 12 members.

- ▪ Senator Ahmad: How many other students get to fly to their events? Are there any other means of transportation that would be cheaper?
  - • EVP directed question to Eunice Ro, Administrative Director: Not many groups, although the number that flew somewhere last year was only around five or less.
  - • Senator Ahmad: If the majority of the money is going for that tournament, I would really want to know where that is and if they exhausted all other sources for transportation.
- ▪ Senator Ahmad moved to refer Appropriation #9 to the Budget Committee.
  - • Senator Machalow: I want to point out that they wanted funds to hold a tournament at Stony Brook, to increase the prestige of their club and increase awareness of it.
  - • On the motion to refer the vote was 9-8-2. The motion was approved and Appropriations Act #9 was referred to the Budget Committee.
- • Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #10 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o Senator Abraham moved to approve Appropriations Act #10 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o On the motion, roll call #5, 18-0-1. Motion passes.
- • Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #12 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o Senator Simmons moved to approve Appropriations Act #12 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o On the motion, roll call #6, 17-1-1. Motion passes.
- • Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #13 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o Senator Abraham moved to approve Appropriations Act #13 for Fiscal Year 2010.
    - ▪ Debate:
    - ▪ Senator Ahmad: What was the Budget committee doing to implement USG's policy regarding monetary funds used to fund charity events need to be returned to USG. What, if anything, has been done about that?
      - • Senator Machalow: One organization asked for fall revisions. We became aware that they were violating that policy, and forwarded the case to the Advocate General.
      - • EVP: Financial Bylaws require that USG is given its funds back before any profit can be donated to charity.
  - o On the motion, roll call #7, 19-0-0. Motion passes.
- • Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #15 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o Senator Ahmad (Question): What are some of the ideas that the $650 is going to?
    - ▪ Senator Machalow: Having a Professor social mixer. Going to the NYS Department of Transportation. Tour of ASME HQ in NYC. There were a few other ideas which we did not think were worthwhile, and did not grant funding for.
  - o Senator Khan moved to approve Appropriations Act #13 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o On the motion, roll call #8, 19-0-0. Motion passes.
- • Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #16(1) for Fiscal Year 2010.

- o Senator Cushing moved to approve Appropriations Act #16(1) for Fiscal Year 2010.
- o Senator Machalow moved to amend the act, to be renamed "Appropriations Act #14"
  - Decision: Approved unanimously.
- o Now called Appropriations Act #14:
  - Proxy Forbes: How many members are on the "Go Club"?
    - Forbes: 40 members
  - Senator Ahmad: How many members are attending the tournaments?
    - Senator Machalow: There are competitors and also members of the club who do not compete in the tournaments.
- o On the motion, roll call #9, 17-2-0. Motion passes.
- Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #16 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o Senator Ahmad: Could the Budget Committee address the Senate with the mission statement of the "Cat Network"
    - Senator Abraham: Their primary objective is to help pre-veterinary students take care of the cats. A great deal of money was asked for kitty litter, neutering, etc. We were somewhat confused as to how that affects the campus community.
    - Senator Simmons: The campus may have been overrun with cats in the past.
    - Senator Cushing: I can say that there has been a decrease in the amount of feral cats on campus since my freshman year. They have been doing something.
    - Senator Ahmad: The "geese" took care of the majority of the cats on campus. But anyways, in light of their mission, we do not have any information on how they are helping pre-vet students. They should also be tailored to help the campus community. I don't think we should appropriate any money to them until we see how they are helping the campus community. Although I love cats, I don't think this is an appropriate way for us to spend our money.
    - Proxy Forbes: Regardless of any merit they have, this is Fall Revision, none of these cats pay student activities fee. There has been talk that there is a faculty member within their club that is behind it. It is a "huge corruption of the Student Activity Fee."
  - o Proxy Forbes moved to approve Appropriations Act #16 for Fiscal Year 2010.
    - Debate:
    - Senator Sohi: First, I agree with Senator Ahmad's previous statement. One of the e-board members recently formed a pre-vet group on campus that is not yet recognized by USG, which is aimed to the pre-vet students.
    - Senator Machalow: I would like to point out that the money would not be going directly to the cats. According to their President they have 500 members, including 40 active members. I think it is part of our jobs as officials of the student body to be fostering a sense of community on campus. If that is what some of our constituents want to do, more power to them. They are benefiting the community by reducing the number of feral cats.

- EVP: Could someone state what the intention of the Budget Committee for the $750 was for?
  - They were asking for $23,000. They lost 75% of their budgets from last year to this year. We want to make sure that their club can still function. Some of the funds goes to the capturing of cats and then the veterinary procedures.
  - EVP: It is my belief that the SBU Cat Network only spent $1000 last year. Is that correct?
  - Senator Cushing: I believe you are correct, EVP.
  - Senator Machalow: According to the numbers from accounting, they were given over $4000 and that they spent all of it.
  - Senator Abraham: They had initially spent $1000, but then after being told about this, they spent the remaining money to pay a vet to neuter cats.
  - Senator Abraham: We called the President of the SBU Cat Network yesterday. She was not aware that part of the mission statement was to serve the pre-vet students. We could use funds to be allocated here for that purpose.
  - Senator Ahmad: Given the lack of clear cut proof of the club's providing to the community, I urge that this appropriation is voted down.
  - VP Chan: I am aware that the reason they need this money is to replace some cat traps that have been stolen. Also, they do have events where they invite veterinary school students, and they also have academic events which benefit the student community.
  - Proxy Forbes: I am part of a million groups on blackboard; I do not think this is representative of active membership. If the traps are being stolen, there has been no safeguard proposed.
- Proxy Forbes moved to end debate.
  - Vote: 18-1-0 (2/3 required.) Motion approved.
- On the main motion, roll call #10, 3-13-3. Motion fails.
- Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #17 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - Senator Khan moved to approve Appropriations Act #17 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - Debate:
    - Senator Machalow: They had some E-board troubles last year that prevented their spending a significant sum of their budget.
    - Senator Ahmad: What is their current budget?
      - Senator Machalow: I believe their current budget is $0.
      - EVP: I believe they were zeroed out last year. They are eligible to be appropriated line funding however.
      - Senator Cushing: I would like to add that this club really changed their leadership and was very responsive to the Budget Committee.

- Senator Ahmad: I think for a club that wants to get back on its feet, that $170 is a slap to the face. They have zero dollars currently. The New SSC bylaws allow new clubs to get a maximum of $750. If this is a club that is eager to get back on its feet, I was thinking that we should up their appropriation to $600-$800, to give them a chance to put on some programming and events. I think we should, if it is possible, I would like to amend the act so that the amount is changed from $170 to $800.
- Senator Ahmad: Motion to amend: Replace "$170" to "$800" in Section 2 of Appropriations Act #17.
  - Senator Machalow: I would be more comfortable with $600. They only have one event proposed (Backgammon Tournament,) and have a lot of funding for food.
- Senator Machalow: I move to amend the amount in the previous motion to $600.
  - Proxy Forbes: Looking at their application, I do not think they deserve the funding. There are other requests that can impact the campus a whole lot more than food and jackets. $170 is pointless to fund them. If we give them $600 or $800 there is no justification for doing so. I think we should give them nothing.
  - Senator Khan: We are only proposing to give them $170.
  - Senator Ahmad: In light of this new information, I believe $170 is fine. Please strike down these two amendments.
- On the question, to replace "$800" with "$600" in the previous motion: 1-16-2. Motion fails.
- On the original amendment to replace "$170" to "$800" in Section 2 of Appropriations Act #17.
  - Senator Machalow: Are we able to re-amend to another amount?
  - EVP: Yes, that would be in order.
  - Senator Machalow moved to amend the amount in the previous motion to "$200".
    - Decision: 14-4-1. Motion passes.
- On the main motion, as amended, roll call #11, 13-5-1. Motion passes.
- Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #18 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - We considered all of these hall council requests in one sitting.
  - Senator Ahmad: What was the rationale for $535?
    - Senator Machalow: Dreiser had been decreased since last year, but they were given $535 because they had a quality budget revision, and we took into account what they have done and what they would like to do.

- o Senator Cushing: They were cut down last year since they did not submit any application.
- o Senator Khan: I move to approve Appropriations Act #18 for Fiscal Year 2010.
- o On the motion, roll call #12, 19-0-0. Motion passes.
- Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #19 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o Tuscanini had a little twist to it, the reason being was a miscommunication between the club and the accounting department.
    - ▪ Senator Machalow: It was a miscommunication between Accounting and USG.
  - o Proxy Forbes moved to approve Appropriations Act #19 for Fiscal Year 2010.
    - ▪ Senator Cushing: I move to amend Section 2 of Appropriations Act #19 from "$320" to "$750."
    - ▪ Senator Khan: A great deal of their application requests were food and candy. We are not giving lots of money to food organizations. The purpose of the revisions is to give them enough money to operate.
    - ▪ Senator Sohi: I believe they were or will soon apply for a grant. They would potentially be getting money that way as well.
    - ▪ Senator Machalow: Hall Councils have a different "twist" to them. They build community within a building. Giving them money for events does not bother me as much. I used to live in Tuscanini and I know they are very energetic and their community spirit is amazing. I do not believe we should be penalizing them for a mistake on our part.
    - ▪ Senator Cushing: Being a former RA, the only way to get people to events in a residence hall is to offer food. It seems as if we are cutting their funding if we don't give them $750.
    - ▪ Proxy Forbes: Use of food as enticement is a problem everywhere and for all clubs.
    - ▪ Senator Abraham: I am an RA. I don't use food as an enticement for every event. We are running on a tight budget. I don't think that anything above $320 is appropriate. You don't need food for every event.
    - ▪ Senator Machalow: The fall revisions process is to correct our mistakes in addition to making sure everyone can adequately operate.
  - o On the amendment: 8-11-0. Motion fails.
  - o On the main motion, roll call #13, 19-0-0. Motion passes.
- Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #20 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o Senator Machalow: I would like to point out that their budget had been decreased since last year by $400.
  - o Senator Fanizza: Why were they decreased by $400?
    - ▪ Senator Machalow: It seems that they did not spend their entire budget last time.
  - o Senator Ahmad moved to approve Appropriations Act #20 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - o On the motion, roll call #14, 19-0-0. Motion passes.

- Senator Kirnbauer introduced Appropriations Act #25 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - Senator Fanizza moved to approve Appropriations Act #25 for Fiscal Year 2010.
  - On the motion, roll call #15, 19-0-0. Motion passes.

Agenda item 6.0: **Open Agenda**

- VP Mazza: All of you received a letter from Mr. Khan regarding certain accusations. I believe you can read it. We had a meeting with various USG officials. It was a productive meeting, just a few hours ago. I think that this issue was in large part exacerbated by a lack of verbal communication. Tempers escalated through e-mails. It seemed to me that level heads can prevail. I don't know what you guys as a Senate think of SAB. There is a sentiment that we have not held many events this semester. That probably is true. We have held quite a number of events but their success has been limited. It is difficult to hold many events without planning, which takes 8-12 weeks for large events. It is unfortunate that we could not have done more this fall, but we do have big plans for the Spring. Stephen Colbert is in consideration. We are planning for the end-of-the-year concert. We want a concert of near that scale every month. Any one of you is welcome to join the e-mail list. Our efforts to get students involved have been limited, but we have an e-mail where ideas can be sent: sbuevents@usg.org
- VP Mazza: We should hold town halls.
  - Senator Ahmad (Question for VP Mazza): My only grievance with the new SAB for this year – I understand it is a new organization and you rely heavily on events planners – the one thing that we are lacking has been the lack of a multitude of events. The other thing I find lacking is that I feel that we should have some small scale events also. I understand that people are needed to plan small scale events. I do not see any attraction towards this SAB. No advertising campaign to get students involved in this organization. My question is, what has the new SAB done to address this problem of creating more publicity for them, because not many people know about this organization?
  - VP Mazza: Not many people know about it. One of the first things we will focus on is how to do that. My idea has been that you attract people with success. We have at least fifteen people on this Concerts e-mail list. People will want to become involved as they attend these large scale events. The issue is that we lost literally every person involved in SAB last year. We are literally a new organization. To attract new talent, you have a successful event, and people will take the initiative to become involved. As far as small events go, we don't really want to do that, since other clubs on campus can do that.
- Business from the Gallery:
  - Rules: Three minute speaking time before response from the Senate. All questions have to be referred to the Chair. This is to maintain order. We want to maintain as

much productive debate as possible. I will lead to Nadine first. The best way to speak is to form a line on the right-hand side of the room.

- o Nadine: Good evening Senators, EC members, fellow students. We met today, it was quite productive. I do feel as though it was imperative to come to the Senators to speak to you regarding the issues students have for SAB. It is difficult for students to become involved if there is no town hall aspect for SAB. It is also difficult if the officers on SAB are also officers in other USG positions.
    - Nadine: We would be able to encourage and promote events better if we have students on our side, through town-hall style meeting. Once again, I am not the student voice or that of the entire community. I was able to collect a petition in which students signed that USG does not always put students first. We implore you to put students first in all your decisions.
    - Nadine: Students questioned why the SAF went to non-SBU students, in terms of free admission / shirts. I want other students to have the opportunity to speak.
        - Senator Abraham: One of the things that Moiz Khan wanted to do was make these concerts free, since students already pay the Student Activity Fee, so why would they be required to pay more in tickets, when it is their money that is paying for the concerts. How would we go about having only SBU students come in.
            - o Nadine: Yes, of course, but we do have a ticket office box, giving free admission to students but also charging off-campus students. It is critical for the Senate to scrutinize the agencies.
    - Senator Machalow moves to suspend the rules of the time limit.
        - Decision: 19-0-0 (2/3 majority required.) Approved unanimously.
- o Melissa Mayard?: I am a fourth year student at Stony Brook. It comes down to the question of why we are actually here. What's your point, why are you going to the Senate? It is about what we are physically asking of you. Physical actions to be taken and solutions that we thought of.
    - One of the things that we had issues with is the lack of information of what exactly is happening within USG. If you ask students what SAB is, very few know what it is and that is a problem.
    - Having an actual student-liaison who is physically going out there, surveying, asking questions. As great as e-mails can be, text can be misconstrued and not taken as importantly as people on the streets informing people of what is going on.
    - When I log on to the Stony Brook website, is there a place where the USG SAB financial activities are posted? I want to see where my money is going, penny by penny. When you booked Best Coast, how much money was spent? Once you do that, students might be better informed.

- EVP: In terms of where the money is being spent. I do not know if you are familiar with the ALLOCATE electronic voucher system. One of the future plans for the system is to make every voucher public, including every club and USG. We decided not to roll this out immediately until we refine the system. In the beginning of next semester, we are looking to make a searchable database for vouchers, to make the organization transparent.
- VP Mazza: I agree about getting student input. There is a street team that hands out flyers. Once we get the software working, we will have mobile phone surveys. We have done paper surveys – we will use future events as opportunities to have more surveys.
- VP Mazza: What is more important than polling data is to have people, and the town hall format will address that issue.
- VP Chan: One of your resolutions was creating some positions or student-liaison… I am definitely in favor of getting more ideas and perspectives. One of the things I have seen is getting dedicated students, who are often involved with other things and have limited time commitment. Yes, we can have a lot of positions, but we need to fill them with students who can put time and effort into it. One of the issues that we have all of us as an organization is finding students who can dedicate their time.
- President Graham: Your point about advertising and USG. We are trying to advertise for USG in general.
- Melissa: USG should take more initiative into are they really being for the students. Speaking to someone like a liaison would work.
- Senator Ahmad: One point I agree with is that although our intention here at USG is to get our name out to everyone. I think people do need to know what SAB is and what is going on. One of our goals here as a student government is that we can get people to know about us and our mission. Along with that, it should include that there is a forum where you can voice your ideas, such as to SAB. The same level of publicity should be established for SAB. I think that is the most important thing that should come out of this.
- Next speaker: Vanessa
  - In your bylaws, you say that you respond to diverse interests of students. The previous SAB was dismantled in part because the events were not considered diverse? How can you constitute just having concerts as being diverse? Yes, you do need large events, but you also need smaller quality events to satisfy student life. I also want to say that you admitted that you were not qualified to hold large events. What are you planning to do about that?

- o VP Mazza: What I said was that this Fall was unfortunate because we did not have cohesiveness. In order to do something in the fall, we would need a person to plan them in the summer. The former person in charge did not have much experience. The point being that moving forward, we need that time, and we have time in the Winter. We already have some Spring events planned. To be honest, I can confidently say that we will have at least five major events in the Spring and that students will be impressed by them. We do really have all these things lined up. We have held small events like independent comedians and art shows.
  - o The problem with small event ideas is that why is it that only USG can put them on.
- Vanessa: I still do not understand why you can't hold small events. Other clubs doing smaller events is not fulfilling student life, since clubs do not have as much money as before. SAB used to have these small events and students were happy. I do appreciate the whole town hall suggestion, but how is that going to affect next Spring? What can student input net?
  - o VP Mazza: That is a great point. The town hall meeting – it is difficult to get much done in a large meeting setting. Of the events that we have planned, what are good events? Some of our goals are to attract people – there will be time limitations.
  - o EVP: As the author of this act, we as student leaders have to make difficult judgments sometimes. A lot of us do not benefit from the changes that we make. Some of our decisions will take 2-5 years to take effect. While the town halls might not have direct influence next semester, only a little, but once they are set up, they can very much benefit next year's administration, and so forth.
  - o EVP: I can tell you that even getting quorum in the past was a problem. While I am graduating soon, the benefits from these reforms will benefit next years.
  - o Proxy Forbes: Complacency regarding the future is not beneficial. In response to what was said about the small events, I think if SBA sits down to plan one huge event each month, this will make students happy about just that one event. If you mix events into that campus lifetime and things where students can see that this is not a dreary campus throughout, then students can say that USG is being effective in increasing campus happiness for students. A combination of small and large

events can help make things not dull – which has been the case especially since last year.

- o Senator Ahmad: One thing that was great about the previous SAB is that there was a planning community that is still absent in this current SAB. These are brand new people who have come on board. I believe as VP Mazza said. Actually, what should happen overtime is that we will also have our planning community bolstered. Fortunately and hopefully this same trend will continue year after year. I think that this is something that needs to be given time to develop. You can't just expect that things will be the same after this radical restructuring that was done, with virtually no one from the previous SAB working on board. That experience that was there is essentially lacking now. Once people see the new SAB's events, hopefully they will want to be involved, and campus life will grow larger than it has in previous years.
- o EVP: One of the benefits of the new structure is that when I went out to get petition signatures last semester, it forces us to interact with the student body directly. One of the biggest things I noticed was that when students complained about events, we as USG leaders could not impact it. One of the great things now is that students who disagree with us or who could do a better job, they could run for VP of Student Life / Communications / Treasurer, and can therefore have direct influence and make the changes they need to campus life. While this does not address the short-term concerns about Spring, any non-seniors in this room who think they can do a better job can run for these positions next year, and these things will build.

- o Next speaker: Richard Ciceron?
    - I heard a couple of comments shot back and forth. One of the things I heard from VP Mazza was that the structures are relatively new. People who don't necessarily know the swing of things – that is completely understandable for new organizations and students. Just as Proxy Forbes said before though, we are here now. Certain things should have been done. IF there was an issue as to how to move forward – I do not remember hearing about there being an issue as to how to plan events in the fall.
    - There was not too much communication between who makes the decisions and who the decisions affect. That is understandable as well, but you might have to get support.
    - People believe that as a result of the new SAB legislation, we are not being heard.

- How exactly will we move forward and be productive, how will things be made better? What did you do that was ineffective and how can you turn it into something effective? It is easy to see a vision, but what are the steps needed to turn it into a reality?
    - Senator Rampersad: I think it is clear that the new SAB definitely needs to construct a plan on how to promote their events, increase their membership, build liaisons to address things like promotion and surveys to see what students want. Everyone in SPA and USG needs to sit down and figure this out, and get involvement from the outside community as well.
    - EVP: I think in the mess of the semester – we did not have a Treasurer, we were undergoing a lot of changes – I am not making an excuse, just saying what happened – we also to some extent put on the side the USG SAB, not to the extent that we forgot about it, but that few people were very focused on it. A lot of us had other things to accomplish before year's end. We had our first meeting today – we don't know exactly what we want to do yet, but now that we had an open dialogue, I am comfortable enough to say that we don't know yet, but we will now discuss these matters – key members from USG and outside members, to assess exactly what we need to do, and to develop a game plan on what to do moving forward.
    - EVP: I don't think that there was this sort of direct line of communication from students voicing this concern. Now that we have this limited channel open, take that input and expand that communication, and build up from there. I think that we will have a solution, but it is premature to say exactly what it is.
    - Senator Ahmad: As President of the Undergraduate Biochemistry Society, in speaking with Moiz Khan, he said, why don't you do this in collaboration with SPA? I think the real thing that needs to be done is establishing the SPA as a place where someone who has a great idea can go to this agency and say, "Hey, I would like to do this," and get together with people who are capable and who want to make this event happen, and then make it happen. I am not trying to criticize the previous SAB or anything, but I think it is a lot better than appealing to a group of people and say, can we do this?
    - Senator Ahmad: I think that it would be better, down the road, that if students know that they can just come to this [SPA], here is my outlook, and get money for it. I think we need to see if this one point will happen. It is from here that we will get small and large scale events, and this model, if and when it takes off, can really build communities.

- Senator Ahmad: We can always fire the SPA Director and appoint a new one, if not satisfied.
- Senator Simmons: Every SBU student is a member of USG. You guys are as big a part of the political process as we are. Coming forward and voicing the problems is a service to USG, and helps us reach the goal that we all share.
- Senator Rampersad: I was alarmed when you brought up the petition that… We have the capability as individuals to get petitions signed, but also go out as individual students to support individual events…
  - Nadine (last speaker): Senator Ahmad, I believe that is a beautiful idea. If there is a town hall setting – people can brainstorm and think about what to do – and then people might love or embrace successful ideas. That brings up brainstorming, teamwork, and community.
    - Nadine: There are over 16,000 undergraduate students. There is no way that CSA and RHA can represent all of them. A town hall setting is almost "too necessary."
    - Nadine: I just want to say that Senators, I really appreciate your taking the time to sit and hear what we have to say. There's USG on your shirts there too. You are powerful members who can reach out to the students who signed your petitions and involve them in USG. I pray that you guys will take the time to bring student life back into the student government.
    - *Some applause*
  - Senator Abraham moves to adjourn.
    - No objection – Meeting adjourns at 9:39 pm.

	Roll Call #1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	#12	#13	#14	#15
Abraham	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ahmad	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Baum	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cushing	A	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cuhner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fanizza	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Giraldo	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Proxy Amin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Khan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kirnbauer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Proxy Forbes	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Machalow	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mahmud	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rampersad	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rustemi	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Simmons	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sohi	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stratoudakis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Williams	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Total:	18-0-1	18-1-0	18-1-0	19-0-0	18-0-1	17-1-1	19-0-0	19-0-0	17-2-0	3-13-3	13-5-1	19-0-0	19-0-0	19-0-0	19-0-0
Decision:	Passes	Passes	Passes	Passes	Passes	Passes	Passes	Passes	Passes	Fails	Passes	Passes	Passes	Passes	Passes

Y = Yes; N = No; A = Abstain

Total is in Y-N-A format.