

## MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

USG Senate Meeting

Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:06 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	Present
Senator Spenser Cushing	Present
Senator Samuel Cushner	Present
Senator Frank Fanizza	Present by Proxy (Anthony Bianchini)
Senator Christian Giraldo	Present
Senator Mahyar Kashan	Present
Senator Sidrah Khan	Present
Senator Thomas Kirnbauer	Present
Senator Yan Leyfman	Present
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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<sup>1</sup> 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 by Proxy (Moiz Khan)

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President Matthew Graham	Absent
Executive Vice President Alexander Dimitriyadi (Chair)	Present
Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Jennifer Chan	Present
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 the Advocate General (Adam Kent) has requested that should any Senators wish to bring up a matter for investigation, that they may do so by contacting the Advocate General, including (though not necessarily) through anonymous means.

The Chair further announced that Senators are obliged, under the USG Constitution, to submit a monthly report to their constituency. The Chair would like these reports submitted by Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, and will send detailed instructions and examples of previous reports of this kind, to facilitate the task for USG Senators.

**Agenda item 3.0: Approval of the Minutes (from 9/30/10 meeting)**

- Senator Abraham moved to approve the 9/30/10 USG Senate Meeting Minutes.
  - Decision: The minutes were approved without objection.

**Agenda item 4.0: 2010 – 2011 Audio Visual Advisor Act**

- EVP Dimitriyadi relinquished the Chair to present the act. PPT Mahmud assumed the Chair.

- EVP Dimitriyadi presented the 2010-2011 Audio Visual Advisor Act:
  - Two employees that used to be paid as independent contractors were not being paid in accordance to IRS guidelines. Need to be hired as official employees.
    - A/V advisor (first position):
      - Works as A/V tech for Stony Brook.
      - Repairs and properly maintains equipment.
      - Provides additional help when needed with large scale events.
    - Office of Communications – Graphic Designer (second position.)
    - Need to pay these employees.
      - Debate (Senator Machalow:)
        - Can the audio/visual advisor position be handled by a student?
        - Floor yielded to Mark Walden in order to respond to the question.
          - Duties: Oversees outsourcing equipment and labor.
          - Does repairs and maintenance.
          - Current USG A/V Chair needs additional experience and is still learning. Needs to rely on Mr. Walden for his talents and abilities.
          - Mr. Walden: Students might be able to do some of the work, but it is not likely.
          - EVP: What is very important to note is that USG and its clubs give leadership opportunities to students and give them a venue. Justin is the A/V Chair; he has supervisors and staff under him and deals with the management.
          - EVP: The A/V position is more of a technical position, which is out of the realm of an undergraduate student.
  - Proxy Khan moved to approve the “2010-2011 Audio Visual Advisor Act” in its amended state.
    - Debate:
      - Senator Machalow moved to amend by striking “served” and replacing with “serve” in Section 2, item 3.
        - The amendment was agreed to without objection.
      - On the main motion (to approve the “2010-2011 Audio Visual Advisor Act,”), the act was adopted by a vote of 19-0-0.

**Agenda item 5.0: 2010 – 2011 Fall Budget Revisions Process Timeline**

- Senator Cushing (Chair of the Budget Committee) presented the legislation.

- Budget applications will be accepted from October 11<sup>th</sup> to October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Budget hearings will be scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Budget deliberations would be ongoing, starting on October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The outcome of the deliberations would be presented to the Senate on an ongoing basis.
- The revisions process would be completed by November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- Senator Machalow moved to adopt the “2010-2011 Fall Budget Revisions Process Timeline.”
  - No debate.
  - The motion was approved by a vote of 20-0-0.

**Agenda item 6.0: Statesman Grant Proposal**

- Senator Cushing (Chair of the Budget Committee) presented the grant proposal.
  - The Statesman’s printer does not work very well.
  - The budget committee found that most of the items requested were relevant to the Statesman’s ability to operate as a newspaper.
    - The only items that the Budget Committee decided to recommend against are the two sofas requested for the Statesman’s office.
- Debate:
  - Senator Machalow: What is the total for the grant?
    - \$4909.57
  - VP Chan: The two lists show that there are price quotes from separate sources.
    - All grants require a minimum of two price quotes, to show that the organization is legitimately trying to search for the best deal.
  - Proxy Khan moved to approve the grant of \$4909.57 to the Statesman.
    - No debate.
    - Appropriations must be by roll call vote:

Senator Allen Abraham		Y
Senator Tahir Ahmad		Y
Senator Ory Baum		Y
Senator Spenser Cushing		Y
Senator Samuel Cushner		Y
Senator Frank Fanizza	Vote by Proxy (Anthony Bianchini)	Y
Senator Christian Giraldo		Y
Senator Mahyar Kashan		Y
Senator Sidrah Khan		Y

Senator Thomas Kirnbauer		Y
Senator Yan Leyfman		Y
Senator Deborah Machalow		Y
Senator Kirin Mahmud (PPT)		Y
Senator Shivani Rampersad		Y
Senator Masood Rustemi		Y
Senator Najee Simmons		Y
Senator Priya Sohi		Y
Senator Michael Spinelli		Y
Senator Peter Stratoudakis		Y
Senator Russell Williams	Vote by Proxy (Moiz Khan)	Y

- The motion was approved by a vote of 20-0-0.

#### Agenda item 7.0: Open Agenda

- Senator Cushing presented a “force resolution” entitled “Force Resolution Demanding the Nomination of a Special Services Council Chair.”
  - VP Mazza: Does the Senator think that the SSC is an effective and rigorous way to fund organizations?
    - Senator Cushing: I personally don’t believe that, but that is the current process.
  - Sen. Machalow: This is constitutionally necessary. We need a Chair now, and we could always fix things as we go along.
- EVP Dimitriyadi relinquished the Chair. PPT Mahmud assumed the Chair. Debate continued.
  - Proxy Khan: That kind of logic is inconsistent given that SPECULA chair is not being called for. A budget committee already gets paid to do the Council’s job. I think it is a wasteful demand.
  - EVP: USG currently funds 160 clubs and orgs. I received 15-30 requests for club funding. We are getting to the stage where we don’t have the funds to operate the clubs already recognized. It is irresponsible to cede control to SSC.
  - Sen. Machalow: I disagree with EVP. Senate has power over SSC allocations. SSC does more than just fund the clubs; it provides USG recognition to clubs. If they are seeking funding, there are 22 Senators who can decide on funding.
  - Senator Ahmad: You don’t need to go to SSC to achieve recognition.

- Senator Cushing: I firmly agree with EVP Dimitriyadi, that the SSC is a failing group/organization. However, we need to either have a Chair or amend the constitution.
- VP Chan: Clubs ask a lot of questions about funding. They need someone to go to. I have no problems with them coming to me. New clubs were complaining about miscommunications and problems with SSC. By eliminating the “middle man” (SSC,) that would help students feel less frustrated as they go through the funding process.
- Proxy Khan: Given the fact that we have to pay SSC council members, that reduces our Student Activity fee funds, and is an absurd waste of money.
- EVP: The University is in charge of recognition of clubs and organizations (not the USG.) The University has no mechanism to maintain the influx of clubs. Debate was never on debate getting funding (period) but rather on whether or not they should get funds for particular activities / events. The SSC is a joint-agency of the USG (could exist within the Executive Council and Senate.) We could appoint current officers to that board and deal with the constitutional issues. A proposal will be made along those lines within the next week or two.
- Senator Cushing: I am in favor of EVP’s idea. It is a great idea. I hope we can vote this down.
- Senator Machalow: I am also in favor of EVP’s idea. However, we should follow our constitution until amended.
- Senator Spinelli: In favor of EVP’s idea. Do need to get the process going though.
- Proxy Khan: It would be faster to amend the SSC Bylaws.
- Senator Ahmad: My question to you all is, why would you want to nominate and approve a Chair, have the SSC present, and then go through the tremendously long process of figuring out who should get funding? The most immediate problem is having someone that clubs can go to. VP Chan can do that. If we can wait one week to revisit the SSC by-laws to be changed, so that the problem can be resolved. Nominating a Chair, etc., would be a waste of time. Please reject the force resolution.
- Senator Machalow: SSC by-laws reform should be done expeditiously, so new clubs are not discouraged.
- EVP Dimitriyadi moved that the Senate “stand at ease for five minutes.”
  - The motion was agreed to by unanimous consent.
  - Senate returned to order at 7:43 pm.
- Proxy Khan moved to approve the force resolution.
- Senator Cushing moved to table the resolution.
  - EVP: As the by-laws are currently written, appointing VP Chan in charge of the SSC would be outside the bounds of USG law.
  - EVP: We should return next week with revised SSC By-laws. It would solve the problem.
  - Senator Ahmad: Please vote to table the resolution.
  - The motion to table the force resolution was approved, by a vote of 17-1-0.
- EVP Dimitriyadi returned to the Chair.

- VP Chan recognized:
  - Summary of what happened this past Saturday (USG Training.)
  - About 200 students (2 reps. per club) attended.
  - Learned about ALLOCATE and the club funding process.
  - Clubs gave feedback and suggestions for improvement in the future.
  - VP Chan expressed her gratitude to Senators for giving their time and effort to helping make the Club training a success.
  - Good luck to all in their projectors, midterms, etc.
- No further business from Senate or Gallery.
- With no further business for consideration, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.