



MINUTES¹
USG Senate Meeting
Thursday, September 1st, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:04 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 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 (Left Early -
Excused)	
Senator Adam Meier	Arrived Late
(Excused)	
Senator Sean Moore	Present
Senator Corey Platt	Present
Senator Masood Rustemi	Present
Senator Alexandra Santiago	Present
Senator Najee Simmons	Present
Senator Priya Sohi	Present
Senator David Szeszler	Present
Senator Andrew Tausz	Present
Senator Ryann Williams	Present

President Mark Maloof	Present
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Executive Vice President Deborah Machalow	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 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.

Treasurer Thomas Kirnbauer (Excused)	Arrived Late
Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Allen Abraham	Present
Vice President of Communications Farjad Fazli	Present
Vice President of Student Life Deron Hill	Absent
Senior Class Representative Emilisa Trotman	Excused Absence
Junior Class Representative Dennis Nmecha	Absent
Sophomore Class Representative Christopher Priore	Present (Left early)
Quorum established.	

Agenda item 2.0: Announcements

The Chair announced that Senators should update the Chair with regards to their recorded affiliations. The Chair further announced that Senate Committees will be instituted soon. The Chair announced that the President Pro-Tempore (PPT) Election will take place next meeting.

The Chair announced that Senators should abstain on votes where they may derive “direct or indirect” benefits from the outcome of the motion.

The Chair would like to put together a USG Senate contact sheet with phone numbers and e-mail addresses. If a Senator has a problem with giving out their phone number, please inform the Chair.

The Chair announced that there is no food allowed in the room. Water, however, is permitted.

Agenda item 3.0: 2011 Financial Bylaws Act

- Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Abraham presented the Act.
 - VP Abraham and Treasurer Kirnbauer worked on updating the Financial Bylaws together.
 - VP Abraham went through the proposed act, section by section, summarizing the content of each section.
 - Section 104: Regarding the procedure if any club loses eligibility or line budget status.
 - Section 105: Biggest change is tweaking “fall revisions” process, by limiting it exclusively to clubs that have lost 40% or more of their budget over the previous year. Such clubs would be able to regain up to 66% of their previous budget.
 - Event grants: This allows clubs to apply for a set amount of money. This is intended to spark innovation in club activities, allowing money to be used for new events.
 - Assets grant.
 - National Tournament grant: This is a way to reward sports clubs. Any time a sports club makes it to a national tournament, USG will pay for all fees for that tournament (except for airfare) as a means of rewarding clubs for making it to a national tournament.
 - Senator Moore: What qualifies as a sports club?

- VP Abraham: Any club registered with Campus Recreation.
- Senator Williams: Did you say how much would be appropriated towards grants and revisions?
- VP Abraham: I believe the USG Treasurer Kirnbauer has set aside funds for fall revisions first, followed by the events grant process.
- Senator Williams: If fall revisions will be considered first, how do we know that there will be money left after the fall revisions process?
- VP Abraham: Given the new rules for applying for the fall revisions process and the maximum qualified clubs can get, there will certainly be money left for the events grants, at least \$50,000.
- VP Fazli: How does a club apply for a grant?
- VP Abraham: They fill out a form after contacting the USG Treasurer.
- Senator Adams: What was the logic regarding the breakdowns under subsection 6 in section 2 (event grants)?
- VP Abraham: The logic was that larger clubs would be better able to handle larger events.
- Senator Adams: Would you consider it friendly if the Senate was to strike that section, giving the Senate greater discretion to grant funds to clubs, regardless of their budgets?
- VP Abraham: No, I would not consider that friendly. The current make up creates needed guidelines. I will be introducing further legislation to create competitions in which winners would have money for events.
- Senator Fanizza: Doesn't the previously mentioned subsection counteract your goal of providing a spark of innovation from clubs?
- VP Abraham: No.
- VP Abraham: Contingency fund is an emergency fund – funds set apart in an emergency situation, such as clubs going over budget.
- Sections 106 and 107 are regarding the rules for club constitutions and an enumeration of the funded organizations rights.
- Section 108 has voucher instructions which closely mirror current practice. It does impose stricter measures, such as

submission of receipts in a timelier manner and reducing the ability for clubs to receive compensation in the case of lost receipts.

- Section 109 discusses the budget process and timeline. This puts a statutory requirement that USG completes the budgets by April 15th.
 - President Maloof: Why was the deadline of April 15th not met in previous years?
 - VP Abraham: I feel that there were no strict guidelines in the past regarding the time by which the budget needed to be completed.
 - Chair: The USG Constitution does mandate that the Spring Budget be completed by April 15th. This is merely emphasizing what is already in the USG Constitution.
- Section 110: Treasurer Responsibilities.
- Section 111: Restrictions on allocation of club budgets to cover food and beverage expenses. USG feels that there are other ways of getting students to events without necessarily always providing free food.
 - Senator Sohi: Is the restriction of \$300 for general body meetings per each general body meeting or for all of them combined?
 - VP Abraham: This is for all of them.
 - Senator Sohi: I thought that the requirement was \$250 per meeting, not for all meetings combined.
 - VP Abraham: No, the total that can be spent, *per year*, is \$300 for food expenses.
 - VP Abraham: Quorum call.
The Secretary called the roll.
 - Chair: There exists a quorum.
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer joined VP Abraham in presenting the act.
 - Senator Rustemi: Can a club still make food and beverage expenses as an “event” thus allowing food and beverages for all their events?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: Yes, although with restrictions. There is a limit of 12 meetings per year wherein this can be done. We believe this is enough to give flexibility to clubs without abusing their budgets to provide free food constantly.
- Section 112: Gifts and Awards

- All gifts and awards must receive approval by the Office of the Treasurer and specific justification must be given.
- Senator Adams: If a club wants to buy a book and raffle it off, would that fall under the auspices of Section 112?
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: Yes, although in that case I would not restrict the price to \$25.
- Senator Birtrand: What is the criterion then, for applying the \$25 funding limit?
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: I need to retract my previous statement and stick more clearly to what is on the text. In all cases, be they rewards or gifts, the \$25 limit would apply.
- Section 113: Apparel
 - Same as last year, no more than \$750 or 10% of a club's budget (whichever is smaller) can be spent in this manner.
 - Organizations that require a uniform need to provide justification.
 - Use of the copyrighted "Seawolves" logo requires prior approval from the Stony Brook Administration.
 - Personalized apparel cannot be paid for by USG funds.
 - Senator: Would apparel that is given away at an event fall under Section 112 or Section 113?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: T-shirts would likely fall under Section 113.
 - VP Abraham: Joan Dickinson is possibly the USG official in charge of the trademark. She may know how approval could be sought for using the "Seawolves" logo.
- Section 114: Off-campus trips
 - Requiring three weeks gives USG enough time to conduct the proper checks and paperwork for an off-campus event.
 - Strict restrictions are put in place to prevent abuse of USG funds on constant banquets and other potential abuses of limited USG funds.
 - SUNY Assembly trips and certain off-campus facility uses for the purposes of practices are exempt [from the three week notice requirement.]
 - Senator Moore: Would a trip to Stony Brook's Manhattan campus be allowed? Would it count as an off-campus trip?

- Treasurer Kirnbauer: It would be allowed but it would be considered as an off-campus trip.
- Section 115: Multimedia Services
 - This section regulates the use of USG funds for the provision of multimedia services.
 - USG wishes to discourage the abuse of USG funds by clubs hiring friends to “design” fliers or other material and paying them for it, when such services could likely be provided for free.
- Section 116: Print, publish, and broadcast materials
 - Some restrictions include requiring that all material be provided in any language other than English to also be provided in English.
 - Kinkos provides a discount to USG affiliated organizations and should be used unless services can be obtained for 10% cheaper or more elsewhere.
- Section 117: Coaching services
 - At no time can funded organizations have more than two coaches, neither of whom can be current undergraduate students.
 - Coaches need to be CPR certified (also a Campus Recreation rule.)
 - Contracts need to be executed *prior* to service being rendered, to afford USG the opportunity to modify or reject the contract as it sees fit.
- Section 118: On-campus events
 - Speakers cannot be paid more than \$2000.
 - Restrictions on providing food at speaker events.
 - Only one fashion show per academic semester to each funded club.
 - Each and every club/organization must host at least one on-campus event that is funded by USG funds. This is so that all clubs provide on-going events throughout the year, and do not hoard funds for one weekend.
- Section 119 and Section 120, regarding co-sponsorships and fundraising rules, are largely the same as current practice.
- Section 121: Ticketed events
 - Should a funded club sell tickets, they must return 5% of the ticket sales into the USG Grant Fund so that it may benefit future programming.
- Section 122 and 123 refer to conflicts of interest and judicial remedies.

- Senator Rustemi moved that the USG Senate recess for ten minutes.
 - Motion fails by a vote of 3-16-0. (Roll Call #1).
- Senator Fanizza moved to approve the 2011 Financial Bylaws Act.
 - Senator Adams moved to strike “Be it enacted by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government” in the opening sentence of the Act.
 - Motion designated as friendly and approved.
- Senator Platt moved to strike “DEFINED” in “APPAREL DEFINED” in Section 102.
 - Adopted as friendly.
- Senator Platt moved to strike and replace “word” with “term” in “Apparel,” “Department” and “Gifts” in Section 102.
 - Approved as friendly.
- Senator Williams moved to amend Section 102, by adding “the” before “Student Activity Fee” in “Guest Speaker.”
 - Adopted as friendly.
- Senator Adedapo moved to amend Section 102, under “Academic Year,” striking the definition and replacing with: “The term ‘Academic Year’ shall begin in the Fall and end in the Spring Semester.”
 - Senator Williams moved to amend the amendment, striking the section and replacing with: “The term ‘Academic Year’ shall be defined as a period beginning in the fall and ending in the Spring semester.”
 - Senator Williams’ amendment failed by a vote of 2-17-0. (Roll Call #2).
 - Senator Adedapo requested unanimous consent to rescind his motion.
 - Granted by unanimous consent.
 - Senator Moore moved to amend Section 102 to amend “Academic Year” to now read: “The term ‘Academic Year’ shall include the Fall and subsequent Spring semester.”
 - The motion was adopted as friendly.
- Senator Adams moved to amend Section 105.1.2.2.6, to strike the text after “considered separately.”
 - VP Abraham: Things have to be stated in a viewpoint neutral manner. This is not done to punish a small club, just to create fair guidelines.
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: By allowing this kind of structure, this will encourage more events by all clubs since fewer funds would be spent at any one time.

- Senator Williams: Don't you think that it is not neutral or fair to create these restrictions, and that allowing anyone to apply for any amount of funding to be fairer?
 - VP Abraham and Treasurer Kirnbauer: The restrictions would be considered fair and viewpoint neutral if they are applied across the board. Furthermore, using the Senate's judgment to decide on variable amounts that each club should get can be considered arbitrary and not viewpoint neutral.
- Senator Bertrand: Would it not then be fair to simply have one amount that any and all clubs can ask for, thus negating any viewpoint neutrality issues?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: Perhaps, but this would hurt a larger organization in their ability to fund a larger event, that they are historically able to manage appropriately.
 - Senator Bertrand: Would this not hurt a small club in their ability to expand?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: I believe the current guidelines as they stand afford numerous opportunities for clubs, large or small, to apply for grants.
 - VP Abraham: Clubs can also apply multiple times.
 - Senator Fanizza: I understand the need for caps, since there are viewpoint neutrality issues. However, I do not think it is appropriate to limit the smaller clubs. The larger clubs are already getting more money. Getting larger scale programs going is a good idea.
 - Senator Adams: What I want to do is reword Sections 105.1.2.2.6 and 105.1.2.2.7 in such a way that small funding requests would be approved by a simple majority but larger funding requests would need a 2/3 majority vote for approval.
 - On Senator Adams' motion to amend Section 105.1.2.2.6, the motion failed by a vote of 7-11-0. (Roll Call #3).
- Senator Platt moved to amend Section 105.1.2.2.8 to insert "of" after "remainder" in the fifth line of that subsection.
 - Approved as friendly.
- Senator Szeszler moved to amend Section 105.1.2.2.7 to reword the amounts to granting an additional \$1000 to clubs in Section 105.1.2.2.6.1 and an additional \$500 to clubs Section 105.1.2.2.6.2 and 105.1.2.2.6.3.
 - Motion failed by a vote of 4-15-1. (Roll Call #4).

- Senator Fanizza: Could the Treasurer update the Senate regarding how many clubs fall within each of the budget categories?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: No, I did not look up these numbers.
- Senator Adams: How would the authors feel if we tabled this bill?
 - VP Abraham: I did my best to get this out there in a timely manner. I would really urge the Senate to pass the bill this week.
- Senator Williams: Point of Inquiry: Can we just amend these issues later, even if we pass the bill?
 - Chair: Such amendments would require a whole new bill being debated and signed into law.
- VP Abraham: A presentation to clubs will be given on September 10th, so certainty is needed regarding the funds available to clubs under the grant criteria.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: This is a vital and essential bill for clubs. Amending it just before we present it to clubs would have a detrimental effect on our ability to clearly convey the rules to clubs.
- Senator Adams moved to amend Section 110, to insert “or by a majority vote of the USG Senate” to the end of Section 110.4.
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: This would strip away much of the authority of the Treasurer.
 - Senator Adams: I believe it is the Senate’s job to monitor the Executive agencies, and this would give them the power to do so.
 - Motion failed by a vote of 2-16-1. (Roll Call #5).
- Motion by Senator Tausz to suspend the rules and extend meeting time to 9:15 pm was approved by unanimous consent.
- Senator Williams moved to amend Section 112.1 to insert at the end: “A gift may exceed \$25 with pre-approval of the USG Treasurer.”
 - The motion was approved as friendly.
- Senator Moore moved to amend Section 114.1 to read: “For the purposes of this act, ‘off-campus trips’ means any activities that occur while not on Stony Brook’s main campus, including but not limited to, the following types...”
 - Approved as friendly.
- Senator Bibby moved to amend Section 115.1.1 by striking “but not limited to” and inserting Section 115.1.2, which shall read: “Clubs and

Organizations may use the Student Activity Fee to fund fliers for major events with expected attendance of 300 or greater.”

- VP Abraham: The reason we have this in here is that we do not want clubs to pay their friends to make or design fliers. Clubs can also use the services of a USG-paid graphics designer, if such need is pressing.
- Senator Adams: In my personal experience, advertisement campaigns can be executed very well by using left-over print quota funds.
- Senator Bibby: I believe one person is not sufficient for providing advertisement services for over 300 clubs. Clubs should have their own discretion.
- Senator Bibby’s motion failed by a vote of 1-17-2. (Roll Call #6).
- Senator Adams moved to strike “for at least 10% less” in Section 116.3.2 and replace it with “for a lower price and has a federal tax ID.”
 - Adopted as friendly.
- Senator Fanizza moved to amend Section 117.5 to state “CPR/AED” certified instead of “CPR/AEC” certified.
 - Adopted as friendly.
- Senator Adams moved to amend Section 118.1 to insert “the SBU main campus” after activity that occurs on and striking “property belonging to...”
 - Adopted as friendly.
- Senator Adams moved to amend Section 118.3.1 to add “without the consent of the Treasurer or receiving approval from the majority of the Senate.”
 - Motion failed by a vote of 1-17-2. (Roll Call #7).
- Senator Fanizza moved to amend Section 105.2.2.6.1, replacing “\$1000” with “\$2500” and replacing “\$3000” in Section 105.2.2.6.3 with “\$1500.”
 - Motion failed by a vote of 4-13-3. (Roll Call #8).
- On the main motion, to approve the 2011 Financial Bylaws Act, the motion was approved by a vote of: 19-1-0. (Roll Call #9).
- Chair adjourns the meeting at 9:17 pm.

Agenda item 4.0: **2011-2012 Temporary USG SPA Assistance Act**

Agenda item 5.0: **Appropriations Act #1 for Fiscal Year 2011**

Agenda item 6.0: **Special Rules of Order for the USG Senate**

Agenda item 7.0: **Open Agenda**

