



MINUTES¹
USG Senate Meeting
Thursday, September 8th, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:04 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	Present
Senator Priya Sohi	Present
Senator David Szeszler	Present
Senator Andrew Tausz	Present
Senator Ryann Williams	Present

President Mark Maloof	Present
Executive Vice President Deborah Machalow	Present
Treasurer Thomas Kirnbauer	Excused Absence

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.

Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Allen Abraham	Present
Vice President of Communications Farjad Fazli	Absent
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	Present

Quorum established.

Agenda item 2.0: Announcements

The Chair announced new Senate committee assignments.

The Chair reminded Senators that there is no speaking permitted during votes.

Agenda item 3.0: Approval of the Minutes (9/1/2011 Meeting)

- Senator Fanizza moved to approve the 9/1/2011 USG Senate meeting minutes.
 - The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

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

- President Maloof presented the Act.
 - Senator Simmons moved that the USG Senate enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Human Resource matters.
 - The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Executive Session initiated

- *Senator Fanizza moved that the Senate exit from Executive Session and return to normal order.*
 - *The motion was approved by unanimous consent.*
 - *Members of the gallery returned to their seats.*

Executive session terminated

- President Maloof presented the 2011-2012 Temporary USG SPA Assistance Act
 - The purpose of this bill is to hire a temporary position, 20 hours per week, to expire on May 4th, 2012.
 - Senator Fanizza: This position is only for this year?
 - President Maloof: Correct.
 - Senator Fanizza: Would it not be better to extend this position, should there be a need for someone like this in the future?
 - President Maloof: I wanted this to be a temporary position and not bind the USG to have this position beyond this year, unless the USG felt it necessary.
 - Senator Alcott: In Section 2.1, it says that this is not a “student” employee?
 - President Maloof: Yes, it cannot be an undergraduate student, although a graduate student would qualify.
 - Senator Tausz: This position is for a transition period?
 - President Maloof: Correct.
 - Senator Tausz: Would this be needed for both semesters?

- President Maloof: Yes. We believe, for instance, that the end-of-year concert will be such a huge undertaking that it will require, for lack of a better term, an “adult” to be on board in helping run this event.
- Senator Fan: Would the cost of hiring this person be advantageous, would the money be worth spending on this position?
- President Maloof: Yes, I believe that we need a person who can give a level of some consistency, at least for this year, while USG organizations have time to mature and be able to plan events. Having a person who can devote these hours for organizing for major events is important.
- Senator Bertrand: This person will only be here to help for large scale events?
- President Maloof: For any sort of programming that SAB and SPA take on.
- Senator Moore: Given how few large scale events go on, is it worth hiring this person?
- President Maloof: We are operating now under the assumption of holding at least one large scale program per month, as well as the traditional events we have. I do see this person having more than enough work to do.
- Senator Fan: If this person does not perform well, can we fire him?
- President Maloof: I see no reason why not.
- Senator Adams: Point of parliamentary inquiry: How do we go about doing this?
- Chair: I believe this person serves at the pleasure of the President.
- Senator Moore moved to approve the “2011-2012 Temporary USG SPA Assistance Act.”
 - Senator Szeszler: How much control do you plan for this assistant to have on programming?
 - President Maloof: In terms of decision making, I would leave that to the undergraduate SPA Director. I foresee this person acting as an assistant in all terms of programming for getting all the work done, not in deciding what work needs to be done.
 - Senator Rustemi: If you think this is a necessary position, why make it temporary?
 - President Maloof: I think it is necessary for this year, although I am not sure if it will be needed in the future. I do not wish to bind USG by making the position permanent at this time.
 - Senator Adams: Supposing there is an assistant nominated and confirmed before an SPA Director is in office? What would the assistant’s role be then?
 - President Maloof: I think I would be involved in the programming. I would hope that SAB would be able to take over in this short period.
 - Senator Tausz: We do have lull periods in between activities, are you specifically saying, I need you to work 20 hours per week?

- President Maloof: We felt that 20 hours per week would be the ideal amount of time. This person would also assist with more than just the large scale programming, but with other events. The hours would be delegated by the tasks that the Administrative Director, SPA Director, and USG President see fit for the assistant to need to do.
- Senator Fanizza: Don't we already have people in positions that can already do these tasks?
- President Maloof: There are people who are trying to help, but this year we are more involved with events and will need all the help we can get.
- Senator Williams: Could you elaborate on the history of "Rock Your Face" as an organization?
- President Maloof: I would like to yield the answer to VP Abraham.
- Vice President Abraham: "Rock Your Face" was started by a graduate student. It was never a club, it was a program run by Student Activities that USG started to fund in part, until eventually USG ended up funding all the shows.
- Senator Williams: Could you also explain what HVZ is?
- VP Abraham: HVZ also was never funded as a USG club.
- Senator Williams: What makes us decide to start organizing for these clubs?
- Chair: I believe this is a separate issue and not germane.
- Senator Alcott moved to suspend the rules to allow Chief Justice Malik to speak on this issue. (Requires 2/3 majority to pass.)
 - The motion was approved by a vote of 14-4-3. (Roll Call #1)
 - Chief Justice Malik: Planning events is an incredibly difficult task. There is a lot of red tape, such as meetings with police, security, logistics, etc. I used to spend 70-80 hours a week in the run up to a large concert or event. I believe that the assistant will have more than enough work that is needed to do. There is no way that they will get away with just doing 20 hours of work.
 - Senator Williams: It sounds to me like what the SPA Director would be doing?
 - CJ Malik: Previously, Eunice Ro and other individuals with experience in planning concerts and large events, whom we could tap to help in doing these events. Now, however, there would be very few people, if any, to help the SPA Director in this huge undertaking of dealing with artists, setting up dressing rooms, and all the other roles needed in order to pull off an event.
 - Senator Williams: Is this person mostly for advising, or are they mostly doing things?

- CJ Malik: It seems to me to be more of an advisor and assistant. Obviously, the goal of USG is to be able to create opportunities for students to learn and be able to do these things. This year is unique because some of the individuals with experience who could be called on to help in planning these events are gone.
 - President Maloof: I just want to talk to everybody about the whole idea of programming. I want to elaborate on what CJ Malik said. I was putting in at least 30 hours a week planning events, and that was with the advantage of having people there who could handle the administrative tasks and the other things needed to pull off an event. I think hiring someone, who does not have the additional needs required in terms of class or work, to help the SPA Director pull off these events, is hugely necessary. Having a professional who is able to do this job is incredibly important. For now, we need this sort of assistance.
- Senator Simmons moved to amend Section 4, to replace “May 4st” with “May 4th.”
 - Motion was deemed friendly and approved.
- Senator Adams moved to amend Section 2.1 to read: “There shall be a non-**undergraduate** student employee...”
 - Approved as friendly.
- Senator Fanizza: Are my fellow Senators comfortable with the idea of paying an assistant \$440/week for being an assistant?
 - Senator Adams: There is a lot of footwork that is needed in planning events. I believe that hiring this assistant would be the best investment we could make for promoting student life.
 - Senator Fan: Considering that graduate students also have lots of work to do, should we not exclude them from the position as well?
 - President Maloof: I cannot speak for all graduate students, but I believe many do their workload at night. I think that a graduate student would be able to do all the work required in the 9-5 period.
 - Senator Sohi: How much does the current SPA Director get paid?
 - President Maloof: \$9.50/hour.
 - Senator Sohi: I want to bring up the fact that the assistant would get paid more than the SPA Director. I do not feel that the assistant should get paid more than the person who is actually supposed to do the work.
 - Senator Williams: Could you give us several examples of what this assistant should be able to do?
 - VP Abraham: There are new people in key positions (new Administrative Director and Student Activities Director.) The assistant would meet with the police, with the fire marshal regarding the capacity allowed; they would have to worry about

contracts for lighting, for the artist/talent, to streamline the finances; to meet with Administration personnel (e.g. Athletics department for Stadium.)

- VP Abraham: We ran into a lot of these problems this year. If we want someone who can run this properly, we have to pay this amount. I do not think we are overpaying at all, I believe that we are on the right level of pay.
- Senator Williams: To my understanding, is most of their job involving going to meetings?
- VP Abraham: In addition to the logistics, they have to facilitate a lot of things for activities the day before and after the event.
- President Maloof: I don't want anyone to feel that the position is merely that of an assistant. The amount sounds like a lot, but this will be a person's livelihood, \$16,000 as their annual salary.
- Senator Lau: Just to clarify, this person will be assisting the Administrative Director.
- Senator Gunther: Just to make it clear. Would it not be better to refer to them as the SPA Advisor?
 - President Maloof: I would not want this position titled advisor. I don't want this person to feel that they have a say in the decisions that will be made in terms of programming, there job will merely be to help make the events happen.
- Senator Sohi: What would the SPA Director be doing?
- President Maloof: I hope they would be in class.
- Senator Sohi: What is the point of having an SPA Director, if they cannot attend meetings if they have class?
- President Maloof: I think there is some confusion regarding the demarcation of responsibilities. I think everyone has already attested that there are huge time commitments to running an event. There will be a lot of work to be done and in circumstances when the SPA Director cannot go to meetings nor do some of the logistics that is when this person will step in.
- Senator Williams: The person will only be making \$16,000 a year, granted, but I was going to say that this money would be going away from our constituents.
- Senator Fanizza moved to end debate.
 - The motion was approved with a vote of 21-0-0. (Roll Call #2).
- On the main question (to approve the act): The motion was approved by a vote of 18-2-1. (Roll Call #3).

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

- Senator Williams presented the act.
 - Senator Williams read the text of the act.
 - Appropriates \$8000 in order to repress a stolen “Gator,” a vehicle used to transport equipment and personnel.
 - \$8000 is the cheapest amount found.
 - Senator Fanizza: Will the vehicle be locked up this time?
 - Senator Williams: Yes, great care will be taken in order to secure the “Gator.”
- Senator Fan moved to approve Appropriations Act #1 for Fiscal Year 2011.
- Senator Simmons moved to insert a “.” Before the quotation mark at the end of Section 1.
 - Approved as friendly.
- Senator Adams moved to amend Section 2 to state: “... to purchase a **replacement for our** lost Gator.”
 - Approved as friendly.
- Senator Williams moved to amend by capitalizing “act” to “Act” wherever it appears.
 - Approved as friendly.
- On the motion to approve: The motion was agreed to by a vote of 20-0-1. (Roll Call #4).

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

- Senator Simmons presented the legislation.
 - Section 3.3 limits debate by Senators to only five minutes.
 - Section 3.4 delineates how a Senator can yield the remainder of their time.
 - Section 4.1 discusses ballot votes.
- Senator Williams moved to adopt the “Special Rules of Order for the USG Senate.”
- Senator Platt moved to amend Section 3.1, such that the last sentence reads: “If after the grace period has ended, quorum is still not achieved, the meeting shall be deemed cancelled.”
- Senator Platt moved to rescind his motion.
 - The motion to rescind was approved by unanimous consent.
- VP Abraham: Does the Chair believe it proper that the Chair preside at the debate of the Special Rules of Order, as she has written them?
 - Chair: I believe I can be impartial. If Senators do not, they can take the appropriate measures.
- Senator Williams moved to amend Section 3.1, such that the last sentence would read: “After the grace period has ended, if quorum is still not achieved, the meeting shall be deemed cancelled.”
 - Adopted as friendly.
- Senator Moore moved that the Senate stand at ease.
 - The motion was approved by a vote of 16-5-0. (Roll Call #5).
 - The Senate returned to normal order.

- Senator Williams moved that Section 2.3 be amended to read: “The arrival of a Senator after the Parliamentarian has called their name for attendance, or the departure of a Senator...”
 - Approved as friendly.
- On the main motion (to adopt the Special Rules of Order): The motion was approved by a vote of 16-0-2. (Roll Call #6).

Agenda item 7.0: President Pro-Tempore Election

- The Chair described the role of the President Pro-Tempore (PPT.)
- The Chair described the nomination process and the election.
 - PPT must be a voting member of the Senate.
 - After all the nominations are done, unanimous consent will be sought to close the nominations.
 - Nominees will be allowed to speak.
 - In order to be elected, 12 votes or more will be required to elect a PPT.
- Nominations:
 - Senator Fanizza nominated Senator Simmons, who accepted.
 - Senator Sohi nominated Senator Fanizza, who accepted.
 - Senator Williams nominated Senator Moore, who accepted.
 - No more nominations.
- Statements:
 - Senator Simmons: Good evening. According to the duties that were just listed for the PPT, I think I am capable in carrying out all of them. While I cannot quite handle Robert’s Rules of Order with the finesse of the EVP, I think I could do a good job. I believe I am also fair and impartial.
 - Senator Fanizza: Hello everyone. This is my second year as a Senator. Last year I was a quiet person who did his office hours at 8:30 am, getting them out of the way before anyone would come. This year, however, I wish to be more involved. I am also the RHA President and I have a lot of experience. I am upfront and will tell you what I feel.
 - Senator Williams: Do you think you can be as impartial as Senator Simmons?
 - Senator Fanizza: Senator Simmons is good at what he does. I think I can match his qualities.
 - Senator Moore: I worked closely with John Kriscenski. I believe I would be a good PPT. I intend on graduating during the Winter, so the Senate would have to elect a new PPT for the Spring semester, if I am elected.
- Vote by ballot.
- Election:
 - Filled Seats of the Senate: 22
 - Votes required to be elected: 12
 - Senator Moore: 2 votes

- Senator Fanizza: 8 votes
- Senator Simmons: 12 votes
- Outcome: Senator Simmons was elected President Pro-Tempore. (Vote breakdowns under “PPT Election” in the supplementary document.)

Agenda item 8.0: Open Agenda

- Senator Meier presented a resolution entitled: “Senate Resolution requesting a formal written apology from President Stanley regarding the illegal closure of Stony Brook Southampton.”
 - I felt it necessary to write this resolution because quite a few students expressed an interest in going to a meeting that President Stanley will appear in.
 - A public and written apology is needed.
 - Senator Bertrand: I was not here in the previous year. What made the closure illegal?
 - Senator Meier: I yield to Senator Adams.
 - Senator Adams: President Stanley acted without the consent of the Stony Brook Council in closing Stony Brook Southampton, thus it was illegal.
 - Senator Meier: Many students were affected and harmed by the closure. They sued President Stanley and it has been determined to be illegal by judicial process. Part of the judicial process was for President Stanley to issue an apology.
 - Senator Williams: Did you attend Stony Brook Southampton?
 - Senator Meier: Yes, I was there when it closed.
 - Senator Williams: Were you one of the six students who sued President Stanley?
 - Senator Meier: I was not, but I was involved in the “Save Southampton Campaign.”
 - Senator Adams moved to approve the resolution.
 - Senator Adams: I want the resolution to state that the Chair of the Stony Brook Council should also apologize and for President Stanley’s apology be also linked to on the home page of Stony Brook’s website.
 - Senator Adams moved to amend to add part (4) under resolved, to state: “That a copy of this resolution be hand delivered to President Stanley.”
 - Motion failed for lacking a second.
 - Senator Fanizza: I am uncomfortable putting teeth on this resolution. I believe President Stanley has taken a lot of flak already for this matter and we do not need to add in the chorus of disapproval.
 - Senator Meier: I generally agree with your sentiment. I do feel, however, that it is important for the rest of the Southampton community be informed about this apology.

- Senator Adams: It is our elected duty to “bite the hand that feeds us.” To print out anything otherwise would be a waste of a resolution.
 - Senator Williams: Has President Stanley made an apology?
 - Senator Meier: I believe he has apologized in interviews and informally, but not formally or publically.
 - Senator Adams moved to insert a part (4) under resolved, to read:
 - (4): That a copy of this resolution be hand delivered to, and a receipt of delivery be collected from, both President Stanley and Stony Brook Council Chair Law.
 - Senator Meier moved to amend (4) to state: “That a copy of this resolution be hand delivered to, and a receipt of delivery be collected from, President Stanley.”
 - Senator Meier’s amendment to amend was approved by unanimous consent.
 - The amendment is now deemed friendly.
 - Senator Santiago moved to suspend the rules to extend the meeting time.
 - Motion failed by a vote of 7-13-2. (Roll Call #7).
 - Senator Adams: The letter would be delivered to President Stanley. The PPT, as representing the will of the Senate, could be charged with its delivery, as could the USG President. I would also volunteer if no one else is willing.
 - Senator Platt moved to amend, by striking “closer” and replacing with “closure” in the fifth “Whereas.”
 - Approved as friendly.
 - On the resolution: The motion was approved by a vote of 14-1-7. (Roll Call #8).
- VP Abraham: We need volunteers for the White Panda concert.
 - Senator Santiago: What will these volunteers do?
 - VP Abraham: We need people to sell merchandise, greeters, and additional individuals to help with the concert.
- President Maloof: We would also like two people to help for hospitality.
- Senator Fan: Would you get free tickets?
- VP Abraham: I want to point out that this is a free event to SB students.
- Senator Szesler: Can non-SB students be given entry?
 - VP Abraham: No.
 - VP Abraham: I also would like to invite Senators to the Leadership Fair.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.

08-Sept-2011 Meeting / Roll Call Votes:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	PPT Election	#7	#8
Senator David Adams	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Moore	Y	Y
Senator Oluwasegun Adedapo	Abstain	Y	Y	Abstain	Y	Abstain	Simmons	N	Y
Senator Emily Alcott	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Simmons	N	Y
Senator Shon Augustine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Simmons	N	Y
Senator Lance Bertrand	Abstain	Y	Y	Y	Y	Absent	Simmons	N	Abstain
Senator Tiffany Bibby	Abstain	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Simmons	N	Abstain
Senator Nicholas Ela	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Fanizza	Y	Y
Senator Ray Fan	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Fanizza	N	Abstain
Senator Frank Fanizza	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Fanizza	N	N
Senator Max Gunther	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Fanizza	Y	Y
Senator Eric Lau	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Absent	Simmons	N	Y
Senator Anna Lubitz	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Fanizza	N	Y
Senator Adam Meier	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Abstain	Simmons	Y	Abstain
Senator Sean Moore	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Moore	N	Y
Senator Corey Platt	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Simmons	N	Y
Senator Masood Rustemi	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Absent	Fanizza	Abstain	Abstain
Senator Alexandra Santiago	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Simmons	Y	Abstain
Senator Najee Simmons	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Fanizza	Y	Y
Senator Priya Sohi	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Fanizza	N	Abstain
Senator David Szeszler	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Simmons	Abstain	Y
Senator Andrew Tausz	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Absent	Simmons	N	Y
Senator Ryann Williams	Y	Y	Abstain	Y	N	Y	Simmons	Y	Y
Total: (Yes-No-Abstain)	14-4-3	21-0-0	18-2-1	20-0-1	16-5-0	16-0-2	12;8;2 as above	7-13-2	14-1-7
Outcome of Motion:	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Simmons elected PPT	Failed	Approved