MINUTES[1]

USG Senate Meeting

Thursday, March 3rd, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm. Meeting held in Wang Center – Room 201.

<u>Agenda item 1.0</u>: **Attendance**

The roll was called:

Senator Allen Abraham	Present
Senator Tahir Ahmad	Present
Senator Ory Baum	Present
Senator Spenser Cushing	Present
Senator Samuel Cushner	Absent
Senator Ray Fan	Late
Senator Frank Fanizza	Present - Left early
Senator Christian Giraldo	Late – 7:33 pm
Senator Mahyar Kashan	Present
Senator Sidrah Khan	Present
Senator Thomas Kirnbauer	Present
Senator Yan Leyfman	Present by Proxy (Mr. Sammis)
Senator Deborah Machalow (PPT)	Present
Senator Kirin Mahmud	Absent
Senator Shivani Rampersad	Present
Senator Masood Rustemi	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 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 Najee Simmons	Present
Senator Harminder Singh	Present
Senator Priya Sohi	Present
Senator Peter Stratoudakis	Present
Senator Russell Williams	Present

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President Matthew Graham	Present
Executive Vice President (EVP) Alexander Dimitriyadi (Chair)	Present
Treasurer Mark	Present
Vice President of Academic Affairs Forbes	Absent
Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Jennifer Chan	Absent
Vice President of Communications David Mazza	Absent
Vice President of Student Life Peter Molloy	Absent
Senior Class Representative Dexter Daniel	Present
Junior Class Representative Emilissa Trotman	Absent
Sophomore Class Representative Neville Hall Jr.	Absent
Freshman Class Representative Rodriguez	Absent

Quorum established.

Agenda item 2.0: **Announcements**

The Chair announced new "green-friendly" agenda sheets, in order to conserve paper.

Agenda item 3.0: **Approval of the Minutes from 2/24/2011**

- Motion to amend the minutes, by striking "Wong" and replacing with "Wang" under agenda item 2.0 in the 2/17/2011 minutes.
    - o Motion approved without objection.
- Motion to amend the minutes to strike: "This is something that" under agenda item 10.0 in the 2/17/2011 minutes.
    - o Motion approved without objection.
- Motion to approve the 2/17/2011 minutes, as amended.

o   Motion was approved without objection.

Agenda item 4.0: **Responsible Hall Council Funding Act**

- EVP vacated the Chair. PPT Machalow in the Chair.
- The act was presented by EVP Dimitriyadi and Senator Fanizza.
- EVP Dimitriyadi:
    o   This has been in the works for a long time.
    o   Move Hall Council funding from direct USG funding to a block grant to the RHA, which would allocate funding to individual councils.
    o   Establishes the RHA as an independent agency.
    o   The crux of why USG needs to do this: To move the voucher process for hall councils to RHA, to reduce the operational overhead and paperwork for the USG Treasurer and the Accounting office.
    o   This would begin during this year's budget process.
- Senator Fanizza:
    o   There is a great deal of confusion regarding the budgetary process for residence halls.
    o   Funding through RHA would streamline this process.
- Senator Baum moved to approve the 2011 Responsible Hall Council Act.
    o   Senator Ahmad moved to amend Section 6, Line 6, by striking the text and replacing with: "Hall Councils may not co-sponsor an event with any club other than another Hall Council at Stony Brook University."
        ▪ The amendment was approved without objection.
- On the main motion, the vote was 17-0-1. The motion was approved. (Roll Call #1)
- EVP back in the Chair.

Agenda item 5.0: **2010-2011 Commuter Student Association Readership Contract Act**

- Senator Ahmad moved to approve the 2010-2011 Commuter Student Association Readership Act.
    o   Motion approved by a vote of 17-0-0. (Roll Call #2).

Agenda item 6.0: **Confirmation of Executive Vice-President Nominee, Senator Deborah Machalow**

- President Graham spoke on behalf of the candidate.
    o   Senator Machalow has an in-depth knowledge of Parliamentary procedure, our laws, and other legislative items.
    o   I believe she would be an excellent EVP.
- Senator Machalow:
    o   I have been in USG since 2009.
    o   I was elected PPT of the Senate last month.
    o   I have served on numerous committees, often as Chair.
    o   I have color-coded Robert's Rules of Order.

- o Questions: Senator Ahmad: Is there a vetting committee report on the candidate?
    - ▪ EVP: There is a short paragraph by the vetting committee, included in the agenda.
    - ▪ Senator Cushing: All members of the Vetting Committee believe the candidate "fits the bill" perfectly and would be the most qualified for the post.
- Senator Ahmad moved to confirm the candidate, Senator Machalow, for the post of USG Executive Vice President, effective on March 8th, 2011, at 12:02 am.
    - o Quorum call by Senator Ahmad: There exists a quorum.
    - o On the motion to confirm the candidate:
        - ▪ The candidate was confirmed, by a vote of 16-0-1. (Roll Call #3.)

Agenda item 7.0: **2011 Checks and Balances Act**

- EVP vacated the Chair. PPT in the Chair.
- EVP Dimitriyadi presented the act.
    - o I would like to thank Senator Ahmad for collecting the 165 signatures to bring this legislation directly to the floor.
    - o Major provisions of this act were not included in the most recent restructuring of the USG Code.
- Senator Ahmad moved to approve the 2011 Checks and Balances Act.
    - o The motion was approved, by a vote of 16-0-1. (Roll Call #4.)
- EVP returned to the Chair.

Agenda item 8.0: **Undergraduate Student Government Code Update Regulation Act**

- Senator Machalow presented the act.
    - o This act would create the structure by which the USG Code would be reviewed and updated.
    - o Senator Ahmad: Are the terms "Office of Law Revision" and "Law Revision Council" interchangeable?
        - ▪ Senator Machalow: Yes.
    - o Senator Simmons moved to approve the "Undergraduate Student Government Code Update Regulation Act."
        - ▪ The motion was approved, by a vote of 18-0-0. (Roll Call #5.)

Agenda item 9.0: **Open Agenda**

- President Graham reminded Senators that the University is revising the Student Conduct Code, and requested that all Senators think about any proposed changes they believe should be considered.
- Aarthi (NYPIRG):
    - o NYPIRG has plans for a Legislative Action Day.
    - o Meeting with Congressman Bishop to lobby on behalf of the Clean Air Act.

- EVP Dimitriyadi:
  - We were all elected by the Student body in order to serve them. Everything we do, we have to think about whether any legislation or action we take is in their interest.
  - Think about the implications of your actions for the student body, both today and in the future.
  - I encourage all of you to think about it and do what you think is right. Fight for what you believe in. You can never go wrong doing that – you can never regret decisions you make by adopting this philosophy.
  - Not many people are able to turn over their gavel to their successor; I would like to take that opportunity now to give the gavel to my successor, Deborah Machalow.
  - Incoming EVP Machalow – We have not always agreed, but I believe we have both accomplished a lot and I congratulate you.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

		Roll Call #1	#2	#3	#4	#5
Senator	Abraham	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator	Ahmad	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator	Baum	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator	Cushing	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator	Cushner	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Senator	Fan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator	Fanizza	Abstain	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Senator	Giraldo	Y	Absent	Absent	Abstain	Y
Senator	Kashan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator	Khan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator	Kirnbauer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Proxy	Sammis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator	Machalow	Chair	Y	Abstain	Chair	Y
Senator	Mahmud	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Senator	Rampersad	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator	Rustemi	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator	Simmons	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator	Singh	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator	Stratoudakis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator	Sohi	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senator	Williams	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Total:	17-0-1	17-0-0	16-0-1	16-0-1	18-0-0
	Decision:	Passes	Passes	Passes	Passes	Passes

Y = Yes; N = No; A = Abstain; Ab = Absent

Total is in Y-N-A format.