**STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING**

**Campus Center, Assembly Hall**

**September 25, 2013, 8:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING ROLL

*Chairman Witte convened the meeting at 8:30 PM.*

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. *The following Senators were present:*

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| --- | --- |
| * Sen. Finney Abraham * Sen. Stephanie Augustin * Sen. Nadia Belkin * Sen. Alexa Cappola * Sen. Devin Caravello * Sen. Corey Caramello * Sen. Patrick Cronin * Sen. Khadija Cuevas * Sen. Stanley De la Cruz * Sen. Skylar DeAngelo * Sen. Beroro Efekoro * Sen. Benjamin Engwer * Sen. Alex Flood * Sen. Robert Forman * Sen. Michael Gray III * Sen. Roevelle Gustave * Sen. Chenaniah Henderson * Sen. Patrick Cronin * Sen. James King | * Sen. Matthew Krush * Sen. Stephanie Leader * Sen. Michael Longo * Sen. Daniel Markisello * Sen. Cylas Martell-Crawford * Sen. Casey Olszewski * Sen. Kathleen Orlan * Sen. Diana Parisi * Sen. James Perry * Sen. Shireen Ramnath * Sen. Zach Ripka * Sen. Johnathon Rood * Sen. Roger Rook * Sen. Brittany Russell * Sen. Vanessa Salamy * Sen. Emma Schwab * Sen. Jacob Sherretts * Sen. Michael Snyder * Sen. Mike Torres * Sen. Connor Wilkins |

**Absent with an excuse**: Sen. Haris Alic, Sen. Anthony Balzano, Sen. Allie Faver, Sen. Ashley Klingberg, Sen. Joe Messmer, Sen. Zach Ripka

**Absent without an excuse:** Sen. Steven Nevins, Sen. Lyle Weintraub

**Also in attendance:** Vice President Nick Butler, Chief of Staff Lee Stanton, Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Cohen, Director of Academic Affairs Derek Ellis, Director of Student Group Affairs Katie Thomas, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach Rose Avellino, Director of Gender and Sexuality Concerns Emma Suarez, Chief Justice John Bogil, Director of Multi-Cultural Affairs Rachel Arnaud, Deputy Comptroller Tyler Paladino, Director of Programming Ajon Crump, Director of Marketing Steven Valentine, and Deputy Comptroller Robel Moges.

**Absent with excuse:** Director of Dippikill Outreach Alexa Klein, President Francis Agyemang

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

-Motion to skip minutes by Sen. Snyder, Second by Sen. Torres. *Motion passes*

-Motion to approve minutes with unanimous consent by Sen. DeAngelo, Second by Schneider. *Motion passes.*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-No Comment

UNIVERSITY REPORT:

-Director of Athletics Lee McElroy speaks on behalf of a possible donation for the new football stadium. Speaks to the importance of SA sponsorship

* Student leadership support is important for university leaders.
* UAlbany's atheltic department is expanding and producing positive results. ----Since his arrival in 2000, program has moved to D1 level, attended NCAA 8 times.
* Student athletes are more engaged in school and successful. Student athletes have 75% graduation rate with 3.0 average GPA's.
* Investing in our stadium is investing in school pride. Pep rally had over 1,000 in attendance, higher than previous years.
* During tours, students ask to see stadium whereas before it went unnoticed. Good for the university's image.
* *Opens for comments and suggestions.*

-Sen. DeAngelo: Is an SA donation necessary for stadium construction?

-Director Mcelroy: An SA donation would help close the gap on costs.

* Stadium cost $19 million dollars
* State provided $13 million - $7 million needs to be raised privately.

-Sen Longo : Will the donation go directly to the foundation or to the athletic department?

-Director McElroy: It will go directly to the foundation.

-Sen. De la Cruz: Will SA receive any recognition for donating?

-Director McElroy: Anyone who has donated over $1,000 will have their name on stadium. If student leadership donates, it will get formal recognition, including a gift displayed where desired.

-Sen. Torres: Will there be further requests for donations or is this a one-time donation?

-Director McElroy:

* This will be a one-time request.
* The money will be used to help pay off a $6 million bond from private sources. Office is located in SEFCU arena room 215 for any inquiries or comments. Emphasizes one last time the importance of leadership investment.

*Steps down.*

*Next to take podium*: Assistant Director in Student Involvement and Leadership, Jessica Crevsky

-Crevksy:

* Office is located in CC 130, make sure to use reservation desk to plan events accordingly.
* Opens for questions.

-Sen. Skylark: Will you be working with the Director to improve the efficiency of the office to better serve student groups?

-Crevsky:

* Role is more focused on planning events but can come to her to discuss suggestions for improvement.
* Filling a new position, open to hear suggestions- Office is located near disability office by Student Involvement suite 130.
* Office hours: Wednesday Thursday Friday: 2pm- Midnight

Saturday 8pm-3am.

*Steps down*

JUDICIAL REPORT:

No report

BOARD OF FINANCE REPORT:

No report

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

-Chairman Witte:

* Encourages all senators to sign up to the Facebook group, about 10-15 senators have not yet. Must verify UAlbany email to get in, good way to get last minute changes and updates.
* Looking to create an ad hoc committee on dining. Come up with suggestions for improvement or comments on what dining is doing well. If interested send Witte an email.
* After Committees are done, Government Operation and Appropriations are to stay to make final arrangements:

-Govt Op will appoint sub groups

-Appropriations, some student groups still must apply for budget

* Senator Olszewski and Sen. De La Cruz won the raffle to attend the meet and greet.

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

-Vice President Butler:

* Everyone has been paid, incase Senators didn’t know, the Vice President does Payroll
* Tomorrow will be attending a meeting with President Jones to discuss reinstating fountain day -though does not seem probable.
* Chief Stanton will be reporting on behalf of President Francis.

-President Report (Chief of Staff Stanton):

* President has an engagement with a student group, could not be in attendance tonight.
* Currently taking applications for people who are looking to serve as an Albany Police Dept. liaison. If interested send application to SA office. Will distribute flyers.
* President Jones is hosting an open session on Monday, November 4th at 4:30pm to address student questions. We will be there.

-Chief of Staff: nothing to report. Excuses Directors who have no reports.

**-Director of Programing**- Ajon Krump: Reminder that Speaker Series will be 3 days away. Opens for questions. *No questions.*

**-Director of Multicultural Affairs-** Rachel Arnaud:

* In process of bringing a farmers market to campus, reached out to Mary Ellen at Sustainability, still awaiting response. Planning for October 30-31 at small fountain podium area during the day.
* Reached out to Albany BID, an organization that is based out off Central Ave that reaches out to all businesses on Central Ave to network and branch out services to people in the area. Colline mentioned she will be assisiting Arnaud in looking to have them come. Opens for questions. No questions.

**-Chairman Witte (Reads Email from Dippiikill Outreach Director):**

* Block party a success, many students have never heard of Dippikill and were informed of its existence.
* Dippikill representatives are planning to attend a lounge party funded by UAS around November to come and further speak to students. New flyers to be ready next week to spread the word.

**-Director of Legislative Affairs-** Mark Cohen:

* Discusses voting registration drive.
* In response to last year's "May Day" revolutionary coalition group who expressed disaccord with how things were going on campus, President Jones will be holding an open forum this year on Monday Nov 4. 4:30pm-5:30pm.
* There will be pre-meeting only for students at 3:30pm-4:30pm. Requesting for student leadership to compile a list to direct to President Jones. Any issue is welcome no matter how minor.

**Director of Community Outreach and Engagement**- Rose:

* The Pine Hills clean-up will take place on October 27.
* Holding a community service challenge. Any group to have the most people at the event will win a free night at Dippikill. Look for email that will be sent out soon with more information.

**Director of Academic Affairs-** Derek Eillis:

* Working with Career Services to have a Career Fair in February. Aiming for 2,000 people. Will be working to have more student involvement, perhaps professional groups such as ABLE.
* Seeking to have more part time employers to come in, not just full time, post grad jobs. Employment opportunities that won't intimidate underclassmen such as internships and law related positions.

-*Question*: Sen. : Will adding part time employers lessen prestige?

-Dir. Ellis: No, there will be jobs that offer managerial positions, prestige will be maintained.

*No further questions. Steps down.*

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:

**Bill 1314-028: (Associate Justice- Christin Brown)**

-Sen. Torres: Motion to combine bills 28 29 30 and 31

-Second Sen. Rook.

-Chairman Witte asks for any objections.

-Objected by Sen. Markisello.

-Vote to combine the bills. Need majority vote for motion to pass (51%)

-Sen. Krush: Motion to vote via hand count. Second by Sen. Cronin.

-In Favor: 29 Opposed: 5 Abstentions: 3

*-Bill passes*. Bills 29-31 are combined and will be voted on as a block.

-Chairman Witte asks candidates stand for Supreme Court appointments.

-Chief of Staff Lee Stanton (filling in for President Francis):

* Brings up Associate Justice candidates.
* Names them. Endorses Presidents appointments, encourages yes vote. Candidates will be speaking for themselves.

-Chairman Witte: Candidates to speak, if senators have any questions- raise hand.

*-*Appointees present themselves, major, experience in the field.

-Chairman Witte: Opens for questions/motions.

-Motion by Sen. Efekoro to vote for Unanimous Consent

-Second by Sen. Schwab.

-Chairman Witte asks for any objections. No objections. Motion passes. -Congratulations to appointees

**Bill 1314-034: Committee Structure: Chairman Witte**

*Vice Chair takes the podium, Chairman Witte will present bill in center.*

-Chairman Witte:

* Not everyone received their first choice, did best he can to fit in preferences.
* Selection criteria was based primarily on Chairs, Veteran Senators and those who ran for Vice Chairs who have demonstrated willingness to take leadership roles.
* Considered relevant experience in choosing committee chairs consolidating with Vice Chair Krush.
* Chairman in charge of final assignments.
* Cites by-law: if attend three consecutive committee meetings, then will be considered a member of the committee, provided there are no caps on the committee. Allowed to serve on multiple committees.

-Vice Chair Krush: Opens for motions.

Motion for Questions by Sen. Efekoro. Second by Sen. De la Cruz

-Sen. Efekoro: Why wasn't there an extensive review of resumes and qualifications?

-Chairman Witte:

* Had to sort through 47 senators, it would have taken an extensive amount of time to schedule to interview them all.
* Relevant experience was strongly considered. Particularly those who have demonstrated leadership initiatives from previous senate meetings and overall work ethic.
* More candidates than available slots.
* The Chair of Appropriations would automatically be appointed to the Board of Finance along with another member [from Appropriations].

- Sen. Markisello (follow up question):

* Selection criteria presupposes that those people were properly chosen. Why isn't there a standard procedure that extensively reviews all qualified candidates?

-Chairman Witte:

* There are 47 senators, this number will continue to grow. It is impossible to interview all 47 people in one week.
* Requested senators to submit relevant coursework that will display qualifications.
* Consulted with Vice Chair for final decisions, not everyone can be pleased.

-Sen. Efekoro:

* Why were people automatically appointed to the Board of Finance?

-Chairman Witte:

* The Appropriations Committee was considered first, knowing that the Chair would automatically be appointed to Board of Finance along with one other member.
* Vice Chair Krush was also appointed based on his experience as Comptroller last year and his extensive financial background.

-Sen. Efekaro:

* If everyone from Appropriations will be in Finance aren't they basically doing the same thing, why have two separate committees?

-Chairman Witte:

* Board of Finance and Appropriations Committee are two different entities. Appropriations is specifically concerned with this year's financial account, while the Board of Finance is concerned with setting the budget for the following year.
* Not everyone from Appropriations will be in Finance.

-Sen. De la Cruz:

* Expresses disaccord with the way committee structure was formed because there are new senators that are not well known.

- Sen: Motion to appoint James Perry as second ranking member of Government Operations committee. Required two chairs

-Sen. Perry: Accepts nomination.

-Motion to make Senator Gray Senior Ranking Member

-Motion by senator Second Engwer

-Chair Witte finds it friendly.

Motion to debate. Second. *Motion passed, Debate Forum opens.*

Debate Forum.

-Sen. Markisello:

* Finds it ill-considered how quickly the committee structure was put together. Most important Chairman task is to put together the committee structure and appoint chair. Should have spent more time and effort to ensure every person is in the best place possible.
* Risks retention of senators, cites last year just 15 senators remained by the end of the year.
* Suggests senators turn down this committee structure and send it back for further review.

-Sen. Schwab:

* Expresses disaccord with Sen. Markisello's suggestion. Cites importance of committees starting up soon to respond to student groups.

-Sen. De la Cruz (in response to Sen. Schwab):

* As important as it is for committees to begin working soon it is more so important to have qualified people in the right positions.

- Sen. Efekoro:

* The committee structure has come too far to start over now.
* Student groups are waiting impatiently for funding, if anything we should approve now.

-Sen. Olszewski:

* In essence of time, it would not make sense to push it further down the road, need finalized structure now.

- Sen. Rook:

* Waiting for a full house senate already created delays. Waiting to finalize committee structure would further prolong delivering effective services to constituents.
* There will be no progression if further time and effort is spent on reviewing each resume and interviewing each candidate. If committees are not finalized by today, there will be nothing to report at weekly meetings.

- Sen. Efekaro*:* Motions to move to vote.

- Sen. Markisello:

* Emphasizes that the committee structure should not be rushed. Cites that instead of being done on Friday morning could have taken the weekend to make further considerations and waited to submit a finalized version on Monday morning.
* Asserts that the way the structure was composed is reprehensible. Disagrees that it must be finalized by today since the senate is currently a week ahead of schedule as compared to last year.

- Sen. Rook:

* Expresses disaccord with Sen. Markisello's assertion. A week ahead of schedule is advantageous and would be better served by getting started on work.

- Chairman Witte:

* Emphasizes that the email he sent out explicitly stated to bring any questions, comments or concerns within a week for changes to be done.

-Sen. De la Cruz:

* Recalls responding to that email.
* States that with 200 student groups composed of minorities, the Appropriations committee should be composed of senators that represent this.

- Sen. Torres:

* Although many senators may feel displeased by the appointments, Chairman Witte never prohibited the submission of extensive documentation to further attest to their qualifications.
* All senators had the opportunity to take the initiative to better promote themselves for the positions.

-Sen. Engwer:

* Senate committees have caps- unfortunately not everyone can always get what they want.

- Chairman Witte:

* Reiterates that there is a chance senators will graduate or leave for an internship in the spring. There is a chance for positions to open up over the next 3 months going into the spring semester.

- Vice Chair Krush:

* Cites last year as an example of new senators entering at the beginning of spring semester.
* Last year committee members were switched up.

-Vice President Butler:

* Cites personal example of beginning freshman year in a less than desirable committee. Advises senators to make the best of the committee assigned and there is potential for growth.

- Sen. Torres: Motion for Questions

-Sen. Skylark: Seconds motion

-Sen. Efekoro:

* What sort of criteria was considered for appointments?

-Chairman Witte:

* People who demonstrated commitment to take on leadership roles- cites Sen. Torres as an example.
* There were limited positions. Considered relevant work experience.

-Sen. Efekoro:

* Simply running for a position does not indicate they should be appointed for a committee. Other things should be considered such as work experience and time spent in the senate.

- Chairman Witte (in response):

* Agrees. Other aspects such as service to the students, ability to command a room, be listened to and have a greater impact on constituents were concentrated on.
* Candidates that are able to efficient and influential.

- Sen. Caravello: Did those candidates that were supported by other senators receive stronger consideration?

- Chairman Witte:

* Did take the opinions of other senators into account.
* Considered candidates that have taken the initiative to be leaders.
* Candidates who people will want to listen to and who have support.
* Those who are able to organize committees by being efficient and effective.

- Sen. Schwab motions to vote via roll call.

-Second by Skylark. No objections.

Vote via roll call.

30 in favor. 5 oppose. 3 abstentions.

*Bill passes.*

**Bill 1314-033 (Board of Finance Appointment- Matthew Krush)**

- Chairman Witte: Introduces Vice Chair Krush, citing financial experience.

- Vice Chair Krush: cites experience and reasoning for wanting to be on the Board.

Motion to UC. Objection by Sen. Markisello.

-Sen. Markisello: Objects to appointment, cites the two year position and Vice Chair's senior year standing.

-Chairman Witte: Appoints Sen. Longo in his place.

Motion to UC. *Bill passes.*

**Bill 1314-035 (Board of Finance Appointment- Roger Rook)**

**-**Chairman Witte:

* Introduces Sen. Rook as candidate
* Cites Sen. Rook leadership initiatives regarding sending email with suggestions on who will be a better fit to swap committee positions with him. (Sen. Marisello)

-Sen. Rook:

* Introduces himself and his experience being involved in the budget process.
* Deeply involved on campus, proficient in Board of Finance and Appropriations duties.

- Sen. Russell: Asks what other organizations Sen. Rook is currently involved with on campus

- Sen. Rook: states other involvement.

-Sen Schwab motions to vote by UC. Second by Forman. No objections. *Bill passes.*

**Bill 1314-036 (Board of Finance Appointment- Michael Longo)**

-Chairman Witte: Presents Sen. Longo as nomination for the two year appointment in the Board of Finance. Ranking member of Appropriations committee (just approved).

-Sen. Longo: introduces himself, his experience and involvement on campus.

Motion to UC by Sen. Torres. Second Cronin. No objections. *Bill passes*

**Bill 1314-037 (Board of Finance Appointment- Benjamin Engwer)**

-Sen. Markisello: Objects to Bill 37 in consideration of the question because his appointment does not need to be approved by the Senate (automatic).

-Chairman Witte: Cites recent innovations that involve legislative tracking, keeping minutes to ensure better oversight. Thus even if appointment is automatic, will go forward with voting for senate approval.

Motion to UC by Vice Chair Krush.

Motion to vote via roll call by Sen. Leader. Second by Torres.

Vote is taken via roll call. *Bill passes.*

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

CLOSING REMARKS

CLOSING ROLL and Adjournment

*Senators adjourned. Procreation must stay.*