**STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING**

**Campus Center, Assembly Hall**

**October 16, 2013, 8:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING ROLL

* *Chairman Witte convened the meeting at 8:35 PM.* 
  + Pledge of Allegiance
  + *The following Senators were present:*

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| --- | --- |
| * Sen. Finney Abraham * Sen. Haris Alic * Sen. Stephanie Augustin * Sen. Nadia Belkin * Sen. Alexa Cappola * Sen. Devin Caravello * Sen. Corey Carmello * Sen. Patrick Cronin * Sen. Khadija Cuevas * Sen. Stanley De la Cruz * Sen. Skylar DeAngelo * Sen. Beroro Efekoro * Sen. Benjamin Engwer * Sen. Allie Faver * Sen. Alex Flood * Sen. Michael Gray II * Sen. Roevelle Gustave * Sen. Chenaniah Henderson * Sen. Brad Hershenson * Sen. James King | * Sen. Matthew Krush * Sen. Stephanie Leader * Sen. Michael Longo * Sen. Daniel Markisello * Sen. Cylas Martell-Crawford * Sen. Joe Messmer * Sen. Casey Olszewski * Sen. Kathleen Orlan * Sen. Shireen Ramnath * Sen. Zach Ripka * Sen. Johnathon Rood * Sen. Roger Rook * Sen. Brittany Russell * Sen. Vanessa Salamy * Sen. Emma Schwab * Sen. Michael Snyder * Sen. Mike Torres * Sen. Connor Wilkins |

**Absent with an excuse**: Sen. Ashley Klingberg

**Absent without an excuse:** Sen. James Perry, Sen. Lyle Weintraub, Sen. Jacob Sherretts

**Also in attendance:** President Francis Agyemang, Vice President Nick Butler, Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Cohen, Director of Academic Affairs Derek Ellis, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach Rose Avellino, Director of Gender and Sexuality Concerns Emma Suarez, Comptroller Lee Stanton, Deputy Comptroller Tyler Paladino, Director of Programming Ajon Crump, UAlbany Football Team, Men's Club Soccer, Middle Earth.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

-Motion to skip reading of the minutes by Sen. Snyder, second by Sen. Cronin.

-Motion to approve minutes with unanimous consent by Sen. Deangelo, Second by Sen. Cronin.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Sen. Deangelo: Announces that the Young Americans for Liberty student group hosted a successful Second Amendment event, attracting media and attention from local political groups.

-Director of Programming Ajon Crump: Has invited UAlbany Football team player in today to speak on behalf of last week's stadium vote.

-UAlbany Football Team: Sincerely thanks the Senate for their contribution and supporting student athletes.

-Sen. Olszewski: Informs senators of a non-profit organization, City Kids smoothies and advocates for the support of senate.

OPENING REMARKS:

-Chairman Witte: Needs 3 students to serve on academic committees for the Undergraduate Academic Council. Any senators who are interested should send email or reply to the one that will sent out with more information.

-Vice Chair Krush: No report

UNIVERSITY REPORT:

No report

JUDICIAL REPORT:

No report

BOARD OF FINANCE REPORT:

-Sen. Longo: Board met to discuss adding a 1250 position.

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

-President Francis:

* Reminds senators that Kaplan will be hosting free practice LSAT, MCAT and GRE tests. Register online.
* Student services offers several discounts with food and products, see albany.edu/studentassociation to learn more.

-Vice President Nick Butler:

* Everyone has been paid.
* Held meeting with University administration to discuss reinstating fountain day, at this point an alternative event seems more likely. The university is against any event being held in the fountain due to its new architectural design. SA is looking to preserve the name “Fountain Day” for the alternative event.

-Director of Student Group Affairs Katie Thomas: No new updates.

-Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Cohen:

* Reports that Alexis Klein, a Dippikill representative intends to begin filming a promotional video for the camping site on Saturday. New advertisement flyers are being finalized.
* Announces the issues that will be discussed at the President forum, including Wifi connection, diversity in faculty, etc.

-Director of Gender and Sexuality concerns Emma:

* LGBTQ fair was successful, a lot of community support.
* The Coming Out Reception will be held on October 24th at 7:30pm to kick of LGBTQ history month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

-Chair of the Rules and Administration Committee Sen. Messmer:

* Committee is currently considering the bill regarding senator attendance at student group events.
* Will be attending the University’s faculty senate meeting at 2:45pm at University hall.

-Chair of Appropriations Committee Sen. Engwer:

* Committee meetings will be held Tuesdays at 7pm in the SA office.
* Committee considered three bills at last night’s meeting, representatives of student groups are present at tonight’s session.

-Chair of Community Engagement and Outreach Sen. Torres:

* Tabled with Director Rose, students expressed a lot of interest in SA.
* Reminds senators the Pine Hills clean up initiative will be held on Sunday, October 27th from12pm-3pm at Ridgefield Park.
* Seeking to promote the SA service challenge.

-Chair of Government Operations Sen. Wilkins:

* Committee will meet tomorrow (Oct. 17) at 7pm.

-Chair of Constituent Relations Sen. Cronin:

* Committee has not met this week, meetings will typically take place on Tuesday nights.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:

-Motion to move Bill 1314-046to the front of the legislative docket, Second by Sen. Krush.*Motion passes.*

**Bill 1314-046 (Appropriations-Pitch Please):**

-President of Pitch Please: Presents the group, currently the only co-ed acapella group on campus.

* There are currently 25 members, 8 people have auditioned.
* Group has selected songs, performance expected to take place at the end of October.
* Group intends on participating in the National Acapella Competition to gain national recognition, entry is $250. Appropriations fund will go directly towards funding entrance fee.
* Will fundraise for groups other financial needs.
* Opens for questions

-Sen. Olszewski: What type of fundraisers will be held to gain additional funds?

- President of Pitch Please: Group will be selling pinnies, scheduled for October 23rd and plans on selling bracelets in the near future.

*No further questions.*

*-*Motion to vote by unanimous consent Sen. Alic, second by Sen. Cronin.

No objections, *Bill passes.*

-**Bill 1314-044 (Appropriations- Men's Club Soccer)**

-Sen. Engwer:

* Presents the Men’s Club Soccer group, announces the dilemma the group has recently been faced with. Group has been around since September 2002, and has never been permanently recognized.
* After careful review with the Comptroller, reports that there is no record of funding for the past 11 years the group has been in existence at the University.
* Due to a technicality, Appropriations can only allocate the initial $250, although group is requesting over $3,000 dollars.

-Sen. Markisello:

* Proposes a way to work around the by-law’s provision. Appropriations can submit an amendment permitting the group to overspend up to the original amount requested.

*Session breaks to permit Appropriations to include the amendment into the bill.*

*Session reconvenes*

-Chairman Witte:

* Appropriations has proposed an amendment to the bill, stating the group shall be allowed to spend up to $3,053 without penalty.
* Opens for motions or objections.

Motion by Sen. Leader to add the amendment to bill, second by Sen. Schwab.

No objections, *amendment has been added to the bill.*

*Questions forum*

-Sen. Olszewski: Has the club tried to fundraise?

-President of Club Soccer: Group has not privately fundraised. The group is recently starting over due to problems with past e-board members, including expulsion of former president.

-Sen. Olszewski: How does the group intend to ensure the group will remain afloat after current eboard graduates?

- President of Club Soccer:

* The new e-board consists of mainly underclassmen, he himself a sophomore.
* Once current e-board terms are over, the club expects to be recognized and better organized. Successors will be actively involved to ensure maintenance of t in how maintaining the club.

Sen. Olszewski: Inquires on whether the club has played in any tournaments over the past eleven years.

-President of Men's Club Soccer: The group has played in several tournaments, including Northeast Regionals in Syracuse.

-Sen. Alic: Questions how the group has been able to finance itself without SA funds for the past eleven years they've been on campus.

-President: The group has been extremely disorganized; past e-boards have not left any record of financial history.

-Sen. Olszewski: Does the group intend to go to nationals?

-Club Soccer President: Yes.

-Sen. Markisello: What is the money needed for?

-Club Soccer President:

• Charter currently has a financial hold.

• $25 hundred will be used to rent buses as transportation, the rest for hiring bus drivers.

Motion to vote via roll call by Sen. Leader, Second by Sen. Cronin.

Roll call vote on bill with amendment:

**In favor**: 34 **Opposed**: 3 **Abstentions**: 5

*Bill passes*

**Bill 1314-045- (Appropriations-Middle Earth)**

-Sen. Engwer: Middle Earth is requesting $10,000 to hire a guest speaker for a program during sexuality week in February.

-Middle Earth representative: Describes the active role of role Middle Earth on campus, including providing several student services, peer outreach programs, and support for mental health issues and alcohol abuse.

-Director of Programming Ajon Crump:

• Sits on the committee that plans sexuality week, is strongly opposed to the suggestion of allocating money to Middle Earth from the Programming budget. The purpose of Appropriations is for students to prove why they need funds in which Appropriations will honor the request. It is not the job of Programming to fund this.

• SA has always funded this in the past since state funds are not allowed to be used for sexuality week.

• Sexuality week has been really successful; last year had a turnout of 800 students although there was an original 700 student limit.

-Middle Earth Representative:

• This program reaches out to students and shows the State of New York and the community of Albany that the university supports building happy and healthy students.

• Sexuality week is scheduled for February; Middle Earth has 4 months to market and book guest speaker Sandra Fluke.

-Sen. Engwer: Points out that another factor considered in the Appropriations decision was requesting 10 thousand dollars is a large part out of their 68 thousand dollar budget.

-Sen. Deangelo: Asks to hear the logic of the Appropriations committee to bring the bill on the floor although it failed in committee.

-Sen. Engwer: Mostly out of a concern of relevancy; whether the 10 thousand dollars should be allocated from Appropriations or Programming.

-Sen. Deangelo: Questions why transferring the money from the Programming would be difficult.

-Director of Programming Ajon Crump: The transfer is not difficult in a logistical sense, but difficult because the Programming budget was specifically broken down to fund Speaker series and Parkfest.

-Sen. Markisello: Why can’t the money left over from speaker series be used?

-Director Ajon Crump: The surplus from the last speaker series event has already been rolled into planning Parkfest at the stadium. Programming intends on booking a big artist for the sake of diversity. Need as much money as possible to ensure a successful event.

-Vice President Nick Butler: Allocates time to Director Marc Cohen

-Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Cohen: Questions why the group cannot go to the University to ask for support.

-Director Ajon Crump: The University is unable to fund this event; the state government has threatened to withdraw state dollars from the University for funding events under this context.

-Sen. Efekoro: Asks to hear the history of why state funds have been withdrawn for events such as these.

-Licensed Psychologist at UAlbany, Middle Earth Advocate:

* Presents herself as the director responsible for organizing this event for the 20 years.
* Sexuality week represents SA making an investment in student privilege to have sex education at UAlbany.
* UAlbany was the first university in the country to host a sexuality week.
* In 1989, a New York State legislator approached the University’s president and believed sexuality week was promoting prostitution by distributing condoms. Ordered the university to shut down the event or the state would pull funding from UAlbany.
* Since then, protections have been put in place to ensure no state dollars are being used to host these events. Allows the University to discuss LGBTQ and sexual health issues and sex issues without placing the entire university at risk.
* Appreciates any support from the SA to keep this event alive.

-Sen. Longo: Has Middle Earth approached UAS for grants?

-Middle Earth Psychologist: Yes. Have received $1 thousand from UAS, asked for $1 thousand more for other expenses outside of booking speaker for the event.

-Sen. Olszewski: How much is Sandra Fluke requesting?

-Middle Earth Representative: $7,500 to speak, $2,500 for room and accommodations. This includes a discount rate.

-Sen. Cronin: Believes it is the responsibility of Appropriations determine where the funds should come from.

Motion to table bill indefinitely by Sen. Cronin, second by Sen. Markisello. Objections: 2.

*Motion fails.*

-Sen. Olszewski: Why table it indefinitely?

-Sen. Cronin: Senators should not be voting on this.

-Sen. Markisello: Should be tabled indefinitely, senators cannot vote on the bill as is, especially since it failed in committee.

-Vice President Nick Butler: If Appropriations wants senators to consider the bill, senators should debate and vote today.

Vote on tabling the bill: In favor: 8 Opposed: 24 Abstentions: 6 *Fails*

Bill continues remains on the floor for consideration.

-Sen. Augustin: What is the Programming budget?

-Director Ajon Crump: 250 thousand dollars. Currently planning on allocating the majority of funds for Parkfest.

-Sen. Schwab: Is this a time sensitive issue?

-Director Ajon Crump: Yes, the group has been on hold since July.

Motion to debate by Sen. Henderson, second by Sen. Leader.

*Debate Forum*

-Sen. Deangelo: Should amend the bill to come out of Programming or to split costs with Appropriations.

-Sen. Ripka: Senate voted yes on funding a stadium that will not impact the daily lives of students, this organization definitely will affect students positively, SA should fund this.

-Sen. De La Cruz: Although the money is a large amount from the budget, it is not as much as booking other speakers.

-Sen. Alic: Believes it is a bad idea to allocate funds out of Programming. A main goal for SA this year was to improve Parkfest. Deducting funds would significantly hinder this goal.

-Sen. Krush: Middle Earth’s budget was cut in last year’s budget meeting, no one knows why. They are hosting a positive event for student life, should receive the funds.

-Sen. Schwab: The group’s budget was cut last year, now they are back requesting more. This shows they really did need these funds. Senate should restore their budget to what it used to be.

-Sen. De La Cruz: Does not agree with taking money from Programming. They did a good job for staying within their budget and having a surplus. SA should not punish them for a job well done by taking back funds.

-Sen. Rook: Most senators agree that this event is good for students and for the university. Biggest disagreement is where the funds should be retrieved from. No one can remember why Middle Earth’s budget was cut in last year’s budget meeting. SA should fund this.

-Vice President Nick Butler: Point of info- last year’s budget meeting explicitly stated that any funds left over from speaker series would go towards Parkfest.

Motion to move into Question by Sen. Schwab, second by Sen. Rook.

*Questions forum*

Motion to vote on the bill as it stands, via roll call by Sen. Messmer, second by Sen. King.

**In favor:** 18, **Opposed**: 6, **Abstentions**: 5.

*Bill passes.*

**Bill 1314-047 Appropriations- Stipend Student Advocate**

-Chair of Board of Finance Sen. Longo: Board met to deliberate and conclude that Michaela Torres, who works as a counselor for students going through judicial system 10 hours a week is worthy of a stipend. .

-Michaela Torres: Works as a student advocate, this is her 2nd year serving.

Works ten required hours like every other director, does work outside office, meets with university representatives, and does research to help students in legal trouble.

-Vice President Nick Butler: Does enough work to be considered a full 2150 student and asks senate to vote to consider her such. She plays an important role on this campus.

-President Francis: Attests that Michaela has was always around doing work with SA directors for a year without a stipend.

Motion to vote via hand-count to amend the amount to 2150 by Sen. Longo,

**In favor:** 21 **Opposed**: 10 **Abstentions**: 7 abstentions.

*Motion to amend passes.*

-Chairman Witte: Bill now reads $2150*.*

*Questions forum*

Sen. Augustin: You do all the work of a Director without receiving payment?

-Michaela: Yes.

-Sen. Deangelo: Where will the money be coming from?

-Sen. Longo: Reserves.

-Sen. Engwer: Do you receive credits for this work? Why not?

-Sen. Michaela: No, received credit last year and is not eligible to receive credit this year.

Motion to move to debate by Sen. Leader, second by Sen. Wilkins.

*Debate forum*

-Sen. Leader: If the issue is whether to create a stipend halfway through the year, it should be done in budget deliberations.

-Vice President Nick Butler: There is a bylaw saying u could create this stipend outside budget deliberations.

-Sen. Henderson: If a student is doing more than what is required without expecting compensation, they should get paid.

-Motion to move to Questions by Sen. Markisello, second by Sen. Krush.

*Questions forum*

Motion to vote via roll call by Sen. King, second by Sen. Krush.

**In favor**: 31 **Opposed**: 7 **Abstentions**: 3

*Bill passes*

**Bill 1314-048 (Chief of Staff-Marc Cohen)**

President Francis: Introduces Marc Cohen, endorses him and trusts him.

-Marc Cohen: Announces he is aware of the responsibilities the role calls for and feels qualified for the position of Chief of Staff.

*Questions forum*

-Sen. Faver: What have past Chiefs of Staff done that you think you can do better?

-Marc Cohen: Will continue the tradition of keeping in touch with executive board members and making sure everyone is doing what they should be doing. Plans to work alongside the President.

-Sen. Olszewski: Is this position higher than the one previously held?

-Marc Cohen: Considers SA an egalitarian board, regardless of title technicality would be honored to act as an evaluator of other board members.

-Vice President: The Chief of Staff is a more important role than Director of Legislative affairs. The Chief of Staff is an official member of the Executive.

Motion to vote via roll call Sen. Leader, second by Sen. Cronin.

**In favor**: 37 **Opposed**: 2 **Abstentions**: 3

*Bill passes.*

Marc Cohen respectfully resigns former position as the Director of Legislative Affairs.

OLD BUSINESS-

NEW BUSINESS-

CLOSING REMARKS

CLOSING ROLL and Adjournment

*Senators adjourned.*