**STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING**

**Campus Center, Assembly Hall**

**October 23, 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. Stanley De la Cruz * Sen. Skylar DeAngelo * Sen. Beroro Efekoro * Sen. Benjamin Engwer * Sen. Alex Flood * Sen. Rob Forman * Sen. Michael Gray II * Sen. Roevelle Gustave * Sen. Chenaniah Henderson * Sen. Brad Hershenson * Sen. James King | * Sen. Ashley Klingberg * 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. Allie Faver

**Absent without an excuse:** Sen. Anthony Balzano, Sen.Patrick Cronin, Sen. Khadija Cuevas, Sen. James King, Sen. Steven Nevins, Sen. Diana Parisi, Sen. James Perry, Sen. Jacob Sherretts, Sen. Michael Snyder, Sen. Lyle Weintraub

**Also in attendance:** President Francis Agyemang, Chief of Staff Marc Cohen, Director of Academic Affairs Derek Ellis, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach Rose Avellino, Director of Gender and Sexuality Concerns Emma Suarez, Deputy Comptroller Robel Moges, Deputy Comptroller Tyler Paladino, Director of Programming Ajon Crump, VOX, African Student Association, Orthodox Christian Student Association, UAlbany Association of Computer Machinery, Multicultural Rainbow Group.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

-Motion to skip reading of the minutes by Sen. Orlan, second by Sen. Rook.

-Motion to approve minutes with unanimous consent by Sen. Schwab, Second by Sen. Cappola

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Sen. De La Cruz: Announces that the mayoral debate hosted this previous weekend attracted 150 attendees. Thanks Sen .Gray for attending.

OPENING REMARKS:

-Chairman Witte:

* There is a Bill that has been removed from the agenda sent in the email. The Executive Spending Policy bill has been withdrawn by Sen. Markisello after it was concluded it qualifies as more of a Board of Finance issue rather than a 300 section bill.
* An amendment has been added to the original bill regarding the Secretary of the Senate stipend. Second to last page is what was approved, the recent amendment to the bill is found on last the page. Sen. Longo must find it friendly.

-Vice Chair Krush: No comment.

UNIVERSITY REPORT:

No report

JUDICIAL REPORT:

No report

BOARD OF FINANCE REPORT:

-Sen. Longo: Still deliberating on cost for insurance policy with Dippikill.

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

-President Francis:

* The Kaplan test prep event held on campus was successful.
* Has recently met with other Executive members to discuss establishing a SA Student Scholarship.

-Chief Of Staff Cohen: Has come up with five finalized topics to discuss at the Presidential forum. The forum will be held at 4:30pm, on November 4th, in LC 25.

-Director of Gender and Sexuality Concerns Emma Suarez: The Coming Out reception will be held tomorrow, October 24th at 7:30pm in the ballroom. There will be free food and a raffle. Doors open at 7pm.

-Director of Programming Ajon Crump: Next Wednesday, October 28, two Greek letter associations will be hosting a “Stereoke” event in LC 13. Invites any Greek or SA organization who would like to participate. Flyers will be distributed to better promote the event.

-Director of Academic Affairs Derek Ellis:

* Has been working on the upcoming career fair, expects a turnout of about 15 hundred students. The fair is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12th in the SEFCU arena, between 1pm-5pm.
* A representative from Student Engagement will be present next week to discuss lesser known programs.
* In the process of reviewing the Great Dane Beginning’s website for freshman and transfer students.

-Director of Multicultural Affairs Rachel Arnaud:

* Announces that complications have arisen in regards to hosting a farmer’s market on campus. In order to cater events, restaurants must have business insurance and thus need extended notice to participate in the farmer’s market.
* Intends on moving the date back to give businesses the time to obtain insurance. Will also be moving the location to the ballroom in response to the recent cold weather.

-Director of Marketing Steven Valentine:

Currently promoting three events:

* The Pine Hills service event in combination with Director Avellino.
* The Presidential forum.
* The Tower of Terror trick or treating event for children from the Albany community hosted by Res Life.

-Director of Rose Avellino:

* The Pine Hills cleanup will take place this Sunday, October 27 from 12pm-3pm at Ridgefield Park.
* The SA Service Challenge will run until the end of this month. Reminds senators to fill out registration form at the myinvolvement website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

* Committee met on Monday, October 21st.
* Committee has begun addressing the issue of senator attendance, will begin to invite senators who have been consistently absent to Rules committee meetings to explain their lack of participation.

-Chair of the Appropriations Committee Sen. Engwer:

* Committee met last night to discuss the bills on tonight’s agenda.
* Reports a grand total of $56,028.88 in the Appropriations budget.

-Chair of Community Engagement and Outreach Sen. Mike Torres:

* Announces that this Sunday, October 27th, there will be an Action for Addiction walk hosted on campus. Proceeds will be donated to help fight addiction. Registration opens at 10:30am, the walk will commence at 11am.
* Committee will meet on Sunday, October 27th at 6pm.

-Chair of the Government Operations Committee Sen. Wilkins:

* Committee met last Thursday and discussed the issue raised at the last Executive session, the situation is still ongoing.
* Next committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 29th, outside the SA office.

-Chair of the Constituent Relations Committee Sen. Cronin:

* Committee met last night to discuss the next budget session and outlined recently recognized groups for next year.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:

* **§1314-049R (Veterans Tuition Resolution)**

-Chief Of Staff Marc Cohen:

* Was approached by a veteran student regarding this bill.
* The bill ensures that veterans pay in-state tuition even after being deployed elsewhere. It will be a good way to thank them for their service.
* The New York State legislature has passed a similar bill; passing this bill signifies that SA supports current policies.

-Chairman Witte: Opens for questions or motions.

Motion to approve by unanimous consent by Sen. Forman, second by Sen. Deangelo. No objections.

*Resolution passes.*

Motion to move Bill **§1314-050** to the end of docket by Sen. Messmer, second by Sen. Deangelo.

**§1314-051 (Appropriations – African Student Association)**

-Sen. Engwer: Introduces Chichi, the President of the African Student Association. The group will be hosting a fashion show charity event, committee has decided to allocate $2500.

-Chichi:

* Usually the charity event is hosted in the campus center ballroom, however the ballroom has been booked this year.
* The group intends to host the fashion show at an outside venue. The venue will cost $2500 and reflects a discounted prize.
* The group has been allocated $6,600 for the past two fiscal years. Programs and events have doubled in the past three years, the same budget does not suffice to meet this year’s demands.

-Sen. Markisello: How much money is needed?

-Chichi:

* Mentions that a lot of expenses have been made out of pocket.

*Distributes a packet outlining budget expenses and event costs.*

* The group is requesting $579 in addition to the $2500 to pay for two more designers.

-Sen. Olszewski: Inquires on the $500 cupcake expense.

-Chichi: The group is hosting people from 8pm-2am, customary to provide food.

-Sen. Flood: What is the purpose of holding this event each year?

-Chichi: The student group seeks to expose the student body to African culture and clothing.

-Sen. Schwab: How much will be donated to charity?

-Chichi: Proceeds will be donated at the end of year, amount depends on the surplus left over after all the events.

-Sen. Messmer: Is the group requesting $3,079 or $2,500?

-Chichi: $3,079- to cover the extra cost of transporting two more designers to the event.

Motion to amend amount requested to $3079 by Sen. Messmer, second by Sen. Efekoro. Objection by Sen. Rood.

Sen. Rood: Why do the cupcakes cost more than other expenses? Expresses opposition to allocating additional funds.

-Chichi: The cupcakes usually cost $650 when they were made by Chartwells, the university’s former dining service. $500 reflects a discounted price from an outside vendor located in Central Avenue.

Motion to vote on amendment by Sen. Messmer, second by Sen. Efekoro

**In favor**: 21 **Opposed**: 7 **Abstentions**: 2

*Amendment passes, amount requested is now $3079.*

Motion to vote via roll call by Sen. Messmer, second by Sen. De la Cruz.

In favor: 18 Opposed: 12 Abstentions: 4

Need a 2/3 majority vote, bill fails.

-Sen. Messmer:

* Senators just voted to increase the amount and now vote in opposition to allocate any funds whatsoever.
* This leaves the student group with 0 funding, urges senators who abstained to vote.

-Chairman Witte: If senators are opposed to increased funding, can vote to bring amount back to original request of $2,500.

-Sen. Deangelo: The opposition will like to bring the bill back to its original form.

Motion to amend the bill to the original requested amount by Sen. Deangelo, second by Sen. Longo. Objections.

-Chairman Witte: Questions on amending the bill to read $2500.

Motion to debate by Sen. Russell, second by Sen. Messmer.

*Debate forum*

-Sen. Messmer: Does not understand why senators just voted to approve additional funding but not in favor of passing the bill.

-Sen. Deangelo: Is not against allocating $2500 for the group's need but is against the additional increase.

-De la Cruz: The group has worked on outlining a budget and has spent money out of pocket to plan this event. They should receive the additional funds.

-Sen. Russell: The senate has allocated up to $10 thousand for other student groups, this is a charity event, they deserve the money.

-Sen. Cappola: Reminds senators that not all funds will go to charity. The group will donate left over funds after subsequent events, but intends on making a revenue as well.

-Sen. Messmer: The student group has presented the senate with detailed information on where the money will be going and why it is needed. Senate should grant their request.

-Sen. Engwer: During the committee meeting, the group originally requested $4,800. Appropriations could not grant them this amount, Chichi went back to make a lot more cuts to the event’s budget in order to reach a minimum of $3079.

-Sen. Messmer: The $3079 represents practically $1800 less than what was originally requested.

-Sen. Krush:

* The bill was amended with 21 in favor of the allocation increase, and 7 against. The bill was unable to pass with just 18 votes in favor and 5 more votes in opposition.
* Would like to hear debate points from those senators who changed their mind.

-Sen. Rood: If the bill failed for the $3079 amount, it should be brought back to be voted on for the $2500 amount.

-Chichi:

* This is an annual event, the first year had a budget of $1,500 and made a $2,000 revenue. Every year since has made money back from hosting this event.
* This is an important event for African students that generates a lot of student participation.
* Last year they were given the same budget as previous years even though they had requested an increase. Tried to appeal but was told by a senator the group would risk losing their entire budget. Respectfully requests approving the $3079, a bare minimum amount that was negotiated down from the original $4,800 requested.

-Sen. Efekoro: Other groups have spent over $10 thousand on guest speakers, would like to see the group receive the funds they need for their event.

Debate capped.

*Questions forum*

Motion to vote via roll call on amending the bill back to $2500 by Sen. Deangelo, second by Sen. Longo.

-Chairman Wiite: Reminds senators that voting no on this amendment would allow the requested amount to stay at $3079.

**In favor**: 7 **Opposed**: 22 **Abstention**: 4

-Chairman Witte: The amendment has failed, bill still reads $3079.

Motion to vote via roll call on the bill as is by Sen. Schwab, second by Sen. Krush

**In favor**: 22 **Opposed:** 6 **Abstentions**: 7

*Bill passes*

**§.1314-052 (Appropriations – UAlbany Association of Computer Machinery)**

-Sen. Engwer: Introduces the new student group, requesting their initial budget of $250.

-President of Computer Machinery student group:

* The group is a branch of the ACM, a nationwide organization for computer science. There are branches all over the U.S.
* The group is open to those interested in computer and information science. Will hold debates, has participated in a debate against the branch at SAGE College. Hosting a video game party, started a website, will be hosting a land party. The money will be useful for competition entrance fees.
* Their next meeting will take place next Wednesday, October 30th in Hum. 115.

Motion to vote via unanimous consent by Sen. Olszewski, second by Sen. Deangelo. No objections.

*Bill passes*

**§.1314-053 (Appropriations – Multicultural Rainbow Group)**

-Event Coordinator Suthasinee: Presents the first international LGBTQ group on campus. Will be hosting a tie fashion show at SEFCU hall, proceeds will go to charity. Requesting initial budget of $250 and asking for volunteers for event.

-Assistant Event Coordinator Gabrielle:

* Total prize for hosting event will be $380, a budget that includes sound and equipment, food and drinks, and decorations. The $250 will be help diminish costs.
* Group intends on fundraising at the event.
* Revenues will be donated to LGBTQ initiatives at UAlbany.

Motion to vote by unanimous consent by Sen. Torres, second by Sen. Caravello. No objections.

*Bill passes*

* **§1314-054 (Appropriations – Orthodox Christian Student Association)**

-Sen. Engwer: Introduces the group to senators.

-Vice President of Orthodox Christian Association:

* An evangelist group, seeking to educate the student body on Christianity and build a community with other students.
* Plans on holding several community events, including a Christmas dinner open to all.

Motion to vote via unanimous consent by Sen. Gray, second by Sen. Torres. No objections.

*Bill passes*

* **§1314-055 (Appropriations – UAlbany VOX)**

-President of VOX:

* The group's name is a Latin word for "voice". They serve a function similar to Planned Parenthood, distributing free contraception and promoting safe sex.
* VOX will also hold numerous events, including the distribution of holiday cards for people infected with AIDS and hosting monthly movie weeks. Will also be participating in Sexuality week in February.
* Group has a big turnout, with over 20 people present at meetings.
* VOX also provides services that can help students apply for temporary health insurance to ensure free STI testing and birth control.

-Sen. Longo: Will this group be distributing contraception to students?

-President of VOX: Yes.

-Chairman Witte: Reminds senators that all decisions should be content neutral, any biases require senators to abstain from voting.

Motion to vote via hand count by Sen. Messmer, second by Sen. Rook.

**In favor**: 31 **Opposed**: 2 **Abstentions**: 3

*Bill passes*

* **§1314-056- (Secretary of the Senate Stipend)**

-Chairman Witte: The second to last page represents the original bill, the last page represents a modification that was imposed after meeting with Julie, asks senators to vote on the bill as shown on the last page of the agenda.

*Sen. Longo finds the modification friendly.*

-Sen. Longo: The Board of Finance has concluded that the Secretary of the Senate is worthy of receiving a $25 stipend per meeting. This represents a fixed amount that will not fluctuate.

-Chairman Witte: The only alternative would be to have an administrative assistant come in to take minutes, who could charge up to $10/hour.

*Questions forum*

-Sen. Markisello: Anyone who receives a stipend must complete weekly office hours.

Motion by Sen. Krush to amend stipend to come from Allocation's budget, Sen. Longo finds it friendly.

*Bill has been amended, no required office hours.*

Motion to vote by unanimous consent by Sen. Forman, second by Sen. Alic. No objections.

*Bill passes.*

* **§1314-050 (Reformed Student Group Attendance Act)**

-Chairman Witte: Explains that because the bill has been deliberated on in the past, any debate forum will be capped.

-Sen. Messmer: This bill has returned, the bill has been rewritten to be placed in a better location in the Bylaws. However, the rest of the language is the same. Has already been approved two weeks ago, should be approved now.

-Sen. Krush: Does a requirement exist in the bylaw that specifies senators must attend student events?

-Sen. Messmer: The original language stated that senators are required to attend four student group events. Bylaws now state that the two specified committees are required to attend three events.

-Sen. Forman: Why are two committees being singled out?

-Sen. Messmer: Two weeks ago there was a vote to specifically require the two committees to attend student events. The Community Engagement and Outreach committee asked to be excluded from the requirement, Rules decided they should not be.

Motion to move into debate by Sen. Forman, second by Sen. Wilkins. Objections.

-Sen. Cappola: This bill was already debated on, a debate forum will only bring up the same issues as before.

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

**In favor**: 26 **Opposed:** 4 **Abstentions**: 4

*Bill passes.*

OLD BUSINESS-

NEW BUSINESS-

CLOSING REMARKS

CLOSING ROLL and Adjournment

*Senators adjourned.*