**STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING**

**Campus Center, Assembly Hall**

**November 11, 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:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Sen. Finney Abraham * Sen. Stephanie Augustin * Sen. Haris Alic * Sen. Nadia Belkin * Sen. Alexa Cappola * Sen. Devin Caravello * Sen. Patrick Cronin * Sen. Khadija Cuevas * Sen. Beroro Efekoro * Sen. Benjamin Engwer * Sen. Allie Faver * Sen. Alex Flood * Sen. Rob Forman * 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. Zach Ripka * Sen. Roger Rook * Sen. Vanessa Salamy * Sen. Emma Schwab * Sen. Michael Snyder * Sen. Connor Wilkins |

**Absent with an excuse**: Sen. Anthony Balzano, Sen. Brittany Russell

**Absent without an excuse:** Sen. Corey Carmello, Sen. De la Cruz, Sen. DeAngelo, Sen. Gray II, Sen. Steven Nevins, Sen. Diana Parisi, Sen. James Perry, Sen. Shireen Ramnath, Sen. Johnathon Rood, Sen. Jacob Sherretts, Sen. Lyle Weintraub

**Also in attendance:** President Francis Agyemang, Vice President Nick Butler, Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Cohen, Director of Academic Affairs Derek Ellis, Director of Legislative Affairs Justyn Turner, Comptroller Lee Stanton, Deputy Comptroller Tyler Paladino, ITS Representative Lisa Trubitt, Apogee Representative Matt McDowell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

-Motion to skip reading of the minutes by Sen. Orlan, second by V.P Butler.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Sen. King:

* Reminds senators an event will be taking place tomorrow, November 14th from 8pm-11pm at the Danes after Dark lounge.
* Every Saturday, Sketchy Characaters performs a free comedy show at the UFood Grill lounge at 6:30pm

-Muliticultural Rainbow Group Representative Gabrielle LaMountain: Announces the group is still in need for models for their charity fashion show. Encourages senators to sign up.

OPENING REMARKS:

-Chairman Witte: Two university representatives are present tonight to discuss Wi-Fi issues on campus. Their primarily goal is to clear up misconceptions regarding wireless service.

-Vice Chair Krush: Regrets he does not have baked goods to offer the senate this week.

UNIVERSITY REPORT:

* **Lisa Trubitt, Assistant Chief Information Officer, ITS.**
* Present tonight to address misconceptions regarding the university’s wireless service and to educate the student body on the realities ITS face.
* Acknowledges that there have been issues with service, especially this semester.

*Points of Information*

* ITS is aware that there are currently places on campus with stronger signals than others and places that do not receive signal at all.
* The high frequency in which everyone is currently connecting to the Wi-Fi service is at odds with how it was originally intended. Today, a single person utilizes several wireless devices on a regular basis, wireless struggles to meet high connectivity demands.
* Instructors have begun to modernize teaching methods, wireless is now frequently used for tests and daily classroom functions, contributing to wireless traffic.
* Most LC’s do not have wireless installed; faculty originally expressed concerns over allowing WiFi access during lectures to prevent student distraction.
* A major impediment in improving connection quality is lack of funding. ITS does not have a permanent funding line for improving service. Original installment of wireless devices was derived from salary savings, intended to be a onetime cost. There is currently no easy access to funds for addressing unprecedented connectivity issues.
* Original installment aimed to place wireless where there is a high concentration of students, though this campus has numerous physical interferences such as pillars and concrete.
* Connectivity issues are not unique to the University at Albany, several campuses all over the nation are facing issues with upgrading equipment. Distributes articles that explain this common issue where demand exceeds bandwidth.
* ITS’s Chief Information Officer Chris Hail has met with President Jones to procure funding to fix services, expected to receive some funding in the near future.
* ITS has reached out to President Francis to appoint students interested working with ITS to aid in making decisions and to provide feedback on making improvements.
* Improvements expected to happen in the Spring semester, will continue to seek a sustainable model for permanent funding.
* Opens for questions

-Sen. Faver: Inquires on the required process to receive a permanent funding line.

-Lisa Trubitt:

* Admits that this particular question would be better directed towards ITS' Finance and Business Department.
* The biggest problem ITS is facing is establishing a permanent funding source, which requires university administrators to cut funding from someplace else .

-Sen. Olszewski: What monetary amount would solve the problem?

-Lisa Trubitt: Although the figure is not stable at the moment, an allocation of $250 thousand to half a million dollars is needed to address current issues.

-Sen. Henderson: How many access points are in place currently and how many should there be?

-Lisa Trubitt:

* Currently, there are under 700 access points on campus, not counting residence halls. (Apogee is a separate entity in charge of providing internet access to residence halls).
* There is currently no concrete answer as to how many should be in place due to fluctuations in population and internet usage.

-Apogee Representative Matt McDowell:

* Announces there are about 830 access points in the residential halls, more currently being installed.
* Connectivity strength depends on whether videos are being streamed or whether user is simply browsing a website.
* Reliably, 15 student can connect to a given access point. However, based on the amount of data being used today, ideally 1 access point should be used per 4 students.

-Sen. Efekoro: Does half a million dollars reflect additional funding costs ITS needs or a total, ideal budget?

-Lisa Trubitt:

* The half a million dollars represents additional funding that would be needed to make a big difference in addressing current connectivity issues. $200,000 is more likely what ITS will be receiving.
* Clarifies that a lot of access points on campus have been installed with equipment dating back six years, which in technology terms represents outdated equipment.

*No further questions, steps down*

* **Matt McDowell, APOGEE, Albany Field Coordinator**

Apogee is the internet provider for residential halls on campus.

*Points of information*

* Apogee has seen a 280% increase in mobile devices connecting to the wireless service only between last year and this year.
* This increase represents an overload in the system. Connection quality suffers and service is downgraded with each additional device connected to the service.
* Apogee has taken initiatives to improve service on campus- currently in the process of installing more wireless access points on State and Colonial quad towers. Has conducted a large installment on Alumni quad to address connection issues in Pierce, Waterbury and Alden halls.
* A major concern for students is connectivity on Empire Commons. Apogee’s next upcoming project will be taking place over winter break, installing 300 access points throughout 25 buildings on Empire.
* The cost of installation per access point is $800; it will cost a 1/4 of a million dollars for installations on Empire Commons alone.
* High costs explain why wireless issues took so long to address, Apogee pays for installation costs.
* Concludes by stating that wireless internet is the most widely used, unperfected technology ever developed, still learning how to deal with congestion.
* Opens for questions

-Sen. Olszewski: Inquires on whether access points are present in residential dining halls.

-McDowell: Some quads do have access points in dining areas. Apogee is looking to improve accessibility in these locations, but does not reflect a primary focus.

-Chairman Witte: Inquires on whether Liberty Terrace was designed with adequate access points or whether it is also in the process of being upgraded.

-McDowell:

* Liberty Terrace was designed specifically to accommodate four students per access point, along with a dual bandwith that operates on two frequencies.
* Dual bandwith splits traffic in half, almost like having two students per access point.
* On campus, 600/830 access points are single band, while the remaining are are dual band.

*No further questions, steps down*

JUDICIAL REPORT:

No report

BOARD OF FINANCE REPORT:

**-**Sen. Longo:

* Board met last night, November 12th, to approve budget packet. Tentatively expects to propose the budget packet to senate by next Wednesday, November 20th.
* Has received an email in regards to a SA check being cut, issue will be further discussed later on the agenda by Comptroller Lee Stanton.

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

President Francis Agyemang:

* Recently held a meeting with UPD, will be implementing a new advisory board composed of students and administrators.
* The board will be neutral in nature, created to hear petitions from any party who has had an incident with a UPD officer. Board will meet to discuss the petition and ultimately contact UPD’s chief officer with a decision.
* The creation of this board is a result of student concerns stating they lack proper defense when it comes to conflict resolution.
* So far a representative from Dutch quad has been appointed, in the upcoming weeks will continue to appoint more people. If any senator is interested please contact him.

Vice President Nick Butler: Everyone has been paid.

Chief of Staff Marc Cohen:

* An ITS committee has been created, if anyone else would like to participate please contact President Francis Agyemang via email.
* SUNY SA was held over the weekend- great event that allowed UAlbany student representatives to interact with other student governments.

Comptroller Lee Stanton:

* Announces the Comptroller office was painted on Monday.
* Main goal as comptroller has been to inspect internal controls more closely. A situation was noted in regards to a purchase request from the office of Student Involvement that was cut at SEFCU bank, purchase was unaffected however the means in which it was conducted presents an issue.
* Distributes a newly drafted check template requiring signatures of the Comptroller, President of SA, Chairman and a University representative for future purchase requests.
* Office still working on credit card reconciliation.

-Director of Academic Affairs Derek Ellis:

* Currently working on the UA U Should Know program.
* Reminds senators that advisement is going on during midterms, if any academic related issues arise with any student, please refer to him.
* Has begun outreach to other provost offices to establish open ties of communication. Serving as liaison for any office that is in need for students to fill a position. He is their primary contact person, responsible for relaying information to anyone who may be interested.

-Director of Legislative Affairs Justyn Turner :

* This week represents his first week in office, in the process of organizing his new office.
* Scheduled a meeting with the University’s Director of Government Operations to begin discussing UAlbany day initiatives.

-Director of Multicultural Affairs Rachel Arnaud:

* Reports via email that the farmer's market has been rescheduled for the Spring semester.
* Intends to hold a program during final's week to express gratitude to all multi-cultural groups on campus. Food will be provided.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

-Chair of the Rules Commitee Sen. Messmer:

* Committee was unable to meet this week.
* Committee intends to deal with attendance issues. Will be contacting whoever is in violation of attendance policy via email inquiring on whether they wish to resign or attend a Rules committee meeting to discuss other options.
* Sen. Nevins and Sen. Perry have been invited to commitee meeting to discuss their absences.
* Will be strongly encouraging senators who do not wish to fulfill senator obligations to resign in order to fill available spots next semester.

-Chairman Witte:

* Reminds senators that elections will be held for the spring semester to fill any available spots in the senate.
* Informs senators that there are only three senate meetings left; next week will be the last week to pass any legislation.

-Chair of the Appropriations Committee Sen. Engwer:

* Committee meets every Tuesday at 7pm, senator attendance has been up to par.
* Tonight there are four bills on the legislative agenda regarding funding for student groups.
* Would like to motion at a later point to add Bill 1314-064 on the agenda, pertaining to a student group seeking initial funding.
* Current Appropriations budget stands at $53,049.88.

-Chairman Witte: Interjects to announce a bar graph has been distributed to visually reflect the amount of money SA currently has. The majority of money in the reserves has gone to the football stadium donation and funding for a student stipend.

-Chair of Community Engagement and Outreach Sen. Forman:

* Committee met on Sunday at 6:30pm in front of the SA office.
* Reminds any charity group or groups with a cause to attend committee meetings.
* Yields time to Sen. Caravello to discuss a community service opportunity.

-Sen. Caravello: Speaks on behalf of an after school homework help program for students in grades 6th-12th held every Thursday from 5pm-7pm, if any senators express interest in participating contact committee.

-Chair of Government Operations Sen. Wilkins: Committee will meet tomorrow November 14th at 7pm in the SA office.

- Chair of Constituent Relations Sen. Cronin:

* Committee met this week.
* Currently three new and unfunded groups looking for recognition.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:

Motion to add **Bill 1314-064** to the legislative docket by Sen. Engwer, second by Sen. Schwab

*No objections, Bill 1314-064 has been added to the agenda.*

**-1314-060 (Appropriations-New and Unfunded)**

-Sen. Engwer: This bill adds $2,000 to the new and unfunded student group’s budget. (*The bar graph that was previously distributed to senators visually demonstrates a need for additional funds*).

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

28-1-3

*Bill passes*

**-1314-061 (Appropriations-UAlbany SWAP)**

-Sen. Engwer: SWAP is a new and unfunded group looking for their initial $250.

-Alex, President of SWAP:

* The group’s purpose is to collect unused meal swipes and podium money at the end of the semester for the Capital City rescue mission.
* Initial funding will be allocated to begin advertising the cause.

-Sen. Krush: Cites that the group expressed plans to hold a meeting with the Director of UAS and Sodexo at the recent Appropriations meeting. Inquires on whether the meetings have occurred.

-President of SWAP Alex: Group has in fact met with UAS, will be meeting with Sodexo next Thursday.

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

*Bill passes*

-**1314-062 (Appropriations-Academic Affairs)**

-Director of Academic Affairs Derek Ellis:

* Requesting $1,500 strictly for Career Fair expenses.
* Expenses include additional bussing, advertising, and hiring a head shot photographer.
* The career fair will take place February 12th.

Motion to vote roll call by Sen. Efekoro, second by Sen. Orlan.

29-1-2

*Bill passes*

**1314-063 (Appropriations-College Democrats)**

-Chairman Witte: Reminds senators they must abstain from voting if they cannot leave personal biases at the door. Any members of the student group must also abstain and refrain from making any debate points.

-Sen. Engwer:

* Group attended committee meeting last week, will be attending a conference in February in Washington, DC.
* Group is seeking $2,700. 88 for trip costs.
* College Democrats have yet to fundraise but intend to raise money by March 1st to defray SA’s costs.

-Treasurer of College Democrats Kayla:

Group has a trip itinerary planned out for three days. Recites an overview of activities planned during trip.

-Sen. Schwab: Inquires on how many people will be attending.

-President of College Democrat’s Dani: Trip originally sought to include 25 members, due to monetary concerns only 15 people will be able to attend.

-Vice President Butler: Point of information- SA has stopped using riders when making funding decisions due to a track record of groups not fulfilling provisions. Sen. Krush and Sen. Messmer can attest to this.

-Chairman Witte:

* Clarifies that last year riders were attached to several bills requiring groups to pay back a certain amount after receiving funding from SA.
* Previous comptrollers were never held to the responsibilities of seeking reimbursement.
* Asks senators to keep in mind that although riders may be included in bills, they are not enforced.

-Sen. Cronin: Asks whether College Democrats believe in their honest opinion they will be able to fundraise the $750 for the rider by March 1st.

-President of College Democrats Dani: Honestly doubts that they will be able to fulfill the rider requirement by the given date.

Motion to remove section two from bill ($750 rider) by Sen. Cronin, second by Sen. Olszewski.

Sen. Engwer finds motion friendly.

*Section Two has been removed from Bill 1314-063*

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

18-3-11

*Bill passes*

**-1314-064: (Korean Christian Fellowship)**

-Sen. Engwer: Group has been on campus since 2004. Due to a loophole in provisions, groups is qualified as new and unfunded. Seeking initial $250 for a Thanksgiving potluck dinner.

-Treasurer of KCF: Group signifies a place of gathering for worship. They meet every Thursday with members from RPI and Sage.

-Sen. Ripka: Questions the difference between this group and other Christian fellowship groups already recognized on campus.

-Treasure of KCF: There are different ways to learn the Bible. KFC worships in a different way and is open to those interested in this new approach.

-Chairman Witte: Reassures that the Director of Student Groups Affairs, Katie Thomas, conducts a preliminary review to ensure there are no identical groups seeking recognition.

Motion to vote via roll call by Sen. Henderson, second by Sen. Orlan

27-2-3

*Bill passes*

-Sen. Messmer: Announces he has voted in opposition to the bill with rights. Will be further addressing issues at a later time.

-Sen. Markisello: Elaborates that senate has not fully looked into any other funding requests besides the stadium donation. All other funding requests that have come to the senate floor have been easily approved.

OLD BUSINESS-

NEW BUSINESS-

Comptroller: Regrets that he has been performing Comptroller duties without having been sworn in. Will be using this time to undergo the formality.

*Associate Justice David Solimeno officially swears Lee Stanton in as Comptroller for the Student Association.*

CLOSING REMARKS

CLOSING ROLL and Adjournment

*Senators adjourned.*