**STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING**

**Campus Center, Assembly Hall**

**February 12, 2014, 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. Haris Alic * Sen. Victor Alicea * Sen. Nadia Belkin * Sen. Devin Caravello * Sen. Corey Carmello * Sen. Christian Chowdhury * Sen. Patrick Cronin * Sen. Khadija Cuevas * Sen. Stanley De La Cruz * Sen. Skyler DeAngelo * Sen. Conner Dunleavy * Sen. Beroro Efekoro * Sen. Benjamin Engwer * Sen. Allie Faver * Sen. Brad Hershenson * Sen. James King * Sen. Matthew Krush * Sen. Michael Longo | * Sen. Daniel Markisello * Sen. Cylas Martell-Crawford * Sen. Paul McBride * Sen. Patrick Moran * Sen. Kevin Murphy * Sen. Casey Olszewski * Sen. Kathleen Orlan * Sen. Shireen Ramnath * Sen. Zach Ripka * Sen. Johnathon Rood * Sen. Roger Rook * Sen. Vanessa Salamy * Sen. Adam Sanzone * Sen. Emma Schwab * Sen. Juliet Shen * Sen. Raymond Webb * Sen. Connor Wilkins * Sen. Jamie Zieno |

Absent Senators: Sen. Abraham, Sen. Augustin, Sen. Balzano, Sen. Flood, Sen. Forman, Sen. Gustave, Sen. Henderson, Sen. Russell.

Also in Attendance:

President Francis Agyemang, Vice President Nick Butler, Chief of Staff Marc Cohen, Comptroller Lee Stanton, Deputy Comptroller Tyler Paladino, Director of Academic Affairs Derek Ellis, Director of Programming Ajon Crump, Director of Student Group Affairs Katie Thomas, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach Rose Avellino, Trey Price.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

-Motion to approve minutes with unanimous consent by Sen. Wilkins, second by Sen. Cronin.

-Minutes pass.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sen. King

Sketchy Characters free Saturday shows 6:30pm UFood grill lounge.

Sen. DeAngelo

NYS YAL Convention next Saturday, 02/22/14 9-7 Campus Center ballroom. Requests good showing. First time convention held in NY. Would appreciate SA presence there!

Katie Lyons, Middle Earth

Sandra Fluke event had 325 attendees. Many senators and SA members appeared. Thanks from middle earth for continued support.

OPENING REMARKS

* Deadline to submit budgets are quickly approaching.

UNIVERSITY REPORT

Michael Jaromin, Director of Student Involvement & Leadership and Campus Recreation:

* Here to discuss possibility of Campus Life fee. Wants feedback and to ensure we are informed on what this is all about.
* Changes environment of campus life
* National surveys: whether students want to be more involved. Most students (2011) 56% students wish they were more involved on campus.
* Being involved has many positive benefits.
* Characteristics of involved students: Academic achievement and grades have improved based upon involvement, Better/more life skills for life after college, Comm. skills, critical thinking, relative experience, learn to balance social activities, more likely to participate in alumni activities
* Want to: ensure more ways to get more students involved: organizing, leading and attending activities. Involvement leads to intellectual growth, more opportunity, personal growth, improves satisfaction.
* SUNY survey: all suny schools. More likely to attend next semester, more likely to pick albany again. Overall satisfied.

^We are 4th out of 4 in student satisfaction. Want to find a way for students to be more satisfied (more activities would help) All the other universities have a campus life fee sep. from activity fee.

* Not easy to put on events for student groups.
* We as a uni want to do more- will do so with the CL fee.
* New cc extension: 400 seat auditorium, new lecture space. Would be a shame to have new CC without the programs to put in it.

Pam Malatesta, Associate Director of Programming, Office of Student Involvement:

* Here to discuss what the Campus Life fee will mean
* We’ve known about these stats.
* Campus Programming board was created Spring ’13. off auxillary grants
* 23 events, 6 1st semester, 3 this semester
* Podium series there’s been 10 so far.
* Build a bears, smoothies, etc. 600 students per event
* 8 novelty acts: hypnotists, comedians

Transformative Change

* Consistent Fun Interactive! Cultural change, what uni looks like on daily basis, want something every single day! eclectic mix. For both on and off campus students

New Initiatives

* UAlbany Live (5 Alive) local bands, dutch commons, outdoor concert on Friday afternoons, free for students.
* Uni Gala- happens often at other schools. Probably off campus.
* Cooking classes.
* Minute to Win It (other such games)
* Improv Comedy shows

University Supported. Student Run.

* 14 students on stipend pay 2 reps per quad, 2 uni depts, 2 off-campus. Poss for year-round employment. Summer employment is necessary. Internship and volunteer opps. for all students (experience and involvement)
* Bus trips (baseball games, trip to city) Salem, Saratoga, Boston, etc.
* Local attractions: Palace bus trips, albany devils, valley cats, fastrax

\*Don’t have to live on campus to participate

Class- Specific Events

Graduating class banquet, senior week, countdown to commencement (100 days from today!)

Welcome Back Weeks

Candle ceremonies, bonfire, outdoor movies, mini golf, live acts. All students welcomed back, not just incoming students.

Homecoming/Parents Weekend

Float contest, parade, pep rally, etc.

Enhancement of Current Offerings

* To compliment our current large scale offerings & Student Organization programming
* Enhance current speakers
* Food for Finals
* Orientation
* Leadership Development

Benefit to Student Organizations

Money! Grants, supplemental funding to help Student Groups who are struggling.

2/3/14 Facebook Page Launch

2/4/14 ASP Article

2/12 Senate Meeting

Email to all students

Flyers

-All info. is available on Facebook page. Interactive, calendars, responses to comments, questions and ideas.

Many more events planned for 2015 Feb. than there are now.

Questions:

Sen. Alic: How’d you come up with $60 per semester?

Jaromin: Similar to buff and stony brook, More than Binghamton.

Sen. Alic: Is it subject to change?

Jaromin: Once implemented, it could rise over time. Would be 1$ increments at most. Very small increments.

Sen. DeAngelo: Any way to levy money without adding extra fee added to tuition? Any way to reduce costs/consolidate?

Bouchard, VP of University: Each time 1$ gets added on to bill, she is conscious of it and thinks of it. Does not support it lightly. Not new data to us, we’ve been last in satisfaction for social life on campus for years now. Tried in previous years to subsidize this. Faculty:Student ratio needs to be fixed. This fee will also hire faculty, one of biggest problems at university. Following other universities and are way exceeding us in satisfaction. We must think of satisfaction of student body. Every time a cent is added to the bill, she understands.

Sen. DeAngelo: Unilaterally implemented or is there a process?

Answer: There’s definitely say in it. Students believe this is a done deal. It’s not a done deal. Need student support to convince administrators on campus. If students don’t back it, then it might not go far. Coming to students early on to gauge opinion.

Are there going to be caps of stipends for students?

Answer: Fees are subject.. There is a cap on how much they can rise. When a fee first starts, the only way to set a fee is the first time it’s implemented. We must set the fee to make the difference. The fee will change the landscape of this campus in a way we’ve never seen before. Stipends will be competitive.

Sen. Ripka: As a student, the quality of education, police force, and overall quality issues exist. $1.5M collected with new fee, why can’t it go towards bettering professors or hiring new professors/training police better.

Bouchard: I believe it’s what students want. 56% of students want to be more involved on campus. Fees do not support faculty raises. Faculty raises need to be negotiated with the state of NY.

Sen. Moran: Fee would complement current activities at UA. Our programming is mismanaged at best- Danes After Dark is not good. Why would we add funds to that?

Answer: We want to do things completely differently. Student run, so voice from students will be heard. Not to retry Danes After Dark- not much funding went there. So to change it, we need to add funding. We’re offering things that have not been tried- are not currently occurring on campus because we can’t sustain it.

Sen. Moran: Why would we entrust more fees into a system we feel is mismanaged?

Answer: I can’t speak to the other fees you feel are mismanaged.

Sen. Alic: Was any student input taken into the formulation of the fee? Surveys are bad, but was anything else conducted?

Answer: If you talk to other institutions... success of other universities is weighed very heavily.

Obviously students don’t want a fee. But this is how to meet our needs.

Sen. Cronin: How much of the money collected will be going towards stipends?

Answer: A competitive stipend for a student would be about $7,000 per student per stipend. About $90,000 in total.

Sen. Dunleavy: Student activity fee/SA already provide for student groups and numerous activities to get involved in. So many clubs to be involved in, why do we need more activities that students can’t afford?

Answer: Many activities people want to attend but can’t because it’s part of a club. Ex: bus trips sell out almost immediately. University should provide more things that aren’t just club activities.

Sen. Efekoro: New program will be run by students, so why not add more money/positions to SA program?

Answer: Students are over worked in SA. We should have more professional support to help them program. There will be professional program to help them run the programs to ensure they’re here year after year.

Sen. Schwab: Concerned with how you can trust students to run this when they’re still students?

Answer: Model is present in other schools all around the nation. We’re latecomers to this- positive will be that downfalls will have been worked out by other universities. We can look to them to ask questions. University-supported is key part to the student part.

Would be fine with paying less on stipends. Point is, we want highest-possible quality students to help organization.

Sen. Zieno: Which other SUNYs do this? Four is a small sample size. Lower cost is a big perk to the school we attend.

Answer: We know our satisfaction numbers aren’t that high. If we spend a little more now, we’ll probably make more in the long run (alumnus contributors.)

Sen. Wilkins: Not against more on-campus programs. Concerned with fees we’re already paying (currently about 1,000 per semester). Also ranked 4th among food, health, security. Extra $60 in fees seems outrageous. $1.5M, we’ve seen general ideas how programming has been, having a more solid idea of preliminary budget will increase more support for plans. Having more poorly run events do not mean more involvement on campus.

Answer: We’re choosing this because these are the types of events that will be effective. On-par with successful programs we’re modeling this after. It is worth it to make this experience better.

Sen. McBride: Curious as to how the student population as a whole will have a say in how the spending will go.

Answer: Student programming board- some will be stipend. By vote- want new concert- will be voted on (roughly size of SA Senators.) essentially an e-board; will also be committees.

There will be student and University representation, but it will be split. Want to know what the students want, want to bring what the students want.

Sen. Caravello: Have you talked about just increasing fees we already have? Adding to bigger events that we already have good attendance at. Adding more to current events.

Answer: We’re having great attendance at current smaller events. Bigger programs include bigger numbers in attendance/funding. We’re looking at smaller budget and attendance that matches that.

Sen. Alic: How much did UAS grant?

Answer: $20,00 per semester, 14 events per semester.

Sen. Alic: Why not just increase what we get from UAS, or was it talked about for a while?

Ans: Been aiming for this, there have only been 14 events per semester.

Sen. Alic: Will they be able to handle this budget?

Ans: We know it works on other campuses. Instead of a UAS grant (not an endless bucket of money) we were lucky to have gotten what we got from them. They can’t plan/book for next year, can’t budget for next year. It’s getting us by (we knew in September we’d have $20,000 for the semester ending in December.) Short notice. Will help in planning.

Question: We’ve only known about the fee for the past 2 weeks. Could we push it back, see how they work with more money like an SA allocation, to see how they work with more money? Doesn’t sound like there’s experience to work with such large budget.

Answer: Willing to say this is how we’re willing to get there. Not opposed to this,

Sen. Olszewski: If you’re not a part of a group, your experience is certainly lacking. Will be great use of the fee. Importance, though, in placing appropriate students in these positions. Bring value to the events/use fee correctly. What does the hiring process look like?

Answer: Based off other campus models. Workshops we can send students to, to further develop them. Regional conferences to learn programming, see acts, etc.

Sen. Orlan: Possibility in making it an option?

Answer: We want to do programming for off-campus students as well. We’d be interested in working with off-campus population in order to better suit their needs, especially with programming.

Final Points:

Sen. DeAngelo: Dislike that the fee will be unilateral, not democratic. Satisfaction is subjective. Student Activity fee should also be optional. Doesn’t need to be a collective responsibility through a new tax. This is not the right way to approach a fee. New tax now is not the right option.

Sen. Shen: Students want to be involved on campus, but don’t know if that meant by paying a higher fee. Tuition is rising: would rather not pay higher tuition. Correlation does not equal causation. Programming may not add to satisfaction.

Sen. Salamy: What is our level of success in education vs. other schools already using this model? We should be focusing on education.

Answer: Not sure how we’re rated among other schools in terms of success/retention.

Not just a carnival every day: want to provide a variety of things that are going on on a daily basis. Goal is for students to find things they’d like to

Sen. Faver was used as a prop.

Sen. Markisello: If this is implemented, is there any way it’d be repealed later if it is seen to be not working?

Answer: Not sure, great point. Haven’t seen it repealed yet. Willing to take that jump. Surveys are and will be very helpful.

Sen. Wilkins: What additional kind of external or internal oversight would be put into place so students can see how the fee is being used?

Answer: Budget would be voted annually, would also be posted online. Very student-centered process.

Comptroller Stanton: Campus Life Delegates- very big on democratic process- one perk to student activity fee is that the student leaders are spending the money in their best interests. Would strongly support these delegates being elected by the students.

If we find ourselves in the scenario where this is implemented, every 2 years we’d vote on whether students agree.

Sen. Faver: How can 14 students be chosen to do what we all do?

Answer: Many more students involved in this. Interning will be involved within this. Different committees, opportunities, volunteer opportunities

Sen. Longo: How many conferences have you attended in the past 2 years/value of those conferences/how much did you pay per conference?

Answer: Haven’t attended any. Were going to attend one tomorrow, but it was canceled (would’ve costed $18.) Not attending any has been a disservice to our students. Much insight/ideas emerge from conferences. Will invite students to attend conferences.

Vice President Butler: Supports fee- Been involved in SA for 3 years now. Students say the university doesn’t do enough for its students. Since Fountain Day is gone now, we need to regain school spirit through other events. Thinks students will support this if they are spoken to.

Sen. Rood: Doesn’t believe the allocation is fair. Will employees be impartial?

Answer: Yes. Believe students will be very interested in planning events for every student.

Sen. Krush: Do you have any data indicating, to some degree, that it is this new programming is contributing to overall satisfaction?

Answer: Much data comes from mass surveys.

Sen. De La Cruz: Dislikes the fact that students point finger at university for not becoming involved. Too much of a burden just for SA to put on these events. Fan of democracy, but doesn’t guarantee the most qualified people will be on the e-board. Keep an open mind about the fee. Most of us here would like to see an uprise in campus life. In full support.

Judicial Report:

Still looking for new Chief Justice.

Board of Finance:Packets are due next week. Email Sen. Longo with any questions.

Executive Report:

Director of Student Groups, Katie Thomas: Planning Purple and Gold Awards. Looking for new ideas for new awards, particularly individual awards. 27 different awards. Let Katie know of any ideas.

Derek Ellis, Public Comment:

Welcome new senators! 459 total votes.

Director of Academic Affairs, Derek Ellis:

* Shooting video for UA U Should Know.
* Shout out to those at career fair: 1,000 people early on. Many different students. So many companies there, wide variety. Thanks to marketing department.

Director of Community Engagement and Outreach, Rose Avellino:

* Out of the Darkness walk May 3rd cosponsored by SA.
* All semester= bottle drive.

Director of Programming, Ajon Crump

* Just released name of first artist for Parkfest (J. Cole)
* Working on second artist- different genre
  + Issue: working on production costs. More house/techno, so a lot of production needs.
* Then will possibly move on to third artist.

Sen. King: One other artist, any others?

Director Crump: Based on production costs- if lower, can add another artist. If too high, can drop him. High, can just move forward with him. The two genres pulls in multiple demographics.

Goal: as big of demographic audience as possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Rules and Admin.: No report.

1. Appropriations: Sen. Engwer

9 bills on tonight’s agenda. Meet Thursdays at 7:15, welcome all (3 new and unfunded tomorrow)

1. Community Engagement and Outreach: Sen. Efekoro

Meet Wednesdays at 8pm.

Next Month= Ronald McDonald House March 8th and April 12

1. Governemnt Operations: Sen. Wilkins

Meeting tomorrow. No cap on committee, anyone can join.

1. Constituent Relations: Sen. Cronin

Working on a few pieces of legislation. Government oversight bill. Resolution with student life fee.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

-1314-074 (Appropriations- Pitch Please)

Sen. Caramello: Motion to bundle all new and unfunded

Seconded by Sen. Ramnath

Sen. Krush: Motion to bundle all bills except 078.

Rescinds motion to remove 078 from combo.

Sen. Engwer: On new and unfunded: Pitch Please (074) towards a PAC show (~$300)

NASS (075) education, leadership, community service. For event April 4th (and other events to follow). Has spent money from own pocket. [www.studentsglobalimpact.org](http://www.studentsglobalimpact.org) for NASS website

Outdoor Club (078) Need gear and equipment

YAL (079) Has accomplished a lot in the past 2 years. A lot out of own pocket; will continue to fundraise consistently.

Soccer Club (080)

Under Construction Dance Team (081) Looking to hold more events around campus. Won SA can drive. Plan to hold programs; not many dance programs currently on campus.

Motion to split three and three: Sen. Markisello.

No objections

074, 075, 078

Sen. Alic: Motion to vote UC

Seconded by Sen. Salamy

Bill passes

79, 80, 81

Sen. Markisello: Motion to vote UC

Seconded by Sen. Krush

Bill passes

1314-076 College Republicans

Sen. De La Cruz: We’ve sent other political groups to things like this. Support it!

Sen. Krush: What events or programs have you put on thus far this year?

Sen. Moran: South Park night, movie showing, tabling events. 2 weeks, charity bake sale, dodge ball tournament.

Sen. Sanzone: How many members in organization?

Sen. Moran: 20-24 actives.

Sen. De La Cruz: Vote by roll call

Second: Sen. Ramnath

21-1-8

Bill passes

1314-077 Precizun Dance Team

Want to host step competitions. Half Greek/half non Greek- seeking unity and school spirit.

Currently a small budget.

Sen. Faver: Are all other hoops to use university tools/teams, is that already done?

Answer: We’ve already developed and sent a registration packet to 50 teams. Currently 4 Greek teams

Registration fee will be added to budget.

Sen Dunleavey: Is your team Greek?

Answer: NonGreek

Sen. Schwab: Where’s the money from registration?

Answer: Will go straight into competition.

Sen. De La Cruz: Already allocating a lot of their own money to competition.

Sen. Alic: Motion to vote by roll call

Seconded by Sen. Faver

Bill passes

1314-082 ATV

Has been here since 2006

Will use money solely for new equipment

Point of interest, Comptroller Lee Stanton: ATV will be working with Comptroller- updated log entry to be sure equipment is being signed in and out.

Sen. Wilkins: What are you going to buy?

Looking to buy 3 cameras, 4 new tripods, 2 lighting kits, 4 microphone kits, new SD cards (trying to digitalize), new camera bags.

Sen. Sanzone: Last year’s budget?

$21,300 last years budget.

How many viewers last year?

Unsure.

Sen. Alicea: Vote via roll call.

Seconded by Sen. De La Cruz

24-2-1

Bill passes

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Appoint Sen. Markisello as Chair of Rules

Appoint Sen. Faver and Sen. Carmello to Rules

Appointment Sen. Russell to Constituent Relations

Appoint Sen. Hershenson and Sen. Belkin to Appropriations

CLOSING REMARKS

CLOSING ROLL AND ADJOURNMENT

Senators adjourned.