**STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING**

**Campus Center, Assembly Hall**

**March 5, 2014 at 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. Abraham * Sen. Victor Alicea * Sen. Anthony Balzano * Sen. Nadia Belkin * Sen. Devin Caravello * Sen. Corey Carmello * Sen. Christian Chowdhury * Sen. Khadija Cuevas * Sen. Beroro Efekoro * Sen. Allie Faver * Sen. Chenaniah Henderson * Sen. Brad Hershenson * Sen. James King | * Sen. Matthew Krush * Sen. Daniel Markisello * Sen. Kevin Murphy * Sen. Casey Olszewski * Sen. Kathleen Orlan * Sen. Zach Ripka * Sen. Roger Rook * Sen. Brittany Russell * Sen. Vanessa Salamy * Sen. Adam Sanzone * Sen. Emma Schwab * Sen. Raymond Webb * Sen. Connor Wilkins * Sen. Jamie Zieno |

Also in Attendance:

Vice President Nick Butler, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach Rose Avelino, Trey Price, President Francis Agyemang, Director of Programming Ajon Crump, Director of Legislative Affairs Justyn Turner, Comptroller Lee Stanton, Director of Academic Affairs Derek Ellis, Director of Marketing Steve Valentine, Chief of Staff Marc Cohen

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to skip reading of the minutes by Sen. Ripka

Seconded by Sen. Wilkins

Motion to approve minutes by Sen. Henderson

Seconded by Sen. Rook

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sen. Wilkins and Sen. Olszcewski sitting on ITS Advisory boards: meeting regarding Wifi on campus. There is no consistent funding for Wifi. Working on improving access points

[UAlbanyWifi@gmail.com](mailto:UAlbanyWifi@gmail.com) - send issues there with the building/classroom numbers

Klara Botvinnik

UA Alive- Fundraising Chair

May Walk- bottle drive until check in at 12, 1-3 Sat. 5/3/14- date of walk also. Donate! Contact Klara or Rose

Amelia VanDemark

Albany Games Fest 12pm-9pm in CC ballroom Saturday and Sunday this weekend. Sketchy Characters, comedy acts, vendors, games, open to anyone.

5$ per day

Jeff Lasher

President of bowling club

College Bowling night 4/1 Sunset Lanes fundraiser @ 9pm

Sen. Ripka

On 4/24 Campus Clean-Up Day. Good turn out please!

9-12, 1-4

Sen. Efekoro

NASS President- volunteering with HS kids, to mentor, tutor, coach, etc. Has applications, will take them to the school by Friday

OPENING REMARKS

Sen. Witte

Election season. Reminder that SA is not the end of the world! Keep academics up

Sen. Krush

Academics come first!

UNIVERSITY REPORT

No report.

JUDICIAL REPORT

Chief Justice Engwer

Rewrote sample constitution

Had 12 constitutions under review. Denied them because they were framed around the old one. Will contact those groups.

BOARD OF FINANCE REPORTStarted going through budget packets

No timeline yet

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Director of Programming Ajon CrumpReleasing 2nd Parkfest artist tomorrow at 10am or 12pm

Sen. Henderson: How much?

Crump: $65,000

Sen. Chowdhury: What genre?

Crump: Hip hop genre

Sen. Olszewski: Budget left after two artists

Crump: $80,000. Trying to be as fiscally responsible as possible.

Sen. Krush: One or 2 EDM artists?

Crump: One. One group/person

Comptroller Lee Stanton:

Old debt is gone. New debt is ever present.

Director of Legislative Affairs Justyn Turner

Working with Cliff Kim to ommunicate with elected officials in Albany area to set up event to showcase work

Director of Marketing Steve Valentine

Currently going to put out new flyer tomorrow morning. Pulled back some of the constant posts about J. Cole.

Director of Community Engagement and Outreach Rose Avelino

Community Service Day in conjunction with Pine Hills clean up. Date to be finalized this Friday.

5-Quad at Hackett Middle School 6-8th graders.

3/31 cooking on a budget, free food and coupons!

Director of Academic Affairs Derek Ellis

Forms for outstanding faculty/professor awards available on myinvolvement. Applications due the week we come back from spring break.

Chief of Staff Marc Cohen

Ideas/topics on Presidential Forum. Policing of students, etc. Looking at general topics. Will go into subtopics. Will open it up to broader topics. Send questions to Marc/Francis.

President Agyemang

This week meeting with assistants, interns, etc. to see where we can improve

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Rules and Admin.: Sen. Markisello

Met on Sunday at 7 in SA

Fundraising Preservation Act: Involves money that groups fundraise rolling into the next year.

Attendance: 4 or 5 senators that are currently in violation of attendance. Could be impeached.

Rewriting Bylaws: Went through 200-section

Meeting Sun. at 6 in SA office

Every committee chair: send current roles to Markisello

2. Appropriations: Sen. Rook

Meet Thurs 7pm in SA office.

Meeting with many groups, more scheduled for next week as well

3. Community Engagement and Outreach: Sen. Forman

Ronald McDonald House date: Saturday, 4/19

UA Alive Fundraiser in the works. Open to ideas by any senators.

4. Government Operations: Sen. Wilkins

Committee looking into voting roll call records from previous weeks and months on old bills. Met with Witte and Krush to keep record of roll call in future.

Process of rewriting bylaws- working with Markisello. Trying to cut them down. No excess garbage needed!

5. Constituent Relations: Haris Alic

No report

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

103-106 add to agenda

Motion by Sen. Markisello

Seconded by Sen. Faver

1314-093Changed wording

Make syllabi online before class actually begins

Sen. Krush: Amend ‘Senate’ to ‘SA’

Found amendment friendly

Motion to vote UC Sen. Schwab

Seconded by Sen. Forman

Bill passes

1314-095

Interfaith Student Group

Motion to UC Sen. Carmello

Seconded by Sen. Chowdhury

Bill passes

1314-096

UA Astrological Society

Sen. Schwab: Where do you meet?

On roof of Earth Science building

Sen. Faver: How often do you meet?

Weekly

Motion to vote US Sen. Ripka

Seconded by Sen. King

1314-097

ACM

Motion to vote via UC Sen. Chowdurhy

Seconded by Sen. King

Bill passes

1314-098

FACE

Motion to vote via UC Sen. De La Cruz

Seconded by Sen. Schwab

1314-099

UA Bowling

Motion to vote via UC Sen. Henderson

Seconded by Sen. Orlan

Bill passes

1314-100

Haitian Student Association

For Gala- all proceeds go to charity

Hoping to send $1,000-2,000 to charity

Sen. Markisello: How much money is left in appropriations?

Sen. Rook: $24,000

Sen. Markisello: Will you be charging students?

Yes. 20$ per single tickets

Date: This saturday 3/8/14

Motion to vote via roll call Sen. De La Cruz

Seconded by Sen. Chowduhry

Bill passes

1314-101

Reserves Transfer for Senate Programming

Bill passes

1314-102

Reserves Transfer for SA Scholarship Initiative

Cohen: Benefit of this program: 24 scholarships available for all students

Caravello: List of scholarships?

Cohen: Will be on Myinvolvement- self-nominate. Committee will be faculty, staff, different departments, res life, etc.

Sen. Olszewski: Not academic?

President Agyemang: Not focused on academics. Min. GPA ~2.5 gpa.

Henderson: This money comes out of res each year?

Cohen: Planning a line for it. Should be a part of the budget.

Sen. Efekoro: Motion to vote by roll call

Seconded by Sen. Belkin

Bill passes

1314-103

Summer Operating Transfer- Presidential Discretionary Line

President Agyemang: Campus is boring- no school spirit. How can we change that?

Neighborhood reach-out, ice cream socials, 4/22 movie screening, 5-day leadership workshops, things to get students involved

Sen. Markisello: Comptroller- will you make sure this money will go there?

President Agyemang: Want to be flexible with where it goes.

Sen. King Motion to vote by roll call

Seconded by Sen. Sanzone

Bill passes

1314-104

Motion to vote via UC Sen. Cuevas

Seconded by Sen. Russell

Bill passes

1314-105

Sen. Markisello- Tend to form 2 groups “tickets” against each other. Always a few more running on their own. No one pays attention to them. Will restructure elections so everyone running for a senate seat will be running on their own merits.

Sen. Efekoro: Do you understand the meaning of civil liberty? What is the reason?

Sen. Markisello: Should be based on who’s the most qualified, it’s undemocratic, who can arrange in a big group of people and swarm the campus

Sen. Efekoro: The students are working according to Robert’s Rules.

Sen. Markisello: Preventing a large group from getting together and forming election posters, etc. and handing them out. One senator’s name per post.

Sen. Balzano: Not stopping endorsement?

Sen. Markisello: Can endorse them, just can’t put all names on one poster. Just what OSI can and cannot approve

Sen. Chowduhry: Can say vote for me and X?

Sen. Markisello: Yes

Sen Alic: By that line of reasoning, I can go to ten other candidates, and go to the door and endorse other candidates verbally

Sen. Russell: Posters, are one thing, but Isn’t it harsh to say no Facebook/social media?

Mark: Understand, can make all the statuses you want. But can’t make a separate page with all the candidates.

Sen. Olszewski: Have you heard that it’s unfair for others running?

Sen. Markisello: Have heard that sentiment expressed

Motion to move into debate by Sen. Rook

Seconded by Sen. Orlan

Sen. Caravello: Good idea, some people add their names to tickets and people don’t even know who they are. How can you endorse the students you don’t know?

Sen. De La Cruz: This bill levels the playing field. Fair.

Sen. Efekoro: If I’m paying for my flyer, no one has the right to tell me I can’t add another name to it. Politics are not fair.

Sen. Russell: To tell someone that you can’t post social media, spending money in certain way, maybe we should edit it?

Sen. Ripka: Social media reaches far more people than social media. We have the opportunity to make this organization more fair, why would we deny that?

Sen. Efekoro: In response, we can make this org. more fair, but it’s not fair to deny my individual rights.

Sen. Markisello: Point of Info. - you are not limited to endorsing someone

Sen. De La Cruz: It is irresponsible of a senator who was elected by the means of a caucus

Sen. Caravello: Bill necessary, because people endorse friends, not who they believe are the best people.

Sen. Schwab: Bylaws under elections- supposed to report any suspicious behavior as a senator. You’re supposed to represent your people independently. Not a group of people.

Sen. Efekoro: I’m not scared of running on my own.

Sen. Wilkins: will make the playing field level

Sen. Balzano: Bill needs to be clarified

Sen. Markisello: as of now, does not preclude you from saying something in a comment. Restricting within certain frames would be an overreach.

Witte: Don’t question individuals, question their view points. Refrain from mentioning other senators in your debate

Butler yields time to Joe Messmer: Strongly favor this bill. Founder of CIS. CIS was created to find individual students without connections to student group on campus, get them together to get them involved in student government. Doesn’t believe this is what we have right now with CIS. This is the anti-any-group bill, not anti-CIS bill.

Codifies in the bylaws what the original intent of CIS was.

Sen. Rook: Likes that there are divisional senators- more chances of being elected. Will create more posters on campus. Will make it a little less effective. We were elected- was about promoting ourselves and whipping votes.

Elections Commissioner, Derek Ellis: At first, apprehensive. Didn’t know where to stand on it. Only concern is posters are area where commission gets the most complaints. More posters=more issues. Will take the effort needed to the next level. If you want to win, you’ll be dorm storming harder. In favor of it now.

Sen. Chowdhury: will become popularity contest. If you campaign with people, it can combat that.

Motion to vote via roll call Sen. Faver

Seconded by Sen. Caravello

Bill passes.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

CLOSING REMARKS