**STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING**

**Campus Center, Assembly Hall**

**April 02, 2014, 8:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING ROLL

Chairman Witte convened the meeting at 8:35 PM.

* Pledge of Allegiance

Also in Attendance: Trey Price, Student Advocate Michaela Torres, Director of Multicultural Affairs Afiyah Roberts, Chief of Staff Marc Cohen, Deputy Comptroller Tyler Paladino, Director of Student Group Affairs Katie Thomas, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach Rose Avelino, Director of Legislative Affairs Justyn Turner, Comptroller Lee Stanton, Director of Academic Affairs Derek Ellis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to skip reading of the minutes by Sen. Rook

Seconded by Sen. Belkin

Motion to approve minutes by Sen. Abraham

Seconded by Sen. Faver

OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Witte:

Says something eloquent and well thought out, regarding campaigns and the need for individuals to refrain from personal attacks. Reminds all candidates to remain respectful at all times

Many bills on the agenda due to the cancelations of the previous Senate meetings due to weather, vacation, and presidential debate

Thanks to the people who showed up to the presidential debate

UNIVERSITY REPORT

No report.

JUDICIAL REPORT

No report.

BOARD OF FINANCE

Justyn Turner

Budgets are coming along. Long and tedious as always

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Comptroller Lee Stanton

Not much to report. Assistants, deputies, etc. paying close attention to the schedule for rest of year. Determining when purchase requests will be due. Everything is smooth sailing

Chief of Staff Marc Cohen

Presidential forum is in full swing. Tonight he will request to vote Olive to be representative. To legitimize her appointment

Meeting with graduate SA to see what the forum is about.

Office hours are available for questions also

Director of Student Group Affairs Katie Thomas

4/28 is the Purple and Gold awards at 7:30pm

160 nominations this year. Most she’s seen thus far! No one else has seen over 50

Director of Community Engagement and Outreach Rose Avelino

Pine Hills clean up Sunday, 4/13 12-3pm

Free breakfast!

Student Advocate Michaela Torres

Working with Clarence at Conflict Res.

Wants something to give elected leaders when written up

Director of Multicultural Affairs Afiyah Roberts

Current working on Cultural carnival 5/4 from 4-8 on Dutch

Diversity Conference TBA

Director of Programming Ajon Crump

Parkfest in 3 days

Sold Out

JCole, Future, and one more artist that cannot be announced yet

Sen. Forman: What time do doors open

Ajon Crump: 7pm

Sen. De La Cruz: Ticket sales overview please

Ajon Crump: Did most things the same way they were always done. Was in dept. last year and there was no cap on ticket sales. This year we had better artists, and B.) we made tickets cheaper. Only things done differently than last year. Ticket sales are not her responsibility. Just represents this aspect of the SA. Put emails and office hours out, was available

Sen. Krush: Who was in charge of ticket sales?

Ajon Crump: Operational, as opposed to departmental

Sen. Markisello: Then what department was in charge?

Deputy Comptroller Tyler Paladino: Operations...

Ajon Crump: In hindsight, having no cap was a big mistake. Did not want to immediately say that the event would sell out

Sen. Belkin: Tickets were 5$, why can other suny schools come this time?

Ajon Crump: SUNY students buy tickets on Wednesday. Then on Friday, it would have went live online. Would have been 15$. Right to make more $$ from those who don’t pay our student activity fee. We never got to that point though.

Sen. King: If there was to be a cap, would that go through programming or operations?

Ajon Crump: Won’t ever be an issue again. Learned from this. No one will be happy with any sized cap. Next year, we’ll be sure that this won’t happen again. Always mistakes the first time that something is done. Genuinely sorry it happened like this

Sen. Krush: No one saw it coming (the sell out), I agree. But was the option of a cap ever brought up during the day? We’re selling a lot of tickets, really fast. Maybe we should slow this down?

Ajon Crump: Someone in SA said to Ajon that 50% of the tickets went to people buying 50 or more. Julie said that was wrong.

Sen. Krush: Julie emailed me the stat sheet, and it was true.

Ajon Crump: This was told to me, just relaying the info.

Sen. Markisello: Why not create one ticket for albany tickets, one for other students so they couldn’t use the 5$ ticket?

Ajon Crump: This is something we did in the past. Used one ticket, made it easy.

Sen. Markisello: I brought that up at the beginning of the year in the meetings that we should have separate tickets. Unfair for our students to give the 5$ tickets to other schools.

Ajon Crump: If something is brought up in the past, did not come to the forefront of my mind while planning the concert.

Sen. Grey: Was there discussion of a cap when you realized how fast they were selling?

Ajon Crump: Programming interns were selling the tickets. No cap on the guidelines, so they didn’t bring up the idea of a cap, and they weren’t expected to do so. There was a conversation on caps before the tickets went on sale

Trey Price: Think about learning from this and moving forward, and what can change next year in terms of policy.

Sen. Russell: No FallFest this year, so what did you expect with just one concert?

Ajon Crump: Last year’s Parkfest attendance was 400 or less. So higher demand was not necessarily positive.

[acrump@ualbanysa.org](mailto:acrump@ualbanysa.org) send an email!

Director of Academic Affairs Derek Ellis

This Sat and Sun 1030-1230: Accepted Students open house- needs support tabling from SA

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Rules and Admin.: Sen. Markisello

Rules tried to meet on Sunday but only 3 people showed up. Please come!

Sen. Efekoro’s bills- looking to impose a cap on ticket sales. Sun. 6pm if you were interested. Email with any ideas

UA Senate meeting Monday at 2:45. Great way to hear about what’s going on at the university. Vice Provost will be present.

1. Community Engagement and Outreach: Sen. Forman

Committee did not meet this week. Ronald McDonald House will be postponed until next semester.

Relay 4/26- encourages everyone to get involved

1. Government Operations: Sen. Wilkins

Haven’t had chance to meet since spring break. Will be meeting tomorrow

1. Constituent Relations: Sen. Cronin

Talking to chair of BOF.

Had opportunity to go to large groups and hear what students had to say about Parkfest. Not looking to point fingers. Came up with 3 recommendations.

Cap ticket sales (3-5 per person), each student should swipe, have university employees on hand to supervise Parkfest ticket sales. Programming director open to these ideas

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Motion to bundle bills 107-113 by Sen. Ripka

Seconded by Sen. Alic

Sen. Markisello vote via roll call

Seconded by Sen. Alic

Bill passes

28-1-0

Autism Speaks

Fundraise/table a lot on campus. Events throughout Albany and the campus. Looking for a budget to maximize national donations

Sen. Ripka: Why did you align yourself with Autism Speaks?

Group: Very personal and dear to members’ hearts.

*Chairman Witte:* Senators will refrain from personal attacks on the floor, Senator Ripka please be careful with your line of questioning.

Sen. Belkin: Point. Been to meetings, do a great job.

Motion to move into debate

Sen. Ripka: Recognize the support and care. Only asking you look into a different organization. Board of directors. Reach out to other organizations.

Sen. Forman: If you get a group of students that are passionate for a cause who come looking for money for their group, I believe it’s very reasonable.

Sen. Faver: Great org., proved their presence on the campus. They’ve done great work

Sen. Olszewski: Well known org. Much courage to stand up and answer questions based on his reasons for being in the organization.

Sen. Schwab: Abstain if this affects us personally

Sen. Crawford: To address concerns about founders, etc. Pointing out Autism Speaks website. Concerns about vaccines.

Sen. Alic: This is a campus org. Ties to the nat’l org probably aren’t that strong.

Sen. Cronin: A colleague mentioned we should avoid personal feelings. Objectively look at this org. on its merits. We should critically look at the org. we’re giving money to.

Sen. Krush: Understand we have thoughts on the org., supports Haris’ idea to move back into question.

Sen. De La Cruz: This chapter has a lot of independence to do as they please. Great work on this campus.

Sen. Balzano: Not voting on their nat’l org, we’re voting on their chapter.

Sen. Dunleavy: We should look critically, we’re not spending our own money here. Be objective.

Sen. Ripka: Apologize if anyone feels he’s attacked someone. No way opposed to a group on campus who supports autism awareness. Not questioning functionality of the chapter. Simply encouraging we don’t advertise a for-profit org that is not reputable.

Katie Thomas: We don’t have a group on campus that is like Autism Speaks. Simply trying to bring autism awareness to campus. We have groups that may be doing the same thing that we don’t know about. They’e just trying to help Autism on the small scale on campus.

Sen. Markisello: Some of the points made are perfectly valid. If whole point is to debate, don’t attack people for bringing up concerns.

Motion to vote by roll call Sen. Grey

Objection Sen. Krush, motion to vote via voice

Seconded Sen. Crawford

Bill passes

1314-115 Purple and Gold Awards

Director Thomas: Looking to expand Purple and Gold Awards. 40 different student groups, 52 individuals nominated for awards. In past, we told student groups they won, come get award. Want to make it more about other groups going, win or lose, for support. Want to invite member from each nominated group.

Basing event of 300 people, would cost about $3,000. Asking for $2,000 to give a more sophisticated award, food for event, and faculty awards

Motion to vote via roll call by Sen. Efekoro

Seconded Sen. King

Bill passes 29-0-1

Great Dane Wrestling Club

Due to cancellation of senate meetings, the event already occurred. Club came well before that, so now they’re coming as reimbursement. Please don’t penalize them for that. Allocation for hotel, car rental and flight.

Bill ***passes 29-0-1***

Model United Nations

Budget packet never went in last year. Asking for reimbursement.

Sen. Faver: Why didn’t you come to appropriations or senate sooner?

Representative: I went before spring break, beginning of second semester. Miscommunications.

Motion to vote via roll call Sen. Dunleavey

Seconded by Sen. King

Bill passes 21-4-5

Five Quad

Need maintenance, approved to carry 2 medications which are expensive.

Sen. Schwab: How much money going to the medications

Representative: Epipens 800$ We are expected to have stock of these medications since they have been approved for them

Sen. Markisello: How old is the flycar?

Representative: 2006 Ford Expedition, 75,000 miles

Sen. Ripka Motion to vote by roll call

Seconded by Sen. King

Bill passes 29-0-2

1314-120 Over Spending Waiver- FACE

Chairman Witte: Strike bill 119, we will now review Senate Bill 120

Fashion show at beginning of May. Taking creative route- whole day’s event. Vendors and local businesses

Sen. Faver: What’s the money going towards specifically

Going outdoors, so tent, flooring, decoration. Tent and flooring are expensive.

Sen. Markisello motion to move into debate

Seconded by Sen. Wilkins

Sen. Markisello: Just 250 or whole thing?

Witte: Striking that, just bill 120.

Sen. Markisello: When we pointed out overspending thing, it was for a group who was around for 8 years. Group should be established for 2 straight semesters before they are granted a large amount of money. Sets a bad precedent if we keep allocating money right off the bat like this.

Sen. Alic: Sen. Markisello made a good point, but it made it through appropriations

Sen. Markisello: Just because a committee approved a bill, doesn’t mean we should have to approve it. It was brought to the floor to speak on it as a group.

Sen. De La Cruz: Usually we don’t allow groups to overspend, but this is special circumstance. They’ve already taken money out of their pocket. We can’t leave them hanging at last minute.

Sen. Rook: We weren’t looking to abuse the power of the rules, I felt attracted to the presentation because this will be an outdoor event, the whole day, and is very interactive and attractive.

Sen. Markisello: This has happened three times this year, but before that, it’s never happened before.

Sen. Krush: At end of meeting of the 250$ allocation, we steered them in the direction of where to go for the overspending. Would love to see this happen.

Motion to move back into questioning Sen. Faver

Seconded by Sen. Efekoro

Sen. Faver: Fundraising?

Answer: Chipotle, have been fundraising externally. Made T-shirts with own money. Sold them and made a profit off of that.

Sen. Dunleavey: Will your event be able to take place without this funding?

No.

Sen. Alic: Will you come back and ask for another supplemental allocation after this?

No.

Sen Faver: Ticket process?

No.

Sen. Efekoro motion to vote via roll call

Seconded by Sen. Olszewski

Bill passes 22-4-4

1314-121

*Sen. Belkin:* Motion to vote via roll call

*Sen. De la Cruz:* Second

Bill passes 28-0-1

1314-122 WCDB

Radio station, 24/7 operations. Looking to replace some equipment.

Sen. Efekoro: motion to vote via roll call

Seconded by Sen. Hershenson

Bill passes 27-0-1

1314-123 Women’s Rugby

Allocation to help them get to tournament

Only rugby women’s team on campus. No try-outs, everyone is accepted.

Went to nationals last year.

Invited to invite-only tournament, will be very beneficial to the team. Ranked 16th in the nation. About 30 girls coming.

Could not attend last year because they did not have the funds.

Sen. Schwab: Rugby teams are hard to insure. Hard to establish, so they have to come to up.

Motion to vote by Sen. Grey

Seconded by Sen. Salamy

Bill passes 28-0-1

1314-124 African Student Association

Sen. Markisello: Issue at one of your events this year where there was a considerable amount of damage roughly $1700

Representative: People were standing against walls, so stains were on walls. Floor was dirty, so carpet needed cleaning and the wall needed painting. Whole building seemed fine, but then company called and said they had issues. Ended up paying it off out of the group’s budget.

Sen. Alic: How much was previous budget?

Representative: $6600. We put on 3 events before this.

Sen. Alic: Seems to be budgeted inaccurately.

Motion to move into debate Sen. De La Cruz

Seconded by Sen. Webb

Sen. Schwab: I get where the questions are coming from with the budget question. Their events are amazing. Because of their budget, they have to come to us.

Sen. De La Cruz: They just explained their unforeseen expenses. It’s out of their control. We can’t just leave them hanging. Much is paid out of pocket.

Sen. Markisello: I understand it was unforeseen, but the people ultimately responsible for damages are the group. It was the decision of the administration to hold the group responsible. We’re obviously going to have to turn away groups eventually, we’re getting towards the end of the year.

Sen. Dunleavy: About $13,000 in a budget. A lot of money spent per event. If you can’t budget properly through the SA constraints, then I don’t think it’s appropriate to continue subsidizing not being able to work within the constraints.

Sen. Longo: We’re not about bailing out student groups here. I oppose the bill.

Sen. Alic: It obviously sucks you were stuck with a bill for damages, but in essence we’re being asked to flip the bill for your damage. If we give you this $2100 how do we know you will budget this appropriately?

Sen. Efekoro: When this group came to the SA last year, the group was given significantly less money. We told each group that they could not receive exactly what they were asking for, but we’d work with them for events. It isn’t like they’re not fundraising. This is one of the biggest.

Sen. King: We need to avoid using the logic that we’re hanging groups out to die when we don’t support them. We shouldn’t feel obligated to give them money.

Sen. Balzano: We’re setting a dangerous precedent by giving money just because they already promoted this event.

Sen. Longo: Group had plenty of time to adjust their budget to allocate for expenses.

Sen. Rook: Event has been going on each year, for 26 years now.

Sen. De La Cruz: What happens if you don’t get the money.

The event won’t happen.

Sen. Krush: One of the groups began selling tickets, then decided to drop cost of ticket. If person brought in their ticket, they were refunded for the lower amount. It’s possible to give refunds.

Sen. Schwab: Motion to vote via roll call

Seconded by Sen. Russell

Bill fails 9-11-9

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Sen. Ripka speaks on behalf of wise budgeting

Chairman Witte: Senator Crawford is requesting to move from rules committee to appropriations, Sen. Longo is moving from appropriations to rules. I will hear a motion on that request

*Sen. De la Cruz:* So Moved

Seconded by Sen. Faver