Senate Minutes for September 17, 2014

1. Call to Order and Opening Roll

Markisello welcomed us the Pledge of Allegiance.

Senators Beaten, Black, Daniels, Evenson are absent with excuse. All others present

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes are not here from last week. They will be reviewed next week

1. Public Comment  
    --Phi Alpha Delta is welcoming questions and comments.

--Middle Earth Suicide hotline. We received an email thanking Middle Earth for their response to a suicidal situation. We were very quick to respond and they found the help that they were seeking. He felt comfortable reaching out even when he did not attend the University.

--Albany Bowling Club-They got invited to Las Vegas in December for a bowling tournament and will be asking for funding in the future.

--Lee Stanton brought leftover refreshments from PHS to give out.

--We clapped for Lee’s Birthday.

--Connor Dunleavy—Young American’s for Liberty General interest

--UAlbany Pre-Law Club introduce club, meetings on Wednesdays

-MMA and Tae Kwon Doe—wants to change their room for lack of space, now wants the mat room. Now their room only fits around 15 people but mat room will fit 50. Last year senate stated we would support them. Tae Kwon Doe is not D2 and want space to uphold standard. Club is slowly dying because of lack of space. Not enough space to properly do movements, asks for Senate support

Stanley De La Cruz

What steps are you taking?

Answer

Campus athletics took over previous space that they used last year. Want to raise awareness and ask for advice on trying to find space. Explaining that they are desperate for help. We are not stopping and are going to go to appropriations for extra funding

--Middle Earth Town Hall Meeting Oct 7th PAC to discuss underage drinking, President Jones will be present, reducing risk with safe drinking, anyone is welcome to come

--De La Cruz—Monday the 15th September Spanish Heritage Month starts. 7PM banquet tomorrow, which is a kickoff, and hopes that the senators get involved in events and community service.

--Ellis, Derek—Elections commission 972 votes for fall. Welcome Senators.

1. Opening Remarks
   1. Markisello-Welcome senators and introduction
2. University Report

-No Report

1. Judicial Report

-Ben Engwer swears senators in.

1. Board of Finance Report

Markisello-Filled office of comptroller last week

Filled positions for deputy to be appointed later tonight.

1. Executive Report

Francis Agyemang, Marc Cohen, Habeeb Famuyide- Introductions, explains availability, encourages people to stop in and ask questions. Congratulate on elections. Open door policy.

-Programming missing—Cannot do speaker series on homecoming weekend with a lack of time for scheduling so they are pushing it back with a TBD date hopefully on Big Purple Growl.

-Trying to have a fall concert this year. Use funds from Parkfest and hopefully make that much money back or profit to use for spring park fest. Want to move this event to Times Union because SEFCU only houses 5,000 people and want to fit more people(Up to 15,000 at Times Union). Hopefully make enough of a profit to put on multiple events which could be comedian.

-Want to attend more community meetings: police officers and neighborhood members want more of an interaction with the college campus as we constitute a large part of community. Hopes to build a repore. Want to emphasize directors are following their plans.

-Tutoring Service trying to be implemented. Only one offered is through EOP. StonyBrook, Bruque and other colleges are trying this and we want to implement that.

-Eboard meeting is 3PM on Friday for directors.

-Also trying to meet with all the student groups to discuss the services that

Dunleavy

Asked if we are going to replace speaker series with the fall fest-

Agyemang

Wants to have both

Senator

Doesn’t it take a long time to find artists

Agyemang

He has been working on it this summer-hopes it goes smoothly. They are trying to use past connections for event

Planty

Will it be the same set up as EOP tutoring?

Agyemang

Come and talk to me about it

Senator

Will there be too many people buying and then selling park fest tickets? That was a problem last year

Agyemang

There will be a difference in general public and students. No student quota, price will be based on seating.

Senator

In order for student groups to table they have to pay a price of $10.

Francis-That is through Campus Center Management.

All of the directors will stand up and give a quick intro to new senators. Give a general overview of their job descriptions.

Mackenzie Rinefierd, Lee Stanton, Derek Ellis, Kayla Potter (Student Group Affairs), Chrisel Martinez, Donovan Swanson, Beth Conrad (OSI)-Congratulations to senators, Allison Bliss

**X. Legislative Agenda**

**1. S.1415-030 (Deputy Comptroller Appointment-Robert Warshauer)**

Marc Cohen will be taking over the podium

Markisello

Introduces Rob who has been in the office all semester as an assistant and has been an acting intern for the entirety of this semester. He works very well alongside Mackenzie. He is a business major and a marketing concentration. He spoke on his experience in the past year.

Rinefierd

Gives full support stating that he has been very helpful in the office this year

Stanton

“Rob did a damn good job”

No objections or debate points-Robert Warshauer is now Deputy Comptroller

**2. S.1415-031 (Deputy Comptroller Appointment- Roneyka Anthony)**

Markisello

Past experience as a treasurer. Was a past comptroller applicant. She has an internship that will benefit her as well as the experience as RACE treasurer will give the student perspective to the office.

Anthony

Data analytics intern in the summer and created a new database that the government is currently using. She currently has experience as being a team player.

Rinefierd

She also knows MyInvolvement back and forth as a treasurer and will help benefit the office.

No Debate Points or objections. Anthony has been appointed as deputy.

**3. S.1415-032R (DREAM Act Resolution)**

motioned to skip reading of act

Efekoro

Requesting that the school supports the dream act

Chowdhury

Motion tabling to January

De La Cruz

Objection

22 in favor table to January

Henderson

Explains that just because Senate is long tonight doesn’t mean we should skip the reading of the bill or table it until January

XI. Old Business

XII. New Business

1. Vice Chair Elections

Efekoro, Webb, Schwab, and De La Cruz nominated

Schwab

Junior, focused on Senate, wants us to come together, feel more as friends than sit down meeting, wants to have bbq, don’t want left side vs right side, fix issues of segregation among senate, always around for any help that is needed.

De La Cruz

Joined senate last year, approps committees, board of finance, joined senate for student advocate, student group involvement, track team, fuerza latina president, SA budget process insight, interact with executive branch and administration

Webb

Joined senate last year, congratulates newly elected senators, new alternative and fresh perspective, wants a new senate with a new direction, listen to the students, senate more transparent, appropriate money to student groups without bias, independent voice for senate

Efekoro

Two years in senate, oldest person in senate other than Markisello, has stopped in at every student group program, constituent relations needs to do more and not just hand out money, wants more public affairs and more involvement

Butler (Cohen gave his time)

If you were a part of a bicycle, what part would you be?

Webb

Reflectors-look out for you, make you aware of surroundings, always working for you and don’t always realize. “This is a terrible question” Ultimately, I’m looking out for you

De La Cruz

Grease on chain-make a smoother process and make everyone’s job easier

Schwab

Seat- how can you ride it without a seat? Cushion you guys and get involved Efekoro

Every part of the bicycle is important

Cassidy

Is it more important to push senate to your personal vision or fulfill the administrative task?

De La Cruz

Administrative process is important. Would not be personal voice, but advocate for students, non-bias

Schwab

Push senate for what students want

Efekoro

Administrative position, work with students, Senators forum to speak with student body

Webb

Work for the students, voice for student body. Our job is not to put personal opinions in

Dunleavy

How would you work to bring senate closer to student groups?

Schwab

Constituent Relations was created for this reason, each senator should be designated a certain number of student groups to be in charge of and this should be implemented so student groups know who to go to with concerns

Efekoro

Forum to speak with student groups, stays up late and go to student groups’ meetings to see what they are about

Webb

How we allocate, served on constituent relations (needed more oil for bicycle image) bring the student groups here to advocate themselves, make sure the constituent relations is working for the students

De La Cruz

Get to know student groups, after experience doing the budget you should know what each student group does, initiative to volunteer time to make an events calendar to encourage Senators to attend student groups’ events

Nwike

If you were here celebrating next year, what would you want to have achieved this year?

Efekoro

When student groups come to request money, they are getting what they deserve because it is their money with the student activity fee

Webb

Transparency in Senate, listen to the students, vote in interests of student, if the students are happy with the programs and allocations they have gotten then we should be happy

De La Cruz

Connect students to resources to develop them professionally, more efficient organization, reduction in student activity fee because he thinks there is enough money it’s just not spent effectively

Schwab

Senators still in the same seat in the Spring, if all are here then all the student body is being represented, be productive, have students comfortable coming to Senate, students to be represented and getting money they deserve

Sepulveda

How has your involvement outside of SA help you meet the job requirements?

Webb

Requirement is passion and service, has no ties to any student group so not bias

De La Cruz

President of Fuerza Latina, Track Team, outside involvement as well, engaging young students across the country, read about issues that students have, know what student groups go through on a daily basis, senators should know what affects student groups

Schwab

Deans Leadership Council, PAD, Photo Club, College Dem, leadership, dedication, respect of your peers, passion and heart to want to be in Senate

Efekoro

Experience does matter, wants to help high school students, member of too many to count student groups

Terezakis

If you lead involved lives, along with outside groups, how do you plan on balancing all the work?

De La Cruz

I was just as involved last year, I already balanced last year and I wish to just continue

Schwab

A lot to balance, make senate number one goal, able to do it last year with other committees, never missed a senate meeting and don’t plan to

Efekoro

Elected into senate two years in a row, have not missed senate meeting, free on MWF to work with organizations and Senate

Webb

I represent 1300 undergraduate students, as vice chair or senator I am here for the students I represent

Cassidy

Do you think that this administrative position will compromise your vision for senate?

De La Cruz

I feel like being chair would have compromised my position to advocate for students, but vice chair will not

Dunleavy

How do you plan on balancing track and senate?

De La Cruz

I practice at 7:30am MWF and travel on weekends. I have been to Senate meetings and BoF meetings and have previously balanced and will continue

DEBATE

Markisello

Describes Vice Chair Position

Favor

Served with all four senators, hard working individuals, keep in mind someone who wants to progress the Senate and time commitment

Dunleavy

Emphasis on time commitment, 10 hours a week is important, athlete is difficult and time consuming and being involved in so many groups is also time consuming

Senator

I like to stay busy, some people can manage their time

Chowdhury

Schwab is in the office all the time and knows Robert’s rules. She is also always available

Henderson

De La Cruz always has good points and asks the hard questions. Efekoro is always on campus and most interactive in student groups.

Members counting votes include: Rinefierd, Ellis, Markisello, Cohen

Markisello

No one got enough votes for 2/3

Schwab got 20

De La Cruz got 9

Schwab

Thank you for supporters so far, please help me continue because I know we can progress this senate

De La Cruz

Thank you for Efekoro and Webb because they have great visions that I agree with. I am set apart from Schwab because of my involvement because that does play a vital role

JUMP TO VOTE

19 votes to Schwab

18 votes De La Cruz

DEBATE

Chowdhury

100% for Schwab, she is always in SA office, impartial from votes, knows the rules, and Senate doesn’t want someone who will overstep Markisello

Henderson

De La Cruz is the guy for the job, last year when he ran for chair I just voted for Markisello because he knows bylaws, De La Cruz was on BoF and went through budget process, pays attention to each group, we don’t need someone to take themselves out of the race just because they want this process over, we want both to stay in the race because both are qualified

Dunleavy

Support Schwab because she has time commitment, she is someone who is readily available and can connect with senators and student groups

Webb

Hi, I’m the guy who lost. I endorse De La Cruz because I believe he will be neutral in all cases. Schwab is an epitome of a senator and there were some incidents that she was not neutral. De La Cruz will work for you and be your voice. Vote for De La Cruz

Efekoro

Hi, I’m the second guy who lost. De La Cruz is the best for the position. He is in the SA office all the time, he is on the BoF and is supporting other organizations, we are the senate and we make the rules and we can change the rules, we can make this a majority vote

Markisello

That is not allowed. It has to be 2/3 vote.

Hershenson

Support Schwab, I was in senate last year. She is perfect for the job and 100% support her

Engwer

90% of the time I am a goofball, 10% I’m serious when I care about something. De La Cruz and I have different views on everything. He wanted to get more involved so I got him on the Appropriations Committee, he has ideas and brought them to the table, he was new but brought a new voice, his time commitments are irrelevant because he has learned to balance. De La Cruz is a great guy and deserves it.

George

I don’t know either candidates personally, but the time management has been brought up a lot and I believe De La Cruz should not be hurt for his involvement. Just because he is involved does not mean that that should be such a determining factor for the vote.

Chowdhury

BoF supplied a budget that was not balanced and when they presented it, and De La Cruz was a part of the BoF. He did not do his job effectively

Senator

How many people are on BoF

Markisello

7

Sippin

No bias toward either because I am a freshmen, Schwab left a lasting first impression and I support her

Melse

Schwab also made a lasting first impression on me

Cassidy

Can someone go into depth about unbalanced budget?

Markisello

Number of allocation was greater than they were supposed to give out

Sanzone

He was elected through special election-got to know Schwab. Spoke to De La Cruz at the next at-large election. Belives Schwab will have less conflict with Chairman

Planty

I know De La Cruz, I am in Fuerza Latina and am not a Latina, helped me feel welcome with a neutral aspect.

Dunleavy

Organizations under SA have to take in every type of student, so that does not talk to the character of the individual. Schwab is most qualified, she is not an athlete, she does not have to give time to traveling for sports. She was professional when I came in to Senate and guided me to the ropes of the business. De La Cruz does not have perfect attendance in Senate, we need someone committed to the students and that is Schwab

Webb

Both candidates have their flaws. Appointment of comptroller incident, Schwab did not believe that the BoF appointment was appropriate. Her best friend…

Markisello

(Stops Webb)

Webb

The most qualified person was the appointment and she was shot down by Schwab

Chowdhury

Was Schwab the only one who voted against the appointment

Markisello

No

Henderson

De La Cruz may have missed one meeting last year, I have been here for a full year and I missed one senate meeting. It is Ludacris to say that you need to have perfect attendance to be effective. De La Cruz is done with his work out before most of us are even awake. He has made more than enough time to give to Senate.

Efekoro

I don’t have anything against Schwab, but there is a group of senators that have already met with Schwab and have created a coalition to vote for her

Engwer

De La Cruzs attendance has been brought to question, on the Appropriations Committee he has always been there. BoF meetings he has always come, I call him first because I know he would always come, he is dependable. De La Cruz is a student advocate, he is personal, he is friendly, he is involved. It would be a travesty if he did not get it.

Sepulveda

I have worked with De La Cruz for the last four years, he is dedicated. He works with people on a national level. He is in the SA office all the time and he is the best candidate.

Nwike

De La Cruz is a leader. We need a leader as a vice chair. We need someone who knows how to hunt and how to gather. He does everything to he fullest capacity. Schwab would make a good candidate for the job, but De La Cruz would be the best leader.

Hershensin

Time commitment, position requires 10 hours , when I walk into SA office I want to see someone sitting there. Schwab has been on ResLife and think about what that says about her as a person.

VOTE

Markisello

Still not 2/3 vote

21 De La Cruz

15 Schwab

Schwab

Thanks for your support guys, but I am going to take one for the team. De La Cruz is your new Vice Chair.

XII. Closing Remarks

XIV. Closing Roll and Adjournment