**Minutes for Senate Meeting 1/28/15**

**Called to Order: 8:50 P.M**

**Opening Roll:**

* Roll called by Sen. De La Cruz.
* Minutes approved from last week.

**Public Comment:**

* Improvapalooza event by Sketchy Characters, 3/27-29.
  + Sketcky Bowl Saturday Show this Saturday.
* Middle Earth having sexuality week, Laverne Cox coming to speak.
* NAACP having “I am” Week, week of 2/15, spreading awareness about the organization and mission.
  + End of the week, founder’s day banquet.
* Bringing benches into the Lecture Center, something to be worked on.

**Opening Remarks:**

Sen. Markisello:

* Lost a couple of senators to graduation and resignation, special election to come.
* All senate meetings will be at 8:45 P.M from now on.
* Constitutional Convention has not met yet, firm date will be set.

Sen. De La Cruz:

* Welcome back, hopefully there will be more legislation this semester.

**University Report:**

* **No University Report**

**Judicial Report:**

* **No Judicial Report**

**Board of Finance Report:**

* Working to clarify how much money is in reserves.
* Best estimate so far is $680,000. Must be $600,000 in there.
* May be an enrollment shortfall this semester for undergraduates, could affect our finances.
* Budget packets going live for student groups soon.
* Budget will be prepared by March 20th. Will come to senate in early to mid-April.

**Executive Report:**

Gender and Sexuality Concerns:

* No one from department in attendance.
* Program initiatives will be announced soon.

Community Affairs and Outreach:

* Piloting new program this semester, student groups will volunteer each week to clean up a street.

Academic Affairs:

* Working on the Career Fair with Career Services on 2/12.
  + Related events will lead up to the big fair.

Multicultural Affairs:

* Accepting interns and specific ones for spirituality.
* Cultural Carnival, anticipated date 4/12.
* Working with other departments to have a program called “All about that Base,” will be a fashion show, anticipated date is 3/12.

Programming:

* Attempting to do three different speaker series, one for each month.
* Planning for ParkFest to be in late April.
* Two Asst. Positions open, people should apply.

Legislative Affairs:

* Meeting with City Councilman for Albany campus. Will ask him to pursue improvements in regards to bad taxi service.
* Taxi Drivers are taking advantage of students by charging us an unjust rate.
* Will request that information be added to the Albany app, only current option is going to the police.
* Planning involvement in Student Advocacy Day at the State Capitol.

Communications:

* No Report.

Dippikill:

* Did reorder of Dippikill photo book.
* Ordering new Ask me about Dippikill t-shirts for AAs.

Student Group Affairs:

* Successful involvement fair this morning, over 50 student groups participated.
* Town Hall coming up.
* Purple and Gold awards upcoming.
* Sudexo showcase for catering options for student groups.

Comptroller:

* Working on a mid-year report with accountant.
* Student groups can stop by to get account status.
* Continuing to conduct audits on SA assets with student groups.

Marketing:

* Have a full staff open for the new semester.
* Tabling set up for flyering on Mondays and Wednesdays staring 2/9.
* Working with Athletics Department to get more people at games.

President/Vice President/Chief of Staff:

* Number of people went to the State of SUNY address, we got lots of shout outs.
* A lot of positions are open this semester. Interims have been appointed to fill the positions temporarily.
* Sen. Webb: What is your plan for the Communications Department?
  + Had own reservations about the department, decided there is a role for it. Will reach out for sponsorships.
* Sen. Webb: What are the differences between Communications and Marketing?
  + Marketing is more focused on intra-campus marketing, Communications focused on external marketing.
* Sen. Sanzone: How have you been advertising these positions?
  + Posted on UAlbany Facebook page, flyers, advertised at fair today.
* Sen. Markisello: Can a whole campus e-mail be sent out?
  + Yes it can.

**Election Commission Report:**

* Kylie Schiebling will be Interim Election Commissioner.
* Applications for special election open midnight tomorrow.
* Nominations will close next week at senate meeting.
* Elections will begin noon on Tuesday.
* Spring Elections will overlap with the midterm elections.
* 3/9 Spring Elections begin.
* Run off election would be after Spring Break.

**Committee Reports:**

Rules and Admin:

* Sen. Kamins will be added to committee.
* Short Rules meeting after this senate meeting.
* Rules Committee has impeached two senators, Ayomide Jegede, Brittany Roberts-Blake. Barring Senater overrule, special election will be held to fill the seats.

Appropriations:

* $52,000 left in general fund.
* $2,350 left in new and unfunded.

Government Operations:

* Trying to work out a time to meet consistently.
* Scheduling meetings with department heads.

Community Outreach and Engagement:

* Met today and passed a bill to be on the agenda next week.
* Meetings will be Wednesday at 8 P.M in front of the SA office.

Constituent Relations:

* Meetings will be Tuesday at 8:30 P.M in the SA lounge.

**Legislative Agenda:**

**Motion to add Bill 32R to the agenda from the fall. Deals with Dream Act by Sen. Efekoro.**

**Already on docket because it was tabled to this meeting- Sen. Markisello.**

***S.1415-065 Appropriations Bill-College Republicans***

* Requesting $3,500 for trip to CPAC in Spring.
* Sen. Schwab: How many people are going?
  + Reserved 4 rooms for 4 people each, so maximum of 16 people. No finalized amount yet.
* Sen. Schwab: How long is the event?
  + 3 days, 4 nights.
* Sen. Cassidy: How much money is left in account.
  + $52,416.56 left in account.
* Sen. De La Cruz: How is this trip going to benefit the campus community?
  + We are a Poli Sci heavy school, many students are interested here in getting involved in politics on a national level.
* Sen. Schwab: Do you have a back up plan in case you can’t get 16 people to go?
  + Will really aim for the 16 figure. Have enough people to ensure that amount will be met.
  + Would be more comfortable if there is 1 room reserved only for girls.
* Sen. Efekoro: Does it have to be 16?
  + 16 is the maximum, fewer might attend.
* Sen: Chowdhury:
  + When College Republicans first met with Committee their request was rejected for being too high. They worked to get the budget cut down.
* Sen. Dunleavy: Are you asking for less money than in previous years?
  + $4,700 last year, we are asking for less.
* Sen. De La Cruz: Where are you staying, sounds pricy?
  + Gaylord Resort, where the event is being held. Necessary to fully participate in the conference.
* Sen. Cassidy: Does this cover all costs?
  + Each member will contribute about $200.
* Sen. Cassidy: is group contributing to cost of trip?
  + Probably won’t dip into budget, saving that for state convention in the Spring.
* Sen. Chowdhury:
  + When they applied for a budget for this trip in the Spring, they were told to come back in the Spring.
* Sen. Kosinki: Any fundraising?
  + Working to host a fundraiser at a pub.
* Sen. Cassidy: Are you sure 16 members can pay $200 for this trip?
  + We wish we could subsidize it more, but we can only do what we can do. Whatever is fundraised can help alleviate expenses.
* Sen. Cassidy: Have you warned members of the cost?
  + Yes at meeting today and will continue to publicize.

Sen. Cassidy: Maybe we should consider giving them some extra money? We have a lot of money left.

Sen. De La Cruz: I worry about the money we are giving them already. I think this is reasonable, we shouldn’t give them anymore.

Sen. Dunleavy: I went to CPAC with YAL, very expensive area for hotels. Not possible to stay within a reasonable area of the conference without paying so much.

Sen. Schwab: Want to thank the group for working well with the committee. They are an example for other groups. If they want more money they should come back.

* Sen. Cassidy: Now that you know some Senators want to give you more money what are your thoughts?
  + Nice to know, appreciate the accommodation of the Senate.

Sen. Cassidy: Subsidizing the trip for individual members will make the trip more accessible. Most student groups are limited to those who are interested in what they stand for.

Sen. Efekoro: I think $3,449 is a good amount for these people. If this was a minority organization we would be arguing to lower the budget.

Sen. Markisello: When has that ever happened, where is your evidence?

Sen. Efekoro: African Student Group got rejected.

Sen. Markisello: You can’t question people’s motives without evidence. The African Student Association had one request rejected due to property damage and insurance issues.

Motion to Call the Question- Sen. Chowdhury

***Passed by Unanimous Consent***

***S.1415-066 Appropriations Bill-FACE***

* New and Unfunded group seeking $250.
* First Fashion group on campus.
* Will use money to put out apparel.

***Passed by Unanimous Consent***

***S.1415-067 Appropriations Bill-Women’s Club Soccer***

* Need money for soccer balls. UAlbany made the team use all their money on Uniforms.
* Also need money for pennies.
* Sen. Cassidy: How many balls does the money buy?
  + 24, one pack.

***Passed by Unanimous Consent***

***S.1415-068 Appropriations Bill-Sankofa Africa***

* Need food and location costs covered for event they are hosting.

Sen. Webb: This is one of my favorite organizations, everyone should vote yes.

Sen. Dunleavy: They’ve done plenty of good, we should be supporting them.

***Passed by Unanimous Consent***

***1415-069 Committee Appointments***

**Sen. Kamins appointed to Rules and Administration Committee, raising total number of members to 7.**

***Passed by Unanimous Consent***

**Old Business:**

**Bill 32R: New York State Dream Act**

* This resolution was introduced last semester. It urges the New York State Senate to pass the Dream Act.
* We should pass it because America is built on immigrants, they should be helped by legislation like this.

Sen. Chowdhury: This bill is good, we should encourage the two state senators that represent campus to vote yes.

* Sen. Schwab: How will it be sent out?
  + Will be sent out in the form of the resolution. Will be hand delivered.

Sen. Dunleavy: I know that there are a lot of students here that don’t support this. We shouldn’t say all of Albany believes this. Senate should vote no out of respect for those opinions.

Sen. Eager: We were voted in by our constituents, it is our responsibility to represent them. We can vote on their behalf.

Sen. Schwab: Counter-Resolution could be proposed.

Sen. Markisello: Vote count will be noted when resolution is submitted.

Sen. Henderson: This should be passed, this is about the children of people who came to America for a better life.

***Vote: 23 in Favor, 2 Opposed, 3 Abstentions 🡪 Passed.***

**New Business:**

* **No New Business.**

**Closing Remarks:**

Sen. Markisello: We will take closing attendance. Urge people who aren’t here to be here. Let Sen. Markisello know if you will not be in attendance by 5 P.M.

Sen. Webb: I am so stressed out over this impeachment thing. Doesn’t want to do this but it is his job. Has contacted multiple people throughout the last month about their attendance with little response. People who aren’t here will hear from the committee.

Sen. De La Cruz: Really sucks for people who are here every week to be equal to those who do no work. Will be enforcing executive office hours for this semester.

**Closing Roll:**

* **Called by Sen. De La Cruz.**

**Senate Adjourned: 10:14 P.M**

**Prepared by Senate Secretary Austin Ostro**