**Minutes for Senate Meeting 2/18/15**

**Called to Order: 8:47 P.M**

**Opening Roll:**

* Roll called by Sen. De La Cruz.

**Public Comment:**

* Lourie Gold: President of SUNY SA
  + 3/20 Weekend, shared government conference at Onandaga Community College. Go to VP Cohen for information.
  + SUNY Speaks up Event, 3/24 at 9 P.M at SUNY Empire State College. Meetings will be set up with legislators.
* Middle Earth: Today is the end of Sexuality Week.
  + 1,800 students live streamed Laverne Cox Event, 1,000 were there in person.
  + Week was incorporated into some classes.
* Sen. Longo: Great to be back.
* Sen. Sandberg: Proposing event with Steve Sax, what he spoke about last week. Costs $15,000, $7,000 in travel.
  + Sen. Markisello: Will be sent to Appropriations Committee.
  + Sen. Chowdhury: Where will the money go to?
    - Wants to make this part of Speaker Series.
* Sen. Dunleavy: YAL had interest meeting today.
* Sen. Terezakis: Debate Team meets Monday and Wednesdays in Humanities 108.

**Opening Remarks:**

Sen. Markisello:

* Had Constitutional Convention on Sunday. Most changes are decided, final things to be hammered out. Will likely be presented to Senate the week after next.
* Senate will not meet next week until after the Presidential Candidate Forum. If there is not much to be done, Senate will be cancelled.
* Welcome to the new Senators. 10 were sworn in this week.

Sen. De La Cruz: Ally Faver and Leah Kosinski resigned today from the Senate.

**University Report:**

* **No University Report**

**Judicial Report:**

* **No Judicial Report**

**Board of Finance Report:**

* Deadline for budget submissions is Friday at 9 P.M.
* They are for the most part ok, being looked through.
* Some of the numbers don’t add up, need to be fixed.
* Board of Finance meeting early next week.
* Reviewing contracts and looking into the Comptroller’s Office.

**Executive Report:**

Gender and Sexuality Concerns:

* Love is Love at 1:05 P.M in the Campus Center Lobby on Friday.
* 4/10-4/12 Northeast LGBT Conference.
* Added revenue from the conference will be used to create an endowment for students who have been cut off by their families because of their sexual orientation.

Community Engagement and Outreach:

* Working on Pine Hills Improvement Initiative.

Academic Affairs:

* Career Fair last week was a real success. More people attended than last year.
* Advisement Services is doing a Tell My Story Project. Students are invited to share their academic story, their career plans etc.
* Excellence in Teaching Awards, 3/4-3/27.

Multicultural Affairs:

* Applications are due for their internship on Friday.

Programming:

* 2/28 Common is coming for Speaker Series, tickets are free and have been set aside for Senators.
* Sen. Schwab: How is progress on ParkFest?
  + Making progress, would like to host it in SEFCU.

Election Commission:

* Presidential and Senate nominations are due on Friday.
* Debate next Wednesday at 8:45 P.M.

Legislative Affairs:

* Working with Community Engagement to get politicians to Pine Hill Clean Up.

Communications:

* No Report.

Dippikill:

* No Report.

Student Group Affairs:

* Purple and Gold Award nominations are up, so are SA scholarship nominations.
* Needs 3 Senators to be on Purple and Gold Award committee.

Comptroller:

* No Report.

Marketing:

* Working to get more people involved in Athletics on Campus.
* Got Water Bottles.

President/Vice President:

* President Agyemang and VP Cohen meeting with Christakis this week, let them know if anything needs to be addressed.
* People with disabilities are not represented enough on campus, their needs should be addressed. Want to appoint an Associate Director for Accessibility in the Gender and Sexuality Department.
* Town Hall meeting next Tuesday hosted by Dining Services.
* Next week is the University Senate Executive Meeting, any concerns can be brought by VP Cohen.
* An Associate Director for Athletics in the Marketing Department will be appointed as well to help with that, as was addressed last week.
* VP Cohen: Wants Senate input on whether Directors should send in a report of what they are doing instead of each director speaking each week.
  + VP Cohen: All Directors would still be required to attend Senate Meetings.
  + Sen. Dunleavy: Not sure it would be read, likes it being presented by the Directors.
  + Sen. Webb: They should do both, report with a record we can take home.
  + Sen. De La Cruz: How about a shorter spoken report with a written report to save time?
  + Sen. Chowdhury: Might create a divide between the different branches if they aren’t speaking to the Senate each week.
  + Sen. Schwab: A lot of discussions have been prompted by Directors presentations, they are necessary.
  + Sen. Terezakis: They aren’t mutually exclusive.
  + Interim Justice Butler: University Council does this and it saves them a lot of time. Any questions can still be addressed to Directors.
    - Sen. Markisello: This is what University Senate does too.
  + VP Cohen: No ulterior motive, only goal is to save time.
  + Straw Poll on the issue: Overwhelming Senate support for written statements with Directors only addressing new issues out loud.
  + Will try it as a pilot either next week or the week after.
  + Pres. Agyemang: Whatever Senators say on social media reflects on SA as a whole. The President’s office is always open to anyone with a concern. No one who has posted criticisms of the Executive Branch has approached President Agyemang.

**Committee Reports:**

Rules and Admin:

* 2 more Senators can join the committee.
* Presenting a few bills today.

Appropriations:

* Met and bills will be on the docket next week.

Government Operations:

* Anyone can join the committee.
* Changed Breach of Ethics Form.

Community Outreach and Engagement:

* Bill passed that will be on the agenda.
* Meeting next week.

Constituent Relations:

* Meeting next week.

**Legislative Agenda:**

***S. 1415-078, 79, 80 Tabled until next week.***

***New Senators sworn in by Sen. Markisello.***

**S. 1415-081 Fountain Day Resolution**

* Sen. Terezakis: I ran for Senate to bring back Fountain Day. We should stand united to convince the administration.
* Sen. Sandberg: Will alcohol be a part of this?
  + We want to keep it safe, but bring it back.
* Sen. Toranzo: We should not include alcohol, would hurt our chances of bringing it back.
* Dir. Durio: How will we keep it safe?
  + We will push for security precautions. Other schools students and drunk students would be stopped from coming.
* President Agyemang: Reached out to administration about bringing back Fountain Day, they refused. However, we don’t really need permission to utilize the Fountain.
* We can call it something else as long as it is the first day of Spring, and involves the fountain.

***Resolution Passes by Voice Vote***

**S. 1415-082 Elections Date Resolution**

* Deadline for students to decided to run is too soon, they need more time and the elections need to be better publicized.
* Want the deadline for students to sign up to run to be extended to 2/23.
* Elections Commission: If the date is moved, the by law on the date of the Presidential Debate would be violated.
* Sen. Webb: This resolution appears to me to be a violation of by laws.
  + Sen. Dunleavy: By Laws were violated when the date for the opening of nominations was late.
* Dep. Comp. Warshauer: Breaking a by law isn’t a good way to fix the breaking of a by law. Doesn’t take a long time to fill out the form, students still have two days to sign up and a third e-mail will go out marketing the elections.
* Sen. Longo: Supports moving the date.
* Sen. Alford: If someone was passionate enough to run for Senate, they would have done so by now.
* Elections Commission: 3 Presidential/VP Tickets so far, 17 candidates for Senate.
* Sen. Chowdhury: Even if this doesn’t pass, Marketing should ramp up publicity.
* Sen. Terezakis: We should pass this, 3 days means more people would run.
* Sen. Dunleavy: Elections need to be more competitive.
* Sen. De La Cruz: It is not our job to make elections competitive.
* Elections Commission: 55 people ran last year for Senate, over half of the nominations were filled out in the last 2 days.

***Bill Fails by a vote of 12-19-1***

**S. 1415-083 University at Albany Council Student Representative**

* University Council Rep should be elected in the Spring. Important to have all year, election cannot wait until the Fall.
* Sen. Markisello: Why were nominations accepted for University Council before this by law was addressed?
  + Dep. Warshauer: We don’t want to break the by law, accepting nominations is allowable, but having the election now isn’t.
* Sen. De La Cruz: We need student representation on that board.
* Sen. Schwab: The last two years it has been elected in the Spring.
* Sen. Markisello: There is another by law that would still be left in place and wouldn’t be fixed.

***Bill Moved back to Rules and Admin Committee***

**Old Business:**

**No Old Business**

**New Business:**

**No New Business**

**Closing Remarks:**

Sen. Markisello: Will send out e-mail about next week.

Sen. De La Cruz: Sending out MyInvolvement Requests.

**Closing Roll:**

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

**Senate Adjourned: 10:19 P.M**

**Prepared by Austin Ostro, Secretary of the Senate**