**Minutes for Senate Meeting 3/4/15**

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

**Opening Roll:**

* Roll called by Sen. De La Cruz.

**Public Comment:**

* Sen. Webb: Collection Cup going around to support Relay for Life.
* **Public Comment Capped at 2 Minutes**
* Sen. Mallon: KAP is doing fundraising for Relay for Life.
* Sen. Dunleavy: YAL attended CPAC.
* Sen. Conroy: Hosted Town Hall on Colonial for his constituents, went well.
* President of Rugby Team bringing to attention amended issue with budget.
* APAC Conference being held on campus for first time in 8 years.

**Opening Remarks:**

Sen. Markisello: Full House, thanks to ATV for coming in and recording. Final Constitution to be reviewed at this meeting.

Sen. De La Cruz: No Remarks.

**University Report:**

* **No University Report**

**University Council Report:**

* University Council met in New York City last weekend.
* Adopted a Yes means Yes consent policy for students.

**Judicial Report:**

* Acting Chief Justice was unaware of her position until now.
* Wants to bring it up for discussion in Gov Ops.

**Board of Finance Report:**

* Extension for budget requests was made until March 2nd.
* Board of Finance will decide what to do with late requests.
* Budget meeting this Sunday.

**Executive Report:**

Gender and Sexuality Concerns:

* No Report

Community Affairs and Outreach:

* Relay for Life coming up
* Pine Hillel Clean up 4/8

Academic Affairs:

* No Report

Multicultural Affairs:

* No Report

Programming:

* No Report

Legislative Affairs:

* No Report

Communications:

* No Report

Dippikill:

* No Report

Student Group Affairs:

* Purple and Gold Awards coming up.

Comptroller:

* Purchase Request notifications should be e-mailed to Comptroller’s Office.

Marketing:

* No Report

President/Vice President/Chief of Staff:

**Committee Reports:**

Rules and Admin:

* Voted on legislation, on the docket today.

Appropriations:

* Bills will be on docket next week.

Government Operations:

* Acting Chief Justice should have been notified on December 14th.
* It is unclear who is on the Supreme Court.
* Ethics complaint was filed by John Ruse against Executive Branch.
* 6 alleged By Law violations committed during the appointment of Nick Butler as Chief Justice. Ethics Subcommittee will be meeting in the next four days. When the appointment comes up for vote today, will motion to table.
* Sen. Webb: Website must be updated to reflect current standing of Executive and Judicial Branch members.
* Sen. Schwab: This could have been avoided if members of the Judicial Branch knew their responsibilities.
* Dep. Comp. Warshauer: The Supreme Court should know the by laws and have reached out.
* Acting Chief Justice: No one reached out to tell her.
* VP Cohen: E-Mail was sent out notifying all students of opening.
* John Ruse: Sent 5 e-mails to Francis inquiring about the situation with the Chief Justice vacancy.

**Motion to move onto the next report**

Community Outreach and Engagement:

* Working every Saturday from 1 PM-3 PM helping promote literacy among Albany adults.

Constituent Relations:

* No Report.

**Legislative Agenda:**

**S.1415-088 Appropriations Bill- ALPFA**

* Money for banner and other promotional material to market organization.
* Had a budget once but it was removed for an unknown reason.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-089 Appropriations Bill- CAPO**

* Will use money to buy instruments and organize workshops.
* President performed for Senate.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-090 Appropriations Bill- Le Cercle Francais**

* Money will be used for promotion and to have a fundraiser to go to Montreal.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-091 Appropriations Bill- MAPS**

* Money will be used to help promote the club which works to get minority students engaged in the medical field.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-092 Appropriations Bill- National Organization for Global Education**

* Organization has been in existence since April 2013
* Will use money to host Senior banquet for the Class of 2015.
* Money will be used for party expenses.
* Sen. Markisello: How does this advance the mission of your group?
  + Celebrating the advancement of club members and giving them awards is significant.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-093 Appropriations Bill- NOYAA 2nd**

* Partnered with NGO in Ghana that works to promote quality of life.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-094 Appropriations Bill- Project U 2nd**

* Focused on bringing awareness to poverty in Albany and the surrounding areas.
* Worked to celebrate the birthdays of homeless kids.
* Worked with Ronald McDonald House.
* Most of the money will be used to travel to DC.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-095 Appropriations Bill- UAlbany Dance Council**

* Need money to reimburse for attended competition.
* Have 75-100 members; hold 2 shows each semester.
* Placed third in the competition.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-096 Appropriations Bill- UAlbany Math and Actuarial Club**

* Discuss mathematical concepts and work to promote interest in Math.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-097 Appropriations Bill- WCBD**

* Radio station needs equipment.
* Came last year for Speakers, this is completely different.
* When they buy this it will last for decades.
* Will ensure we comply with FCC regulations.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-098 Appropriations Bill- YAL**

* Want money to reimburse for expenses already made.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-084 Chief Justice- Nick Butler**

* **Motion to Table the Bill by Sen. Mallon, Objected to by Sen. Schwab.**
* Sen. Mallon: Should be tabled until investigation is complete.
* Sen. Webb: Chair of Gov. Ops should be removed from investigation because it is known he applied for the position in question.
* Sen. Dunleavy: Please let us investigate this before we vote on an appointment.
* Sen. Schwab: In no way is Nick Butler under investigation. Process of selection is all that is being investigated. 4/5 by laws initially listed were just by laws saying you can’t break by laws and the 5th isn’t applicable. We need a Chief Justice now.
* Sen. Terezakis: Just because time is going to be constricted doesn’t mean we shouldn’t fully look into this.
* Acting Chief Justice: 3 additional by laws broken, cited. (Sen. Markisello: by law in violation of the constitution).
* Sen. Dunleavy: Have we had an Interim Chief Justice?
  + Nick Butler: Only role he played as “Interim Chief Justice” was to give feedback for student group constitutions which needed to be done. Constitutions were never approved.
* Sen. Chowdhury: What exactly is the investigation?
  + Sen. Sanzone: Looking into what Nick Butler did as “Interim Chief Justice.”
  + Sen. Dunleavy: Investigating process.
* VP Cohen: Responsibility of Associate Justices to be aware of by laws and what to do. Not responsibility of Executive Branch to make Judicial Branch aware of the rules. Senior Associate Justices should have known what her responsibilities were.
* Acting Chief Justice: No communication making Court aware of Fmr. Chief Justice’s Engwer’s resignation.
* Sen. Lugo: Let’s table to investigate.
* Matt Krush: You would hope person resigning would tell their associated.
* John Ruse: Why did Nick Butler take over responsibilities for Associate Chief Justice.
* Nick Butler: Acting Chief Justice is not capable of performing the responsibilities of the office.
* Sen. Eager: This should be tabled, getting too heated.
* Sen. Sanzone: Ben should have notified the Court. Want time to figure out what happened.
* Sen. Chowdhury: Not fair that person who applied but got rejected should stall the process for the nominee.
* Sen. George: Why are we debating tabling if we don’t know what happened.
* Sen. Schwab: Further investigating by Gov Ops. would only lead to a corrupt investigation. Random forms should not stop the work of the Senate, its absurd.
* Sen. De La Cruz: We should go to a vote.
* Sen. Sanzone: Not involved in submitting the complaint, wants to have investigation to get the facts.
* Sen. Webb: This is confusing but Nick Butler has done a great job through all his years at this University.
* Sen. Terezakis: This is a decision that is largely irreversible, we should fully understand the scope before making a decision.
* Sen. Chowdhury: This complaint is only a way to delay the confirmation of Nick Butler and it’s not fair.
* Sen. Sandberg: Bill should be tabled.
* Sen. Eager: All we are doing is pointing fingers.
* Sen. Sippin: If there is so much controversy it should be tabled.
* Sen. Altilio: A problem with the process should not hold up a nominee. Doesn’t like that a complaint can stop Senate business.
* Sen. Hershenson: Will failing the confirmation affect the integrity of the office?
  + Dir. Torres: A lot coming in the next seven days, need a Chief Justice.
  + Sen. Markisello: Acting Chief Justice can exercise power.
* Sen. Conroy: If there is any smidgen of doubt, should be tabled.
* Sen. Efekoro: Acting Chief Justice should have known about her position, Executive Branch isn’t responsible for notifying her. Any investigation should also not last more than one week.
* Sen. Dunleavy: Owe it to constituents to investigate.
* Nick Butler: If any conflict of interest arose based on his connections he would recuse himself. Wants opportunity to share his experience with the Senate and get a vote on his confirmation.
* Sen. Longo: Acting Chief Justice can fulfill responsibilities for the time being.
* VP Cohen: We need an effective Chief Justice and there is no one better for the job than Nick Butler.
* Acting Chief Justice: Bad communication on Supreme Court.

**Motion Passes 17-14-7, Bill Tabled until next week.**

**Formal Request by Sen. Chowdhury to have Sen. Sanzone and Sen. Dunleavy to recuse themselves from the investigation.**

**Formal Request by Sen. Sanzone to have Pres. Cohen and VP Cohen recuse himself.**

**Formal Request by Sen. Terezakis to have Sen. Dunleavy remain but Sen. Sanzone recuse himself.**

**S.1415-085 Communications Director- Kristian Valentin**

* Kristian has been serving as Interim Director of Communications since the start of the Semester. Working to make students aware of what his department does and of stuff going on around campus.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-086 Academic Affairs- Kylie Scheibling**

* Kylie served as Associate Director of Academic Affairs before becoming Interim Director this semester.
* If Kylie could be any part of the human body it would be the brain.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-087 Community Engagement and Outreach- Saben Durio**

* Saben has worked hard, contacting over 100 student groups to promote community service each week all semester. Working on additional programs going forward.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**Motion to Table the Rest of the Legislative Agenda, Failed by 13-17 Hand Vote.**

**S.1415-099 Legislation for Statement of Community Service Hours and Fundraising**

* By Law would keep track of community service completed by student groups.
* By law failed in committee but is coming up for a full Senate vote anyway.
* Sen. Markisello: We already ask on Budget Request form about this. Also more under purview of Executive Branch.
* Sen. Chowdhury: Unfair burden to place on student groups.
* We don’t have a definite amount that they fundraised
* Sen. Webb- Not every group does hours
  + Utilize as an option not a requirement
* Sen. Dunleavy- I also suggest to make it optional. As president I already fill out to many forms
* Sen. Markesellio- Motion to call to question
* Objection to pass unanimously
* Bill withdrawn by Sen. Efekoro

**S.1415-100 Contingency Budget Requirement**

* Sen. Dunleavy- If activity fails we need a budget to operate in a worst case possible.
* Deputy Comptroller Warshauer- Can we have a standard one
* Sen. Markesellio- We can submit the same one

**Bill Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-101 Committee assignment**

* Sen. Markesellio- If you want to change email me

**Bill Passes by Unanimous Consent**

**Old Business:**

**Motion to combine all three bills, Passes by Voice Vote.**

**Motion to Table the Combine Bills, Passes by Voice Vote.**

**S.1415-078 Town Hall Committee Assignment, S.1415-079 Constituent Relations Inclusion Amendment, S.1415-080 Order of Succession Amendment, tabled until next week.**

**New Business:**

**Constitution Vote:**

* All Changes reviewed by Sen. Markisello with the Senate.

**Constitution Adopted by Roll Call Vote Unanimously**

**Closing Remarks:**

Sen. Markisello: No Remarks.

Sen. De La Cruz: No Remarks.

**Closing Roll:**

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

**Senate Adjourned: 11:40 P.M**

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