**Minutes for Senate Meeting 4/22/15**

**Called to Order: 8:48 P.M**

**Opening Roll:**

* Roll called by Sen. De La Cruz.

**Public Comment:**

* Campus Ambassadors: Had issue with budget, want to know if anything can be done to get more money than what Board of Finance allocated.
* VP Cohen: Five Quad has received multiple awards and deserve commendation.
* Dir. Durio: Wants to thank everyone that came to Pine Hills Clean Up.

**Dippikill Presentation:**

* Dippikill Board works to bridge gap between student leaders and Dippikill staff.
* Open barbeque at Dippikill on May 9th.
* Dippikill is 863 acres, recently surveyed.
* Encourages students who have never been to come and see Dippikill and its value.
* 8 cabins that students can choose from, one under construction.

**Legislative Agenda:**

**Motion to combine all bills. Passed.**

**S.1415-148 Appropriation Bill- ATV**

* Hosting Oscar night dinner.

**S.1415-149 Appropriation Bill- Community Engagement and Outreach**

* Money will be used to buy shirts for Albany Cures Violence.

**S.1415-150 Appropriation Bill- Five Quad**

* Will cover needed supplies.

**S.1415-151 Appropriation Bill- Line Transfer**

* Emptying out Appropriation accounts.

**S.1415-152 Appropriation Bill- Peace Action**

* Hosting event to fundraise for India.

**S.1415-153 Appropriation Bill- Women’s Ultimate Frisbee**

* Need money to go to regionals.

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**S.1415-154 Men’s Rugby**

* Need a dollar to stay funded

**Passed by Unanimous Consent**

**Internal Budget Discussion: Flags**

**Legal Services- Sen. Efekoro**

* Why the increase and budget?
  + Contractual salary increases and needs more money for books and other materials as department becomes more prominent.

**SA Operating- Sen. Schwab**

* Why is there equipment line if we cut student groups equipment lines?
  + There are necessary equipment purchases to operate a student government.
* Sen. Dunleavy: Why has printer lease gone up?
  + Dir. Glass: We tend to go over our printing allotment, raising amount to match what we spend.

**Motion from Sen. Schwab, seconded by Sen. Durma to change Lewis B. Oliver esq to “Corporate lawyer.” Passed.**

* Sen. Toranzo: What is renovations line for?
  + New paint, carpeting etc.

**Dippikill Replacement Fund- Sen. Schwab**

* Wants to know what money is used for.
  + Used for long term projects, gives Dippikill flexibility to upgrade things.

**Programming Department- Sen. Dunleavy**

* Why has miscellaneous line increased $5,000?
  + In description to do small programming, this is so that they can do more of that.

**Community Outreach- Sen. De La Cruz**

* Lots of programming should be funded fully.

**Multicultural Affairs- Sen. De La Cruz**

* Same as Community Engagement.

**Motion by Sen. Efekoro to return both departments to full 14/15 funding**

**Objection to Community Engagement by Sen. Schwab**

**Multicultural Affairs budget restored.**

**Objection rescinded.**

**Community Engagement and Outreach budget restored to 14/15 Level.**

**Student Group Affairs- Sen. Longo**

* Scholarship money should go to the Endowment Fund to grow over time.
* Point of Order by Chief Justice Butler, Sen. Longo has conflict of interest because he works for the foundation.
* **Point of Order passes 12-7. Sen. Longo can’t speak.**
* Sen. Markisello: we send money to endowment fund it will grow over time but we will have significantly less to give out right now.

**SA Senate- Sen. Schwab**

* Equipment line again. Not fair that Internal gets it and external does not.
* Sen. Toranzo: How about the Senate Secretary Stipend?
  + Sen. Markisello tried to bring it into budget but Board of Finance objected.
  + Most likely would not be paid but given RSSW credit.
  + Sen. Markisello: When you have someone consistently doing minutes, who is better, you get better minutes. Best minutes ever this year and the stipend incentivized it. It is a worthwhile investment.
  + Round of applause for Senate Secretary.
  + Sen. Markisello: For years Senate Secretary was not paid a stipend and minutes were a mess, once it was instituted they became really good.
  + Sen. Dunleavy: My colleagues think less of students, a good student could be found to do it for credit.
  + Sen. Alford: Are there enough hours for Senate Secretary for RSSW?
    - Not necessarily.
  + Sen. Efekoro: If Secretary doesn’t get a stipend, why should anyone get a stipend? Lots of people would be President for free.
  + Chief Justice Butler: We are legally required to have minutes for meetings, worth an $800 investment for quality minutes.
  + Comp. Reinfeird: Task should be done by someone who really cares, also position doesn’t really fit RSSW.
  + Dep Comp. Warshauer: Nothing is more of a guarantee of hard work than a paycheck.

**Sen. Webb: Motion to add $800 Senate Secretary line to the budget**

**Passed by Unanimous Consent.**

**President’s Discretionary Line- Sen. Schwab**

* Why is it going up?
  + Money is used to make up for lacking things and programming, very good uses. Allows for emergency situations, like some that came up this year, to be taken care of.
* But this doesn’t need to be reported?
  + Yes they do, and approved by the Comptroller.
* Chief Justice Butler: Discretionary lines have been “good will” lines. The President is the head of the organization, he should have some flexibility.

**Programming Stipend- Sen. Chowdhury**

* Why was it decreased?
  + There are no “upper executives” stipends should reflect that fact. The amount each department does is way more dependent on the director than the department.
* Sen. Chowdhury: Requires more work, should be kept at higher stipend rate.
* VP Cohen: Just because they stay through the summer doesn’t mean they do more work through the year. Other directors do a lot too.
* Sen. Efekoro: Senators work for nothing, Directors can work for less.
  + Sen. De La Cruz: Directors already work for less than most other Student Associations pay their directors. We need to offer some sort of competitive wage in order to attract good talent.
* VP Cohen: Other universities pay their SA officials significantly more. What we have right now is fair.
* Chief Justice Butler: Find me a Chief Executive of a $2.5 Million non-profit who makes $4,000 a year.
* Sen. Markisello: If we got rid of stipends we would be precluding students who need the money to get through school from applying to be directors.
* Sen. Efekoro: There should be a Senate stipend.
  + Sen. Markisello: How much should it be? I’ll tell you what it will be in total.
    - $300 per Senator per year, $14,100 for a year.
* **Motion to pay Senators $300 per year by Sen. Efekoro.**
  + - Objected to by a lot of Senators.
    - Re-elected Senators should not speak on the motion.
  + Chief Justice Butler: Too many questions to act on this right now.
  + Sen. Longo: We shouldn’t give stipends but perhaps incentives for routine attendance.
  + Sen. Efekoro: I’m graduating, just the right thing to do to incentive good behavior.
* **Motion to cap debate at 2 points per person and 2 debate points per issue. Passed.**
* Sen. De La Cruz: This should go to the Board of Finance first.
  + Sen. Efekoro: Objection! Objection!
  + Sen. Markisello: No you can’t object to speech.
* **Motion for $100 stipend per Senator. $9,400 in stipend line.**
  + **Objected to by a lot of Senators.**
  + Who is not eligible to vote? Anyone who was re-elected or might run for re-election in the Fall.
  + All non-eligible Senators move off table.
  + **Motion Fails 4-6-15.**

**Dippikill Outreach- Sen. Webb**

* **Sen: Webb: Motion to change Dippikill outreach programming line to reflect new role in promoting Environmental sustainability also. Also to raise budget to reflect added role. $2,500 Dippikill promotion line, $1,000 environment sustainability line. Passed.**

**Miscellaneous Line of Programming Department**

* **Sen. De La Cruz: Motion to change Miscellaneous Line to Programming line. Passed.**
* **Sen. Dunleavy: Motion to lower Programming line from $10,000 to $5,000.**
  + Sen. Dunleavy: It’s a lot of money, student groups could use it for good things.
  + Sen. Chowdhury: With this money a greater number of small events could be held, raising student morale.
  + Sen. Dunleavy: We shouldn’t be giving the programming department money without a plan.
  + Sen. Conroy: Shouldn’t give a blank check at the expense of student groups.
  + **Motion passes 14-3-6.**
* **Motion to add a Performance Review of the Director and Asst. Director before annual contractual renewal.**
  + Chief Justice Butler, this would be better to do as a bill than a rider to the budget.
  + **Motion rescinded**, to be addressed in the future.

**External Budget:**

**Men’s Rugby Team: Amended to $11,145. Passed.**

**Equipment Policy:**

* Sen. Schwab: We should give student groups the equipment they need to function.
* Sen. Markisello: We found that two groups have recurring equipment costs and the Board of Finance recommends they be added back to the budget.
* **Sen. De La Cruz: Motion to add that equipment back. Passed. $459.98.**
* **Sen. Henderson: Motion to remove equipment line from Rugby. Passed.**

**Campus Ambassadors:**

* Money restored to Campus Ambassadors for needed functions.

**ASUBA:**

* Sen. De La Cruz: Wants funding restored to 14-15 levels.
* Sen. Markisello: Problematic because they found new functions to replace stricken Six Flags trip with.
* **Motion to add $5,750 for bowling and laser tag event. Passed.**

**Surplus of $9,081.72 added to Appropriations.**

**2015-2016 Budget Passed 17-1-1.**

**Senate Adjourned: 1:03 A.M**

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