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| 1400 WASHINGTON AVENUE  ALBANY, NY 12222  CAMPUS CENTER 116 (CC116)  www.albany.edu/sasenate  sasenate@albany.edu |  | SEN. JARRETT ALTILIO  *CHAIR*  SEN. SUBHA TASNIM  *VICE CHAIR* |

Student Association Senate

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

9:00 PM – Boardroom

**AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order and Opening Roll**
   * 1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. **Approval of Minutes**

1. Minutes approved

1. **Public Comment**
2. **Opening Remarks**
   * 1. Sen. Jarrett Altilio, Chairman of the Senate
        1. No Report
     2. Sen. Subha Tasnim, Vice Chairwoman of the Senate

1. No Report

1. **University Reports**
   * 1. Dr. Michael Christakis, Vice President of Student Affairs
        1. There is a new Jumbotron in the SEFCU Arena, and we need to shoot a thank you video for them.
        2. The SUNY Board approved instate tuition to those affected in Puerto Rico.
        3. Octavia Spencer is joining us for speaker series next Saturday night!
        4. Please keep coming to talk to me in office hours; I want to be accessible to you and other student organizations that would like to talk to me about their experience.
        5. This has been a busy semester with lots of applied learning fairs.
           1. Reporter Tyler McNeil: Intramural softball has had some scheduling issues and are not able to play in week because they cannot light the field. Can you speak more on that issue?
           2. Dr. Christakis: Sam Axley might be good to help. He also would say the lack of lighting limits intramural play and he wishes he could extend daylight. It is a fundraising priority, and he is well aware of the issue.
        6. Dr. Rodriguez’s strategic plan will take place in the next 3-4 weeks. The strategic plan has a framework for students in it.
     2. Carol Perrin, Director of Residential Life; John Giarusso, Director of Facilities Management; Lisa Anne Donohue
        1. Director Giarusso: I went to this school many years ago. I spent 3 years on senate, and represented Dutch Quad and off-campus. I asked to be here after the resolution you passed about asbestos, and wanted you to know your concerns are being listened to. I wanted to tell you what we are doing in the way of fixing the problem. Every building has asbestos in it if it is older than 1980 however, as long as you do not touch it, it will not harm you. Director Donohue has worked with this over the years and is a great resource. The matter at hand is regarding the ceilings, and a lot of SUNYs still have this issue. Again, as long as you do not touch it, it will not hurt you. The tiles in the bathroom and the ceiling is where it potentially is. We have been able to redo half of it, and will take another 2 decades to complete the other half. However, this summer they have a project to go through the ceilings and upgrading the ceilings for the abatement of the asbestos.
        2. Director Donohue: Here is an “Asbestos at UAlbany” fact sheet. I have lived on campus too, and am well aware of the issue. However, all the bulk samples and the air samples show nothing of concern. If you do not touch it, it will not harm you. Here is my information. Also, one thing to take into account, the National Cancer Institute, says: asbestos is a naturally growing mineral, and everyone is exposed to asbestos in their life. However, most do not become ill based on this, only after repeated exposure most often in a job, where one works in clouds of asbestos because of insulation. It will take 10-50 years to show anything.

Sen Correia: I think that the issue most people are having is that the ceiling would end up on them in the middle of the night. This is where the concern lies since people are not chewing the ceiling tiles, or touching it, it just falls on them and their bed.

Director Perrin: If there is an issue, please bring it to our attention. If you have any concerns, go to quad center and file a report. Someone will be there the next day to check it out. We put up signs back in the 90s so that people would not touch the ceilings. We have all lived here, and our kids have lived here, so we obviously believe that this will not harm you, and the the testing we have done over the years backs us up too.

Sen. Blackwood: I feel like to say that if you do not disturb, it will not harm you is wrong. We pay $25,000 to be here, yet the money we put in is not being used for the important things. The money is there to change this, so why is it not done?

Director Perrin: We had to prioritize. So we fixed the windows first, and we have been doing it in the renovations, but renovations, are not fast enough. We have some swing space in the summer to do it, but asbestos abatement takes a lot of time, and not enough time to do it all during the summer.

Sen Agnes: I recommend that you email the information out and put it on social media. People have had ceilings falling on them, and they were moved. Where do you think the 20,000 students will go?

Director Perrin: The shortfall is not on Reslife. We have the space, but it is not in desired location.

Reporter Tyler McNeil: The University peaked at 18,000 students, and there was one year they secured housing from the hotels across the streets. Will this happen again?

Director Perrin: I cannot answer this question without the information.

Sen. Carroll: It seems like you have a lot of high priorities, but with all of these priorities, you need to have resources. Is there a lack of resources?

Director Perrin: We try to keep the rates down for you, and yes the lack of resources is an issue, but so is as is the lack of time.

Sen Blaise: Do you think you could have extra compensation for people who do not have the same utilities as others?

Director Perrin: That is a logistical nightmare. It would be whole other conversation, and consist of 30 different rates. I understand the reason you are saying that though.

Sen. Asmus: I want to comment that there has been a lot of transparency here, and many things brought to light that we were not aware of. I would like to ask that Reslife and orientations offer more education for these issues to make students aware.

Director Perrin: We are working on educating the freshman.

Sen. Sevor: What is your response to resident assistants being told not to address the asbestos issue?

Director Perrin: This is not what we were saying. We were not shutting down the resident assistants rather making them tell the resident directors immediately.

Sen. Jones: Do you think you could you give pamphlets for this to relax people’s fears of asbestos? People are not going to go onto the website.

Director Perrin: If there is no notice, asbestos isn’t in the room. However, we can work on this.

Sen Jones: Do you have a facts and figures reports? It is great to say there are low levels but we do not know what this means.

Director Giarusso: We will give it to Chairman Altilio.

President Fontaine: We can put it on our social media so that people know.

Sen. Jones: Would you be willing to have an open dialogue for price based on quality of dorms? I got an email today from a student who is upset about this.

Director Perrin: Nobody will be going to without hot water for a long period of time. If you have issues, talk to your resident assistant so that you have acceptable living conditions.

Sen. Jones: Will it be two decades to get asbestos taken care of or would it be two years?

Director Giarusso: It will be two decades for full renovations, and three years max for ceiling abatement.

Sen. Eldridge: We went without hot water for a month and a half. Are you going through things like that when you go through your renovations? I guess it was because of an old piece in our shower, so are you taking care of any issues with facilities. I mean they were helpful but it took a while

Director Perrin: Nobody should be going without anything like that.

Reporter Tyler McNeil: People are commenting on elevators getting stuck, and people who graduated in 1980 said they went through the same issue. Do you have a response?

Director Perrin: Mohawk Tower was redone three years ago, not the same elevators as 1980s. Within the next few years all elevators will be brand new.

Director Giarusso: Also, you guys are college students. There are people who jump in the elevator, who press all the buttons and do other things to cause this problem.

Sen Naoum: I do not know if you have seen the agenda, but there is a resolution on the amount of alcohol a person can have on the campus. I personally find the amount to be arbitrary.

Director Perrin: Like for everything else, there are responsible people and not responsible people. A lot of people have looked at the regulations and feel it is reasonable. Most students on campus are not 21, however, Empire is a little different because it is mostly upper classmen.

Chairman Altilio: Thank you again for coming tonight. The Constituent Relation Committee will bring this to light.

1. **Judicial Report**
   * 1. Monica DeJesus-Ramirez, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
        1. No Report
2. **Board of Finance Report**
   * 1. Mitchell Rybak, Chairman of the Board of Finance
        1. Last week, the board of finance elected me as the chair and Sen. Agnes as the vice chair. Over the weekend, we were able to review applications for the comptroller position as well as interview candidates, and select a nominee, Nick Hackshaw.
3. **Executive Reports**
   * 1. President & Vice President
        1. President Fontaine:
           1. I am not going to get into what happened last week, but if you have any concern with what we do, go to Chairman Altilio and Vice Chairwoman Tasnim. I can see you need more time to just do your jobs, but we can still be friendly; we need to work well together, and be respectful. Our solution is to limit 1 min per department, and can send out the minutes from our E-Board meetings. We want to be as resourceful as possible, and we ask you to table so that you guys get facetime. We want to be a resource to all of you, so we do great things together.

Sen Rybak: I agree, senators should be more involved, and you encouraged us to be involved. However being on both sides of the argument, there are some concerns. Some senators feel that they are being disrespected by how we were being told. We also have to remember that everyone has only some of the information at one time. But if people make passive aggressive/aggressive comments, they should expect the same back.

Pres. Fontaine: It’s not us speaking at you, it’s us being excited.

b. The peer mentorship program went well, contact [lcadesca@albany.edu](mailto:lcadesca@albany.edu) if interested.

c. On November 4, Chief Strategist Elahi has a city wide thing.

Vice President Khan: The new office manager starts on Monday; her name is Shannon. Let me know if she can help senate in any way.

* + 1. Comptroller & Deputy Comptrollers

Deputy Comptroller Polanco:

1. Good news! As of 7:00 PM tonight, all student groups have money in their accounts.

2. We also have two new interns to work between groups and senate.

3. We are trying to make the office more transparent

Comptroller Hackshaw:

1.Appropriations and MyInvolvement are all set.

* + 1. Executive Directors

Associate Director Enright:

1. The breast cancer walk is this Sunday (10/15).

2. Pine hills October 29.

3. Remember to register to vote by this Friday (10/13).

Director Landwehr:

1. The Coming Out Reception is next weekend, October 21. Please promote event.

Health and Sustainability (Report by Vice President Khan):

1. Hands only CPR with Five Quad.

2. The Farm-to-Table is tomorrow.

Director Luna:

1. Conversation for change will be from 4:00-6:00 PM in the Campus Center Board Room.

Director Duran:

1. The Tech Savvy series coming out the last week of October. Tomorrow I have a 4:00 PM meeting with Chairman Altilio so that we can update the senate website. We now have access to it!

Director Randolph:

1. Sign up for tabling. We moved it inside because it was cold.

Director Fambrini;

1. On Saturday October 21, Octavia Spencer will be speaking at UAlbany. We need volunteers to come help set up.

2. On November 1, the second scholar series will be happening. It will be for the School of Social Welfare.

3. Fall-a-polooza is November 11 and we need volunteers.

Director Maestre:

1. The second Scholar Series will be from 7:00-8:30 PM.

Associate Director:

1. I am excited to work with you all.

Director Perez:

1. No report.

1. **Committee Reports**
   * 1. Sen. Jarrett Altilio, Chairman of the Executive Committee
        1. The first Executive Committee meeting was very productive.
     2. Sen. Brandon Holdridge, Chairman of Rules and Administration
        1. We have five bylaws in the works.
        2. The gender neutrality bylaw will be written next week
        3. We will be creating a bylaw for Executive Branch so that they have descriptions making them have specific things they need to get done.
        4. We are working with the Government Operations Commitee and Ethics Subcommittee to create guidelines for ethics complaints.
        5. The University Senate Meeting is Monday at 2:45 in board room
        6. We are also working with Student Group Affairs to create a bylaw to create a form of active and inactive groups on campus.
     3. Sen. Mark Anthony Quinn, Chairman of Appropriations
        1. Shout-out to comptroller’s office for quick response time.
        2. The model European Union is coming to senate to ask for money. It is a large bill, but we did deliberate on it, and ask questions.
        3. We also have “pending approval” for those who did not set up their form correctly. We want everyone to have a settled way to create sheets.
     4. Sen. Anna Agnes, Chairwoman of Government Operations
        1. Please fill out Doodle.
        2. We will be working with Rules Committee to formalize the process of a complaint, and to make it into a bylaw.
        3. I was alerted by a concerned member of a student group that people were not doing office hours.
        4. Sen. Adam Shayo, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Ethics
           1. No Report.
     5. Sen. Olivia Johansen, Chairwoman of Community Engagement and Outreach
        1. Thanksgiving food drive is happening. If you know of any student groups that will want to be a part of it tell them to come to me. It is a great opportunity to get community service hours.
        2. We have been brainstorming about SA day.
        3. Our meetings are open to everyone.
        4. Everyone go to Pine Hills clean up.
     6. Sen. Sean Correia, Chairman of Constituent Relations
        1. First meeting is tonight after this meeting, and hopefully it will never be like this again.
        2. We want to have town halls for fall and spring for freshman so that we can talk about Reslife, and hazing. Also to tell them what is going on.
2. **Legislative Agenda**
   * 1. S.1718-040 Comptroller Nomination, Hackshaw
        1. Sen. Rybak:
           1. We are appointing the comptroller. The nominee was the interim comptroller and did amazing. He also had a good resume and great interview.

i. Nominee Hackshaw: I am Nick. Currently a senior, accounting and economics major, and was the treasurer of NABA. This year I started at deputy comptroller and then stepped in as the interim.

ii. Vice Chairwoman Tasnim: I yield time to Deputy Comptroller Polanco.

iii. Deputy Comptroller Polanco: The nominee is amazing. He brings life to the office, and inspires people.

iv. Sen. Asmus: Is a position for deputy comptroller going to be available.

v. Sen Capuano: When will you be looking for deputy comptroller?

vi. Sen Rybak: The application has to be live for two weeks. So we should have a candidate on the floor in three weeks.

vii. President Fontaine: Shout-out to the nominee. He didn’t have any training, and he never complained to me. He is a hard worker and always asks how he can improve the office and help student groups.

viii. Sen Correia: I move to call to question.

ix. Vice Chairwoman Tasnim: Second

Passed unanimously.

* + 1. S.1718-041 Timelines for Winter 2018 Special Election and Spring 2018 General

Election

1. Chairwoman Haft:

a. Goes through timeline. There is a bit of an overlap, but it is to a accommodate spring bring,

i. Sen. James: What positions will be open?

ii. Chairman Altilio: The position of anyone who can no longer carry seat into next term is in the Special Election.

iii. Senator Capuano: I move to call to question.

iv. Senator Holdridge: Second

Passes unanimously

* + 1. S.1718-042R Unecessary Restrictions on Undergraduates’ Maturity (U RUM) Act
       1. Sen. Naoum:
          1. Why is it an issue that people have alcohol? I am pushing for Reslife to think. We cannot have pingpong balls, or large gatherings, and they count empties against you. You live in an apartment, you should be able to do whatever you want.

Sen. Barrera: Were there past instances that made there be regulations?

Sen Naoum: I didn’t like Director Perrin’s answer. She brushed it under the rug. Once you reach legal age, you should be able to do what you want.

Chairman Altilio: So in order to be in accordance, a person that is 21 or older must have under: 1 liter of wine or 1 liter of liquor or 12-pack of beer.

Sen. Barrera: What happens if you violate?

Sen. Naoum: You get written up, and then it depends on community standards.

Sen. Smith: I don’t think this is an issue, I have lived on Liberty and do not know of anyone who has been written up for this.

Sen Nauom: Why wait for this to happen and find out? We should be proactive.

President Fontaine: I was a housing manager on Liberty last semester, and trust me: people write others up for this.

Sen. Miller: Somewhere on this campus there was a get together, kicked 3 of-age people off of Reslife because UPD saw it for one bottle of alcohol.

Sen. Miller: I move to call to question.

Roll Call; Passes

* + 1. S.1718-043R Recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day
       1. Sen. St Hubert: Monday was Columbus day, we would like to recognize Monday as Indigenous Peoples Day.
       2. Sen. Lajara: We should not celebrate a man who killed and raped so many people.
       3. Sen. Edwards: We should not recognize people who are terrorists, and celebrate people who cared about others.

i. Sen. Shapiro: All the offices were closed, and it is ridiculous that happened, and Columbus Day was the reason.

* + 1. S.1718-044 Counselor to the Student Association Nomination, Alford
       1. Sen. Rybak I move to move this up after comp
       2. Sen. Carroll: Second
       3. Vice Chairwoman Tasnim:
          1. Nominee Alford has been in the Student Assocition before and would be a great Counselor to the Student Association. The position is in case someone choses to involve the Student Association in a law suit

Nominee Alford: I am a senior currently pursuing my Masters in Public Administration. I am trying to go to law school, I have been in senate before. I was chair of Rules committee, and sat on appropriations. I want to help students and the community

Passes unanimously

7. S. 1718-045 Appropriations, Model European Union

1. Sen. Carrol: I move to make this bill first on the Legislative Agenda
2. Sen Quinn: Second

Co-Presidents of Model European Union, Polanco and Pickett:

a. Our club simulates the actions of the European Union by passing agendas in mock sessions for the several prominent Councils in the European Union. We have lots of plans for our members this semester, and UAlbany has presidency this year which brings more respect and notary to this Univeristy.

b. There is currently $.01 in budget because Austin Ostro made it so we have only $.01. Therefore, we are asking for $10,500 to alleviate fee of members for the conference in Brussels. It will be used towards the program fee. The conference is a weeklong and we will be trying to cover most expenses ourselves. Many of the members are getting internships in embassies and other governmental agencies and advancing their career.

i. Sen. Capuano: How much have you been reaching out to other areas in order to get funding?

ii. Sen. Quinn: The conference is January 6-19, and they have to pay for flight and food.

iii. Co- President Polanco: This conference is not every year.

iv: Sen. Capuano: This is a tenth of our funding to this group.

v: Sen. Quinn: They are going above and beyond for this, and they are trying to correct the issues that were present last year due to a hostile e-board situation. They will be going around the globe, and getting UAlbany out there. These are some smart people.

vi: Co-President Polanco: I understand your hesitancy, but this is very important, and I wanted to show you the respect you deserve.

vii:Sen. Quinn: These numbers are actual quotes, not approximates.

viii. Sen Rybak: How many people are you sending? And 9.6% for an expense for fifteen students. It is good public relations but will only be beneficial for fifteen students.

ix. Sen. Quinn: Due to neutrality, we cannot ask the number of students. We are bounded by neutrality, and cannot use it. However I do understand your hesitancy.

x. Sen. James: This comes every three years? So if you go every 3 years, do you have a plan to fund this?

xi. Co-President Pickett: We should never come to appropriations for this again.

xi. Sen Capuano: I do not care about the future. Will this not cripple our budget for this year alone?

xii. Sen. Quinn: There will be less requests in the fall and more in the spring. However, we are asking groups to follow a budget. That’s another thing, student groups make an arbitrary budget and do not stick to them. We are enforcing budgets this year. I foresee us helping organizations fund well in advance. We need to make their budget be used to the fullest. Money is here for organizations, and it is on a first come first serve basis. As you will see, this is the best presented organization.

xiii. Sen. Lajara: What do you meant that they do not follow budget?

xiv. Sen Quinn: Groups will come in last minute for events that happen in a few weeks.

xv. Sen. Lajara: Don’t you think this is last minute?

xvi. Sen. Quinn: They told me last year they would be coming. It was last year’s e-board that messed up. This is also the first time they could ask for money.

xvii. Sen. Asmus: What is the time table for this?

xviii. Co-President Polanco: I did not want this last minute, tried to go as early as possible.

xix. Sen. Quinn: I am neutral, this is in January, so they had time to come. Students will have to pay $2,000 on their own, and this is a rare case where they provide with number that is going.

xx. Sen. Carroll: I move to debate

xxi. Sen Rybak: Opposed

xxii. Vice Chairwoman Tasnim: I move to call to question

xxiii. Sen. Rybak: How much of this is on the conference itself?

xxiv. Sen. Quinn: No way to break it down.

xxv. Sen. Carroll: I move to call to question

xxvi. Vice Chairwoman Tasnim: Second

xxvii. Sen. Carroll: This is by far the most prepared group to come. It would look extremely bad to hinder this group seeing that this leadership will not put them in the problem.

xxviii. Vice Chairman Tasnim: I was skeptical at first, but it is not fair to punish those who did not cause this. Those people are our constituents, too. It is also great exposure for UAlbany.

xxix. Sen. Quinn: I would like this to be passed unanimously, so if you are hesitant please voice your opinion.

xxx. Sen. Bostwick: Co-President Polanco has been working on this since the start of school year.

xxxi. Sen. Rybak: Good job Co-President Polanco, but I am still on the fence since the e-board screwed you over.

xxxii.Sen. James: How many of these groups will be coming?

xxxiii. Vice Chairwoman Tasnim: I yield to President Fontaine.

xxxiv. President Fontaine: This is good practice, and this would be great for UAlbany.

xxxv. Sen. O’Connor: This would be using UAlbany’s “world within reach.”

xxxvi. Sen. Capuano: I came into this with a lot of concerns, but I take Sen. Carroll at his word.

xxxvii. Sen. Carroll: Move to call to question.

xxxviii. Sen. Agnes: Second

Roll Call Vote, passed unanimously

1. **Old Business**
   1. None
2. **New Business**
   1. None
3. **Closing Remarks**
   * 1. Sen. Jarrett Altilio, Chairman of the Senate
        1. No remarks
     2. Sen. Subha Tasnim, Vice Chairwoman of the Senate
        1. No remarks
4. **Closing Roll and Adjournment**