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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, November 1, 2017

9:00 PM – Boardroom

1. **Call to Order and Opening Roll**
   * 1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. **Approval of Minutes**
   * 1. Minutes from October 25, 2017 approved.
3. **Public Comment**
   * 1. Ms. Cari Feingold, Service for the Underserved
        1. I graduated from the University at Albany in 2008, and then went onto NYU. There I worked for non for profit, and now work for subsidized housing with Service for the Underserved which provides supportive housing for families that has substance abuse issues. The qualifications is if someone is homeless for a year or more and has struggled with drug abuse. They are supported by a social worker, and the point is for them not to be homeless again. Most of these families are living on $700 a month and a third goes to rent and rest to bills. We try to keep families together, and holidays are usually a joyous time. However our families cannot afford to give them toys. Kids love the gifts you have given already, and are looking forward to more. I will write a personalized letter of recommendation if you bring in 2 gifts or more. My email is: feingold@gmail.com. Email me if you need help with grad school; I have really enjoyed my time as a social worker. Regardless of what happened with parents, kids should have the best life possible. There are lots of gang and drugs around and we trying to deter the kids from that, letting them know that people care and that they are special.
4. **Opening Remarks**
   * 1. Sen. Jarrett Altilio, Chairman of the Senate
        1. Thanks to Ms. Feingold; I will include contact info in the minutes. For those of you wondering about the Perkins loan, I spoke to Kevin Wilcox who said that Congress is not taking the necessary steps to reauthorize. We will be sending out a petition for a representative in Tennessee. We have to make sure we are following up on what we set out to do.
        2. People may be confused as to an abstention is. An abstention is used if you feel that you have a personal connection or if your religious or political beliefs may impact your vote. If you are not sure how you want to vote, you are able to request more debate to gain a better understanding. If you still don’t realize, ask me. We are all here to cast a vote and to represent our constiuents.
     2. Sen. Subha Tasnim, Vice Chairwoman of the Senate
        1. Students of Albany Against Cancer (SAAC) is having a kick-off a Relay for Life kickoff tomorrow (11/3) at 7:00PM.
5. **University Reports**
   * 1. Dr. Michael Christakis, Vice President of Student Affairs
        1. You all should have gotten an email from President Rodríguez announcing expanded his expanded strategic planning committee. His plan includes five priorities. We will be working with groups, and there will be some students appointed by President Fontaine, and the Graduate Student Association President. Sixteen percent of the plan are students which goes to show that President Rodríguez truly believes students are at the center at what we do.
        2. Establishment of the President’s Council consists of key university leader. There will be President Fontaine and one other representative from Student Association and two representatives from Graduate Student Association. It is more opportunity for students to get involved and it is inclusive of students.

Reporter Tyler McNeil: What do you have to say about the retention rate of out-of-state students? Why do you think the retention rate of international students are so high in comparison?

Dr. Christakis: I don’t know; I have not seen this data.

Reporter Tyler McNeil: I saw the data.

Dr. Christakis: I have really only seen the data for incoming freshman.

Reporter Tyler McNeil: Going back to revisit what you said last time, is the University at Albany still looking into an Aspen partnership for on-campus housing?

Dr. Christakis: I think you misunderstood me; it is not a partnership per say, but rather more housing that students can utilize off campus. Aspen is making another building, and if there is an increase in enrollment, students can utilize that building too.

Sen. Carroll: Can you speak more on the Interfaith Center and how you are working with student groups?

* + - 1. To give some background in my perspective: in the spring of 2016, the Interfaith Center Board wanted to sell the Chapel House. So the Chapel House is an independent organization that owned the land on the property. The University at Albany was approached to buy it, and the sale closed in November 2016. Currently the building is owned by the University at Albany Foundation, and the sale needs to be reviewed by State Attorney General. The intent of the Foundation is to gift the building to the state, in essence, the University at Albany. We made it clear to the Interfaith Board during the sale that we will not commit to using the space to what it is used for now. What we did commit to is making space for the chaplains, again not necessarily in the building. When the building sale occurred, we could have moved the chaplains at that point, but we felt it wasn’t appropriate to move them halfway in the year. In my role, I have no guarantee of space, which is a decision for facilities management. Also, nowhere did we have the Interfaith Center in our long-term planning. The facilities folks have moved 3 different departments since the start of the year. Another point to be made is that once building is fully acquired it will have to be renovated to be up to code with the state. These renovations were also a reason to why the building was sold; the center was close to solvency. The notion of the move got out well before it was supposed to, yet facilities management has a better plan now. Last Thursday, we met to try to open up communication. We need many people to continue conversations. This notion of saving the center, should have happened before the sale, twelve to eighteen months ago. We are in the process of communicating with student organizations to make their new space acceptable. It will not be Chapel House, but trying to make it the best we can. Thank you for your attention paid to this; it is and important issue. The University at Albany’s understanding was that the Interfaith Center Board would tell them what we discussed and what our plans were. They did not, and in retrospect, we should have told them what our plans were. With this being said the University at Albany is being unfairly portrayed as bad guys. We did not seek out the purchase, it fell into our lap.

Sen. Carroll: The University at Albany bought the space, so you should have a plan. What will be moving in?

Dr. Christakis: To be quite honest with you, I am not sure. There is a list of 20 offices that need to move within the next twelve to eighteen months, but the building has several hundred thousand dollars of renovations which need to be made. No one will be moving in in August. Again there are certain codes that are required by the state. This is not anything we asked for, but as you all know, there is a space crunch on the campus. We are trying to redo all the academic buildings but they were all built at the same time which means they are aging at the same time. They are expensive to renovate.

Sen. Rybak: Moving forward, do you know how student groups are being included?

Dr. Christakis: We are listening to students and visiting the current Interfaith Center to provide something as close to the Chapel House as we can.

Reporter Tyler McNeil: Do you know how much is needed with the space? There was a deed restriction any purposes that restricted the building from anything other than faith based purposes, what is the University doing?

Dr. Christakis: The first is a facilities question and the other is a legal question.

Reporter Tyler McNeil: What is going on with the reallocation on the space on the third floor?

Dr. Christakis: I do not have specific response, but we are moving some to The Hub.

Representative Webb: Is the multi-purpose room going to be the polling place for local elections?

Dr. Christakis: Yes.

1. **Judicial Report**
   * 1. The Honorable Monica DeJesus-Ramirez, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
        1. The application for the Student Association Stenographer opens on November 3 and on ends November 17.
        2. There will be a Supreme Court Informational on November 16 which includes food and games.
2. **Board of Finance Report**
   * 1. Sen. Mitchell Rybak, Chairman of the Board of Finance
        1. We decided on our Nominee Patrick Carroll for our Deputy Comptroller.
3. **Executive Reports**
   * 1. President & Vice President
        1. Jerlisa Fontaine, President of the Student Association:
           1. Shout out to Director Maestre and Associate Director Enriquez tonight’s Scholar Series on Social Welfare.
           2. A duel email will go out with the Student Association and Parking and Mass Transit Services.
           3. Academic senators, I need more oomph from you! We need ten nominees for the interdisciplinary committee.

Sen. Johansen: What does it do?

President Fontaine: It gives us more feedback so we can advocate to the staff on behalf of the students.

Sen. O’Connell: Why not have an open forum?

President Fontaine: It allows for consistency, and it gives students an opportunity for leadership?

Chairman Altilio: The email makes it sound like there should only be five nominees.

President Fontaine: It should be ten.

* + - * 1. Again, the mentorship program. You all should be a part of this program, it is very important. If you see the flyer, promote it.
        2. Every month, we want to have a program that is to be focused on Betsy Devos and other issues in education. We want to make students aware, and hope have President Rodríguez present.
        3. Students and the University Police Department don’t go hand in hand, and we are trying to resolve issues with them.
        4. We had to postpone “Kneel with Kaepernick.” If you have an issue, or you hear that others have an issue, please tell me and stop the side chatter.

Sen. Agnes: Why not have a discussion of it instead of what it is?

President Fontaine: It is not political, it is not Kaepernick versus Trump. We are just trying to promote diversity.

Sen. Correia: I have received a lot of info from people who are not okay with this. Kaepernick is now introduced as a political stance. Maybe we could change the name? I agree that it is a movement for social injustice, however I feel the name is the issue.

President Fontaine: Before people make a jump conclusion, they should see what is going on. And to be honest, having controversial titles bring people out.

Sen. Rybak: I just want to let people know, we cannot make political statements.

President Fontaine: Yes, I know.

Sen. Johansen: Have you thought of changing the advertisement to say what it is about? People thought Kaepernick would actually be there.

President Fontaine: I will look into that.

Sen. Carroll: Would you look at having other groups throw it and have us sponsor?

President Fontaine: At this point, too many are affiliated to do this.

Dr. Christakis: I think you should have faculty there as well as Chief Wiley. We have scholars that have studied this issue that should be front and center.

* + - 1. Madeeha Khan, Vice President of the Student Association
         1. You all had a chance to meet Shannon last meeting. Let me know if you have any questions.
    1. Comptroller & Deputy Comptrollers
       1. We have a meeting next week.
       2. There will be new Deputy Comptroller.
    2. Executive Directors
       1. Director Frempong, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach:
          1. November 16 will be a Civic Action event.
          2. Pine Hills clean up on is this Sunday (11/5)
          3. The Week of Charity is November 6-12.
          4. Toys for Tots will be starting
       2. Hallie Landwehr, Director of Gender and Sexuality Concerns:
          1. The general interest meeting for the Vagina Monologues is November 9.
          2. Trans Day of Remembrance is on November 20 in the Interfaith Center.
          3. Director Luna and I will be at Empire on November 30 for pride.
       3. Representative from Health and Sustainability:
          1. There will be safe sex jeopardy, and the location to be determined.
          2. The lightbulb energy initiative will be starting soon.
       4. Joel Duran, Director of Information Technology:
          1. The website’s homepage is up, and I am continuing working with Chairman Altilio to put biographies and pictures of senators up.
          2. I am also working with Tom to update the prices on website for Dippikill.

Sen. Capuano: Is there public access to minutes?

Director Duran: No, but if someone needs them, tell them to go to Chairman Altilio’s office hours.

Chairman Altilio: You all are going to fill out a biography and upload a picture.

Sen. Asmus: In my experience, it looks better when everyone has the same background. Can we make it so we all do?

Chairman Altilio: We can look into it.

Sen. O’Connell: Should the biography be written in third person?

Chairman Altilio: Yes.

Director Duran: Look at executive’s as an example.

* + - 1. Aniel Luna, Director of Intercultural Affairs:
         1. The annual Week of Charity begins on November 6.
      2. Darien Randolph, Director of Marketing:
         1. Last week I gave you pins.
         2. We are marketing for an Associate Director of Dippikill.
      3. Joey Fambrini, Director of Programming:
         1. Fallapalooza is next Saturday. Email me if you want to volunteer.
      4. Ryan Maestre, Director of Public Relations:
         1. The monthly newsletter is set to go out soon.
         2. The Google calendar is on our homepage encourage leaders to post events.

Reporter Tyler McNeil: What is the stipend for the Associate Director of Dippikill?

Director Randolph: Nothing. Associate directors are not paid positions.

* + - 1. Jazlin Perez, Director of Student Group Affairs:
         1. The annual Week of Charity is next week. If you have any questions, come talk to me.

1. **Committee Reports**
   * 1. Sen. Jarrett Altilio, Chairman of the Executive Committee
        1. No report
     2. Sen. Brandon Holdridge, Chairman of Rules and Administration
        1. All my members have assignments now.
        2. New bylaws coming next week.
     3. Sen. Mark Anthony Quinn, Chairman of Appropriations
        1. Two appropriation bills today: one of which is the first from the Sponsorship Line.
     4. Sen. Anna Agnes, Chairwoman of Government Operations
        1. Making the government operations procedures official.
           1. Sen. Adam Shayo, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Ethics

No report

* + 1. Sen. Olivia Johansen, Chairwoman of Community Engagement and Outreach
       1. We are having a little trouble putting food donation boxes in the apartments and Dutch Quad.
          1. Director Landwehr: Are they on State Quad?
          2. Sen. Johansen: Yes, they are only not on Dutch Quad and the apartments.
          3. Chairman Altilio: This is nonsense that people are saying no. It is our problem if people throw garbage in them or pee.
          4. Sen. Blaise: Are they on Alumni Quad?
          5. Sen. Johansen: There was no issue with alumni: only Dutch Quad and the apartments.
    2. Sen. Sean Correia, Chairman of Constituent Relations
       1. Town hall cleared with State Quad, and getting Indian on board now.
       2. Sen Barrera and I met with Emily again.

1. **Legislative Agenda**
   * 1. S.1718-054 Appropriations, Doctors IV Hope
        1. Student Representative: Our organization is geared to pre-med and pre-health on campus. We are asking for money for things we are doing every, this year it is just bigger than last. We contacted speakers to come, Sodexo to cater, and 100 people coming. We want $104 for gifts to speakers. It is an awesome opportunity to gain a mentor. The gifts are UAlbany mugs and personal bag of coffee. We will be booking the ballroom.
        2. Sen. Asmus: You said you were getting in contact with speakers, do you have any yet?
        3. Student Representative: Yes, they are all nailed down.
        4. Sen. Pilorge: This was not in your budget?
        5. Student Representative: Yes but we are opening it up to more people, and we have more members this year.
        6. President Fontaine: This is a good thing going, and a lot more students have been giving more interest in this field, so it makes sense they need more money.
        7. Sen. Rybak: Again, do we want to show we will be giving out gifts with appropriations money?
        8. President Fontaine: The field of medicine is crazy. It is so important to create these opportunities for students. It is hard to get into contact with doctors, and they expect something for coming after at 12 hour shift.
        9. Sen. Quinn: For the sake of transparency, this is not new. This is something appropriations has been doing for a while. We are not paying for the speakers.
        10. Sen Lajara: Gifts are incentives.
        11. Sen. Carroll: Is there a formal process for the gifts?
        12. Chairman Altilio: The first time I have ever seen gifts being given away was last week, but the idea should be that gifts are owed to students. If anyone, the gifts should be going to students, the doctors volunteered to come to this. It may seem like it is a small request, but every time someone comes in for gifts we will have to give it to them. I am nipping it in the bud before it goes on any longer. We may have a sizeable budget right now, but that money will be going fast. The student activity fee should be going to students.
        13. Sen. Blackwood: I think it should be noted that I am a student of pre-health, and this school has a lackluster science program. I understand the concept, but to refuse students is not the answer. Plenty of money went to sending 15 kids to Europe, why is this such a big deal?
        14. Sen. O’Connell: We are not taking the food off.
        15. Sen. Rybak: For the integrity of the bill, leave pre-med out of it.
        16. Sen. Pilorge: If we do take it away, the event will not be ruined.
        17. Sen. Edwards: If this is an issue, put it into writing. We cannot keep arguing about this every week.
        18. Sen. Capuano: Let’s not focus on pre-health, or the other ways to use the money. It is not selfish to run an efficient budget. Do not look at past bills.
        19. Sen. Barrera: If it is an issue, write it.
        20. Sen. Quinn: I will take this into consideration, the committee should take what you are saying into account. If it is a hot topic, we will propose a bill to prevent gifts.
        21. Sen. Johansen: Gifts are something to be fundraised for.
        22. President Fontaine: Chairman Altilio, I respect your opinion, but the purpose of fee is to increase the value of the student experience. This is something that will by influencing the speaker to come back. The group needs to give them something to comeback, it is a cycle. It is truly about what the student activity fee is for.
        23. Chairman Altilio: I have been on Board of Finance for three years and in Senate for four, will the senate give me a gift? Whether or not a doctor receives a coffee will not make or break the event. I am comfortable with the money situation right now, so good job appropriations! However, if we give a gift out now, people will keep coming and then we will have no money. This is a matter of principle, matter of precedent, and we need to stop it while we still can. I move to cut the second line.
        24. Sen. Carroll: Second.
        25. Sen. Shapiro: Object.
        26. Sen. Altilio: I move to call to question
        27. Vice Chairwoman Tasnim: Second.
            1. Passed: 20-5-5
        28. Vice Chairwoman Tasnim: I move to call the new bill to question.
        29. Sen. Carroll: Second.
            1. Passed: 29-0-2
     2. S.1718-055 Appropriations, Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Inc.
        1. Sen. Quinn: This is a sponsorship line transaction.
        2. Student Representative: We are a nationally recognized sorority. Our local philanthropic activity is the March of Dimes. Our national philanthropic activity is violence against women and we honor the women who have been domestically abused.
        3. Sen. Quinn: This is the sixth annual banquet, with Sodexo food.
        4. O’Connell: When is the event?
        5. Student Representative: This Friday.
        6. Vice Chairwoman Tasnim: Point of information: This is not a group that receives a budget from the Student Association.
        7. Sen. Quinn: I have told the comptroller that this may be coming. And Sodexo just needs a promise of payment to cater while the funds are being processed.
        8. Vice Chairwoman Tasnim: I move to call to question.
        9. Sen. Carroll: Second.
           1. 31-1-1
     3. S.1718-056 Deputy Comptroller Nomination, Carroll
        1. Sen. Rybak: Since Comptroller Hackshaw left his post as deputy comptroller to become the comptroller, we had to get a new deputy comptroller. Nominee Carroll gave a good interview and his past performance was great.
        2. Nominee Carroll: You all have heard of me. I am a junior, and I have been working with the Student Association funds since last year.
        3. Sen. Barrera: Would you still be a senator?
        4. Nominee Carroll: No, I will have to resign my post.
        5. Sen. Shapiro: I would like to say working with Nominee Carroll on Appropriations has been a pleasure, and he will be great in the comptroller’s office.
           1. 27-1-6
2. **Old Business**
   * 1. S.1718-053 Reforms to Ensure Executive Branch Accountability
        1. Sen. Holdridge: Back to last week, we just wanted to make it more simple for people to understand. It gives the executive branch the same accountability as the senate. So, it basically is just a rewording.
        2. Sen. Rybak: If they just send a representative, and does not tell the Chairman or the Vice Chairwoman of their absence, it will be an unexcused absence.
           1. 29-0-2
3. **New Business**
   * 1. No new Business
4. **Closing Remarks**
   * 1. Sen. Jarrett Altilio, Chairman of the Senate
        1. You will get the recap email
        2. Remember your biographies and pictures!
     2. Sen. Subha Tasnim, Vice Chairwoman of the Senate
        1. No closing remarks