

MEETING NOTES



University of Iowa Student Government GENERAL SENATE MEETING

November 1, 2011

A.) Call Meeting to Order (7:02)

B.) Quorum Call – Roll Call (7:03)

C.) Swearing in Senators (7:06)

SJC Chief Justice Tanvi Inani swore in: John Cumming-Meiningner, Yu Zhou.

D.) Public Access

No SABAC Appeals.

E.) Presentation (7:06)

✓ Paula Dayton (Donor Recruitment Coordinator) from UI DeGowin Blood Center

She said one year ago they asked that DeGowin be the first blood center used by University events. All of the blood they collect goes to the UIHC. UIHC transfuses a lot of blood. DeGowin is a part of the University so it makes sense that DeGowin is the first refusal of blood centers. There is an increased competition among blood centers. There is a significant savings for UIHC to use blood from DeGowin. They are asking that groups ask the DeGowin blood center to do blood drives first. She also asked that students come to their permanent center at the hospital to do platelet donations. You can sign up online at any time or call for an appointment.

✓ Abbey Moffitt-Sustainability Summit Sign Up

Senator Moffitt encouraged senators to sign up to attend the Summit.

F.) Old Business (7:14)

None.

G.) New Business (7:14)

✓ S.S.B. 21 – Senator Committee Assignments

Presented by Speaker Pottebaum. This legislation places John Cumming-Meiningner on Community and Outreach and Tyrone Peterson on Diveristy Committee.

Senator Phillips-motion to previous question. Horsfield-second.

Vote to previous question—Passes.

Vote on S.S.B. 21—Passes.

✓ S.S.B. 22 – SABAC Supplemental II (7:17)

Senator Westercamp presented. She said \$115,538 was spent for Supplemental II. We met on Sunday, October 30 from 1 – 4:30 PM. Next Supplemental Deadline (Supplemental III) is Friday, February 8 at 5:00 PM. SABAC will meet the Sunday following.

Senator Horsfield-motion to previous question. Senator Sturtz-second.

Vote to previous question—Passes.

Vote on S.S.B. 22—Passes.

✓ S.S.B. 23 – Code of Ethics (7:20)

Senator Pottebaum presented. The Senate Code of Conduct needed to be updated. Had not been updated in quite some time. Renamed the Code of Conduct to Code of Ethics to refresh and restate the values that UISG Senators all have. This new Code of Ethics is more organized in terms of its content (i.e. Accountability, Honor). Furthermore, the explanation of unbecoming conduct as well as the appeal process is now clarified on the Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics is content from the By-Laws as well as past legislation.

This was brought before all the committee meetings last week to gain opinion and insight. I want this document to reflect OUR expected values and expectations pertaining to matters of accountability (i.e. attendance, community service, dress policy, office hours, tardiness) and honor (i.e. academic conduct, public conduct). We will as Senators continue to strive to portray commitment, inclusion, integrity, leadership, and responsiveness. This update in the Code of Ethics reaffirms the expectations and values we have always held.

All Senators, if legislation passes, will receive a copy of this at the meetings conclusion. Each Senator will have to re-sign the Code of Ethics.

Senator Horsfield-motion to previous question. Senator VanZant-second.

Vote on previous question—Passes.

Vote on S.S.B. 23—Passes.

✓ S.S.R. 24 – Wingman Campaign (7:22)

Vice President Caplin presented. She said the Wingman campaign is the new safety campaign for student government. This is a new campaign, different from years in the past. It is about being a good friend when in the partying environment. It is the college version of the buddy system.

Senator Brannon-motivated to previous question. Senator Horsfield-second.

Vote to previous question—Passes.

Vote on S.S.B. 24—Passes.

✓ S.S.R. 25 – FY 2013 Tuition Resolution (7:26)

Senator Dickinson presented the legislation. This legislation was crafted and discussed at last week's Governmental Relations Committee meeting. This is a resolution to support the Board of Regents decision to increase in-state and out-of-state tuition. This is a good increase of tuition because it maintains the fine line of Iowa being a top tier institution while being affordable. It is the lowest tuition increase in the last seven years. The increase will go to upgrading classrooms and facilities, expanding campus and hiring faculty.

President Higgins discussed the Board of Regents meeting last Thursday. The student government presidents from Iowa State and UNI also supported the tuition increase with Elliot. Tuition increase is a problem and they relayed that to the board, but that being said they decided to support it for several reasons. It is along the lines of inflation levels, it is the second lowest increase in 30 years and maintains our high standards. Tuition increase is an effect of an underlying problem of decreased state appropriations.

Discussion:

Senator Sturtz said although people might be skeptical she believes we should support it because it is the lowest increase in seven years. Senator VanZant asked where state appropriations would be for the upcoming year—Speaker Pottebaum said 50% of budget has been made. Senator Phillips said we have the lowest in-state tuition for Big 10 Universities and second lowest for out-of-state students. President Higgins said there isn't a set number for state appropriations, which is why it is especially important to go to Des Moines and Lobby.

Chief of Staff Bajwa said regardless of what we say, the Board of Regents will still approve this. He thinks it is sad that we are happy about it being the lowest in several years. He said that we need to start looking at the greater problem of decreasing state appropriations.

Senator Woodson said most students will not understand this and will not be happy when they hear that UISG endorsed tuition raise. Senator Dickinson responded that the legislation says we do not endorse tuition increase but we endorse this amount of increase. Senator Gao had questions about the legislation and asked for clarity. Senator Mafoua-Namy said he agrees with Senator Woodson because if we are supporting the students then we should not endorse a tuition increase because students are already struggling to pay tuition.

Senator Eglseder asked why out-of-state tuition increase significantly higher than instate—President Higgins answered that it is because our out of state tuition is still significantly lower compared to other schools.

Senator Brannon said that UISG should take a stand because we don't have to agree with this. She is concerned with the contradictions in the legislations. Senator VanZant said he understands the increase this year, but his concern is that year after year the burden is put on the students. Part of the burden should be put on the students but most should be put on the legislators.

Senator Dickinson said we are supporting the fact that to keep UIowa as a top tier University is that we need to raise tuition. Senator Moffitt said by passing this we are not putting the pressure on legislators like we need to. Senator Mafoua-Namy said that even though we are top tier we are affordable and need to remain affordable; we get a phenomenal education as is.

Senator Sturz motioned to suspend rule to talk no more than twice. Senator Vanzant-second. Vote to suspend rule—Passes.

Senator Dickinson said this is the appropriate number to raise tuition in order to maintain of level of education. Senator Horsfield said that this legislation is praising the Board of Regents for coming to an agreement on the lowest increase in a while. Senator Brown said this legislation can be taken the wrong way.

Senator Lakin said this is a symbolic vote and asked what kind of message we want to send to students. Senator Zhou said with the tuition increase we still remain affordable but it is still a huge jump for international or out-of-state students and needs a more convincing argument. Senator VanZant said he understands the legislation but thinks it needs a clause at the least, that says the state needs to do their part as well. Senator Riffel said bottom line an increase is an increase and if UISG doesn't take the step to represent the students then no one will.

Senator Woodson said UISG should not endorse tuition and should spend more time on the lobbying legislation. Senator Sturtz said that the tuition proposal is an accomplishment and the next legislation in on lobbying for more state appropriations. Senator Oskvig said it is our job to represent students as well as possible and since this is a compromise we should not say no.

Senator Horsfield questioned who UISG is trying to appease, students who read the Daily Iowan or the Board of Regents. He does not think we can appease both so we need to decide who we should appease. Senator Copple said this is a step in the right direction but it is not accomplishing anything. Senator Mitchell said tuition will increase no matter what, and this is an accomplishment because it is the second lowest in 31 years. Senator Dickinson said this legislation supports both students and the board of regents.

Senator Phillips-motion to previous question. Senator Sturtz-second.
Vote to previous question—Passes.
Vote on S.S.B. 25—Fails.

✓ S.S.B. 26 – UISG Lobbying Training

Senator Dickinson presented legislation. There was a full discussion at last weeks Governmental Relations Meeting last week. This is for lobbying training for Board of Regents day. It would be a prep session with legislators on how to correctly lobby and how to get our point across. A training session before next meeting would help us get together collectively as an organization. Speaker Pottebaum said the training session would take place of the next meeting.

Discussion:

Senator Moffit said this is a great Idea

Senator Brannon-motion to previous question. Senator Riffel-second.

Vote to previous question-passes

Vote on S.S.B. 27—Passes.

✓ S.S.B. 27 – UISG Student Liaisons

Senator Horsfield presented. This legislation is about having liaisons between each student organization we fund and UISG. Each senator would be in contact with 1 or 2 liaisons. This would help with our transparency and inform student organizations that we are there for them.

Discussion:

Senator Phillips motioned to make a friendly amendment to change the amount of organizations assigned to each senator from 1 to 1-2.

Senator Pottebaum asked when this would start—Senator Horsfield said it would start soon.

Senator Riffel asked if Senator Horsfield had approached student organizations to ask if this would be beneficial—Senator Horsfield said no.

Senator Taylor Peterson asked if the assignments would be random—Senator Horsfield said yes.

Senator Mafoua-Namy said random assignments isn't a good idea because a senator might not fit with a certain student organization. Senator Copple asked if Senators that represent cultural centers would they represent another student organization—Senator Horsfield said they would continue to represent that group. Senator Claussen said random assignment would maintain a level of professionalism that might be lost if the Senator is already involved with the organization.

Senator Dickinson-motion to table. Senator Riffle-Second.

Vote to table S.S.B. 2—Passes.

H.) Reports (8:00)

- ✓ Advisor
- ✓ Executives

President Higgins said he is working on changing the finals policy. He also said he is working to extend the hours of operation of the library the week before finals. He recently reviewed the Presidential Charter Committees and had some questions with the Student and Safety Committee about the mission with the UIPD and their bar searches. He also wants to set up a third party that allows student to issue complaints.

Vice President Caplin said the safety fair was a huge success. She is starting to work on the off-campus housing website. The Ubill focus groups when very well, please come forth with any ideas for what you would like to charge to your Ubill.

Diversity Advocate Nicoue said he met with the Student Advisory Committee to find out the concerns of the multicultural organizations and students on campus.

Chief of Staff Bajwa said they are working on bring a bike exchange to the University.

Executive Assistant to the President Paulsen said they are working on ACE forms. Recently there have been meetings about the collegiate readership program and starting a marketing campaign.

Sustainability Advocate Zlevor said she is working on quotes from the IMU on water filtration, hopefully construction will start this year. She is working on an ink cartridge recycling program in the dorms. She encouraged everyone to go to the sustainability summit. Working on allocating funds to the Office of Sustainability for clear recycling containers.

✓ Committee Chairs

I.) Announcements (8:16)

PHOTOS FOR THE WEBSITE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING.

- ✓ Next Committee Meetings is Tuesday, November 8 in the **Penn State Room – IMU** (times vary).
- ✓ UISG Sustainability Summit is Sunday, November 13 from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM beginning in the Illinois Room – IMU.
- ✓ Next General Senate Meeting is Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00 PM in 2520D UCC.

J.) Adjournment (8:17)

Senator Phillips-motion to adjourn. Senator Horsfield-second.