



**University of Iowa Student Government
GENERAL SENATE MEETING
Minutes**

A.) Call Meeting to Order (7:01pm)

B.) Quorum Call – Roll Call

C.) Swearing in of Senators – Chief Justice Andy Koons

D.) Public Access (7:07pm)

✓ TJ Anderson – Herky's Nest:

-TJ Anderson would like for there to be a home for Herky and the kids with cancer at the football games. This project is for the kids who have gone through so much emotional turmoil. They have already raised \$100,000 in 4 months. Herkysnest.com. They can be found on twitter and Facebook as well. The goal is for this to be built in 2015. Senator Klemme asked if the \$500,000 would this for sure happen. TJ replied that there is no guarantee at this point. Senator Boyd asked if it would be too rowdy for young children in the section. Senator Gorres asked if it would limit the view of other fans. TJ replied that it would not. Committee spots would also be available. Senator Gillete asked if they want underclassmen involved for this occur. TJ replied that he would like a certain amount of constituents to represent each grade/class.

✓ Geoff Fruin – Chicago to Omaha Regional Passenger Rail Line.

-The stimulus package was created in 2008 and included new alternatives for transportation. The rail would run from Iowa City to Chicago and hopefully Omaha as well. There are existing rail lines in Sothern Iowa. Quick facts: two round trips daily. Distance 220 miles. Top speed of 79mph. The riders would reach around 280,000 people per year. Studies suggest that for every dollar put in our economy will see \$1.80 return. Job growth would be around 588 people in Iowa City alone. Total project cost between IA and IL is \$310 million. We already have \$86.8 federal dollars to spend. Illinois has already committed and is building the rail line through the quad cities. It offers convenience, reliability, and affordability. They are going to need young people to go and lobby for this. Senator Xu asked how many rail projects have been completed from the stimulus package. Most of them have been completed. A decision needs to be made by spring of 2013. Senator Dvorsky asked what the environmental impact would be. The speaker replied that they have not seen the figures for that yet, but it will take thousands of cars off the roads. Senator Gillette asked what factors are holding this back. They believe that it is due to the large cost and the stagnant political environment. Senator Klemme asked if there would be parking available. They would

acquire deck or surface parking within a close proximity. Senator Ramesh asked what steps we can take to make this happen. The speakers said that lobbying will be an important and critical part as well as talking to legislatures from hometowns. Senator Dvorsky asked how it would compete with Mega Bus or Greyhound. They said that it would run in conjunction with these services and would be an alternative offered.

F.) New Business

✓ S.S.R. 9 – Endorsing Rail Project

-Senator Gao spoke against the project as he believes it would go over budget. Senator Dvorsky spoke in favor saying that the money is already in place and we should go for it. Senator Gillette spoke in favor of this project, as did Senator Jay Brown saying that this is affordable and green and would be a great alternative. Senator Oskvig spoke against this project due to the limited impact for the entire state. Senator Heuer motioned to suspend the rules for the amount of speaking time by one senator, seconded by Senator Dvorsky. Senator Klemme spoke in favor of the project. Senator Madia spoke in favor. Senator Tarnoff motioned to previous question, seconded by Senator Phillips.

On further review by the Student Judicial Court, S.S.R.9 does not pass.

G.) Reports (8:15pm)

✓ Executive Reports

Jessie Tobin: Promoted a sign up for the Saferide blitz and the game day event.

Jeralyn Westercamp: Discussed the Saferide blitz saying that it will be interactive and fun. It is also a great way to fulfill your required office hour/ community service hours.

H.) Announcements

- ✓ Second Committee Meetings – September 17, 2012 2520D UCC.
- ✓ Game Recycling Volunteers – Office of Sustainability Website

I.) Adjournment (8:34pm)

Motioned by Senator Sproul, and seconded by Senator Oskvig. (8:34pm)