

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT- FACULTY SENATE 2010-2011 FINAL REPORT

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Issues/Events that were not brought forward in the form of a Bill or Resolution:

Appreciation days: The Student-Faculty Senate created appreciation days. Thus far they have taken place roughly three times per year, however the Senate plans on increasing the amount of appreciation days in the next few years. On an appreciation day, homerooms receive small pink slips of paper for the purpose of writing a short thank you note to a teacher, classmate, etc. For the past two years, it has been the Social Actions Committee of the Student-Faculty Senate that has collected, sorted, and delivered the thank you notes to their recipients.

Community Service Fair: The annual community service fair is completely run by the Student-Faculty Senate.

Senior electives in English: In April of 2011, the issue of senior English electives was discussed in much detail. With new semester English classes being introduced next year, and some courses with humorous titles such as "Knights in Tights", it was a concern that these course titles would not be taken seriously on a transcript. Students also brought up the idea of offering Honors English for seniors. Those in favor of offering an honors English class stated that it is unfair for students with a strong interest in math and/or science to have the opportunity to take an A.P course but no such option for students passionate in English and writing. After holding a meeting with English Department Head Mrs. Crowell, it was agreed upon that humorous course titles will be changed for the sake of transcripts. It was also mentioned that the English department takes pride in having un-leveled English courses because it reduces the stress level of seniors. Students, if asked in a college interview why they are not taking Honors English, can simply state that they are taking the highest level of English offered

Homework over a holiday: In the event of a religious holiday, it is a student's responsibility to talk with his/her teacher in advance to let them know that they will be observing the holiday. Teachers should give leeway in regards to homework if this occurs.

Pledge of Allegiance: Discussion was a response to a bill which proposed that LHS say the Pledge of Allegiance during homeroom. The bill did not pass but discussion included several opinions both in favor of and opposed to the idea.

School wireless internet: Ms. Lasa approached the Senate for suggestions and encouraged discussion with regards to LHS' wireless internet. Discussion questions included: How do we move toward increasing mobility for faculty access? How do we provide reliable and easy access for guests? How do we establish and maintain a wireless network that provides reliable access for future instructional technology? How do we maintain academic focus and a safe environment while providing students with additional access to the internet?

Student recognition: The Senate's goal is to find a way to recognize student achievements and the current scores of competitive events in a timely matter. Questions include: Can the display cases in the main hallway be cleaned/updated and used differently? How can we include all achievements- including academic, athletic, service, etc?

General Senate Improvements in 2011

-Redesigned and updated the LHS Senate website to provide easy access for non Senators to stay informed.

- Updated the extensive record keeping and the complete bill list.
- Improved Senate spirit through seriously classy sweatshirts.
- Created strict attendance rules for committee and X-Block meetings in order to ensure that the Senate stays productive and includes members who are truly passionate in making school changes, rather than joining just to add to their college application. Several members were kicked out of the Senate due to poor attendance and were replaced with the person who had the next highest number of votes in the election. This has proved to be extremely effective because the new Senators who joined throughout the year have had perfect attendance, generated new ideas/bills/resolutions, and have participated in discussions.
- Updated and redesigned the Senate bulletin board in the main hallway (which previously had been collecting dust). The new bulletin board includes bills and resolutions that passed this year and a complete list of the 2010-2011 Senators.
- Worked to recruit new faculty Senators in order to have each department represented.
- Made tremendous progress in increasing awareness about the Senate. Continuously aimed to provide students and staff with updated reports, and worked to gain non-Senator input.

Arts and Humanities Fundraising Access Bill Passed September 17, 2010

To allow for more access to fundraising opportunities, the Arts and Humanities Hallway will be available for after-school fundraising activities (i.e. bake sales, etc) as follows:

- I. Student organizations will comply with the fundraising policy in the Student/Parent handbook and the District Activities Manual:
"All fund-raising activities...involving students, individual classes or school-connected organizations, for whatever purpose, must be discussed fully with a Dean and advisor of the organizations before they begin."
- II. All other student organizations may schedule no more than one after-school fundraiser per week and will submit requests for fundraiser spots at least one week in advance and no more than four weeks in advance.
- III. To promote accessibility, student organizations that have scheduled fewer prior fundraisers that year will have priority.

Rationale:

As reported in the Social Action Committee's Fundraising Opportunity Report for 2009-2010, a small handful of clubs account for a majority of the fundraisers. Currently, it is difficult for some groups to schedule fundraisers mid-way through the school year due to certain groups scheduling fundraisers months in advance.

This bill intends to formalize the process of scheduling fundraisers in the arts and humanities hallway.

Article II promotes easier access for groups that want to start fundraising midway through the year.

Article III will prevent excessive "monopolizing" of fundraising spots.

Notification of Tardiness Resolution
Passed November 3, 2010

When a student is late to class, the teacher of the class will notify the student, on the same day, that they have been marked tardy.

Bill Efficiency Resolution
Passed October 20, 2010

Let it be resolved that when new bills and documents are to be presented before the Senate, they will:

- Be distributed in print to all Senators at the Senate meeting at least one week before they are intended to be discussed.
- Even after the bill is distributed, the author retains the right to amend the bill as necessary prior to formal discussion of the bill.
- Bill authors will be able to explain the bill and its rationale briefly during open comments on the date of distribution.
- Have the author's e-mail address (or some form of contact information) documented at the bottom of the bill draft.
- Be submitted to the Policy Committee for consideration the Monday of the week before the date of distribution of copies of the bill to the Senate.

Rationale:

- The current system of having bills and documents distributed to Senators through the FirstClass system has proven to be an ineffective means of allowing Senators to ponder topics before the actual Senate meeting.
- Having a week to consider a discussion item on one's own time or with committees before it is to be officially discussed in a Senate meeting is a vital part of the discussion process, as forethought allows for Senators to develop discussion points to make meetings more efficient and effective.
- The author's e-mail address on documents will allow Senators to contact each other outside of meetings.
- Lastly, the Policy Committee's primary function of bill review has been previously neglected, and should be practiced. Providing a copy of the bill the Monday two weeks before scheduled Senate discussion date will give the Policy Committee ample time to review and refine the bill.

Teacher Computers Resolution
Passed November 17, 2010

Resolved: The Student-Faculty Senate encourages teachers to allow students to use their computers during free blocks or study halls.

Rationale:

1. Opening up classroom computers would reduce traffic and occupancy in the library.
2. Teachers can have greater control over their students' use of free blocks/studies because they can choose to monitor them in their own classroom.
3. Students will have greater work efficiency with easier access to computers.

4. It should be made clear that there are no security risks associated with student use of computers. Grades, tests, etc. will remain on the teacher's account, and the student must use their own in order to access the computer.

**Snowstorm Resolution
Passed January 26, 2011**

The Student-Faculty Senate feels school was opened on Thursday, January 13 under conditions that were dangerous to students and staff. Town sidewalks and sidewalks on the campus of LHS were not yet cleared of deep snow and many students and staff were forced to walk in the streets to get to school.

The Senate respectfully requests the district administration to answer the following questions:

Is there a school policy regarding opening schools when campus and/or town sidewalks are not clear?

If so, has this policy been changed recently?

The Senate reiterates its concern for safety following snowstorms as expressed in its 1989 Snow Day Resolution, which reads as follows:

"In order to ensure the safety of students and staff, decisions regarding school cancellations should be made based on the latest weather information and forecasts, road conditions in neighboring towns, and the Department of Public Works' assurance of cleared roads, sidewalks, and school parking lots."

**Cafeteria Advisory Board Bill
Passed January 5, 2011**

The Student-Faculty Senate hereby creates a Student Cafeteria Advisory Board. The board will consist of two students per grade. It is required to meet once a quarter with any additional meeting at the board's discretion. The committee will create its mission statement and will be required to report back to the Student-Faculty Senate annually. The head of the high school's food service will serve as advisor.

Rationale: A cafeteria advisory committee is in the best interest of the food provider and the students. Because students are the customers of the food provider, the food provider can expect increased business as a result of increased student input. Students gain from having a greater voice of cafeteria matters, as the committee will facilitate improvements of the dining experience of students. Having the advisory committee as an elected body ensures that its spots will be filled and that its members will take their positions seriously.

Ad-hoc Cafeteria Advisory Committee Resolution
Passed January 26, 2011

Senate hereby creates an ad hoc Cafeteria Advisory Committee to exist to the end of the 2010-2011 school year, after which time the elected committee will succeed it. Members will be chosen from Senate and the student body at large by the Climate Committee.

Lunch Duration Bill
Passed January 26, 2011

Lunch periods may not be shortened from their current lengths, either due to a special schedule such as an extended homeroom, or due to a permanent change in the master schedule.

Rationale:

Lunch is important to ensure the health and general well being of students and faculty. Students and faculty need adequate time to eat lunch.

Representation Bill
Passed April 13, 2011

After the election, every student Senator will be assigned 2-4 homerooms of the same graduation year (when possible including their own HR). They will be expected to make monthly visits to each of their assigned homerooms during their following term as Senator, where they will solicit ideas for bills and share what senate is doing/has done.

Senators will be able to be excused from their own homeroom for this purpose 2-3 times per month.

Rationale:

Student Senators tend to be highly connected, motivated and capable. However, they represent their entire class, so they should be given the time and expectation to meet with a constituent group of classmates. This will also improve Senator name recognition, and awareness and efficacy of the senate as a whole.