



MINUTES¹
USG Senate Meeting
Thursday, February 2nd, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm. Meeting held in Humanities 1006.

Agenda item 1.0: Attendance

The roll was called:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Senator David Adams | Present |
| Senator Oluwasegun Adedapo | Present |
| Senator Emily Alcott | Present |
| Senator Shon Augustine | Present |
| Senator Lance Bertrand | Present |
| Senator Tiffany Bibby | Present |
| Senator Nicholas Ela | Present |
| Senator Ray Fan | Present |
| Senator Frank Fanizza | Present |
| Senator Max Gunther | Present |
| Senator Eric Lau | Excused Absence |
| Senator Anna Lubitz | Present |
| Senator Corey Platt | Excused Lateness |
| (8:15 pm) | |
| Senator Masood Rustemi | Present |
| Senator Najee Simmons (PPT) | Present |
| Senator Priya Sohi | Present |
| Senator David Szeszler | Present |
| Senator Andrew Tausz | Present |
| Senator Ryann Williams | Present |
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| President Mark Maloof | Present |
| Executive Vice President Deborah Machalow | Present |
| Treasurer Thomas Kirnbauer | Present |
| Vice President of Academic Affairs Adil Hussain | Present |
| Vice President of Student Life Deron Hill | Excused Absence |
| Senior Class Representative Emilisa Trotman | Excused Absence |
| Junior Class Representative Dennis Nmecha | Absent |

¹ Typically, minutes should only contain the essentials of a meeting. This includes the meeting time and location, a list of those who attended, as well as a record of all motions made and their outcome. Debate (or a summary of debate) is usually not included. I include it here at the request of the Chair. Mistakes and omissions are likely, so Senators are encouraged to e-mail the Secretary with corrections prior to the next Senate meeting, so that the record reflects what was actually said at the meeting and so corrections can be made efficiently.

- Club dashboard: Profile page with budget, current vouchers, etc.
- Quick connect: Majority of communication is with E-board members. In addition to the traditional offices, there are customizable titles, to account for the variety of e-board members at various clubs.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: Is there a way to identify who the club President or Treasurer is, even if the club changes their titles?
 - Mr. Kirnbauer: Standard USG clubs will be held to the standard of President, VP, Treasurer, etc.
- If you have a form for an event that you have to do, then that would show up as a “to-do” item.
- Mr. Dimitriyadi demonstrated how to create an event using the ALLOCATE 2.0 system.
- The “budgets” feature was also demonstrated.
- We want this to be a tool so that clubs can also budget effectively for their events. This way they can get a rough idea of how much money they have left in their budget, and can therefore delete events, adjust vouchers, etc., to fit their expenditures to their budget.
- Mr. Dimitriyadi demonstrated how to create a voucher.
- Vendor information streamlined by uploading the vendor information for approved vendors, which can be easily accessed and selected for the event.
- The system is customizable, to allow both clubs and USG to move their vouchers online.
- Other parts of the system include a “member verification process”
- The Chair noted that several Senators have fallen asleep: Senators Fan, Bertrand, and Rustemi.
- This concludes the demo.
- Senator Adams: Will the number of students needed to verify a voucher remain at 25%?
 - Mr. Dimitriyadi: That is the case at this time, however we can adjust the percentage if USG changes it.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: The budget process is coming up soon. Can you outline how ALLOCATE will address this?
 - Mr. Dimitriyadi: It does not appear that the budget system using ALLOCATE worked very well in the past. We made it possible for groups to create events that they wanted to have for the next budget year, as a way of organizing their budget request for the next year.
- Senator Sohi: What about planning expenditures for office supplies?
 - Mr. Dimitriyadi: We also have an item on the ALLOCATE program to have set categories for office supplies, uniforms, and other items that USG indicated.
 - The Chair noted that Senators Bibby, Bertrand, and Fan are now asleep.
- Senator Williams: When you are applying for vouchers for someone who is not on the approved list, how would you do that?

- Mr. Dimitryadi: We will have that option available, although we would like to encourage using the current vendors.
 - Senator Williams: I am somewhat confused about the use of the term “budget” – as in, a budget for an event vs. the club’s full budget. Can you fix this?
 - Mr. Dimitryadi: We will work on that.
 - Mr. Dimitryadi: We are trying to return to this idea of how we can change how event marketing is done on the campus. Hopefully, by the end of March, we can launch “Campusvine,” a site that can gauge and increase the effectiveness of advertising campus events.
 - Mr. Dimitryadi: 98% would be more likely to attend an event if a friend recommended it to them. We will be trying to build on this.
- Chair: Chris Muller is the new USG Administrative Director.
 - Chair: It seems that some Senators are tired. Please do not sleep during Senate meetings.

Agenda item 5.0: University Calendar Discussion

- President Maloof led the discussion.
- I wanted to bring this issue up with the Senate. This is an issue that has been in the works in the University. Four administrators came together to put together the “secular calendar” that they want Stony Brook to operate under.
- The secular calendar would remove breaks for any holidays except those federally recognized, and consolidate the days-off in the semester.
- I wanted everyone else’s feedback on this. USG has not been consulted on the calendar. I think we should brainstorm and figure out what our message should be.
- Senator Fanizza: I would like to know your opinion on this?
 - President Maloof: I have no strong opinion on this matter.
- EVP Machalow stepped down from the Chair. PPT Simmons in the Chair.
- EVP Machalow: I believe this is a terrible plan. First and foremost, just because other universities are doing this, does not mean it is correct for Stony Brook. Secondly, these administrators came up with this plan without consultation. They have not discussed this with the Inter-Faith leaders.
 - SUNY guidelines state that campuses should avoid scheduling events like exams on days that students have religious observations.
 - This program opens up the possibility of examinations on Saturdays and Sundays.
- VP Hussain: The calendar for last semester had no reading days – breaks between the last day of classes and the beginning of final exams.
 - I believe students would not appreciate having exams on weekends.
 - I believe that students need to have their input on these important changes.
- Senator Williams: Do we have representatives from the Inter-Faith center?
 - President Maloof: The new calendar would eliminate holidays like Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kipur.
- Senator Fanizza: Spring break would be moved, so that it would no longer coincide with holidays currently associated with it.

- EVP Machalow: These changes would potentially make students at a disadvantage, as they might have difficulty in scheduling make up exams.
- Senator Williams: What would the impact of these changes have on the number of days in the semester?
 - President Maloof: There would be an additional day or two for Thanksgiving break, as well as having the semester end earlier.
- Senator Lubitz: The University President secretly appointed these administrators to create the “secular calendar.”
- Senator Fanizza: Some professors in other institutions cancel classes when many students do not show up because of religious observance. Insisting on scheduling classes during that time will simply lead to wasted days.
- President Maloof: The schematic for our current calendar began when the Stony Brook campus started, and was in keeping with the Jewish population of students and professors at that time. What happens when professors do not wish to schedule classes during holidays they observe?
- Senator Tausz: Is it better to follow the approach of not taking into account anyone’s religious observances, or to accommodate all holidays?
- Senator Adams: Regardless, the current calendar is biased in favor of some Christian holidays, such as having the Winter Break coinciding with Christmas.
- Senator Tausz: Do we have demographic data about religious observance of students?
- Senator Williams: I think we need to look into how many students follow other faiths, and to see the impact that would have on those students.
- EVP Machalow: We are one of the top universities in the world in terms of diversity, and we should keep that in mind if we wish to recreate the calendar.
- President Maloof: I presented this to the Senate, so I can understand your position on this issue.
- Senator Adams: My main concern is that we should be striving to increase the number of reading days.
- Senator Lubitz: I think that students need to be involved in the calendar making process. Students should be an integral part of the committee.
- President Maloof: Would you rather that they took the approach of the administrator who came to the Senate regarding the proposal to change the class meeting times? (Yes).
- Senators: Finals on weekends are not acceptable. They interfere with the ability of students to have jobs during that time.
- Senator Williams: I am not opposed to finals on weekends. They might be a good idea.
 - VP Hussain: Weekends during finals week could also count as extra reading days. In addition, students would have to adjust to weekend train schedules or make new arrangements in terms of their employment, if they must attend weekend exams.
- EVP Machalow: I would suggest that the Senate take several informal votes in order to give President Maloof the sense of the Senate on calendar associated issues, in order to formulate USG’s opinion on this matter.
- Senator Lubitz: I think that administrators are in favor of these changes in order to increase their pay.

- Senator Adams: I think we have some competing issues here. It might be possible to have more reading days if we adopted this secular calendar. I think we should focus on reading days in that case.
- Senator Williams: We can get both of our issues approved (keeping religious holidays and increasing study days) if we are in favor of having Sunday exams.
- EVP Machalow: I want to highlight that the proposed calendar is a done-deal. It has already been placed on the Registrar's website, despite not being approved by anyone.
- Senator Bibby: I agree with the need to implement the reading days, and I believe we should emphasize them in our negotiations.
- President Maloof (informal vote): If it comes down to it, would you prefer more reading days, or more religious holidays?
 - Reading days: 10
 - Religious Holidays: 6
 - Abstentions: 2
- President Maloof (informal vote): On having finals on weekends?
 - Yes: 3
 - No: 15
 - Abstentions: 0.
- President Maloof: Would you rather reading days or weekends off?
- Senator Fanizza: I think we should unite our position on opposing the changes to this calendar. Instead of compromising, we should just vote on the calendar itself.
- VP Hussain: I think we should demand that we have a say on this matter.
- EVP Machalow: I personally believe that we should reject the calendar entirely and go on strike! I agree that we should not be bargaining. I think we should do two more straw polls on whether or not to reject the calendar, and also one more on removing religious observance days.
- Chair: In the interests of time, I think we should have a poll on rejecting the calendar, and another vote on making USG involved.
- Senator Bertrand: I just want to advocate on scrapping the new calendar altogether. I think for us to even consider it would require more time.
- Chair (informal vote): If you would prefer rejection of the calendar?
 - Yes: 18
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0.
- Chair (informal vote): If you would like for USG to demand to be directly involved in the calendar editing process?
 - Yes: 18
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0.
- PPT Simmons left the Chair. EVP Machalow returned to the Chair.

Agenda item 6.0: SSC Eligibility for Funding Recommendation

Without objection, Ms. Safir, the Women's Soccer club representative, was granted speaking privileges.

-Women's Soccer Club:

- Ms. Safir (club representative): The organization consists of President, VP, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- President is basically the coach.
- VP: Also handles communication.
- Secretary: Keeps records of general body and executive meetings.
- We abide by New York's Open Meetings law.
- Treasurer: In charge of funds.
- We are a club that just wants to play soccer with whatever money you allocate for us.
- Ms. Safir: We have 30 active members, who have been to at least one of the four previous practices. Anyone is welcome to come to the practices.
- Senator Bertrand: Who can play?
- Ms Safir: We choose based on attendance to practices, conditioning, etc., and even people with limited skill can play if they show up to practice.
- Senator Fanizza moved to approve the Women's Soccer Club for funding eligibility.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 18-0-0. (Roll Call #1).
- Senator Alcott moved to suspend the rules in order to allow club representatives speaking privileges.
 - Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Agenda item 7.0: Line Budget Status Appeal Requests

- Treasurer Kirnbauer: New stipulations require that all line budget item clubs must hold at least one event in the fall semester.
- Clubs that violated this rule were given an opportunity to appeal the loss of their funding.
- I made an exception for dance teams and troupes that did not spend money but took part in many events on campus.
- These clubs have sent back their appeal in a timely manner. We are supposed to consider whether or not they be reinstated into line budget status. If they fail this appeal, they would have to go through SSC or apply for direct approval by the USG Senate.
- Senator Adams: Nine clubs have submitted appeals. How many clubs were in violation?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: I believe at least fifteen clubs were found in violation. For further information, you can consult the website.
- EVP Machalow: Quoted Sections 104 and 118 of the Financial Bylaws, which discusses the loss of line budget status for clubs that do not have at least one event, and for stipulating the ability of the USG Senate to hear appeals and reinstate such clubs, if a majority of Senators approve.
- Senator Adams: Taiko Tides was found to be in violation, whereas you exempted dance teams from this rule. Why did you do this?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: I did not consider Taiko Tides to be a dance team, falling under that exception.
 - Senator Adams: Have the dance teams spent any money this past semester?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: Some have not.

- Senator Adams: Taiko Tides earned money for performing and donated their profits to the Japanese club. Was this legal, in view of our status as a non-profit organization?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: I agree with you, we should look into this.
- Senator Williams: Could you repeat what you just said?
 - Chair: Sure. I quoted from Section 3 in the USG Constitution, which states that clubs should not be funded differently based on how they are expressing their ideas.
 - Senator Williams: Are you then saying that none of the dance teams should have been exempted?
 - Chair: It is not for me to decide, I am simply making this information available for Senators, who have the ability to decide these issues.
- Senator Adams: Would it be possible to get information tonight, but vote on their budgets on a future meeting?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: The only thing we are discussing tonight is whether or not to reinstate the clubs to line budget status. Their former allocations are already void, but clubs that do get reinstated would later be allocated some funds, either through the Budget Committee or on the Senate floor.
- Senator Williams: I would urge Senators to approve the reinstatement of clubs that have filed appeals, as this already shows their responsiveness to USG regulations.
- Senator Bertrand: I believe this information was accessible to clubs, and we should keep that in mind too.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: We handed out folders with the financial bylaws as well as a summary of them to all clubs, in addition to informing all clubs about this rule during the leadership event. We made a sincere effort to communicate these rules to clubs.

-Animated Perspectives

- Senator Williams moved to reinstate “Animated Perspectives” to line budget status.
- VP of club: Mr. Kim: I wrote the appeal after receiving the appeal from Treasurer Kirnbauer.
 - We could not create an event in the fall because of our reduced budget.
 - This is the first time that I have heard about this rule. I must have missed it in my first reading.
- Senator Adams: Did you attend the USG Leadership Conference in September?
 - Mr. Kim: I was not present, but other members of the e-board were there.
- Senator Bibby: Did you have an event in the fall?
 - Mr. Kim: I have a flier for an event we had planned for the fall. Yes, we did have such an event.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: When I looked up the rule, I considered only the use of USG funds.
- Senator Adams moved to table further discussion on Animated Perspectives.
 - Motion failed by a vote of 8-10-0. (Roll Call #2).
- Senator Simmons: I do not think it is fair not to let the club representatives know our decision tonight.

- On the main motion, to approve the reinstatement of Animated Perspectives to line budget status:
 - The motion was approved by a vote of 15-3-0. (Roll Call #3).

-Culinary Club

- No representative. Further discussion was postponed.

-Korean Student Association

- No representative. Further discussion was postponed.

-Kumdo Club

- Ms. Kim (Kumdo club treasurer): We were not able to spend any money because on ALLOCATE, it stated that our budget was not approved. We contacted USG regarding this but did not receive any straightforward description on how to address this issue. As we thought our budget was still in process, we were not able to make an allocation.
- In addition, we spend approximately \$3500 for each event. Last year, we were only approved for \$6000. We cut back to one tournament as a result, which is held in the Spring. This is one of the biggest tournaments and we chose to prioritize our funding to go to that event.
- Senator Szeszler moved to reinstate the Kumdo Club to line budget status.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 17-0-0. (Roll Call #4).

-Meterology Club

- Mr. Berity (Club representative): We were unable to go to the original leadership meeting, because our members are commuters; however we did attend the make-up session.
- Even by late November, we did not have an updated signature list.
- We were only given our ALLOCATE funds by finals week. We had no time to spend our budget.
- Senator Adams: When did you turn in your signature form?
 - Mr. Berity: We handed in the forms by the end of October. We did it in person, doing it several times. We never received timely responses.
- Senator Adams: Do we update ALLOCATE through accounting or student activities?
 - President Maloof: A club has to be registered with student activities.
 - Senator Adams: There were two forms that needed to be handed in, you submitted both of them?
 - Mr. Berity: Yes, we did so. We only received ALLOCATE at the very end of the semester, not leaving us with any time to hold fall events.
- Senator Williams moved to reinstate line budget status to the Meterology Club.
 - Motion approved by 16-1-0. (Roll Call #5).

-Stony Brook Paintball Club

- No representative. Further discussion was postponed.

-Students Taking Aim at Challenges (STAC)

- No representative. Further discussion was postponed.

-Taiko Tides

- Mr. Deloro (President of Taiko Tides): Our budget never appeared on ALLOCATE. Many clubs told us that the system was down. When we spoke with USG, they said it was working, but we still could not see or use our budget.
- We perform on numerous events every semester. Our budget is only about \$2940, which goes to buying and repairing our drums. As far as the Japanese student association event, we did not donate any funds, we co-sponsored the event and we gave them that money for the event.
- We are no different than these dance groups that were exempted from this rule. I was at the leadership conference. I asked specifically regarding this rule – we have no events but we perform constantly. I feel it is unfair to make my group suffer.
- Senator Simmons moved to reinstate line budget status for Taiko Tides.
 - Motion approved by 16-1-0. (Roll Call #6).

-West Indian Student Organization

- No representative. Further discussion was postponed.

- Without objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:16 pm.

Agenda item 8.0: **2012-2013 Budget Timeline**

Agenda item 9.0: **Winter 2012 Code Update Act**

Agenda item 10.0: **Confirmation of Supervisor of Tutors**

-Kia Valkonen

Agenda item 11.0: **Confirmation of Student Liaison**

-Matthew Merensky

Agenda item 12.0: **Printer Quota Discussion**

Agenda item 13.0: **Open Agenda**

| 02-Feb-2012 Meeting / Votes: | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | #6 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Senator David Adams | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Senator Oluwasegun Adedapo | Y | N | N | Y | Y | N |
| Senator Emily Alcott | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Senator Shon Augustine | Y | N | N | Y | Y | Y |
| Senator Lance Bertrand | Y | Y | Y | Absent | Absent | Absent |
| Senator Tiffany Bibby | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Senator Nicholas Ela | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Senator Ray Fan | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Senator Frank Fanizza | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Senator Max Gunther | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Senator Eric Lau | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent | Absent |
| Senator Anna Lubitz | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Senator Corey Platt | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Senator Masood Rustemi | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Senator Najee Simmons (PPT) | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Senator Priya Sohi | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Senator David Szeszler | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Senator Andrew Tausz | Y | Y | N | Y | N | Y |
| Senator Ryann Williams | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Total: (Yes-No-Abstain) | 18-0-0 | 8-10-0 | 15-3-0 | 17-0-0 | 16-1-0 | 16-1-0 |
| Outcome of Motion: | Passes | Fails | Passes | Passes | Passes | Passes |