



DRAFT MINUTES¹
USG Senate Meeting
Thursday, December 8th, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:13 pm. Meeting held in Wang Center Room 201.

Agenda item 1.0: Attendance

The roll was called:

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| Senator David Adams | Present |
| Senator Oluwasegun Adedapo | Present |
| Senator Emily Alcott | Present |
| Senator Shon Augustine | Present; Left early |
| Senator Lance Bertrand | Present |
| Senator Tiffany Bibby | Present |
| Senator Nicholas Ela | Present |
| Senator Ray Fan | Present |
| Senator Frank Fanizza | Present |
| Senator Max Gunther Sockin) | Present by Proxy (Mr. Jason |
| Senator Eric Lau Marv Pierre-Jean) | Present by Proxy (Mr. |
| Senator Anna Lubitz | Present |
| Senator Adam Meier | Present |
| Senator Sean Moore | Present |
| Senator Corey Platt | Present |
| Senator Masood Rustemi | Present |
| Senator Alexandra Santiago | 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 | Excused Absence |
| Vice President of Academic Affairs Adil Hussain | Excused Absence |

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.

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|---|-----------------|
| Vice President of Student Life Deron Hill | Excused Absence |
| Senior Class Representative Emilisa Trotman | Excused Absence |
| Junior Class Representative Dennis Nmecha | Absent |
| Sophomore Class Representative Christopher Priore | Absent |
| Freshman Class Representative Tyrik Jiang | Present |

Quorum established.

Agenda item 2.0: Announcements

The Chair announced that Senate reports are due tomorrow. Please submit them at your earliest opportunity.

The Chair congratulated Senators for completing half of their terms.

The Chair further announced that food and drink are prohibited in Wong 201. Please respect the rules.

The Chair further announced that SSC approved “Women’s Soccer” for SSC funding eligibility. Additionally, please strike out “American Chemical Society”, “Older Siblings on Campus” and “VOX.”

Agenda item 3.0: Approval of the Minutes (12/01/2011 Meeting)

- Senator Adedapo moved to approve the 12/01/2011 meeting minutes.
 - Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Agenda item 4.0: Confirmation of Vice President of Clubs and Organizations

-Amanda Cohen

- Ms. Cohen delivered brief remarks to the Senate.
 - My name is Amanda Cohen. I have been working already on a list of SSC clubs and their standing.
 - EVP Machalow has been helping me with this list.
 - The list will be updated to reflect what occurred at the latest SSC meeting.
 - I believe I am qualified for this job because I believe that the clubs are what make Stony Brook’s spirit alive. I am looking to improve clubs by having better communication with clubs, being present at as many events they have as possible, so they know me and can have good communication with me.
- President Maloof: I think that Ms. Cohen would make a great addition to the Executive Council. She did work at the front desk of the USG Suite. She knows the most common concerns that clubs have and she knows the back-end of allocations and administrative processes. She is an RA. I have received positive and stellar reviews of Ms. Cohen universally.
- Senator Simmons: I did not attend Ms. Cohen’s interview, but when we were looking over the resumes for the position, I noted her as a noteworthy candidate. She has excellent references and her experiences at the front desk would be invaluable. She supports the idea that clubs are the most vital aspect of our organization and work.
- Senator Bertrand: Why did you not originally run for this position last year?
 - Ms. Cohen: I was not sure if I wanted a position within USG. I ran for VP of Academic Affairs earlier this year, after I settled into my RA position and discovered that I had enough time to handle all my responsibilities.
- Senator Fanizza moved to confirm Amanda Cohen as Vice President of Clubs and Organizations.

- Motion approved by a vote of 22-0-0. (Roll Call #1).

Agenda item 5.0: Confirmation of Vice President of Communications and Public Relations

-Stephanie Berlin

- Ms. Berlin addressed the Senate to deliver some remarks.
 - Ms. Berlin: I am a sophomore. I ran for this position because I have a particular skill set that would be beneficial for this position. I want to improve inter-office communication as well as communication with the student body. I understand that this position has a lot to do with events and event planning, which I believe are cornerstones to student life.
- Senator Simmons: I was present at Ms. Berlin's interview. I was impressed by her interpersonal skills and her confidence, which I believe would translate well into her ability to carry out the position. She seems to be dedicated. She has experience in the graphic design area.
- President Maloof: I concur with PPT Simmons. She has expressed interest in events planning. I want to say that in the past couple of days, she has gone out of her way to learn what needs to be done and what we need to do to improve. That is fantastic.
- Senator Adams: Given that you are on a pre-med track, are you sure that you can handle the time commitment of this position?
 - Ms. Berlin: I have excellent time management skills and have already been able to handle my extensive responsibilities.
- Senator Williams moved to confirm Stephanie Berlin as VP of Communications and Public Relations.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 22-0-0. (Roll Call #2).
- Senator Williams moved to amend the agenda by moving items #10 and #11 to just after #6.0, and renumbering accordingly.
- Senator Adams moved to amend the previous motion, in effect moving items #9-#11 to just after #6, and renumbering accordingly.
 - The amendment was approved without objection.
 - The main motion was approved by a vote of 22-0-0. (Roll Call #3).

Agenda item 6.0: State of the Undergraduate Student Government Address

- President Maloof provided a written speech to Senators and the gallery.
- President Maloof: "It has been implied time and time again that I am not fulfilling my duties or acting in the best interest of the students. This could not be further from the truth."
- President Maloof: The MOU between FSA and USG has been revised and approved.
- President Maloof: We are in the final stages of picking an auditing company and hope to complete this process in January.
- President Maloof: The administrative director position opened up. We have been involved in a national search for the AD position. We have 200 applicants and are now down to our final candidate. I would like to thank all those who made this possible.
- President Maloof: We are handling three FOIL requests.

- President Maloof: We have been restructuring the payroll issues. The six-week process of looking through the USG books and determining what actions to take has resulted in this payroll restructuring.
- President Maloof: In collaboration with PPT Simmons, whom I love working with and thank for his extensive efforts, we have appointed the two VP vacancies.
- President Maloof: USG involvement is increasing.
- President Maloof: Working with SAB and expanding its functioning:
 - Our events this year have been fairly successful.
 - I am directly responsible for handling all the bids, contracts, and related issues.
 - We have been able to work with SAB and have had great success and will continue to do so.
 - SPA Director Jackie has worked on a variety of events. She has helped direct and plan “Humans v. Zombies” and other events.
- President Maloof: Over the summer, we began a bid for the allocation systems. We went with “Heuretix” and we provided them with a number of improvements, which will be included in Allocate 2.0.
- President Maloof: We are working with the Sports Club Council and the University Hospital in dealing with medical issues related to contact sports.
- President Maloof: I have worked with the Executive Council of the University Senate. I felt that the oversight was lacking and I have worked with the Executive Council to implement a liaison system that would improve our oversight of the University Senate committees.
 - We were able to push for and pass three resolutions, regarding campus field space, database for syllabi, and course evaluations.
- President Maloof: I want to thank all Senators for their input on changing the new time vectors for classes. Due to your input, we were able to preserve the Wednesday afternoon time for campus life.
- President Maloof: I have had regular meetings with Dean Stein and Dr. Baigent.
- President Maloof: We were able to network with many SUNY campus student leaders through the SUNY Assembly.
- President Maloof: I want to bring to your attention many new projects that I am working on:
 - Working on the SBU-TV bylaws and working with the School of Journalism and DoIT to provide insight.
 - Planning next semester’s events.
 - Looking into smoking zones.
 - Continuing to streamline the office and enhance our relationships with the clubs.

Agenda item 7.0: Event Grant Applications

-Stony Brook Pre-Law Society

- EVP Machalow recused herself for this portion of the agenda. PPT Simmons in the Chair.
- Senator Sohi presented the event grant application.
 - Senator Sohi: This is for the mock trial regional competition taking place Feb 4-5th.

- They asked for a hotel, LIRR tickets, and other related expenses.
- We are recommending \$1500 for the club, the maximum allowed.
- Senator Meier moved to make the Stony Brook Pre-Law Society eligible for an extra \$500.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 19-0-1. (Roll Call #4).
- Senator Fanizza moved to approve the Stony Brook Pre-law Society event grant for \$1500.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 19-0-1. (Roll Call #5).
- PPT Simmons vacated the Chair. EVP Williams returned to the Chair.

-Men's Rugby

- Senator Sohi presented the grant.
- Senator Sohi: This is a Men's 7's tournament. If they win this tournament, they will get a spot for the national tournament.
- Senator Adams: Did we cap hotel money requests?
 - Senator Moore: I believe we capped gas and tolls.
 - Senator Meier: We capped transportation costs in general.
- Senator Williams: How much is the amount for?
 - Senator Sohi: \$2900.
- Senator Santiago moved to approve the Men's Rugby Event Grant for \$2900.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 21-0-0. (Roll Call #6).

Agenda item 8.0: National Tournament Grant Application

-Men's Rugby

- Senator Sohi presented the National Tournament grant application.
- Senator Sohi: The tournament will take place in the Texas A&M campus.
- Senator Platt moved to approve the Men's Rugby National Tournament grant for \$3700.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 21-0-0. (Roll Call #7).

Agenda item 9.0: Asset Grant Application

-Company of Archers

- Senator Sohi presented the asset grant application.
- Senator Sohi: The club would like new bow equipment, as their current equipment is unsafe and insufficient for the number of participants.
 - They also asked for safety equipment. Many archers are getting hurt by snapping bows. They would like new safety equipment.
 - Also, they are asking for storage for the equipment and new targets to practice on.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: Just to let you know, there is a club representative.
- Senator Sohi: The club is also asking for new arrows and target supplies. Their equipment is broken.
 - We asked them to pick the most necessary items on their grant application and to prioritize the most important items to allow them to work safely and efficiently.
- Senator Williams moved to approve the asset grant for the Company of Archers in the amount of \$7490.64.

- The motion passed by a vote of 21-0-0. (Roll Call #8).

Agenda item 10.0: Special Services Council Recommendations

Eligibility for Funding:

-Golf Club

- Senator Szeszler presented the SSC recommendation.
- Senator Szeszler: We all know golf. It is a “sport” that people play.
 - Senator Moore: Will this campus be having largely off-campus events?
 - Senator Szeszler: I am unsure.
 - President Maloof: Is this club classified as a “sports club” with Student Activities?
 - Senator Szeszler: I am unsure of that at this time.
 - President Maloof: Are we aware of what sorts of expenses are required for this club?
 - Senator Szeszler: I am assuming that club participants would be responsible for many of their personal expenses.
 - Senator Meier: We have invested in certain asset investments, such as the archery club. There is a potential, if this club is approved, that equipment would be provided and would not limit participation on those grounds.
 - Senator Williams: Why is it relevant whether or not this a sports club?
 - President Maloof: I was just curious.
- Senator Rustemi moved to approve the Golf club for funding eligibility as an SSC club.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 20-0-0. (Roll Call #9).

-Afghan Student Community

- Senator Bertrand presented the SSC recommendation.
- Senator Bertrand: This is a club that is focused on Afghan-American culture. They wish to discuss traditions, culture, and music. They wish to promote knowledge of the Afghan community through events.
- Senator Sohi moved to grant the Afghan Student Community eligibility for funding as an SSC club.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 18-0-1. (Roll Call #10).

-Comedian’s Guild

- Senator Bertrand presented the SSC recommendation.
- The organization is interested in comedy and laughter. They will put on shows for entertainment and to raise funds for charitable causes.
- Senator Moore moved to grant the Comedian’s Guild eligibility for funding as an SSC club.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 19-0-1. (Roll Call #11).

-Women’s Soccer

- The Chair did not include the Constitution of this club in the agenda.
- Without objection, this item was postponed until next meeting.

Line Budget Status:

-SBU Quidditch

- Senator Bibby presented the SSC recommendation for line budget status.
- SBU Quidditch has been on SSC for two consecutive semesters, making them eligible for line budget status.
- Senator Tausz moved to approve SBU Quidditch for Line Budget Status.
 - Senator Szeszler: Like many people, I did not completely take this club seriously at first. This club has surprised me and many others and I believe it is a worthwhile organization for the campus.
 - President Maloof: Our Quidditch team is ranked 41st in the world.
 - Senator Santiago: They are also selling T-shirts. I recommend them highly.
 - On the motion: The motion was approved by a vote of 21-0-0. (Roll Call #12).

Agenda item 11.0: Appropriations Act #2 for Fiscal Year 2011-2012

- Chair: Under Section 122, this item has been struck from the agenda.
 - Senator Fanizza: I object and move to appeal the decision of the Chair.
 - The appeal was seconded.
 - Senator Fanizza: The alleged violation was that I was in the room during the consideration of this legislation, despite being the former RHA Chair. I did not pressure any Senator to vote in any way and did not speak on the matter. I believe there were no unethical matters that took place.
 - Chair: My interpretation of Section 122 is that being in the room allows for potential peer pressure and might prevent the budget committee from discharging its responsibilities properly.
 - Chair: A “Yes” vote appeals the decision of the Chair, while a “No” vote sustains the decision of the Chair.
 - Motion failed by a vote of 1-12-8. (Roll Call #13).
 - The Chair’s Decision was sustained and the item was struck from the agenda.

Agenda item 12.0: Senate Resolution Against the Consolidation of SUNY Campus Presidencies

- President Maloof presented the resolution.
- President Maloof: Earlier this year, SUNY Canton and Potsdam moved to a system where the President of the University would preside over both campuses. The same idea has been mentioned at several other campuses, of having one President for two campuses.
 - The students, particularly from schools affected or likely to be affected by these decisions, were not involved in these decisions.
 - We were asked to show support for those students, in passing this resolution condemning the implementation of this system.
- Senator Rustemi: Why is this being done?
 - President Maloof: I am under the impression that this is done to cut costs.
- Senator Moore: Are you aware of the student body numbers in these schools? Are they small?
 - President Maloof: I do not know the numbers, but I believe they are smaller schools.

- Senator Bertrand: This is being brought to our attention as possibly happening to us, or for what purpose?
 - President Maloof: This is happening in the SUNY system, although I am not aware of this happening particularly to us.
- Senator Moore moved to approve the “Senate resolution against the consolidation of SUNY campus presidencies.”
 - Senator Adams: I plan to vote in favor of this resolution and urge all my colleagues to do the same. Regardless of whether or not this will happen to us, I believe we should show our solidarity with the students being affected by this.
 - Senator Moore: I urge my fellow Senators to vote in favor.
 - On the motion to approve the resolution: Motion approved by a vote of 21-0-0. (Roll Call #14).

Agenda item 13.0: Open Agenda

- Senator Meier: I wanted to discuss a matter that was discussed in the Budget Committee but was not reflected in its minutes. I wish to refer to it now (Subsection 122 of the Financial Bylaws, which was read by the Chair. This legislation requires all clubs to host at least one event per semester, at the pain of losing budget status.)
- Senator Meier: We felt that the legislation, in its current form, might not be a good idea. We do not wish to jeopardize these clubs and eliminating their line budget status.
- Senator Meier: We want to freeze the budget of these clubs until the end of January, in order to afford these clubs an opportunity to contact the Treasurer’s office, where their cases will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - These clubs will be notified immediately of their status, with respect to this section in the bylaws.
 - We are also considering amending this provision, to provide communication, potentially by the office of the Treasurer or the VP of Clubs and Orgs or Communications, to clubs prior to reaching the end of the semester, to make them aware of this provision and if they are at risk of being in violation of this rule.
- President Maloof: Are these clubs aware of this rule?
 - Senator Meier: We believe that this was discussed at the beginning of the year in the Leadership conference, but we believe that this issue needs to be emphasized further.
- Senator Williams: In terms of amending the legislation, I suggest that we provide exemptions for clubs that have events which are for free. It does not make sense for me to force clubs to spend money in the fall semester if they are interested in holding events that cost money in the spring semester.
- President Maloof: Originally, I believe the reason for this provision was that as students were paying their student activity fee each semester, then those funds should be used on a per-semester basis to provide events. What happened in Budget Committee that this was not approved in the minutes?
 - Senator Williams: This discussion occurred prior to the meeting being called to order and was thus not reflected in the minutes.
- Senator Meier: I would like to recommend that we use less paper for each meeting.

