



## MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

USG Senate Meeting  
Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:11 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	Excused Absence
Senator Shon Augustine	Present
Senator Lance Bertrand	Present
Senator Tiffany Bibby	Present
Senator Nicholas Ela	Absent
Senator Ray Fan	Present
Senator Frank Fanizza	Excused Absence
Senator Max Gunther	Absent
Senator Eric Lau	Present
Senator Anna Lubitz	Excused Absence
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
-----	
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 Clubs and Organizations Amanda Cohen	Present
Vice President of Communications Stephanie Berlin	Excused Absence
Vice President of Student Life Deron Hill	Absent

<sup>1</sup> 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.

Senior Class Representative Emilisa Trotman	Absent
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 reminded Senators that their reports for the month of February are due tomorrow.

The Chair announced that the freshman class representative will be taking a picture of Senators, for use in a PowerPoint presentation for the benefit of incoming freshmen students.

**Agenda item 3.0: Approval of the Minutes (2/16/2012 Meeting)**

- Senator Sohi moved to approve the 2/16/2012 meeting minutes.
- Senator Sohi moved to amend the 2/16/2012 minutes, to reflect that Senator Lau had an “excused absence.”
  - Amendment approved by unanimous consent.
  - Motion approved by unanimous consent.

**Agenda item 4.0: Line Budget Status Appeals**

- Senator Simmons moved to suspend the rules in order to allow club representatives to speak.
  - Motion approved without objection.
- **Society for Global Awareness**
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the club’s appeal.
  - Senator Adams: What was their initial budget going into this year?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: The information is available on the USG website.
  - Senator Simmons moved to reinstate the line budget status for Society for Global Awareness.
    - Motion passed by a vote of 13-0-0. (Roll Call #1).
- **Stony Brook Marine Science Club**
  - Senator Simmons moved to reinstate the line budget status of the Stony Brook Marine Science Club.
    - Motion passed by a vote of 13-0-0. (Roll Call #2).

**Agenda item 5.0: Capoeira Club – Line Budget Status**

- Treasurer Kirnbauer led the discussion on this agenda item.
  - This club did not have line budget status to begin with. The club was under the assumption that they had a budget.
  - Senator Adams: Going forward from this, assuming we grant the line budget status, will the club be applying for a budget for the rest of this year and next year, or just next year?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: The club will be seeking out funding for the rest of the year, mainly for an instructor.
  - Senator Tausz: Was their instructor being paid last semester?

- Treasurer Kirnbauer: I am not sure exactly when we ran into an issue with them. The club did not spend any budget money last semester. The issue came up on February 14<sup>th</sup> of this year.
- Senator Williams: What is this Excel sheet that told them they have a budget?
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer: I have thoroughly checked my records and I am not sure where they came out with that number. I have no record of their being allocated a budget.
- Senator Adams: The club says that the instructor has a contract with Stony Brook. Does that mean USG?
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer: I am unsure. USG and USG clubs are not supposed to enter into multi-year agreements.
- Senator Tausz: Is there a club representative here who can shed some light on this?
  - President Maloof: I believe their coach is very involved with the team and he may have thought that he would be paid.
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer: Clubs are only allowed to pay their instructors or coaches each semester.
- Senator Adams: Was the club able to produce the Excel document they referred to in the Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> email?
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer: I have not been able to find such a spreadsheet, and the club has not presented me with one.
- Senator Williams: Why is this club allowed to appeal directly to the Senate?
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer: Any club that has had a line budget within the past two years is allowed to appeal to the Senate.
- Senator Adams: Before we set precedent on something like this, are there any other clubs that have come forward asking for line budget status after having not submitted a line budget request last year?
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer: There is one other club. I believe it is the “Athletic Training” club. They had a budget in the 2009-10 school year.
- Senator Simmons moved to approve the line budget status of the Capoeira Club.
  - Senator Tausz: If the club is denied line budget status, can they apply for line budget status in the spring semester?
    - Chair: There is no stipulation preventing them from doing so.
  - Senator Williams: Are there any benefits that come with line budget status, apart from getting money?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: Clubs that are not on line budget status have to ask for funds through SSC and are restricted in the amount of money they can get.
    - Chair: In addition, only line budget clubs can apply for additional USG grants.
  - Senator Simmons: The only pressing matter right now, to me, is if the instructor performed services expecting payment. I would want the instructor paid if that is the case.
  - Senator Williams: I think that is reasonable.

- Chair: Because of the Contract Reform Act, no club services will be paid for except in pursuant to a contract that was fully executed **prior** to the rendering of such club services.
- Senator Williams: But we can pay for services anticipated in the future?
  - Chair: That is correct.
- Senator Simmons: Point of Information: Giving the confusion surrounding this matter, if we did reinstate the club's budget, what would it be and how would we determine that?
  - Chair: Similar to other line budget status appeals, if the Senate approves, the club would propose a budget which would be considered by the Budget committee and then referred to the Senate, according to the usual process.
- President Maloof: Does anyone have suggestions for how the club would deal with their coach?
  - Senator Simmons: I suggest that we would reinstate them for now and that there are still some services that would need to be rendered for this semester.
- Senator Adams: I agree with Senator Williams.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: I wrote the contract rule referred to in the bylaws.
- Senator Adams moved to postpone agenda item 5.0 until such time as a club representative is present at the USG Senate to discuss this matter.
  - Senator Williams: I feel that we should have someone who can get to the bottom of this matter. Perhaps the Advocate General position should be filled.
  - On the motion to postpone: The motion passed by a vote of 13-0-0. (Roll Call #3).

### Agenda item 6.0: Special Services Council Recommendations

#### **Recognition:**

- **Older Siblings On Campus**
  - VP Cohen presented the recommendation.
  - Upperclassmen helping freshmen with classes, socially, and getting involved on campus.
  - The club is looking for eligibility for funding.
  - Senator Adams: I have never seen a membership section like this before. Is it within our guidelines?
    - VP Cohen: The Judiciary and the SSC had no objections with it.
  - Senator Simmons moved to grant Older Siblings On Campus eligibility for funding.
    - Motion approved by a vote of 13-0-0. (Roll Call #4).

#### **Funding:**

- **Math Club**
  - VP Cohen presented the recommendation.

- The club is aware that they will be spending a great deal of their budget, but they have budgeted appropriately.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: I want the Senate to be aware that there is only \$2800 left in the SSC budget for the semester.
- Senator Williams: Are there any other clubs applying for SSC funding?
  - VP Cohen: There is only one club, but I do not know exactly how much they will be requesting.
- Senator Rustemi: Does it really cost \$1200 for a coach bus for a dozen students?
  - VP Cohen: This is the major event that is the raison d'être for this club.
- Senator Adedapo: Where is the tournament being held?
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer: In NJ. It says it on the URL link.
- Senator Bertrand: I have a question for Treasurer Kirnbauer. What would you suggest we do for the duration of the semester?
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer: I think I would do first-come, first-serve, because that rewards clubs that apply early. I would be aware, however, of how much money to allocate.
- Senator Williams: I do not think we need a \$1200 coach bus. I would recommend that we encourage the club into looking for cheaper methods of transportation.
- Senator Tausz: Is a club representative present?
  - Chair: There is no representative present.
- Senator Bertrand: Does anyone know how much money would be needed to transport 15-20 students to NJ?
  - Senator Williams: I know from personal experience that you could rent two vans that would accommodate that number for approximately \$500.
  - Senator Bertrand: Is the money just for transportation, or does it include other expenses?
  - VP Cohen: Yes, there are costs for registration in the tournament.
- Senator Fan: I believe that we should at least give them money for food and registration, but we should reduce the transportation expenses.
- Senator Lau: Was there a time limit for the registration?
  - VP Cohen: I did not get any indication from the club representative.
  - Senator Lau: Would it be possible to postpone this issue until we meet with the representative?
  - VP Cohen: The club representative did not seem pressed for time; I believe we could postpone this for a few days.
- Senator Bertrand: Can we amend this application?
  - Chair: No, because the club is only allowed to apply once per semester.
- Senator Williams moved to commit the Math Club SSC budget application to the Special Services Council.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 13-0-0. (Roll Call #5).
- **Neuroscience Axis**
  - VP Cohen presented the SSC recommendation.
  - The total amount requested is \$925.

- Senator Williams moved to approve the Neuroscience Axis SSC budget application for \$925.
  - Senator Williams: Are the scavenger hunt finances in accordance to the financial bylaws?
    - VP Cohen: Yes, we researched the issue and the gifts are legal.
  - Senator Williams: Can the club representatives describe the events?
    - Andrew Siconolfi (club representative): The lab mixer is going to be an interdisciplinary event where we have members from many labs coming together and introducing students to lab opportunities.
  - Senator Adams: The SSC budget brought up at the start of the last discussion still holds here. I think we need to keep in mind how much money we have left.
  - On the motion to approve the SSC Budget for \$925: Motion approved by a vote of 13-0-0. (Roll Call #6).

#### Agenda item 7.0: Event Grant Applications

- **AIChe**
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the event grant application.
  - The club was unable to go to their fall conference, despite the event grant funds they were granted, because of their desire to attend this process, to which they gave higher priority.
  - Senator Simmons moved to approve the AIChe event grant application for \$928.
    - Motion approved by a vote of 13-0-0. (Roll Call #7).
- **Bowling**
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer: The club is asking for funds for a “sectional qualifier competition.” The budget committee felt it appropriate to allocate \$1500 for the event.
  - Senator Adams: What is their current budget?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: This vote would need a 2/3 vote by the Senate, as the club’s current budget is approximately \$7000.
  - President Maloof: How much money remains in the events grant budget?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: If all event grants are approved, we would still have about \$10,000 left.
  - Senator Sohi moved to approve the Bowling event grant for \$1000.
    - Senator Sohi moved to allocate an additional grant of \$500 to the Bowling club.
      - On the secondary motion: The motion was approved by a vote of 13-0-0. (Roll Call #8).
      - On the main motion (\$1500 allocation): Motion approved by a vote of 13-0-0. (Roll Call #9).
- **Chinese Association of Stony Brook**
  - This club requests funding in order to reserve hotel rooms for their conference.
  - Senator Williams: If we allocate the money and the hotel room is tax exempt, the USG will simply recoup the additional allocation?

- Treasurer Kirnbauer: Correct.
  - Senator Tausz moved to approve the event grant allocation for Chinese Association of Stony Brook in the amount of \$1890.
    - Senator Rustemi: Do you know what this conference is about?
      - Treasurer Kirnbauer: I do not remember particularly. While we did not look at exactly what the conference is for, it is time sensitive.
    - On the motion to approve the event grant allocation: Motion approved by a vote of 12-0-1. (Roll Call #10).
- **Caribbean Students Organization**
  - This is a major event that the organization hosts in the spring semester.
  - They are asking for \$3235.
  - Senator Adams: What is the budget of this group?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: It is over \$20,000.
  - Senator Adedapo moved to approve the Caribbean Students Organization event grant for \$3000.
  - Senator Lau moved to approve an additional \$235 for the grant.
    - Senator Tausz: Do we know how many people will attend this event?
      - Senator Adedapo: At least 120 members attended last year's event.
    - Senator Adams: Did the Treasurer pre-approve the food request of over \$1000?
      - Treasurer Kirnbauer: Yes, the group approached me late last semester and I granted pre-approval.
    - On the secondary motion: Motion approved by a vote of 13-0-0. (Roll Call #11).
    - On the main motion (\$3235 allocation): Motion approved by a vote of 13-0-0. (Roll Call #12).
- **Korean Christian Fellowship**
  - This event was scheduled for 11/10/2001, and was my fault entirely. I lost the request in my e-mails.
  - Senator Adams: Do the financial bylaws allow us to give funding to events after they occur?
    - Chair: There is no rule preventing this from happening.
  - Senator Tausz: Where was the food coming from for this event?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: The club had a food permit approved for the event, although there are no records of the club allocating USG funds for food.
  - Senator Adams: How does the Treasurer's office know that this event took place?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: How does anyone know that any event has taken place?
    - Senator Adams: Receipts maybe?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: The Accounting office keeps track of receipts for events; however, whether or not the event took place cannot be

definitively determined. I have not been notified that any of the receipts were missing.

- Senator Fan: I attended this event. Also, I am sure that these numbers were not made up in anyway.
- Senator Williams moved to approve the Korean Christian Fellowship's event grant application in the amount of \$917.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 11-0-1. (Roll Call #13).
- **Philippine United Students Organization**
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the event grant.
  - The club made two separate applications for two events. The Budget Committee only granted approval for this event.
  - Senator Simmons moved to approve the Philippine United Student Organization event grant application in the amount of \$910.
    - Motion approved by a vote of 12-0-0. (Roll Call #14).
- **SBU Company of Archers**
  - The club applied for two events. The budget committee granted approval to this event.
  - President Maloof: Would the club be charging any sort of admissions or entry fee for this invitational?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: I don't know.
  - Senator Tausz: It says that there are 20 people going, with only \$20 per member. Is the math correct?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: It appears that the club plans on inviting students from other colleges to attend this event.
    - Senator Tausz: Can we allocate funds for students from other schools?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: Good point. Although, if you consider the expense as part of the club's event, it would be permissible to grant them the full amount.
  - Senator Adedapo: I don't believe that we should be paying for other students to participate. Can we return this event application back to the budget committee to take care of that?
    - Chair: The Senate may do so by referring the application to the budget committee or by amending the request on the Senate floor.
  - Senator Williams: Are people invited to this?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: This seems like it is a tournament.
  - Senator Tausz: Point of Inquiry: Do we have a club representative?
    - Chair: There does not appear to be a representative.
  - Senator Tausz moved to approve the event grant application for the Company of Archers.
  - Senator Tausz moved to amend the event grant request, by changing the amount allocated from \$1000 to \$400.
    - Senator Lau: It is possible that the club is charging participants.
  - Senator Adedapo moved to refer the event grant application for the Company of Archers to the Budget Committee.
    - Motion approved by a vote of 10-4-0. (Roll Call #15).



- **SBU Freethinkers**
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer: We decided to grant the club \$1000, and not the maximum of \$1500, due to budget constraints.
  - Senator Sohi: The event grant references the H&J bus company, for which there is a Senate resolution pending. What is the Treasurer’s position on this?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: As a rule, I do not care about the supplier. I do not care what bus company a club uses, as long as it uses a bus.
  - Senator Williams: How many students are attending?
    - Alicia Kanauer (club representative): We currently have 44 students who have signed up. The bus we are thinking about hiring would cost about \$1500.
  - Senator Sohi moved to approve the SBU Freethinkers event grant for \$1000.
    - Motion approved by a vote of 10-0-2. (Roll Call #16).

**Agenda item 8.0: Senate Resolution Banning the Use of H&J Bus Company**

- Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the resolution.
  - The H&J Bus Company’s driver, Harry, is allegedly an unsafe driver, as evidenced by his hitting parked cars, ignoring traffic regulations, and other matters.
  - The treasurer characterized the owner of the company as “crazy.”
  - This is the first official complaint about this company.
  - The safety of our undergraduates should be the top priority.
- Senator Williams: Can we contact other Long Island schools about this?
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer: That might be a good idea.
- Senator Simmons moved to adopt the resolution banning the use of H&J Bus Company.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 14-0-0. (Roll Call #17).
- Senator Platt moved to amend the agenda, by switching the order of items 10 and 11.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 13-1-0. (Roll Call #18).

**Agenda item 9.0: Asset Grants**

- Sailing Club
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the asset grant.
  - I am very well aware of how much this request is for.
  - The club has been working with me as far back as November.
  - When the representative speaks to you, I want you to keep in mind that sailing is a relatively new club and when crew started, they needed a capital injection of a significant amount to get their club rolling.
  - Also, this is a very special deal that they are getting. I don’t think that we would get such a good price and such a good package again.
  - Senator Bertrand: In your experience, are you familiar with price quotes for sail boats?
    - Treasurer Kirnbauer: I am not particularly, but the club representative is well versed.
    - Club representative (Kyle Bueshur): We just got approval from the Harbor Master of Port Jefferson to dock these boats. We have 30 active

members. The superintendent of a local high school has disbanded its sailing program, and is therefore giving us an excellent bargain for these boats.

- These boats would be valued at a much higher sum than what we are able to buy them for.
- Port Jefferson High School is only willing to sell these boats as part of a package.
- Senator Szeszler: How long do you expect these sail boats to last?
  - Club rep: With proper maintenance, we would hope to have them for a decade or so.
- Senator Adedapo: What other costs would be needed to get your club running?
  - Club rep: There would be maintenance costs of approximately \$100/year. We would also need safety jackets and other related items, but we also expect club members to contribute to those costs.
- Senator Bertrand: How much experience do you have with sailing boats?
  - Club rep: I do not have much personal experience. My faculty advisor used to be a boat mechanic and is quite experienced.
- Senator Williams: Is there any way that we could be more involved in negotiating this deal?
  - Chair: This is an unprecedented situation. We would usually expect clubs to negotiate contracts themselves.
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer: It is an interesting predicament that we are in. The club needs to have the check in hand in order to approach the school board regarding this matter.
- Senator Williams: Have you been involved in negotiations with the school board?
  - Club rep: I have not been in contact with them directly yet.
  - Senator Williams: In terms of fair market value, is it possible that you can get the boats without the additional equipment and be okay?
  - Club rep: To the best of our knowledge, they are only willing to sell them as part of a package.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: How much would you need to feel safe in being able to purchase the boats during negotiations?
  - Club rep: We would need about \$20,000.
- Senator Augustine: I think it is essential for us to give the amount the club has requested if there is any hope for the club to survive.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: The club has 30 active members and many more who are interested. The current assets of the club are insufficient.
- Senator Williams moved to approve the asset grant for Stony Brook Sailing in the amount of \$17000.
- Senator Williams moved to amend the asset grant amount, from \$17000 to \$20000.
  - President Maloof: How much was the Sailing club allocated this year?
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer: \$13,000. The club has spent approximately \$11,000 thus far. When we gave them their initial budget, we anticipated

that they would be making an asset grant in order to purchase a fleet to make their club viable.

- President Maloof: How much does the club need in annual expenses?
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: Not including the purchase of new boats, the club would need approximately \$9000 per year on boat repair and related expenses.
- Senator Williams: What has the club spent its money on thus far?
  - Club rep: The funding is needed for membership fees with the yacht clubs and the national organization, race fees, maintenance of the boats, etc.
- Senator Adams: The only thing I'd like to say, I was more comfortable with \$17,000.
- Senator Sohi: If we do grant the extra \$3000, we should keep into account that the club will be getting a large number of boats.
  - On the motion to amend: Motion approved by a vote of 9-5-0. (Roll Call #19).
- On the main motion, to approve the grant for \$20,000: Motion approved by a vote of 12-1-1. (Roll Call #20).
- Cadence Step Team
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the asset grant application.
  - The club will hand down these items from year-to-year.
  - Senator Simmons moved to approve the Cadence Step Team asset grant in the amount of \$1649.
    - Motion passed by a vote of 13-0-1. (Roll Call #21).

Agenda item 10.0: Executive Council Reports (postponed to item 11.0)

Agenda item 11.0: Appropriations Act #2 (brought forward as item 10.0):

- The Chair read the provision prohibiting USG officers from participating in matters in which they hold a direct or indirect interest.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer presented Appropriations Act #2.
- Senator Simmons moved to approve Appropriations Act #2 for fiscal year 2011-2012.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 11-1-2. (Roll Call #22).
- Senator Adams moved to adjourn.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 10-4-0. (Roll Call #23).

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

Agenda item 12.0: Revision #2 to the Financial Bylaws Act

Agenda item 13.0: Open Agenda

