



MINUTES¹
 USG Senate Meeting
 Thursday, February 9th, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:08 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	Excused Absence
Senator Frank Fanizza Kathleen Watt)	Present by Proxy (Ms.
Senator Max Gunther	Present
Senator Eric Lau	Excused Absence
Senator Anna Lubitz	Late
Senator Corey Platt	Excused Lateness
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	Absent
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 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.

Sophomore Class Representative Christopher Priore	Absent
Freshman Class Representative Tyrik Jiang	Absent
Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Amanda Cohen	Present

Quorum established.

Agenda item 2.0: Announcements

The Chair announced that a Rules Committee hearing is scheduled for 2/10/2012 at 12:45-1:45.

The Chair announced that Senate agendas need to be picked by Senators.

Agenda item 3.0: Approval of the Minutes (02/02/2012 Meeting)

- Senator Adedapo moved to approve the 2/2/2012 meeting minutes.
 - Motion approved by unanimous consent.
- Senator Tausz moved to amend the agenda, by moving item 8.0 to 5.1, and renumbering accordingly.
 - Senator Tausz: We have club representatives present. I hope we can hear them tonight.
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: Please be aware that we need to approve the Budget Timeline tonight.
 - Motion failed by a vote of 3-12-0. (Roll Call #1).

Agenda item 4.0: Line Budget Status Appeal Requests

- Senator Gunther moved to suspend the rules in order to allow club representatives to speak.
 - Motion passed by unanimous consent.
- **Culinary Club**
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer led the discussion.
 - No club representative present.
 - Senator Williams moved to grant the line budget status appeal for the Culinary club.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 15-0-0. (Roll Call #2).
- **Korean Student Association**
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer led the discussion.
 - No club representative present.
 - Senator Alcott moved to grant the line budget status appeal for the Korean Student Association.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 15-0-0. (Roll Call #3).
- **Stony Brook Paintball Club**
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer led the discussion.
 - No club representatives present.
 - Senator Simmons moved to grant the line budget status appeal for the Stony Brook Paintball Club.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 15-0-0. (Roll Call #4).
- **Students Taking Aim at Challenges (STAC)**

- Treasurer Kirnbauer: The club's officers were very proactive in meeting with me and understanding USG's funding rules.
- No club representatives present.
- Senator Simmons moved to grant the line budget status appeal for STAC.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 15-0-0. (Roll Call #5).
- **West Indian Student Organization**
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer led the discussion.
 - No club representatives present.
 - Senator Williams moved to grant the line budget status appeal for the West Indian Student Organization.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 15-0-0. (Roll Call #6).

Agenda item 5.0: Appropriations Acts 3-5

-Meteorology Club

- Treasurer Kirnbauer:
 - Senators approved the appeal for line budget status for these clubs.
 - The budget committee approved these clubs for roughly the amounts they were approved for last year.
 - Meteorology club's funding is mostly for one major conference they would like to attend.
- Senator Adams:
 - Why are we paying taxes for this event?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: The club indicated that the budget item was mostly for fees. I am not sure how much are for "taxes" per se.
 - Senator Adams: You have them approved for \$1740. What was their previous budget?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: They were approved \$1700 last year.
- Senator Bertrand: Does the whole club exist to fund 10 students for one trip?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: Yes, that is how they are spending USG's contribution. I assume that they also have general body meetings.
- Senator Adams: Is it not Treasury policy to refuse to pay taxes on bills?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: That is correct.
- Senator Simmons moved to approve Appropriations Act #3 (Meteorology Club.)
 - Senator Adams: I have a big problem with rewarding, however modestly, clubs that did not follow the rules with respect to spending their budget. I am in favor of a 5% cut, or at least reducing their budget to \$1700.
 - Senator Adams moved to amend the total amount appropriated from \$1740 to \$1615.
 - Senator Simmons: I would recommend that we consider all the appropriations to see if we agree in principle with a 5% cut.
 - Senator Adams read the budget allocations recommended by the budget committee, as well as the impact of a 5% cut on their original contributions.

- Senator Williams: I think we need to look at the reasoning provided by the clubs before we approve any cuts. Kumdo club, for instance, tried to hold an event but was unable to.
- Senator Gunther: I feel that if we believe clubs should be cut, that should be considered in the Budget committee, not on the floor every time that an appropriation is made.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: If you do choose to make 5% cuts tonight, the budget committee will take that into account and consider making these cuts in future appropriations requests in the budget committee.
- Senator Adams: I believe that we need to cut something, even if it is small, to show that there are consequences for not following the rules.
- Senator Williams: I reiterate that the cuts should only take place if we find that a club was at fault.
- Senator Adams: If we do vote in favor of this, I would recommend that we carry over the same policy to all clubs, so as to not unfairly treat one club with respect to another.
- Senator Gunther: The motion at this time only refers to the Meteorology club.
- Senator Bertrand: I believe we need to treat these cuts on a case-by-case basis. I believe that if the club had a legitimate problem, then they should not be penalized.
- On the motion to amend: The motion was approved by a vote of 15-1-0. (Roll Call #7).
- On the main motion, to approve Appropriations Act #3, granting \$1615 (as amended): Motion approved by a vote of 16-0-0. (Roll Call #8).

-Kumdo Club

- Treasurer Kirnbauer led the discussion.
- Senator Bertrand: Is this the club that had troubles with allocate?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: This was a technical error on the site. Most clubs had this problem, but I told them to proceed anyway. Most clubs were able to do this all right.
 - Senator Simmons: I believe that the Meteorology club had a similar problem, but we cut their budget anyway.
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: The meteorology club had a slightly different problem. The club had problems being listed as a registered club on campus. Since they were not registered, their current e-board was not in the system. Their vouchers could not be processed.
- Senator Williams: Is there any way to rescind or re-open the previous vote we had?
 - Chair: Any Senator who voted in favor of approving the previous motion can move to reconsider.
- Senator Williams moved to reconsider the previous motion (approving appropriations act #3).
 - Senator Williams: I believe that we should not cut this club, given all the problems that its officers had in processing their vouchers.

- Senator Gunther: I believe that every club will come in here and say that nothing that happened was their fault. We should keep in mind that clubs have some responsibility in making sure their forms are processed in a timely manner.
- Senator Ela: Also consider that we only suggested a 5% decrease in their previously held annual budget. They still have the vast majority of the money that we allotted them left for this semester.
- Senator Simmons: I do not think this matter needs to be reconsidered.
- On the motion to reconsider: The motion failed by a vote of 2-14-0. (Roll Call #9).
- Senator Adams moved to approve appropriations act #4, for the Kumdo club.
 - Senator Adams moved to amend appropriations act #5, reducing the amount from \$6729.19 to \$6336.50.
 - Senator Szeszler: I think we should consider our previous motions.
 - Senator Williams: What would Senator Szeszler suggest we do?
 - Senator Szeszler: I think in the future, it would be best to investigate these matters in budget committee.
 - On the motion to amend: Motion approved by a vote of 16-0-0. (Roll Call #10).
 - On the main motion, to approve:
 - Motion approved by a vote of 16-0-0. (Roll Call #11).

-Animated Perspectives

- Treasurer Kirnbauer led the discussion.
- Senator Adams moved to approve appropriations act #6 for Animated Perspectives.
 - Senator Williams: Why was the hotel room expenditure cut?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: The Budget committee did not wish to increase the total amount allocated to each club.
 - Senator Adams moved to amend, by reducing the amount from \$7000 to \$6816.25.
 - On the motion to amend: The motion passed by a vote of 16-1-0. (Roll Call #12).
 - On the main motion (as amended): Passed by a vote of 17-0-0. (Roll Call #13).

Agenda item 6.0: 2012-2013 Budget Timeline

- Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the budget timeline.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: The differences in this year's timeline, as compared to previous budget timelines, are numerous. First, we will speak to the clubs at 10:30 am on 2/18 (Budget Workshops.)
 - Budget applications will be due on 2/29.
 - We will first use viewpoint neutral rules in the budget committee to make a "draft" budget, which will be sent to the clubs by 3/16.
 - This way, clubs can have time to plead their cases regarding the acceptability of their draft budgets during the budget hearings. Any drastic cuts or anything like that could be addressed before a finalized budget is presented to the Senate.

- April 15th is the deadline for the Senate to approve the budget. If no budget is approved by that time, the Executive Council would assume responsibility for approving the budget.
- Senator Williams: Is the budget amendable on the Senate floor?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: Yes, but I hope that Senators would be happy with the budget by then. Senators should address any concerns they have prior to the 4/12 meeting by being an active part of the entire budgeting process.
 - Chair: Under the duties and powers of the Senators in the USG Constitution, Senators must take part in a budget sub-committee.
- Senator Adams: How will we inform clubs about these important budget deadlines?
 - Treasurer Kirnbauer: We will actively announce and promote the budget workshop and other important deadlines.
- Treasurer Kirnbauer: I will try to have two separate rooms during the budget hearing, and I will attempt to get all similar clubs (e.g. media groups) considered by the same group of Senators.
- Senator Simmons moved to approve the 2012-2013 Budget Timeline.
 - The motion was approved by a vote of 17-0-0. (Roll Call #14).

Agenda item 7.0: Senate Resolution Condemning the Creation of the New Academic Calendar

- Senator Lubitz presented the resolution.
 - Senator Lubitz: We talked about the calendar last meeting and we criticized in particular the process by which the academic calendar would work, without consulting the students.
 - I have written a resolution condemning the creation of the calendar, highlighting the lack of student approval or consultation in making the calendar.
- Senator Tausz moved to approve the Senate Resolution Condemning the Creation of the New Academic Calendar.
 - VP Hussain: I believe that this resolution will not be helpful in addressing our concerns, as the administration had already signaled its approval for consulting with us.
 - Proxy Watt: I concur with VP Hussain. We have some administrators who are willing to talk to us.
 - Senator Simmons: Is anyone willing to cite an example which negatively affected our chances in negotiations?
 - Proxy Watt: The Southampton resolution made it difficult for us to speak and negotiate with the administration.
 - Senator Adams: I do not care for President Stanley's emotions. I think this is a helpful resolution, but I also do not wish to go against the advice of our negotiators. I propose that we postpone this resolution for the time being, to see how negotiations are going, but I highlight that we need to act quickly.
 - Senator Adedapo: I think we should postpone this resolution for a week, given that VP Hussain will be speaking tomorrow.
 - Proxy Watt: It is not about caring about President Stanley's emotions, but we should act in a sophisticated manner.

- Senator Adams moved to postpone further discussion on the resolution until next week.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 15-0-1. (Roll Call #15).

Agenda item 8.0: Special Services Council Funding Recommendations

- American Red Cross
 - VP Cohen presented the SSC recommendation.
 - Jonathan Li (Club President): I would be happy to answer any questions the Senate may have.
 - Senator Sohi moved to approve the American Red Cross budget for \$1230.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 17-0-0. (Roll Call #16).
- Golf Club
 - VP Cohen presented the SSC recommendation.
 - VP Cohen listed the club's proposed expenditures.
 - Senator Simmons: Why are second price quotes not listed?
 - Chair: These are not necessary unless they are assets.
 - Andrew Haber (Club representative): VP Cohen ably presented our funding request.
 - Senator Simmons moved to approve the Golf Club funding application for \$930.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 16-0-0. (Roll Call #17).
- Heritage
 - VP Cohen presented the SSC recommendation and outlined the club's proposed expenditures.
 - Bianca Bernardez (club representative): VP Cohen ably presented our club.
 - Senator Bertrand moved to approve the budget for Heritage in the amount of \$1511.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 16-0-1. (Roll Call #18).
- Photography Club
 - VP Cohen presented the SSC recommendation and outlined the club's proposed expenditures.
 - Karrie Myers (club representative): VP Cohen ably presented our club's request.
 - Senator Bertrand moved to approve the budget request for the Photography Club in the amount of \$1046.97.
 - Senator Szeszler: What are the meeting times and locations for your club?
 - Ms. Myers: Union 101, Mondays at 8 pm.
 - On the motion to approve the allocation: Motion approved by a vote of 17-0-0. (Roll Call #19).
- Stony Brook Pre-Vet Society
 - VP Cohen presented the SSC recommendation.
 - Stephanie Park (club representative) outlined the club's expenditures and described its proposed events.
 - Senator Tausz moved to approve the budget request for Stony Brook Pre-Vet Society in the amount of \$900.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 16-0-1. (Roll Call #20).

Agenda item 9.0: Confirmation of Supervisor of Tutors

-Kia Valkonen

- VP Hussain presented the nomination.
 - The nominee has been waiting to be vetted for some time now.
 - The supervisor is responsible for hiring tutors for a variety of subjects and the supervisor must manage the budget.
 - Senator Bertrand: Are tutors provided for EVERY subject?
 - VP Hussain: We have an English tutor. We have tutors for writing lab reports, etc. We have history majors and music majors as well.
 - Senator Adams moved to confirm the candidate, Kia Valkonen, to the position of Supervisor of Tutors.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 16-0-0. (Roll Call #21).

Agenda item 10.0: Confirmation of Student Liaison

-Matthew Merensky

- VP Hussain presented the nomination.
 - The Student Liaison also works within the PASS program, providing a hospitality service, giving us feedback and addressing the concerns of tutees and students in general. If a student needs help with academic advising, the career center, etc., then the Student Liaison will help them.
 - The nominee has been working with us for a few weeks now and is doing a great job.
 - The Chair listed the description of the “Student Liaison” as it appeared in the Code.
- Senator Simmons moved to confirm the candidate, Matthew Merensky, to the position of Student Liaison.
 - The motion was approved by a vote of 16-0-0. (Roll Call #22).

Agenda item 11.0: Printer Quota Discussion

This agenda item was struck, by unanimous consent.

Agenda item 12.0: Winter 2012 Code Update Act

- EVP Machalow stood down from the Chair. PPT Simmons assumed the Chair.
- EVP Machalow presented the act.
 - The Code grew by about four pages, and now includes the Senate Special Rules of Order.
 - Senator Williams: Could you please outline the changes?
 - EVP Machalow: There were some numbering errors in the previous Code. I have also updated permanent legislation to the Code that was passed since the last time the Code was approved.
 - The 2011 Financial Bylaws Act was incorporated.
 - There were minor grammatical changes that were also corrected.
 - Senator Szeszler: I remember there was some contention in the Financial Bylaws act. What would be the process if the Financial Bylaws needed to be amended?
 - EVP Machalow: I am of the belief that the Code is a living document and should be constantly updated. The Financial Bylaws were approved September 1st and were put into effect shortly thereafter. If there are any

revisions that are needed, the legislation would first be approved by the Senate. The Code itself would be updated whenever a new "Update Act" is approved.

- Senator Gunther moved to approve the Winter 2012 Code Update Act.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 15-0-0. (Roll Call #23).

Agenda item 13.0: Senate Resolution Condemning the Changes to the Academic Calendar

- Senator Lubitz moved to postpone until next week.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 16-0-1. (Roll Call #24).

Agenda item 13.0: Open Agenda

- Senator Bibby: What happens if the Vetting committee rejects a candidate?
 - Chair: The candidate's nomination does not proceed to the Senate floor.
- No further comments from the Senate.
- No comments from the gallery.
- Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:46 pm.

