

## MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

### USG Senate Meeting

Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:23 pm. Meeting held in SAC Ballroom B.

#### Agenda item 1.0: Attendance

The roll was called:

Senator Allen Abraham	Present
Senator Tahir Ahmad	Present
Senator Ory Baum	Present
Senator Spenser Cushing	Present by Proxy (Dennis Tyler)
Senator Samuel Cushner	Present
Senator Frank Fanizza	Present
Senator Christian Giraldo	Absent
Senator Mahyar Kashan	Present by Proxy (Maansi)
Senator Sidrah Khan	Present
Senator Thomas Kirnbauer	Present by Proxy (Jacqueline Mark)
Senator Yan Leyfman	Present
Senator Deborah Machalow	Present
Senator Kirin Mahmud (PPT)	Present
Senator Shivani Rampersad	Present
Senator Masood Rustemi	Present
Senator Najee Simmons	Present

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<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 even 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.

Senator Harminder Singh	Absent
Senator Priya Sohi	Present
Senator Michael Spinelli	Present
Senator Peter Stratoudakis	Present
Senator Russell Williams	Present

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President Matthew Graham	Absent
Executive Vice President Alexander Dimitriyadi (Chair)	Present
Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Jennifer Chan	Present
Vice President of Communications David Mazza	Absent
Vice President of Student Life Peter Molloy	Absent
Senior Class Representative Dexter Daniel	Absent
Junior Class Representative Emilissa Trotman	Absent
Sophomore Class Representative Neville Hall Jr.	Absent

Quorum established.

**Agenda item 2.0: Announcements**

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the USG Senate shall take place on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.

**Agenda item 3.0: Approval of the Minutes from 10/28/2010**

- Senator Spinelli moved to approve the minutes.
  - Approved without objection.

**Agenda item 4.0: New Club Policies and Procedure Act**

- Chair: Laws that are to be amended or repealed should be attached to proposed legislation (in this case, SSC Bylaws and Financial Bylaws were not included.)
  - Also, Sections 8.b.1.C / 8.b.3 read as “Section 108” on the Chair’s copy of the USG Code.
  - Senator Ahmad: The versions of the Financial Bylaws referred to are available on the website.
- Senator Ahmad moved to allow the consideration of the “New Club Policies and Procedures Act,” despite the lack of attached documents that are to be amended or repealed.

- Senator Machalow: I object to doing this. This is a hasty move. I believe it is a bad idea to choose to amend something especially if we don't know what is being amended.
- Senator Abraham: If the Chair will allow, I would like to read the parts that need to be amended.
  - Senator Machalow: Point of Order: Is this germane to the item being considered?
    - EVP: Yes.
  - Senator Abraham: Section 8.b.1.c is "Section 108" in the updated format. [The Senator then proceeded to read the relevant section.]
    - The Senator proceeded to read the other relevant sections alluded to in the "New Club Policies and Procedure Act," which do not correlate with the new formatting of the Financial Bylaws, as approved in the USG Code.
    - I hope this clears up any further mishaps.
  - Senator Ahmad: I just want to remind you that there are clubs coming to the USG suite every week, demanding funding. They have been irritated at the lack of progress. The legislation has already received a great deal of scrutiny. There should be no reason not to bring this item to a vote.
- On Senator Ahmad's motion, the vote was 17-0-2 (2/3 majority achieved.) Motion passes.
- Senator Spinelli: I move to amend by striking "New Club Recognition Act", Section 4, 1., 1, which stated: "Submit written notification to the Department of Student Activities of their intent to start a new club."
  - Senator Abraham: This was taken verbatim from the Department of Student Activities.
  - Senator Spinelli: I was not aware of that.
  - Senator Ahmad: I would like to know how this language was arrived at?
    - Senator Abraham: Moiz Khan spoke with Student Activities. He put it in here so that we can be on the same page as the Department of Student Activities.
    - Senator Spinelli: Is that a phone conversation?
      - Senator Abraham: No, it was taken directly.
    - Senator Spinelli: In light of the information, I would urge my colleagues to vote down the amendment.
      - Vote on Senator Spinelli's amendment was 0-19-0. Motion fails.
- Senator Machalow: I would ask that we structure the debate by discussing the items piece by piece.
- Senator Abraham: I move to approve the "New Club Policies and Procedure Act"
  - Debate:
    - Senator Machalow: In the "Special Services Council Bylaws," I believe that it should be amended to reflect all emergencies, not simply academic obligations.



- Senator Machalow: I don't know how to amend this. An SSC club that gets funding at the end of fall semester would be treated the same as all others.
- Senator Ahmad: We would not be in session on the last day of the fall.
- Senator Simmons: I would urge anyone who has a problem with the legislation to propose an amendment, so we can debate it.
- Senator Machalow: If the SSC chose to meet at the last day of finals, funds could be released to a club.
- Senator Fanizza: One semester consists of sixteen weeks.
- Senator Spinelli: I agree with Senator Machalow.
- Vice President Chan: From what I know in the past, clubs are required to go through two consecutive semesters of funding to get on a "Line Budget."
- Senator Abraham: In my interpretation, there are other obstacles and requirements needed for clubs to receive recognition and funding. I don't see the problem here.
- Senator Machalow: It is inconsistent to be rigid on the requirement of 5% signatures to get funding, and yet be lax in terms of the term the club is on the SSC funding.
- Senator Ahmad: The Senate would ultimately decide on a club's getting "Line Funding." The Senate could take into account how long they are on SSC funding.
- The Chair called for the Senate to stand at ease. Approved without objection.
- Meeting called back to order at 8:47 pm.
  - Senator Abraham: I move to amend in the "New Student Club Policies and Procedures Act," Section 3 – Line 2, to read: This Act shall repeal Section 108.b.1.c of the Financial Policies and Procedures of the USG Code (Title 6).
    - Debate:
      - Senator Machalow: Is that exactly what it was before, when we were discussing whether or not to suspend the rules?
      - Senator Machalow: What implications does this have for IFSC?
        - It will still exist, but not be involved with SSC.
    - Amendment is approved, without objection.
  - I move to amend in the "New Student Club Policies and Procedures Act," to read: Section 3 – Line 3: This Act shall repeal Section 108.b.3 of the Financial Policies and Procedures of the USG Code (Title 6).
    - The Chair read the item being considered for repeal.
      - Approved without objection.

- I move to amend New Club Recognition Act: (Section 5 – Line 1:) to insert “Court” as indicated: “The Supreme **Court** of the...”
  - Approved without objection.
- Senator Machalow:
  - I move to amend:
  - Section 8 (New Club Funding Act): Line 2: “A two-thirds affirmative roll call vote of the filled seats of the Special Services Council is required to recommend a club for line budget status to the Senate for approval before a club can apply for line budget.”
    - Approved without objection.
  - New Club Funding Act (Section 8 – insert Line 3): “A two-thirds roll call vote of the filled seats of the USG Senate is required to award a club line budget status.”
    - Approved without objection.
  - New Club Funding Act – Insert new Section 9: “Dissolution,” reading: “In the event of a club’s ceasing to exist, all of its assets and monies shall revert to the Undergraduate Student Government.” And renumber everything following accordingly.
    - Approved without objection.
- Senator Ahmad:
  - I move to amend:
  - New Club Funding Act: Section 5 – Line 2: “The Special Services Council shall convene within seven (7) business days to vote on the request. A two-thirds affirmative majority roll-call vote is required to recommend a funding request to the Senate for approval.”
    - Approved without objection.
  - New Club Funding Act: Section 5 – insert Line 3: “A two-thirds roll call vote of the filled seats of the USG Senate is required to approve a funding request.”
    - Approved without objection.
  - Senator Machalow moved to amend the New Club Recognition Act, to add the bolded term: (Section 2- Definitions: Recognition: Shall be **defined as** the official...)
    - Approved without objection.
  - On the main motion to approve the “New Club Policies and Procedure Act”, the vote was 17-0-1. Motion approved.

Agenda item 5.0: Open Agenda

- Senator Ahmad moved to adopt the “Undergraduate Student Government NYPIRG Contract 2010-2011.”
  - Senator Ahmad: It has come to my attention that the USG lawyer has already reviewed this NYPIRG contract. The contract appears to be sound enough to pass today. I believe we have held back for quite a while and should approve it today.
  - Senator Machalow: The Budget Committee is considering the contract. If you look at the packet given to us...
  - EVP: If you look at the Senate Meeting Minutes (10/28/2010), it states that “Senator Cushing moved to amend by striking 7.0 – 11.0 on the agenda” and did not return the item to the Budget Committee. As such, the contract is still available for a vote on the floor.
  - Senator Machalow: Point of Information: Are we allowed to amend the contract on the floor?
    - EVP: While unconventional, the way the Financial Bylaws are written, the Treasurer may choose to reject the contract if there are legal concerns, even after approval by the Senate.
    - Senator Machalow: I have a question then about contract acts. What happens to a contract act?
      - EVP: The President would look at the legislation first, and his approval would be needed before referring the contract to the treasurer, for the treasurer’s signature.
    - Senator Machalow: Is there a timeline for the Treasurer in regards to taking action on a contract?
      - EVP: As far as I know, no.
    - Senator Ahmad: Was this contract changed in anyway, after its approval by legal counsel?
      - EVP: The document before the Senate today is the one that has been approved by legal counsel and has not been altered since then.
    - EVP: Consistent with past policies, members of the gallery can speak or be asked questions during Open Agenda.
    - Senator Abraham: One of the reasons that the Budget Committee was reviewing this contract is because we were looking for an itemized list regarding what the signatures are for.
      - NYPIRG representative: Sure, I can answer your question. We went through the budget process last year and we met the newly formed budget committee. We are happy to review our finances again. Since the process is delayed already, I would hope that we would be able to deal with it today. I do not have copies of our budget breakdown. I talked to the current acting-

Chair of the Budget committee today. NYPIRG has a full time campus organizer. It is an important part of the professional work we do, teaching students advocacy skills and other matters. That is the “Student Development” line of the budget.

- Senator Khan:
  - I would like to table the budget contract. The Budget Committee wants to meet with them on Monday, and we do not wish to rush the process.
- Senator Machalow:
  - For me, there are logical problems with the budget.
  - Senator Stratoudakis: How can you come to a meeting expecting us to allocate funds, without giving us a complete breakdown of every dollar where you would like funds to go?
- NYPIRG representative:
  - Just to bring a point into this. We are happy to meet with the Budget Committee. This is not an attempt to circumvent that. If the contract is approved, we would still meet with the Budget Committee, so you understand our finances to the extent that we would like. There is no other Senate meeting before Thanksgiving break. If the contract is pushed until after that, that would not allow us to access funds. We started this process in September. I hope that Senators could see that we made a good faith effort to go through these questions. We also submit an audit to USG every year.
  - Senator Spinelli: As a member of the previous and current Budget committees. I do not think they are doing anything “fishy” here. I am not sure what the current committee would like to know? I personally met with Rudy, USG counsel. We went through the contract line by line and he said it was okay. I have no problem approving this contract.
  - Senator Machalow: I would feel better about approving it if we are able to amend it on the floor.
  - Senator Machalow: This would not take into effect until after the Treasurer signs it. Correct?
  - Senator Machalow: I move to amend Section 3, by adding Line 2, and numbering the previous clause as Line 1, which reads: “The contract shall not take effect until after review by USG legal counsel and after being signed by the USG Treasurer.”
- Senator Ahmad: I move to extend the meeting’s time until 10 pm.
  - On the motion: 9-7-3 (2/3 majority required). Motion fails.
    - Meeting ends at 9:23 pm.