



University of Scranton Student Senate
Minutes
9 September 2004

- I. Call to Order: 4:35 PM
 - a. Prayer (Led By: Patrick Wherry)
 - b. Attendance:
 - i. Those Absent:
 - a. Meghan Burns
 - b. Jack Hueter, arrives 5:20 PM
 - ii. Total in Attendance:
 1. Voting Members: 16 (5:20 PM = 17)
 2. Total: 22 (Plus 2 more guests: Liz Ali, Sara Visintainer)
 - c. Minutes from Previous Senate Meeting
 - i. Amendments:
 1. Page 2, Kenneth Murphy not Kenneth Murtaugh
 - ii. Motion for Approval: Vincent Solomeno
 - i. Second: Patrick Wherry
- II. Executive Reports:
 - a. President's Report:
 - i. Election Chair
 1. Nominating Sara Visintainer
 2. Sara will over see the upcoming elections and approve campaign materials. She served as Vice Chair last year and is qualified and experienced.
 - a. Motion to Approve: Wherry
 - b. Second: Will Dennis
 - c. Unanimous Vote: 16 in Favor
 - ii. Text Books and the Bookstore
 1. Met with the Manager of the Bookstore and Marty Langan (Associate Vice President Physical Plant) and they have agreed to work together on a program to lower book prices.
 - a. This program will not be an effort to put the bookstore in jeopardy by cutting profit, but will educate Professors on book costs.

- b. Emphasizes will be placed on having teachers submit book requests earlier and not ordering accessories if they are unnecessary (i.e. CD's or study guides)
 - iii. Newspaper Readership
 - 1. Currently the readership program supplies newspapers to student at no cost but we would like to relocate the papers to a more centralized location such as outside the student government office. As of now the program distributes the papers in Casey and Fitch.
 - iv. Introduction of Communications Director
 - 1. Sara Pfeiffenberger
 - 2. This is a trial version of the position in an effort to expand the universities awareness of student government activities.
 - 3. One of the first press releases will be about the Blue lights on campus, they cost a total of \$15,000 and there are twenty-five of them total.
 - v. Allocating to the Crew Team through Reserve Account.
 - 1. You all have a letter from myself to Dr. Carilli (Vice President for Student Affairs), and a letter responding to my recommendation from him.
 - 2. I have recommended that the Crew team be given \$19,000 to replace boats that were damaged last year in a car accident.
 - 3. This money will come out of a Student Affairs Reserve account in under to not subvert money from other clubs. The crew team will still be allocated money like other clubs for normal expenses this year.
 - 4. There have been no formal discussions with the allocations committee or rules set up for how to allocate this money. Nelson and Mannion will meet with the allocations committee to set up a procedure for future instances as well as rules of what is within the purview how to spend this money.
 - 5. I do not want to rush this process but to do it once and fully so that we can use the money responsibly and with good planning.
 - vi. Questions?
- b. Treasurer's Report:
 - i. Senate Account: \$356,000
 - 1. We experienced a in crease from last year's \$280,000
 - 2. There was also \$30,000 left over.

- ii. Dan Nelson: This is a result of the Senate's hard work and conscientious resolutions. Congratulations.
- III. Senate Standing Committees
- a. Academic Affairs (Chair: Murtaugh)
 - i. Ken and Tom met and set out some of the goals for the year:
 - 1. An important goal will be to take a closer look at the ways that incoming freshman scheduling can be improved.
 - 2. Working to come up with a better course advising system that will help accommodate students needs.
 - ii. Vincent Solomeno: Sits on University Council and would like our Academic Affairs Committee to contact Dr. Thomas Hogan the chair of the University Council Academic Affairs.
 - iii. Anne Flynn: I sit on the Academic Affairs committee for the University Council.
 - b. Appropriations (Chair: Wherry)
 - i. Did not meet: No Report
 - c. Ignatian Awareness: (Chair: Burns)
 - i. Did not Meet: No Report
 - d. Residence Life and Dining Services: (Chair: Reil)
 - i. Working on getting an announcement to the study body about how the second floor cafeteria is set up. It seems that the student reaction has been a little confused about what is available to them.
 - ii. There are something like 200 options for lunch ladies
 - iii. Dan Nelson: It is important to support the second floor cafeteria since it is through the student senate that we really pushed for them to make these renovations.
 - iv. Vincent Solomeno: Frustrated with the inability to send and announcement so far about how things are working the cafeteria. "Are meals plans not as important as student affairs?"
 - v. Anitra Yusinski: There is a policy about no advertising through student emails.
 - vi. Chris Mannion: We will follow up, with this issue. Have you worked with Ted to produce a suitable email?
 - vii. Reil: Yes we met and are working together.
 - viii. Mannion: Meet with Class Presidents to get information out.
 - ix. Flynn: Residence Life may be a valuable way to get information out.
 - x. Ms. Yusinski: We will find out more details
 - xi. Mannion: Continue with Kristin's report.

- xii. Reil: Another major criticism in the cafeteria right now are the long lines, they are working on hosting an open forum to answer questions and help explain the new system.
 - xiii. Reil: Also on our agenda is that Linden Apartments has no royal card access. After speaking with residence life, part of the reason is that this is due to the fact that the linden apartments are not connected to the University's Network system and in case of an emergency Public Safety cannot control the doors. We are in the process of talking more and are getting an estimate of the cost for adding royal card access.
 - e. Safety and Crime Prevention (Chair: Sweeney)
 - i. Did not meet: No Report
 - ii. Reil: I have noticed more Public Safety on campus and in general they seem more visible this year.
- IV. University Wide Committees
 - a. Board of Regents
 - i. Did not Meet: No Report
 - b. Board of Trustees
 - i. Did not Meet: No Report
 - c. University Council
 - i. Solomeno: The Council consists of some members of the student senate, faculty members and administrators.
 - ii. One of the major issues was working on revitalizing the downtown area.
 - 1. In the near future Scranton Tomorrow would like to come address the student senate about getting our opinions on how to make the downtown and Scranton in general more appealing.
- V. New Business (Legislation on First Reading)
 - a. USPB - Allocations
 - 1. Mannion: Liz Ali is here to answer questions on the first bill in your packet and the attached budget proposal.
 - 2. Tom Murtaugh: How Much Money was allocated last year?
 - 3. Liz Ali: \$200,000
 - 4. Mannion: the increase in funding for Programming Board is a part of our increase in funding.
 - 5. Solomeno: What will you do with the increase in money?
 - 6. Ali: Build fresh programs.
 - 7. We want to make programs like Midnight Madness bigger.

8. We are looking to expand Coffeehouse and with more money we can get better comedians and better bands.
9. The bottom line is we want better programming for student: more diversified acts and better experienced people.
10. There is also more money in our budget for the Major concert and this cost does not just include the band but also the stage and equipment.
11. A new idea that programming board is exploring is hosting a major comedian. For this type of act \$10,000 probably won't work.
12. The most important part about the programming board budget increase is more bang for the buck.
13. Solomeno: Why is battle of the bands not on the list?
14. Ali: The cost for battle of the bands is simply the sound equipment since we do not pay the bands.
15. Ali: The biggest thing is that we want more events; we are working with the Theology Department for the Theology Café and those events are also in our costs.
16. Joe Casey: What are the Glass Boards?
17. Ali: We have one on the Gunster Patio and another outside of Nevils, Kiosks are used to post calendars and announcements for movie posters
18. Murtaugh: How do Coffee House contracts work?
19. Ali: We pay for the hotel arrangements of most of all the acts, the standard is that that additional money goes to the act and they then pay the hotel.
20. Johann Balbuena: Do you do any fundraising?
21. Ali: Most of our funding comes from Student Government. In the past we have tried charging for concerts but we want to try not too.
22. Solomeno: There are a lot of things on this budget and in two months we are going to be haggling over a hundred dollars here and a hundred dollars there for individual clubs. However, here we are allocation \$700 for kiosks and new furniture.
23. Nelson: This is a rough sketch of the budget that was prepared over the summer working with different contacts in the university. We purposely give them the freedom to transfer funds from one part of the budget to another in order to put the best programs that can produce.

24. Right now we have nothing but goals and this budget will help us reach those goals, but we try very hard to get ALL students involved.
 25. Murtaugh: What happens to the money left over?
 26. Ali: That would be fantastic, but we cant try to do that, often what we do is reallocate those funds to other events in order to use as much for the students.
- ii. Motion for Second Reading:
 1. Solomeno
 2. Murtaugh
 3. Unanimously in favor
 - iii. Motion to Approve
 1. Murtaugh
 2. Wherry
 3. Vote: Unanimously in favor
 - iv. Mannion: Thank you Liz for helping us, and for coming.
- b. Club Allocations
- i. Flynn: How do the deductions work?
 - ii. Morley: Require six Community Service activities in which 25% of the club is in attendance, this community service must be approved by CSASI. If a club has only 5 of the required community service requirement then it gets a 10% cut, then 30%, 50%, 65%, 80% and 100%.
 - iii. Mannion: This was determined last year
 - iv. Flynn: What counts and how do we define service?
 - v. Mannion: CSASI, although we process all the paperwork and keep track of everything CSASI approves all service work.
 - vi. Solomeno: Why does Habitat for Humanity have only zero service.
 - vii. Morley: There is an amendment to the bill totaling \$6567 added for a club that was left out.
 - viii. Morley: Math club is not inactive which is another change.
 - ix. Nelson: Another amendment
 - x. Solomeno: How did the United Colors go from requesting \$18,000 to getting \$3,000
 - xi. Nelson: There is a resolution on what things can be funded, they wanted different trips to New York City for a movie and other similar programs. The senate set these guidelines.
 - xii. Balbuena: Can a representative from the club come request more funds?
 - xiii. Mannion: can' fund everything the clubs requested about \$165,000 and we wanted to keep allocations under \$80,000.

- Clubs can always come back and request funding for specific things, and they are dealt with case by case.
- xiv. Solomeno: Diversity is supposed to be a number one priority but the United Colors lost \$15000 in funding.
 - xv. Nelson: Food supplies are generally not funded, but this is the only club we agreed to fund food. Historically we don't pay for guest speakers and they asked for \$2,000 for each speaker on a monthly series.
 - xvi. Solomeno: We paid \$200 on office furniture for programming board it makes sense to pay \$2,000 for speakers. Joann what do you think?
 - xvii. Balbuena: Diversity is important, and we are trying to add support. Trying to get better social events and expand to more people.
 - xviii. Nelson: \$2,000 for each speaker seemed arbitrary, they gave no explanation on why so much or who they intended to ask.
 - xix. Mannion: We don't have all the information and it would be ridiculous to go through all the clubs line by line. We need to take the allocations recommendation in good faith.
 - xx. Solomeno: If they executives told the senate to jump off a bridge we wouldn't jump. It is the senate's responsibility to examine everything and make the best decision.
 - xxi. Solomeno: Motion to amend bill: Grant United Colors full \$18,000.
 - a. Motion for amend: Solomeno
 - b. Second: Balbuena.
 - xxii. Will Dennis: The most any club receives is \$37,000 and that is a sporting club, the \$3000 puts the United Colors club among the highest funded non-sports clubs. This seems fair, we can't simply hand one club \$18,000.
 - xxiii. Ms. Yusinski: With the matter of Diversity the University has allocated \$80,000 to different diversity groups on campus, \$12,000 is going to the United Colors and other clubs as a foundations. Our goal is to encourage diversity in various clubs not solely the United Colors.
 - xxiv. Morley: the total allocated budget will be \$80,377.90.
 - xxv. Voting on Motion:
 - 1. All in Favor: 2 (Solomeno & Balbeuna)
 - 2. Opposed: 14
 - 3. Abstained 1 Tom Murtaugh
 - 4. Motion Fails
 - xxvi. Mannion: OK back to original bill

- xxvii. Murtaugh: can clubs come back and request some funds for different activities.
- xxviii. Mannion: Yes
- xxix. Motion for Second Reading:
 - 1. Frank Valla
 - 2. Second: Joe Sweeney
 - 3. Vote: Unanimously in favor, no opposed
- xxx. Reopened for Debate:
- xxxi. Motion to Approve:
 - 1. Reil
 - 2. Second: Wherry
 - 3. In favor: 17
 - 4. Opposed: 0
 - 5. Abstentions: 0
 - 6. Bill Passes
- c. Executive Allocations
 - i. Nelson: Executive branch requires funds for training, senate packets and food. Last year: more people didn't qualify for work study.
 - ii. Mannion: Open to Debate
 - iii. Motion to move to Second Reading:
 - 1. Wherry
 - 2. Second: Sweeney
 - 3. In Favor: 17 - Unanimous
 - iv. Motion to Pass:
 - 1. Sweeney
 - 2. Second: Wherry
 - 3. In Favor: 17 - Unanimous

VI. Senate Forum (Items for Discussion)

- a. Sweeney: the idea of increasing swipe times for sophomores and allowing them access to other sophomore buildings? How liable is this?
- b. Solomeno: This is something that has been discussed before, and we can talk to Residence Life.
- c. Mannion: We will get an update.
- d. Kenneth Murphy: There is a new club going through the process of being created called COLA, a new organization for commuters, just as a point of information. Student Affairs has asked us to apply as a club and we have started to get the information together.
- e. Nelson: Make sure that you follow the protocol and work with Terence to assure paperwork goes smooth.
- f. Solomeno: Blue Lights: Wasn't Palmer opposed to them because he felt they would cost too much money?

- g. Nelson: He was opposed largely because he didn't want to spend the money from his budget
- h. Mannion: I want to thank Vinny Solomeno for sitting in my place at the last senate meeting when I was in Ireland

VII. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to Adjourn
 - i. Wherry
 - ii. Second: Murtaugh
 - iii. **5:50 PM**