



University of Scranton Student Senate  
Minutes  
23 September 2004

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- I. Call to Order: 4:30 PM
  - a. Prayer (Led By: Anne Flynn)
  - b. Attendance: Those Absent:
    - a. Kristin Reil
    - b. Meghan Burns
    - c. Jack Hueter
    - d. Joe Casey
  - ii. Total in Attendance: 14 Voting Members
    - i. 19 Total Members
  - c. Minutes
    1. Amendments: None
    2. Motion for Approval: Tom Murtaugh
    3. Second: Anne Flynn
- II. Executive Reports:
  - a. Presidents Report:
  - b. Bookstore: We have with us today some people from the bookstore here to open a discussion on ways to lower book prices in a fair and competitive way.
    1. Marty Langan, Director of Physical Plant; the Manager of the Bookstore; and Regional Manager for Efollet.
    2. Mr. Langan: We are getting together to develop better ways of lower pricing. To share ideas, and identify ourselves as a way of continuing dialogue.
    3. Questions:
      - a. Wherry: Why are the buy back prices so low? And such a huge margin between buy back and purchase prices?
        - i. The earlier we get the orders from the Faculty we know if they will use the books
        - ii. If they are used again we pay half of the retail price, if they are not used to pay the wholesale price and pass them on to other book distributors.

- iii. We currently set deadlines for the faculty and it is critical that faculty members get those in as early as possible.
    - b. Wherry: How does the faculty do orders?
      - i. Between 75-82% we want to maintain at least 90%.
    - c. Reg. Manager: On August 30<sup>th</sup> we were only missing six book orders. Sometimes issues change late and publishers don't produce enough of the books.
  - 4. Solomono: Explain why books are so much cheaper on Half.com?
    - a. Reg. Manager: They are cheaper because of the auction format, but you made get wrong book, or not book, you also do not have any return services.
  - 5. Bookstore Manager: Our return policy is a flexible one we are willing to work with students past deadlines if we can.
  - 6. Morley: Can we educate faculty about the difference of different editions and how often there are very few changes.
    - a. Reg. Manager: Because of the high used book sales in an effort to stay in the market publishers have made more editions than in the past.
  - 7. Mannion: In order to continue this plan I would like to put the Academic Affairs office in charge of coordinating with the bookstore through Tom Murtaugh.
- c. Newspaper Readership Program:
    - i. In an effort to expand the Newspaper Readership program that already exist at the University I have worked with Residence Life to move 10% of the Newspapers outside the Student Government Office to make it more central. This will happen at no cost.
  - d. Jack Hueter's Resignation: Jack has submitted his resignation for personal reasons and I have accepted it.
  - e. Freshman Elections are Monday May 27. It is important to get out there and talk to freshman and tell them to vote.
  - f. We are starting to compose club policies with Anitra and will be looking for support and ratification from the senate.
  - g. Mannion: We are accepting nominations for Jack Hueter's replacement at next senate meeting.
  - h. Treasurer's Report:
    - 1. Beginning of School Year: \$360,000
    - 2. Senate Expenditures:
      - a. \$252,000 Programming
      - b. \$76,672.90 Clubs
      - c. \$5,000 Executive Resolution
    - 3. Total as of 9/23/04: 26,327.10
    - 4. Club Allocations
      - a. Money Spent by clubs this week: \$2,369.43
      - b. Allocated Funds Remaining: \$74,303.47

- III. Senate Standing Committees
  - a. Academic Affairs (Chair: Murtaugh)
    - i. Have a meeting with the Provost on 9/26. Please forward us any questions that anyone might have.
    - ii. Some Committee Goals and Concerns:
      - 1. Enforcing Dead week
      - 2. Reexamine Exam Schedule
      - 3. Enforce Silent Hours in the Dorms
    - iii. Mannion: Please let Dr. Barnett know about the bookstore
    - iv. Flynn: We, as an RA are supposed to enforce Quiet hours and do document students for noise violations
  - b. Appropriations (Chair: Wherry)
    - i. We met and approved the Martial Arts Club Bill and hope to pass it later
    - ii. Mannion: All financial bills go through the appropriations and then a cover letter is placed in the senate packet confirming the approval.
  - c. Ignatian Awareness: (Chair: Burns)
    - i. Did not meet
  - d. Residence Life and Dining Services: (Chair: Reil)
    - i. Written Statement read by Vinny Solomeno in Kristin Reil's Absence:
    - ii. Anitra would like to approve any mass emails sent out.
    - iii. Wherry: Late night you used to be able to use a Meal but not this year it has to be flex. Also the take-out salad on the second floor is not a meal plan option.
    - iv. Ken Murphy: The Vending machines in the library cannot swipe royal cards and have been broken for some time now.
  - e. Safety and Crime Prevention (Chair: Sweeney)
    - i. For Blue-Light and Yellow Call box we would like to establish a comprehensive map and create a better advertising for them.
    - ii. Nelson: In the original plan this was supposed to get done contact public safety and see if an map was ever compiled before going much further.
- IV. University Wide Committees
  - a. Board of Regents
    - i. Did not meet
  - b. Board of Trustees
    - i. Did Not Meet
  - c. University Council
    - i. Did not Meet
  - d. There is a President' Cabinet meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- V. Old Business (Legislation on Second Reading)
  - a. None
- VI. New Business (Legislation on First Reading)
  - a. Commuter On-campus Life Association (COLA) Charter
    - i. We got seventy-five plus signatures for the club.
    - ii. Contact person is here.

- iii. This club is important because its main purpose is to get Commuters more involved in the University not simply class and then home.
  - iv. Goal is to establish a greater sense of community.
  - v. There are over a thousand commuters on campus.
  - vi. The club will work to be a Residence Hall Community for Commuters
  - vii. An effort to bring Commuters and Residents together.
  - viii. Dr. Carilli (read from an response to COLA) Commuters are the most at risk population in the University community
  - ix. Response from Faculty:
    - 1. Career Services offered to Help (Point person: Connie)
    - 2. The registrar's office showed full support
  - x. Last years figures:
    - 1. Freshmen: 28%
    - 2. Sophomores: 27%
    - 3. Juniors: 26%
  - xi. Questions:
    - 1. Balbuena: What activities do you have planned?
    - 2. Murtaugh: Involvement Awareness; Keeping Commuters aware of what is going on in the University; Bring Commuters together; Get residents involved in the clubs.
  - xii. Motion to Approve:
    - 1. Ken Murphy
    - 2. Johan Balbeuna
    - 3. Unanimous vote in Favor.
- b. Martial Arts Allocations Bill
- i. Solomeno: The Club was chartered last year but were not a part of appropriations, because the officers were not the brightest and missed the process. They did do some community Service, and there first Community Service for this year is set for this Saturday.
  - ii. Wherry: Point of Information, everything they asked for is appropriate and finadable.
  - iii. Murphy: What are the awards? Are the talking about belts?
  - iv. Solomeno: Yes I believe they are referring to belts.
  - v. Motion to Move to Second Reading:
    - 1. Wherry
    - 2. Will Dennis
    - 3. Unanimous Vote to Approve.
  - vi. Motion to Approve:
    - 1. Joe Sweeney
    - 2. Frank Valla
    - 3. Unanimous Vote to Approve.

VII. Senate Forum (Items for Discussion)

- a. Nelson: I would like to Compliment Tom and Kevin on their work with COLA, they did not have any conflicts of interest and although it is not explicitly against the rules is an example to the rest of the senate.

- b. Solomeno: Can we have double sided packets to save paper?
- c. Mannion: Yes
- d. Solomeno: The Aquinas endorsed a candidate for the freshman elections. The individual selected who is a staff member at the Aquinas. I would like to look into changing the procedure
  - i. The other candidates were told very late in the game
  - ii. And noe the winner has an unfair advantage
- e. Nelson: This was done in a unprofessional manner and no one is allowed an unlimited amount of publicity, we could put a price on the value of his ad space.
- f. Yusinski: If you are disgusted by the manner in which this was done tell those concerned. Consider a letter to the editor. Let the Student body know that Student Government was not aware of the Aquinas' actions. Consider contacting the SPB.
- g. Solomeno: We do not want to penalize the winner he did not intend for this to be an unfair advantage.
- h. Nelson: The only quick recourse is sop them from running it.
- i. Morley: We could take an ad in the Newspaper
- j. Murphy: We could do a special edition before the election
- k. Solomeno: Postponing will have repercussions
- l. Wherry: What are the ramifications? The new senators will not miss any senate meetings regardless of whether the election is postponed.
- m. Nelson: We should be careful not to poison the endorsed candidate and is this action going to help?
- n. Solomeno: I do not believe this will help or hurt the candidacy. I am just worried about losing candidates.
- o. Nelson: If you want to write a bill I recommend that it include money to purchase the advertisement . We can empower the election commission to do what they deem best.
- p. Wherry: Can we discuss this with the Freshmen candidates and gauge there reactions?
- q. Nelson: Point of Information, this is the eleventh hours and it might be cutting it close for writing a bill
- r. Bennett: Will we let the freshmen know why we have pushed the election back?
- s. Nelson: I suggest including language in the bill about why we are pushing back the election a week and include funds to procure an ad.
- t. Solomeno: Motion to create resolution
- u. Nelson: Let's be proactive and include pictures in the ad.
- v. Mannion: Let's create an AD Hoc Committee:
  - i. Vinny Solomeno
  - ii. Joe Sweeney
  - iii. Patrick Wherry
  - iv. Lara Bennett
  - v. Greg Aughenbaugh
  - vi. This will move elections back one week
  - vii. And approve a two page ad.

- w. Motion to Approve:
  - 1. Sweeney
  - 2. Vote Unanimous
- x. Second Reading
  - i. Motion to Approve: Will Dennis
    - 1. Valla
    - 2. Vote was Unanimous in favor
    - 3. Senbill.007.04 Approved
- y. Yusinski: Encouraging Student Publications would be a good idea because people need to be aware of some of the ways that Aquinas handled things.
- z. Solomeno: Can we file a complaint as the the Student Senate? And does it have to be done now?
  - aa. Yusinski: No
  - bb. Mannion: Part of the AD HOC committee's role should be to formulate a complaint.
  - cc. Nelson: It would be prudent to wait on the complaint until things are completely sorted out.

VIII. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to Adjourn: Wherry
  - a. Murtaugh
- b. Adjourned: **5:43 pm**