



University of Scranton Student Senate
Minutes
7 October 2004

I. Call to Order: 4:35 PM

- a. Prayer (Led By: Meg Burns)
- b. Attendance: Those Absent:
 - i. Charles Claps
 - ii. Johan Balbuena
 - hi. Total in Attendance: 17
- c. Minutes
 - i. Motion for Approval: Ken Murphy
 - ii. Second: Tom Murtaugh

II. Executive Reports:

- a. President's Report:
 - i. Aquinas
 - 1. The ad was not printed because the paper was not printed
 - ii. Freshman Elected
 - 1. 428 Freshman Voted
 - 2. A disappointment was that only 16 commuters voted
 - iii. Nominations for Junior Class Vice President
 - 1. The two nominees are Steve dark and Neil Harrington. The vote needed will be a simple majority.
 - 2. Joe Sweeney nominates Steve dark
 - 3. Will Dennis nominates Neil Harrington
 - 4. Reil: Is it possible that Neil participate in soccer and the senate?
 - 5. Dennis: The season is almost over so it should not interfere.
 - 6. Casey: Did Steve dark run for office last year?
 - 7. Sweeney: No, he had intended to study abroad but due to some problems he was not able to go.
 - 8. Dennis: I think that it would do the senate good to bring forth fresh blood with different experiences
 - 9. Burns: What is a Redington scholar?
 - 10. Dennis: Two students each year from Ireland get a full scholarship to attend the University.
 - 11. Muphy: I concur with Will it would due the senate good and it could help reach a larger international community. I will vote for Neil.
 - 12. Motion for vote: Dennis, Second: Flynn
 - 13. Votes in Favor of Steve dark: Sommerville, Aughenbaugh, Bennett, Sweeney, and Flynn (5)
 - 14. Votes in Favor of Neil Harrington: All others present (12)

15. No Abstentions

16. Therefore the Senate has filled Jack Hueter's spot as Junior Class Vice President with Neil Harrington.

b. Treasurer's Report:

- i. This report is exactly how it is submitted on the Excel spreadsheet, which reflects all the club spending to date.

III. Senate Standing Committees

a. Academic Affairs (Chair: Murtaugh)

- i. Met with Dr. Bamett and brought some of the concerns of the senate, which included the option of adding a sign language course. They said that they would contact the foreign language department. I will also call them as well
- ii. Any questions?
- iii. Reil: In the CPS there is an OT teacher who has been trying to get approved to get it into the curriculum
- iv. Murtaugh: I can check on this as well
- v. Murtaugh: We are expecting to meet with the bookstore and we were waiting for an additional member of the committee so that we could meet collectively.
- vi. We spoke to Dr. Barnett about a raised tuition, which allows certain programs to exceed the 18 credit ceiling without additional charges. We had hoped that certain student who meet some academic requirements might have the same advantage. The idea was not well received and will not likely go anywhere.

b. Appropriations (Chair: Wherry)

- i. We met to process one bill the CEC appropriations which will be up for vote shortly

c. Ignatian Awareness: (Chair: Burns)

- i. We did not meet

d. Residence Life and Dining Services: (Chair: Reil)

- i. For Linden Apartments, there was some error in calculating the cost of adding Royal Card swipes to the buildings. It costs \$6,000 to replace and approximately \$30,000 total given networking and software. Residence Life will meet with BestLock to discuss further.
- ii. Justice dub has complained about the use of Styrofoam cups. Dining Services has stated that the paper cups have some bad subcomponents and it costs five times more.
- iii. For the convenience part of the second floor cafe, the prices are not that high and are comparable to Turkey Hill and Scotts, they cannot compete with Walmart in terms of bulk purchases. They are looking into creating a film developing and introducing some kind of cash equivalency.
- iv. Over fall break the pricing will hopefully be fixed and to be more consistent.
- v. Dennis: People have asked about the concept of lowering laundry costs to .50 cents and making sure that there is Royal Card access on all the washer dryers. Jen Valtos has agreed to personally walk around and check to see which ones do not have that kind of access and try to fix them.
- vi. Kershaw: Some students would like to see either larger dryers or more minutes because often 44 minutes (as is the current time) is not enough to fully dry.

- vii. Solomeno: I am still concerned about the late night food option and will be discussing that more in committee.
 - viii. Mannion: It is important to talk to Ted about how that works and what we can do to improve it.
 - ix. Bennett: Why is Quizno's more expensive at dinner?
 - x. Dennis: The individual store doesn't match the school pricing system.
 - xi. Mannion: I think it is important that we can obtain a pricing sheet for the downstairs cafe so that we are all on the same page.
 - xii. Murphy: What is the status of the Card swipes in the library?
 - xiii. Reil: find out which ones don't work and I will talk to Mr. Langan.
- e. Safety and Crime Prevention (Chair: Sweeney)
- i. Do not have anything to report.

IV. Senate Forum (Items for Discussion)

- a. Mannion: We are moving the Senate Forum up to make sure that Anitra is here to answer any questions:
- b. Insurance
 - i. Anitra: The school is proposing to force all athletes including club sports to have health insurance, and the school will only cover health costs that exceed \$30,000.
 - ii. Nelson: Who will this exclude from participating?
 - iii. Anitra: Most people will have health insurance.
 - iv. Morley: So if they do not have health insurance they cannot participate?
 - v. Dennis: What about signing waivers to work around some students who do not have health insurance?
 - vi. Solomeno: In High School this was a common practice to will out a waiver. Also will this cost students more money or will they have to purchase insurance?
 - vii. Anitra: The school has insurance but there is a cost of anything over "wellness"
 - viii. Murtaugh: Are there figures that indicate how many students are uninsured?
 - ix. Mannion: we can create a committee to further look at the issue.
 - x. Solomeno: This could affect a lot of people in terms of who can afford to play sports.
 - xi. Flynn: The schools health insurance plan is very expensive and not within a typical students budget.
 - xii. Reil: Could this be considered a form of discrimination?
 - xiii. Anitra: Every school in NEPA requires that student athletes have insurance.
 - xiv. Morley: Can we recommend Club sports to go to the trainer for injuries?
 - xv. Mannion: Let's table that issue for now
 - xvi. Solomeno: Can we set up a fund that might help students with hardship?
 - xvii. Burns: This might something that could be part of the Senior Endowment.
 - xviii. Dennis: That is a great idea.
 - xix. Wherry: How many of these clubs have insurance policies?
 - xx. Morley: Some clubs such as equestrian and crew sign waivers.
 - xxi. Wherry: Are these waivers for the location or for insurance purposes?
 - xxii. Mannion: Appropriations will look into it and report back to the Senate.
- c. Course Evaluation Policy Changes

- i. Anitra: As of now I do not know much about this and it will probably be recommended to committee but there is a proposal to substitute paper evaluations with an online evaluations. The incentive will be that online grades will be withheld until students fill out the evaluation. This is a pilate program to test the waters.
- ii. Dennis: I think they should get rid of the repercussions because students will go down fill the forms out with no regard to the answers.
- iii. Reil: This could cause more people to log onto the system at one time and possible shut down the system.
- iv. Anitra: The Grades will only be held for seven days.
- v. Wherry: Is the only reason to help compile the data and save the school money on paper costs?
- vi. Anitra: I do not know all the benefits of the proposal.
- vii. Wherry: The only time that students take these types of evaluations seriously is when the teacher is exceptionally bad. If they will them out because they are forced to they will rush.
- viii. Burns: I usually take the time to fill the forms out appropriately but I don't think I would take the time online to do them.
- ix. Anitra: We could look into shortening the evaluations.
- x. Morley: This means that there would be 6 or 7 evaluations to fill out in one time.
- xi. Flynn: I think they should publish the data online, because they are public record and you can go to the registrars office, this could become an internal Ratemyprofessor.com source.
- xii. Mannion: Tom and his committee is responsible for evaluating the policy change.
- xiii. Murtaugh: Is this a faculty senate proposal or the Provost office?
- xiv. Anitra: The faculty senate I evaluating this at their next meeting.
- xv. Mannio: The floor is closed and Murtaugh will report back to the senate.

V. University Wide Committees

a. President's Cabinet

- i. Casey: One thing for the Crime Prevention committee to explore that was brought up at the Cabinet meeting is that a house was burglarized and although it was within range of a school security camera, the camera was broken.
- ii. Mannion: Speak with Pat McKenzie on the President's Cabinet I believe it was his house that was broken into.

b. University Council

- i. Flynn: There was a proposal to make a lot of changes to the calander including removing Fall Break. There seemed to be little or no interest in Student Opinion.
- ii. Mannion: Let's put this under the Ignatian Awareness Committee. Meghan please, talk to the University Council to see what the exact proposals are and discuss it.
- iii. Nelson: The University Council can endorse this calendar but it does not put into effect. We can also endorse or not endorse any calendar changes.
- iv. Murphy: There was talk about passing on to the Student Senate for approval.

v. Mannion: Please pass everything to the Ignatian Committee.

VI. New Business (Legislation on First Reading)

a. CEC Appropriations

- i. Mannion there are two representatives here to answer any questions.
- ii. Dennis: They went through unexpected officer changes so they were unable to participate in the normal budget process so I am presenting this now.
- iii. Wherry: After reviewing the constitution they can receive \$3000 but since they only completed two community services it reduces the approval amount 65
- iv. Mannion: All questions can be directed towards Pat and Will.
- v. CEC Rep: We do have some more community service here.
- vi. Morley: This part of the two already counted.
- vii. Motion for Second Reading: Solomeno Second: Burns
- viii. All in favor: Unanimous
- ix. Motion to approve: Dennis Second: Wherry
- x. All in favor: Unanimous
- xi. Mannion: The senate formally approves allocations for the CEC

b. Amendment to Approve Alcohol funding.

- i. Nelson: This is in reference to a constitutional provision that Student Government will not fund alcohol, we would like to change this.
- ii. If a student is twenty-one and they are responsible then we can be allowed to fund them. This does not mean that they are automatically funded, they must still get approval from the Vice President.
- iii. Murtaugh: Can alcohol now be served at meetings?
- iv. Morley: Not necessarily they may not be approved and it may not fall within the other restrictions set on allocating funds.
- v. Bennett: Have clubs asked to have alcohol at events?
- vi. Morley: Some end of the year dinners.
- vii. Solomeno: Didn't the pre-law society have alcohol at its dinner last year?
- viii. Nelson: Some alcohol policies are different throughout the school.
- ix. Solomeno: What exactly are we changing is this a step forward?
- x. Mannion: This is a step forward because it allows more consistency with school policy.
- xi. Nelson: We should echo the student body's opinion.
- xii. Motion to Second Reading: Burns, Second: Dennis.
- xiii. All in Favor
- xiv. Motion to Approve: Casey, Second: Solomeno
- xv. Opposed: Kyvin Meyer, All others in Favor.
- xvi. Amendment ApprovedX ^f^ ^^

VII. Senate Forum Continued:

- a. Reil: the E-Commerce dub has approached about changing there name, will they lose money and who do they go about this?
- b. Mannion: Not a problem tell them to come by the office and we can work with them.
- c. Flynn: This might be something for Crime Prevention. How much information is available to the public about public safety and its actions? Hoe much is too much, because even though names aren't offered they can often be inferred by room numbers and such.

- d. Reil: When people don't hear about what goes on campus they get mad is there a happy medium?
- e. Wherry: Some of the stuff in the Aquinas is of a personal nature.
- f. Solomeno: As a point of information: in 2001 there were 64 citations, already in 2004 there are 400 citations.
- g. Murphy: In the parking garage the faculty is assigned the third floor and the commuter student have the fourth floor as well as below. Why is this broken up? It just seems like common sense to more faculty to lower level.
- h. Mannion: You can be the point man on that one.
- i. Casey: Also related to that, my brother got a parking ticket when he visited, and public safety tried to pass it off to me and I am not him.
- j. Morley: There was a similar incident with my father and I talked to public safety and they cleared it up.
- k. Reil: Can we work on extending Royal Card access for Madison and Mulberry?
- l. Mannion: Write up a bill and we can work on getting it approved.
- m. Wherry: I found out today that there are movies in the library but they can't be taken out you have to watch them there. Can we get permission to take them out like regular library books?
- n. Solomeno: I go to the library and watch movies a lot.
- o. Reil: Teachers often take them out to show them in classes.
- p. Dennis: I would like to publicly to the Residence Life Committee for being absent I was involved with the play and now that that is concluded I will be much more available to meet and work on issues.

VIII. Adjournment: 6:00pm

- a. Motion to approve: Dennis, Second: Solomeno.