



University of Scranton Student Senate
Minutes
21 October 2004

- I. Call to Order: 6:52 PM
 - a. Prayer (Led By: Tom Murtaugh)
 - b. Minutes
 1. Motion for Approval: Tom Murtaugh
 2. Second: Jillian Sommerville
 3. Unanimous
- II. Executive Reports:
 - i. We would like to introduce Neil Harrington the new Junior Class Vice President.
 - ii. Also, wish Meg Burns a Happy Birthday.
 - b. President's Report:
 1. Senior Week
 - a. Senior Events have all been approved and are in full form.
 - b. There is no Halloween in stead there will be some other event either Thanksgiving or Christmas.
 2. Continuing Club Policy Revisions is still on going
 3. The Constitution is updated and will be printed soon
 4. Mannion: The second senior event will be contingent on a senior service.
 - c. Treasurer's Report:
 1. Printed Report
- III. Senate Standing Committees
 - a. Appropriations (Chair: Wherry)
 - i. We have COLA and we will vote on it during the forum
 - ii. Last week I talked to Toby Lovocchio, there are a few people who get insurance, the University will be rewriting policy, and he will keep me in the loop. Hopefully, we can have a voice in that.
 - b. Ignatian Awareness: (Chair: Burns)
 - i. We met and discussed Ignatian Awareness week. We discussed some of the things that used to be done like, Tours by the Jesuits giving a history of different statues.
 - ii. We also suggested a Panel Discussion everyday at lunch similar to the Brown Bag lunch programs
 - iii. Also suggested was a Game Show type set up such Jesuit Jeopardy.
 - iv. Sommerville: When is Ignatian Awareness week?
 - v. Mannion: In the Spring.
 - c. Residence Life and Dining Services: (Chair: Reil)
 - i. Ted wants some major changes, and he wants us to hold off on an email for awhile, he has been very cooperative.
 - ii. On the washer and dryer just write down where they are needed so we can pursue that.
 - iii. The Laundry is set at \$1.00 because of Electricity and Water.
 - iv. Please pass on to me a list of any houses that don't have swipes.
 - v. They are extending dinner in the third floor cafeteria until 7:30pm.
 - d. Safety and Crime Prevention (Chair: Sweeney)
 - i. Meeting next week.
 - e. Academic Affairs (Chair: Murtaugh)
 - i. Sign Language: I spoke with the foreign language department and Dr. Barnett did not inform her. She contacted two teachers to develop the programs but apparently the teachers did not get back to her. If there is an interest then approach her about give her ideas for a teacher.
 1. Solomeno: We have to find a teacher?

2. Murtaugh: It is hard right now to find a teacher to develop a plan to teach the class.
 3. Have they checked with the OT department the course is already approved. Should we write a bill proposing that the school set-up a sign language program?
 4. Mannion: Can you have a bill written that might be the best route?
 5. Murtaugh: The foreign language department does not know about the OT department.
 6. Sommerville: Can we bring someone from Marywood University?
 7. Murtaugh: Yes
 8. Mannion: We can expect a bill on this hopefully in the near future.
- ii. Bookstore: We met again and went over the cost.
1. As of October 15 only 40% have complied to the deadline.
 2. Some of the things that can drive up the costs are the CD's which can be as much as \$22-35. Also Cellophane is a costly factor.
 3. Mr. Langan and the Committee want to speak to the Dean's Council and provost in order to start from the Top rather than the bottom since faculty hasn't responded.
 4. The Faculty may not be fully aware of the concept.
 5. We have every intention of working with the Dean's in order to correct the problem
 6. Maybe we can expect a bill soon.
- iii. Course Evaluations: They are happening
1. The people who process the data are not the ones who make the policy, say that they process on average 32,000 papers.
 2. Anonymity is still protected
 3. We have to take concerns to the Course Evaluation Technical Committee.
 4. PTLE wanted to switch three years ago
 5. This is Provost inspired even though there has been a bad reaction from other schools. Yale, restricts grade and gets on average 85% response rate.
 6. University is implementing this policy and there is a pilot program this semester with ten professors. Then everyone will use it during intersession. They want to fully enact the program in the spring.
 7. There are two choices:
 - a. either do it during the last two weeks before finals
 - b. Or during finals
 8. The other schools that do not inflict a penalty get a response rate of only 55%.
 9. As far as a ratemyprofessor.com type program, Yale has information available to students. I was also told that the University has never had this information public to students before.
 10. Casey: This is only a 10-14 day restriction correct?
 11. Murtaugh: Yes
 12. Solomeno: If it is published it might increase response rate.
 13. Murtaugh: The fear is that these Course Evaluations would become God's word on which professors to take.
 14. Aughenbaugh: The ratemyprofessor.com website is an easy or not evaluation. The course evaluation is not a measure of easy but Good or not, there is a difference.
 15. Solomeno: I want to work with the Academic Affairs committee to write a bill.
 16. Mannion: Let's appoint a subcommittee, Vinny Solomeno, Tom Murtuagh, and Annie Flynn to Draft a proposal.
 17. Murtaugh: And as far as when to have the evaluations, before or after finals?
 18. Searles: Before finals, because after the final your grade might affect the evaluation.
 19. Solomeno: After Finals, because how the final goes is a big part of how to evaluate the teacher and the class.
 20. Murtaugh: Online Evaluation will be implemented the things open to change are when? and what questions?
 21. Mannion: I would like to take an informal poll of whether students in this room have a problem with punishment?
 22. 13 with problems, x with no problems
 23. Meyer: For freshman this wont be perceived as a punishment because we don't know better
 24. Reil: It is not unusual if you don't pay your parking tickets you can't graduate, and if you have library fines you cant graduate.

- IV. University Wide Committees
 - a. None Met
 - b. Mannion: Fr. Pilarz has an open forum on November 3, from 7:00-8:00 PM.
- V. New Business (Legislation on First Reading)
 - a. COLA Appropriations
 - i. Wherry: Everything they asked for is OK to fund, but we want reduce some costs, but they were all reasonable. \$2230.50
 - ii. Murtaugh: COLA has been working really hard on this budget and it really reflects what it wants to do which will costs that amount of money. This is evident in the enthusiasm of the new officers.
 - iii. Shana, (COLA officer): It is fair, but the lock-in is a good way to get commuters to stay involved.
 - iv. Casey: Define the lock-in?
 - v. Shana: We will hosts it in the Byron and no one would be forced to stay overnight.
 - vi. Murtaugh: Mostly it will consists of a lot of fun games and activities.
 - vii. Solomeno: Are the cuts ok?
 - viii. Murtaugh: Yes we are grateful for any money we receive and it will be a great year for COLA, I also want to say thank you to Pat for going through all the appropriations with us.
 - ix. Murphy: I really think this club is needed and all the activities will be open to all students especially residents.
 - x. Reil: Monday night football in the second floor café may encourage students
 - xi. Motion to Move to Second Reading: Solomeno, Second: Dennis
 - xii. Unanimous in favor
 - xiii. Mannioin: the Bill on the floor will allocate \$2230.50 for COLA, this is not the original bill.
 - xiv. Casey: \$900 for a lock-in?
 - xv. Murtaugh: I think we need even more money it will be a big event if we can put the funds into it.
 - xvi. Morley: Just to reinforce a 24 hour DeeJay can add up, plus prizes and games, they probably do need more money.
 - xvii. Solomeno: Are we in line with funding food?
 - xviii. Morley: As long as it benefits the entire university then it falls within the guidelines
 - xix. Solomeno: The Lock-in is a great idea.
 - xx. Burns: we did a lock-in before in high school and it worked out really well and was a good time.
 - xxi. Motion to approve: Reil, Second: Dennis
 - xxii. Unanimous vote in Favor of Senbill 010.04
 - b. Senbill 011.04 Has been taken off the Agenda due to a lack of information.
- VI. Senate Forum (Items for Discussion)
 - a. Murphy: For Ignatian Week one idea maybe something like the President's Breakfast
 - b. Meyer: Some freshman have approached me about Concerts and Sneak Previews of movies, complaining that in comparison to other schools there aren't enough.
 - c. Murtaugh: We gave the Programming Board over \$252,000 in funds
 - d. Flynn: IN the spring there is a larger concert, last year the school hosted Third Eye Blind.
 - e. Mannion: Right now there is \$60,000 allocated for a Major Concert.
 - f. Dennis: Thank you for everyone's work on the senior events, we appreciate our privilege of having them.
- VII. Adjournment:
 - a. Motion to Adjourn: Wherry
 - b. Second: Dennis
 - c. 5:37pm