



University of Scranton Student Senate  
Minutes  
02 December 2004

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- I. Call to Order: 4:30 PM
  - a. Prayer: Will Dennis
  - b. Minutes: Motion to Approve, pending changes
  - c. First: Clark, Second: Valla
- II. Executive Reports
  - a. President's Report
    - i. Semester Report: Wrapping up the semester and I am finalizing the Semester report there is only a few more things to added then that will completed and I will make sure you all get a copy of that and it will be submitted to the Trustees on the eighth.
    - ii. Sustainability: I met for the first time with the Student Sustainability Task Force which a part of a greater University push to be more sustainable. We put all together an agenda that will revolve around Trustee Day in February.
  - b. Treasurer's Report
    - i. Located in Packet, contains all club spending as well as Senate Account
- III. Senate Standing Committee's
  - a. Academic Affairs (Chair: Murtaugh)
    - i. We plan to meet with Dr. Homer from the University Council
  - b. Appropriations (Chair: Wherry)
    - i. 1 Bill coming up
  - c. Ignatian Awareness: (Chair: Burns)
    - i. Mannion: Senior Class service project will be meeting tomorrow to decide on how to move on that
  - d. Residence Life and Dining Services: (Chair: Reil)
    - i. I am going to meet with Marty to discuss the dryer situation in the dorms and look into installing more and expanding the times for the dryers.
  - e. Safety and Crime Prevention (Chair: Sweeney)
    - i. Nothing to Report
    - ii. We are always looking for issues so bring it on.
    - iii. Reil: Living down the street from Madison and they are unable to buy parking permits. They can't park on the street because they can't get a permit and there are meters. is there a way to possibly look into getting permits even if they love off campus.
    - iv. Nelson: Parking has always been a problem and the University Council has a special Task force for Perking issues. It boils down to not being enough

spots for people on campus. There simply isn't enough spots and there are strict guidelines. It would be too difficult for us to allocate who can and can't.

- v. Murtaugh: I agree with Dan about there not being enough spots. Just a suggestion they could bring it up with their landlord and he can get permits through the city.
- vi. Aughenaugh: The University should look into getting rid of some of the meters on Mulberry Street.
- vii. Murphy: There are no cameras in the St. Thomas lot and it might be necessary to install cameras in all the lots.

#### IV. New Business (Legislation on First Reading)

- a. Mannion: We are striking Senbill 0.17.04 about the Club Sport Insurance it has been tabled for a another meeting.
- b. Senbill 019.04 Increased Swipe Times for Residence Halls
  - i. Solomeno: The purpose comes out of several conversation swith Residence Lifebecause upperclassmen do not enjoy the privileges that freshman have to get in-between buildings. So it is a shock that Sophomores do not have that access. We want to expand that access to Sophomore, Juniors and Seniors. There are a lot of inconsistencies and this bill is a meant to start a conversation with Residence Life.
  - ii. Murtaugh: What is the purpose of removing the access?
  - iii. Solomeno: The reason Freshman have this privilege is from a recommendation by the senate a few years ago to allow for a better community of students who don't know where all there friends live as the year starts. This way they can move amongst each other. The reason don't have that privilege is security and to prevent vandalism. However, the problem is now students are moving in to buildings without swiping and so we can't see who is in the buildings.
  - iv. Flynn: Is there a demand for this kind of motion? Has there been a survey about whether students want this or are they more concerned with safety.
  - v. Solomeno: There hasn't been an official survey. but I have been approached and Sophomores have complained about losing the privilege. Redington is the worst vandalism and it is a building that does not have open access. Also this bill would give access from 10am to 10pm or 12 on weekends. and most vandalism occurs in the early morning hours so at that time students would have access.
  - vi. Wherry: Vandalism is going to be a problem regardless and I don't think it happens during the day.
  - vii. Dennis: I think we are asking for a fair compromise of access to specific dorms.
  - viii. Solomeno: We emphasized that last thing we want to do is be adversaries. I made it clear that this is a priority.
  - ix. Reil: The last thing we want is aggravate the staff and attack them
  - x. Solomeno: They have been reasonable and some people are opposed to it but he is open to ideas
  - xi. Flynn: I think it is a good compromise, that keeps the buildings secure during late hour.
  - xii. Mannion: I am moving the bill to second reading

- xiii. Murtaugh: We don't have it specifically spelled out what times you want
- xiv. Solomeno: The reason that times are left out is that we are open to compromise and discuss it with Kent
- xv. Motion to Vote: Will, Second: Wherry
- xvi. Unanimous Approval (20)
- c. Senbill 020.04 Senate Business Cards
  - i. Dennis: It is pretty self exclamatory. I think it's a good idea
  - ii. Nelson: You want your name on these or just your title
  - iii. Dennis: Yes that the point. Yes I do. At one point didn't you just want Senate so it could rollover, but we are probably going to be gone next year anyway plus its not that expensive
  - iv. Solomeno: Will it say class of 2007 or Sophomore Class
  - v. Dennis: It can say whatever you want it to say.
  - vi. Mannion: Sara can correlate the information and try to accommodate
  - vii. Murtaugh: will they be all uniform in color?
  - viii. Dennis: I think they should be pink
  - ix. Clark: I think this is a good way to get our name out there. I feel like having business cards
  - x. Mannion: We have business cards and I think that if you use them for legitimate purposes thirty is more than enough
  - xi. Solomeno: Can we use your cards a model?
  - xii. Mannion: Generally I think all University Cards are basically the same. they just change name and title
  - xiii. Wherry: Each class had their own address, can we put on the business cards if you don't want to put personal business cards.
  - xiv. Nelson: A couple suggestions lets use the title in the Constitution
  - xv. Motion to move to second reading Solomeno
  - xvi. Motion to Approve: Solomeno, Second: Casey
  - xvii. Unaimous Approval, with 1 abstention: Will Dennis

#### V. Senate Forum (Items for Discussion)

- a. Murtaugh: In the spring semester can we get the doors to the fifth floor library to be opened and they were concerned about safety.
- b. Solomeno: Can we reinstitute sending out the packets to the Senate, also are we reserving the meetings for the next year so we have this room?
- c. Youssef: I contacted the registrar's office and they haven't set the school calendar yet so I don't know what dates you guys will need.
- d. Solomeno: I contacted the Mayor's office to discuss the way Scranton Police have been heavy handed
- e. Murtaugh: I would like to be involved in this meeting
- f. Mannion: Anyone that wants to be involved with this meeting please talk to Vinny after the meeting
- g. Kershaw: There are three things that have affected citations this year 1. There is a New Magistrate, 2. This is an election Year 3. The city of Scranton is 40 million dollars in debt.
- h. Mannion: Take that with a grain of salt because we have been hearing the same things since we were freshman and the city has been in debt for as long as I can remember.

- i. Wherry: I was concerned about the relationship that Public Safety and the Scranton Police and students are intimidated and don't like that. That Public Safety walks a fine line. They are paid for and hired by the University to protect students.
- j. Mannion: Joe Sweeney can you have your Committee look into this?
- k. Yusinski: Myself and Dr. Carilli have met with the Scranton Police and Public Safety and we get complaints all the time from hill section residents about student behavior.
- l. Solomeno: I agree with Anitra that there is a very active minority that think its ok to destroy property off-campus, but we need to educate students of the dangers of behaving that way. But Also we need to educate them off their rights.
- m. Murphy: I know people who have complained to the University several times and they don't get much of a response. Parties are inevitable, but the vandalism is a poor reflection of who we are to the community.
- n. Mannion: We have off-campus senators and 2 communter senators who would be suited for this conversation
- o. Aughenbaugh: If students had more of an idea of what the law says and what they can do, then I think students would behavior better within the limits of what they can do.
- p. Nelson: I think education as a proactive idea is a fantastic idea, but give me ideas how might we do that?
- q. Solomeno: Not necessarily a program but a campaign that makes people more aware. They are only out to have a good time, not destroy property. I was at a party where the Scranton police did not behave appropriately and I think that this can be a starting point to starting a discussion about respecting rights. I want to make sure students should know what police officers cannot do.
- r. Nelson: Greg to what you were saying about the police not being out to get students is a good point often times they don't do everything they can do, party fines can go as high as \$75,000 if they wanted them to.
- s. Morley: There are several kinds of public safety officers, some students, some officer, most of them are doing there job and keep in mind that by going to a party underage you are breaking the law. It does need to be corrected, but we should err on the side of caution, because it isn't our right.
- t. Reil: Last year I was cited just for being at a party and not even drinking. So it is illegal just to simply be at a party if you are underage.
- u. Mannion: I think that education is a big part of that
- v. Nelson: Regardless of the constitutionality, it is the law and you have to make a conscious effort to remove yourself from the party. Res. Life explains it well to incoming freshman.
- w. Reil: Can we involved Landlords can voice their opinions and engage themselves in this conversation, about having
- x. Sommerville: I think many students are unsure of their rights. What is the possibility of requiring students who want to live off-campus to attend a program that explains to them their rights and responsibilities?
- y. Aughenbaugh: Landlords don't like having Kegs in their houses and sometimes they put it right in their leases.
- z. Claps: Landlords just don't care, my landlord will drink with us sometimes. They really don't care.

- aa. *Steve Clark leaves at 5:30 pm.*
- bb. Meyers: What about some sort of online education which may be easier that getting people to attend a program.
- cc. Solomeno: Think if RA's incorporate it into programs at the end of Sophomore year.
- dd. Dennis: Go back a bit to vandalizing is their some sort of Task force? I think that if people who don't even respect their own property then why would they care about other peoples properties. Most of the houses in the hill section are in shambles, I mean I live in that kind of place, I care but most people wouldn't. We are never going to stop people from drinking illegally. Why inform them we know you are breaking the law at least they can be aware of their rights. One of my friends go arrested for Jaywalking and got taken to the police station. He was over 21 and wasn't even impaired. Let's get someone together and teach people what they can and can't do.
- ee. Mannion: I just would like to remind everyone that this is a Public Forum and what we say here is public record. There is a fine line of advocacy and representation of illegal behavior. These minutes are a public record.
- ff. Meyers: I think the school should focus on safety rather than teaching them to break the law.
- gg. Solomeno: I am very aware that these minutes are public and I am not advocating that they break the law, but they have rights and they cant be violated. All I am advocating, they can be made aware of consequences A and not B.
- hh. Claps: I think educating over advocating is definitely beneficial. I have been in the situation where police have been very nice where they simply ask people to be quiet.
- ii. Murphy: I know that they discuss this type of thing in some Freshman Seminar Classes.
- jj. Mannion: I think this is a great conversation and it is something we should continue to diecuss I would like to set up a committee to work on this further. So I will be getting in contact with someone of you to explore this more as far a s a Student's Bill of Rights.
- kk. Yusinski: I just wanted wish everyone a great break and good luck on Finals

## VI. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to Adjourn: Murtaugh, Second: Dennis
- b. 6:15 PM