



University of Scranton Student Senate
Minutes
10 February 2005

- I. Call to Order: 4:35 PM
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Minutes are not completed at this time and will be approved at the next meeting.
- II. Senate Standing Committees
 - a. Academic Affairs (Chair: Murtaugh)
 - i. We met with Dean Kratz from the library about opening the doors to the Fifth Floor balcony. one of the major reasons that they are usually looked is for safety. Currently there is not enough staff to supervise the fifth floor. We also explored opening the computer lab on the third floor up for general usage.
 - ii. We also met with the Dean to discuss the ASL class and they are all for it so they will continue to seek out a teacher and begin to offer the class in the near future.
 - iii. Murphy: We had another meeting with the bookstore and thought we were initially told it was faculty failed to hand in the orders in on time, this time 87% of faculty were on time in handing in the order forms so this is not always the case. We are developing a fact sheet to distribute to faculty.
- III. Executive Reports:
 - a. President's Report:
 - i. The Business cards are ordered and should be ready any day.
 - ii. For the course evaluation it is important to start approaching it from a new angle, and start talking to the faculty senate about making the information collected in those evaluation open to the public.
 - iii. Murphy: Dr. Homer was vehemently opposed to that idea.
 - iv. Nelson: Just because members of the faculty are opposed doesn't mean that it isn't in the best interest of students.
 - v. As far as working towards sustainability: we collected close to a 1000 signatures and distributed bracelets to as many students.
 - vi. Tsunami Relief: Chris is spearheading a campaign to solicit funds and partnering with local businesses to make a contribution.
 - vii. Campus Discounts, we are looking into putting together a wallet sized card that allows students here at the university to get consistent discounts at local business with no cost to the student.
 - viii. As far as swipe times for students Residence Life has been very inconsistent in their motives against it and we are still working on getting that approved.
 - ix. Club Policy revision are done and I hope we can vote on them at the next meeting. It will be aen tire restructuring of clubs from volunteer requirements to officer elections. It will be easier for us and easier for them.
 - x. Website is up and running. It is a goingto be a great resource and it will contain all the club documents and forms. Stephen Mekosh is the one to thank for that project.
 - xi. Reil: The Campus Discounts is that comparable to the softball fundraisers?
 - xii. Nelson: It is a more complete and more comprehensive program and there is no cost to the student.

- xiii. Murtaugh: The bookstore is fundraising for Tsunami relief as well.
- xiv. Mannion: Fr. Pilarz announced he wants to consolidate the University's giving efforts and unify our donations.
- xv. Murtaugh: Why did we get involved in the sustainability issue and how much did it cost
- xvi. Nelson: basically it is because we have exceeded the living capacity of the earth. The university is working to infuse this into the buildings that we build, the curriculum and down to light bulbs. We paid a thousand dollars for the bracelets and website was developed by the school. This is something that is still in the infant stages.

IV. Junior Class Representative Nominations:

- a. Joe Casey: Nominating Drew Davis
- b. Greg Aughebaugh: Nominating Dan Ackerman
- c. Steve Clark: Nominating John Heppler
- d. Mannion: Please take a few minutes to review their resumes.
- e. Clark: Bud makes a good candidate because he knows so many people, and is connected to everything on campus. He works in the women's center and had a genuine interest in getting things done. If you know Bud you know that he genuinely wants to help people.
- f. Aughenbaugh: Dan is well traveled. I know him to personally be a good kid and having him on the senate would certainly be good for the community.
- g. Solomono: I know both Bud and Drew and they both know a tremendous amount of people and would be excellent representatives of their classes. Drew is a person of strong faith, and though I don't know the same for the other two as much, I will vote for Drew.
- h. Aughenbaugh: Dan is also a person of personal faith and commitment to the community.
- i. Murtaugh: Whoever is voted in is replacing Lara only for the remainder of the year and has to run for reelection next semester correct?
- j. Mannion: Correct, In the order of Resumes:
 - i. Bud Heppler: 7
 - ii. Dan Ackerman: 1
 - iii. Drew Davis: 9
 - iv. Drew Davis is nominated Junior class representative and is replacing Lara.

V. Executive Report (cont.)

- a. Treasurer's Report: The report this meeting is longer than usually since it has been a longer amount of time since we last met that usual.

VI. Senate Standing Committee's (Cont.)

- a. Appropriations (Chair: Wherry)
 - i. Nothing to Report
- b. Ignatian Awareness: (Chair: Burns)
 - i. Nothing to Report
- c. Residence Life and Dining Services: (Chair: Reil)
 - i. Greg and I met with Marty, and talked about the dryers and found that part of the problem was lint clogs. They increased the times by a few minutes anyway. As far as increasing the number of dryers it can be difficult because of the wiring and in the older dorms the walls are concrete. They are trying to add two more in Hafey and if that works then will add more wherever they can fit them in the other dorms.
 - ii. Our freshman and Sophomore years they always had DJ's in the cafeteria and Ted and Marty wanted to know why that stopped and hopefully they can continue this in the future.
 - iii. Clark: Some of the RA's got fired for drinking, I don't think it was right the way things happened.
 - iv. Reil: I can talk with Dr. Carilli but usually those types of issues are a little more sensitive.

- v. Yusinski: I can't tell you all the details but it is a long process that is taken very seriously before anyone loses their job.
- vi. Mannion: This may be a way for us to put a check on the process, Steve and Kristin why don't you meet with Anitra later and discuss what happened.
- d. Safety and Crime Prevention (Chair: Sweeney)
 - i. Nothing to report

VII. University Wide Committees

- a. Board of Trustees
 - i. Mannion: The facilities committee was presented with the opportunity to purchase the Girl Scouts Home and they are exploring that. The Radisson is for sale but the architect said that it would cost between 10 and 20 million just to bring it up to code before renovating it for school use. So as of now they committee seemed very against it. Four architect firms are bidding for the University contract that is for the next twenty-five years. The Retreat center will start in March as soon as it is warm out.
- b. University Council
 - i. Solomeno: At the University Council meeting we discussed the bookstore prices and book values. A majority of those who spoke were unsympathetic to the cost problem.
- c. Board of Trustees
 - i. Solomeno: I also sat on the committee for Student Life and was interested to see how put together the University is. Our counseling is one of the few in the country that does not set limits on the number of visits a student can make
 - ii. Murtaugh: My committee had nothing but good things to say about admissions up 91% from last year. The retention rate has dropped though from 88.7% to 88.1%. Dr. Barnett said that more and more students are applying but they are largely all the same demographic students.
 - iii. Reil: For the Mission & Identity committee we talk about the retreat house. They also want to see more faculty and staff infusion of spirituality into the classroom

VIII. New Business (Legislation on First Reading)

- a. Track and Field Club Charter
 - i. Mannion: basically the school doesn't have one as of now so they want to start one.
 - ii. Clark: They actually have dates lined up for meets and they are very serious about getting this club up and going this semester.
 - iii. Mannion: Comments or I am waiting for a motion to vote.
 - iv. Motion to vote: Clark, Second: Aughenbaugh
 - v. Unanimously in favor.
- b. Guitar Club Charter
 - i. Mannion: Tom wanted to start this club, which will be open to all musicians.
 - ii. Murphy: Doesn't Guitar kind of alienate other musicians?
 - iii. Solomeno: I am starting a piano club.
 - iv. Mannion: Work with Tom on that.
 - v. Motion to Vote: Dennis, Second: Wherry
 - vi. Unanimously in Favor
- c. Election Guidelines
 - i. Nelson: The language is tightened to create a more consistent policy. I also added some more guidelines dealing with internet policy as well.
 - ii. Murtaugh: My Campaign was financially difficult and it can be hard to estimate how much you are going to spend before the campaign starts.
 - iii. Mannion: Article 6, Section 2. Does not specify
 - iv. Murtaugh: So it is up to the election commissioner?

- v. Nelson: I am open to suggestion lets mark this up what do you guys think?
 - vi. Clark: I have never been reimbursed. They want it all beforehand to prevent overspending but it is all just a general idea.
 - vii. Solomeno: I agree with Steve it provides a certain level of seriousness. They have to sit down and map out their campaign. It prevents them from spending too much.
 - viii. Nelson: There are no clarifications in the old guidelines either.. With the new ones there are specific rulings and I added that the election commissioner will set the timeline.
 - ix. Solomeno: I am fine with how it is.
 - x. Meyers: One suggestion should we change Article 5.B. from beer to alcohol.
 - xi. Nelson: Absolutely
 - xii. Wherry: Why must signs in Gunster be approved but not elsewhere.
 - xiii. Nelson: Gunster is the only building with that rule so it doesn't apply to other buildings.
 - xiv. Nelson: we don't have to rush we can move to second reading and vote on this at the next meeting.
- d. Student Center Upgrade:
- i. Murtaugh: This is something that Ken and myself want to get done as far as renovating the Wolves Den this summer. We were going to request \$10,000, but we revised that and this bill is just to show support for improving the student space. Because we don't have any central hub for students to relax. Our student center is known for students being outside. We want to create an Ad Hoc committee to work with Anitra.
 - ii. Solomeno: I agree with what Tom's bill is trying to say and an Ad Hoc committee would be good but this will take a long time why shouldn't we use the appropriations committee.
 - iii. Mannion: I agree constitutionally we cant committee next years senate paying for this cost so it is something that needs to more or less concluded this semester.
 - iv. Murtaugh: An Ad Hoc Committee would be just for the remainder of the semester.
 - v. Nelson: It was my understanding that this committee would research what is the best course of action and report to the appropriations.
 - vi. Clark: If we start financing projects like this then its sets a unusual precedent.
 - vii. Murtaugh: but this is for students.
 - viii. Dennis: Aren't we getting a new Student Center?
 - ix. Mannion: this is for the interim.
 - x. Solomeno: Don't we have a Res Life and Dining Services committee to deal with this
 - xi. Mannion: An Ad Hoc committee will be some people from different committee's
 - xii. Yusinski: I talked to Tom and Ken and I think a step by step process ia s good idea I wish we did have the \$10,000 to put this together and make it a priority.
 - xiii. Mannion: The floor is open for discussion or I wait for a motion:
 - xiv. Motion to vote: Murphy, Second: Solomeno.
 - xv. Unanimously in favor.

IX. Senate Forum (Items for Discussion)

- a. Aughenbaugh: I was just wondering about instances when classes change professors without notifying students. Sometimes students choose classes based on who is supposed to teach and who is not teaching. I would like to see some kind of notification
- b. Murtaugh: How would you want to be notified by email?
Aughenbaugh: Anyway is fine.
- c. Casey: What is the new policy in the Second floor café?

- d. Solomeno: Students were forced to buy certain meals. Now they have the cash equivalency
- e. Reil: A lot of things have changed and they want to send an email out soon.
- f. Solomeno: I think they have been real positive changes that are responding to our concerns.
- g. Murtuagh: what is the deal with Royal Card Swipes at other businesses?
- h. Reil; It takes business away from the university and the school loses money because of it.
- i. Nelson: It was a bad idea to begin with.
- j. Solomeno: On a different topic I want to draft a Student Bill of Rights. I spoke with Abby Byman and she said the Student Senate can't ask her to do anything but that Dr. Carilli has to approve and approach her.
- k. Mannion: in the interest of time I would like to end the forum and shelve everything until next meeting
- l. Murtaugh: There is a Parking Forum tomorrow in 228 Brennan.

X. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to Adjourn: Murtaugh, Second: Reil
- b. 6:30 PM