



University of Scranton Student Senate
Minutes
24 February 2005

- I. Call to Order: 4:35 PM
 - a. Prayer (Led By: Kevin Meyer)
 - b. Minutes
 - c. Attendance
- II. Senate Forum:
 - a. University of Scranton Planning Committee Chair Jerry Desanto
 - b. Desanto: Thank you Chris, I will be brief, I have a hand out of the slides I would also like to introduce Kathryn Yerkes the Planning and Policy Analyst. The plan is set up as a five year plan. One of the major responsibilities is to put together the university's last plan that will extend from 2005-2010. Unlike the last five year plan we are going to be much more focused. We have three tiered plan here at the University... www.scranton.edu/planning
 - c. Solomeno: Can you define what the environmental scan is?
 - d. Desanto: The environmental scan is a way we scan different landscapes of the University including legal, environment and other areas.
 - e. Murtaugh: You talked about being less dependednt on tuition? Do you plan on fundraising or government?
 - f. Desanto: This is a probably a lofty goal for us, we are heavily dependent on tuition and that comes from our endowment and building that. Once we can build that to a certain point we can use the interest compiled from that and project it into the operating budget
 - g. Solomeno: Of the forty-two people involved in the actual planning of the Five year plan were any of them students.
 - h. Desanto: No we did not have students involved. We are certainly open to having them but the meetings went for a full day and they can be a bit dry. We are open to feedback and getting a reaction from students which is why we are here. I am open to having students and if you would like be willing to appoint any interested students to the committee. I would be more than happy to have them
 - i. Mannion: Who is responsible for implementing the five year plan.
 - j. Desanto: My office is the base that focuses the plan but ultimately it is the administration, faculty, staff and student body that need to embrace this plan. There is a monitoring process that we use to keep track of how well meet our goals.
 - k. Mannion: Thank you very much for letting us hear your proposal and please let us know if there is anything we can do for you.
- III. Executive Reports:
 - a. President's Report:
 1. Campus Discounts
 - a. I forward information to Dr. Carilli and we are going to be checking to make sure that the program is what they claim to be with other Jesuit schools and such in the area and not in the area.
 2. Online Course Evaluations
 - a. We are continuing to meet with Dr. Baille and Prof Kratz and we saw the results of the intersession pilot program and they are looking good. You will see on the agenda that we would like to pass a resolution in support of them now how they are run.
 3. Bill of Rights
 - a. Vinny is working really hard on these and we met this week. We are looking towards the University Council to further that and see what else we want to include that.
 4. Club Policy
 - a. This is on the agenda and when the time comes I am looking forward to discussing that.
 5. Election Guidelines

- a. This is on second reading and I hope that will pass that today as well.
 - b. Treasurer's Report:
 - 1. Included in Packet.
 - 2. The only confusing part of this might be why the Justice club has a credit to their account. They used some of the money from their second account to help pay for a bus.
- IV. New Business (Legislation on First Reading)
 - a. Senbill.025.05 – March of Dimes Appropriation
 - i. Reil: This is towards the funding of folic acid awareness. What this club is asking for is \$400 which is down from last year because they didn't need everything they got last year. One of the reasons they didn't request funding is that they didn't know they were going to need it. And also their moderator is pregnant and they weren't sure if they were going to have the event. The money will go entirely to oranges to hand out as a part of their awareness program.
 - ii. Mannion: What day is folic acid awareness day and where are you going to hosting this awareness and hanging out oranges?
 - iii. Club Officer: The Last Sunday of April and we will just be on the Gunster Patio passing them out to the University community.
 - iv. Solomeno: I think this was a great success last year and good luck with it.
 - v. Motion to move to Second Reading: Casey, Second: Solomeno
 - vi. Mannion: I just want to check with Pat has this gone through the appropriations committee?
 - vii. Wherry: uh No, it came in after we met
 - viii. Mannion: Are they ok with community Service?
 - ix. Morley: They have no community service on file.
 - x. Mannion: When is the last date you can get this money. Our normal process is for this to go through the allocations so we can check on things. So what I would like to do is table this bill.
- V. Senate Standing Committees
 - a. Academic Affairs (Chair: Murtaugh)
 - i. Murtaugh: There is a bill about supporting the Online Course Evaluations. The second thing is I plan on talking with the Assistant Deans office about registration and switching teachers; this is hard because different colleges have different procedures dealing with this transfer of approval. So somewhere along the line we are going to be figuring out who can alert students.
 - ii. Aughenbaugh: Please let me know when you are meeting and I can come with you
 - iii. Murtaugh: Absolutely
 - b. Appropriations (Chair: Wherry)
 - i. There is a Students for Life bill is acceptable and has been amended is on the Agenda.
 - c. Ignatian Awareness: (Chair: Burns)
 - i. No report
 - d. Residence Life and Dining Services: (Chair: Reil)
 - i. We are collaborating the Senior Volunteer and the Café to add more fun events for the 5K run we are going to be doing center stage and getting a DeeJay.
 - ii. Solomeno: I spoke with Anitra about expanding swipe times to other clases. She is still concerned about safety and she said she will even consider revoking that privilege for freshman next year.
 - iii. Nelson: Is there possibility that she might renege access for freshman? And if so what is our exit strategy for that?
 - iv. Solomeno: I think that Residence Life is changing their minds and I don't want to speak for Anitra but I get this impression that they are very listening to Residence Life's argument. And our main argument is that right now the Dorms are not secure. My argument is that we can be more secure by having a record of who is entering what buildings.
 - v. Nelson: I am a little concerned because we might be going in the opposite direction that we wanted to go initially. Why don't you put the arguments on paper and the Resolution says what we want it to say.
 - e. Safety and Crime Prevention (Chair: Sweeney)
 - i. We are setting up a meeting with Chief Pomeger, so if anyone has any ideas or issues that they would like me to bring up with him please let me know.
- VI. Old Business (Legislation on Second Reading)
 - a. Senbill.021.05 Election Guidelines
 - i. Charles Claps Entered 5:10pm did not miss any votes.
 - b. Motion to Approve: Murphy, Second: Wherry
 - c. Unanimously in Favor
- VII. New Business (Legislation on First Reading)
 - a. Senbill.026.05 – Students for Life

- i. Searles: Basically Joe is here to explain what they have in mind but it is to fund a Students for life week
 - ii. Mele: Thank you for having me We will be having a series of speakers each night for a week each addressing different aspects of the Right for Life concept. Four speakers, four nights. The Catholic Studies Program has given us some money to help support the program.
 - iii. Nelson: Are the speakers going to be talking or performing?
 - iv. Mele: Well, Both.
 - v. Murtaugh: I think this is a great program and a great event. I think it is a great proposal and I am very impressed with the planning.
 - vi. Solomeno: Will there be any focus on the death penalty?
 - vii. Mele: The Pro-life stance is inherently against the Death Penalty. The speakers wont be addressing specific issues necessarily.
 - viii. Solomeno: Perhaps we should be dealing with the death penalty more acutely in the pro life week.
 - ix. Mele: I haven't spoken to each speaker in terms of exactly how they plan to incorporate their death penalty opinions into their talks
 - x. Mannion: I think the sentiment of the Senate is that a respect life week should have some aspect of the death penalty argued against during the event. It is probably something we should look into.
 - xi. Reil: I understand that it is respect for life week, but I think that the premiere reason that comes to mind is abortion. I think that having a table and giving away literature will touch more people than a speaker would.
 - xii. Solomeno: I think that if this is a respect life we have an obligation as a part of our catholic identity to speak out against the death penalty.
 - xiii. Steve Clark arrives 5:22pm
 - xiv. Jillian Sommerville arrives 5:24
 - xv. Mannion: Move to second Reading
 - xvi. Motion to Approve: Reil, Second: Murtaugh
 - xvii. All in favor minus – 1 abstention from Jillian Sommerville.
- b. Senbill 024.05 Online Club Evaluations
- i. Nelson: as you may remember we passed a resolution condemning the way they went about doing the online course evaluation. After sitting down with the committee we found out that this system is more in lign with our Jesuit identity. It saves about \$15-20,000 every time there is a course evaluation. There was some confusion to the grade hold policy. The grade restriction means that if you don't finish the evaluation then the grades are held, but if you fill out the evaluation you can see your grades immediately. Tom and I are both in agreement that this is a good thing and this is a good way to gain leverage to get broader access to the evaluation.
 - ii. Motion to move to Second Reading: Murtaugh, Second: Mannion
 - iii. Casey: What was the approval rating?
 - iv. Nelson: 91% We also have the itemized account of everyone that took the survey. The results were pretty good. 68% did not mind the grade restriction. We want to broaden access to the evaluations, to encourage students to take these more seriously
 - v. Motion to approve: Murtaugh, Second: Valla
 - vi. Unanimously in support of the Bill.
- c. Senbill 027.05 Club Policy
- i. Nelson: I will not even look for a vote on these. These are really important and very much needed. I would like to take this seriously. This is probably the biggest thing that we work with each year. It takes quite a bit of time. I am meeting with representatives from the Clubs to make sure that we are meeting their needs. It is going to streamline the process and make it easier for them to exist.
 - ii. Clark: For clubs to go on trips how will this work?
 - iii. Nelson: I took this right out of our bylaws and appropriations needs to approve this before hand.
 - iv. Mannion: Dan used specific time frames to hand in things and hold elections which is something that we need. There are new procedures for forming a club.
 - v. Murphy: There are some drastic changes election procedures.
 - vi. Nelson: The process is a mess, we have no idea who are the officers, the election commissioner will run the club elections, freshman elections and the senate elections.
 - vii. Murtaugh: Will this be an online system?
 - viii. Nelson: No this is going to be a personal elections in person type of thing.
 - ix. Mannion: in the interest of time, everyone please take this home and review it. I will move this to second reading and we will review it next time.
- d. International Politics Club Charter
- i. Motion to approve: Clark, Second: Meyer
 - ii. All in Favor Unanimous approval.

- e. Disc Golf Club Charter
 - i. Morley: Everything is in order
 - ii. Motion to approve: Reil, Second: Kershaw
 - iii. Unanimous Approval all in Favor, 1 Abstention Ken Murphy

VIII. Senate Forum (Continued)

- a. Mannion: Tom has a presentation explaining his proposal to change the way we reelect our constituents
 - i. < Tom explains his bill which outlines the concept that instead of electing senators by class or grade necessarily, but by three major categories: Residents, Commuters, and off-Campus. He includes specific representatives from the colleges and at-large students. The number of students in each category is based on the percentage of the student body that this group consists of. >
 - ii. Mannion: My concern is that the senior class can have more representation than freshman.
 - iii. Murtaugh: That can't happen
 - iv. Mannion: Do the issues that Seniors address as opposed to Freshman are they more different from categorically different representations.
 - v. Solomono: You would be limiting the commuter representation. Because they could only run as a commuter where as now they could run as class officers.
 - vi. Murtaugh: It is very difficult for commuters to win as class officers if they don't live on campus.
 - vii. Nelson: In my tenure alone, we ran freshman year with commuters and there were two others that were representatives of the classes.
 - viii. Wherry: I applaud your initiative. You gain a lot of knowledge as you sit on the senate over time. With this system you are making it difficult to keep good people on the senate.
 - ix. Clark: I think it will be difficult to figure out how many spaces are available on the senate and when people change majors that will affect their eligibility.
 - x. Murphy: I think this will alienate some people because it complicate who is running for which positions.
 - xi. Nelson: This is only the third year of our current model and I hate to change things too much we have rewrote so much that it would bog ourselves down so much that we couldn't represent the students we need to represent.
 - xii. Murtaugh: There are different ways to do this and I think that we can do better. I am open to any changes that are offered.
 - xiii. Mannion: Lets do this, table issue and maybe you can take an in-depth look and represent it. Time my only concern.
- b. Sweeney leaves: 6:05pm

IX. Adjournment:

- a. Motion: Murphy, Second: Wherry
- b. 6:10pm