



University of Scranton Student Senate
Minutes
10 March 2005

- I. Call to Order: 4:35 PM
 - a. Prayer - Solomeno
 - b. Minutes – Motion to Approve: Murtaugh, Second: Solomeno
- II. Executive Reports:
 - a. President's Report:
 - i. Club Policy and Proceedings are on second reading today
 - ii. Elections they are coming up and we are currently looking for an election commissioner to prepare them and then after the break we will have elections.
 - iii. Murtaugh: for freshman elections will it be the same election commissioner
 - iv. Nelson: from now on the election commissioner will be a year long position and so next year the commissioner will be the same for freshman and regular elections in April.
 - v. For the online course evaluations:
 1. We had a meeting on Wed and it went well and they will implement it this semester. There was initially a recommendation to test it one more semester, but it was my recommendation after reviewing all the material that we could forgo that to parallel with their recommendations.
 - b. Treasurer's Report
 - i. The treasurer is in your packet, there is nothing unusual and it is as of today.
- III. Senate Forum
 - a. Jeff Romanecz – Assistant Director of Alumni Relations
 - i. Jeff talked about his vision for building class identity over the next few years to help build alumni relations before students become alumni. He hopes to plan events that reflect the types of events that are hosted throughout the year for alumni that are directed towards different classes still on the University. He also talked about the Alumni Relations office and its function and mission.
- IV. Senate Standing Committee's (Cont.)
 - a. Academic Affairs (Tom Murtaugh)
 - i. We are hoping to do some research over Spring break about online course evaluations, which we hope to present to the faculty senate
 - ii. With instructor changes we had a meeting about that today, there are a whole host of things that happen when there is a change, so someone in the line of events someone will be notifying students, probably from the Registrar's office. We are hoping to have more information after March 14th when the provost meets with someone from the registrar's office.
 - iii. Also the debate team funding has been cut for next year. They have only spent about \$6000 this year. The administration is pushing this under the office of Student Government, which I would not like to see. They used to give out scholarships to get students to debate. I think it is too large a budget and should be placed on a higher priority than labeling it a club and putting it under our budget. I think it is a classic liberal art study of rhetoric and I think it should stay. The varsity basketball team gets over a \$180,000 and think that the Debate team is our academic representation around the country.
 - iv. Nelson: What is the time line for us to expect a bill?
 - v. Solomeno: I am a member of the Debate team, I can speak to the fact that the budget was \$10,000 that also goes towards paying for a coach. I spoke to Fr. Pilarz about this and he explained why it had to be cut due to budgetary reasons. He suggested a similar course of action putting it under Student Government. They view this as a correction of something that it should have been done years ago. I don't oppose the idea, but the reality is that it has been changed and we need to work from there. I did some research and of all the twenty-eight debate Jesuit schools all but four have debate teams.
 - vi. Murtaugh: If you want this program to still go it needs substantially more funding than student government can offer.

- b. Appropriations (Chair: Wherry)
 - i. Nothing to Report and not Present
- c. Ignatian Awareness: (Chair: Burns)
 - i. Nothing to Report
- d. Residence Life and Dining Services: (Chair: Reil)
 - i. The Café is going to be implementing a Pasta Sunday on Sundays offering different kinds of pasta and garlic breads. They are looking to do something similar for Saturday nights as well. They have gotten some complaints about the second floor with its ability to provide for vegetarians. so they are adding some vegetarian soups. they are also going to add a Krispy Kreme Kiosk. Also in the long term they are looking to add a Chick Fillet on the second floor. It will hopefully work like the Quiznos with the meal plan option.. Ted would also like to see more flex money distributed to students.
 - ii. Nelson: Is the Chick Fillet something we want to do?
 - iii. Reil: It is something that Students want and Ted wants.
 - iv. Solomeno: Ted really likes Chick Fillet Not only because it is crispy and meaty but also because it has been very successful at other institutions.
 - v. Murtaugh: All commuters have superflex so we pay the actual price and the second floor is significantly more expensive. I don't want our entire kitchen to become one big franchise that becomes significantly more expensive.
 - vi. Reil: This will operate like Quizno's operates. And I think that after the Granteeds situation students do want more options to get there food from.
 - vii. Davis: Can we get take out for dinner on the third floor.
 - viii. Solomeno: The reason it isn't take out, is that they want to leave it open and they can offer an all you can eat option.
 - ix. Clark: Can we look into getting more of the Quizno's subs or vary the ones that are offered?
- e. Safety and Crime Prevention (Chair: Sweeney)
 - i. We are meeting with Chief Pomeger so if anyone has any issues?
 - ii. Murtaugh: A car was stolen in the St. Thomas Lot and there are cameras but apparently the car was out of the view. I don't know why one of the cameras wasn't able to catch anything. It was over several days they don't know what hour.
 - iii. Mannion: Can we look into total coverage of the St. Thomas Lot.
 - iv. Nelson: Last year we wanted blue lights systems instead of cameras so he throws that back at you just be weary.

V. New Business (Legislation on First Reading)

- a. Senbill 029.05 SNA
 - i. Burns: This is to allocate funds to pay \$2,200.00 to pay for the Stat Conference. I went on the trip sophomore year and it was a good experience
 - ii. Nelson: Why is the trip more than initially expected?
 - iii. Burns: We underestimated the flight and hotel information for the State conference in the fall, now the national conference is going to cost more than last year due to flight and hotel arrangements.
 - iv. Solomeno: Do the club do any fundraising? And do they have their fundraising requirements?
 - v. Morely: Yes they have three.
 - vi. Mannion: Last year they were in accordance with all our requirements. Actually they were club of the year so that isn't going to count against them.
 - vii. Murtaugh: Since there is only four students going, will they be the only ones that benefit or will the whole club benefit?
 - viii. Burns: The whole club because they bring back helpful information.
 - ix. Nelson: Did you pay for the state conference yourselves or with allocated funds?
 - x. Burns: allocated funds.
 - xi. Clark: The expectations with national conferences is that the club as a whole benefits and we do this for a number of clubs. My question is that we don't fund for food do we?
 - xii. Morely: We can fund for food because that is the general prerogative of the conference there is a programmatic need.
 - xiii. Mannion: I am moving this to second reading.
 - xiv. Motion to Approve: Solomeno, Second: Dennis
 - xv. 17 in favor, 2 Abstentions (Murphy and Murtaugh)

VI. Old Business (Legislation on Second Reading)

- a. Senbill 027.05 Club Policies and Procedures
 - i. Phone Rings – no apparent reason
 - ii. Mannion: The packet is not included in the packet you should all have read it in the past few weeks and we discussed it last meeting.

- iii. Nelson: One change since the last time is that we moved club service requirements from two to three at the request of club leaders so we accommodated them by doing that.
 - iv. Murtaugh: Is Pat ok with this?
 - v. Nelson: Yes she is
 - vi. Motion to Approve: Burns, Second: Clark
 - vii. All in Favor, 19 in Favor
- VII. New Business (Legislation on First Reading)
- a. Senbill 025.05 March of Dimes
 - i. Mannion: We tabled this in the last meeting because we thought there was a discrepancy in the community service. There was no discrepancy and they have completed their community service so that is not an issue. They are looking for \$400 to buy 13 cartons of oranges.
 - ii. Nelson: this is the Third time that this club has put forth the same request for additional funding without following the rules. Is there a reason?
 - iii. Reil: I told the club that they cant keep doing this and that it is better for them to simply put in the request. There response is that they weren't sure they were going to be able to do the event.
 - iv. Murtaugh: Move to Second Reading
 - v. Motion to Approve: Murtaugh, Second: Dennis
 - vi. All in Favor 19 Votes.
 - b. Senbill 030.05 Instructor changes
 - i. Searles: It is very simple it is a recommendation for student notification when there is an instructor change.
 - ii. Mannion: What is the purpose of this bill?
 - iii. Webby: That we want to be notified in the case of a change
 - iv. Murtaugh: We might not need it this early, but it is good to have.
 - v. Kershaw: I think it is a good idea, but we might not need it.
 - vi. Murtaugh: I think it is just common courtesy everyone else gets notification.
 - vii. Flynn: What about the classes that are listed TBA.
 - viii. Murtaugh: that would not be included it is a different case.
 - ix. Aughenbaugh: I think that TBA is important information.
 - x. Clark: Motion to move the bill to second reading.
 - xi. Motion to Aprove: Clark, Second: Valla
 - xii. 18 in Favor, 1 Abstention (Kershaw)
 - c. Senbill 0.31.05 Track Club Appropriations
 - i. Clark: After talking to Kevin Southers he expressed interest in a track Club and we approved the Track Club, now its time to go to meets. We worked out the details the only thing they are spending money is transportation to represent the university.
 - ii. Murphy: As far as Gas is it 37 cents or how do we reimburse for that. I am wondering about how we calculated \$200.
 - iii. Clark: Most of the request was to rent vans. So we eliminating the vans and gave them more for Gas. So there might be more than one car and he was okay with that. What they are asking for isn't more than they can spend.
 - iv. Murphy: How many people are in this club? Is it going to be enough to cover all the entry fees?
 - v. Clark: This is all they asked for. They are being very respective of our budget and they can work out hot to pay for more students.
 - vi. Casey: I don't see any reason that there shouldn't be a Track Team. Will there be any cases where they compete against actual varsity teams
 - vii. Morley: There are a lot of clubs as well as Varsity, what ever division your school is you can compete in that league. For crew they are allowed to compete but they are put in a different categories.
 - viii. Meyer: I support them but is it a little too early for them to compete?
 - ix. Morley: they have been practicing even before they were a club they are fully ready to compete
 - x. Dennis: It is my understanding that the majority of the members are on the cross country team. So I would guess that they are in fantastic shape.
 - xi. Casey: I see these runners on the commons all the time
 - xii. Mannion: Move to Second Reading
 - xiii. Motion to approve: Solomeno, Second: Burns
 - xiv. 18 in Favor, 1 Abstention (Meyer)
 - xv. Morley: The student senate balance is: \$12,172
 - d. Senbill 0.32.05 School Spirit

- i. Mannion: Because the lady Royals have done so well and are the number one seed. They are playing at home for the 16 and 8 rounds. This bill will allocated \$400 to give out Scranton towels and shirts. Half will be spent on half and the second on Saturday.
 - ii. Murtaugh: Is the girls team spending any money on this?
 - iii. Nelson: The cost is being split in thirds between the athletic department, our office and the SAAC.
 - iv. Mannion: the money will probably be less than \$400 but because we didn't have a definite amount we asked for 400.
 - v. Clark: How many shirts and towels are we getting? and can we ask for royal card?
 - vi. Mannion: We will probably leave the distribution mechanism up to Brendan about how to distribute the shirts.
 - vii. Davis: Connors went to a conference over the summer involving athletic leadership and he has tried to bring a substantial amount of work back on to the University Campus.
 - viii. Casey: Motion to move to second reading, Second: Valla
 - ix. Motion to Approve: Flynn, Second: Greg
 - x. 18 in Favor, 1 Abstention (Webby)
- e. Italian Club Charter
 - i. Morley: They have expressed a great interest in it for a long time.
 - ii. Mannion: Everything is in order we just want to be weary that as we approve them we have to spend money on them and it opens the door to every nationality.
 - iii. Solomeno: I just want o point out that we have an Asian Club and an Irish Club.
 - iv. Reil: Is a point going to come when we have to stop approving clubs?
 - v. Clark: I have a question about Italian dinner other than that I have no problems. And as many clubs as we are chartering there are clubs that die as well
 - vi. Ken Murphy Leaves: 5:46pm
 - vii. Motion to Approve: Murtaugh, Second: Dennis
 - viii. 17 in Favor, 1 Abstention (Clark)
- f. Senbill 028.05 Election Guidelines Amendment
 - i. Murtaugh: I hope every received my email, basically we would keep president and vice president with four representatives the idea is to get students to actually represent the groups as their names imply. Plus two senators from each school. We will better serve all the academic interest. I think that some groups are underrepresented.
 - ii. Solomeno: I share Tom's vie that are not involved enough in the academic issues, and that more student representations. But just as recently as last year we have had a difficulty filling the offices of the senate. I am weary of creating more barriers of getting people involved.
 - iii. Murtaugh: most of the issues that affect students are academic so I think that we need more representation.
 - iv. Clark: First the problem with the plan is that if someone is to change their major they are going to prevent them from staying in office. We need to keep the option of deciding on the major as separate from Student Government. If you took a look at what schools are represented here you would find that it is pretty varied with a lot of different representative. Before we change it we need to look if we have the fallen into the problems you are suggesting. We have residents, commuters, off-campus, RAs and athletes. I think this is a too radical change
 - v. Murtaugh: There is no committee to discuss this where can we discuss this? There isn't enough time to debate this out well?
 - vi. Mannion: This is the formal debate where we can discuss this. If you want informal discussion then you can create that
 - vii. Solomeno: I want to remind senators that there is no 6:00pm limit and I am willing to discuss this for as long as it takes. There is precedent for changing the constitution. We sat worked to revise the constitution and bylaws.
 - viii. Mannion: We are willing to stay
 - ix. Nelson: The precedent has been set that the president calls a committee. to make necessary revisions. I saw no need to do that this year and so I didn't do it.
 - x. Casey: I completely agree that we need to focus on the academics but I think that we can do more within the committees to get more of a focus on specific issues that we are missing.
 - xi. Murtaugh: I think we are misinterpreting the bill, the class representation and then the college representative. If you don't feel that there is no need for college representative then scratch that.
 - xii. Solomeno: I am opposed to this but practically, we not going to have the body to fill our senate. I think we are open: Commuters can run fro class office just like anyone else in there class
 - xiii. Kershaw:What happens ten years down the line if the University changes its policy about living on campus and off campus, we would have to change the senate. Now as it stands we are able to survive that change smoothly.

- xiv. Motion to move to Second reading: Clark, Second: Solomeno
- xv. Dennis: I think it works it self out that we represent people that are a little different in standing than else
- xvi. Sweeney Leaves 6:05pm
- xvii. Flynn Leave 6:08pm
- xviii. Solomeno: I would say that I am a sophomore class officer, I deal with off-campus rights, and public safety issues and dining services. If you are a senator then it is your right to get as many issues on the table. I think we should spend time dealing with community issues not restructuring
- xix. Clark: I don't think the change is what this body wants right now.
- xx. Neudeck Leave: 6:10pm
- xxi. Motion to Approve: Clark, Second: Meyers
- xxii. 1 in favor- Murtaugh, 2 Abstention: Webby, Balbuena. 12 Deny
- xxiii. Bill Fails

VIII. Senate Forum

- a. Casey: I just wanted to let everyone know that there is a Safe Spring Break program being offered by Chew and we need volunteers if anyone is interested please see me.
- b. Nelson: You guys are going to be receiving an email about what sizes about sweatshirts you would like
- c. Murtaugh: Can their be a special committee to discuss the idea of restructuring.
- d. Mannion that has to be a formal Motion, is that a motion?
- e. Murtaugh: Yes
- f. Mannion all those in favor of an Ad-Hoc Committee, Balbuena seconds.
- g. 4 in favor, Motion fails.
- h. Solomeno: I just received an email about Parade and making sure we behave. I have a question. Several student approached me about public safety stationing officers outside all the residence halls citing anyone that is inebriated my question is are they going to be doing that ? if Yes is that the most effective way to keep the campus safe.
- i. Yusinski: I met with Public Safety and their primary concern is out of town guests and the parade goers.
- j. Solomeno: The Student Bill of Rights and I met with Abigail Byman and she is very excited about this.
- k. Reil, Webby and Murtaugh leave at 6:15pm
- l. Motion to Adjourn: Clark, Second: Dennis.

IX. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to Adjourn: Murtaugh, Second: Reil
- b. 6:20 PM