

University of Scranton Student Senate
Minutes
9 September 2005

I. 4:32 Call to Order/Prayer

II. Executive Reports

A. Presidents Report (Solomeno)

1. Facility location next time will be in Brennan.
2. The Summer Student Senate Training Seminar at Chapman Lake was a success.
3. Freshmen Election Committee Nominations.
 - a. Kevin DeCastro
 - Motion to approve nomination (Davis)
 - Second (Rengert)
 - All 18 votes in favor.
 - Nomination granted
 - b. Joanna _____
 - Motion to approve (Sweeney)
 - Second (Dempsey)
 - All 18 votes in favor
 - Nomination granted
 - c. Tom Murtaugh
 - Motion to approve (Webby)
 - Second (Meade)
 - All 18 votes in favor
 - Nomination granted
4. New student center. Should be completed by Spring of 2006 or at latest Fall 2007.
5. Hurricane Katrina. The Senate's response has been outstanding. There have also been a few stand-out individuals like Colleen Rengert, Katie Mckenna, and Jackie Tarantola. Over 500 meal swipes were donated by students to the relief effort.
6. Loyola New Orleans. A letter has been distributed in each of the senator's mailboxes.

B. Treasurer's Report (Banta)

1. Budget. Presently, our budget stands at \$378,200, that's over \$70,000 in excess.
2. Club Meeting. Scheduled for September 21, 2005. All club information is now available online.
 - a. Davis: I think we should have a detailed report from the Treasurer in the future.

III. Senate Standing Committees

- A. Academic Affairs (Rengert). We are working on a bill to recommend publicized online teacher evaluation forms. I've spoken with a few Department Chairs, including Dr. Baril, Dr. Cannon, and Dr. Whitaker. I'll talk more about it comes to the floor.
- B. Appropriations (Sweeney). We've been working on club allocations.
- C. Ignation Awareness (Hayden). We've been working on Holy Days awareness with Sister Bernadette.
- D. Residence Life and Dining Services (Clark). We're working on a few different things. Some of the items we've been working on include extended swipe access, possibilities of using the meal plan in the Hyland Café, and the idea of Superflex for Off-Campus residence. In addition, we are also working on ideas such as Blue Poweraid in the cafeteria, a light by the Linden apartments and extend hours for the Driscoll mailboxes.

Casey: The traffic light would fall under the category of Safety and Crime Prevention.

Aughenbaugh: We are working on that.
- E. Safety and Crime Prevention (Aughenbaugh). I've met with the Public Safety Chief regarding citations, and he stated that "There's noting out of the ordinary." We're working at spreading the idea on the Public Safety Website with an "Ask the Chief" section. We've also discussed possibly having me and a few members from my committee do a ride along with Public Safety one night.

- IV. University Wide Committees. Did not meet yet this term.
- V. Old Business. None.
- VI. New Business.
- A. Introduction of Senbill 050.05 Appropriation of Funds to International Politics Club.
1. Webby: This club was formed last year, however they never received any money. They are only asking for a few necessities for the two debates they are planning this year. They are requesting debate packets for the new members, and curtains.
 2. Casey: The President of the International Politics Club, Frances Gradijan is present. I'm going to allow him the opportunity to speak.
 3. Gradijan: 30 Students met in the wolves den recently. Our objective is learn about different nations and international issues.
 - Motion to move to second reading (Sweeney)
 - Second (Clark)
 4. Clark: Just a clarification. You've stated that you are asking for 45 packets and had 30 students interested. How do you explain the extra packets?
 5. Gradijan: Those would be for our existing members.
 - Motion to approve (Davis)
 - Second (Rengert)
 - All 18 votes in favor
 - Bill passes.
- B. Introduction of Senbil051.05 Appropriation of Funds to HPO
1. Molitoris: One of HPO's main goals is to encourage and support those seeking further education or employment in the health related field. They are asking money for trips to visit medical schools as well as two events.
 2. Aughenbaugh: Does the \$650 request for the bus include the total bus cost?
 3. Molitoris: Yes.
 4. Solomeno: The club does also collect dues.
 5. Akerman: How much are member dues?
 6. Casey: As a past member, I believe they were around \$12.
 7. Meyer: Regarding the \$400 request for the Holiday Dinner, where exactly is this being designated.
 8. Casey: Most of it is for food and decoration, but it is open to the entire school.
 - Motion to move to second reading (Aughenbaugh)
 - Second (Rengert)
 - Bill moves to second reading
 9. Davis: \$650 for a bus seems excessive. Where do these buses go?
 10. Molitoris: Area medical schools including Temple and Thomas Jefferson.
 11. Akerman: We're not looking at an extremely long ride, are we? A day trip to Philadelphia seems reasonable. As president of the International Business Club, I know it costs us the same for the chartered bus to go to New York City.
 12. Solomeno: I would like to remind senators that we have approved coach buses in the past.
 13. Clark: I have a couple of reservations. I'm concerned about our budget. Do we pay for other clubs to go on trips?
 14. Sweeney: In many cases, we pay for speakers, that come to campus. Instead of having a speaker come here, we send them there.
 - Motion to approve (Akerman)
 - Second (Joswick)
 - 17 Votes in Favor, 1 abstention (Davis)
 - Bill passes
- C. Senbill.052.05 – Resolution regarding student swipe access
1. Meyer: This was approved in last year's senate, but nothing was carried through with it, so I've decided to introduce it again.
 2. Davis: I do think that by expanding swipe access we would have a more accurate account of who is coming in the buildings. Would this be available to all students?

3. Solomeono: Only those residing on-campus.
 - Motion to move to second reading (Rengert)
 - Second (Joswick)
 - Bill moves to second reading
 4. Davis: No action was taken after the previous version of this bill was passed?
 5. Solomeno: Dan and Chris met with Kent Drake-Deese. It was put in someone's inbox and never taken care of.
 6. Sweeney: Was Chief Palmer consulted on this issue?
 7. Dean Yusinski: If ResLife never responded to the resolution, it may have been halted by my office.
 8. Solomeno: For the record, we never received a written answer from the administration.
 9. Clark: Could we ask Anitra's perspective on the issue?
 10. Dean Yusinski: When looking at the resolution, a lot of issues raised huge concerns regarding our urban campus, and the ultimate security of our students.
 11. Dempsey: Can't all Freshmen and Sophomores swipe into each others' dorms?
 12. Solomeno: Freshmen can swipe into freshmen dorms at reasonable visitation hours. All students may swipe into Collegiate Hall, but not the floors of Redington.
 13. Davis: As an RA, I agree with many of Anitra's concerns, and I feel like there is constantly someone to open the door for you. It doesn't take that much effort for someone to come down and get you.
 14. Solomeno: I think student government should embrace security overall, whereas with Kevin's proposal, we may be adding to security by providing tangible proof of all entering the residence halls.
 15. Clark: At our training session this summer, I spoke with Dr. Carilli about maybe implementing a security guard in each residence hall and he told me that space was an issue.
 16. Davis: This question may be more for Greg, but when do most acts of theft occur?
 17. Solomeno: I've had several conversations with Kent Drake-Deese. Theft, according to him occurs after most frequently after midnight on weekends.
 18. Aughenbaugh: For the reasons stated, I have a lot of reservations. Maybe what we need is a trial period? This way we could know if things changed for the better or worse.
 19. Akerman: I think we would limit it to weekdays.
 20. Meade: Where is the rationale for freshmen receiving swipe access as opposed to sophomores?
 21. Solomeno: This comes from a student life committee. Their opinion was that freshmen need more social opportunities to make friends, and that by junior year, students had already developed a friend base.
 22. Clark: Because this bill may not be appropriate at the time being, especially if our Dean won't support it, I suggest we table this bill.
 - Motion to table (Meyer)
 - Second (Davis)
 - Bill tabled
 23. Casey: I'm going to send this bill back to the ResLife committee for further evaluation.
- D. Senbill 053.05 – Resolution Regarding Awareness of Holy Days of Obligation
1. Hayden: We met as a committee about ideas to promote Iggy. Personally, I think that there should be flyers about mass times on the Holy Days of Obligation because students aren't aware of mass times. I'd hate to send kids to Hell for lack of communication.
 2. Casey: I feel the same. But I feel you are jumping ahead too quickly. I table this bill.
- E. Senbill 054.05 – Resolution Regarding Online Course Evaluations.
1. Rengert: Before I begin, I motion to table this bill, but let me explain. This is a huge issue. The basic premise of this resolution is to recognize the fact that students are penalized for not completing online course evaluations, and that they should receive some benefit for completing them. I surveyed several Jesuit Universities, and found out that only 1 institution has online course evaluations, while 2 are looking at them.

2. Hayen: Someday I'm going to be a teacher. I feel like having these evaluations publicized would invade my personal life and right to privacy.
 3. Solomeno: To offer a brief history of course evaluations, many of these are used not as evaluations, rather used as a tool to give instructors tenure. This is not ratemyprofessor.com. This is a serious issue.
 - Bill Tabled
- F. Senbill.055.05 – Resolution Regarding Allocation of Funds to Executive Branch
1. Solomeno: This money is very much needed at this time. Previously, our webmaster was paid in Walmart gift certificates. A change was needed, so we proposed this bill.
 2. Davis: Is this an annual increase?
 3. Solomeno: This would add an extra \$5,000 to the present Budget allocated to the Executive.
 4. Clark: If our balance is around \$21,000, I really feel like we should know where this money is going and I think we need a bill or maybe an amendment requiring a detailed Treasurer's Report.
 5. Solomeno: We don't need a bill for that. We could do that if you would like.
 6. Dempsey: Where exatley would this money be going?
 7. Solomeno: \$2,000 would be going to Joe and Tessa's salary, \$1000 to the office, \$1200 for printing, \$800 for the telephone bill.
 8. Clark: I don't question the need for these funds, I would just like a detailed Treasurer's Report in the future to check our spending.
 9. Solomeno: If this is the decision of the senate, we could include this if you'd like, but if you're worried about the executives taking control of funds, that would be virtually impossible because everything the executive does must go through Dean Yusinski and Dr. Carilli.
 - Motion to move to second reading (Dempsey)
 - Second (Joswick)
 - Bill moves to second reading
 - Motion to approve (Davis)
 - Second (Aughenbaugh)
 - 16 votes in favor, 2 abstentions
 - bill passes
- G. Petition for Charter – Finance Club
1. Clark: This seems like a legitimate organization, except for one key thing I just noticed. Most of the signatures are in the same handwriting.
 2. Casey: It doesn't say that there have to be signatures, if you want to make that a change, feel free to draft a bill.
 - Motion to move to second reading (Rengert)
 - Second (Meyer)
 - Bill moves to second reading
 - Motion to approve (Hayden)
 - Second (Clark)
 - 18 votes in favor, charter granted
- H. Petition for Charter – Italian Club
1. Casey: It already has a charter, this petition is dismissed
- I. Petition for Charter – Health and Fitness Club
- Motion to move to second reading (Clark)
 - Second (Hayden)
 - Motion to approve (Davis)
 - Second (Rengert)
 - All 18 in favor, charter granted
- J. Petition for Charter – Students in Free Enterprise
1. Clark: Some of the names on this petition aren't printed.
 - Motion to move to second reading (Joswick)
 - Second (Meyer)

- Motion to approve (Davis)
- Second (Clark)
- All 18 votes in favor, charter granted

K. Petition for Charter - Circle K

1. Solomeno: I know we are all getting tired and are moving through these charters rather quickly, but I please ask that you consider clubs thoroughly before we approve them. Once we grant a charter, we are almost always expected to later appropriate funds, funds that are limited.
2. Rengert: Does this club require national dues?
3. Casey: I don't know.
4. Aughenbaugh: I think this is a reasonable organization.
5. Meyer: Education clubs have similar goals.
6. Molitoris: This bill doesn't seem legitimate in that it's not in the proper format.
7. Casey: The fact that it doesn't have a cover page is mainly my responsibility. It was brought to me and I sponsored it. If chartered, I will ensure a cover page.
8. Clark: Maybe we should change our allocation goals. Would you guys be willing to consider a certain period of being chartered before an organization can request funds?
9. Solomeno: If the senate wishes, it could so introduce a bill.
 - Motion to move to second reading (Rengert)
 - Second (Joswick)
 - Motion to approve charter (Molitoris)
 - Second (Dempsey)
 - 15 in favor, 3 abstentions, charter granted.

VII. Senate Forum.

1. Rengert: I was curious as to the senator's feelings as to why teacher evaluation ratings are down?
2. Hayden: I feel it's personal expression. I felt like a jerk, sitting in the teacher's classroom giving a mean or harsh rating, especially if I thought he/she may see it. Being in the classroom makes you more honest.
3. Clark: I personally think students are going into the evaluations angry, which effects their evaluation.
4. Joswick: For me the big concern was free time versus class time. If I was forced to sit down during my free time when I should be studying for finals, or packing to go home, I would be more likely to be in a bad mood as opposed to being in a classroom where it was almost a break from lecture.
5. Davis: Let's be serious. This isn't a huge penalty we're talking about. It's a 10 day hold on your grades. Odds are, your checking away messages anyway. Let's make online evaluations mandatory and have students deal with it.
6. Meade: I find them tedious, and time consuming. As a bio major, I had to do like 10 evaluations last year, including my lab instructors. I really had better ways of filling my time.
7. Meyer: This is a little off-topic, but at training over the summer, I remember the college night out thing. Was it scheduled for the 22nd or 26th?
8. Casey: 22nd.
9. Searles: I would just like to comment that their will be a leader's round table discussion (planned by Amy Paciej) on September 14th. I will send out an email—but mark your calendars now.
10. Clark: How does everyone feel about being on camera?
11. Solomeno: We could suspend the rules and discuss it, if that was the consensus of the senate. Do you want to do that?
 - Motion to suspend the rules (Rengert)
 - Second (Meyer)

BACK IN SESSION

- Motion to adjourn (Hayden)
- Second (Searles)