



Student Senate Minutes
19 October 2006

I Prayer/minutes/roll

- Motion to approve minutes (Valla)
- Second (Valla)
- Casey: We were supposed to have a presentation tonight from Attorney Jones but he is not feeling well.

II. Executive Reports

A. President's Report

- The special election will be Tuesday. It will be run through the election commission. Encourage freshman to vote online on myscranton. The results will be announced at 8:00pm in the Wolves Den.
- Training was this past Thursday. Thanks to those of you who were there. If you were not there, please see us. Our handbook will be coming soon from Ian.
- Our next meeting will be November 2nd, and it will be open to public in Collegiate Hall.
- Tonight there is a bill about the future of intersession. This bill is important and comes at Dr. Baillie's request.

B. Treasurer's Report (McKieran)

- As I mentioned last time, the "Revisions" section of the spreadsheet will fluctuate for the next few meetings based on my progress reviewing the spring allocations. When my review is complete, I will inform the Senate of the total revisions.
- We submitted the request that additional funds be transferred to the Student Government Expense Account. Results are pending.
- Due to an out of town conference, I was unable to attend training last week. I would like to extend my willingness to speak with any Senator or group of Senators regarding the funding requisition process and the spring allocation process. Please consider contacting me through phone or email, or, of course, please address concerns to me at Senate meetings.
- Joe, Ian, and I will collaborate to create "how-to" films for club members attempting to fill out paperwork. If you are interested in assisting us with these short films, please let me know.

C. Secretary's Report (O'Hagan)

- There will be a student government barbeque this Saturday, October 21st on the Alumni Green at 1:00pm.

D. Director of Communication's Report (Mullin)

- The Heritage Committee is going to start meeting about a new calendar. Our first meeting is Wednesday at 7:00pm.

E. Director of Technology's Report (Casabona)

- I changed the website for the Freshman Election. It gives information about the candidates and tells how to vote.
- I will be going to the Information Resources Advisory tomorrow and I will mention our newsletter.

III. Senate Standing Committees

A. Academic Affairs (REngert)

- We did not meet.
- We decided we will now meet in the library so we will be accessible to students.

- We plan to meet with Dr. Baillie about Dead Week.
- There has been talk about making changes to the Political Science department.
- Casey: Dr. Baillie included letter with survey results

B. Appropriations (Joswick)

- We did not meet.

C. Ignatian Awareness (Molitoris)

- I disseminate information about lecture that pertains to Ignatian values. I'm not sure of the date but I will forward information.

D. Residence Life and Dining Services (Bauer)

- We did not meet.
- October 30th will be our Dining Services night.
- We have a meeting October 25th to go over details for our event.

E. Crime Prevention and Safety (Hayden)

- Some of us met. We talked to Chief Pomager. We will be attending monthly Public Safety meetings.
- Casey: Will you still be patrolling with Public Safety?
- Hayden: Yes.

IV. University Wide Committees

A. President's Cabinet (Bauer)

- We discussed Intersession and got some feedback. There was good discussion from those who did and did not participate in Intersession.

B. University Council (Konzman)

- We discussed the Academic calendar for 2007 – 2008. It is currently being reviewed. The fall semester has already been approved.
- We also talked about Intersession.

V. Old business (no old business)

VI. New Business

A Petition for Charter - India Club

- Parth Nanavati: I am a graduate student and I have been here for 3 semesters. I am looking to reactivate the India club. There are many students from India at the University and we already meet informally. This club would promote Indian culture, festivals and food and would be open to whole university community. This club existed 2 years ago. This will give an idea to students back home to come to the University of Scranton when they hear there is a club like this here.
- Hayden: At our last meeting we funded the Asia club. Have you talked to them? Did you know? That this club existed? Maybe you could work together.
- Nanavati: We knew there was an Asia club, but it was our understanding that they are not too active. They work more for planning trips. We would like to focus on Indian culture. We need some funds to organize events on campus.
- Zelno: That is a good point. There are many Indian International Students. This club will attract more. It is a good idea.
- Rengert: Our school lacks diversity. Anything that will influence students and expose them to culture is a good thing. We just need to be careful with funding.
- Joswick: Just to forewarn you, we are in a bind with our budget. It difficult to fund. Talk with the Asia Club and United Colors. United Colors is an organization set up to spread diversity of culture. They were allocated a lot. Some of your activities might be able to be funded with them. Talk to Jeannine Delgado. She would be happy to help.

- Nanavati: I will talk to her. I have attended a United Colors function and would surely like to join them. We're not considering anything with funding yet. Our biggest festival would be a New Year celebration in November. We will probably need \$500.
- Amy: Your mission is great. In terms of funding, there are other options. You can collect dues and do fundraising.
- Solomeno: How many Indian students are currently attending school here?
- Nanvati: There are at least 50 students. There are 20 graduate students.
- Solomeno: That is great. Maybe you should reach out to Sherman Wooden to talk to about funding. There are grants for diversity that he knows more about, especially for celebration in November.
- Motion to move to second reading (Meyer)
- Second (French)
- Dean McShea: I have a point of information. Are the members on the charter graduate or undergraduate students? Funding for graduate clubs is different.
- Rengert: Does the graduate school charter clubs?
- Dean McShea: There is a graduate student government. This body has approved clubs, but chartered clubs are mostly undergraduate. It does get complicated.
- Votes in favor 20, Votes Against 0, Abstentions 0
- Charter granted to the India Club.

B. Senbill.026.06 Student Senate Resolution Regarding the Future of Intersession

- Rengert: This bill is the result of Dr. Baillie's request. Intersession is a big issue. There was an even split on the survey. We thought we should keep Intersession, and we give different reasons in the bill. Intersession provides a unique experience.
- Joswick: We talked about this last year with Dr. Carilli. It is a unique opportunity and helps with semesters that have hard classes or if you have a hard test like the LSAT to take. It also helps the 4 year graduation rate which helps the university in ranking. Intersession provides the opportunity for service trips and study abroad.
- Solomeno: Should we insert language about the 4 year graduation rate?
- Casey: That is a good amendment.
- Patro: I'm an occupational therapy major and need intersession to graduate in 5 years. We have clinicals with 80 hours. We need it to meet the requirements for a 5 year program.
- French: What are the arguments against?
- Solomeno: Look in the packet. There are pros and cons listed. It lays out the arguments from the Intersession Task Force. This was an item discussed at the University Council and it was unanimous to keep it. The only concern is pedagogical due to the result in loss of days for intersession.
- Brian: I think we should keep intersession but its discuss purpose. It was originally for innovative classes, but has drifted to normal classes. In what form should we keep it? Should we move in a new direction?
- Hernandez: What does it mean under the cons when it list cross enrollment and BISK?
- Solomeno: There is an opportunity to study for the semester at another school such as Georgetown, or Fordham. I don't know what BISK is.
- Dean McShea: I believe it is the specific name of a defined program. It is a Jesuit program on a different schedule.
- Molitoris: Intersession is expensive for housing and credit rate. Some would love to do Intersession but can't afford to. Maybe we could change the wording in the bill to include something about reduction of the cost of credits.
- Hayden: That is a separate issue and I think it should be a separate bill.
- Rengert: Intersession brings in a lot of money for our school. I believe it brings in 3 million dollars. This is one of the administration's big pros. I don't think we should bring in reasons to contradict keeping it.
- Valla: Enrollment is declining for Intersession.

- Greg: Is housing free during Intersession?
- Konzman: Student pay for the course. Housing is free for on campus students, but meals are not.
- Hayden: Students who take a class or play a sport pay for meals. For freshman, meal plans are required.
- Meyer: I have done Intersession every year. Freshman year I lived on campus and was required to have a meal plan. Sophomore year I lived in an off-campus house and only paid credits. Housing is free for upperclassmen if they have no meal plan. It is more money for freshman. For others, the only increase is the price per credits. Students can look into studying abroad. I'm going to Guadalajara over Intersession. There is 1/3 rate of tuition and cost of airfare. This is something great about our school. It provides the opportunity to have cultural experiences, which adds to the Jesuit mission.
- Motion to move to second reading (Rengert)
- Second (Valla)
- Solomeno: Fr. Pilarz posed a question about whether it should be mandatory 2 out of 4 years. He asked how students would feel about that.
- Hayden: It is not right to force kids to pay full price.
- Joswick: I do not think it should be mandatory. It is hard for a lot of people to pay tuition for 2 semesters. That might hurt enrollment. I would give students one reason not to go to Scranton when trying to decide on a school.
- Meyer: I agree that it is a bad idea. Some take advantage of Intersession to work. Making Intersession mandatory would change it. People choosing to be there make it different than fall or spring.
- Molitoris: Maybe it could be made more attractive so students would want to do it. The school shouldn't make students do it.
- Hernandez: I live a considerable distance away. This is a great advantage of our school. It gives the opportunity to spend considerable time at home.
- Jones: There is a big marketing potential that could result in making more money from Intersession.
- Rengert: Some of the reasons we listed in the bill for keeping Intersession wouldn't be possible if it was mandatory. I would like to amend section IV.A.1 to say that the "University continues the Intersession program as a voluntary option for students."
- Motion (Joswick)
- Second (Valla)
- 19 Votes in favor ,0 Votes against ,1 Abstention (Regnert)

VII. Senate Forum

- Solomeno: Fr. Pilarz brought up a question relating to the Freshman experience. He wants us to find ways to improve. There is a good retention rate, but wants to improve it. What are some areas to improve? Last year we developed heritage week, but we never had it.
- Casey: There is a high retention rate, but it is not perfect.
- Jones: I'm in SEL II and we talked about this. Freshman Seminar could be better. It depends on the teacher. Maybe we could develop a better curriculum or have upperclassmen come in to talk about their experience.
- Casey: That issue came up.
- Solomeno: Fr. Pilarz is aware of this. Would it be useful to have a committee? We could offer something in writing. Maybe we could have a seminar focusing on Jesuit Spirituality.
- Rengert: Maybe this is an issue for the Ignatian Awareness committee.
- Casey: That is a great idea.
- Molitoris: We would like step up and take this on.
- Solomeno: Can you include this in your report next meeting and have legislation for the following?
- Joswick: This is something we could share with USPB. They could have more activities for freshman and publicize more.

- Rengert: Maybe we could publicize freshman retreats.
- Matt: My only issue with the freshman retreat is my only friends freshman year were from my retreat and dorms. I came here knowing no one. Most people here already knew people so it was difficult to make friends. Maybe we could make mandatory events for students.
- Casey: My only reservation with mandatory events is that students have expressed concern with RA's mandatory events.
- Bauer: The 1st 2 months are most critical. To help with homesickness, the school could try to involve parents more and make them more of a presence on campus.
- Molitoris: That is something we'll address.
- Casey: You could survey the freshman class on our website or maybe myscranton. Talk to DIR.
- Solomeno: It would be a good idea for the institution to do. They could have professionals design it. The University could benefit from it. Fr. Pilarz mentioned the idea of regional send offs which would be alumni events in August to send off students. It would involve parents.
- Salinis: Freshman seminar is dry. We only learned about career services.
- Joswick: I was in ADP freshman year. We had to take extra classes and had the same students in our classes. We're still friends. Maybe we could encourage the school to keep block of students together during the first semester to ease transition.
- Casey: Is there anything that could help pre-freshman year?
- Patro: I did First and made many friends.
- Jones: I led it and it is a great program. I got to know the other leaders. I can see that the freshman who were on it know a lot of people.
- Prizeman: Freshman orientations are important. We should keep Amy Pachej involved because it is the official welcome to university.
- Solomeno: There are applications open for Orientation Assistants. The school needs Purple People. Fr. Pilarz said great job.
- Dean McShea: I am reviewing programs like First, commuter leadership and others. What are some topics for programs?
- Jones: There is a big waiting list for First. Maybe we can make more trips like this. They are amazing bonding service projects.
- Bauer: I went on it and it was the best decision.
- Ferrise: coming from Jesuit High School, we had to go on Cairos. Could we make a mandatory freshman retreat?
- Casey: My impression was the freshman retreat here was very similar to Cairos.
- French: As an OA, I can see that a lot of kids make an effort. We have to look at kids who aren't happy before. How many kids just aren't happy in general?
- Lecours: The reason I didn't go on First was that I didn't want to leave my friends early. Other colleges do trips where students go hiking, canoeing, or day trips.
- Casey: This will give Chris a lot of food for thought.
- Meyer: I just wanted to let the Senate know what Frankie and I have been working on. We were thinking of having off-campus forums to address zoning laws, rights with landlord, city fines, keeping property clean, tenant responsibilities, problems with neighbors and to raise awareness of risks off-campus. We also want to promote renters insurance. My housemates and I have insurance through All-State. It's \$86 for year. The cost depends on deduction and credit. If your house broken into, this will cover up to \$10,000. Between clothes, TV, laptops, textbooks, you have a lot of money worth of possessions. It also covers personal liability. These are important things to cover for a small amount of money. If we promote it, we may be able to get some sort of University of Scranton discount.
- Solomeno: You should look into other insurance companies. Involve Attorney Jones and invite him to the forum. I would also like to welcome Public Safety Officer Bill Moran. He will be joining us at our meetings.

VIII. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn (Valla)
- Second (Rengert)