



Student Senate Minutes
2 November 2006

- I. Prayer / Minutes / Roll
 - Motion to Approve Minutes (French)
 - Second (Joswick)
 - 19 October minutes approved

- II. Executive Reports
 - a. President's Report
 - Welcome Attorney Jones. Thank you for coming tonight. We will talk about ways to improve the Legal Assistance Program and brainstorm ideas for programs.
 - The Intersession resolution was forwarded to Dr. Carilli and will be discussed at the University Council. It looks like the school will keep Intersession. Our recommendations will be mentioned in our report.
 - Amy's report will have information regarding the budget. We will keep you posted.
 - We received the library hours for exams. The hours will be 7:00am until 2:00am. They will open at 7:00am during dead week. We asked that they stay open until 2:00am and they asked to set up a meeting. Feel free to come.
 - We met with Dave Christiansen, the Vice President of Finance. It was a great meeting and we were able to convey concerns of the Student Senate. We want to put a face to numbers on paper, and trying to ask that they keep in mind that these are real families. We will have a follow up meeting.
 - b. Treasurer's Report
 - We will not consider requests for funding at today's meeting, rather we will consider the requests at the November 16, 2006 Senate meeting.
 - Vinny, Joe, and I will meet with Dr. Carilli and Dean McShea tomorrow, Friday November 3, 2006, to discuss our request that funds be transferred from the Reserve Account into the Student Government Expense Account.
 - c. Secretary's Report
 - Thank you for coming to the barbeque.
 - d. Director of Communication's Report
 - See me after the meeting for Student Government handbooks.
 - Senators need to check their e-mail more often.
 - I invite everyone to join the Heritage Committee. We meet on Wednesday nights.
 - e. Director of Technology's Report
 - There is a resolution tonight about mass e-mails. IRAC said that they would help us if we pass a bill.
 - All bills and minutes are online.

- III. Senate Standing Committees
 - a. Academic Affairs (Colleen Rengert)
 - The only policy regarding Dead Week is from 1987. It is not in the catalog or handbook. The only way to access is through the Provost online. We need to discuss ideas about how we want to deal with it.

- b. Appropriations (Christy Joswick)
 - We did not meet due to the meeting. November 16th might be a big meeting.
 - Our point to convey about tuition is that we know tuition must increase, but we want to ask for it to be as gradual as possible
- c. Ignatian Awareness (Chris Molitoris)
 - We met Thursday. We talked mainly about the Freshman Experience Study. These are difficult areas to address. We discussed Freshman Seminar, Orientation, F.I.R.S.T, and other ways to expand. We would like to work with Alumni Affairs Freshman Experience Study. We would like to have focus groups, and surveys, but we don't want to step on toes. We hope to determine recommendations or legislation.
 - Brian Konzman is working on the academic code of honesty. The current code of honesty does not really touch on activities outside academics, and does not address the newspaper or publications. He is unavailable tonight, but will pursue this and seek changes, add to it, or develop a new code.
 - Dean McShea: Dr. Baillie is doing the Freshman Experience Study, together with some of the Deans. Dr. Baillie is point of contact. I will keep you updated.
 - Solomeno: When will you have legislation? What is your timeframe?
 - Molitoris: We are developing a timeline. We want to work with Dr. Baillie.
 - Solomeno: If Dr. Baillie and the committee meet, it will be good to have legislation.
 - Molitoris: I would rather wait to have findings. We want research from freshman. It will be much more helpful in terms of students having viewpoints.
 - Solomeno: Can you work into their timeline?
 - Zelno: We talked about whether to have more F.I.R.S.T. or different themes.
 - Solomeno: Make sure the legislation isn't just F.I.R.S.T. It should include the entire freshman year experience. It would be good to use the student climate survey.
- d. Residence Life and Dining Services (Ali Bauer)
 - We had our Dining Services night. It was fun and successful. We had cotton candy, and comment cards and gave out t-shirts.
 - Solomeno: Great job. There were positive reviews, especially from freshman. Thank you for e-mailing your committee's goals.
- e. Safety and Crime Prevention (Tim Hayden)
 - Next week Jessica and Kevin will walk with Public Safety from 10:00pm until 12:00am. On Friday, Mario and I will do the same. We will report back about how it goes.
 - We are planning on having an information table. We still need a date. We will have a complaint issues box
 - We are trying to work to plan something with public safety to make them less of an enemy. We suggested serving food at cafeteria, but we do not think they will go for that.

IV. University Wide Committees

- No committees met.
- There is a University Council meeting tomorrow at 3:00.

V. Old Business (Legislation on Second Reading)

- No old business

VI. Senate Forum

- Attorney Jones: The University engaged me as a contract attorney to meet with students about legal problems. I will deal mostly with matters with police and civil matters, mostly landlord/tenant issues which are rampant around here. There is a problem with slum lords. The university advertised for in a legal newsletter and it stuck out because it asked for a contract attorney for university. I have always wanted to work with the University. I'm excited. When I was in college and law school, we didn't have this. This is the first legal program of its kind I know of. Congratulations. There is a need here. I like this job. I'm not doing it for the money. I encourage you to let others know my availability. Sometimes when it comes to dealing with doctors or lawyers, there is hesitancy on the part of students. There is

a transference that if he looks like my father, maybe this will get back. While the University pays me, any information is confidential. When my billing goes in, the names are not on them. You must call in advance and set up an appointment with Mary Alice Fenwick. She will ask basic questions and then we will meet in a private room informally. I don't come in a 3 piece suit and scare students. I encourage you to call me Alan. I want to establish rapport with students. I helped a student over the weekend. By the nature of call, I knew the problem was psychological. The student was frightened of the impact of an event on the future. I knew picking up the phone would help him have a nice weekend. I could hear in his voice. Students have enough problems to deal with. This is a student function only, because I don't meet with parents. This is crucial because I get more out of meeting with just the student. If you want to see me, you go through the University to be fair and to keep track of everything.

- Molitoris: Where are you from?
- Attorney Jones: I'm from all over, Chicago, Pennsylvania, California, Massachusetts. I practice law in New York from 1977 until 1991, and then I came here. I still practice law in New York.
- Joswick: What type of law do you practice?
- Attorney Jones: Mostly civil. I practice criminal to the extent that I deal with DUI and common misdemeanors. In the case of students, I try to drive down charges to something more palatable. I deal with civil, such as divorce, zoning, and appeals. I have a varied law background. I don't deal with immigration or patents.
- Solomeno: We discussed possible program ideas to advertise the program and answer general questions. One idea was an off-campus forum.
- Attorney Jones: I will hold programs for freshman and others. There are certain expectations with landlords. A lot of students believe if you have a lease, the total rights are in the lease. There are legislated landlord/tenant agreements. If a landlord causes health risks, for example, you can push the contract aside and either let tenant leave or have the landlord cure the problem. Some of these things are not generally thought of by students. Landlords become very difficult and intimidate. If students know their rights, landlords will take a step back. This program is brand new, so as we progress, many programs will develop with time as an adjunct to advising students.
- Casey: Do you feel if Attorney Jones held a seminar that your constituents would come?
- Rengert: I think it would be better for juniors and seniors because they live off-campus. Maybe there could be something for underclassmen about signing leases.
- Attorney Jones: I will leave it to the University to choose the best place to implement programs. I will make myself available to whoever needs.
- Bauer: I'm a sophomore. Juniors already live off-campus. This is the sophomores' first time dealing with it.
- Joswick: As a senior leaving house my house in May, I'm concerned about my security deposit. Would you be willing to write recommendations and put them in a newsletter?
- Attorney Jones: Why would the landlord not return the security deposit?
- Joswick: Not for just issues.
- Attorney Jones: Students shouldn't let them get away with that. The security deposit is for damage. Some of these houses can't be damaged anymore. They realize seniors want to move on and don't worry about something paid they paid a few years ago. Write a letter months before the end of the lease and ask the landlord to come in at a time convenient to both parties. Don't let him come in alone. I'd be more than happy to help.
- French: Are these programs grade specific?
- Attorney Jones: I just used them as example. Student Government can define what students need. I'm available to any student.
- Solomeno: Ali? When do most sophomores sign leases?
- Bauer: In the beginning of semester. Most do 1st semester of sophomore year. I did about a month ago in October.
- Solomeno: It would be good to have an event before finals. Maybe we could work with you to put together frequently asked questions.

- Attorney Jones: I'm developing one, because I'm noticing a reoccurring pattern. I'll let you know. The program is really starting to pick up. Today 3 or 4 students called to see me.
- Solomeno: How many have you seen?
- Attorney Jones: I don't know, maybe 15? It's starting to increase.
- Hernandez: You said you can't assist with issues on campus? Do you feel you could?
- Attorney Jones: The problems between students and university are not legal but administrative. It would be a conflict of interest. You have rules and regulations to follow so I can't take part in advising about that. You could hire an attorney in town. Any problem with the university is not something I can help with. It's not legal question.
- Solomeno: One thing we discussed was to work to put together a list of attorneys who will help students at a discounted rate.
- Attorney Jones: Thank you. I will leave my cards. Call to make an appointment through the Dean's office at x7680 and talk to Mary Alice.
- Dean McShea: Mary Alice doesn't share any information with me. She is only helping to assist the program. I'm not part of the judicial system anyway.

VI. New Business (Legislation on First Reading)

a. Senbill.027.06- Resolution Regarding Mass E-Mail of Newsletter

- I spoke with IRAC and Jerry DeSanto agreed to help with the mass e-mail if the Senate passes a bill. We considered information from student climate survey and feel this helps get others involved.
- Solomeno: Just some background. Joe has met with IRAC and figured things out. It is hard to send out mass e-mails. This is a testament to Joe's work and to Mr. DeSanto.
- Salinis: I think this is a good idea. A lot of people don't know what's going on. This gives them no excuses. Students ask me about what happens at meetings.
- Motion to move to second reading (Joswick)
- Second (Patro)
- Motion to Approve (Greg Jones)
- Second (Hernandez)
- 19 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions
- Senbill.027.06 Approved

b. Senbill.028.06- Resolution Regarding Eligibility Requirements during Spring Elections

- Casey: Dan and Greg, the wording of this bill is somewhat ambiguous.
- G. Jones: A few weeks ago, we passed a bill getting rid of titles. This was about bettering the potential of the system and this was proved through the freshman election. This bill would in future require that if you run, you are signing up to be in the Senate a full year. With study abroad, planning starts a year before hand. This bill would grandfather people in for this year. This gives more weight to the Senate and makes it more of a commitment.
- French: The wording is a little ambiguous so that the bill can be left to discussion and is not too restricting and so we can debate.
- G. Jones: We talked about recommendations for election guidelines but they will be rewritten.
- Hayden: This is redundant. There is an attendance policy of 75% of meetings. If someone studied abroad they would have to move into impeachment. If someone is planning to study abroad at the time of the election, they could say they didn't have intentions. If someone does run, we can't look through files.
- Molitoris: I like this bill in the sense of holding to duties. I could go abroad next semester and could have started planning at the beginning of the semester. We could say it's a 2 term commitment but how is that enforced?
- Patro: My concern is there is no way to enforce it.
- Hernandez: In the scenario Chris brought up, the Senator is already in office. They obviously acknowledge they are breaking a commitment.
- Joswick: I have a suggestion. I don't know how tangible this is. If this is broken, can they not run again?

- Hayden: Is it possible to have a contract before running? If you go abroad, you are forced to resign. Are there ways to enforce this?
- Rengert: Are there the same obligations as apply to those on academic probation? It is a double standard. At the same time, they have to resign anyway. We have to try to accomplish the frame of mind that you do not go abroad.
- Solomeno: I would like to clarify. The precedent in previous years is students are not required to resign but can. Can we tighten the wording, and strike 6 and replace with all executive and senator prohibited from study abroad. This makes everyone clear of expectations.
- G. Jones: yes.
- French: Yes. Then they would see the rules and have to willingly break them.
- G. Jones: Can we add Election Day, spring 2007?
- Casey: This is a change to our by-laws, and requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote.
- Molitoris: Does this apply to Intersession?
- Hayden: The Senate is not in session.
- French: Add during the Fall and Spring semesters.
- Solomeno: I don't think a senator should be prohibited from running while abroad.
- Motion to move to second reading (Rengert)
- Second (Joswick)
- Molitoris: With wording in the constitution there is nothing to prevent anyone from going. We can just strongly suggest. We should still value academic freedom.
- Dean McShea: I just want to clarify how I read this bill, as your Moderator. If worded like this, I would think that if a student decided to study abroad, there would be automatic removal, consistent with academic and social probation.
- French: It's a standard of qualifying to run that you have no intention of studying abroad.
- Lecours: I'm studying abroad next semester. I preferred to go 1st semester of Junior year, but then I found out I was not able to. I feel like I'm violating this, but I didn't know.
- Hayden: It is evident, even if you didn't know that you were campaigning to have responsibility and are ready to represent your class for a year. It is irresponsible to run while conscious of going away. This bill lets them know that.
- Solomeno: I would like to add that it is irresponsible to study abroad after elected.
- Rengert: When does this take place, as soon as a Senator started the process or when leaving the country?
- G. Jones: That relies on the ability to see who is going abroad. There are gray areas.
- French: I went to the Study Abroad Office, and they say that basically if you say you want to go abroad, they will find a place for you to go. The point is that I hope someone running would make the choice to not go abroad.
- Molitoris: I'm worried about the language. The timeline is too ambiguous
- Hayden: We can work on it in the future. We can go with the benefit of the doubt that they will look at this in the right way. This language won't hurt.
- G. Jones: When do we make cut off, when an individual goes abroad or just look into it?
- Joswick: There are a lot of specifics hung up on an individual basis. Maybe this should not be in the constitution, but made very clear in the election guidelines. If something comes up we can evaluate it on an individual basis.
- G. Jones: It's a great idea, but this is setting a standard. Otherwise, it undermines Student Government.
- Molitoris: In the constitution, is the term designated as fall through spring?
- Casey: Is there a defined length?
- Solomeno: It is the beginning of May until the next May when the new Senate meets.
- French: If we can't think of a way to enforce it, we can just trust that it keeps Senators honest for a year.
- Hernandez: It is not all that outlandish to expect leaders to have integrity when elected. This is important to have.
- Molitoris: I'm struggling. I don't know how necessary this is. There is already wording to designate term length. There are a number of valid reasons why people may resign. We

shouldn't discount that fact. A class Senator should worry about academic concerns. I worry about putting together legislation and not putting consequences with it, in case of potential abuses in future.

- French: This is not talking about academics. In the past few weeks we got rid of titles, and approved guidelines for a special election without knowing the consequences of them.
- Bauer: Back to what Tim said, we can have everyone sign a contract during the campaign. This is individualized and would deter people from running and going away.
- Rengert: They could sign something saying they can't go on probation.
- Solomeno: The difficulty is people are not aware of expectations. Regardless, we could have contracts. I understand this is difficult to implement
- Hayden: This is not going to hurt us. All we're saying is we're looking at integrity.
- Motion to Vote (Hayden)
- Second (Hernandez)
- 10 votes in favor, 8 votes against, 1 abstention
- Senbill.028.06 fails

VII. Senate Forum (Items for discussion)

- Solomeno: There have been two assault incidents. I just wanted to raise the issue. I know Tim meets with Public Safety and I don't get the sense we should be afraid. They do a good job protecting us. What do you think? Are people afraid?
- Zelno: I think this is definitely an anomaly. The assaults happened at 8:00pm, which is unusually early. They must have been out of towners. I have never had problems. It's upsetting.
- Salinis: I heard a few people who didn't want to walk alone.
- Ferrise: The one incident was on Spruce and Wyoming. I don't think it was specifically for University students, but for whoever walked by.
- Malloy: I think a big problem, in general, is that rumors get started. People won't go out because of rumors they hear.
- Solomeno: I suggest that it is obvious we have the reputation of being caring community, so let's watch out for one another. We live next door each other. I have heard reports of thefts in autos and homes. You know when someone is out of towners.
- Molitoris: I don't think a community watch is a bad idea. It would be good to have solidarity in the Hill Section. University students are easy prey. To what degree have these been pursued by public safety. Are there any trends?
- Dean McShea: The assault in the Hill Section was a non-student. The Scranton Police, however, did communicate with Public Safety. The second was students coming from mall.
- Solomeno: We need to keep aware on our end. Ian can get information out to avoid problems. Be aware of common sense stuff. Get out with flyers and lock doors and windows.
- G. Jones: Thank you for feedback. We had a truly gut wrenching bill. Let me know any suggestions for specifics. This will be an ongoing bill and is a hurdle to be taken at sometime.
- Hernandez: The water fountains in St. Thomas are not working
- Solomeno: Maybe you can talk to Ali. She has a good relationship with Marty Langan.
- McKiernan: Just to add to the community advisory. Go out and learn the streets in relation to campus. You get a sense of safety knowing where things are.
- Rengert: I want to talk about Dead Week. We have to decide what we want to do about it. Should we publicize what is out there or decide to formally change the current policy and make it how we want it. There is no way to enforce the present policy except for firing the faculty member. Should we publicize those who didn't follow the rules and make them look bad? Is that an issue we want to deal with? The faculty won't look highly on it.
- Joswick: I think it will be good to pursue and stand up for our rights as students. We pay tuition and for their salary. Maybe if they violate it, they will have a one on one meeting with the Dean, with student names not involved.
- Hernandez: In the past, was the assignment made void?
- Rengert: No. There is no set procedure.

- Hernandez: Would we do something to cement our policy?
- Joswick: He wants us to. What I don't like is that you can get an assignment due during Dead Week, and work hard on it, and then it would be thrown out.
- Hernandez: We could publicize it well, and bring it to light so that students know. We could go to the Provost.
- Rengert: We have to set it up. There are no violations now. All it says is there can be no major tests, or finals.
- Hayden: If students were aware, they wouldn't wait until the end to pursue it.
- Solomeno: Colleen, can you present this tomorrow at University Council and gauge faculty response. Also we can research other universities. I have contact information for other Jesuit Universities.

VIII. Adjournment

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