

## **Student Senate Minutes September 14, 2007**

Meeting in Session: 4:40 pm

1. Prayer (Patti O'Leary) / Roll/ Minutes
  - 1.1. Not Present: Beech, on retreat
  - 1.2. Motion to approve minutes: Dan French
    - 1.2.1. Second: Doug Jones
2. Executive Reports
  - 2.1. President's Report (Christopher Molitoris)
    - 2.1.1. Office Convention
      - 2.1.1.1. As you all know the Office Convention will be coming to Scranton in October. Also, released yesterday, Al Roker will be doing the weather, here on campus, that Friday. There will be a lot of publicity and visitors that weekend. Midnight Madness will be that Thursday also, where we honor the start of the Men's and Women's Basketball season. We ask for your help volunteering and upholding the mission of our University throughout these events.
      - 2.1.2. Director of Technology appointment (Eric Speelman)
        - 2.1.2.1. We have found a candidate for the Director of Technology position, Eric Speelman. I ask for you approval to appoint him to the executive board. He has great credentials and a lot of experience. Please take a moment to review his résumé. Are there any questions for Eric?
        - 2.1.2.2. McKeaney: All those in favor of the appointment of Eric Speelman as Director of Technology, please raise your hand.
          - 2.1.2.2.1. Yes: Unanimous
        - 2.1.2.3. Molitoris: Congratulations, Eric and welcome to Student Government.
    - 2.2. Director of Communication's Report (Maura Hayden)
      - 2.2.1. Heritage Calendar Update
        - 2.2.1.1. The Heritage Calendar is finished and ready to be printed. It will be on sale during Family Weekend which is Friday, September 28 to Sunday, September 30. Alumni will also be notified about the sale of the calendar.
  3. Senate Standing Committees
    - 3.1. Academic Affairs (Doug Jones)
      - 3.1.1. For the Spring semester there is only one day built into the academic calendar to study for finals. However, there is not one for Fall semester. We would also like to see that dead week is truly a dead week with no projects, papers, etc. due. We also are working to have Varsity sports exchange for gym classes.
    - 3.2. Appropriations (Kevin Meyer)
      - 3.2.1. We did not meet this past week. No clubs have contacted us about appropriation appeals. We are also working on a consistent meeting time.

- 3.2.2. C. Molitoris: Do you think that no one has contacted you because there are no appeals or do you think that they do not understand the appeals process?
- 3.2.3. Meyer: I think that part of it has to do with the change of officers at the beginning of the new school year which does not often occur until after the appeals deadline.
- 3.2.4. C. Molitoris: But Beech has contacted them about the deadline and appeals process, correct?
- 3.2.5. Meyer: Yes, he has.
- 3.3. Ignatian Awareness (Mark Searles)
  - 3.3.1. Thank you Patti for the wonderful prayer. I think it is great now that we have a prepared prayer instead of something spur of the moment as in the past. We have not gotten a chance to draft the service legislation that we want to propose, but we are working on it.
- 3.4. Residence Life and Dining Services ( J. Dan French)
  - 3.4.1. We met briefly to outline our goals this past week. I want to inform everyone that they are going to run the swipe access wire down toward the Linden apartments as they work on the new residence hall. Just to inform you, the sidewalks will be torn up.
- 3.5. Safety and Crime Prevention (Carl Cervi)
  - 3.5.1. We met with Officers Pomanger and Cadugan. First we talked about the Lackawanna students. Public Safety cannot take action until University students report issues. He needs more specific information. We often generalize everyone as a Lackawanna student, when in reality it is often high schoolers or residents in the Hill section. He has met with athletic coaches in the area that said they will enforce curfews for the athletes. The Officers do not recommend that we join the Hills Association. Often, University students are targeted as the root of all the problems, which is not so. On the other hand we could meet with the police task force. As Dan said Linden Apartments will get swipe access pending future budget information. They would ideally like swipe access everywhere. If we could give administrators an outline of costs and money saved they might be more willing to install swipe access everywhere. After this year, Freshmen and Sophomores will no longer be permitted to have parking passes. The Officers will meet with Sophomore and the upcoming Freshmen representatives. We were also informed that most offences are student on student, the top two being vandalism and larceny. If students would close and lock their doors, it could eliminate future offences.
- 4. University Wide Committees
  - 4.1. No updates
- 5. Old Business (Legislation on Second Reading)
  - 5.1. None
- 6. New Business (Legislation on First Reading)
  - 6.1. Senbill 017.07: “Student Resolution Regarding Changes to the Procedure of Financial Holds”
    - 6.1.1. French: this idea came to me when I could not register for classes because I was on financial hold. Many students’ financial aid is left up to the

parent/guardian. Students and their parents/guardians are not aware that they are on financial hold until they go to register for classes, which then causes multiple problems. This bill was formed so that students on financial hold will get an email 5 days before registration. This way financial difference can be eliminated and students can register for classes.

- 6.1.2. Cassidy: I approve of this bill because the same thing happened to me. Will the email students receive designate whether they are on hold because loans did not go through or that a payment was not made?
- 6.1.3. French: No, I think that the student will have to call Financial Aid for specifics on their financial hold.
- 6.1.4. McGovern: I think this is a great idea. My question is why didn't they have this before?
- 6.1.5. Mailen: Who will send this email?
- 6.1.6. French: I am not sure. This was just a suggestion for something that should be brought up to Financial Aid and I wanted the Senate's approval.
- 6.1.7. Searles: I propose a second reading for this bill.
  - 6.1.7.1. Second: Jones
- 6.1.8. C. Molitoris: This is a great bill, but have you met with the Bursar's Office yet?
- 6.1.9. French: No, I have not.
- 6.1.10. C. Molitoris: This is a great way to talk about the topic of when to bring up legislation. You could meet with the Vice President of the Bursar's Office first.
- 6.1.11. Dean McShea: Yes, that would be Vice President Christenson.
- 6.1.12. C. Molitoris: For legislation, you could meet with them first and then move forward with policy. They might like it and then want to see the Senate's approval. In fact, you might not even need legislation. This is just another way of doing legislation.
- 6.1.13. French: I would have liked to have met with them, but I was not able to get a meeting. I thought it would be best to bring up the bill as soon as possible.
- 6.1.14. Dean McShea: I have a friendly suggestion to make. Typically, when you write legislation instead of saying "should," you should write that "the senate recommends." This is a nice way of saying that they should make a change.
- 6.1.15. French: I accept the amendment.
- 6.1.16. Searles: Do you think a motion to table the bill would be appropriate?
- 6.1.17. French: You're the Senate.
- 6.1.18. Dean McShea: Perhaps you should vote that Dan meet with the Bursar's Office and then vote on the bill in the Senate, or you could do an informal vote and discuss the bill further in the Senate Forum.
- 6.1.19. Escue: Could we extend this to 10 days before registration? Because it might take longer to fix financial aid problems. I had an experience with a loan not going through and it took two weeks to resolve.
- 6.1.20. French: I am going to motion to table this bill myself. In the meantime I will talk to the Bursar's Office and look at lengthening the notice time.

6.1.20.1. Second: Hodizoda

7. Senate Forum

7.1. Middle States Guest Speaker

- 7.1.1. C. Molitoris: Robin Dickenson asked Dean McShea for student leaders. She provided the names of me, McKeaney, Escue, French, Hodizoda, DeRosa, Jones, Mooney, Jordan, Meyer, and Muth. You may be contacted by Middle States in the near future.
- 7.1.2. Dean McShea: Middle States is the organization that accredited the University. They asked me for a list of student leaders, and I provided your names.
- 7.1.3. Jones: Is 07-08 our evaluation year?
- 7.1.4. Dean McShea: They will do the official accreditation at the end of this year.
- 7.1.5. C. Molitoris: There will also be a formal presentation of September 28<sup>th</sup> by a Middle States representative.
- 7.1.6. Escue: Will they answer our questions then?
- 7.1.7. Dean McShea: Yes, they will present at the Senate meeting and also set up a separate meeting for all of the aforementioned student representatives.

7.2. Alma Mater Show Down

- 7.2.1. French: This all started during the Student Senate Retreat. Maura started singing the Alma Mater and I said I did not know it. Dean McShea was upset that I did not know the Alma Mater because I am a Senior involved in the Senate and I am an Orientation Assistant. She challenged me to sing the Alma Mater on Gunster Patio the following Tuesday at noon. If I failed I had to wear shoes and socks for a week. Unfortunately, Dean McShea had to cancel. Eventually, this escalated into getting as many Seniors as possible to sing the Alma Mater with me this past Tuesday. We had to reschedule once again because of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Mass. After having dinner with Haley and Chris, the idea grew.
- 7.2.2. C. Molitoris: We decided that you have to go big with the Alma Mater, hence the Alma Mater Showdown. It is tentatively scheduled for this Thursday, pending classes. I've spoken to Cheryl Boga who is trying to direct the singing of the Alma Mater. There will be musicians accompanying us. We want this to be official. The only way to make anything official at Scranton is to get t-shirts. The event is also a part of class affinity. We want to challenge each of the classes to get as many students as possible to sing the Alma Mater. Each class has budget money so we ask that a portion of this budget be donated to the showdown.
- 7.2.3. Meyer: How are we going to count the number of students for each class? How about we swipe Royal Cards?
- 7.2.4. C. Molitoris: We can go by the number of t-shirts. And we'll probably just have everyone win.
- 7.2.5. Hayden: What if we got a trophy for the winning class?
- 7.2.6. C. Molitoris: This would be solidifying tradition. We could then put it in the Trophy Room.
- 7.2.7. French: I thought this was happening Thursday before Family Weekend?

- 7.2.8. C. Molitoris: Yes, you're right. The showdown will happen two Thursdays from now.
- 7.2.9. Muth: Will the shirts be different colors for each class?
- 7.2.10. C. Molitoris: Great idea! So how about white, purple, gray, and black?
- 7.2.11. ::Argument over which class gets what colors::
- 7.2.12. Searles: I think the Seniors should pick the colors for each class.
- 7.2.13. DeRosa: Should we form a committee to handle the event better?
- 7.2.14. C. Molitoris: We don't need to make a formal committee, but who would be interested in helping to coordinate the showdown?
- 7.2.14.1. DeRosa, Muth, French, R. Molitoris, and Mooney
- 7.2.15. Dean McShea: Do we have a representative from each class?
- 7.2.15.1. Jordan
- 7.2.16. C. Molitoris: Do you want to discuss this more thoroughly?
- 7.2.17. Meyer: I trust the committee to handle it.
- 7.2.18. C. Molitoris: I want approval from each class to use budget money.
- 7.2.19. Dean McShea: Since it's my fault, I'll help contribute some money to the showdown.
- 7.2.20. French: Dean McShea, could you send a mass email to the student body?
- 7.2.21. Dean McShea: I'll check into that. That committee needs to think about the logistics of the event such as time and the number of t-shirts.
- 7.3. Student Recognition
- 7.3.1. Searles: I would like to bring up the topic of student recognition which the Ignatian Awareness Committee will head. Hopefully, each meeting the Senate could honor one student who is a model of Ignatian values. For example, Becky Prial organized the Local Dinner last night which featured food produced by local farmers. This promoted the Ignatian values on sustainability. There was a great turnout and a wonderful speaker. She put a lot of hard work into this event. She would be someone the Ignatian Awareness Committee would like to honor. Each week the Senate could think of students to nominate. The Ignatian Awareness Committee could take these nominations and then we could vote as a Senate. Dean McShea that would could set aside a place in the new student center to honor the nominated students.
- 7.3.2. Cassidy: Are the recommendations only for the Senate to make? Or could we open it to all students?
- 7.3.3. Searles: Great Idea!
- 7.4. Freshmen Senate Elections
- 7.4.1. Tenazas: The Freshmen elections are coming up and there is always a problem with voter turnout. I was thinking that we could have voting booths via laptop on the Gunster Patio in conjunction with Royal Card readers. Then the booths would be in plain sight and voter turnout would most likely greatly increase.
- 7.4.2. C. Molitoris: If we get a Royal Card reader we will have to get certified by the State....That was a joke. In the local news, there might have to be paper ballots for the next election because the computers were not certified.

- 7.4.3. Dean McShea: Two laptops have always been inside on first floor Gunster.
- 7.4.4. C. Molitoris: Could we move them to the patio? I think that would be better.
- 7.4.5. Dean McShea: Only if we get wireless on the patio, which we might have. Tricia Cummings would be someone to contact for help.
- 7.4.6. C. Molitoris: We could just put in a second order for computers on the patio.
- 7.5. McGovern: Is there a contact list of all the Senate members that we could have?
- 7.6. McKeane: Yes, you will be getting one shortly.
- 7.7. Legal Assistance Program and Open Office Hours
  - 7.7.1. Dean McShea: Last year, Student Government started a program that offers the use of an attorney for undergraduate students. The problem is that there is a graduate student that needs to use the legal assistant service, but the funds come from undergraduates. The new Dean for the College of Graduate Studies might be able to get funding. However, I wanted your input.
  - 7.7.2. C. Molitoris: I have a meeting with Dean Welsh next week so I can discuss this with him.
  - 7.7.3. Dean McShea: I am going to change my open office hours for this semester because they currently overlap with the Senate meetings.
  - 7.7.4. McKeane: Would everyone be able to make 3:30 pm Senate meetings?
  - 7.7.5. Mailen: I may not be able to.
  - 7.7.6. Dean McShea: I would like to know what you think will be the best times for open office hours.
  - 7.7.7. Meyer: I feel like Thursday afternoon is the best times because everyone is still on campus. On Friday, people tend to go home or back to their rooms.
  - 7.7.8. McKeane: I agree.
- 7.8. Red Zone Fundraiser
  - 7.8.1. Mailen: Chew and the Jane Kopas Women's Center started a Red Zone campaign. We are selling t-shirts for \$6 that will benefit the Women's Center. They are to promote awareness for Red Zone and related factors, risks, and procedures.
- 7.9. SmartRide
  - 7.9.1. Jones: I am currently working on an ongoing project with the SmartRide system and possibly expanding it. Especially since Sophomores will not be able to park, it will be even more necessary. Is anyone willing to help?
  - 7.9.2. McKeane: Contact Community Outreach. They handle the SmartRide and will be of assistance.
  - 7.9.3. Jones: I have talked to Pat Vacaro. We thought about adding additional SmartRide services.
  - 7.9.4. Cervi: I'll help you.
- 8. C. Molitoris: The University Council's first meeting is on either October 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>. Those individuals involved, myself, Meyer, French, McGovern, and Jones, you should have gotten notification already. At the next meeting we will talk about the

calendar for the next two years. Graduation might have to occur after Memorial Day for the 2009 graduation.

Also, there are University Governance proposals. The Staff Senate is in the works. Workers in the physical plant, offices, and cafeteria currently do not have a representative body. This will give a different dynamic on campus. The University Council would like something from the Senate to explain what the new University model looks like. Tomorrow there is a luncheon about the Jesuit Higher Education in Weinberg Memorial Library. The next Senate meeting is September 28<sup>th</sup> in the Brennen Boardroom. Patti, once again great job with today's prayer.

There is a new dynamic in the Senate because of the use of the Forum more than in the past. I think the Forum is a great asset. I encourage you to continue to use it to bring forth issues.

9. Meeting adjourned: 5:40 pm.