



Student Senate General Body Meeting

Hillberry D of the Student Center

Thursday, September 17, 2015

6:00pm

Presiding: William Alexander, President

I. Call to Order

- A. Meeting was called to order at 6:01PM on Thursday September 17, 2015 in Hillberry D of the Student Center.

II. Roll Call

- A. Present: S. Ahmed, W. Alexander, C. Arnold, T. Bawa, T. Bazzi, A. Bhagat, E. Diviney, K. Donnelly, A. Eid, G. Freeman, V. Gonzales, C. Gregory, A. Harrison, M. Ibrahim, A. Jaber, A. Martin, M. Mohan, E. Perry, K. Reeves, Z. Rich, M. Salim, K. Sopko, A. Szpytman, K. Wright
- B. Absent: S. Enaker
- C. Tardy: K. Rigby

III. Approval of the Agenda

- A. Moved: A. Martin
- B. Second: M. Mohan

IV. Approval of the Minutes

- A. Moved: G. Freeman
- B. Second: A. Martin

V. Business

- A. Installment of Business Senator, Kristian Wright
- B. Dr. Margaret Winters, Provost & Sr. VP for Academic Affairs

- i. W. Alexander- Is there a way to get student representation on the Policy Committee?

- 1. The Policy Committee is the leadership of the Academic Senate, there are 6 or 7 members on the Policy Committee are elected. In order to get a student representative on the committee, the bylaws have to be

changed. It is on the agenda for this upcoming meeting so I will have a better answer for you after future meetings.

ii. C. Gregory- Can an e-mail be sent out to the University regarding the Blackboard issues?

1. I will talk to Derek Hubbard about the issue and see if we can come up with a solution.

C. Dr. Joseph Rankin, Associate Provost & Sr. VP for Undergraduate Affairs

i. W. Alexander-What can students expect with the Course Schedule Matrix? How is it coming along, and when should we expect it?

1. We have to work with C &IT as well as course scheduling so we will not expect to implement it until Spring/Summer of 2017. It has to be completed roughly 6 months before it rolls. It has been approved and classes will go from 55 minutes to 50 minutes and all classes will start either on the hour or the half hour. We're working to make sure classes do not overlap. Hopefully this adjustment in class times and offerings will increase graduation rate.

ii. W. Alexander- How will that affect 4 credit hour classes?

1. We will have a lot more options for faculty to choose from on how they want to teach it, either four days a week or two days a week.

iii. T. Bazzi- Have you had any backlash from the course scheduling committee?

1. I have sent all the information out to the Deans and the only feedback we have gotten back is concern over the change from 55 minutes to 50 minute classes. It all agrees with

iv. T. Bazzi- Is there any way to get a student liaison on the implementation committee?

1. I would like to discuss that with you further, why don't you give me a ring and we can talk about it.

v. T. Bazzi- From my understanding there was a pilot program going around in the Winter Semester, can you confirm that?

1. To the best of my knowledge, no, I did send out a sample program out to four different departments to get their feedback, but the changes made were very small.

vi. C. Gregory- Will there be any special consideration given for extension centers?

1. The colleges can say they don't want to follow the course scheduling matrix, however they must have a good reasoning, such as the Medical School or Pharmacy or Law School. There are certain types of courses that don't follow the course scheduling matrix such as laboratories. The

extension centers also don't have to follow it due to the fact that their classes are predominantly in the evening.

- vii. M. Mohan- Are you concerned that it will not be implemented strictly enough?
 - 1. Currently, we allow departments to enter their own time slots, we hope to have slots given to them and they just choose from a drop down list.
 - viii. T. Bazzi- Will Gabe from C & IT be working on the software aspect of the online classes.
 - 1. Yes he will, C & IT will be working on the system a lot.
 - ix. A. Harrison- Are you going to continue testing with other departments?
 - 1. That's not the plan, it went through a very long approval process, and it will have bumps along the road. Departments on their own seek to test it out on their own and give feedback.
 - x. W. Alexander- When is the launch date for DegreeWorks?
 - 1. The soft launch date is September 21, but many faculty and advisors are already using it because it is already up and running. For students, it will replace the degree audit system as well as the plan of work system on STARS.
 - xi. A. Martin- How do students access DegreeWorks?
 - 1. It can be accessed through Academics, Student Resources.
 - xii. A. Martin- Because it is replacing the plan of work feature on STARS, will their information be lost?
 - 1. No, it will all transfer over to DegreeWorks.
 - xiii. We have been discussing the Priority Registration changes and hope to roll them out as a practice run for Spring/Summer 2016 and for sure by Fall 2016.
 - xiv. E. Perry- Can you go into detail the changes that are being made regarding priority registration?
 - 1. It allows athletes, Honors College, and students registered with Student Disabilities, the changes will allow seniors to have priority followed by juniors, then sophomores, then freshman. This way it will allow seniors to get into classes they need to graduate.
 - xv. M. Mohan- Is there anything being done to create waitlists for classes that fill up?
 - 1. I will have to meet with the Office of Registrar about the costs and benefits and the logistics of how an online waitlist will work with our university.
- D. Weekend Shuttle Discussion & Vote, Will A.
- i. W. Alexander-The Weekend Shuttle is a collaborative effort we did last year with DOSO and Parking and Transportation, the cost was \$24,000. We are looking to see if we will fund the Weekend Shuttle. We pooled around 1,000-2,000 students a month with the shuttle, most of them living on campus. After talking to Parking and Transportation Services, they have changed the shuttle route. I have spoken with RHA and Tim Michael have agreed to contribute to it,

though they have not given an official amount, but they are willing to try their best to make sure the rest is covered.

- ii. M. Mohan- Based on our budget, the maximum amount we can contribute is \$4,500. We should not exceed that number.
- iii. E. Perry- I think we should talk to Wayne State Police to see if we can have cadets on the actual shuttles in order to increase safety.
- iv. Dr. Strauss- I have chosen to not fund the shuttle for the 2015-2016 year, due to alcohol safety concerns. I have shifted that funding to inside campus life such as athletics and things happening on campus.
- v. A. Eid- Where will the rest of the money come from?
 1. W. Alexander- RHA is voting to pitch in \$5,000 and hopefully the rest will come from the housing budget.
- vi. T. Bazzi- has the alcohol been an ongoing problem or a few separate occurrences?
 1. W. Alexander- I don't want to say it was too few or too much, but given more time it would've been an issue. A few occurrences were a little out of control and alcohol abuse was an apparent problem.
- vii. E. Diviney- Has anyone talked to Campus Activities Team to fund it?
 1. W. Alexander- They are completely devoted to giving students an on-campus experience.
- viii. K. Reeves- how many residents do we have on campus?
 1. Dr. Strauss- we have roughly 3,100.
- ix. C. Gregory- Has there been any discussion of the students purchasing monthly passes for the shuttle?
 1. W. Alexander- No.
- x. G. Freeman- RHA has denied the approval of funding the shuttle, due to budget cut and also taking more of a focus on on-campus activities for residents.
- xi. Motion made to move to vote to fund \$4,000 to the weekend shuttle.
- xii. Motion not approved.
- xiii. Motion made to close speakers list, approved.
- xiv. Motion made to vote to fun \$4,000 to the weekend shuttle.
- xv. Motion passed.
- xvi. Motion made to a hand vote.
- xvii. Motion approved to allocate \$4,000 to the weekend shuttle.

E. Structure of Student Senate Discussion

- i. W. Alexander- I want your guys' feedback on how to address our retention problem and what you all think the problem is and if you think your expectations were properly laid out.

1. E. Perry- I was recently appointed, and I had no idea how big of a commitment it really was, I think communication about how importance attendance is prior to being appointed to Student Senate.
2. K. Sopko- My school gave me plenty of expectations and were very informative on how important it was.
3. A. Harrison- I was selected by a professor then further made aware of my expectations with my dean. My expectations go beyond Student Senate and I was given time to think about the decision and I was made very aware of the commitment.
4. K. Reeves- Early on, I knew what the commitment was and scheduled my other commitments around it in order to make it work.
5. A. Martin- I think it comes down to just informing the respective Deans and when interviewing expectations need to be laid out before they are appointed to the position.
6. M. Salim- I was elected by my senate, and they laid out the expectations and I knew what I was getting into. Most of what we do applies to undergrad, so I think where a lot of the turnover from colleges comes from because it doesn't necessarily apply to the grad programs.
7. M. Mohan- Not all schools student governments operate during the summer, and we had discussed during e-board the summer is a time to develop ourselves. I think we should reevaluate how we function during the summer in order to allow our senators still be able to take opportunities such as internships or study abroad during the summer.
8. K. Reeves- We should have informational meetings for college appointees for those interested; they can get all of the information and expectations ahead of time.
9. K. Wright- My expectations of this were different than what was originally explained. I need to bring School of Business problems to Senate but my dean doesn't think there are any and rather I should be bringing Student Senate concerns back to them.
10. E. Diviney- I don't know if the problem is internal or rather the students involved on Senate are very involved and do a lot of other things and finding a balance is difficult when they accepted into new programs or get study abroad trips offers.
11. Motion made to close the speakers list.

12. Motion passed.
13. C. Gregory- There have been times where I feel like a third wheel from E-Board. A lot of huge decisions are made by the E-Board, and General Body members are left out of the loop.
14. K. Reeves- There is a disconnect with E-board and there are no minutes from the month of August.
15. W. Alexander- We will be creating an election reform committee so if you are interested contact Tarek.

VI. Reports

- A. Motion made to limit reports to 1 minute.
- B. Motion Passed.
- C. Executive Board
 - i. K. Rigby- Concerns regarding the awareness of student services has been brought to my attention and I will be addressing these issues.
 - ii. A. Eid- Through the Student Senate e-mail, I've gotten a lot of interest, and I've been telling people how to get involved with Project Groups.
 - iii. Z. Rich- The bylaw and parliamentarian project group is meeting this Wednesday in the Wing at 11:30-1:00pm
 - iv. W. Alexander- I've been working to create relationships with our administration.
 - v. T. Bazzi- I've recently been in touch with the Board of Governors and the Townhall will most likely be December 3rd.
 - vi. C. Arnold- If you are newly appointed and don't have a padfolio, come see me after meeting. I'm really sorry for not uploading those minutes, not going to lie I kind of forgot about it.
 - vii. A. Martin- I've been assigned to oversee Project Groups Economic Development and Campus Spirit.
 - viii. M. Mohan- I've created a very budget plan and am running a very efficient fiscal plan.
- D. Project Groups

- i. K. Reeves- Campus Pride will be meeting tomorrow at 5pm in the Student Senate Office. We want to focus on bringing more spirit to the Student Center, as well as spirit wear.
- ii. T. Bazzi- Green Initiatives is working towards closing fume hoods at night to save energy, and I've contacted those who signed up at Festifall.
- iii. A. Martin- Next week W. Alexander and I are meeting to discuss how to structure the Financial Aid group.
- iv. G. Freeman- Diversity and Inclusion discusses the preferred name and biased incident reporting and want to gather more data on efficient ways of reporting. We had four new members join our committee. I met with Assistant Director of TRIO Jonathon Solomon to discuss future initiatives.
- v. K. Rigby- I met with those interested in my project group about black student success and we discussed their experiences.
- vi. C. Gregory- Green Initiatives has 13 new members. Food Advisory is looking to open an account to kick-start the food recovery initiative.
- vii. A. Szpytman- Food Recovery network committee will be commencing next week to cut down on food waste.

E. College Senators

F. Senators-At-Large

- i. C. Gregory- on Saturday October 10th, there is a project managing workshop from 9am-1pm in the ECD Auditorium of the College of Engineering.

G. Advisor

- i. Dr. Strauss- Friday October 9th there is a party in ST. Andrews, Saturday October 10th is homecoming.

VII. Gallery Comments

A. Abdul- Is the workshop open to the student body?

- i. C. Gregory- Yes I will send out the link to you.

B. Meeting minutes can be found on our Student Senate Website.

VIII. Announcements

- A. A. Harrison- My contemporary art is displayed in the UGL, if you could please vote for my work, that would be appreciated.

- B. K. Rigby- If anyone is interested in helping me with student services, let me know.
- C. Z. Rich- Football game is this Saturday, see you all there.
- D. W. Alexander- The Warrior Zone is very important so come out and support your team.

IX. Adjournment

- A. Meeting was adjourned at 8:56PM on Thursday September 17, 2015 in Hillberry D of the Student Center.