Wayne State University
Student Senate
General Body Meeting
Thursday, March 6, 2014
6:00 p.m.
Presiding: Adham Aljahmi, President; Brandon Shamoun, Vice President

1. Call to Order – 6:00
2. Roll Call
   b. Late – none
   c. Absent – W. Alexander, M. Asghar, R. Ukavwe
3. Approval of the Agenda – moved, Ashraf; second, Rohit
4. Approval of the Minutes – moved, Shon; second, Brandon
5. Business
   a. Margaret E. Winters – Provost and Joseph Rankin – Associate Provost
      i. Rohit: I spoke with Matthew Orr in September about launching Eureka, which is like a Match.com for students interested in research, but I haven’t heard anything since
         1. It has been launched, but as UROPConnect; it’s up and running but we haven’t been publicizing it yet because not enough faculty have signed up.
         2. We recommend that you talk to all the faculty members you know and encourage them to sign up, and we will send out a message to the deans and bring it up at the next Board meeting.
      ii. Ahmad: Would that only involve Wayne State researchers?
         a. All of their contact information will be there for the WSU and SOM researchers.
      iii. Adham: How is the rollout going for the CLAS online major declaration?
         1. They have 130 majors to program into it, according to Joe Sawasky, but the Banner portion has been working. They have to take it to the departments and the registrar for testing, but it should be rolled out by the end of the winter semester.
         2. For now, it will be CLAS, but CFPCA has also been mentioned, and it will ultimately be for the entire campus.
         3. Brandon: How does this figure into DegreeWorks?
            a. DegreeWorks doesn’t do major declarations, so those systems are separate, but they’re both moving along.
      iv. Madhu: When will the SET scores be available?
         1. I got the memo from Matt Oulette, and there is now a concrete proposal about rolling out the SET scores. A decision has been made that I don’t quite understand about which questions to release, which I will talk to Matt about. The committee is also looking very carefully at the wording of the questions, but the availability to students is the number one issue. Adham is on the committee so he can keep you updated.
   b. Rohit: One of the biggest complaints we receive as a Senate is the lack of activities at the end of the week and on the weekend. Is your department willing to listen to student ideas about adding weekend programming?
1. Dean Strauss: I explained to the E-Board last week about the recent positive momentum about weekend programming, and they thought it might be a good idea to bring it to the floor at this meeting.

2. Adham: For students, the main issue is that dining closes down on campus and around campus. It turns into a catch-22 because students don’t stay because they can’t eat, and nothing is open because students don’t stay. We just want to emphasize that students are willing to stay if there are activities.

3. This was brought up at the last meeting of the President’s cabinet, and it is on the table – we’re talking about it and have to identify some funding. A lot us didn’t even know that the Student Center closed on weekends.

4. Dean Strauss: A committee has been formed on this issue; I got an email today about it and will keep you updated.

5. Kelsey: This also includes restaurants on Warren, so there’s nothing really in the surrounding area either.
   a. Inviting Ned Staebler to a meeting would probably be the best resource for that since he’s involved with Economic Development.

6. Raj: As a commuter school, one of the best ways to bring students down here would be to offer classes on Friday. How has that enrollment been?
   a. We put up courses on Fridays, but no one takes them. I’m in favor of Friday classes, but we just don’t get the enrollment.
   b. Ahmad: We noticed the same thing in a meeting with Dean Raskind, but we think that students might be reserving Fridays for volunteering or research. Is there a way we could incorporate that?
      i. There are a lot of courses that don’t follow the course matrix because the time blocs overlap. We’re going to work on that this summer and hopefully that helps break the logjam.
      ii. A lot of lab courses also meet on Friday.

v. Brandon: In the College of Education, I’ve had a lot of students come to me who are undergrads taking a joint undergrad-grad course that’s only offered in the evening, and they end up taking four evening courses.
   1. I’m not familiar with that particular issue and would have to know the specific courses, but a lot of times it’s based off the faculty.
   2. Brandon: Sometimes it also happens with courses being offered only once every couple semesters where people delay graduation.
   3. One of our longer-range projects is getting every program to come up with a four-year plan which should help alleviate that.
   4. Erika: Sometimes in the business school, classes will be offered off-campus one semester but the same instructor teaches it on-campus the next term.
   5. Brandon: We’ve heard that sometimes it has to do with the cost of the course and which budget it comes out of based on space fees and faculty salary.

vi. Madhu: There’s also an issue where some students can use several courses in their major fulfill several general education requirements but for other students, none of their major courses fulfill their gen eds.
   1. It’s based on what the department decides for gen eds.
   2. Madhu: We have a few ideas about potentially doing an Honors option to incorporate gen ed credits into major courses.
      a. Email them to us. We have been trying to incorporate student ideas into the general education requirements like critical thinking and
We currently have one committee to deal with gen ed, and we are forming another one.

vii. Ashraf: With the beginning bio and chem courses, there’s only one section each semester, which can interfere with gen ed courses offered at the same time bloc.

viii. Marwan: What are the chances that we could get a student rep on the general education steering committee?
    1. Excellent.

ix. Erika: With the four-year plans, since so many students end up switching their major, it would also be helpful if the advisors were more involved with helping students figure out their course planning.

x. Ahmad: Some people say critical thinking is more of an acquired skill than a basic requirement.
    1. We’re examining whether to change or adapt the requirement and it should be incorporated into course objectives.

b. 2 minute recess (6:47) – Brandon presiding

c. BOG – Meeting
    i. March 20 we are having a town hall with the BOG in Bernath Auditorium at 6:00 and then we are meeting at 7:00
    ii. We need to advertise this to all of our classes and on our social media.
    iii. We want to have an emcee thing where people submit questions on cards and through social media and then we either ask them or answer them.
    iv. During the event, someone will be on Twitter pulling questions
    v. #wsubog and @waynestudents
    vi. We probably can’t do live streaming but that’s okay
    vii. We have to make this pretty organized, but we don’t have a lot of time.
    viii. Invite all of your friends to “like” our Facebook page.
    ix. Naomi: Can we set up a table in Towers and give out candy for liking our page?
    x. Kelsey: Can we make a Facebook event for the town hall? Yes.
    xi. Rohit: I want to get about 10 to 15 good questions beforehand
    xii. Marwan: You can retweet the good questions so that we can project them onto the screen.
    xiii. Madhu: The day of the meeting, we need to have people write down their questions, so we can either answer them or ask.
    xiv. Brandon: We need preprinted index cards with name, major, question.
        1. Maya: I can work on that.
    xv. Kelsey: Is Adham emceeing all the questions? Or is there going to be one person?
        1. Brandon: I think Adham is going to emcee it, but we have to figure out how to give him the questions.
    xvi. When we read the questions, we can ask the person to stand up so the Board knows who they’re talking to.
    xvii. We need to start advertising it today.

d. Elections
    i. Nominations for Governmental Affairs chair
        1. Position is really supposed to work with Patrick Lindsey and governmental/statewide/legislative issues
        2. Not a lot of time left this semester, but there’s always an opportunity to do a “write your state reps” campaign
        3. SAM has also asked us to host a phone bank
        5. Ashraf: I’ll be going to the LegCon conference next week, so I’ll hopefully pick up some skills for lobbying and getting involved with the legislation.
6. Marwan: Can you tell us specifically what you were involved with through the Athletics Committee and what types of events you set up?
   a. Ashraf: We set up a trip to U of M for the Michigan/WSU basketball game. We also met with Chris Nolan about the rec center fees and talked with Nicole Blaszcyk about getting more students involved.

7. Brandon: Do you have an interest in doing Governmental Affairs next year?
   a. Ashraf: I’m interested in running for Executive Board next year, yes.

8. Ahmad: Who is one Michigan representative who you hope to contact?
   a. Ashraf: I met with one last night at HFCC who’s the representative for Dearborn/Dearborn Heights/etc., and he suggested contacting Gary Peters.

9. Unanimous approval
   e. Appointments – Brandon
      i. I would like to appoint Robert Pfaff to the Promotion and Tenure Committee.
         1. Approved.
      ii. Madhu: I move to appoint Brandon Shamoun to the President’s Excellence in Teaching Committee.
         1. Approved.

6. Reports
   a. Executive Board
      i. Rohit: We finally got a response from the President’s office, and the first Smoke-Free Campus Task Force meeting will be March 17.
      ii. Marwan: I met with Audra Kovalchuk who handles the contracts for OneCard, parking, and printing and talked with her about the company that contacted me about the free printing. She was going to call the CEO Ryan Clark and discuss it with him then meet with Tim Michael.
      iii. Kelsey: The Budget workgroup met with Rob Kohrman, and he is going to come speak at the meeting on the 20th after the BOG forum. They are getting rid of the commencement fee completely moving forward. He’s also going to bring an idea to Senate about parking fees: if everyone pays about an $8 fee, then no one would have to pay specifically for parking.
      iv. Kristin: Rohit and I are going to handle the tweets for the town hall meeting, so if any of you have ideas or want to help, let us know.
      v. Brandon: Does anyone have access to Academica? They’re doing a trial run but the people they selected is random.
         1. Kristin: Academica puts you in “circles” so it’s more like social media and helps you be more connected with what’s going on in your classes. It’s really a facelift, but they’re looking for feedback. I’ll request to see if everyone on Senate can get access to it.
      vi. Brandon: Adham and I talked with the SET committee, and we’ve been trying to first get them released and then work on changing them.

b. Committee Chairs

c. College Representatives
   i. Daniel: The South End is kind of a dying entity, and the students and faculty are having trouble convincing other students to write on it. There’s been a move to focus it more on Wayne State, but we don’t necessarily know if that’s what students are interested in.
      1. Madhu: Maybe try being more creative about the types of pieces featured, like poetry or student pieces on cultural experience.
      2. Kelsey: It would be good to have a mixture of all types of stories – about Wayne State but also about Midtown and other events.
3. This semester, The South End has been very strict about only covering Wayne State events and goings-on.
4. Kelsey: You've been doing a great job with social media.
5. Ashraf: Even at HFCC, the school paper covers events and sports in Detroit.
6. Brandon: I know The South End runs on internally generated revenue, but Central Michigan and OU have been advertising in it, and they're taking students away from Wayne State.
   ii. Raj: The animal rights organization at the Law School is trying to sign a petition to prevent animal research on canines.
      1. Kristin: Dogs have a similar vascular system to humans, and that's what they're researching.
      2. John: Nationally, there are activists that have targeted Wayne State for those labs, and it has come up now and again for a couple years.
   d. Members-At-Large
      i. Ashraf: When is the mobile Secretary of State coming to campus? Talk to Kelsey after.
   e. Appointees
      i. Brandon: I'm on the retail committee, and there are two empty spaces on the campus where Temptations and Barnes and Noble used to be. Dunkin Donuts will be expanded over the summer, and there's an architectural firm that is looking at the Temptations location; they're also interested in setting up internships with students.
   f. Advisor
7. Announcements
   a. Madhu: There's a cupcake store opening by Good Girls Go to Paris and Wasabi.
   b. Brandon: Debbie Dingell, the chair of the Wayne State BoG, is running for her husband's seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.
8. Gallery Comments
9. Adjournment – 7:35