

Minutes

General Body Meeting Spring 2012
January 2, 2012



Senators Present:

CIT: Alyssa Danesh (0.5 absence), Anshul Dhankher, Mala Shah (1.5 absences), Sohini Roy, William Elmore (0.5 absence), Joshua Yee (0.5 absence)

MCS: Ashley Reeder (1 absence)

CFA: Jonathan Mark (0.5 absence), Nikhil Sambamurthy, Travis Rozich

TSB: Rishi Patel

HSS: William Weiner, Bryan Wade (0.5 absence), Nancy Brown (1.5 absences), Seth Vargo, Mike Shin

BHA/BSA/SHS: Joseph Vukovich, Andrew Biar (2 absences)

SCS: Daniel Pomeroy (0.5 absence)

Senators Absent:

Abigail Ondeck (3 absences), Ashley Dickson (3 absences), Bryan Spencer (2.5 absences), Fermin Liang (2.5 absences), Neha Chaurasia (1.5 absences), Rafael Segal (1 absence), Dixon Liang (2 absences), Aaron Chiu (3 absences), Amy Quispe (3 absences), Peter Liang (3 absences)

5:04 – Approval of Agenda

- [Dan] For last meeting's minutes, Internal Development was shown as Campus Life and there are two Ashleys and Andrews so last names are needed
- Motion to Approve. Seconded by Bianka. Voice Vote. Motion Passed

5:06 – Committee Reports

• Academic Affairs

- [Bianka] We are making our relationship stronger with career development through academic meetings
- [Bianka] Grad student week is on the first week of April. It's pretty awesome, let me know if you want to help
- [Bianka] Interp - I talked to the head of Interp and classes are still in the works
- [Bianka] Stuco - Nikhil and Neha are working with Thomas Rainy. Stay tuned for more
- [Bianka] We are planning to bring old textbooks to the library. Talk to Ashley D., Vivek or Anshul if you want to help
- [Bianka] University Lecture Series – trying to figure out how to advertise these fantastic speakers, any PR ideas?

- [Bianka] We are working with the university on the Academic Calendar. They will be presenting different models as to what the year's going to look like. stay tuned
- **Business Affairs**
 - [Anshul] We are only 3 people and are looking for more
 - [Anshul] The Game Room Project has moved to Campus Life
 - [Anshul] Magazine stands in the UC – trying to brainstorm ways to make sure they don't get stolen
 - [Anshul] Campus lighting – we are drafting an email to Fairfax to improve lights in the area
 - [Anshul] Table sharing signs at Gingers – rolling out a new pilot
 - [Anshul] Bike sharing system – we are working on bike racks, a new sharing system and bringing it all together
 - [Anshul] UC space issues – gathering feedback on how to improve the crowded UC 2nd floor at lunchtime
 - [Anshul] Campus readership program (on-campus newspapers) – handing to Travis
 - [Anshul] We have a lot going on and not enough people to do it
 - [Anshul] Meetings 5pm on Mondays
- **Campus Life**
 - [Rishi] Meetings Tuesdays 5pm
 - [Rishi] Earplugs are coming in this weekend
 - [Rishi] Game room – Bryan Wade is working on getting an air hockey table, speakers and more
 - [Rishi] Skibo – minor improvements to the gym for example stickers for the weights
 - [Rishi] We are also handing out gloves during hot chocolate this Friday
- **Communications**
 - [Alyssa] Meetings 5pm on Tuesdays
 - [Alyssa] The Gavel will launch 17th February
 - [Alyssa] We are getting a banner sponsored by student senate in the student activities office. Special allocation groups will hang the banner at their events to get our name out there with no work on our part. Also looking into getting a larger banner to hang over Doherty
 - [Alyssa] Table cloths – we're getting a black one and maybe a white one
 - [Alyssa] Tumblr – all committee chairs have access and we're trying to keep it updated
 - [Alyssa] Hot chocolate this Friday please sign up. Especially the 9:30pm slot – giving out gloves and an infographic about Port Authority cuts
 - [Andrew S] 9-9:30am can just be setup
 - [Alyssa] We should be setup by 10am with tables and maybe get hot water from Entropy

- **Finance**
 - [John] Senate has allocated much of its money early in the semester, I want to talk about fiscal responsibility
 - [John] Meetings 7pm Sundays – but maybe not Superbowl Sunday
- **Internal Development**
 - [Ashley R] Just Bryan Spencer and me
 - [Ashley R] Our responsibility is to make sure communication is going well within senate, everyone is bonding and initiatives are getting accomplished
 - [Ashley R] I'm bringing back the task sheet. It's much simpler than before. It will keep everyone updated on progress of initiatives. Everyone has access and can edit.
 - [Ashley R] By next meeting, everything should be put on the task sheet
 - [Ashley R] Don't troll the task sheet
- **Chair Report**
 - [Will W] Campus Link – university's moving ahead with the super orgtracker. We may be giving \$1000 this year for the initiative and we'll have a discussion for money in future years. It's going to be cool and rolled out next year
 - [Will W] We will discuss Port Authority Cuts later
 - [Will W] JFC process is underway – make sure all officers of student orgs are getting their budgets in
 - [Will W] Committee of Student Organizations needs more members. They recognize groups on-campus and determine whether they can or can't get funding. Talk to Will, Alyssa, or Anshul about CoSO
 - [Will W] Elections Board is finalized and headed by Jake Flittner

5:22 – Finance

- [John] I would like to make a change in the bylaws that makes the finance chair responsible for sending a monthly finance report to the Senate general body. This bylaw change is for continuity purposes.
- [John] Senate has expended 70% of special allocations budget. We only have \$20,000 left in the operational budget
- [John] I would like to move \$10,000 from reserve to operational budget to be credited towards the special allocation budget. This requires a 2/3s vote
- [John] I sent a message to all officers listed in orgtracker groups alerting them that they should not assume money from senate will be available to them based on past allocations. I'm hoping groups such as Greek Sing will come forth now instead of later
- [John] Fiscal responsibility – we need to be fiscally conservative with our money. Start thinking of Senates money as your own. Don't take anything lightly. Precedent is not something we can do anymore. That's my recommendation
- Discussion

- [Steven] I don't understand the motion. If we don't move the money from reserve to operations, we can simply spend on a deficit and whatever extra money is spent is covered by reserve automatically
 - [John] We can deficit spend but I'd like to work within the budget. We should be changing the budget and work within those limits
- [Seth] What are the ramifications of moving reserve to operating budget. If we deficit spend, won't we lose money if we transfer money from operating budget back to reserve?
 - [John] No we don't
- [Andrew S] We should keep an internal marker
- [Ashley R] I agree with John with having a set budget
- [John] Reserve also serves another function. Our budget is based on estimated enrollment. Actual enrollment is determined in February. If we actually have more money than we should, they take that money out of our reserve. Reserve is a safety net so we don't go in the red
- [Dan] Given that we have this reserve from previous years, we have an obligation to promote as many events as many as possible and not leave as much money behind
- [Seth] The motion to move money from reserve to operating budget is prevented by the bylaws
- [John] Then I am withdrawing my previous motion and create a new motion to increase the special allocation budget by \$10,000,
- [Bianka] Why increase the budget? Let's just be fiscally responsible from now on
- [John] I would like to increase the budget so that we can plan for the long-term instead of increasing our budget later on
- [Bianka] I still don't understand this
- [John] I want to do this now rather than after \$20,000 is spent. We as a body should be looking long-term and knowing that we're going to work with \$30,000. We can't just keep arbitrarily increasing the budget as we see fit
- [Seth] I feel that raising it now is premature. I'd rather discuss this after we have less money because adding more money to the budget will give people the attitude that we have more money to spend. We should have this discussion when we have \$5000 left. The monthly finance reports will keep us in check
- [Bryan W] I only think this will work if we'll be fiscally responsible. I'm more comfortable with a 2/3's vote everytime we spend something
- [Joe] I think for planning purposes, it's helpful to have a strict budget in place. Keep in mind that in the past, we've come in under budget. Adding \$10,000 is not a commitment to spend that much. It may be possible to operate with \$20,000 but you'll see our ability to support events to be greatly reduced

- [Vivek] We'll have to be stingy for the rest of the semester, there will be the psychological effect of us running out sooner so we'll be less liberal with the money
- [Mike] We can always put operational budget back to the reserves. We're aiming to spend less but we want to maximize funding for the campus.
- [Will W] Right now, we are just increasing the special allocations budget by \$10,000 but we are not moving it to reserves yet
- [Willie] Everyone now knows we have a budget constraint. I don't think there will be a psychological issue with increasing the budget
- [John] I believe the most important thing for us to be doing is continuity. We can't treat groups differently. We've used the travel metric a lot. If you add up all the funding we gave last semester for spring break trips at \$11,000, that means only \$10,000 is left for everything else. We have to think of this in terms of a budget and we need to be in the mindset that this is what we're working with. I'm worried that continuity will suffer and groups at the end of the semester will suffer. Think in terms of a budget
- [Seth] Motion to postpone to next week. Seconded
 - Move to vote. Hand vote. Passed
 - Motion to vote to postpone discussion to next week. Hand vote. 4-13-2. Failed
- [David] continuity is our key factor, It's definitely time to increase our budget
- [Andy B] Move to vote. 16-1-2. Passed
- Motion to raise special allocations budget by \$10,000. 13-4-2. Passed
- [Anshul] Are we moving the money from reserve?
- [John] This will happen automatically if we spend over our operating budget
- [John] If you have any more questions about the budget, don't hesitate to reach out to me

5:50 – Vacancy Elections

- CIT (3): Brian Ferri, David Zhou, Mariah Ondeck
 - Elected: Brian Ferri, David Zhou, Mariah Ondeck
- SCS (1) Joseph Choi
 - Elected: Joseph Choi
- CFA (4): Brian Dong Hyun Kim
 - Elected: Brian Dong Hyun Kim
- HSS (2): Jalen Poteat, Christina Graham, Jack Butler, Wyatt D'Emilia, Won Seong Kim
 - Elected: Jalen Poteat, Jack Butler
- MCS (1): Shalini Ray, Lukas Ronner
 - Elected: Lukas Ronner
- Members at Large
 - Wyatt D'Emilia, Shalini Ray

7:24 - Points of Discussion

- [Dan] Senate should host events, we should have a senate social through ID
- [Will W] Port Authority Cuts – we are continuing the fight, an infographic was created that we will give out during hot chocolate, sign up for hot chocolate tabling. Carlos and Seth are creating a website to fight the cuts. Tartan Hacks is this coming weekend. A contest was sponsored by Senate to design a website for people to send messages to political representatives
- [Carlos] The contest is to design a basic site. It should hopefully get the hacker community involved. If they have an idea, it can be a powerful force and spread on channels such as Reddit

7:26 - Announcements

- [Will W] Congratulations new senators and members at large
- [Anshul] I sent an email regarding SAC meetings and Senate meeting time conflicts, I would like to streamline the process of senators representing senate in SAC meetings and formalizing reports
- [Steven] Read the bylaws!
- [Will W] There will be a quick bylaws info session coming up
- [Seth] Come see me talk on Saturday about Javascript!

7:29 Adjourn