

Undergraduate Student Senate

December 1, 2011

Will Weiner, Chair

5:01 PM - Call to Order and Attendance (Weiner)

5:03 PM - Approval of the Minutes (Seconded: Dhanker, acclamation)

5:04 PM - Approval of the Agenda (Acclamation)

5:04 PM - Audience Participation (none)

5:05 PM - Committee Reports

5:05 PM - Business Affairs - Anshul Dhanker

Magazine racks are done! Thanks to Jon and Kaycee.

Working on getting the news out about lighting in Fairfax.

Meeting with Kim Abel about signs soon.

Textbooks on reserve project will be piloted through MCS with Eric Grotzinger next.

5:06 PM - Campus Life - Rishi Patel

Talked about the smoking policy with Bob Reppe today. There was a committee several years ago that had a 50/50 vote on banning smoking, so designated smoking areas were created. Discussing next week at the design review committee meeting about enforcement.

Thinking about creating a patio outside of Resnik. Talking about it in design review next.

5:07 PM - Academic Affairs - Bianka Roy

Vivake has been putting out an informal survey about StuCo and whether students should be in charge of StuCo.

5:07 PM - Communications - Alyssa Danesh

Logo is in the final stages.

Because it's the end of the semester, it's better to launch at the beginning of next semester so that it can be a big launch. Gavel will launch right at the beginning of next semester.

Andy Biar is working on signs for the DH printer, will have a meeting with person in charge of all campus signage and working to get that up soon.

Senate tumblr is now up, it's very basic - but they're hoping to have really short snippets of meetings and updates about what is going on.

(Mark): We haven't updated minutes on the web site in 2 years.

(Weiner): Yes, we updated them recently.
Just bought a water heater so we really want to do hot chocolate, but it may not happen this week.

5:10 PM - Finance - Kyra Gould

5 allocations this week and several for next week.

5:10 PM - Internal Development - Ashley Reeder

Holiday card picture taken.

5:14 PM - Chair - Will Weiner

Jake will cover most things in his report.
Will is writing a column for the Tartan summarizing Senate accomplishments this semester.

5:15 PM - Ex Officio Report - Jake Flittner, Student Body President

Talking about what the Cabinet is doing and what initiatives are being worked on.

Transportation

Analyzing changes that have happened over the summer.
Looking through ideas of what could be changed to help students.
Looking into safety issues and potential Port Authority cuts.
Looking into issues with students not being able to get back safely from the Southside at night.
Putting together a task force with senators and GSA reps to work on this issue.
Interested senators should contact Andrew Schwartz.
(Mark) How is this different from VP Michael Murphy's transportation SAC?
(Flittner) We're looking at things that should be changed or things that we want to add, they aren't all in scope of what Murphy is trying to do.
(Mark) They've been looking much more at Port Authority efficiency.
(Flitter) We're looking more at campus, also PAT towards Sq Hill.

Community Building

In our platform, we had "Friday Frenzies" that were proposed.
Re-named now as "Random Fun" because they might not happen on Fridays all of the time.
David Isenberg is the point person, they're trying to do something random and fun with different vendors.
Random Fun is not intended to be known about in advance, it's a surprise!

Public Relations

Two people are working on this now.

We're looking at two new logos now - we'll have a student government logo. This will be an overarching logo that anyone in StuGov can use.

We're looking at making up posters for Random Fun that can be put up. RA bulletin board - similar to the "blackbook" idea from the last administration. Hasn't been able to get information from the previous president. For the RA bulletin board, the idea is that there's a list of all RA posters that are useful from year to year that could be used as an RA resource.

Applications Engineer

Carlos Diaz-Padron is working with Seth.

Updating the website to include cabinet members.

Also trying to add a contact box to the web site, because it doesn't currently have anything.

Centralized Calendar

Goal is to be able to have a calendar of all different campus events on the StuGov website. It's been an idea for awhile.

We've looked at third parties to try to make this more of a reality and a more feasible idea on campus.

Three types: Involvio, Planga, and Food-Bot.

The first two were nice, but were a little more than we needed - account registration, etc.

Food-Bot is good because it can be customized to exactly what we want, they'll code it and we can customize it, etc.

We can administer and work on it ourselves and change it when we need to. It's a developer who's looking to develop this for our campus.

Currently looking at feasibility of what they can get out of the system.

Also looking at the cost of the system, but they're optimistic at the moment.

Food Branding Campaign

Looking to put stickers on menus for high protein, low calorie, etc.

We think this is a step in the right direction.

Also looking at food in the library - maybe a microwave to warm up foods, etc.

SpaceQuest

Trying to improve it, there have already been improvements based on feedback that has already been given.

Other Projects

Cultural/Diversity honors program - Murphy likes the idea, but not sure what the best implementation is, so going through some benchmarking and some professional books to decide what a good method is.

Continuing meetings with other groups on campus.

White House Correspondents Group conference calls - Jake is on this, offering a unique technological perspective to the group.

Looking into ways to make "weekend culture" safer on campus.

StuGov Exec

Looking at the Student Activities fee - what does it mean to raise it, do we need to raise it?

Looking at updating The Word - "student contract" in a sense - has a bunch of rules and regulations.

Some updates were proposed over the summer, but they haven't gone through because we had some concerns. We're discussing all of them now and discussing all of them both amongst ourselves and with Dean Casalegno.

Questions

(Dhanker): How are you going to get the events calendar off the ground?

(Flittner): That's one of the biggest problems. This is coming out of BOD. We've been in discussions with AB to see how we can integrate it with the AB board and the board that will be in the library, as well as ticketing. We want to tie it in to those systems. We're going to get it to work by building relationships to get people on it.

(Mark): I feel like there were a lot of good ideas, but I haven't heard about anything that you've finished.

(Flittner): We're working on this. Senate should understand that things take time when you're working with administrators. I'll be the first to admit that the projects have gone slowly for some of them because I've been busy. The transportation task force should have been up by now.

(Mark): I just looked at the dates for your logos and stuff, and I didn't understand why completion was so late in the semester.

(Flittner): Before we had our cabinet, I had three people designing logos, and those people fell through. so we had to go back to the drawing board afterwards. It's the same for Senate, you guys are just rolling out your logo right now.

(Mark): I'll be the first to admit that magazines took forever. I understand that, but I would expect just a little bit more with that many people working.

(Flittner): That's a fair thing to ask, all I can say is that we're working on it.

(Mark): Just one opinion, the "Random Fun" name is a bad name.

(Flittner): I like that name - it's come up in some brainstorming from groups on campus because it's more in the spirit of what the event is going to be. We had town halls that said that people just want random crap that you can do on campus on a Thursday or a Friday just to let loose. The name is in the spirit of that.

(Danesh): Out of curiosity, was the logo a paid thing?

(Flittner): No

(Fermin Liang): When you're doing the RA thing, can you have a really accurate and not vague description of amnesty?

(Flittner): That goes into the "weekend culture" thing that I'm working on that's sensitive. I'm working with different organizations on campus as well as with Gina. It's something that we're working on right now.

(Roy): Correct me if I'm wrong, but we already have software already put in place for a centralized calendar, as well as video monitors?

(Flittner): Sort of. Media Screens are a CoSO idea - they're now closer to the AB screens. Mainly being used to upload posters. What we're trying to do with this system is, if there's an open source coding system that is being implemented - is this going to be just AB, is it going to be groups - should we be using open source? If we are using open source, we can plug right into it. Our calendar won't be lagging behind, waiting for something to work, and if it doesn't work, we can still launch the calendar.

(Amy Quispe): I understand that there's a long failed history with having a centralized calendar. Can you tell us about that and why it's going to work this time?

(Flittner): CMUPortal was the last one of these. One of the biggest problems is the format as well as the PR. CMUPortal was basically PRd from Facebook. There wasn't any back-end PR done by actually going to talk to organizations and saying, we'll push this out after we actually have a base of users. We also need to have a good interface that reminds you of Google Calendar, not of a bulletin board.

5:39 PM Special Allocations

(5:39 PM) 11-12 020: Special Allocation of \$\$ to APEX

(Gould): APEX is a new buggy organization on campus, looking to Senate for start-up costs. They asked us for \$1200, JFC doesn't approve more than 25% so we also felt that was a reasonable amount. We weren't

totally comfortable making a recommendation without hearing from CoSO about how those meetings are going, hoping to hear from VPO Will Zhang.

(Will Zhang): Actually not aware of this group at all until this week. They've definitely been thinking about different factors due to the "differentiation" process. Two things are important in being an organization - the interest level, as well as does the organization bring something new that's not being addressed by other orgs. There are a few independent buggy orgs right now. You could argue both sides of this. The number of teams has been declining in the past few years. My personal opinion is that I wouldn't feel comfortable making this allocation today without the CoSO process being started. My recommendation is to table this and wait until they get farther into the CoSO process.

(Kaycee Palko): Isn't there a pool of JFC funding that's available that My Le can give out for groups that are not JFC funded?

(Weiner): I think that is allocated at the beginning of the fiscal year.

(APEX Rep): We were thinking of doing Booth at the Rez, and then we decided to do Buggy instead - we've been doing more research now and taking it more seriously now. Doing a lot of research over the last few months, trying to make sure that they knew everything before they came to Senate and before they came to CoSO. Only thing holding us back now is funding.

(Mark): Who have you contacted from Buggy Alumni or anyone from the past?

(APEX Rep): We have contacted a ton of people from BA. We've been in touch with Sam Swift - head of the Buggy alumni org as well as a few others. Talked to about 10-15 people from BA, as well as people from CIA and Fringe.

(Mark): Do you feel confident that you could build a buggy right now?

(APEX Rep): Yes, and we've also been offered assistance from the folks that we've talked to.

(Danesh): How essential is time interns of ordering the parts?

(APEX Rep): Eentially, we need the parts within the net two weeks.

(Danesh): Is there anyone on your team with prior buggy experience?

(APEX Rep): It's just freshmen. We have some people with carbon fiber and metalwork experience, though.

(Ashley Dickson): Pass

(Joe): Listening to Will Zhang, we should table this.

(Weiner): Out of order, we're in questions.

(Brian Wade): How many members right now?

(APEX Rep): 20-22 members.

(Dhanker): What are your long term plans? When are you planning on getting started?

(APEX Rep): We're planning on rolling this year. We want to build a buggy, but we have a backup plan in case we can't get one built in time. A buggy has been offered for half of the cost of rehabilitating

it before raceday. We want to be out and rolling on raceday.

(Mark): Motion to move to discussion.

(Weiner): Voice vote, AYES have it.

(Abby Ondeck): How do you plan to keep this going in the future?

(APEX Rep): Being a CoSO recognized organization will give us more flexibility in raising money and doing builds in future years, and through JFC funding we can get 25% of a build when necessary.

(Seth Vargo): Is your organization open to non-freshmen? (YES) How do you plan on letting people know they can join?

(APEX Rep): For this year, we have the set number of people who are going to be involved. To get this off the ground, this is going to start going in a whole number of directions. We plan on posting more information on the team and getting people out similar to other teams on campus.

(Patel): Are you allowed to compete this year?

(APEX Rep): Yes. We've worked it out with Sweepstakes.

(Neha Kapoor): Pass

(Andrew Schwartz): Are you planning on working on this over break? What's the gain of getting this now? Will you do work over break?

(APEX Rep): Yes. Some of us have time between finals and when we return home. We have a couple of days that everyone is going to be working on this. Doing some experimentation during that time so that they know what to do before next semester. We're working on this in the Rez.

(Mark): Motion to table until we hear from CoSO. (Seconded: Patel)

(Dhanker): I want to hear more information before we push this to a later meeting. As a question, what are you guys going to do if you're not CoSO recognized.

(Will Zhang): According to Sweepstakes bylaws, only "fraternities, sororities, and student government recognized organizations can compete". So the bylaws would have to be amended.

(APEX Rep): Bylaws are being changed a bit this year. Sweepstakes has told us that we can roll this year.

(Vargo): Move to vote.

(Weiner): Hand vote: 13-9-2 FAILS

(Schwartz): The only thing that concerns me is that you guys have no idea what the pressure will be like from... (Weiner): Please keep this germane.

(Danesh): I think it's awesome that you're starting a buggy team. But I'm not sure if you can roll, so I think it's important to figure that out first before we pass the money. You should focus on the CoSO process before the allocations process.

(Dixon): Same as above, pass.

(Roy): I know you guys got \$500 last week. Could you speak to the amount of time that it will take for the material to be shipped to

you? If you already have the money that you need for the shell...how would tabling this affect you?

(APEX Rep): We have money for materials, but we don't have money for tools. So we could have materials sitting in our garage, but they'd be useless. Delivery time would be about a week to a week and a half depending on what's in stock.

(Mark): Because we're talking about tabling...there's a lot riding on CoSO. If CoSO doesn't say yes, then Sweepstakes has to change their bylaws. We're trying to do CoSO's job right now by asking a lot of question. There's no good reason for us to be doing this until CoSO has done this.

(Danesh): Move to vote.

(Weiner): Hand vote. PASSES.

(Weiner): Vote to table the motion, hand vote: 22-0-2 PASSES

Motion tabled.

(5:55 PM) 11-12 021 Special Allocation of \$4000+ to AB Concerts

(Gould): They're looking for money for the spring carnival show. Looking for more money for a higher bid. They're having trouble because there's a music festival right now that's taking up some of the bands time that they're seeking. Also looking for funds for staging and lighting. AB stages in the past have not been meeting requirements, so they need more money for that jazz. Finance and ExComm have recommended \$4000 for staging and lighting but have not recommended increasing the bid budget \$10,000 because we did not feel that this was a sustainable solution out of the Student Activiites Fee in future years. However, lighting and staging is necessary and appropriate.

(AB Rep): There have been a bunch of staging accidents in the last year, so we need to ensure that our stage is safe and our lights are hung safely. We brought in a list of artists that people might be interested in. Our sweet spot is \$75K. We're not asking for that much, we're just asking for a little bit of a bump so that we can be a bit more competitive. This is our Carnival concert and it affects so many people. We think that with a bigger artist, we can affect the whole campus community. Kyra mentioned this, but Coachella happens every year during Carnival...so that eliminates a lot of bands for us. This year it's especially important for us to be competitive...but this is an issue going into the future. For next year, we can put this in our JFC budget.

(Patel): I think this is a great opportunity, a lot of good bands on this list. Goes well beyond our campus community.

(Vargo): Are these costs just for artist, or does that include staging fee?

(AB Rep): No. Just talent, and there's also an agent fee. We have some

money allocated, but not all of it that's needed.

(Vargo): On average, how far in advance do you need to book?

(AB Rep): The plan is to put out the first bid next week. It's better to settle early.

(Mark): I know you guys are moving the concert around this year. Does that cause more of an interference?

(AB Rep): No, it conflicts regardless. We might move the concert to Saturday and will combine it with the Fireworks show.

(Willie): Are you asking any other organizations for additional funding?

(AB Rep): As Activities Board, we're under Senate, so we're coming here first as the main point of contact. You folks represent us the best.

(Vivek): Are you not asking for the full amount, more than this?

(AB Rep): We're just trying to become super transparent about it. But we just need to show you that we need more money, we're not just trying to pick an artist based on our eclectic tastes.

(Mark): Pass

(Dhanker): What's the range you would be at if you get this allocation?

(AB Rep): We'd be at 40K-ish for talent headliner. Could be up to 60K towards a headliner if we have a pretty bad opener.

(Dhanker): What's the likelihood of getting an artist if you submit a bid?

(AB Rep): It varies. It's really hard to tell.

(Danesh): Have you been in the 40K range for awhile, or has there been an increase?

(AB Rep): We've been there for a long time, definitely since our freshman year (last 3 yrs)

(Danesh): You say this is sustainable because you can put it in your JFC budget next year, but I find it unlikely that you'll get another 10K from AB. Is there any other way to be sustainable?

(AB Rep): Beyond charging admission...no. And we don't want to do that. We've grappled with that - saying even if we charge \$1, there are changes that would happen. It's definitely something that we could talk about for the fall concert this year. We did make about \$750-\$1000 this fall with public costs. We postered in Bloomfield. Hard logistically to cost Carnival, so...

(Mark): Move to discussion (passed by acclamation)

(Mark): I agree that 10K increase won't happen from JFC. But this year there's a huge push within Carnival and AB Concerts and the stakeholders of Carnival to make this Saturday night really big. If we give these guys a fighting chance to do this...we might see ourselves pulling out an audience that we've never seen before. So I would say this is a trial run to see if a higher allocation is a good investment of the fee. I'd be willing to allocate an additional \$7500.

(Zhang): JFC - this is sustainable. Exceptions can be made. We're reasonable. I've gotten a ton of feedback asking for bigger artists. Charging at the fall concert is feasible. Ad costs could be reduced due to a bigger act.

(Flittner): Regardless of whether it's sustainable, if you think you want a bigger name artist, then go for it.

(Vargo): I think it's irrelevant whether JFC funds this or not.

Hypothetically, we fund this and we get Ke\$ha to come - it gives AB concerts the ability to go for external sponsors. Right now we're at a pendulum that we need to get over. If we can show that this is an impactful event, there's room to grow beyond JFC and Senate.

(Bryan Spencer): If you just shoot up 10K and we can get to well-known artists, it's worth it.

(Danesh): I'd really like for Drake to come. I think he's great. I'd like to see a big name come. But I'm skeptical, because this would be a really pricey test run. Totally comfortable with lighting and stage, and I'd like to see the names, but we need to think about how much money we really are giving them.

(Dhanker) Agree with above. There should be other sources of funding for something like this. Carnival, DOSA? There's room to grow. Price tag is pretty expensive, I don't know how that would set us back.

(Weiner): We have around 40K remaining right now of our original 70K.

(Vivek): Where is the concert held?

(AB Rep): It's outdoors on the mall.

Jon Mark motions for 4000 + 10,000 reserve

Fermin Seconds

Jon Mark wants to dip into reserve because we haven't spent money on reserve and wants to try this out. Wants corporate sponsorship for AB concerts in future years.

Seth- Alyssa said \$10,000 is a huge allocation. But this is slightly over a dollar per student if 80 percent show up

Anshul – more comfortable dipping into reserve as a one time expense, wants to use it for capital type initiatives

Will – original intent was to offset operating budget

Andrew – How did we get the roots and how come that level of a performer did not let the concert grow

Jing jing – it was last minute

Vivek – it would be worth trying out

Jake f – budget for concert has to grow for a certain number of years and this is just part of the growing process. If it is reserve or not reserve money, it is practically the same pool of money and it's intended to be overflow money. Activities money is allocated and it should be used.

AB – needs to adjust for increase in band money

Brian calls the question

Anshul objected

Anshul – if we do fund this, this would look good for senate. We should consider our image

Jon Mark – make sure you thank senate, AB

Alyssa – Really uncomfortable, does not want to take away money from other special allocations, have a big impact on campus

Kyra – POI how many went to the concert

AB – 2500 people went to concert

Bianka – do we need to vote for \$10,000 out of reserve, can we budget for it?

Will – we need to make an amendment for this

Will Z – These more famous dubstep artists would lead to a large turnout.

Bryan – This would be a good thing

Anshul move to vote

Brian S seconds

Vote passes

Motion passes

21 – 1 – 2

Seth calls the question

No one objects

Motion passes

20-1-3

Seth motions to fix the agenda to extends allocation 25 minutes

Joe seconds

Kyra – HFH sending 14 students, last year leadership budgeted way less than the trip costs.

Asked for 2000

Still going to dosa

Recommended for 1500

HFH – having trouble this year, some travel funds were allocated to international travel by depts.
Budget to jfc was way less than what we need
Freshmen and sophomores are attending trip

Anshul- are we using travel metric

Bryan – is JFC allocated for travel?

Anshul – What is the project?

HFH – 26th street project in bay area of Houston

Jon motion to move to discussion

Will says yes

Joe – it's a good thing, a good cause. Taken good steps to make sure this doesn't happen in the future. We should blow through this

Kyra – 2250 for the whole budget. JFC does not cover travel cost
Winter break trip travel is way less than spring break trip

Anshul calls the question

18 – 0 – 3
Allocation passes

Kyra – ASCE – civEs professional org
Travel cost of 8 students for a conference
Asked for Registration fees but they were not through the funding from CivE dept
Conference for training new orgs on campus
Total cost of event minus registration fees is recommended

ASCE – travel costs not finalized
This is why budget is not that detailed
ASCE2 – went to conference last year
Reg fees jumped up this year so asking for money
For seniors is 125 dollars, and freshmen and sophs 25
For seniors are career development, which is why it is so expensive

Jon Mark – Are they a student org?

Kyra – Yes. They have get a JFC money

ASCE – get to meet more youn professionals

Giving presentations to the other people in the CivE dept

Vivek – what are you asking the money for?

ASCE – does not want to put a large burden on attendees

Dan – motions for discussion

Will says yes

Dan – thinks this is good

Jon Mark calls the question

No one objects

19-0-2 passes

CMU filmmakers' club

Kyra – does not have funds to put on a short film, they have plans to do it, 2600 dollars to pay for director of photo and sound mixer. More appropriate to fund cost of emergency expenses so like insurance and stuff. Admission fees are being made. Recommendation: 1500

Film – we have a film festival, they want to make something big so CMU can get their names out.

Seth – What is the JFC allocation?

Vivek – plan to rent the red camera?

Film – adds production value, it is a negotiable cost

Bryan – how many people are a part of this?

Film – 30 people, 20 people working on production, want to premiere at film fest where 300 people attend

Discussion

Will E – film not in jfc budget

Vivek – you have done this before? Jfc budget in the future

Film – Yes I have and this will be in the jfc budget in the future

Bryan calls q, Jon objects

Jon moves to vote, passes

Allocation passes 19 – 0 – 2

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Game room

Want to add air hockey table

Wants to Andrew café with a tv

Wants to change it and admin is behind the change

Sangita – tables are small

Kyra – it's a quiet place and people like the quiet place so maybe no games, wants big tables

Nancy – used in evenings for ballroom dance and bag pipe band, football games on weekends.
It's a good balance of having an open space

Joe – hesitant to change it radically because it is a good use space

Seth – weekday hiding place, weekend tv lounge

Have a couch in there and some longer tables, could be the baby of a lounge and study room

Will Chair – next week is a longer meeting, entirety of ex-comm is up for grabs

Jon Mark – what did everyone think of jakes speech

Thinks it's a campaign speech, did not think Jake did anything useful

Kyra – needs to see more of those meetings and likes to be informed

Will Chair – should do a better job communicating for Ex Comm

Joe – have a hard time telling people what we do, let alone the Prez

Anshul – we should have those meetings with concrete progress and need more meetings like every other week

Jon Mark – knows that things take time and is disappointed by the pace

We should demand more accountability

Seth – we do not have a frame of reference for the tasks and there are no solid deadlines, and now that we know of the solid deadline, we should demand that at the next meeting

Anshul – checks and balances, we should check on the prez

Stephen

AA

Kyra wants Bianka

Jing jing seconds

Bianka accepts

BA

Jon says Anshul

Willie Seconds

Anshul accepts

CL

Will says Jing Jing

Bianka seconds

Rishi accepts

Comm

Kyra says Alyssa

Willie seconds

Anshul says Josh Yi

Joe seconds

Finance

Mike nominates willie

Joe seconds

Willie accepts

Anshul nominates bryan wade

Willie Seconds

Wade accepts

Anshul for Seth

Seth accepts

Seth will skype

Anshul makes weird dolphin noise

ID

Joe nominates Ashley

Jon nominates Jon Mark

Fermin seconds

Seth nominates Fermin
Fermin accepts

Kyra nominates Aaron G

Chair

Kyra nominates will weiner

Chair – that was cool, any more announcements

Travis – can we do that so that the end of the list of allocations has the same enthusiasm from senate as does in the beginning of the list of allocations

Kyra – controversial allocations go first

Seth – needs info already up on the projectors so that we do not repeat information

Joe – says wanna roll through this because we keep repeating things
Wants to breeze through non-controversial stuff quickly

Jon Mark – talks more in the beginning, wants everyone to stop repeating things. Were not real politicians

Kyra – if you feel it is blowing thru details too quickly, you should say so

Neha – A lot of the time is wasted with the rules

Will – wants a refresher for Roberts Rule

Joe – remembers end of last year, ID is not about hanging out about that
Haven't had any ID thing about Roberts Rule

Will – should do something to address that

Seth – read by laws and constitution

TJADER – in ref of Roberts Rule, WE DON'T DO IT RIGHT. Does not know what to enforce because we have our own system.

Anshul wants cheat sheet

ROLL