

Student Senate Agenda

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Campus Center Room 220

- I. Roll Call
Sara Kaplin Absent
 - II. Approval of Minutes
- Minutes approved
 - III. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Balance - -\$11,000....We are still waiting on the allocation.
 - b. Finance Committee Report - Brett: We have had a couple budget requests, and we are stressing that they don't get the money if we don't see receipts. <Gave examples> Just so you all know that that is working. Also, the allocation like I said we will be getting soon. Our balance will be about 4,000 dollars
 - c. Budget Requests –
 - i. We got a budget request from Campus Fellowship. They are requesting 4,000 dollars to go to the Christmas conference in Indianapolis. They are expecting about 20 people to go. They don't have membership dues, but are opened to the campus. What they want to do is use it as a scholarship for students who want to go. We gave them 1000 dollars last year. The registration fee went down. However, seeing that campus fellowship and SAT have become more involved, we are recommending 1200 dollars this year. They hope twenty people will go, so let's say 12 do at 100 dollars piece, they are simply asking for help.

Eric: How long does it last?
Brett: December 27th – January 1st
Ben: Did we say if campus fellowship was recognized?
Beth: Yes, they are.
Meghan: How will they be using this retreat to better the campus?
Brett: They come back refreshed, and will come back with a renewed desire to make a positive impact on campus.

Motion: Passes
- IV. Standing Committee Chair Reports
 - a. Elections Chair - None
 - b. Publicity Chair – I talked to Devon Scheible about the copying machine, and he thinks that it would be best to put it in the poster room. He felt the poster room was the best because it would generate more use of that room. I also put a poster room sign up sheet up for the poster room up. The newsletter will be going out on Monday, and the website has finally been updated; however, I am working on getting your picture right next to your bio. Does anyone have an issue with me giving out your e-mails? It is good.
 - c. Liaison for Student Organizations Chair: I e-mailed all of the presidents twice this week. I sent out a president questionnaire the first time we met. Hopefully, I will get more replies soon. I also e-mailed them about the ski trip. I have heard two organizations that are interested but we have an informational on it tomorrow.
 - d. Campus Concerns Chair – I made comment sheets for the chairs of each organizations based on the multitude of beef I received.
 - i. Food Focus
 - ii. What's Your Beef? – I will be meeting with Karen tomorrow.

Carol: Could we possibly get lines painted for parking spots in the senior apartments?
Aaron: If people IM us or e-mail us, are we sending them a response? Yes.
Meghan: Have you figured out what is up with the whole staying open later thing?
Corin: The library won't, but the Computer center will.

V. Special Committee Reports (Vice President Eric Hauff)

a. Task Forces

- i. *Academics*: Brett G., Maryann, Zaia, Heather, Shannon – Shannon: We are meeting with them tomorrow at 4 pm.
- ii. *Technology*: Brett P., Eric, Luke, Alyssa, Carol – I believe registration went well this year, do you agree? Yeah. We are looking at online registering by April for next fall.
Brett: We were also looking for scrolling marquees that were big enough.
Alyssa: I wasn't feeling well, so I couldn't bring up the printer thing with IRHC.
- iii. *Student Involvement*: Ben, Sara, Phil, Beth – We have been working on the surveys, and Sara is going to email about who wants to help with membership.
- iv. *Campus Center Improvements*: Brian, Corin, Todd, Meghan, Khusi – We met today, and we were supposed to have a meeting with Reetha but she forgot. We decided to look on the internet and price change machines. Khusi said that people go to rock creek for quarters a lot. We also looked at DDR games and arcade machines. We didn't get to contact any one about fitness center maintenance. We also cleaned the Senate office.
Heather: Are we going to have office Hours or what?
Maryann: I was involved with office hours, and felt it was a waste of time. I personally don't know anyone who went to the student senate office for anything.
Luke: I think if we can find a way to make them more productive, they could be a good thing. If not, then why should we do them?
Brett: I think my time has been better spent with my committee things. We actually get things done there, and I have never had anyone call or come in. We could use that hour in other ways.
Alyssa: I know we used to have people have there meetings in the senate office for there committees, and I know that the only time people came in is when they were bringing stuff for the Art contest. Maybe have the screen name there.
Beth: I didn't use office hours a lot. The only thing is with all this student organization stuff, and it being next to Reetha's office, it would be good to sit in there during the school day because students are in and out of there all the time.
KB: I am aware of the fact that we don't have office hours, but people don't know we have them. We don't let people know. I am as busy as the next person, but it is not being used
Eric: a lot of times the faculty would stop in and talk with us to express concerns about things. Also, I think it is a nice way to put ourselves out there. Letting them see you as a senator tells them who to go to. The flip side, if we don't use it for something other than storage. we are going to loose it.
Phil: This is my 4th year on senate, and we have done office hours for 3 of the 4 years. Not one person has been up there. On 3rd floor you have the same 10 people walking around everyday. Yes, you get to talk to them but it is the same people. I have not found them to be

productive. But when you figure you are giving 4-5 hours a week already to senate, adding an hour would be hard.

Eric: It is on third floor, not a lot of people go up there. Do you all think if it was some where else it would be helpful? Would more people stop in?

Shannon: How many people besides us know where the senate office is? Maybe if we advertised, and were there, at least letting people know where we are and making it accessible would be good.

Phil: I would like to move we make office hours of our senators optional this year.

Brett: Second

Maryann: Doesn't a motion have to be in a positive.

Dustin: Where does it say that office hours are mandatory?

Ben: It doesn't.

Dustin: Then your motion is invalid.

Maryann: I would like to make a friendly amendment to make senate office hours mandatory.

Dustin: Unless there is a motion on the table, then office hours are optional. If your intent is not to have them, then remove your motions and be done.

Luke: Is there technically a viable motion on the floor?

Phil: I would like to withdraw my motion.

Meghan: Can we see if there is a way to move our office to the second floor?

Brian: I was thinking, if we are going to have the office up there, we should at least use it to make us more visible. Everyone has made a point we don't need the office. We can do anything anywhere else. If we don't use it we don't need it, then...

KB: There is an option to share an office with Berg Allies on the Second Floor

Marryan: Would BEC be willing to share an office with us?

KB: We already share that office.

Carol: If we move our office to the second floor, would it be reasonable to move it to a small room we can actually be in? Is it big enough to have a meeting in?

KB: Not for a meeting.

Carol: So, if really we have no use, why don't we find a more visible/useful room.

Eric: I think if you want to do office hours great. But we need to have Campus Center improvements check to see if we can move our office.

Brett: I don't know how important the Miller duty office is, but it seems like the greatest flow of traffic. Maybe if we could have that...

Dustin: Amy and I would like to interject: we think you are talking about two different things that you want here. Store front/working area. It sounds very territorial. It is like we don't want to do anything with it we just want our office. You are going in circles here, so maybe the Committee should discuss it and get back to us.

v. *Residence Halls/Buildings on Campus:* Whitney, Tito, Ali, Michelle, KB – We have our surveys here <passing it to Eric>

a. Faculty Committee Reports

CRC DC EPC FDC IRC RCL

CRC: Tito: We are talking about orientation and are trying to figure out how much to spend, how long it is, number of sessions, ect. Also, we are working on advising, the FYE 099 programs, and the problems we have with faculty participation in those orientation sessions. They also want to move towards the freshmen making there schedule during orientation sessions.

How do you all feel about that?

Tito: I think it is a good Idea because it gets you involved right away.

Aaron: Couple of things, 1st what do you think the general consensus of Summer orientation budget and length?

Tito: Initially, they wanted to cut it, then we got a break down which showed everything we have is necessary.

Aaron: I will say it from a different perspective, I don't think the budget should be cut. Some of the things we cut back on from the first year was definitely noticeable. Also, what do you think as far as making your own schedule? It may not be smart without aid. I think that it should be an advisor or someone helping you. Otherwise, it could create chaos.

Tito: They would have help, but that is still being figured out.

Aaron: Also, did you take our comments back about how many days our orientation should be?

KB: The next committee to be a spot lighted is CRC, at that time I want you to bring ideas about orientation. I am not happy with them because I don't understand the importance of programs. Please keep that in mind.

Corin: I liked my schedule being picked out for me, I was overwhelmed. Also, we met with advisors to ensure we didn't want to change anything. Also, did the FYE have the same credit.

Yes.

Corin: Well, I feel some are WAY too hard while others are blow off classes, so should we find a way to stabilize those?

Beth: When I came in, you got to choose one class, but my first semester I ended up wasting time dropping those courses. So, it is good to be handed them.

Shannon: I know I got into the honors program after orientation and couldn't change anything. So, I think that if they give you an opportunity to change it at some point that would be good.

Brian: I was going to agree with Tito on having the same teacher for both courses. We had issues with the FYE 099 professor, but didn't with the other class at all. If it were the same teacher, I think there would be more understanding of group opinion. FYE 100 challenged us which made us respect it. The 099 didn't, so we didn't put a lot of effort into it, and it didn't work out real well.

Carol: I believe a huge problem is uninformed academic advisors. I feel if they don't have the drive to care about us and our schedules, then what is the point in having them?

Eric: Really good comment/point.

Tito: We actually talked about that.

Corin: When you all talk about 099 advisors and 100 being the same make sure you bring that up.

Tito: What did we say last week about orientation?

We feel it should be an overnight thing opposed to a one day thing.

EPC: Zaia: We moved to change an ATC course from 3 to 2 hours because it is a two hour course. It is course 485. Second, when we get grades they want to integrate the pluses and minuses into the grading scales.

Ben: Currently, we have a plus and minus system but we are not using it. What is happening is that they are recalculating them in graduate and law schools. So, the minus/plus system is hurting students as they go onto graduate school because it is hurting students as it is now. If we eliminate plus/minus, they can't be relocated. On the other handed pluses make you look better.

Meghan: So you have to get all A plusses to get a 4.0?

Eric: The way it is now, yes.

Maryann: Did they say what students have had problems with that?

Ben: They were really saying, especially for students going into medical and law school, are being most affected. Also a few graduate schools depending on your major.

Hillary: Either way, if you go to graduate school the pluses/minus do balance out. For a lot of majors, you can't graduate with a C-, so the pluses and minuses aren't going to do a lot. I think we should look at raising degree requirements rather than changing the plus minus system.

Ben: I think maybe academics should look into this.

Zaia: I just wanted to say a 1.67 would become our standard.

Michelle: Do we have the number/graduate schools that recalculate or are we speaking in generalities.

Ben: I am guessing it is a fair number, but I don't really know.

Amy: This is something that comes and goes with Academic winds, so what I think should be a concern for you is how this should this effect your GPA because if I feel a student is an A- but if A- is an A then I might give them a B.

Brett: Say in the scale we have now, I study and care a lot, but I get an 89 percent. Eric slacks, though, and gets an 80. Now it is the same, but if we used the one they want to instill it would make a difference. It is unfair that you get the same GPA as someone 9 percent lower.

Ben: Would we like to institute the plus/minus scale? None of our peers use our system. Currently, most use the plus/minus scale.

Luke: One thing I have heard is that a lot of schools who make plusses worth more but it doesn't matter with an A. So I think you either have to go full blown or not at all. I know we kind of do it now, but isn't it kind of shady the way it is now with a 9 percent difference. It is like sure we saw the problem but...

Eric: So, are we agreeing this is definitely an issue? I am adding this to the survey that is going out.

Zaia: The upperclassman that did have plus/minus should we recalculate theres too or start with freshmen?

Ben: Academics will look into this?

Yeah...sure...

FDC: We didn't meet this week

IRHC: They talked more about the Cornell test. All freshmen have taken it, and they believe the critical thinking test is doing its job.

RCL: We didn't meet.

VI. Old Business

b. Veteran's Day – Brett: It turned out really nice, everything got pulled together at the end. Thanks to those that came.

Alyssa, thanks for making the ribbons. TJ, thanks for making sure that music, ect was lined up. We probably had about 40 people there, plus vets. Also, thanks to Jack, Heather's husband for speaking.

Alyssa: Also, thank you Brett for making sure everything happened, we will miss you.

Maryann: I really like the ceremony a lot every year. Isn't this a worthwhile activity that the school should be putting on? I know that senate has done it, but why wouldn't administration want to put it on?

Eric: I agree the school should look into getting them to put it on. Instead of being forgotten by students or whatever. Either the school or organizations need to pick it up.

Brett: At the ceremony there was an opportunity to show hands of who was actually a veteran. I didn't realize how many faculty actually were veterans, and I think there are more than enough faculty members interested to do this thing.

Tito: I think that if we turn it over to the school, or ask another group to do it there is a chance it could get overlooked and wouldn't be done as well. I think if we keep it we know it will always happen, and be there. I feel it is a very important thing to continue.

Aaron: Is that one of the activities you mentioned that you were going to phase out?

Beth: No, it goes into its own category where if no one will do it Senate will.

Dustin: I think part of the reason the Administration hasn't done it is because the students have. Our office prefers it that way because there is something more to the students honoring veterans opposed to the college/president. So, I think it is like the 9/11 thing, it isn't our responsibility, but rather isn't this great that students are doing it. It comes better from students than from departments.

Alyssa: I agree with what Dustin just said, but also I wanted to say thanks to Luke for saying a prayer before everything started.

VII. New Business

a. Spotlight on Diversity Committee

Brett: Basically what we have been doing: we have been going through our diversity action plan, and deciding what steps can/need to be changed. We went over the steps and changes they would like to make vs. those they would not, and thought about that. We have discussed enhancing orientation. When I go home for thanksgiving, I would like to bring things back to talk to you (tito) about orientation that Texas did effectively. On each search committee, there is a diversity monitor, and we discussed what that monitor does. There isn't a technical description at this time. We are looking to get clickers so that people can anonymously click what they think. That would be very useful for both orientation and classes. There is an affirmative action committee and we are figuring out our relationship with them. For the survey, we felt we should survey the faculty to see how they feel about it, is our slight diversity our selling point? If you got to Michigan they have a ton of exchange students that end up hanging out together, and don't get that true American feel. What I want from you all is our biggest concern. What is our campus climate? I think we are in more of a mindset that we except/tolerate diversity rather than supporting it. I feel that supporting it is important. What do you all think?

Maryann: I am wondering, do you have the percentage of black students on campus this year.

Dustin: 9-11 percent.

Maryann: I believe my freshmen year it was two percent.

Dustin: We are one of the highest in the OAC.

Beth: I feel that this year, especially in the first month of school, everyone talked about diversity. People would ask you the same Qs and I felt really overwhelmed with it at the beginning. Maybe spread it out more.

Alyssa: I have a girl from china on my floor, and she has been here for two years now. Although they have language aid programs, I don't know that many people do them. I think that if we did something to include them more it would help. I know Chen is coming home for thanksgiving with me. People willing to take them home, and include them more, talk to them more because they group together too much. It is hard for them to be comfy if they don't know anyone else.

Brian: I wanted to say, I liked diversity week because it forced people to look at diversity and go to an event. There have been several events lately such as the Japanese music thing two Saturdays ago.

Eric: I would like to be able to come back, and see diversity on campus grow as the campus grows. Maybe even have more students come over.

Brett: We, just last week, talked about a new contact we have in Korea. We may offer to pick up the second two years, to pick up a Bachelors for them. I like what everyone is saying, but what I want to know the most is, what do you think the climate is? If we randomly walked up to people, what do you think of African Americans or homosexuals, what would they say?

Eric: The campus is more open minded now than it has been in the past. Maybe if we continue to recruit in larger city areas, then we will have more people that are used to dealing with diversity already.

Brett: I am asking, due to evidence of hate crimes.

Maryann: I think things have gotten better in the four years have been here. Every year more professors go to events, and realize it is not so bad after all. I feel as long as we keep these programs up, it will be beneficial and we are going in the right direction.

Aly: He said something about the difference between support and tolerance. We don't tend to speak out for it, rather we just go about life tolerating it.

Maryann: My mom ate with me and pointed out how segregated things are. How can we change that?

Eric: This isn't 1947. Hate crimes are bad, and something should be put in the book about them. They should be strictly punished. It shouldn't be tolerated. What do you consider a hate crime?

Hazing, throwing things at doors, degrading another in public, using a derogatory term against someone, it is something that shouldn't be tolerated.

Maryann: Isn't there national legislation defining what hate crimes are?

Dustin: No

Aaron: I am taking social anthropology, and read the book why are the black kids together at the lunch table, and one thing that I would like to talk about is that the word diversity is something people feel it needs to be talked about. Why is it that we have a diversity week? Why can't we do it all year long? It is the idea we are really going to hit it then we are good. It needs to be addressed on campus. I talked to a faculty member, and he said James Maxwell wants to get more than black people to go to black student union. He wants to break that barrier. I think it is an issue that needs to be dealt with. I mean we had Resa Aslon give a great speech about diversity as far as faith, but maybe we need to have speakers come in about non-faith diversity issues.

Brian: Do we need to bring in a speaker? Could we have faculty host a talk about something like this? We have diverse faculty.

Eric: You know the Hot Topics informative things...maybe we could incorporate diversity stuff into it.

Alyssa: Publicity is a big part of events as a whole, and there are signs everywhere for big events. People don't learn about a lot of the diversity events the smaller events. I haven't seen anything besides student announcements.

Ben: Brett, did you just want a feel of the culture?

Yeah.

Ben: I think we can say as we have heard, we are getting better and need to keep heading.

ii. Student Activities Fee

Ben: Do we want to tack anything like that on to our tuition, or a laundry fee instead of quarter machines? Should we give those to committees?

Meghan: I give it two thumbs up, I know our campus isn't as big as Ashland, but they have fees and can bring more people in, better people in.

Ben: Do we have a good consensus as to what group/committee could make it happen? Some confusion and clarifications.

Luke: You aren't looking for discussion right? Just who will take this on, right?

Ben: Right.

Alyssa: I honestly have only done laundry on this campus twice in the two years, I live here. I live close enough to do laundry, do we need to add on the fee for that?

Ben: That is why I think this needs to be looked into.

Eric: We want people to stay on campus, so making laundry easy to do is one less excuse to go home. Second, it won't be a huge amount, so if you don't use it, big deal. I think what we should do right now: should student involvement take this on

Tito: We will take it on.

Brett: I know that we had potential bands to bring in, but didn't have the money to do it. If your money has already paid for it, then maybe they will go.

Beth: What he wanted was for us to discuss good, bad, or indifferent. Is there a committee willing to take this on?

Ben: We will take on student activities fee, Resident Halls will take on the laundry.

Carol: Technology committee took this on as making it, so that you can use a card swipe to do other things?

Aaron: If you feel that that is an issue that needs to be addressed than go for it.

Eric: We will go over it.

VIII. Comments and Suggestions

a. Senator of the Week – Eric: For the countless hours, and willingness to do things well:
Corin

IX. Advisor's Remarks

- a. Dean Dustin Brentlinger – I want to explain Robert Rules to you because it came to my attention. If you vote on something, you have the right to appeal. If you were in the majority, but not if you were in the minority. That is why we put your digits on votes
Second: Meghan is mean and sent me a bad note.
- b. Dr. Amy Berger – I have a cheap plug for December 3rd cookie party from 3-8 but if you came at ten people will still be there.

X. President's Remarks

Aaron: I know the meeting took a while, but we did well with good discussions. I want to pose a challenge to you to start knocking off some of those tasks. If it something big maybe look into writing a resolution and bringing it before senate. We can then hand it to administration as something tangible.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned