Student Senate Minutes
Wednesday, January 23, 2008
Campus Center 220

I. Approval of minutes
   a. Minutes are Approved
II. Special Business
   a. Introduction of New Senators- We have two new senators representing the junior class they are Blake and TJ. Could each of you please tell us your name, major, class and if you were an ice cream flavor what flavor would you be?
      i. TJ-My name is TJ, or Tito. I am a junior, graduating in 2009. I am double majoring in Political Science and International Studies. If I was an ice cream I would be Cookies N' Cream.
      ii. Blake-My name is Blake. I am a junior graduating in 2009. I am a double major in Biology and Chemistry. If I was an ice cream I would be chunky monkey.
   b. Student Concern-Holly-There was a student that approached me wanting to speak to Student Senate about a concern that he had. This is Aaron Weaver; please give him your attention.
      i. Aaron-Last year in Senate we discussed changing the constitution to allow for some positions to be elected by having campus wide elections. Namely, we discussed this for President and Vice President. The Minutes that I have here say that it will be discussed for next semester's Senate. I was just wondering where this senate stood regarding this issue.
         1. Discussion
            a. Corin-Since Ben is not here, I will say that we discussed it as a committee and we decided that having campus wide elections would not be the best idea since we do not want the elections to turn into a popularity contest.
            b. Ben (just came in)-We have a constitutional review task force, as a task force there was a consensus regarding the way we elect officers, and we all thought elections should remain within Student Senate.
            c. Aaron-I was just wondering because in these minutes it says, the amendment will be done for next semester and I just want to know what the transference of ideas was if most of senate thought this was a good idea then but this senate has decided against that.
            d. Ben-There is a transference of ideas, we were gung-ho about it last year but the whole committee was against it, maybe senate should re-discuss this idea.

e. Luke-This was not the only amendment, did you discuss the other committees as well?
f. Ben-The amendment we will be looking at next week will focus some on changing committees.
g. Keenan-I move to create a task force that focuses on the review of elections but not limited to exec positions. 2nd- Anita
h. Ben-would it include an amendment? (Keenan nods) So you would be stepping on the constitutional review committee?
i. Keenan-It would only focus on executive elections that is not really stepping on the toes of the task force it is more specific.
j. Luke-It is not necessarily a boundary problem, it is a little different.
k. Ben-The whole committee agreed on this issue.
l. Andrew-does an amendment have to come from the constitutional review committee?
m. Ben-no that was just the intent of the committee. We asked that anyone that had ideas on how to improve the constitution be on the committee, of those involved we all agreed on this issue.
n. Keenan-the motion is to review the elections and if that was found necessary then it would come from that committee.

- Motion Fails

III. Treasurer's Report
   a. Balance-I do not have an exact amount but it is around $10,000 and we have one budget request. Also, make sure that you tell your groups that they have to use the new forms unless they need the money before February first.
   b. Budget Requests
      i. The request is for APO's pizza party for voter registration. They are requesting $125.
         1. The committee moves to allocate $125 to APO for the pizza party.
         2. Discussion- Corie-we came up with this plan because we thought it would be the easiest way to get people to register. It is a voter registration rally.
            a. Passed

IV. Standing Committee Chair Reports
   a. Elections Chair-Whitney Buterbaugh-right now we are sorting out what we collected from the absentee ballots and voter registration from Hoernemann. Also, I move to allocate $10 for postage. 2nd by KB.
      i. Discusion-Zaia-I would like to make a friendly amendment making it up to $100, Whitney accepts.

ii. Motion now reads, move to allocate up to $100 for postage for the absentee ballots and voter registration forms.
    1. Motion Passes.
iii. Also, there is a new opening for freshman senator, please get the word out.

b. Publicity Chair-Keenan Jones-Nothing
c. LSO-if an organization is not recognized please get them a form from upstairs; they have to be recognized to get money.
d. Campus Concerns-Corin Cieska-The Valentine's dinner will be next week, dress up, please dress up. Keenan, will you help me make signs for this, could you make a poster and table tents. Also, paper cups will be out soon, and as for the BBQ, Karen will check it out. The reason they replaced the pictures is because President Dottavio wanted them to be darker.

V. Special Committee Reports (Vice President Luke Ahrens)

a. Task Forces
    i. Constitutional Review-amendments will be ready for next week, both adding details to elections committee and a graduate student position.
    ii. Communications Task Force-Keenan-there is a hand out of our proposed resolution, please take a look at it and we will discuss it next week. Please send amendments that you would like to make or ideas you have through email.
    iii. 5 week appraisal committee- Ben-students were clearly not happy with 5 week appraisals; this resolution says that Senate would like to see both 5 week appraisals and Midterms. So our committee moves to adopt this resolution.
        1. Discussion
            a. Shannon-midterms were taken away because they are arbitrary and because of the high school options students does this resolution take that into account?
            b. Ben-Opinions show that students like midterms
            c. KB-Professors make them up, and some students are not aware that they may not be correct.
            d. Dustin-Holly&Andrew you attended the faculty meeting can you talk about that.
                i. Andrew-if we start applying grades, they go down as grades, they can be accessed and they are on record.
                ii. Dustin-if you allow professors to say this is what I think your grade will be, as opposed to it is an ABCDF or Pass.
            e. Ben-so the grade will be used?
            f. Amy-if the professor has an opinion then it is not considered a grade.

g. Dustin-Many professors thought they do not have enough information even at the eight week period. We are not giving a good/accurate idea of their grade. Also 5 week appraisals are meant to judge behaviors.
h. Ben-so high school options students do not record comments?
i. Luke-are they going to be in Midterm time?
j. Dustin-Don't be so convinced that because you want it to happen it will happen. That would be like me saying Andrew, I hate that red jacket, take it off, he would probably be like, no. But if I said Andrew, I think you would look great in green he would be like, hmm. You have to work with the college not just tell it what to do.
k. Shannon-Zaia and I met with different people last semester regarding the removal of the Midterm grades. The problem is that they are arbitrary, misleading, confusing and they take responsibility off of the student.
l. Ben-in the future if you have information regarding an issue we will be discussing then please tell Senate in advance, and please do not repeat what has already been said.
m. Megan-how about we compromise and make it optional for professors to provide grades.
n. Holly-I received an email from Weininger saying that Professors will have the option to include a grade and comments will be seen by everyone.
o. Zaia-not all teachers will give students grades, I went to my professor and asked about my grade and he said he couldn't do it. That is a major problem because if students are not able to get grades then we need to make that available.
p. Corin, I like what this says so, I move to refer the matter to the committee, 2nd by Keenan
q. Ben-By referring this it would go back to the Task Force.
r. Jake-Does the faculty and staff like grades because they are arbitrary?
s. Ben-I am just curious as to what we could add or change?
t. Holly-Lets just discus the motion only.
u. Luke-referring to your question Ben, it may be necessary to discuss things that were discussed here

today and incorporate them. The committee should take into account changes.

- Motion Passes.

2. Now we can discuss Ben's question.
    a. Shannon-I think that it would be helpful to add in another appraisal, like later in the semester.
    b. Casie-feedback from faculty to see how they feel about this.
    c. Walter-I think we should encourage student and teacher use of moodle, these grades do not count but give students a way to find out their grade.
    d. Amy-there is a failing on the part of the faculty. There needs to be a way to improve these changes. You do not see confused students that come into my office saying, well I had an A at midterm. Communicating to students to purpose of these evaluations is very important, Not failing is the goal. I not think the purpose was communicated. All we can do is assess the work of the student up till the time of the appraisal. Ben you should talk to faculty committees, specifically talk to EPC and FDC. If you walk up to a Professor and ask for a grade and they say no then they are not upholding their part. We want students to understand how they are doing in the class.
    e. Zaia-Can we do separate grades for High School Students?
    f. Corin-5 week appraisals are going to be changed so why don't we wait until they come out this semester, but I guess we do need to get this done.
    g. Ben-thanks Amy, this is not trying to erase 5 week appraisals, it is trying to incorporate both so students will be happy.
    h. Luke-One commonality-the level of feedback. People are getting hung up on grades. But, unless you were going terrible the 5 week appraisals really did noting. We should look into the input.
    i. Ben-Ok, here is a summary of suggestions
    j. Andrew-I apologize for not fully disclosing the information that I had.
    k. Dustin-there are ramifications of the grades, for example midterms were used to decide if a student could have a medical withdrawl. Someone should find out what all these ramifications are.

b. Faculty Committees

i. EPC-we need two senators to sit on this committee. Zaia-this committee discusses classes, new policies, and approves new courses, it meets Mondays at 3pm. Allyson and Megan will sit on this task force.
ii. CRC-Jaimee-right now they are discussing the internship hand book. Keenan and Luke will sit on this committee, it meets Wednesdays at 2pm.
iii. RCL-we need four students and it meets by email-Kim, Corie, Casie, Walter, and Shannon
iv. FDC-Focuses on the development of faculty and betterment of communication between faculty and other colleges. TJ and Jake
v. DC-meets Thursdays at 2:30pm. This committee helps in the plan of diversity events on campus. Blake and Anita.

VI. Unresolved Business
a. Communication to Student Organizations
i. We went through the list and checked off all the organizations that had been notified.

VII. New Business
i. Nothing

VIII. Comments and Suggestions
a. Ben-Can I see the five week appraisal task force after the meeting for a few minutes? Also sorry about my attitude I am perturbed because communication is so important.
b. Shannon-I would like to give a weekly prince to Ben because he handled what happened here today very well.

IX. Advisor's remarks
a. Amy-None
b. Dustin-You have 7 meetings left so finish working on the things that need to be done and figure out how to wind down. Obviously last year's senate was unable to finish all their business. Also, figure out what it is that you can say you did when you leave.

X. President's remarks
a. Holly-I will email a list of unresolved business this week. I have no remarks.

XI. Adjournment
a. Motion to adjourn by Corin, 2nd by Luke.
b. Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.