

A.S. STUDENT SENATE MEETING
April 24, 2007
VU 567

Present: Annie Jansen, Ashley Schweizer, Brandon Adams, Jake Massine, Jordan Smith, Lacey Stuart, Elliott Hindman, Brian Lewellen, Kelly Hansen, Seth Hersch, Anne Walden-Newman
Absent: Elliott Hindman, Nikki Gossell, Jared Zeretzke
Advisor: Kevin Majkut
Secretary: Brooke Hayter

Meeting called to order at 6:07 by Seth Hersch

Summary of Motions:

Motion # 003-S-07 to approve the minutes from 4/10/07 with noted revisions

I. Approval of Minutes – 4/17/07

Motion # 003-S-07 to approve the minutes from 4/17/07, made by Kelly

Second: Brandon

Vote: 8-0-0

Passed.

II. Revisions to the Agenda

Discussion item B, Blood Drive added to the agenda.

Discussion item C, What items would we like to cover in the remaining school year, was added to the agenda.

III. Public Forum

None

IV. Information Items

None

V. Action Items

None

VI. Discussion Items

a. Virginia Tech Shooting Forum

Anne Walden-Newman made an announcement that there was a time confusion with the Forum so her and a few other Senators would be leaving early, incase people do show up at 7 instead of 7:30. Both Anne and Annie will be starting off the forum by giving a brief introduction, questions will be provided for the students to get them talking in the beginning, they will then end with a moment of silence and people can leave whenever they would like after that. The set up is going to be in one large circle or a few large circles depending on how many people attend. The point of the forum is to heal any emotions people are feeling about the shooting, a counselor will be there as well for people to talk with. Anne would like a few of the Senators who plan to attend to stand at the entrance and pass out the questions as people enter. Also Seth did some research and Virginia Tech has no Student Senate to send a card to, so they are considering sending a card to their student board members.

b. Blood Drive – Doc.1

Seth was walking through Red Square the day of the Senate meeting and heard a man shouting profanities at the people signing students up for the blood drive. When Seth asked the man why he was doing this the man responded and told Seth they would not let him donate because he was gay. Seth was shocked by this and did some research on the topic to bring to the Senators.

Since 1977 the Red Cross has said you cannot give blood if you are a man and have had sex with another man. In fact one of the questions asked on the questionnaire before you give blood is; have you had sex with another man. The Senators discussed the topic; they realize that it is a risk, because that individual may be HIV positive, however they feel the question asked is too broad. Some Senators believed the question should be changed to; have you had unprotected sex with another man. In defense of the Red Cross they could be asking to eliminate extra work for themselves, for example many people donate blood so they can receive a free test to see if they are HIV positive. However by simply asking the question have you had sex with another man the Senators felt they were making assumptions if the answer was, yes.

Annie Jansen came in at 6:23.

The Senators then discussed whether or not this should be something they should open up to the public, they are afraid if they do it may cause people to stop donating blood and helping the Red Cross.

c. What items would we like to cover in the remaining school year?

One issue that was discussed was the possibility of starting a Library proposal to build a reading room, a place where there would be complete silence for students who just wanted to sit and read. Another issue that was discussed was the possibility of sending thank you cards to campus maintenance for example those men who laid the new bricks for us. Also they discussed the possibility of turning the Lincoln Creek Park and Ride into a drive in movie theatre. It is something many of the Senators have been approached about and they believe it would be a good source of income for the University. They also discussed the issue that many people who live in Buchanan Towers feel it is unfair that they have to pay for a meal plan when they have a kitchen in their dorm rooms, the Senators would like to try and change this for those people. Summer Senate was also brought up, it will be done the same way it was the previous summer. Also one major item the Senators discussed was about the study abroad program. They feel the places that are supposed to help you set up your study abroad programs are very unhelpful. The Senators felt this may be a good topic for the May issue of the month considering even a few Senators have had problems with study abroad offices.

Annie Jansen and Anne Walden-Newman left at 6:45.

VII. Other Business

None

VIII. Senator Reports

- a. **Annie Jansen:** Elections begin at midnight and she would like everyone to vote.
- b. **Anne Walden-Newman:** No new information.
- c. **Jake Massine:** They are going to be having a Rec Center meeting soon to go over their budget.
- d. **Ashley Schweizer:** No new information.
- e. **Kelly Hansen:** No new information.
- f. **Brian Lewellen:** No new information.
- g. **Jordan Smith:** Studying abroad next fall in Argentina. The office there is not very helpful and he is very frustrated.
- h. **Brandon Adams:** Academic Tech Committee talked about the ATC and their future plans. He also bought a car.
- i. **Lacey Stuart:** Friday there was a dining committee meeting, with lots of good food. They may be adding a place called Wing Street into the Atrium. Also this Wednesday night in the dining hall is sustainable dinner night.
- j. **Seth Hersch:** Has his first week done with the Academic Coordinating Committee. He is also going to be meeting with some of the people from Puget Sound Energy about using less non green energy, this way we use less power and we have more options available to us in terms of green energy. He is also going to be asking the board for a budget increase so the new Senators could possibly have a retreat next fall.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:04 pm.