

A.S. STUDENT SENATE MEETING
April 1, 2008
VU 567

Present: Aaron Hayman, Brianne Kumar, Chelsea Fletcher, Danny Tonty, Lurdes Hernandez, Matteo Tamburini, Mark Provencano, Nicole Brown, Tyler Woodard, Sally McLaughlin
Absent: Kristina Mader, Diana Beilman, Morgan Holmgren, Judah Corsini,
Advisor: Greg McBride
Secretary: Brooke Hayter
Guest: Eric Lowe, Ramiro Espinoza

Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm by Chelsea Fletcher

Summary of Motions:

Motion #001 -S- 08 to approve the minutes from 3/4/08

I. Approval of Minutes – 2/26/08

Motion #001 -S- 08 to approve the minutes from 3/4/08, made by Morgan

Second: Sally

Vote: 12-0-0

Passed.

II. Revisions to the Agenda

III. Public Forum

IV. Information Items

a. Ramiro Talk Time

Ramiro attended the Senate meeting to check in with the Senators. He wanted to see what the Senators felt they needed to do to be a successful group. He informed the Senators that he felt communication between the Board of Directors and the Senate had not been effective over the past two quarters. He was wondering if the Senators had any input on how they could change that. Ramiro stated that he hadn't seen many resolutions from the Senate and wondered whether or not some changes of the bi-laws were needed to give the Senators a better idea of the direction they should be going from the very beginning. Ramiro then asked the Senators if they had any questions for him. One question asked was, when Ramiro asks Chelsea at Board meetings to look into certain issues, what exactly he was looking for. Ramiro responded by saying that it depended on the issue and how strongly the Senate members felt about the issue. Sometimes he may just want feedback and other times he may be looking for documentation or a resolution. Ramiro does not want the Senate to feel that the Board is forcing issues on them. He wants them to feel free to bring any of their own issues and other students issues to the Senate meetings to discuss them. Ramiro then asked the Senators how they felt their experience with the Senate had been so far. Sally felt that it took the Senators a long time before they felt they knew what they were doing. She thought that the bi-laws need work so Senators know what they need to do right from the beginning. She was dissatisfied with her experience first quarter. She felt the Senators now understand how to represent the students and would like the board to start being more specific in issues they want the Senate to look into. Matteo thought the Senators needed more concrete duties. He thought it may be a good idea to pass along issues being discussed within different clubs and organizations on campus to next years Senators. He felt this would broaden conversation. Ramiro suggested the possibility of having meetings with Chelsea at least once a month. Some of the Senators also suggested that a Board synopsis from the board meetings be added weekly onto the Senate agenda. They felt this would give them better insight into what the issues are and it would be a good way to communicate between the Board and Senate.

Aaron came in at 6:44.

Ramiro informed the Senators to try and schedule times with the Board members and talk with them about issues as well. He also informed the Senators that he would like the Senate to become more formally involved in evaluating student fees.

V. Action Items

None

VI. Discussion Items

a. Issue of the month

Chelsea asked the Senators if they wanted to make a recommendation to the STF fee, based off of the comments they received from the issue of the month. Ramiro informed the Senators that if they decide to do this they should send it to him as soon as possible, as he will be meeting with President Morse about the Tech Fee within the next few weeks. Senators decided to draft a resolution this week and revise it at their next meeting. The Senators went around the room and each gave a concern or question they wanted the committee to check up on before drafting the resolution. Some of the concerns proposed were what would the extra money go to and can we get a summary of what the tech fee has proposed.

b. Meeting Time

Chelsea proposed to the Senators that the Senate meetings be moved to 6:30pm rather than 6:00pm. All of the Senators agreed to this change.

VII. Other Business

a. April Issue of the Month

Sally had prepared a question supporting a ban across campus of the sale of bottled water, to go along with Earth Day. The Senators overall liked the idea but felt it should be reworded. Sally will bring a revised issue of the month to the next meeting where it will be voted on.

VIII. Senate Reports and Concerns

- a. **Sally McLaughlin** Informed the Senators that the smoking forum went well and that she will have a report ready for the Senators at the next meeting.
- b. **Nicole Brown** Attended a promotions committee meeting and will bring information from that to next weeks meeting. She also attended the Young Democrats convention over Spring Break.
- c. **Lurdes Hernandez** Gave an overview of events happening on campus.
- d. **Tyler Woodard** Noting new to report.
- e. **Mark Provenzano** Nothing new to report.
- f. **Brianne Kumar** Nothing new to report.
- g. **Aaron Hayman** Informed the Senators that Rolan Fryer will be coming next week to speak at Western. He will also be going with Model UN to New York. He also informed the Senators about the current events forum held weekly from 12 – 1 on Thursdays in College Hall.
- h. **Matteo Tamburini** Informed the Senators that as this Thursday is the first Thursday of the month from 11:30 to noon in Red Square they will be reading the names of people who have died in Iraq. It is also the fifth anniversary of Rachel Corrie. Also this Saturday the Student Labor Action Program will be picketing at Burger King attempting to earn a penny a pound more for the tomatoes they sell.
- i. **Chelsea Fletcher** Informed the Senators that the Tech Fee meetings. She also encouraged the Senators to be members of the Election Appeals Board, she also informed Senators that she is on the committee. She will be attending the Facilities and Services meeting next Tuesday.
- j. **Judah Corsini** Attended the University Planning council meeting.
- k. **Morgan Holmgren** Attended Transportation Committee Meetings. He also encouraged Senators to join the Election Appeals Board, which he will be chairing.
- l. **Kristina Mader** Attended the ACC meeting. She informed the Senators that she will be gone next week at a convention in California for Model UN. She also gave an overview of events happening on campus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm by Chelsea.