Student Government Meeting  
Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Meeting Highlights:
- Cort Singleton was sworn as the new Sophomore Class Senator.
- Edits to the Finance Code were discussed.
- Discussed the possible development of a meal plan policy for students who move off the meal plan mid-semester and how to re-coop the money students have been losing in that process.
- Discussed suggested improvements to the Fitness Center.

Complete minutes are as follows:

Roll Call:
Present: Ethan Frederick, Sarah Beadle, Mary Galanis, Jessalyn Holdcraft, Austin Jacobs, Nick Yeager, Ruth Ann Roberts, Molly Monk, Robert Lyons, Teig Loge, Ishaya David, Cort Singleton, Erica Heidler, Zach Goodrich, Nick Laning, Savannah Calaway, Dani Musselman, Mariah Young, Olivia Anderson, Cody Isabel, Ryan Stewart

Absent: Kelsey Wittorf, Conner McGinnis

Richard Ramos and Kristen Wyse were also present.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Reports:
Student Body President Ethan Frederick: Thank you everyone for being flexible about the seating change. This is so the discussion topics can be on the board. Sent out with the agenda were scheduled times for the All Campus Budget Committee. Professor Allison Wolf is the chairperson of that committee and is hold meetings for student input. This committee is deciding if we meet next year’s goals, if we exceed next year’s goals or fall short financially, in terms of recruitment especially, what cuts or what areas we would grow. I would appreciate student input. Every member of SGA should plan on attending one of these sessions. An email was sent out to all of campus. Location is TBA. Please plan on attending these meetings and giving input and taking other students with you.

Student Body Vice President Sarah Beadle: No report.

Manager Mary Galanis: No report.

Senior Class President, Jessalyn Holdcraft: (Given by Nick Yaeger) We met on Monday and went over Finance Code revisions to be voted on later. I have been working on an Excel spreadsheet template for Tier 1 budget requests, so groups can use those more effectively.
Jessalyn: You got an email from Enactus about a budget request. I emailed them back saying they would not receive funding because, per our Finance Code, we do not have any more money in our Operating Budget. Any group who emails us from here on out will get the same email.

Junior Class President, Austin Jacobs: The Student Life Committee continues to work on our individual projects. Dani continues to work with EAC on getting sensors for the pop machines. Savannah worked with the group to develop a more complete list of sports equipment needs and a check-out system.
Ishaya met with Rich Ramos, Dean B, and Walter Lain about the car share program and making it easier to rent the cars. Austin met with Marilyn Leeks to discuss needs of the Steven Johnson facility, discussed a dodgeball tournament with Sophomore Class President Robert, and the e-mail policy. We will continue to work on our projects in the upcoming weeks.

**Sophomore Class President, Robert Lyons:** The Student Advocacy Committee met last Friday, February 20th, with Dean Behaunek to discuss proposed edits to the Student Handbook. 90% of our proposed edits were accepted by Behaunek and the other 10% are currently in the process of either being modified or discussed. The SAC is currently working on drafting discussion points on an electronic cigarettes section of the student handbook. This discussion will be brought to the SGA in the next few weeks for SGA input. The SAC is also moving forward on student garage reform, apartment meal plan reform, and the creation of a bullying/harassment policy for the student handbook.

**First Year Class President, Zach Goodrich:** Teig is waiting to hear back from maintenance on scheduling a meeting to see what projects can be done on campus. Ruth is monitoring sign up. 18 groups are signed up for campus day. Cody ran the LOL meeting today. Mariah is finalizing 3 different t-shirt designs for us to approve and when we do we will get quotes on the prices.

Cody: I will run through the important points of the minutes from LOL. Breast Cancer Awareness Club is now Cancer Awareness Club and is highlighting awareness for a different cancer every month. SC Athletics is looking for a new logo. We figured out how to set an agenda, which will be a week ahead of time. We talked about commuter and transfer students. They want their own spot on SGA, special parking spots for commuters, and a commuter lounge. Jessalyn talked about the operating budget. We talked about how many people are on Campus Council, only 3. Our name is changing from Prexi Club to League of Leaders. We are typing up a proposal to send to the President about that to get his approval.

**Advisors Rich and Kristen:** Nothing to report.

Cody: Food committee met today. There will be a pulled pork walking taco and fish tacos. We will have pulled pork sandwiches. These will be starting Sunday March 1. We might have white queso dip soon. There will be raspberry pastries and fruit cups in ABP.

Erica: The vegetables in Pfieffer are now being steamed instead of being cooked in butter.

Cody: They are looking into an app for online ordering.

Erica: Enactus is looking into the possibility of an app that allows online ordering. It will not be anytime soon, just being investigated.

Cody: The Exhibition in Pfieffer will start having theme weeks. They are looking for suggestions.

**Old Business**
None.

**New Business**
None.

**General Discussion**
Jessalyn: We are going to go through the changes to the Finance Code. If anyone from my committee or Execs want to chime in to spark more discussion, please do. First, we are adding the Tier 1 requirements. This is what we expect them to do. Go ahead and read through them.
Ruth: What do you mean by clear marketing strategy?
Jessalyn: Every time we have a group come in, we ask them how they plan on promoting their events, especially since we have changed the email policy multiple times. We are making sure they have a plan to promote their events. This could be in the form of emails or posters.
Ruth: Could we add to the Wufoo where they could upload a flyer?
Jessalyn: Yes.
Robert: Would it be required to put in a picture of a poster?
Jessalyn: Only if you have it.
Sarah: Maybe if you are making a Facebook event, you say that.
Nick L.: You should include a text box on Wufoo to specify that Facebook event.
Ruth: The link to the Facebook event, isn’t that advertising before they are funded?
Nick L.: Good call.
Molly: You could still have a text box saying you are planning to have a Facebook event.
Olivia: Do you guys have a check-in process after the event?
Jessalyn: That is what Nick Yaeger has started and what Nick Laning will help with. We want groups to use our Excel doc to specify how much was allocated, how much they spent and if the event was held. This is so we can see exactly what they did throughout the year. We are standardizing it for Tier 1 groups. We will be asking other groups to do this eventually.
Zach: About the line where it says that organizations must be in the black, not in debt. We brought up in execs organizations going 5 dollars in the red. Are we going to penalize them for that? We should look at changing the wording to the organization being financially responsible. Any thoughts on if we should be that strict?
Ethan: The language used in the past was fiscally responsible, which encompasses being a good planner and staying on budget.
Olivia: How common is going into the red with these organizations?
Jessalyn: To my knowledge, it is uncommon. What happens when a group goes in the red is it can’t happen. The business office would have to usually take it from our account, so things zero out. When they come back the next year asking for money, they have to cover what they went over last year. This could decrease or limit their programming they can do the following year.
Rich: Irresponsible doesn’t leave any room for something unfortunate to happen that all of the sudden costs them a bunch of money and causes them to go into the red. You should maybe look at different wording besides fiscally responsible. Sometimes extenuating circumstances happen.
Robert: What kind of circumstances?
Rich: Someone gets sick at a conference or a transportation delay.
Ishaya: Some of the groups, like Latinos Unidos, were funded at the beginning of the year, and we still got more budget requests from them throughout the year. Can we regulate that?
Jessalyn: I wouldn’t want to say just because you ask for money at the beginning, we can’t give you more. Additional programming can come up that they didn’t budget for.
Ishaya: This is just to make it easier, and so we don’t have to go through so many budget requests every meeting.
Ethan: We are indirectly covering that by not increasing the student activity fee. Groups now know that they need to get their requests in early. Hopefully that incentivizes people to plan earlier and get in their requests.
Robert: Do we instill budgetary caps? Do we cap off smaller groups at certain amounts and Tier 1s at other amounts, so they don’t take an inappropriately large amount of money from SGA? This would give the money to other organizations that need it.
Zach: I see where you are coming from. But, I trust the finance committee.
Nick L.: If one year you have a group that doesn’t attract a lot of people and they are in one budget cap, but then the next year they have more people and want to hold more events but hit their budget cap, are we going to say you can’t hold any more events?
Ryan: There is good thought with Robert’s point. Like with the treadmills, the group doesn’t have a plan for implementation and is a new group. We shouldn’t throw new groups $3,000. Show us you can program with smaller amounts of money.
Molly: I don’t want to punish new groups. We have had new groups, like Latinos Unidos, that have been very beneficial to campus. They should have a plan. We have Finance Committee to make sure we aren’t giving out inappropriate amounts of money.
Ryan: We just need to make a set of guidelines for new groups to meet certain criteria. This is like getting a loan from a bank.
Rich: One, you can’t check a new group’s credit. You are here to make those decisions. You guys voted to give that $3,000 for those treadmills. You are trying to make the process easier and may penalize those groups in the process. You vote for these ideas. You make those hard decisions to assess a group’s viability.
Jessa: About developing rules for new groups, we can get hampered down by rules. Sometimes we throw them out anyways. We have enough opinions to say that we aren’t comfortable with something to table it to the next meeting. If you want more information or aren’t comfortable voting on something, it is always appropriate to ask to table something.
Ryan: My opinion is we are out of money halfway through the second half of the year. That is bad. If there is a new group that arises with great ideas, we can’t fund them. We have no money left to give. We should have a set of guidelines. We have spent over a quarter of a million dollars.
Ethan: What is obvious is the way we do budget requests is how they come in, which is good and bad. How can we decide how to prioritize budget requests? The budget committee wants to prioritize how they come in to encourage groups to plan. Should we continue to do it like we have been or change it? I want to make this as open of a discussion as possible.
Sarah: I am going to let Jessalyn speak on behalf of the Finance Committee and then I want to hear other opinions.
Jessalyn: The finance committee knew March to End the Isms was coming and we reached out to make sure they had their request in. There isn’t anything that precludes a group from asking for money months in advance. Every Tier 1 group does it. Maybe we need to shift the focus with groups.
Savannah: How we can discuss budget requests is what we know about groups and their history. That could change votes and perspective.
Mariah: What if they have no history?
Savannah: This is for past ones.
Erica: For new groups, is there a partnering program? Maybe even a sheet about how to fill out budget requests?
Ruth: We have a 28 page Student Organization handbook.
Erica: If there is a way to get to know the group, we could be more comfortable funding them. Like we have seen and talked to Latinos Unidos a lot, we know we can fund them and know how they are going to react to things.
Mariah: How do we perform checks and balances? How do we encourage discussion and voicing apprehension?
Robert: There are two ways to go off of the budget cap suggestion that I brought forward. We took it one direction. The other is we could do Tier 1 cap and Tier 2 cap. Tier 1s taking so much money that Tier 2s could be fighting for the remaining money is the situation I could envision happening in certain cases. Tier 1s show up at the beginning of the year and Tier 2s come when they need the money.
Molly: What if you are a Tier 1 group and you request money later in the year, your request is lower priority than other requests?
Nick L.: For Tier 1 groups coming in first, there is nothing in our finance code prohibiting Tier 2 organizations from requesting money for all their activities throughout the entire year in the fall.
Jessalyn: Enactus knew we were running out of money. I reached out to them a few weeks ago. They knew we were running out of money when they submitted that request. Because of how our Finance Code works and how we have been allocating money, I don’t want to tell a group that we won’t hear their request that specific week, which is the only drawback I see with Molly’s suggestion. If we had 5 requests in one week and one was a Tier 1, I would be fine with pushing them to the bottom and hearing the others first. But that is not usually how it works. We usually see 1-3 a week.
Ruth: Does everyone understand how Tier 1 budget requests work?
Ethan: First groups that want to apply for Tier 1 status. A group of people including the SGA advisers, Sarah and I and Jessalyn will then decide who is Tier 1 status. Then if the groups want, they can submit a budget request to be voted on that fall. That budget request usually involves a lot of activities and is a good chunk of change. Right now there is no rule that they can’t come back and ask for additional funds later. There isn’t even a requirement that they do one of these preemptive requests. You can be Tier 1 and choose not to do this. Those requests are then heard by those same people that decided Tier 1 status. Our recommendations are made to the new SGA and are voted on before First Year Senators and President are elected. Tier 2s are normal requests you get in. We hear Tier 1 requests so early because they have events so early in the year, like the First Year events that happen in the first week they are here.
Jessalyn: In the Tier 1 requirements, we pointed out that programming in the fall is immediate. Programming would occur in the first three weeks of the semester. That was one of the original intents for Tier 1 status was the immediate programming. Any group can apply to be Tier 1 if they have an event in the first three weeks.
Rich: I don’t think it is a bad thing that we run out of money. It has been years since we have been in this position. Enactus has $4,000. They are not cash strapped. You need to read the information to make effective decisions. You gave them $300 two or three weeks ago when in reality they have the cash to pay for that on their own. You need to figure out if you are going to be consistent.
Ishaya: What happened that led to us giving out all the money? Are groups asking for more money?
Ethan: Last year, we also appropriated all the funds. In the spring of 2013, we ended the year with $30,000 left, our current reserve fund. We rewrote the finance code to be more open and accessible. Latinos Unidos was founded and WTF increased their events. After that, we saw new groups and more requests for funding.
Ishaya: Will we need more funds?
Ethan: The Board of Trustees has already voted to keep the student activity fee the same for next year. Alex Severn and I made that suggestion and confirmed it with execs because of the timing of the decision. We made the decision because tuition and other fees are going up comprehensively by 4%. We believe we have the ability to make groups more efficient than increasing the bucket to draw from.
Sarah: Any other final comments? Jessalyn, back to the Finance Code.
Jessalyn: Any changes to the student activity fee must be voted on by the SGA Senate. Right now it is a little ambiguous in our Finance Code of how that is actually supposed to happen. It will only stay the same or go up. How do we feel about it?
Ethan: This body doesn’t set that. We can vote on it, but it is non-binding. It is just a recommendation to the Board of Trustees, who votes on that. Remember that. Historically, they have taken the advice of our organization well.
Sarah: Can we add that?
Jessalyn: It is in there.
Ethan: This is just so everyone understands and doesn’t ask why did Student Government raise my tuition?
Jessalyn: We are changing the date. We are changing the Dean of Student Activities to SGA Adviser. We don’t actually have a Dean of Student Activities. It says you have to be a registered organization for four weeks. We break this regularly. We suggest one week or strike it entirely.
Sarah: Can you change it to registered or in the process of registering?
Jessalyn: Number 1 says you have to be registered. Number 2 is placing a minimum of how long you have to be registered.
Teig: I say strike it. Registered is enough.
Ruth: With registration every semester, then no one could request funds within the first four weeks of every semester. Most organizations haven’t registered yet for this semester. Some organizations haven’t registered since last spring.
Jessalyn: Org Board will change to SGA Student Organization Committee. We are striking the receipts section. Ethan, maybe you can explain why this was in there?
Ethan: We had this in there to keep them on file, so we could see them if it is pertinent. We haven’t ever done it.
Jessalyn: The Treasurer doesn’t exist so that’s an update. We are adding a number 4 with all budget requests being submitted in Excel. This next thing is what we talked about earlier. We want to change the wording on the regulations of appropriation requests. We want it two weeks before the event, and there has to be at least one SGA meeting before that. Right now, it has to be two SGA meetings before their event.
Erica: What happens if we decided to table it? Doesn’t that make a big time crunch?
Jessalyn: That goes to us encouraging groups to plan in advance. If something makes us so uneasy that we need to table it, then it effectively dies.
Sarah: It would probably be a substantial amount of money and probably not for an event. It would not be time sensitive.
Jessalyn: We talked about the 6 student attendees. This was put into place per Rich’s suggestion a few years ago. My committee talked about it and couldn’t come up with a better number. Any opinions?
Ruth: Hotels traditionally, if you do the double queen, fit 4 students per room. Could we bump it up to 8? That could up travel costs.
Cody: What is this number?
Jessalyn: We are under conventions. We have a different process to request money for conventions. We can only fund 6 students to go to a convention. It doesn’t mean only 6 students go. This was Rich’s suggestion. My committee couldn’t come up with a better number.
Molly: Do we have an average number of attendees at these conferences?
Jessalyn: They vary.
Molly: Just wondering if you had an average number of students that go to inform our decision.
Teig: Average student cost? If we bump up the number of attendees, how much will that cost us?
Jessalyn: This is what I caution. If we fund more students, it could end up that one student is using more than they are paying in to the student activities fee, especially with these larger conventions like the Theater Festival and Model UN. I’m not saying that is bad or good. We need to think about that. NACA is also a very expensive conference.
Nick Y.: We have been getting a lot of requests with more than 6 students. We should just cap it at the per student fee. This seems like a good place to put a cap.
Teig: If there is a significant jump, I’m not in favor.
Erica: I understand the logic that students shouldn’t spend more than they pay into it. Do we limit the number of activities students can go to? I don’t know if you can base it on a specific number.
Savannah: The logic doesn’t make sense to fund 8 people.
Olivia: Typically there are more than just hotel costs. What is the cost of a student attending? Are we giving a value to their attendance?

Ethan: The cost is for travel, lodging, food, gas. Usually they do a lump sum and divide it by the number of students so we can get an average per student. We have never recorded an average of all conventions per student because they vary so much. Some conventions require air travel, some car travel, so that could make those averages a bit meaningless. That’s why we don’t have that information on hand for you. We do have it on a case by case instance.

Ruth: Is there a rule that the conference must be open to any student?

Jessalyn: Anything we fund must be open to all students. The assumption is that since the membership is open, any student has the chance to do anything a group does.

Jessalyn: We will keep going through the Finance Code. This is an update from the Treasurer. Budget requests must be in the form of Excel, not Word. We need it standardized. We are deleting this because it doesn’t make sense. Number 2 is an old policy. We are adding in clarification that budget requests must be in Excel. We are deleting Word application because a Tier 1 group submits their budget request after they have been accepted for Tier 1 status. This is implying that the budget request is a part of their application, which it is not. Next is another update to Finance Committee Chair. Any questions on those sections?

Cody: Are we voting on these changes?

Jessalyn: We wanted to hear the opinion of the Senate. We will vote or table them next week with more information. Our final update is to SGA Adviser. Any other questions about the updates?

Ruth: Did we come to a consensus on number of people for conventions?

Sarah: We can’t bump up the number on larger groups. With hotel rooms not being the only cost, that is also another negative. The logic behind the 8 is that it is two more people and we are seeing groups send more people to conventions.

Jessalyn: I will figure out an average number of students for conventions and how much we have spent on student conventions.

Olivia: Are we going to calculate one student = x number of dollars? We could take our biggest convention, like Model UN, and see how much it would be to fund more students to go.

Jessalyn: Pi Kappa Delta is the biggest convention. I will try to break it down a few different ways.

Jessalyn: This is an issue that has come up a few times with no clear answer. I sent a question to Cody and the Food Committee. Say a student was on the meal plan first semester, they move off the meal plan for a medical reason or they move off campus or move into a Greek House. Any board or flex they would have goes seemingly goes poof. There is also evidence that in the past some students have been able to keep their money, like Ruth. I got a response from Luke. He said they shouldn’t be able to keep their money because they are no longer on the meal plan.

Sarah: Do those students get a refund?

Jessalyn: They get nothing. I want to see if SGA could come up with a policy. Students should get to keep their roll over flex.

Zach: I went to the Chartwells office after moving into SAE. I had spent all my boards and had $200 flex left. I said I want my money back or let me keep the flex. They said I could keep it. Then, my $200 was gone. This angers me. They are stealing money from students. It is a ridiculous policy.

Olivia: I moved into Pi Phi and had the same experience. It affects a lot of students.

Molly: Is this something we could pass onto a committee?

Erica: Food committee could take it.

Jessalyn: Food committee should discuss it, but we need a policy. A committee should develop a policy to present to the food committee.

Erica: Student Advocacy should do it.
Robert: We are already working on another meal policy for apartment living, so this fits in nicely to us addressing food policies on campus.
Ruth: If you need any help, we have done it before.

Mariah: Is there a place you can go where you can see a list of all student in all the classes?
Rich: No, people had used it to create a spam email list.
Mariah: Not emails, just names.
Rich: No not right now. Other schools have it.
Mariah: I am just looking to get to know my senior classmates.

Cody: Do we have any affect over the Fitness Center?
Sarah: What do you mean?
Cody: There is a decline bench upstairs but the weights that you can use upstairs are low. There are athletes who want decline or decline capable benches downstairs to be able to use where there are heavier weights.
Jessalyn: I understand what you are talking about. If you want to lift in the morning, you can’t until after 10 am. We should refer this to execs or Student Affairs.
Sarah: Austin, will you take that on?
Austin: Yes.
Mariah: We need new spin bikes at the Fitness Center.

**Announcements**
Ethan: President Simmons sent a draft letter that if we approve will be sent to the Simpsonian, which explains the tuition hike. We are holding it closer because it is a draft and hasn’t been released yet. Stay after meeting if you would like to read it.
Sarah: Stay in here and we will project it.
Cody: IFC is having a wing eating contest 5 pm Friday in the Black Box. Polar Bear Plunge is this Saturday at Lake Ahquabi.
Molly: I still want your plastic bags! Most of you are in Greek organizations, give me your plastic bags!
Erica: Next week Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11-1pm Kappa Kappacino for Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation in the Dunn Library. Coffee for 50 cents.
Austin: March 1 gas goes up 10 cents! Fill up your tank on Saturday.
Robert: Go to the fire station on the square from 7am-11am on Saturday to support the Fire Department and the Lions Club and eat pancakes. The Rotaract Club will be working the event.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.**