Student Government Meeting  
Wednesday, March 4, 2015  

Meeting Highlights:  
- Edits to the Finance Code were passed.  
- E-cigarette policy discussion was had. A survey will be sent out to students.  
- Transportation options were discussed and prioritized.

Complete minutes are as follows:

Roll Call:  
Present: Sarah Beadle, Mary Galanis, Jessalyn Holdcraft, Kelsey Wittorf, Austin Jacobs, Nick Yeager, Ruth Ann Roberts, Molly Monk, Teig Loge, Ishaya David, Cort Singleton, Erica Heidler, Nick Laning, Dani Musselman, Connor McGinnis, Mariah Young, Cody Isabel  

Absent: Ethan Frederick, Savannah Calaway, Ryan Stewart, Olivia Anderson, Robert Lyons, Zach Goodrich  

Richard Ramos and Kristen Wyse were also present.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Reports:  
Student Body President Ethan Frederick: No report.  

Student Body Vice President Sarah Beadle: Execs will now meet Sunday at 5pm. If you need to appeal an absence, send it to us before then.

Manager Mary Galanis: No report.

Senior Class President, Jessalyn Holdcraft: The Finance Committee will be presenting the finalized Finance Code revisions. Next, I will send out the Tier 1 applications with the new expectations before spring break. We will hear the Doggies at Dunn request during our next meeting.

Junior Class President, Austin Jacobs: The Student Life Committee met this evening and talked about their projects. Dani brought up a student’s concern about the e-mail policy & an event. Her individual project will be consolidated with Savannah’s and then discussed with the capital improvement projects. Kelsey’s project dealing with TVs in Kent and group advertising will also be sent to the SGA Executive Committee. Ishaya will be presenting tonight on his project, off-campus transportation. Austin submitted a request for Doggies@Dunn so look for that next week. He is also preparing the financial statements for his capital improvement projects.

Sophomore Class President, Robert Lyons: (Given by committee member Molly Monk) Our committee met last Thursday and went over our meeting with Luke Behaunek in the week prior. At this meeting we began discussion on the lack of an electronic cigarette policy in the student handbook. Molly will be bringing up electronic cigarettes for General Discussion at this Wednesday’s meeting. Work continues on projects involving Chartwells and garages.
First Year Class President, Zach Goodrich: Student Org. Committee met last Friday with Jeff Wagner from Grounds and discussed specific campus day projects and the fine details that go into them (different types of mulch, etc.). He also talked to us about Simpson's newly restarted biodiesel fuel program and about increasing the number of trees on campus. Mariah will be getting quotes for the campus day shirts. Registration closed for campus day earlier today. We had 54 teams register for Campus Day! Wahoo! We have a total of 750 participants registered for campus day! Cody is working on a mission statement for LOL and also getting President Simmons involved in some way. Our committee will not meet this week, but our first meeting the first Friday after break will be held at the state Capitol followed by a meal at Zombie Burger, because we are the best committee since the beginning of time and we felt a field trip was in order to celebrate our awesomeness.

Advisors Rich and Kristen: Nothing to report.

Cody: Pfeiffer has been a lot better recently. Let them know they are doing a good job!

Ruth: I will give a Campus Council report. StormFront is going to be renamed. Commuter lounge update is they have met with Sarah Beadle and Jim Hayes. Jim has talked to commuter students and emailed them about what they want in the commuter lounge. A lactation station for non-traditional female students and females who work at the college has been talked about. About work order feedback, there is going to be new program where you can track if they have been completed or not online.

Old Business
Jessalyn: I would like to bring from the table the suggested edits to the Finance Code. Nick seconded it.
Jessalyn: We are going to go through it one more time. Here are the Tier 1 and Tier 2 expectations. Those will be included with the Tier 1 applications, which will be sent out right after this meeting. Groups must apply to be Tier 1 and then can submit a budget request if they are approved. We are highlighting the only difference is the programming happening immediately in the fall (between Tier 1 and Tier 2). Here is what my committee focused on. We talked about conventions as the percent of the total budget, changing the group cap per convention, cap on how many conventions a student can go to, average cost per student and the per student fee exceeding what one student puts into the student activity fee. We think we found all the conventions we sent groups to this year (9). We have the organization and the conference they attended. We calculated the cost per attendee and how many attendees actually went. A student pays $642 in student activity fee for the entire year. There are a few that go above that number.
Rich: Students only pay $321 per year, not $642.
Jessalyn: We thought it was per semester. So, quite a few of these greatly exceed that amount. We can’t come up with a better solution besides the cap of 6. It seems to have worked. Organizations spread out the cost if they are bringing more students. Thoughts?
Mariah: As a student who hasn’t been to a single conference, it makes me angry that students use all of my fee.
Nick L.: We also discussed what conferences bring back to campus. Yes, they are expensive. It is how CAB books their events they have on campus. Model UN is a good experience. We can’t say we can’t fund these things because they bring so much to campus.
Molly: CAB has the two most expensive conferences. That makes me uncomfortable. I know they bring a lot to campus though. We need to think of how we allocate things in a different way.
Jessalyn: To note, my committee looked at certain aspects of our budget. The percentage we allocate to conferences is 7% and student pay is 4%. We could break it down more.

Nick Y.: Would it be safe to say more than twice the students are sent to conferences then we pay for?

Jessalyn: Yes.

Ishaya: CAB is open to anyone on campus. Anyone can be CAB president. Anyone can represent Simpson at these events. There isn’t anything we can do.

Mariah: Why are CAB conferences so expensive?

Ruth: The registration fee is in the $400 range. The national one this year was in Minnesota, which was a shorter drive than our regional conference in Wisconsin. Last year we went to Boston and only two people went. We got trapped in the airport for 36 hours and there wasn’t anything we could do about the costs associated with that. It depends on where it is at and the cheapest form of transportation.

Mariah: What is so great about the conferences that it is so expensive?

Ruth: At the national and regional conferences, there are two hour sessions to see acts perform for ten minutes. They have leadership training and seminars. I have gotten to present at a conference about what we are doing on this campus for CAB. Rich and Kristen have also presented at these conferences. There are opportunities besides just booking acts. At regionals our meals are paid for, but at nationals they aren’t.

Rich: Most of the other conferences end at 5pm or 6pm. NACA goes from 9am-1am.

Ruth: There should be WTF on the list because they attended nationals with CAB this year. They paid for their own registration fee. That is why I suggested 8 last week. We were already paying for hotel rooms for 6 CAB members, so we invited 2 WTF members.

Teig: What did the finance committee decide about this?

Jessalyn: We decided there isn’t a perfect solution, but to keep it at six. We talked about minimums and maximums of how much we can spend per conference. If we were to put a cap on the cost per attendee, most of these conferences wouldn’t be going. We don’t think groups should be penalized because a conference costs more. That is where we are at.

Nick Y.: We adopted the “it’s not broken, we don’t need to fix it.”

Teig: I agree with the 6.

Nick L.: We looked at the 8 people idea. The costs of 8 people would have made the costs for the conferences category to go up greatly.

General agreement on funding 6 attendees.

Jessalyn: Just making sure we are comfortable knowing the cost per attendee. The changes throughout the document are the same ones you heard last week.

Nick L.: I move to approve the changes to the Finance Code.

Ruth seconded it.

Vote: Passed

Ruth: Is the Dean of Student Activities an actual position?

Jessalyn: No, it has been changed. If anyone wants access to any of these documents, they are all in my Google docs. I can provide you access with your Gmail account.

New Business
None.

General Discussion
Molly: The advocacy committee has been doing research about an e-cigarette policy, per Luke’s request. We don’t have a policy. We are a smoke-free campus, not tobacco-free. We are thinking about creating a policy and adding it to the handbook. We have found that e-cigarettes have some adverse effects, with
potential for secondhand issues. There isn't a ton of research about it. Across colleges in Iowa and US, there aren't policies banning them. Luther is the only 4 year university in Iowa to have a policy. DMACC, Hillside and Indian Hills also have a policy against e-cigarettes. We want to start a conversation about it. We want to send out a survey to students.

Erica: Some of the research we found, e-cigarettes do not just emit harmless water vapor. Secondhand e-cigarette aerosol contains nicotine and low levels of toxins that are known to cause cancer. E-cigarette vapor is a new source of pollution and toxins being emitted into the environment. The common misconception is that they are just water vapor.

Mariah: What is your source?

Molly: We have a list of sources on our Google doc. Send one of us your Gmail if you want the research.

Jessalyn: Personally, it is fine if we are a tobacco free campus. It smells and it is gross. It is good to have a smoke-free campus that includes e-cigarettes. Would this include hookah?

Molly: Hookahs are e-cigarettes. It would be included.

Sarah: Hookahs are allowed, correct?

Molly: You can have a hookah pen.

Erica: What we are doing is gauging the thoughts of SGA. We want to send out a survey. We are thinking it will end up that we will develop a smoke-free campus.

Molly: Will people have opposition?

Teig: It would be hard to monitor. It doesn’t smell as much and the smoke doesn’t linger for very long. Maybe people would still do it.

Molly: We see what you mean. Some people smoke pot in the dorms. It would be hard to monitor. Maybe we could create a policy that CA’s could enforce.

Austin: What kind of questions will you ask in the survey? How many people actually smoke them?

Mariah: I see e-cigarettes out a lot on weekends.

Ishaya: I think we should make a policy just in case something bad happens.

Erica: Say your roommate is using an e-cig and you don’t like it. You can go to your CA. It can be a disturbance.

Cort: I agree with a disturbance. The roommates could discuss them themselves.

Sarah: If they want to discuss it with your CA, you can.

Kelsey: We aren’t saying people can’t do it.

Cody: They are still bad.

Molly: Given there was no opposition, we are going to move forward and send out the survey.

Cody: Do we have anything to do with when our Spring Break is?

Sarah: No. It is set years in advance.

Rich: You could ask Steve Griffith.

Ruth: Do you know why they bumped us back a week this coming year?

Kristen: Labor Day.

Ishaya: I am talking about the work I have been doing with transportation. I met with Walter Lain because international students are affected by transportation problems. He has a $5,000 budget per semester. Luke said they want to see SGA do something about it. I met with Rich and he had some good ideas. We have five options. One, we have transportation with the vans on campus. We can make it free for students. They could sign up during the week. On the weekends, it could go downtown and to Jordan Creek. Two, we could have students pay a small amount for the van transportation. Third, we could collaborate with U-Haul to get more cars on campus and place them around campus. It is 49 cents a mile and $5 per hour you have the car. Anyone renting U-Haul cars would have it paid by SGA for their first
two hours. We could subsidize that. If you want more than two hours, you have to pay with those. Fourth, we could partner with DART. We could have buses pick up students at Simpson. Fifth, is to get an outside company to help us find a solution. Thoughts? Ruth: We could also look at the Transportation UGA position put together by Jim Hayes. We could work with them. We could also have a designated driver program, which might not be applicable. Campus Council has talked about our Health Services and how to get transportation to clinics in town. We could have students on duty on the weekends. Students pledge to be sober to drive other students around. On the weekdays, we could have that transportation to the clinics.

Dani: I like the seventh option Ruth brought up. This past year, they used to send out WSS emails for people who needed to go to the hospital or something like that. They don’t do that anymore. Kelsey: The only thing with that is how reliable it would be. It would be hard to regulate. Cody: Would these DDs be paid? Dani: What about WSS hours? Ruth: I don’t know where the money would come from.

Jessalyn: My concern is where the money is going to come from. It would be easy for people to abuse the system if we use option 3. Our budget could take a large hit. I like the ideas that aren’t coming from the student activity fee. I would like it to be a one-time fee. We can’t plan for it otherwise. It could eat up more than we allocate.

Mariah: There are two types of solutions. Connecting students to students or pay to have a car solution available. Option 3 shouldn’t be considered. Someone could use it to run their errands and never have to pay. I think it would be great to have a Facebook page to connect rides. I agree that option 3 shouldn’t be considered.

Kelsey: You would still pay for miles. Ruth: Maybe we should look into the partnering with the DART.

Ishaya: Indianola has tried. DART declined. We were thinking of trying again and promoting the collaboration with Simpson.

Molly: I am in support of that idea. We should work with DART as a side project. It will take a long time. Ishaya: We are deciding what to do and we will start working on it. Right now, we don’t have the money to do anything.

Cort: Are we just deciding on one option? Ishaya: We could arrange them on a preferential order. Then, we can start working on the first one and then if we hit a dead end, we can work on the next one. We can also dismiss options we don’t like.

Mariah: I don’t think the DART option is the best. I don’t think students would make the most of it. It isn’t as convenient.

Austin: When I was working on this last semester, we looked at option 2. We could have a van where there was an online system. It visited Des Moines on the weekends, to downtown and Jordan Creek. It could go every three hours. Students would pay a small fee. Maybe we combine option 2 and 6. There could be a set route and set times.

Teig: About DART, I am from Granger, 20 minutes north of Des Moines. You have to call for a ride from DART from Granger. They will take you to the mall.

Conner: I like to DART idea the most. I met a guy last year who walked to school from Des Moines once a day every week. The UGA position also makes the most sense.

Sarah: Which ones do we hate? Then, we can talk about logistics of combining them.

Erica: The outside company. We should get rid of that option. It is supported.

Mariah: A lot of these could be combined for something awesome.

Molly: Get rid of Number 1. It shouldn’t be free.

Jessalyn: The money would have to come from somewhere.
It is supported.
Mariah: Could we do the van option and charge it to students’ accounts?
Molly: Can we get rid of 3? At least the second half where SGA pays for the first two hours.
Ishaya: We shouldn’t get more cars then because they aren’t being used right now.
Austin: Do you know who runs the program?
Ishaya: Seth Hale was in charge of it last semester. He doesn’t know who does it now.
Ruth: We should explore the 4 that are left.
Nick L.: Is there a way that it could be brought back after being explored?
Ruth: I will look into the DD program. I’ll see what other colleges do. It would be entirely student run. Do we need approval from the college?
Rich: Yes, for liability and insurance. We will need to get approval.
Mary: My high school had a Safe Rides organization that was student run. Ruth, I will get you that info.
Ishaya: Who should I go to next?
Ruth: Jim Hayes.
Molly: He is the one creating the transportation UGA position.
Sarah: I would talk to Robert about who to talk to about the city.

Cody: Has the weight room been looked into?
Austin: It is one of our capital projects.

Sarah: After break, we will have another presentation of accreditation. Execs have a group of capital projects they would like to present to the group. Look for that the first week in April. Any other thoughts, let us know.

Announcements
Erica: Tomorrow is the last day of Kappa Kappacino! Come to Dunn Library from 11am-1pm for coffee. Proceeds go to Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation.
Mariah: Simpson College Women’s Rugby has their first game at home Saturday against UNI and ISU.
Ruth: On behalf of the fashion committee, Cody Isabel is rocking the grey on grey.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.