Student Government Meeting  
Wednesday, September 24, 2014

Meeting Highlights:
- One budget request was passed
- Email policy modifications were discussed
- Committee responsibilities were discussed

Complete minutes are as follows:

Roll Call:

Absent: None

Reports:
Student Body President Alex Severn: Last week I mentioned the budget committee that President Simmons is putting together. Ethan and I will be sitting on that committee. We will be discussing committee priorities in general discussion.

Manager Michael Reuter: Nothing to report.

Treasurer Ethan Fredrick: Jessalyn will be giving my report.

Senior Class President Jessalyn Holdcraft: We have one budget request for MSA which we will bring up in new business.

Junior Class President Austin Jacobs: We had a good meeting on Thursday and talked to Kelly Bradder for a while. We will be sending out a survey after it gets final approval.

Sophomore Class President Robert Lyons: The student advocacy committee met for the first time today. We utilized the instructions Alex gave us on developing priorities and will discuss those more in general discussion.

First Year Class President Zach Goodrich: The student organization committee met last Thursday and will be meeting again tomorrow. We will go over the priorities in general discussion.

Advisors Rich & Kristen: Nothing to report.

Old Business:
None
**New Business:**

**MSA Budget Request:** Total Requested: $5,090.00 Recommendation: $2,150.00

Jessalyn Holdcraft: I move to allocate $2,150.00 to MSA. The $2,150.00 is for MSA to do programs for part of the semester. They have all of their events listed but you will notice that some of the items don’t have a total next to them. That is because they have already done them but they still want us to know all of the events they are doing. Right now my committee is uncomfortable funding the house décor portion. That will be brought up in general discussion. The 2,150 is solely for programs.

Alex Severn: Since it is a little bit vague and they have consumable supplies, tailgating, and Thanksgiving listed, what do those events look like?

Jessalyn Holdcraft: They want to do tailgating for football games because some people don’t have family that attend. They host the Thanksgiving meal every year.

MSA Representatives: We fund a Thanksgiving meal in Great Hall every year. We ask for money from SGA for food because we don’t want the students to have to pay.

Alex Severn: You said that you struggled with not having an open door policy. What are some of the things you are doing this year to make sure you do have an open door policy to everyone on campus?

MSA Representatives: We are keeping the door unlocked and making sure the house is available. Generally people don’t know about it but that is one of the reasons we are hosting all of the events to help people learn about our organization.

Jessalyn Holdcraft: They also talked about wanting to do tailgating before other events which would include having people in the house.

Alex Severn: What is MSA doing for outreach? Are you doing anything different in lieu of our new email policy?

MSA Representatives: We have been collecting phone numbers, putting events on the calendar and utilizing Facebook and Twitter.

**General Discussion:**

**Email Policy**

Senator Stokesbary recognized Jessie Gronke.

Jessie Gronke: I am on CAB and we were discussing how difficult it is for organizations to communicate with the new email policy.

Austin Jacobs: In the past we received a large amount of emails every day. Last year we moved to the localist calendar and have an email with all of the campus events sent out every day. Some organizations have been having trouble getting people to attend their events.

Jessie Gronke: The idea is that we will be able to send out a school wide survey where the student will be able to input their school email and select the clubs they wish to receive information from. We would then send each club the list of students and their emails and each club would create their individual listserves.

Jessalyn Holdcraft: I think you could even expand that to make a listserv for students who wish to opt into mailings from all organizations.

Ryan Stewart: This should be sent out every semester and should be an ongoing process.

JJ Hansen: This is the first semester we have had the new email policy which I like to call the “funnel.” We are finding these struggles but I think this is a great time to go back and tweak the policy. Any ideas should be sent to Austin.

Alex Severn: I think this is a good idea.

**Poster Policy**

Alex Severn: On a similar topic, I had a professor approach me today and ask if we had a policy on hanging posters around campus. Her point of view was that going into our new email policy, it seems
like we have taken the emails out of our inbox and now they are scattered around campus. No one is taking the old posters down. We have a policy but I don’t know how to enforce it.

Erica Heidler: I don’t think students are very educated on what the policies are.

Committee Roles:

Alex Severn: I believe that I sent out the final version of our committees at the beginning of the year. Let’s go over committees and talk about roles.

Financial Advisory Committee:
Jessalyn Holdcraft: We are going to talk about new policies to add to our finance code.
1. Creating a tier 1 student pay test. It would be a guide for how we are giving that money out.
2. Residence Life vs. Student Activity Fee budget allocations. If you noticed, we changed the MSA budget request this week because of discussion on who has responsibility to pay for what.
3. Financial Transparency. Making a spreadsheet with budget allocations from SGA for the past several years available on the Simpson web site and our blog.
4. Working with student organizations to create budget requests in Excel. There will also be a binder with rationales about what we have financed in the past few years.

Student Affairs Committee:
Austin Jacobs: The email policy is something that will be discussed again. We also got tasked with the mascot. That is something we need to move forward with or kill. It will be addressed in the survey. Another thing we will work on is a shuttle from the Simpson campus to West Des Moines, Downtown, or the Ankeny campus. We will know a lot more after we get the results from our survey.
Kelsey Wittorf: We also need to put on programs and be a face for SGA.

Alex Severn: We are going to have a lot of overlap between the affairs and advocacy committee. I hope that we get a better understanding of what will fit in each category after this discussion.

Student Advocacy Committee:
Robert Lyons: We have four major goals for our committee this year:
1. Create a breakdown of where student tuition is being spent and used.
2. Promote transparency in dealing with off-campus groups like Chartwells and Encore.
3. Act as advocates for First-Year students in properly educating them about the multitude of activities and services available to them in order to make them better citizens of the campus.
4. Develop a May Term theme and classes.

*Much of what we will be doing as this committee will be modeled after that of the now defunct Academic Affairs Committee.*

Olivia Anderson: We are thinking about working with the SC classes and getting information that is more valuable to them instead of having representatives from different offices come and speak to them. This might include pamphlets or other informational material.
Alex Severn: That is a great idea. I know Jess and I were approached to speak to SC classes, however were not able because we had class.
Ryan Stewart: We need to educate people about where their money is going and be more transparent. We don’t want to do things in a hush-hush way where students don’t know why something is the way that it is.
Alex Severn: I am happy to hear that because the intent of this committee was to widen the bridge between the administration and students.
Erica Heidler: We also talked about a comment box or open office hours as ways for students to come and ask questions about what is going on around campus. Utilizing social media a little more to get information to students is also something we are looking into.

Ethan Fredrick: The larger goal Alex and I have for this committee is for you to meet with the cabinet once a semester. In the past just Alex and Jess were meeting with the cabinet. It frustrated us that tuition went up again but no one in this room had any part in that discussion. The idea is that your committee would be voicing opinions to the people that not every student feels comfortable going and talking to. The affairs committee is for topics that have a physical item while the advocacy committee is for topics that have a different effect on campus.

Olivia Anderson: The biggest thing at this point is getting in contact with some of the college administration and getting a date that we can sit down and talk with them.

Tyler Stokesbary: When I am at faculty meetings or committee meetings I have no way of knowing what they are talking about because of some financial or student reason that I can’t know what they are talking about. Most of the time whatever I say doesn’t really matter because that’s the way things are and that’s the way they are going to be.

Jessalyn Holdcraft: One thing our advocacy committee could look at is a young trustee program as a way of better student representation.

Alex Severn: I usually ask for clarification at meetings when I don’t understand what is going on, and you should do that as well. If you don’t feel like your opinion matters we can confront some of these issues.

Erica Heidler: I am on the same page as Tyler for a lot of the committees I have sat in on but I thought my meetings with Dean Griffith were very productive.

Tyler Stokesbary: I am not saying that every person of authority is evil and won’t help me, but from a Residence Life perspective, there is so much crap that students have come to me about. A CA called about a wasp nest in the parking lot and maintenance responded “What do you want us to do about it?” There is stuff like that or instances where we keep emailing and nothing gets done. In one of my committees, they told me that my job was to read the policy when they were done talking about it and see if it made sense. There are a lot of professors, a lot of faculty, a lot of great people on this campus that really mean well. There are a lot of professors that would do anything to help me, but when it comes to policy and getting things fixed, I feel like students have very little say. The students that do, SGA members or CAs might have a little more push, but the common student doesn’t. I am tired of seeing students without any influence getting trampled over and not getting their voices heard.

Ethan Fredrick: A lot of what the faculty committees do has been discussed or decided upon ahead of time. These are things that aren’t talked about in the committee meeting. It is absolutely inaccessible for a student that is sitting in on that committee meeting. There is no culture of integrating that student or having the faculty that is sitting on that committee seeking out that student’s opinion. I think the goal is to change the culture and that the norm should be to encourage student participation.

Rich Ramos: You all have the obligation to make people listen to you. You are paying to go here. While you may think that you don’t have power or the common student doesn’t have power, in mass you do. There is no other more powerful contingent on campus than students. You can step up and challenge people. You job is to question and challenge stuff. Your job is to make this school better for every student that goes to this school and every student that comes after you.

JJ Hansen: I think the student advocacy committee should have a representative at the faculty meetings.

**Student Organization Committee**

Zach Goodrich: Here are our priorities:

1. Help Intramurals get back to a tier 1 status. Nicole Darling is coming to our meeting tomorrow.
2. We want to work with organizations to help them better themselves and go over budgets with them in the spring.
3. We want to establish a protocol for communications with committees and campus organizations. We are setting up times for the organization heads to come in and meet with us during our weekly meetings.

Cody Isabel: If the finance committee comes up with a format of Excel spreadsheet to be used for budget requests, we could be the liaison between SGA and the organizations and show them how to do their budget within Excel.

Ruth Ann Roberts: A lot of the things we have talked about are included in the Student Organization Handbook which is currently being worked on. The poster policy is included in this. Part of the benefit of being a registered committee is the ability to rent campus facilities for free.

Alex Severn: Do you have the handbook as a priority?

Ruth Ann Roberts: Yes, we are currently working on that.

Cody Isabel: We talked about being a liaison between SGA committees and other organizations.

Jessalyn Holdcraft: In the past the student organization committee has been the more visible organization for SGA but if you are the only group meeting with students I think it might be a good idea for you to take that role.

Alex Severn: Part of the restructuring was to make all of the committees more visible.

Ethan Fredrick: Under that logic, the financial advisory committee is the face of SGA.

Alex Severn: Some goals are going to fit under more than one committee.

Zach Goodrich: Would being the face of SGA involve holding a monthly forum or some other event where people can come ask us questions?

Jessalyn Holdcraft: I think this is something we will discuss in the executive committee meeting.

Nick Yeager: We can also use this to shift designations based on committee workloads.

Alex Severn: We are going to try to monitor the workload of all committees throughout the semester and make sure no group is top heavy. If you have any complaints as far as the workload goes, head them to me, Jess, Rich or Kristen.

Announcements:

- Wednesday nights at 8pm: Modern Family & Blackish are being played in the Black Box
- Sunday, September 28th, 5pm: Braley vs. Ernst U.S. Senate Debate
- The Rotaract club will be hosting a book sale at the public library Thursday, Friday and Saturday.