Student Government Meeting  
Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Meeting Highlights:
- Allocated $1,500 to the Shooting Sports Club, $300 to Enactus, (both from Operating Budget) and $6,700 to SGA for Campus Day (from Reserve Funds).
- Discussed edits to the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.
- Tori Halloran was named the new student representative on the Study Abroad Committee.

Complete minutes are as follows:

Roll Call:

Absent: Olivia Anderson, Cody Isabel

Richard Ramos and Kristen Wyse were also present.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Reports:
Student Body President Ethan Frederick: Sarah Beadle, Jessalyn Holdcraft and I sat in the Board of Trustees meeting last Friday because our seats on SGA while Tyler Stokesbary sat as the president of CAB. The board voted to increase tuition by 4.25% in the next academic year, and it is likely that a similar increase will be passed for the year after that. Every student at the board meeting asked the board to begin communicating with the student body why these hikes are necessary and what goals the college has for these funds. President Simmons volunteered to draft the first such communication. Sarah and I will meet with him next Monday to review the draft and model of the letter. I plan on bringing it to SGA to consider to before it is sent to the student body. If you have questions or thoughts on this increase or the communication please contact Sarah or I as soon as possible.

Student Body Vice President Sarah Beadle: No report.

Manager Mary Galanis: No report.

Senior Class President, Jessalyn Holdcraft: We will hear three budget requests tonight. Right now our budget is at $2,480. If we fully fund the three requests, we will be left with $680 in our operating budget. Campus Day will come out of reserve funds. You will also hear the bylaws and constitution revisions.

Junior Class President, Austin Jacobs: The Student Life Group continues to work on their many projects such as a system to check out sports equipment, establish a transportation system to Des Moines, making Simpson 'greener', an all campus TV system, a dodgeball tournament, and so much more. We'll continue to work on our projects over the next week.
Sophomore Class President, Robert Lyons: We have compiled our edits of the Student Handbook and will be presenting that to Luke soon. We talked about advertising this new SGA guide. We are making a plan of implementation.

First Year Class President, Zach Goodrich: Last Friday the Org. Committee met and went over our plan of action for the next few weeks. Cody will be organizing Prexi Club/LOL and working with Jim Hayes; he will be updating me regularly on the progress he is making. Ruth is continuing to do over the Campus Day effort with help from Mariah and Teig. Mariah is working on the T-Shirt design as well as possible local sponsors to reduce costs, and Teig is working with Grounds to acquire the equipment we’ll need for Campus Day (garbage bags, etc.). After meeting with Lynne Jensen over in IT last Friday, I will now be reaching out to select student organizations to see if they want a StormFront account and if so, help them get everything set up so they can use it effectively. Chard and I are also exploring ways to utilize the existing SGA StormFront account, it hasn’t been used since 2008 so it needs some updating. Also, when I met with Lynne she informed me that StormFront will be replaced in a month or so with a completely redesigned service that will be known as SC Connect.

Advisors Rich and Kristen: Nothing to report.

Erica: Food committee met today. Sign up for Millie’s coffee rewards cards! In Pfeiffer, starting next week, the grill station will have more variety. With Lent, there will be more vegetarian and fish options on Fridays.

Tyler: Any word on to-go options?

Erica: There is a marketing person from Chartwells coming this week. They took away the Pfeiffer to-go option a few years ago because of Kent. They want Pfeiffer to be more of a sit down dining option.

Old Business
Nothing to report.

New Business
Jessalyn: I move to allocate $1,500 to the Shooting Sports Club.
Nick L seconded it.
Jessalyn: They are using the $1,000 for the conference in Oklahoma. The $500 is for the women’s self-defense course, which they did last semester. They have plans to advertise for the self-defense course. There are two representatives here to answer any questions.
Vote: Passed

Jessalyn: I move to allocate $300 to Enactus.
Nick L seconded it.
Jessalyn: We cut out $300 to pay Indianola Municipal Utilities because we do not refund groups once they have already paid for something. We are recommending allocating $300 for recording equipment and software, so Enactus and other groups can make commercials. Lisa Carponelli, a former news anchor, suggested this equipment.
Vote: Passed

Jessalyn: I move to allocate $6,700 from the Reserve Fund to SGA. This is for Campus Day.
Zach seconded it.
Jessalyn: If you have any questions, direct them to Ruth or anyone else on that committee.
Savannah: How much money is in the reserve fund?
Jessalyn: Currently, we have $34,000 and some change. If we allocate this, it will be about $28,000.
Robert: Any money not used will be returned to the account, correct?
Jessalyn: Yes.
Vote: Passed

Jessalyn: We are now talking about the revisions to the Constitution. There are not very many changes. I move to amend the Constitution.
Tyler seconded it.
Jessalyn: First, we are changing the date to February because we are updating it this month. We are deleting Treasurer, as previously discussed. We are changing SGA Administrative Advisor to just SGA Advisor. Otherwise, there is nothing we haven’t already changed.
Nick: I move to table the Constitution amendments until next week.
Jessalyn seconded it.
Vote: Passed

Jessalyn: I move to edit the Bylaws in full.
Nick L seconded it.
Jessalyn: Some of them are punctuation edits to match the rest of the document. We are deleting the SGA Treasurer section. We are adding the VP duties to update the Bylaws, Constitution and Finance Code based on the revisions passed by the Senate. We are adding Section D of the Parliamentarian. They will ensure proper parliamentary procedure as laid out by the SGA Bylaws.
Robert: Point of order we already updated this. These do not apply to the current edition of the SGA Bylaws. You are making edits to the wrong document. We have already voted on this.
Jessalyn: This reflects what is on the website and what we will be updating. We are reporting on some of these changes and voting on others. You are correct in that we have voted on some of these changes last semester.
Nick: We had to update it because it was never properly updated to reflect those changes we had already voted on.
Jessalyn: We are adding a subset I to Parliamentary Procedure that the presiding officer has the ability to end debate whenever they feel necessary. Also, they may automatically table or refer to committee any motion or topic they see fit without a vote of the entire SGA Senate.
Robert: “I move to strike out the proposed amendments to Section 3, Point D, Sub-point 1 and the proposed addition of Section 3, Point D, Sub-point 1, Subset “i.” First of all, you’re giving the power to make motions to the chair which violates basic parliamentary rules. The chair is meant to facilitate, and in a way control debate, but is not supposed to become a part of the debate through motion making. In essence, the chair shouldn’t be cutting discussion short but, as their job description states, be protecting the rights of the individuals of the assembly to speak. It is up to the assembly, not the chair, to determine when debate has gone on for too long. Second, the amendment calls for an inappropriate use of the motion to “lay on the table” which is really only supposed to be used in emergency/urgent situations. It’s to be used when something has come up during the course of the meeting that requires the entire group’s full attention. Third, the amendment calls for an inappropriate use of the “motion to refer to committee.” This motion is to be used after discussion has taken place among the larger group and it’s decided that a number of details need to be worked out at greater length in the more informal atmosphere of the committee. Building off points 2 & 3, motions exist for the SGA to use without resorting to complete control by the chairperson. The simple motions to “Limit or Extend the Limits of
Debate,” “Postpone Definitely,” and “Previous Question” already exist for the sole purpose of facilitating discussion. In points 2 & 3, the proposed amendments are being used as a means of cutting discussion short, which is not their main purpose. In addition, if the proposed amendment were to pass, the only recourse available to people who wish to continue discussion is to appeal the decision of the chair which is a far more complicated and lengthy process than simply using the aforementioned motions. Fourth, the proposed amendments violate basic parliamentary law and democratic principles. The purpose behind bringing a deliberative assembly together is to make decisions in the name of the group after thorough deliberation (i.e. the airing of pros and cons) amongst all the members. Committees are to be used only after discourse has taken place in the larger group setting. Fifth, the proposed amendments violate the rights of the minority, the individual, and the assembly as a whole. Members have the right to make motions and to debate those motions with the group, by giving the chair the ability to cut short this debate, the chair violates the right of the individual to be heard, the rights of the minority to give their opinion, and the right of the assembly to hear debate before being the motion is sent to committee. Sixth and finally, if exceptions are to be made to Robert’s Rules of Order, they have to be narrowly construed. The proposed amendment before us today is not narrowly, but widely, construed making it a breach of parliamentary law and thus an untenable amendment.

Ethan: The amendment that Jessalyn proposed would allow Sarah to table debate or send issues to a committee when she seems fit. Robert is disagreeing because it discourages discussion, among his other formal reasons. Sometimes it is helpful to the processes. A vote of no confidence still exists, which is just a simple majority to bring that issue back up. There is a sufficient check in place. I would be opposed to Robert’s amendment and in support of Jessalyn’s.

Nick: In writing this amendment, the idea was that there are legislative bodies that have chairs that do this and have the power to refer to committee and table motions. We are not destroying Robert’s Rules of Order.

Tyler: We have to remember that the Parliamentary Procedure has its purposes. It makes sure meetings are efficient and that they go smoothly. In some areas, I agree with Robert. In some areas, I agree the VP should have more power. I am split on this. Sarah Beadle may not go power crazy, but future VPs may abuse the power. When sometimes I wish things would go faster, but at what cost?

Zach: I agree with your points, Tyler. This is why we have the vote of no confidence. And if we have simple majority, then it could come back up for debate. The original amendment is a safeguard to be more efficient, so we can continue to get work done without letting one person stall the entire process. I am in favor of striking down Robert’s proposed amendment.

Ryan: Why are we making rules on controlling debate when we don’t debate? This is the most we have debated in months! Do we trust ourselves to debate effectively?

Jessalyn: I am not an expert on Parliamentary Procedure. I have been on SGAs in previous years when people like to talk quite a bit. There are people who like to hear their own voice. There is a vote of no confidence. We can always table the bylaw amendments until next week if we need more time to think about it.

Robert: I am not being a stickler on Parliamentary Procedure. These are basic rights that an assembly has that I have brought up today. If you want to make a motion to limit debate, you can only debate on how long that is. Technically, people only can speak twice on a motion for ten minutes. How long people can speak can be changed with subsets. This shows no confidence in our student senators to engage in debate and thoughtful discussion on issues that affect our student body.

Nick: You are operating on the assumption that everyone knows Robert’s Rules of Order. You are also assuming that the student body will get cut off and always debate perfectly. I see this as more of a way to streamline the process. The VP can facilitate our lack of knowledge for parliamentary procedure. We are not parliamentarians. We are a small student body, not a large governing unit.
Ethan: The intent of this is that the VP can suggest we table things until next week or refer to a committee for investigation. Sometimes, as students, we dive into an issue that we need more answers on. That requires further investigation. Rather than go unintelligently to a vote because no one knows how to postpone it, it is easier for the chairperson to make the decision to table it or refer it to a committee. You can override the chairperson.

Mariah: Can we just word it differently? If we word it differently, then there won’t be as much free reign. If future VPs are more afraid of conflict, there could be a lack of healthy debate. There is a middle ground here.

Ishaya: Whatever we decide on right now, the people after us have the power to change this in the coming years. We need to vote on what is good on us for now.

Robert: Nick brought up that no one knows Parliamentary Procedure. We now have a Parliamentarian.

Tyler: I created a parliamentary brochure a while ago. It is an SGA parliamentarian brochure. It will be out of date. I am in favor of striking down the amendment. Everyone is a student. It is okay that we don’t know Roberts rules of order. I am in favor of striking down the amendment, like Robert has suggested. In the future, the Parliamentarian should think about making a brochure. Just because it is struck down now doesn’t mean it can’t be revisited in the future.

Erica: Tonight, are we tabling it?

Ethan: They have presented a slate of amendment changes. Robert has moved to amend that slate. The next vote we take will either be in favor of Robert’s proposal or against it. Then, after that we will table it until next week. If Robert’s passes, it will be a part of what we vote on next week. If Robert’s fails, the slate as it is now will be voted on next week.

Jessalyn: The bylaws we do not have to table. We can if we want to. The Constitution is what we have to table until next week.

Ruth: What is the wording that Robert wants to amend?

Jessalyn: It is subset “I.” He doesn’t want it to exist.

Ruth: We are voting in favor of getting rid of it?

Jessalyn: Yes, and if you are opposed, the slate will stay as is.

**Vote on Robert’s Amendment to Bylaws: Passed**

Jessalyn: SGA Treasurer needs to change to Committee Chairperson.

Tyler: I would like to adopt a friendly amendment. It should be changed that the class president of the chairperson can vote in case of a tie, except in the case of a tie on the Finance Committee. Getting rid of the treasurer person leaves out who would vote in the case of a tie. Right now there are four voting members on the committee. We need someone to break the tie.

Jessalyn: We are adding that the chairperson of the Finance Committee will update current SGA operating budget and reserve funds and announce the totals of the budgets at each SGA meeting. We don’t know why there was a deadline as to when to submit the budget to the SGA Senate no later than September in here. We are deleting it.

Tyler: When we were talking about the Parliamentarian position, maybe we should add who it should be. Should it be an SGA senator? Should it be someone outside of the body? Does it matter? The SGA Treasurer used to be either.

Nick: Maybe we say it is appointed by the President.

Jessalyn: That is what is says right now. The current language is ambiguous and allows for flexibility from them, as in the President and VP.

Tyler: Okay, that is fine.

Jessalyn: If you guys don’t have anything to add to that, then it will stay with the President or VP can elect someone from inside or outside the Senate for the position.
Jessalyn: We are making the new Section 7 of the Sunshine Law that Robert proposed. He and Sarah met with my committee, and this is what came of it. We changed some of the wording and combined some of the sections.
Robert: It still creates the relationship with the Simpsonian.
Jessalyn: The suspension of the minute taking did not change. We took the first and the last section and made them one.

Molly: It says the VP will make a copy of the agenda made available to the college community 24 hours ahead of the Wednesday meeting. How are we doing that?
Sarah: Mary and I are adopting a system where I will put it where the minutes will go. It will be online. Once the meeting happens, the minutes will replace the agenda.
Tyler: The bylaws, can we vote on them tonight?
Ethan: Yes.
Jessalyn: We can table until next week or vote. Constitution we have to table. The one change to the election code is to add, in the case of the removal of a Class President, that the newly elected Class President will serve the remainder of the former president’s term. As it read, it was not clear enough. Anything else? The last thing we are working on is the Finance Code.
Nick: I move to table the Bylaws until next week.
Zach seconded it.
Vote: Passed

General Discussion
Molly: I move to appoint Tori Halloran as the student representative on the Study Abroad Committee.
Austin seconded it.
Mariah: Great idea!
Vote: Passed

Ruth: How do you get to SGA on the Simpson website?
Ethan: Go to “Current Students.”
Ruth: The only reason I ask is that you can’t find the link to the budget request now that we upload the minutes.
Mary: I had the discussion with Oscar as to where it should be on the website. It had been decided that SGA was more for an internal audience, which is why it is under “Current Students” and not under “Student Life.”
Sarah: Does everyone understand how to explain to people to get to the SGA page? If you have any questions, direct them to Mary.

Jessalyn: We need to get four people to regularly attend faculty meetings. There are only 2 or 3 more that students will be on campus for. These people have speaking privileges during meeting. They don’t have to be in SGA.
Ethan: We have two right now, so we need two more.
Nick: When are they?
Sarah: They are 12:30pm on the third Wednesday of every month. It will be Tyler Stokesbary and Nick Laning.

Announcements
Molly: I would like your plastic bags. I work at Catholic Worker and we need plastic bags for our homeless food drive and to keep people’s feet warm.
Tyler: This is my last meeting. It has been fun. Thanks!
Robert: Rotaract is hosting Quench After Hours tonight! We have a meeting tomorrow from 8-9pm to make valentines for veterans and have a professional development presentation.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.