Student Government Meeting  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Meeting Highlights:  
-A letter to student regarding tuition increase will be drafted by the Board of Trustees chairperson.  
-Allocated $680 to March to End the Isms.  
-Edits to the SGA Bylaws and Constitution were passed.

Complete minutes are as follows:

Roll Call:  
Absent: Nick Laning, Molly Monk, Cort Singleton, Cody Isabel  
Richard Ramos and Kristen Wyse were also present.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Reports:  
Student Body President Ethan Frederick: We met with President Simmons this afternoon. It went well. We talked about letters to be sent to students explaining the tuition increase, what the goals for the tuition increase are and what they can expect financially next year. President Simmons agreed he could draft that, but instead he is going to ask the chairperson of the Board of Trustees to draft it and send to SGA to review before it gets sent to students. Expect that as soon as they are able to draft it.

Student Body Vice President Sarah Beadle: No report.

Manager Mary Galanis: Our official meeting live tweeter is Zach Goodrich. #Congrats.

Senior Class President, Jessalyn Holdcraft: We’re working on the Finance Code. We will continue working on it next week. My committee will meet at 5pm on Sunday. We would like to welcome Cort Singleton to the Finance Committee! We have what could be our final budget request for SGA to hear that comes out of our operating budget.

Junior Class President, Austin Jacobs: We had another great meeting. The Student Life Committee members continue to work on their individual projects including a ride-share program, Doggies @ Dunn, a TV system, a dodgeball tournament, etc.

Sophomore Class President, Robert Lyons: The Student Advocacy Committee will be meeting February 19th from 6:10pm - 7:10pm in the Student OrgSuite to finalize preparations of the Student Handbook Revisions. On Friday, February 20th, the SAC will be meeting with Luke Behaunek at 2:15pm to discuss the proposed Handbook revisions, training of House Managers, and the situation in the apartments.

First Year Class President, Zach Goodrich: Ruth will be giving my report per a suggestion that came out of execs to have a member of our committee read our report.
Ruth: Org. Committee met last Friday. Teig is continuing to communicate with Grounds. Mariah has a t-shirt design and is working to get a quote from the local shop. Cody is setting an agenda for the LOL meeting next Wednesday. Zach is working with student organizations to get them set-up with StormFront accounts if so desired. I talked with catering and they will be making baked beans with one kind of bean as requested by Sarah Beadle. Also, we are still hoping to get more teams to sign up; we are currently at 14 teams.


Old Business
Jessalyn: I move to bring the Bylaw and Constitution edits off the table.
Robert seconded it.
The motion was passed.
Jessalyn: We will go through the Constitution edits one more time. The date on the document will be updated. We have voted on the Treasurer position being deleted. There is also a small change to the name of the SGA advisors. There are not big changes to the Constitution. Let’s finalize it because it wasn’t finalized on the website.
Vote: Passed

Jessalyn: The larger changes are to the bylaws; some of them we have already voted on. We are changing the date to February and some punctuation edits. We are formalizing the deletion of the Treasurer. I am asking that someone make a friendly amendment to strike out the position of Parliamentarian. The position of Parliamentarian has run its course. Tyler believes we do not need it anymore. It was a misunderstanding. We added it because we thought Tyler wanted it added. He has assured us that it is not needed in our bylaws.
Robert: I make a friendly amendment to strike out Parliamentarian.
Ruth seconded it.
Jessalyn: Accepted. Are there any questions? We added to the VP duties that they will update the SGA Bylaws, Constitution and Finance Code passed by the Senate. They will update the website. We added that I can vote in the case of the tie with my Finance Committee. The entire Sunshine amendment that we went over last time is also added.
Vote: Passed

New Business
Jessalyn: I move to allocate $680 March to End the Isms.
Robert seconded it.
Jessalyn: March to End the Isms has $1109.82 in its account, so we are recommending allocating the remainder of the operating budget ($680) to March to End the Isms. We talked to Carina and Ulices, and they said that they can make $1789.82 work for the event. We talked at length with both of them and their advisor, Walter Lain, about this.
Isha: Is this MSA or Latinos Unidos?
Jessalyn: The March to End the Isms is a separate organization.
Robert: Are they cutting anything or minimizing?
Jessalyn: They are just minimizing. They are cutting the number of t-shirts they buy and reducing costs on the posters. Last year they requested $2300 and still had $1100 in their account. Walter thinks it might have been pulled from the wrong account. However, we don’t know because we don’t have the
records from a year ago. My committee emailed them to get a budget request in sooner rather than later. So, they had to estimate with their numbers from last year.

Vote: Passed

Ethan: I would ask that someone begin a motion to appoint a Pro Tempore who serves as the chairperson of the Senate in case of Sarah’s absence. Someone please begin nominations.
Zach: I nominate Nick Yaeger.
Teig: I nominate Robert.
Kelsey: I nominate Jessalyn.
Sarah: Discussion on those nominations?
Conner: I will be voting for Nick because next semester Jessalyn will be gone.
Ruth: He might not be on SGA next semester.
Kelsey: I nominated Jessalyn because we both have been on SGA since freshmen year and know how it goes.
Robert was named Pro Tempore.

General Discussion
Ethan: I would like to open this up to everyone’s input. We had a good discussion last week. People seemed passionate and concerned about how discussion goes in this room. Some feel that we go in circles. Technically according to Robert’s Rules, someone can only speak on an issue twice. Instead of using that, we could look at inherency. Sarah would keep tally of how many times someone has spoken. When someone with less inherency’s hand goes up, that person has preference to speak. So that way people who haven’t spoken as much get a chance to. Any ideas for productive discussion?
Nick: We should not limit how many times you can talk. That limits input. We are too small of a group. We need more than that for deep discussion. I am a fan of inherency.
Ryan: The most important thing is that we have stuff to talk about. If we continue to just come and approve money, nothing will change. If there is more to talk about budget requests, it will be better. We need to bring more to the table to talk about. We need topics.
Mariah: I agree with Ryan. People don’t question things enough. We need to get the full picture. That needs to be encouraged.
Ethan: I want to talk about that further. I venture to say that the reason people don’t do that now is trust of the people in this room. When I was a senator, I assumed other people knew what they were talking about. How can we encourage people to ask questions when they don’t understand?
Mariah: I am not scared to ask questions. It is fun to know things. Ask if anyone needs clarification? That is less of a scrutinizing comment.
Erica: Last year there was a big shift. It became blah when talking about budget requests. Someone brought up that everyone should read the entire budget request. That sparked more conversation because people knew what they were talking about.
Mariah: We could call people out to ask if someone specific has questions? Maybe they will step up and comment if they have the opportunity to speak.
Sarah: Thoughts on that?
Robert: Maybe for some issues for a larger debate we can alternate between pro and against to hear both sides equally.
Erica: I think the inherency will work best. We want a chance to talk.
Ethan: I am glad that people like inherency. I am not saying we will do it. We are just considering it. The one thing that execs did mention is that I could take notes about what arguments are being made. This could prevent us going in circles.
Mariah: Then we could visualize it.
Olivia: For effective discussion, we could explain to new members and people who haven’t been to SGA before our processes and when you can speak. We could come up with an SGA manual. We need more training.

Austin: We could do an SGA retreat.

Conner: I think the problem is sometimes we laugh at people asking simple questions. That is one of the biggest problems.

Ethan: I think that is a good rule. This place needs to be safe and facilitate conversation. What other things discourage talking?

Olivia: A more experience member could ask the question.

Mariah: We could put a less experience person with someone to guide them.

Zach: These are good ideas. I didn’t know what I was doing for the first few months. A guide would be helpful.

Mariah: That could be more than just SGA, but professionally. You become better with a mentor.

Announcements

Zach: In my report last week I said that I met with Lynn Jensen and she said that they will be changing StormFront to SC Connect in the next month, I forgot to announce something. They want student input. Send them an email or visit them.

Mariah: Are they going to reach out to students?

Zach: I am not sure.

Ryan: Monday the 23rd at 8pm in the Black Box is a Res Life Date Auction. Bring canned food. You can get a date with Nick Yaeger. It will be fun! We have a lot of gift cards to give away.

Mariah: Simpson College Women’s rugby is selling t-shirts!

Robert: CAB is having a Hunger Games themed Capital Ball this Saturday 8-11pm and a comedian next Wednesday. If you are in the second year area, I am having a movie night on Friday.

Ethan: Cort Singleton is the new Sophomore Senator! He will be sworn in next Wednesday.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.