Student Government Meeting
Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Meeting Highlights:
- Garret Pochop came to discuss his plans to start an Al-Anon group on campus in the fall.
- Student pay requirements were discussed and most were approved, except for the cap on how much should be spent. That issue was referred back to the Finance Committee for further exploration in the fall.
- The capital improvement project with the library and EAC Vending Misers was approved.
- A SGA calendar was discussed and the budgetary aspects will be voted on in the fall.

Complete minutes are as follows:

Roll Call:

Absent: Mariah Young, Molly Monk, Savannah Calaway, Ryan Stewart

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Garret Pochop: I am starting an Al-Anon group on Simpson campus, exclusive to Simpson students. I would like to send out a survey with 5 questions to get feedback on their interest level. I didn’t know if I could get it to all the students. I know SGA gets good response rates. I was wondering if you guys could send it out. The questions are do you know what Al-Anon is? Have you ever attended a meeting? Are you negatively affected by someone else’s drinking or other addiction? Would you be interested in attending a meeting? If so, how likely? Al-Anon is a group for family members and friends of an alcoholic to come together to share their experiences and problems with the group. Some meetings are different than others. I know there is a book and a short passage you can read at the start of the meetings. Then, you talk about how that passage relates to you and what you are going through. You use each other to work through those problems. That is my definition of it. I know it is late in the semester. I would like to start this organization in the fall. I know it will be difficult to get people to come. I would like to see it grow. This is why I want to send out the survey. Any questions?

Ethan: I recommended that he sit down with Sarah and formulate the survey through Survey Monkey to send out to the student body.

Cody: Why do you want to start this?

Garret: At the beginning of the semester, my family found out that my dad was an alcoholic. This is why I want to do it. I know people are affected by this. It is very important to me. I would like to see it like that on campus.

Olivia: It seems like a support group. Have you thought about making it an advocacy group?
Garret: I have thought about it. I don’t want it to seem like it is a sober group. If you do drink, that doesn’t mean you can’t come to this. It is for people who have a family member or friend who is an alcoholic. I will have to see.

Robert: Thank you for putting this together. I think this topic is put to the side. I watched my uncle die of alcoholism. This is a great resource to have on campus.

Garret: For some people, it is a touchy subject. It is an anonymous group in a way. I think it would be beneficial.

Nick L.: I think the survey is a great idea. I recommend that you have something at Org Fest in the fall. We can get you that information. You can meet incoming students.

Garret: My counselor in counseling services is helping me start it and she mentioned that.

Cody: You can talk to Ruth and me about registering for Org Fest.

Dani: I think this is also a great idea. I know that Al-Anon and AA are different. Are you aware of where AA meetings occur in the area in case someone thought Al-Anon was an AA meeting?

Garret: The counselor I am working with and I have been getting information from the Al-Anon in Des Moines. I don’t know where AA meetings are. I know there are some in Indianola and many in Des Moines.

Dani: First United Methodist Church has them here in Indianola. They might have Al-Anon too. You should check with them.

Garret: For the first couple of meetings, an Al-Anon leader will come in to lead them. I would like to eventually lead the meetings.

Ethan: I will get Sarah and Garret together to get this out to students. We know how difficult this is to set up and how great it will be for students.

**Reports**

**Student Body President Ethan Frederick:** The appointments for various student representatives for committees around the campus will be done in the fall. The exception is Student Conduct Board which has historically been finalized in the spring, for the most part, except for First Years. Submit applications to Student Conduct Board. Most applications right now are ResLife. It could be an issue when students are trying to appeal a ResLife related issue.

Sarah: We would prefer for them not be Senators for the sake of the voting process. We want to keep separate the constituents in this body from those who are making the anonymous decisions about our conduct policy.

Ethan: The All Campus Budget Committee has made its final recommendations for how to bridge next year’s budget gap. We are presenting that to cabinet that will consider it next week. Once those considerations are done, we are aiming to have an All-Campus Budget Hearing.
**Student Body Vice President Sarah Beadle:** No report.

**Manager Mary Galanis:** Check out the new updates I have made to the SGA website.

**Senior Class President, Jessalyn Holdcraft:** We will present our discussion and suggestions for additional student pay requirements. Spring budget hearings are seemingly over.

**Junior Class President, Austin Jacobs:** No report.

**Sophomore Class President, Robert Lyons:** Not much to report. We are doing some follow-up on a few of our projects and waiting to hear back from some people. We would like to do more things with commuter students. The Honor Code is being pushed off until next year. Steps are being taken to open up a greater discussion with Chartwells about dining options for those with allergies, etc.

**Library Committee:** Sarah Reed is our representative on there. She sent me the minutes, so I will summarize them. Classical musical library is not being used as much. They are happy with the additions to the building, like the trek desks. Dunn Library is ranked 6 of 6 for expenditures and number 5 for per student expenditures. They have a new Encore system called Encore Duet. Doggies @ Dunn is coming up April 22nd from 12-3pm.

**First Year Class President, Zach Goodrich:** The Student Org. Committee will be hosting (with Kristen’s Collaborative Leadership Course) an “Org. Suite Open House” to promote the space and its resources for campus organizations on April 24th.

**Advisors Rich and Kristen:** No report.

**Old Business**

**Jessalyn:** I sent out what my committee has talked about and decided on about student pay. We met for almost an hour and a half. We talked at length about an application process. We determined that it would be too close to a scholarship. With two people with similar rationales, it would be too close to a scholarship. We want the best people to be in these positions regardless of financial background because these positions take a lot of time.

**Potential New Requirements:**

- SGA shall not spend more than 3 percent of our budget on student pay. We decided on a percent rather than a dollar amount because it made more sense to us for the cap to fluctuate based on the operating budget. We didn't like the idea of a dollar amount that doesn’t fluctuate. It is similar to what we are operating it right now.

  - The 3 percent will be determined by our estimated operating budget in the fall with full understanding that this amount will be lower than 3 percent of the final budget.

  - It is better to do this as a percentage because it is more flexible from year to year and we spend based on our estimated budget anyway.

  - Note that this is a cap—we are not required to spend this amount on student pay.

(At the top of the requirements section) The Finance Committee will look into all of these requirements before funding student pay for organizations

- The group is active year round.
- The group must meet on a monthly basis.
- The student pay must be for a student leadership position in the organization. In the past, CAB used to be able to pay its student workers.

**We maintained the original requirements in the Finance Code.**
Austin: Where did the 3% come from?
Nick L.: We actually talked exactly about a $10,000 number. 3% of our current budget is a little over that. Currently student pay takes up 4.2% of our budget. It covers what we are funding in the fall and leaves openings, but also caps it, so we don’t overspend on student pay.
Teig: Did you guys think about capping it per organization?
Nick Y.: When we set a cap, we are going to be more cautious in giving it out and fair. That won’t be a big issue.
Ishaya: Do we have a limited number of positions that will be paid to every organization?
Nick L.: No. Currently 6 people in CAB are paid. SGA has 7. We could put a cap at 7. I don’t think we will have another organization that wants more than 7.
Ruth: Can we clarify what year round means?
Nick L.: Maybe we say active in the academic year.
Olivia: We have brought up SGA pay. I think SGA should reduce the number of positions that are paid. I think Class Presidents shouldn’t be paid. That money could be going towards programming.
Ethan: We will talk about that later.
Austin: How will you pick which groups get funded?
Nick L.: Currently we are funding $7,000 for student pay. With the cap, it will ensure we don’t except increases and leave everyone else out.
Austin: Let’s say 4 other groups request student pay next semester. How do you decide which groups get funded?
Jessalyn: With the year round requirement, they would have to ask right at the beginning. The next SGA will have to decide if the 3% includes the three organizations that are getting student pay.
Ethan: Some of those specifics should be investigated by the new Finance Committee in the fall. They could create grading of the positions dependent on the responsibilities there are and the financial need of the applicant.
Ruth: Can you justify why student pay was cut from Simpson Student Media?
Ethan: That is not final. We have not talked to the student and advisors in the group.
Jessalyn: Did my email make it seem like the decision was over?
Ethan: We are still talking to the students in the group about it. We will report about it once that process is over.
Ishaya: Can we get what prompted the discussion?
Ethan: It was prompted that both last year and this year we zeroed out. We want every dollar to count. Is every single position at the Simpsonian necessary to be paid? We have had this discussion about every group that has applied for student pay.
Ruth: Are we just worried that it is a class?
Jessalyn: No. They are exempted per our Finance Code.
Erica: When are we putting these into effect?
Jessalyn: If you vote to approve them, they will go into the Finance Code. It takes affect next year.
Ethan: I think that these are the questions people have. I would encourage this body to not approve these changes. I would like the Budget Committee to get more specifics about what they need in the fall.
Nick L.: You can refer to Finance Committee.
Ethan: I would be fine with that too.
Ishaya: If we don’t vote on this, can we implement it?
Ethan: If you vote yes, it will be in effect in the fall. I think it is underdeveloped. I would like someone to make a motion to refer it back to the Finance Committee.
Sarah: In the meantime, here is what we have currently in the Finance Code.
Jessalyn: Could they vote line by line? You are probably hesitant about the 3%. Lines 2-5 aren’t controversial. We are just finalizing what we already do. My committee has had sufficient discussion about it.

Erica: I feel uncomfortable because I feel like we may be forgetting something. It can be explored further.

Jessalyn: All of our documents can be amended by us. I would strongly suggest voting line by line. I would vote on as many as you are comfortable with.

Olivia: I move to accept 2-5 and refer 1 back to the Finance Committee.

Austin seconded it.

Zach: Does this include 3 as amended?

Jessalyn: Yes.

Sarah: 2-The Finance Committee will look into all of these requirements before funding student pay for organizations

3-The group is active year round.

4-The group must meet on a monthly basis.

5-The student pay must be for a student leadership position in the organization.

Nick Y.: I would strongly suggest we consider putting a cap on the budget. We don’t want to spend too much of our money on student pay.

Ruth: I think the way it is set up, the Finance Committee in the fall has every right to say no they way it is set up. I have faith in the Finance Committee to say no if needed.

Austin: We are voting to accept 2-5 and referring 1 to the committee?

Sarah: Yes.

**Vote: Passed**

Nick L.: Can we make sure that info gets to the next Finance Committee?

Sarah: Yes.

Jessalyn: After discussing with Robert, I move to withdraw Proposal 2. We would be tying 3 more SGAs to a project and giving more work to security.

Zach seconded it.

Robert: If you want the information that I received about it, let me know and I will forward it to you. I would like to explore it next year. The safety of our students is important.

**Vote: Passed**

Nick L.: I move to bring back to the table Proposal 1.

Jessalyn seconded it.

Cody: I move to add the decline benches to the proposal.

Sarah: Do you have a number for that?

Cody: No.

Austin: Right now, they aren’t looking to do any changes to the weight room. We talked about TVs and All-American and Academic Awards.

Ruth: Was that even if we were going to fund it?

Austin: They didn’t think those things would be necessary at this time.

Sarah: I would encourage you to pursue that when you have a number on that, Cody.

Olivia: Are we not paying the full amount on the EAC Vending Misers?

Dani: Originally EAC had money in the budget. Now they don’t. I would like to move to amend it to $2,500 for the EAC Vending Misers. It saves us money in the long run.

Nick L.: I accept your friendly amendment.
Sarah: The new total would be $13,412.25.
**Vote: Passed**

**New Business**

Ethan: I would ask that someone make a motion to accept the calendar and budget for 2015-16 SGA as submitted.

Robert: I move to accept the 2015-16 calendar for SGA.

Ethan: There is an edit to change the manager pay to $100 per month. That was just a mistake on my part. This is a chronological order of things SGA needs to plan for administrative and budgetary reasons in the next academic year. There are things that don’t have a date like Doggies @ Dunn and student pay. I am still waiting to hear from Rich on Org Suite upkeep. SGA Manager pay is staying the same. The change in student pay is moving Class Presidents from $25 to $50 and the Student Body President and Vice President from $200 to $100. This nets SGA about $600. I would love any input.

Cody: Why do we fund Doggies @ Dunn?

Ethan: I wasn’t at the meeting that it was the first time we hadn’t paid for it.

Jessalyn: Doggies @ Dunn needed an organization to fund it when I was on the Library Committee. We thought this was a beneficial program for campus. So, we paid for the snacks and drinks to go with Doggies @ Dunn.

Ruth: Is flag football on there?

Ethan: Yes.

Erica: Is it free for the dogs to come in?

Ethan: They don’t cost us anything. We pay for the drinks and snacks.

Ruth: I think it wasn’t passed this semester because it was after we zeroed out.

Nick L.: Why is March to End the Isms on here?

Ethan: In the past, SGA has contributed funding for the event. We didn’t plan for it this year and were scrambling. It is integral for student activities.

Jessalyn: Make sure March to End the Isms comes in and asks for the money. We had to seek them out this year.

Erica: Are we still voting on these budget requests as they come up? Or is this one big allocation?

Ethan: We don’t have a specific procedure for SGA funding SGA activities or student pay. We would still have to vote on Doggies at Dunn, March to End the Isms, Flag Football, and Campus Day. The rest of them including student pay and our Christmas party, which automatically come out of our account. If we want to change that, we can.

Ishaya: Why do we have to lower the pay for President and VP?

Ethan: The reason we did this is that we looked at every group this year and challenged them to look at their student pay. We had to look at ours as well.

Jessalyn: With student pay, we reduced it by $800 with getting rid of the Treasurer position. Keep in mind that my job used to be done by two people. I will advocate for whoever is in my positon next that they used to get paid a lot more.

Olivia: I personally think Class Presidents shouldn’t be paid. It would send a good message to campus. Maybe we try it out.

Jessalyn: I am not an advocate of student pay. We have recommended for CAB to keep all of their positions. Would you take the same approach with CAB? Would you change your position if committee chairs were different?

Olivia: I don’t know CAB dynamics. For SGA, it would be interesting to consider committee chairs not be the class presidents. I think if we are in charge of student pay; we shouldn’t have a significant amount of student pay go to ourselves.

Erica: But our number of student pay is going down?
Ethan: I will get that exact number.
Nick L.: The org suite upkeep. Isn’t that invalid when we don’t know the number? I think we should put a number on the Christmas party. Then the Finance Committee knows what they are working with.
Ethan: This will go into effect in the fall. I would recommend that unless you have an ethical issue, you should approve or amend it. If we need to change it in the fall, when we have specific numbers, we can.
Nick L.: We should find out what the Christmas Party has cost in the past.
Sarah: Our estimate is $200. We could be the ones spending that money and the ones buying the supplies for the party.
Ethan: SGA is cutting $800 of student pay.
Sarah: How do we feel about this?
Erica: We should adopt it knowing we will have some budget requests and discussion before spending the money.
Ethan: I will make a note under Doggies at Dunn, March to End the Isms, Flag Football, and Campus Day to have those still be requested.
Sarah: If we know exactly what we are going to spend, why couldn’t we just allocate the money for Flag Football and Campus Day now?
Ethan: Austin, that money is for gift cards, right?
Austin: It is a check that is divided among the team by the person who registered them.
Ethan: Do we want SGA to request for flag football?
Erica: If it has been a consistent number, it is fine.
Nick L.: Can I move that all Org Suite update funds should be discussed by the body?
Jessalyn: It is currently in our Finance Code to say that updates to the Org Suite is taken from the reserve funds and have to be reported to SGA. If we want a request to come through, we will need to amend the Finance Code.
Conner: Is there a reason we can’t fund Campus Day now?
Ethan: Can those who planned Campus Day speak about that?
Ruth: That number is pretty accurate. It stays in our account if we don’t use it. I personally would be okay with it.
Zach: Our committee did go through and tried to save money. The price might fluctuate, especially if we do some things more efficiently.
Sarah: The $7,000 can still be applied for and used, if it is in our Operating Budget.
Olivia: I move to put a $50 cap on the Christmas Party. I suggest the rest be a potluck.
Erica: How does that work with our Finance Code? Can we just have a dinner for our group?
Jessalyn: Yes and no. We are cognizant of internal prizes. Anyone can run for SGA, get on SGA and be going to this. There are groups that host an internal thing, like CAB’s kickoff or their budget planning, the majority of people that were there were in CAB. It is open to everyone.
Erica: I am thinking about conferences. It is the same reason we fund them.
Jessalyn: We fund their food.
Olivia: If the rough estimate is $200, it wouldn’t hurt to bring food and make it a $50 cap. That way it isn’t all on Rich.
Ruth: This year we requested $6,700 and were under that. I move to friendly amend it to $6,500.
Nick L.: I accept it.
Ruth: What does approving this mean?
Ethan: It doesn’t mean any change to next year, just the student pay for SGA. I wanted this so that SGA knows what we are doing next year and we can better plan our budget.
Sarah: Everything that I have highlighted is being approved.
Nick Y.: We vote on this in the fall again. We can’t give ourselves the money before we have it.
Ethan: The only thing that is changing is Flag Football and Campus Day are approved and don’t have to be requested.
Nick Y.: This makes me uncomfortable that we are approving ourselves for money we don’t have. We should discuss this now.
Sarah: We brought this up now so we have this done before the new Presidents get into their office, so they aren’t voting on their own salary.
Jessalyn: I recommend that we use the same process that we use for our spring budget hearings. If the entire SGA approves this, it will go to a vote.
Ethan: We didn’t put it through because it isn’t just a budget.
Jessalyn: I would be in favor of recommending the budget request. Then we would have 7 budgets to approve in the fall. It is a recommendation for SGA next year.
Erica: Can we do student pay separate?
Ethan: If you want to make a motion to divide it, go ahead.
Erica: I would like to make that motion.
Olivia seconded it.
Erica: I agree with student pay. We should vote on it now if we want it to be implemented in the next academic year. The budget doesn’t have to be decided tonight.
**Vote: Not Passed (not divided)**
Ruth: Are we just like any other organization that is approving their budget for next year? Or are we getting the money?
Ethan: The ones with request next to them, we are requesting them.
Jessalyn: Anything that doesn’t have request by it, should be treated the same as Spring Budget hearings.
Ethan: Jessalyn is not suggesting that this be approved. The way this has been proposed so far are the ones with request by it be requested through a Wufoo. The ones that don’t will automatically be taken out of the student activity fee.
Conner: Flag football is going to happen next year and so will Campus Day. We should vote on this tonight.
Jessalyn: I was going to move to have the three budgetary parts be approved in the fall, which would change this process and Nick Laning would have to accept the friendly amendment.
Conner: Call to previous question.
Teig seconded it.
Ethan: We are now voting to continue this discussion or to vote on this issue.
Discussion continues...
Jessalyn: I would like to make that friendly amendment.
Nick L. accepts it.
Nick L.: We are now treating it like a Spring Budget hearing. Everything has to be formally approved in the fall.
Conner: It is unethical to vote on your own budget.
Ethan: Because Nick accepted the Friendly Amendment, it happened.
Conner: It would make SGA look very sketchy next year.
Nick L.: Before SGA wasn’t even voting on our budget, at least we are now holding ourselves accountable.
Conner: We are in a different area.
Nick Y.: It looks bad for SGA to approve money for ourselves before we have the money in the fall.
Olivia: Either we do it as it was before or we still have it up for debate in the fall. It allows for changes.
Ruth: Call to question.
Nick L. seconded it.
Vote: Passed
Sarah: Yes is to accept the recommendation to have it voted on in the fall.
Vote: Passed

General Discussion
None.

Announcements
Go vote!
Ethan: Encourage others to vote. A couple of them are down to five to six votes!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.