Student Government Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Meeting Highlights:
- Discussed the student pay aspect of the Finance Code.
- Discussed budget recommendations Ethan can bring back to the Budget Committee
- Reports from the Food Committee and Campus Council

Complete minutes are as follows:

Roll Call:
Present: Ethan Frederick, Sarah Beadle, Mary Galanis, Jessalyn Holdcraft, Kelsey Wittorf, Austin Jacobs, Nick Yeager, Ruth Ann Roberts, Molly Monk, Robert Lyons, Teig Loge, Ishaya David, Cort Singleton, Erica Heidler, Zach Goodrich, Nick Laning, Savannah Calaway, Dani Musselman, Olivia Anderson, Cody Isabel, Ryan Stewart

Absent: Mariah Young, Conner McGinnis

Kristen Wyse was also present.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Reports:
Student Body President Ethan Frederick: Applications for Student Conduct Board and SGA elections close this Friday at 4:30pm. Elections will happen next week. Right now we have a much better application turn out than last year. We need more applications for sophomore seats and Student Conduct Board. Student Conduct Board is the student judicial body. It is where many Res Life issues go to. Students decide how issues are handled.

Robert: Are we still not mixing SGA and Student Conduct Board?

Ethan: Yes. You cannot hold both. We have had people apply for both. They need to understand that if they get one, they cannot get the other.

Sarah: We will decide that after SGA elections have been held.

Erica: When can we put up posters?

Ethan: Anytime. Talk to Laura Pfaff before that happens. There are rules for hanging up posters in Kent. Once the elections are done, we will be looking for SGA’s new manager.

Zach: The sign up actually closes Friday at noon.

Student Body Vice President Sarah Beadle: No report.

Manager Mary Galanis: I am updating the Constitution, Bylaws and Finance Code on the website. I am also adding a “Budget” tab under “Minutes” with an updated Budget spreadsheet.
Ethan: Next year, we would like to have pictures up as well.

Senior Class President, Jessalyn Holdcraft: Tier 1 budget hearings are almost coming to a close. We will send out the information to SGA with rationales on who received Tier 1 status.

Junior Class President, Austin Jacobs: No report.

Sophomore Class President, Robert Lyons: Our committee is slowly bringing our activities to a halt as the semester comes to an end since many of our projects are longer term. At our last meeting we investigated the progress of a student honor code and have discovered that the process of implementation will take longer than expected and will be moved to next year. We are currently working with the American Lung Association and the Student Health Services at Simpson to put together a comprehensive educational document to distribute around campus to educate students about electronic cigarettes. We have also submitted both the proposed electronic cigarette policy and the bullying policy to Luke Behaunek for evaluation and eventual implementation.

Jessalyn: Can we see your bullying and harassment policy?

Robert: We were just looking for his feedback. It isn’t a finalized version.

First Year Class President, Zach Goodrich: Nothing to report.

Advisor Kristen: Nothing to report.

Cody: LoL is no longer happening.

Erica: Food committee met today with Charles, who is taking over as interim GM (since Chris Stockman has left Simpson for bigger and better things), a Chartwells representative/trainer, Paul the head of retail in Kent, and Satia the executive chef in Pfeifer. Coming up next week, Tyler’s will be selling bulk items for students to use of boards and flex, and there will be a one week surprise special that Sarah Beadle is very passionate about. It is queso! We will also be looking into doing a survey on dining hours for Red Mango and Millie’s and Pfeifer on weekends. In Pfeifer, the Exhibition Station will be starting "theme weeks" like different kinds of BBQ for a week, among other themes. Thursdays will also be theme days where certain cultures/states/countries will be featured. The first one will be Iowa foods (lots of corn stuff) and next week will be New Orleans food.

Ruth: Here is the report from Campus Council.
President’s Commission on the Status of Women
  o Lactate Room: Potential location in basement of Mary Berry in North East corner and one of the interview rooms in Kent
    • Day Care option?
    • Could be an EMERGE project
    • Looking at what other colleges in Iowa do
    • For students and faculty and staff
  o Baby sitter list for professors in fall
  o Spring Break Survey
  o 419 people answered: "Do you care if your Spring Break is associated with midterm?"
    • 103 answered "Yes," which is roughly 25%
316 answered "No" which is roughly 75%

- 410 people answered: "Do you want our Spring Break to line up with state colleges?"
  - 285 answered "Yes," which is roughly 70%
  - 125 answered "No," which is roughly 30%

- 414 people answered, "Do you want Spring Break to line up with Indianola and Des Moines' Spring Break?"
  - 221 answered "Yes," which is roughly 53%
  - 193 answered "No," which is roughly 47%

- Development with a company for cost for rides to doctors' offices (potential $2 charge)
  - Continuing and Graduate Program
- 70 Summer classes: 30 are fully online with 40 face-to-face

- Burglary in Ankeny in January
  - Soon more businesses around will be opening so less “scary”
  - Security cameras

- Fitness World is offering a 20% discount to Simpson Students

- Continuing improving relations with DMACC
  - Faculty
- Health Services Leadership Program
  - Cooler name than “Health Care Administration”
  - Implies more than just being a CEO of a hospital
  - Two track program, one for hospital focus (didn’t catch the other track)

- New program through Ankeny about Management Information Technology
  - Connections with over 10 businesses that are opening Internships and Jobs

- Campus Technology
  - Time to replace computers
    - Switching from HP computers to Dell
    - Replacing department computers
    - Then SGA will be contacted (ideas like printer in McNeil)

- CHANGE YOUR PASSWORDS BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR MAYTERM/SUMMER
  - Student programmed a program to send out phone bills electronically, saves paper and time

- Storm Front
  - SC Connect
    - Currently testing, as soon as test is over, Hardware and Software will be updated
    - Will not update during dead week or finals week
    - Timeframe will be released after testing is over
    - Testing and surveys and such will be sent out after that
  - New ticket system – check email from Kelley Bradder
    - Notify open and closed set up for tracking purposes
    - Sent over email
  - Higher Learning Survey
    - Sent out Monday morning
    - Closes Friday night at midnight
    - Used by the Higher Learning Commission
      - Simpson DOES NOT see the answers

Olivia: For the transition to SC Connect, I know IT wants student feedback. They want to focus on juniors and seniors. I don’t know what SGA could do, but maybe we should reach out.
Ruth: They are going to be sending out surveys.

Old Business
Jessalyn: I move to bring the SGA Finance Code up for debate.
Nick L. seconded it.
Jessalyn: These are most of the changes we talked about last time. We are getting rid of Tier 1 and Tier 2 to get rid of hierarchical system and moving it to immediate funding. We are not changing the committee that deals with spring budget meetings that process with stay the same and will stay with the Finance Committee. Those are the main changes. Last week we talked about adding requirements to student salaries. By getting rid of Tier 1, it gives more organizations the opportunity to ask for student pay. I would like to pass all of the changes that my group has brought up, but wait on requirements for student pay.
Vote: Passed

New Business
Jessalyn: The requirements for student pay. Getting rid of the Tier 1 designation opens up student pay for all organizations. We talked about the requirements being year-round programming, meeting requirements, and activities where participation is required by a course, academic department or major. We need requirements that reduce the number of groups eligible. We also talked about not funding activities where participation is required by a course, academic department or major. The exception is Student Media. This is already in the Finance Code.
Ruth: I feel like the activity itself is required, but not to be in a leadership role.
Jessalyn: They have to take the class regardless. That can still count for their requirements.
Molly: I don’t think we have considered how much pay a person could receive. When we look at the budgets for CAB, Student Media, and SGA, there are big differences on what funding is per person.
Olivia: Is it a stipend?
Ethan: It is a monthly stipend with a work study check. It depends on the organization.
Ruth: Who is keeping track of these requirements being met? We could require clubs to submit a calendar.
Jessalyn: That would be something that my committee would do. We don’t have a process to monitor it right now.
Ruth: Having been the president of a former Tier 1 organization, I think we are adding more gray to it. Do we need to have it done right now?
Jessalyn: Yes, this Finance Code is for next year. Groups in the fall could ask for student pay.
Nick L.: These aren’t hashed out. They are just proposed ideas. Yes, we could leave the discussion up to the Finance Committee to decide if they have student pay, but then we don’t have a rationale. We want guidelines.
Olivia: Can we do an appeal process at the end of the semester? Then we have quantifiable data in terms of what they have accomplished over the year and then ask for pay.
Nick Y.: The problems that arise with that is that we allocate on a first come, first serve basis. If we set aside money that they requested and they don’t meet that, we have left over money.
Jessalyn: The minimum for exec is minimum 12 hours a month. I do 25 hours a month minimum, which equates to a dollar an hour.
Robert: What if we fund them like we normally would, but then we have them submit us a report at the end of the year on what they did. Right now, we don’t have anything to operate off of.
Sarah: Academic year or calendar?
Robert: Academic.
Ryan: Can we get rid of it and not pay them? You don’t pay college athletes, so why would you pay the CAB president?
Molly: I agree with Stewart. I don’t see why we should have the student activity fee should go to student pay.
Ethan: There is nothing that we are voting on here at the end of the year that will decide student pay for next year. It will be voted on next September by next year’s SGA.
Ruth: This is setting the standard for the future.
Mary: I put countless hours into this job. I would not do it if I was not paid.
Ryan: Some positions should be turned into work studies. I don’t think Tyler Stokesbary should be paid.
Jessalyn: I hate student pay. The only job that is justifiable for student pay is SGA Manager. She does a very specific job. She was appointed, not elected.
Robert: Should we limit debate to the requirements or overall necessity of paying students?
Sarah: What is the general perspective? Agreement that both are relevant?
Ruth: Can we move it general discussion?
Jessalyn: If you want to cut student pay that is one discussion. If you want to limit what positions are funded, that is under the requirements. Limiting the requirements is what this started out as.
Olivia: SGA Manager should be paid. We should get rid of student pay, but not entirely. A scholarship process could happen where students write essays about what they did and get the student pay for the semester.
Jessalyn: Scholarships are forbidden in Finance Code.
Sarah: But, we could edit that.
Jessalyn: Yes.
Erica: Is that considered a reimbursement?
Ethan: There isn’t any money out of pocket.
Erica: Would it still come out of the student activity fee?
Cody: If we say we can pay someone on SGA but then we tell other organizations that they can’t pay people that they think put in the same amount of work that could be a problem.
Savannah: We see how much work SGA Manager does. We don’t see what other positions in other organizations.
Nick Y.: We are expected to know the organizations.
Ruth: All three of the organizations mentioned put on programming essential for the college. Who would do it if they weren’t paid? The school can’t afford to get rid of Simpson Student Media. CAB won’t put on Stand Around. These are things that are required.
Ryan: Ethan, would you do it if you weren’t paid?
Ethan: I am a big advocate of student pay. It is easier to hold people accountable. There is a Financial Assistance matter. I have two jobs outside of this. I would have to look at getting another job if I wasn’t paid.
Jessalyn: I have heard a lot from this argument that can any student do it financially and take the time out to do this position and maintain their student role. I have never needed the $25 a month that I receive. The school is choosing to not pay CAB, SGA and Simpson Student Media. CAB and SGA serve a different function than Simpson Student Media. There are different ways to do student pay.
Teig: For those of you who don’t want student pay, is it money or morality?
Jessalyn: Both. It uses 4% of our budget. I would do this position regardless of pay.
Erica: I do think there needs to be a lengthy process for student pay. Having a longer application process would be good. Maybe you track the group for a year or two years.
Molly: Could we specifically say that only executive members could be paid? Like a student leadership role?
Ruth: I was CAB president for a semester before I received student pay. There should be at least a semester of tracking. We would need some sort of portfolio to be presented.

Robert: I hate acting without information. This is why I want the compromise solution to gather information.

Nick L.: Do you test and get the data for every leadership change?

Robert: We could periodically audit the position every two or three years.

Zach: Who is doing the audit?

Sarah: That is a later discussion.

Ruth: Rich still had to calculate how many hours I would need to work to equate the stipend. We could look at the information in comparison as to how many hours they worked in relation to the stipend.

Ethan: I like the idea of how much of the budget we are going to use to put towards student pay. There are people who would opt out if they had to apply for student pay.

Ruth: We are setting a fixed dollar amount or percent?

Ethan: I was just making a suggestion. One percent this year would be $3,500.

Ruth: I would say we do dollar amount instead.

Ethan: That is fair.

Molly: We run into issues with advertising student pay, like with Simpson Student Media. Do we need to say that you can’t advertise how much you will get paid?

Jessalyn: That breaks our Finance Code. You can’t advertise before you get funding.

Molly: It happens.

Jessalyn: We know that it does.

Sarah: For the sake of time, we are going to end this discussion and bring it back up next week.

Jessalyn: Do you want my committee to meet about this and come back to you guys?

Erica: Can you email it out before meeting, so we have a chance to look at it?

Jessalyn: Yes.

Ruth: Can we have special guests at your committee meeting?

Jessalyn: Yes. I can give you access to these budget documents. I will let you know when we meet.

Sarah: We are going to talk about capital improvement projects that use the reserve funds. We are voting on what project we will do.

Ruth: Last time we talked about the 10% being allocated to student organizations. Is that on here?

Sarah: That was talked about last week. These can be changed. None of these would be using all of that money. All of them have at least 10% going back into the reserve fund. We could put it towards student fees. We talked about a rainy day fund. We are going to go through each of them. Proposal 1.

Molly: I think this is awesome! This is useful for every student on campus.

Robert: All of these affect all the students. I especially like the EAC Vending Misers.

Austin: Within a year, they paid for themselves and then started to put money back into the college’s pocket.


Erica: Safety of students should be a priority. It depends on whether you put comfort or safety first.

Ruth: We will probably have to foot the bill to pay for the updates.

Molly: There are 2 accidents reported in the parking lots each year. I don’t know if it is worth the money.

Ruth: It will provide safety walking across campus.

Robert: The first phase will buy all the software and hardware. You aren’t looking at very expensive updates per year. Every year you would add new cameras. You would eventually move across campus, so that everyone will feel safe.

Sarah: Number 3. TVs in Kent.

Nick L.: We have a TV in Kent with CAB. 5 TVs is excessive.
Erica: This is something we would like, not something we need.
Zach: It is not as beneficial to students compared to previous two proposals.
Jessalyn: We should spend this money.
Zach: This money will just sit there.
Sarah: We talked about using a portion of it. We still have that. We have a balance between saving and spending.
Nick L.: I move to accept Proposal 1.
Jessalyn seconded it.
Sarah: Do we want more discussion?
Erica: We are voting on one over another?
Robert: So, we are doing a one or none?
Sarah: Yes, we will go through each one and see what has majority.
Ethan: Let's do this instead. There are 4 options on the table. Make the motion on one if you support it. We will discuss and vote. When we are out of money, we are done. The order in which we vote on them is important. Any discussion about Proposal 1?
Erica: Would there be a way to do part of Proposal 1 and all of Proposal 2?
Ethan: We can amend this. There is enough for both. You can still amend them if you want.
Zach: If we pass Proposal 2, how much are we committing for the future?
Jessalyn: Robert and I brought up Proposal 2. If we are committing to this, we are committing to the phases. We would submit the $12,000 now and every fall, it would come out of the operating fund. We have to commit to the three phases.
Nick L.: We fund the $12,000 and then if we fund that, we basically say we have to fund the other parts in the future.
Jessalyn: Until the school makes a priority, we will have to assume that cost. It is a commitment.
Robert: We would split the cost over three years.
Jessalyn: This is the fourth year security camera has been brought up. The school isn't putting money towards it.
Ethan: Is there anything after that third year?
Robert: General upgrades and maintenance.
Erica: Is this something that has to happen in the next three years?
Jessalyn: We chunked it by section of campus. You could break it up more.
Robert: That keeps down the cost of having the guy come back.
Erica: Can each phase stand alone? Or does it have to happen in a certain amount of time?
Jessalyn: No. But the value of the three part plan is that the campus will have cameras in three years.
Sarah: The reserve fund doesn't get a certain amount of money each year. Once it is gone, it is gone.
Savannah: Next year, could SGA vote to not pay for this and then it die out?
Jessalyn: Yes and no. They could kill it, but they would be wasting that money.
Kristen: In the state Simpson is at with budget, I would not count on them to help with this. SGA will have to fund this. This is a long term commitment. You are getting future SGAs into a commitment they might not agree with.
Ethan: So we install Phase 1: Fraternity, Baseball Lots, Buxton and Picken. Say we pass it. Next year, say SGA says no. Does Phase 1 get taken down?
Jessalyn: The $12,000 only covers one year warranty and parts and labor.
Ethan: Now I am confused. So, you are saying we need $28,000 in total to install the first part of campus, $12,000 of which comes from this first appropriation.
Jessalyn: No.
Robert: The $12,000 is for hardware, software, and everything to get it started. The $28,000 included Clinton.
Ethan: So what would we pay next year?
Robert: I can’t give you a good number on that.
Ethan: How much to expand to Phase 2?
Robert: $7,000-$10,000 depending on how much you want to cover.
Olivia: I would like to see more information. Can we postpone this discussion until next week? We need to explore options.
Jessalyn: It is just the guy that has done cameras at Simpson. These are just numbers we have been given.
Sarah: Any other discussion on Proposal 1?
Zach: We wouldn’t have to depend on future SGA for the money.
Olivia: I would rather know more information on Proposal 2 before we vote on Proposal 1.
Zach: I move to table Proposal 1.
Olivia seconded it.
Vote: Passed

Ishaya: How much do we have in the reserve funds?
Sarah: We have approximately $27,000 in the reserve funds.

General Discussion (28:02 left)
Ethan: I am going to talk about the All Campus Budget Committee. It is two students, two staff, two faculty and a group of administration. This is to make sure the budget is transparent and make it a more formal process. Alex Severn and I serve on the committee. We still have to figure out who will serve on it next year. Simpson College has a budget every year of about 36 million. We have been tasked with making fiscal recommendations for the next academic year. As of January, we were at $500,000 deficit. With low recruitment, we are at $940,000. Our faculty and staff insurance rates are also going up. We are meeting this Saturday to address next year’s million dollar deficit. This presentation is from Professor Wolf that happened before Spring Break when we were at $500,000 and highlights where we can cut costs, increase revenue, and what we would cut first if cuts were necessary. I brought this here because there weren’t students at these meetings. The committee was made by the President. It is designed to be proactive. We have had two or three Saturday budget retreats. We spend 6 or 7 hours talking about budgets. We meet every week. We meet with relevant people to get information about where we are at with things like recruitment. We have agreed that the budget must be balanced, need a process that is sustainable and stable, and community consensus. We have also recognized three cores. Core 1 is most important which is academic programming and recruitment and retention. We have agree on a rainy day fund of 1% of gross revenue. I have also been an advocate for is establishing a capital project line in the budget. We have funded that in the past with a budget surplus. It has proved to have worked in the past. When we have budget deficits, that won’t work. Last year, because of low recruitment, the Board of Trustees moved that to other projects. That is why capital projects need a line item in the budget.
Nick L.: Most businesses have depreciation to cover those things.
Ethan: It is different because they aren’t assets that we would sell. Simpson always makes sure major catastrophes are fixed, but beyond that is where the capital budget comes in. I have been saying that from the student perspective, it doesn’t always feel like major repairs are taken care of.
Nick L.: So we have a catastrophe budget? But only surplus money is going to it?
Ethan: Luke doesn’t know what kind of money he has to fix things until April. We also wanted to come up with ways to make money. Tuition is going up by 5%, so the comprehensive fee is going up by 4%
because room and board is not increasing. Student technology fee also increased so we could have better WIFI on campus. We are looking at improving West Des Moines and Ankeny campuses and continuing and graduate programs and alumni giving. We only have a 13% alumni giveback rate, which is low. We would like to see if these match your priorities. The first is if we were to cut funding, where would these things go? The first few are for employee salary and benefits. It is our largest expense. Faculty and staff said they would rather see their retirement decrease. Assuming we have a lot of income, which wouldn’t apply to this next fiscal year, faculty and staff said salary and bonuses should be the first things to put money back into. With those numbers presented and given that next year we have the one million dollar deficit, what are things that you think we can generate more revenue or what can we eliminate? We have brought up May Term and it is no longer being discussed.

Ishaya: We were going to have a surplus of $400,000 surplus before Spring Break.
Eth: We were looking at $500,000 deficit and we had a $600,000 rainy day fund. Our recruitment decreased, so we are looking at the million dollar deficit the next fiscal year.

Olivia: For generating revenue, we could look at the garages on campus. Students rent them out when they are available. We have more that can be rented out. Even if we could clear up two of those garages, that is $500 that we could be making. The printing on campus doesn’t have a slap on the wrist when you go over what you are allotted.

Nick L.: We have a printing office on campus that is not utilized. Mostly faculty and staff use it. We are we paying for that? Have we looked at the athletic program?

Eth: We have looked at that. Every department on campus has been submitting an organization chart. The printing office is a great idea.

Jessalyn: Administrative fees are looked over.

Eth: We have heard that. We have looked at Simpson parking ticket fees.

Robert: I am into environmental projects. We need to look at them to save us money. Maybe that means replacing lighting. Professor Sasser has a list.

Cody: Fundraisers. We could do an annual event to get alumni involved.

Jessalyn: Whoever is my successor, should implement a senior giving project. Bob Lane and I have talked about it.

Austin: The parking fee is really cheap here.

Jessalyn: I would prefer to up a fee for the ticket rather than the parking fee.

Austin: Everyone has to pay for a parking fee.

Savannah: There are a lot of people that get parking tickets.

Cody: So we are losing students but not putting in capital improvement projects?

Eth: I am consistently making that argument. I think the facilities are insufficient to our recruitment goals.

Robert: We can't get people to the campus because of the price tag. We need to get rid of that stigma.

Eth: That is a great point. The Board of Trustees has talked about that. Pretty much all of us receive financial aid. There is a calculator on the Simpson website. We have seen it get a lot of usage. The Board of Trustees has looked at doing a price reset. Right now, we set $40,000 fee and most students get about $25,000 in aid and the cost is $15,000. The talk is to just charge $15,000, but prospective students associate the lower cost with a lack of quality education.

Robert: I want to get students past that.

Jessalyn: Working in admissions, it is usually the parent saying the kid needs to look at small, private liberal arts colleges.

Eth: Any other suggestions?

Nick L.: Simmons talked about increasing the budget for marketing for admissions. A good investment is marketing.
Ethan: Next year, the marketing budget is bigger. The money that we had at the end of last year was put towards marketing. Where is that marketing money coming from is the issue.
Robert: Did they end up approving the purchase of the credit card machines for fundraisers?
Ethan: I will ask about that.
Jessalyn: Looking at our UGA program, a lot of colleges don’t have it. Are there any of those flexible jobs that could go to UGAs? Look at expanding the program.
Olivia: We should look at using our SGA reserve fund for the small projects, like the sensor in the library.
Ethan: Thanks for the suggestions!

Announcements
Jessalyn: Goodwill Fashion Show tomorrow at 8pm.
Nick L.: CAB has Cover Drive here on Friday at 8pm.
Robert: The Speech and Debate Showcase is tomorrow at 6:45pm. Rotaract is meeting at 8:30pm-9:15pm tomorrow. We have picked up ten projects this month.
Savannah: Best Buddies is doing the Best Buddies Iowa Friendship Walk in Des Moines over May Term. If you are interested in participating or raising money, talk to me.
Teig: March to End the Isms is this Friday at 3:30pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.