



MINUTES¹
USG Senate Meeting
Thursday, December 1st, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:20 pm. Meeting held in Wang Center Room 201.

Agenda item 1.0: Attendance

The roll was called:

Senator David Adams	Present
Senator Oluwasegun Adedapo	Present
Senator Emily Alcott	Present
Senator Shon Augustine	Excused Absence
Senator Lance Bertrand	Present
Senator Tiffany Bibby	Present; Left early
Senator Nicholas Ela	Present; Left early (7:49 pm)
Senator Ray Fan	Present
Senator Frank Fanizza (Jaeger)	Present by Proxy (Ms. Amanda)
Senator Max Gunther	Present
Senator Eric Lau	Present
Senator Anna Lubitz (Myers)	Present by Proxy (Mr. Ken)
Senator Adam Meier	Present
Senator Sean Moore	Present
Senator Corey Platt	Present
Senator Masood Rustemi	Excused Absence
Senator Alexandra Santiago	Present
Senator Najee Simmons (PPT)	Present
Senator Priya Sohi	Excused Absence
Senator David Szeszler	Present
Senator Andrew Tausz	Present
Senator Ryann Williams	Absent
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President Mark Maloof	Present
Executive Vice President Deborah Machalow	Present
Treasurer Thomas Kirnbauer	Absent
Vice President of Academic Affairs Adil Hussain	Excused Absence
Vice President of Student Life Deron Hill	Excused Absence

¹ Typically, minutes should only contain the essentials of a meeting. This includes the meeting time and location, a list of those who attended, as well as a record of all motions made and their outcome. Debate (or a summary of debate) is usually not included. I include it here at the request of the Chair. Mistakes and omissions are likely, so Senators are encouraged to e-mail the Secretary with corrections prior to the next Senate meeting, so that the record reflects what was actually said at the meeting and so corrections can be made efficiently.

*Pending approval of the Special Services Council
** Pending approval of the Vetting Committee

Senior Class Representative Emilisa Trotman	Excused Absence
Junior Class Representative Dennis Nmecha	Absent
Sophomore Class Representative Christopher Priore	Absent
Freshman Class Representative Tyrik Jiang	Excused Absence
Quorum established.	

Agenda item 2.0: Announcements

The Chair announced that Senate reports are due next week. These would be the combined November and December reports.

The Chair further announced that Executive Council reports are postponed until next meeting. The Chair further announced that all USG Senate committees must meet at least once per month, as per Senate by-laws.

Agenda item 3.0: Approval of the Minutes (11/17/2011 Meeting)

- Senator Adams moved to amend the penultimate page of the minutes, amending “SBA” and “SB” to “SPA” and “SP”, respectively, in all instances where these terms occur.
 - Motion approved by unanimous consent.
- Senator Simmons moved to approve the 11/17/2011 meeting minutes.
 - Motion approved by unanimous consent.

Agenda item 4.0: Animated Perspectives Asset Grant Application – Presidential Veto Exercised

- Senator Adams moved to recommit the Animated Perspectives Asset Grant to the Budget Committee.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 18-0-0. (Roll Call #1).

Agenda item 5.0: Special Services Council Recommendations for Eligibility for Funding -American Marketing Association

- Senator Szeszler presented the SSC recommendation.
- Senator Lau moved to suspend the rules, in order to allow club representatives to address the Senate in order to answer questions.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 18-0-0. (Roll Call #2).
- Senator Szeszler: Club caters to students interested in marketing.
- Senator Moore: Are you a branch of a larger organization?
 - Club Representative (Richard Meehan): Yes, we are the local chapter of a national organization.
 - Senator Moore: Will you be receiving funding from the parent organization?
 - Mr. Meehan: No, solely USG funds.
- Senator Lau moved to approve the American Marketing Association for eligibility to receive funding as an SSC organization.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 18-0-0. (Roll Call #3).

-American Red Cross

- Senator Szeszler presented the SSC recommendation.
- Senator Adams: Will you be receiving any funding from the parent national organization?
 - Club Representative (Sumandemp Kaur): No, we will be relying solely on USG funds.

- Senator Bertrand moved to approve the American Red Cross for eligibility to receive funding as an SSC organization.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 18-0-0. (Roll Call #4).

-Hairitage

- Senator Szeszler presented the SSC recommendation.
- This club will be catering to all things “hair” and is definitely a unique club.
- President Maloof: Can you describe what the activities or potential events of this club would be?
 - Senator Szeszler: Diet challenges, hair “fashion” shows, and generating a forum for students interested in careers regarding hair.
- Senator Moore: Do you know what funding requirements the club would need?
 - Senator Szeszler: I assume the club would need some money for food and refreshments for hair fashion shows, off-campus trips, workshops, and other related events.
- Senator Meier: Can someone with “unnatural” hair serve on the e-board?
 - Senator Szeszler: As far as I know, anyone can serve on the e-board.
- President Maloof: Is this club associated with a national organization?
 - Senator Szeszler: As far as I know, there is no such organization exists on a national basis.
- Senator Moore moved to approve Hairitage for eligibility to receive funding as an SSC organization.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 15-0-3. (Roll Call #5).

-Long Island Journal of Popular Culture

- Senator Lau presented the SSC recommendation.
- Senator Simmons: Has your organization existed before? How have you funded yourselves?
 - Club Rep (Matt Ward): No, this is a new organization.
- Senator Adams: I notice that your constitution states: “All Undergraduates/Graduates”. You would have to restrict your club only to undergraduates?
 - Mr. Ward: I was not aware of that.
- Senator Adams moved to recommit the Long Island Journal of Popular Culture recommendation to the Special Services Council.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 16-0-2. (Roll Call #6).

-Oxfam

- Senator Bertrand presented the SSC recommendation.
- Senator Bertrand: Oxfam is a national organization devoted to eliminating hunger and other associated matters.
- Senator Moore: Do you think the financial bylaws regarding fundraising would impair your ability to operate on campus?
 - Club Rep (Nader Onurabe): We are about raising awareness of Oxfam on campus about their issues.

- Senator Tausz: What kind of events or activities would your organization be involved with?
 - Mr. Onurabe: We just had a hunger banquet, which was very successful. We are interested in having further such events that would raise awareness. We are also interested in getting bands to perform here to raise awareness as well.
- Senator Simmons: Would your club receive funding from the national organization?
 - Mr. Onurabe: No, only from USG funds.
- Senator Moore moved to approve Oxfam for eligibility to receive funding as an SSC organization.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 18-0-0. (Roll Call #7).

-Stony Brook Pre-Vet Society

- Senator Lau presented the SSC recommendation.
- Senator Lau: There was concern that the club's mission might overlap with the "Cat Network." However, it was explained to us that this is primarily an academic society, catered to students pursuing Pre-Vet careers.
- Senator Bibby moved to approve Stony Brook Pre-Vet Society for eligibility to receive funding as an SSC organization.
 - Motion passed by a vote of 18-0-0. (Roll Call #8).

-Undergraduate Astronomy Club

- Senator Lau presented the SSC recommendation.
- Senator Moore: Is your club associated with any department?
 - Club Rep (Eric Blaney): Most of the e-board is involved with the astronomy department, but that is not a requirement for serving, and we do not necessarily get any funds from the department.
- Senator Moore moved to approve Undergraduate Astronomy Club for eligibility to receive funding as an SSC organization.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 17-0-0. (Roll Call #9).

Agenda item 6.0: Temporary SSC Funding Adjustment Act

- Chair: The act was not submitted by the required deadline. Consideration would require a suspension of the rules.
- Senator Bertrand moved to suspend the rules, in order to allow consideration of the Temporary SSC Funding Adjustment Act.
 - Motion approved by a vote of 17-0-0. (Roll Call #10).
- Chair: Without objection, the Senate shall recess (at 7:53 pm) in order to review the act under consideration.
- Chair: The Senate shall return to order (at 8:01 pm.)
- Senator Szeszler: SSC had a problem in that clubs were told they could receive an allocation of up to \$1750 per semester, whereas enough funds were allocated and the laws were written to allow up to \$1750 per year. This legislation would attempt to fix this problem.
- Senator Santiago: If a club spent all \$1750 within the fall semester, would they have a \$0 budget next semester?

- Senator Szeszler: Under this legislation, if they used all \$1750 in the fall semester, they would not be given more than \$0 for the spring semester.
 - EVP Machalow: They would be eligible for a budget of “\$0” in the spring semester, which would allow them to apply for line budget status in the fall of the next academic year.
- Senator Moore: How did this happen?
 - Senator Szeszler: Our former VP of Clubs and Organizations did not follow the legislation which specified that the \$1750 would be per year, and not per semester.
 - Senator Moore: Are there any funds for these clubs, to provide them with money for the spring semester?
 - Senator Szeszler: We do not have enough funds to do this, and we do not wish to be unfair to clubs that did follow the \$1750/year limit, by providing other clubs with funds exceeding \$1750.
- Senator Moore: I am still confused. Does the legislation not state \$1750 per year?
 - EVP: The legislation was clear on the \$1750 per year limit, but many clubs applying for SSC funding were informally given the wrong information.
- Proxy Myers: Where is it stated that \$1750 is the limit?
 - EVP: In the “New Club Funding Act,” the \$1750 per year limit for funding is stated.
- Senator Moore: What is the purpose of this legislation?
 - Senator Szeszler: The least we can do for clubs that were misinformed is to allow them to apply and receive a budget in the spring semester, including a budget of \$0, which would make them eligible for line budget funding status in the next academic year.
- Senator Gunther: With this legislation, any funds that clubs have not used in the fall could now be available for clubs to apply for in the spring semester.
- Senator Moore moved to approve the “Temporary SSC Funding Adjustment Act.”
 - Senator Adams moved to amend the act, inserting at the end of Section 3, Line 1, “including a sum as low as \$0.”
 - Senator Szeszler: The amendment is deemed not friendly.
 - Senator Lau: I believe Section 3, Line 2, already achieves the effect of the amendment.
 - On the motion to amend, the motion was approved by a vote of 12-5-0. (Roll Call #11).
- Senator Adams moved that the Senate recess.
 - Without objection, the Senate declared a recess at 8:15 pm.
 - The Senate returned to order at 8:16 pm.
- Senator Gunther moved to amend Section 3, Line 2, to strike “allocations” and replace with “expenditures.”
 - Senator Szeszler: The amendment is deemed friendly.
 - Senator Gunther’s amendment was adopted as friendly.
- President Maloof: I would like to thank all those responsible for this legislation, in that they have found the fairest way to deal with this issue, both for clubs and for USG.

- On the main motion: Motion passed by a vote of 17-0-0. (Roll Call #12).

Agenda item 7.0: Senate Resolution Supporting the SUNY Assembly Legislative Agenda

- Senator Adams presented the resolution.
- Senator Adams: SUNY Assembly has a “Director of Government Relations” whose job is to lobby through SUNY Assembly for our collective interests.
- Senator Adams: Our Director of Government Relations asked that SUNY student governments pass resolutions in support of the agenda, to lend greater effect and authority to efforts by the Director’s office to influence state legislation and to press for the rights of SUNY students.
- Senator Adams: The resolution speaks out against the “baseless and discriminatory” federal Aid Elimination Penalty.
- Senator Simmons moved to approve the Senate Resolution Supporting the SUNY Assembly Legislative Agenda.
 - Chair: Under Title I, Chapter 2, Section 202, the resolving clause of all resolutions should be in the form: “Resolved by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government...”
- Senator Adams moved to amend the resolving clause, to now read: “Resolved by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government...”
 - The amendment was approved as friendly and adopted.
- Senator Moore: Senator Adams, the author of the resolution, sits as an officer of an organization which campaigns against certain federal drug laws. Is the Senate comfortable with this?
 - Senator Adams: There are a variety of organizations which support this provision in the resolution.
 - Senator Simmons: If there is one line of a resolution which happens to be in agreement with a Senator’s opinion or campaign, and the Senate believes it to be a worthwhile proposal, then I have no problem with the Senate voting to approve it.
- On the motion to approve the resolution: Motion approved by a vote of 16-0-0. (Roll Call #13).

Agenda item 8.0: Open Agenda

- Treasurer Kirnbauer: If you ordered a tie, they are in. Please present your payment of \$10 at the time of pickup.
- Senator Adams: Anyone who is interested, NORML Long Island is holding our first fundraising meeting. Please contact me if you are interested in attending.
- Archery Club Representative (sitting in the gallery): I was under the impression that my club’s asset grant would be presented today.
 - Chair: The Budget committee did submit such a proposal, but it did not conform to the guidelines for asset grants that I have promulgated.
 - Archery club representative: Is there anything I can do to expedite consideration of my club’s asset grant?

