



## Students' Association Senate Minutes

Meeting of October 26, 2009

Speaker: Kierstin Hughes

Deputy Speaker: Dan Cohn



UNIVERSITY OF  
ROCHESTER

SENATORS PRESENT: Arastu, Battacharyya, Brooks, Brookstein, Gonzalez, Guerra, Halpern, Hu, Mills, Nave, Rath, Slone, Strenger, Sussman, Tejada, Umesi, Yoon

SENATORS ABSENT: Junig (excused)

CALL TO ORDER: 9:00pm

### SPEAKER'S BRIEFING

Speaker Hughes welcomes the Senate and reads a thank you email from Anne-Marie Algier.

### OPEN FORUM/CONSTITUENCY REPORT

*Alcohol Policy* Senators Slone and Junig met with Dean Levy this afternoon. She will be holding an open dialogue, a Town Hall-like meeting soon. The time and date is unknown as of yet. Individuals at that meeting will include Dean Levy and Security among others. Slone asks Senators to email questions that may be asked at such a meeting.

Rath asks what changed between now and the time Dean Levy came to Senate. She wonders why Levy thought this was necessary now. Slone comments that Levy called him and Junig in because of the Facebook group. Slone comments that Levy may be worried that the recent car collision may incite more unrest among students who are already upset about the alcohol policies. He feels Levy is worried that many students are still not informed about the new policies.

Nave does not think this meeting is necessary. He thinks that those who are truly interested in knowing the facts would have already sought them out. People that don't know the policies don't care about them. He thinks this is a waste of time, and there are more pressing issues to address. Slone clarifies that Dean Levy is interested in questions that may be asked at the meeting, so she can be prepared to answer and the mediator can be prepared to help.

Weissmann comments that, based on his understanding, this meeting is a dialogue facilitated by the campus intercessor between students and administrators. He posits that broad questions may be broadcasted on a PowerPoint presentation to be discussed at this meeting. He recommends Slone go back to Dean Levy and find out exactly what she wants from the Senate.

Slone clarifies that it is not a "Town Hall meeting".

Halpern asks Slone to clarify; does he (Slone) represent student government in

this matter? Slone states that Levy wants him and Junig to lead the discussion, asking questions, getting the conversation going. Halpern wants Dean Levy to be clear that Hughes and Weissmann represent the student government.

Strenger asks that the ODOS do whatever they can to get the word out about the meeting. Slone comments that this meeting will be advertised.

Hughes asks if this is advertised, how is it *not* a Town Hall meeting. Slone comments that there will be a mediator at the meeting. But there will be advertisement.

Hu thinks that the purpose of this discussion is a good idea, but she does not know why we should come up with questions for Dean Levy. The Senate does not represent ODOS. Why should we put in the effort on behalf of the ODOS to come up with the questions, and she does not see why these questions need to be prepared in advance? Slone states that the questions are to make the mediator's job easier. Hughes comments that these questions might be submitted to the campus intercessor – and outside party – so that she can be prepared to mediate the discussion more effectively. Mills comments that the questions would be submitted ahead of time to make the meeting run smoothly. Hu asks that Dean Levy email the Senate directly with what she wants from us.

Mills would also like to know who Dean Levy would like at this meeting. Slone states that all students are invited.

Nave comments that the questions she's looking for are in the Minutes of past Senate meetings. He would also like the Senate copied into the email Slone sends to Levy. Slone states that he will send the email to the Senate first to make any additions before he sends it to Dean Levy.

Weissmann comments that if this is an open, Town Hall-like meeting, he is surprised that it took a Facebook group to facilitate it. Student government has been working through official channels for two months to set something like this up. He is happy there will be a public meeting, but he wonders if this encourages students to start Facebook groups when they are unhappy rather than going through the proper channels. Slone thinks that the CT editorial may have spurred this action from the ODOS.

Hughes comments that if you'd like questions addressed during this discussion, they should be emailed to Slone.

*CDR* Hughes comments that the next CDR meeting will be occurring this Wednesday at 5:00pm. If a second SA representative would like to attend with her, she would be happy to take him or her. She is looking for a Senator to act as representative to the Roundtable and to help out with diversity programs throughout the entire year. CDR is open to everyone.

*CCC* Cohn comments that four new minors were approved in the Public Health-related Program. He also comments that the CCC is developing an assessment program for each department.

Hu wonders if the school is expanding the focus of public health. Cohn comments that one major was split off into several different majors. The program is expanding.

Strenger asks about the process for the development of new majors. Cohn comments about the process by which the CCC receives proposals for new majors.

*SCAPE* Mills comments about a questionnaire to be issued to students around campus to assess students' perceptions of alcohol harm.

*Parking* Mills also comments that Parking and Transportation held a focus group today. He states that Glenn Sicard encourages students to forward him questions.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Appropriations* Treasurer Flack states that no groups are coming up for supplemental requests this week. There is also no SAAC meeting this week. CAB was given \$1,034 to cover costumes request last week. He is also looking into developing some sort of policy to make sure that equipment purchased through supplementals is taken care of properly.

Hu asks about how the forms work regarding requests. She asks if those requests are just estimates. Flack responds that SAAC goes through the request and calculate exactly what a group should need.

*Commun.* Chair Brookstein comments that Rocky's Report is going out next week. The next Fireside Chat is November 11. He asks that the Senators sitting on his committee please come to office hours this week.

Strenger comments that the most commonly used word on the Hive this past week was "Sustainability". He invites any ideas for information to be included in Rocky's Report.

*Policy* Chair Brooks comments that CSN came up at the last meeting with a new constitution, and it was approved. The Refugee Student Alliance was approved for preliminary status under CSN. UR Cooking Club was denied SA recognition. Their recognition was tabled for two weeks, provided that the constitution is appropriately edited. Solar Splash was approved for SA recognition.

Nave asks Brooks to go through the Community Service Network constitution with the Senate. He would like to know how it compares to the regular group constitution. She comments that this template was developed last year and that CSN was the first network to use it.

Strenger asks how networks like CSN are funded. Brooks comments that CSN is given a lump sum and the Executive Board distributes the money based on an internal vote. Hughes and Flack comment that this is how CSN has worked for several years; it is simply now just written in the constitution.

## Projects

Chair Halpern looks forward to a Walk for Light meeting tomorrow with security. The Walk for Light looks as though it will occur on November 10. He is asking for feedback from students about technology to be discussed at CTLTR. A meeting has been set up about UR Wireless as well. He also invites comments about Event Support. He asks Senators to email him with suggestions on how to improve Event Support.

Brill comments about the work that is being done on improving academic advising. She will be meeting with Dining Services to discuss how to improve Mel Dinner nights. She comments that the Mel Dinner is going in a direction that it was not intended to. It still has to be advertised heavily. Next semester, we would like it to be on the website and more of a steakhouse-style restaurant with less specialized menu options.

Halpern elaborates on academic advising. He wonders whether providing multiple names of advisors would be beneficial for freshmen. It would be an open-type meet-n-greet where communication lines would be open. That way, if your advisor is not in your area of study, you can still interact with professors that may be able to guide you more effectively.

Guerra thinks it's a great idea. It gives students more options and allows students to see many advisors. She declared her major early because she and her pre-major advisor did not work well together, and her major advisor was not well-informed about lifting holds, etc. The option of meeting multiple people would have alleviated these problems.

Strenger comments that we need to provide students with more information about academic open houses.

Nave asks Brill if any feedback has been collected about this most recent Mel Dinner. Brill states that around 40 students went to the dinner. She comments that the service has improved, but there were also fewer students. Nave asks if this was a successful event. Brill comments that it may not have been a success because not many students attended it. Nave comments to Halpern that many of his classes do not have left-handed desks. Halpern calls attention to the stadium-style desks. Nave states that the older buildings do not have enough left-handed desks. Hughes also comments about standardized tests; sometimes students are unable to use desks during those tests because there are no left-handed desks available. Halpern will look into it.

## NEW BUSINESS

*Motion A. Motion to approve Solar Splash and an SA-recognized group by Nave, seconded by Rath.*

Two students are present on behalf of Solar Splash. They introduce the group and field brief questions from the Senate.

*Battacharyya moves to the previous question, seconded by Strenger.*

The *motion passes* by a 15-0-2 hand vote.

*Motion B. Motion to approve the Minutes and Attendance Records from the October 19, 2009 meeting by Sussman, seconded by Hu.*

Sussman *moves to the previous question*, seconded by Guerra.

The *motion passes* by a 16-0-1 hand vote.

*Motion C. Motion to approve the constitution of the Community Service Network by Mills, seconded by Yoon.*

One student is present on behalf of the Community Service Network. He introduces the group and fields questions from the Senate.

Slone *moves to the previous question*, seconded by Mills.

The *motion passes* by a 14-2-1 hand vote.

*Motion to reconsider the Minutes and Attendance Records from the September 28, 2009 meeting by Nave, seconded by Hu.*

Strenger *moves to the previous question*, seconded by Hu. The *motion passes* by a 16-0-1 hand vote.

*Motion to amend the Minutes and Attendance Records from the September 28, 2009 meeting by Nave, seconded by Guerra.*

Nave requests the Minutes reflect that he voted to approve the motion granting SA recognition to the Louvre Performance Ensemble. Cohn acknowledges the mistake and urges Senators to please read the Minutes more closely in the future to make sure everything is recorded properly.

Hu *moves to the previous question*, seconded by Rath. The *motion passes* by a 16-0-1 hand vote.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sustainability Coordinator DeWitt announces that Hu is the Sustainable Senator of the Week. DeWitt met with a woman from facilities about a Walk for Dark and the LED lights initiative. She began work on her green checklist for student group events. The SSC meeting is this Friday at 3:00pm. She invites the Senate to attend that meeting.

Weissmann mentions that he, Crowley, Hughes, and Pollack went to the ESM SA meeting last Thursday evening. He comments that their meetings are much different than ours. Hughes also comments that the meeting was very different than ours. She compares the ESM SA to hall councils here.

Responding to Halpern by stating one group is looking for an RC group to co-sponsor a concert for charity. Weissmann also comments on the Eastman Paintball Association is looking to collaborate with some groups here.

Strenger wonders if Weissmann is considering sending out an email to the school about Halloween and binge drinking. Crowley does not agree with sending out an email about binge drinking. She fears that it may have adverse effects, actually encouraging some students to drink heavily. Strenger comments to DeWitt that he has noticed an increased number of beer cans around campus.

Weissmann comments that a sad event occurred over the weekend. He reaches out to both the student that was injured and to the driver. All students are welcome and encouraged to seek out counseling if they feel the need.

Hu suggests that Weissmann write a letter to the family of Ariel. Mills thinks a line should be drawn about when to send letters to families. Hughes comments that, as a Senate, it would not be appropriate to endorse a letter or to pass a motion expressing condolences to a family (she refers to Annie Le). She comments that such a letter is entirely up to Weissmann, not the Senate.

#### DEPUTY SPEAKER'S REPORT

Deputy Speaker Cohn offers no report.

#### SPEAKER'S REPORT

Speaker Hughes comments about Parliamentary Procedure and thanks the Senate for being patient and sticking with it. She again invites the Senators who are interested in attending the CDR to see her.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Brooks *moves to adjourn the meeting*, seconded by Battacharyya. The meeting is adjourned at 10:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Daniel J. Cohn