



Students' Association Senate Minutes

Meeting of November 2, 2009

Speaker: Kierstin Hughes

Acting Deputy Speaker: Jon Junig



UNIVERSITY OF
ROCHESTER

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

SENATORS ABSENT: Umesi (tardy, unexcused)

CALL TO ORDER: 9:00pm

SPEAKER'S BRIEFING

Speaker Hughes welcomes the Senate. She mentions that Deputy Speaker Cohn is absent from the meeting due to illness. With regard to flu season, she explains a new attendance policy that will go into effect immediately; if Senators are sick, they should stay home to prevent illness from spreading and to get better. She mentions that the dialogue about alcohol policy discussed last week does not need to be discussed again this week. The event is currently in its planning stages.

OPEN FORUM/CONSTITUENCY REPORT

CTLTR Senator Halpern comments that CTLTR met this week. There is not much to report, but if Senators have questions about classroom technology, he welcomes them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Appropriations Treasurer Flack mentions that men's volleyball is coming up for supplemental funding tomorrow. He asked the team to calculate exactly what the request will be before coming to the meeting. He comments that the Experience Eastman supplemental request form has been revised. The form is now live on the Hive website.

Weissmann comments that if this live form works, SAAC forms could be accepted electronically in the future. This would save a lot of paper.

Commun. Chair Brookstein states that Rocky's Report will be out this Wednesday, and there will be a Fireside Chat the following Wednesday at 8pm in Hirst Lounge. He has recently met with many individuals including Slone, Weissmann, and Crowley to discuss ways to improve the Fireside Chats. Comments or suggestions should be sent to Slone. Brookstein looks forward to sending out press releases; Guerra just finished writing the first one. Also, the Minutes from the last Fireside Chat will be sent out shortly.

Strenger encourages anyone who is not yet signed up to receive the RSS feed should do so via the Hive website.

Weissmann asks if any final decisions have been made about the next Fireside Chat. Brookstein comments that the event will include S'mores.

Policy

Chair Brooks mentions that UPSIRC came before the Committee to update its constitution. EcoReps also came before the Committee but were denied preliminary status since it is mostly a Residential Life organization. There is not much the SA can offer them. UR Consulting Group was also denied preliminary status because there were many complications could be foreseen, because its members would receive academic credit, and because many University services provide for students what the group would. The new Student Organization Constitution Template was approved.

Strenger asks if EcoReps were looking for SA recognition or for SA funding. Brooks states that EcoReps were looking to be on preliminary status. She explains what preliminary status means.

Projects

Chair Brill comments that she and Halpern met with all the aides working on academic advising. A new direction has been developed. Some students do not know where to turn to find out more honest, opinionated information about which classes to take. She mentions the possibility of student advisors based on academic tracks.

She also announces that the Walk for Light will occur on November 17. She asks that three or four Senators help out on November 10 to transfer the City Cycles bicycles to storage. Senators Brooks, Rath, Strenger, and Yoon volunteer.

Hu asks when the new academic advising changes would go into effect. Brill responds that the Committee has yet to meet with administrators about brainstorming solutions. It is still in its early planning stages.

Strenger how asks how the idea about honest opinions from students to other students differs from academic councils. Halpern comments that course reviews could be a part of academic councils, but the student advising system would be in close connection with the College of Arts and Sciences and advisors. He also comments that there is not a council for every undergraduate program.

Junig suggests that, instead of changing the entire system, it might be easier to work on the current system. With regard to student advising, Freshman Fellows and ratemyprofessors.com already provides that information. Brill comments that student advisors would be available for each major track, which is not always available among Freshman Fellows. Junig suggests working to diversifying the Freshman Fellows program, making sure that a diverse set of Fellows are available to freshmen.

Rath offers a point of information. She is a Freshman Fellow and has been instructed to not give advice to freshmen. Instead, the Fellows are there to simply give students information about where to go to find information. The Fellows are not to answer questions, but are to direct students to the proper outlets for information.

Junig's basic premise does not change; the Committee should look into improving the current system rather than changing it entirely.

Halpern comments about a meeting with Event Support that occurred today. They spoke about the way in which Virtual EMS feeds into regular EMS, and how this could be more accessible and less confusing. They also discussed what happens when Event Support is late.

Sussman comments that Event Support was late for a BPG meeting last night. She wonders if there is number students could call when they have issues with Event Support. Halpern comments that the phone number is on all invoices. Brill states that contacting Event Support was a concern brought up at the meeting.

Rath asks if the meeting included discussion about rates for groups that need Event Support on a regular basis. She mentions NJR in particular. Halpern comments that only so much Event Support can be subsidized. He encourages NJR to set up a meeting with Event Support to discuss rates, if that is an issue. Rath mentions that SAAC just gave NJR equipment supplemental funding based on how often they use Event Support.

Weissmann does not think it is necessarily fair to give groups a discount for using Event Support more regularly. Any sort of further discount would eat into the subsidy further.

Hughes comments that many groups needing regular Event Support charge dues to members. She knows that NJR does not charge dues.

Strenger asks if groups can fundraise to pay for Event Support. Hughes state that fundraising is allowed. Flack states that fundraising above the income requirement can be spent at a group's discretion.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion A. Motion to approve the constitution changes made by Undergraduate Political Science and International Relations Council by Nave, seconded by Brookstein.

Two representatives are present on behalf of UPSIRC. They field brief questions from the Senate.

Brooks *moves to the previous question*, seconded by Hu.

The *motion passes* by a hand vote.

Motion B. Motion to approve the Minutes and Attendance Records from the October 26, 2009 meeting by Sussman, seconded by Hu.

Speaker Hughes introduces the motion. She comments about a few changes that were made based on emails received.

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

The *motion passes* by a hand vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Weissmann comments that the SA government yearbook photograph will be taken next Monday at 8:45pm in Havens Lounge. He asks that Speaker Hughes please allow for the possibility of a slight delay to next week's Senate meeting. This photograph will include anyone involved with student government who is available at that time.

He has decided neither to email the school nor to send a letter to the student who was hit by the car.

He mentions that Stuff Speegle was a success. He congratulates Chi Phi, Socash, Cramer, and Crowley for doing a great job.

He mentions the new live Experience Eastman supplemental funding request form. There are currently talks with a company to help us keep records and make it easier for student organizations to submit forms online. The process is complex, though. But he is surprised that \$2,000 is available for student groups to use for programming at Eastman, but no group has formally applied for it yet.

Sustainability Coordinator DeWitt announces Guerra as this week's Sustainable Senator of the Week. DeWitt hopes to have the checklist for green events completed soon.

Weissmann encourages Senators to attend sustainability meetings.

Strenger mentions that Experience Eastman brochures are now available. Weissmann thanks Pollack for working so hard to get those done. He also thanks admissions for printing the brochures for student government.

ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER'S REPORT

Acting Deputy Speaker Junig comments that the Minutes are great but are not what the Senators may be used to. Hughes comments that Cohn would like the Minutes sent to him. Guerra requests that Junig send his Minutes out to the Senate.

SPEAKER'S REPORT

Speaker Hughes asks members of the Steering Committee to see her after the meeting. She also mentions that she is in charge of the committee planning the Paychex Leadership program this year. She states that the nominations should be announced shortly. She briefly describes the program, and states that the program does coincide with Panhellenic Recruitment. She comments that all Senators should expect to be nominated.

Hu comments that Panhellenic Recruitment should not deter anyone from attending the Paychex program. Last year, Recruitment was altered to accommodate this program.

Hughes encourages anyone with questions to contact her.

ADJOURNMENT

Rath *moves to adjourn the meeting*, seconded by Mills. The meeting is adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel J. Cohn