

Student Government Association

Assembly Meeting

October 29, 2008

Executive Present: Student Body President Mason, Student Body Vice President Flaherty, Student Body Executive Director Bixby, Secretary of Diversity Affairs Cail, Secretary of Information Technology Tortoriello, Secretary of Student Fees Cahanin, Secretary of Programming Zerfas,

Executive Absent: Secretary of Public Relations Rotz

Legislative Present: Vice President of the Assembly Krug, Secretary of the Assembly Spialek, Parliamentarian Lund, Senator Davis, Senator Miller, Senator Spiek, Senator Preston, Senator Thornton, Senator Mihovilovich, Senator Carnahan, Senator Abdalla, Senator Dumelle, Senator Whittington, Senator Long, Senator Hochhauser, Senator Sullivan, Senator Winzer, Senator Leigh

Legislative Absent: President of the Assembly Ruscitti, Senator Merth

EX-Officios Present: ALAS, ARH, APAC, BSU, Student Trustee Bagnuolo

Ex-Officios Absent: APAC, Pride

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - A. Executive Director Bixby moved to approve the minutes from the October 15 meeting.
  - B. Senator Dumelle seconded.
  - C. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. Executive Officer Reports
  - A. Student Body President Mason
    1. The SGA Alumni Newsletter is well on its way to being completed. President Mason, President of the Assembly Ruscitti, Senator Davis, and Senator Sullivan along with several others have been writing the articles. Secretary Spialek has been helping to format how the actual newsletter will look like. President Mason will be motioning to postpone the resolution because we do not have a set number back from alumni yet on how many we will need to print. President Mason hopes to have this number by the next Assembly meeting.
    2. The Student election Code Commission has finished revising the Student elections Code. They spent almost four hours in the office on Saturday to finish going through all of it, so thank you to Glenn and the others that did that. They have one last meeting tomorrow, where they will be formatting the document, and then it will be going to Policies and Procedures.
    3. President Mason met with Jana Albrecht in the Financial Aid office to talk about the scholarship database we had wanted to work on. President Mason did not hear back

from her since then, so President Mason emailed her on Monday. He is still waiting for a response.

4. Student Body Vice President Flaherty and Student Body President Mason met with Michael Zajac last week to talk about next year's Off-Campus Housing Fair and safety on campus. Michael Zajac mentioned an idea to have a night walk, where a group of students walk around campus and the adjacent neighboring areas. The purpose of this would be to look for areas deficient in lighting, potential safety issues, and other possible concerns. President Mason mentioned this to Vice President Adams, and he really liked the idea.
  5. Senators Abdalla and Carnahan have been looking at the possibility of having a textbook fair, like we said in our campaign promises. In light of the letter from Senator Durbin asking for universities to look at this issue, I will be writing another letter to the Academic Senate, this time asking for them to develop a committee that will look into the problem of textbook prices. This committee would not be able to lower the actual prices, but hopefully find alternative ways for students to save some money when purchasing these.
  6. President Mason was approached by the USA Today Collegiate Readership Program again recently. This is a program where newspapers are available for students to pick up Monday through Friday, specifically the USA Today and most likely the Chicago Tribune. President Mason mentioned the program to the Executive Committee on Monday, and there were split opinions on the program. President Mason has not decided if he wants to pursue this program or not, but he is interested in finding out what the students want. President Mason will most likely be adding something to the next constituent contact email to see what reactions we get from students.
  7. Off-Campus Student Services will be hosting three Off-Campus Living Information Sessions that On and Off Campus Senators may want to attend. They will be held in the residence halls, so this would be a great way for On-Campus senators to talk to their constituents and help them out for the next year. The first is October 30, from 6-7 pm in the Rosa Parks room in Watterson. The second is November 5, from 6-7 pm in the Atkin-Colby basement of Southside. The third one is November 6, from 6-7 pm in the Shawnee Conference room at Tri-Towers.
- B. Student Body Vice President Flaherty
1. Vice President Flaherty has tried contacting ELPs that people haven't heard from.
  2. Vice President Flaherty needs someone for the Exemption Appeals Board. Their first meeting is November 17 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. The board typically meets only once or twice a semester.
  3. Vice President Flaherty needs ten names for the Dean Search Committee for the College of Nursing. Nursing students are preferred.
  4. Vice President Flaherty is currently gathering information about the requirements through the school and the state's view point on this issue.
- C. Executive Director Bixby

1. Executive Director Bixby has received one application for Secretary of Government Relations. If you know of anyone that would be good for this position, please take an application form and give it to the applicant.
2. Executive Director Bixby reminded everyone to let her know in advance when you need to use the credit card. If you let her know a week in advance, we can find a time to go to the store. Please don't let her know a couple days in advance that you need me to buy something. If you do not let her know in advance, you will need to pay for the items. Executive Director Bixby will reimburse you for what you paid for, but she cannot reimburse tax. Please remember that everything has to be tax exempt and remember to get the number from Executive Director Bixby. Also, it is important that you give her all the receipts in a timely manner.
3. Promotional items have come in.

#### IV. Assembly Officers Reports

##### A. President of the Assembly Ruscitti

1. No Report. Out of town for COB Dean Search Committee

##### B. Vice President of the Assembly Krug

1. If you would like to speak in debate tonight or to make a motion, make sure to raise your hand so Vice President of the Assembly Krug can call on you.

##### C. Secretary of the Assembly Spialek

1. The Social Justice task force will meet at 5 pm on Thursday in the conference room.
2. All resolutions passed in our term are completed. If you are the sponsor of a piece of legislation, you must send the legislation as an attachment within 24 hours of the meeting.
3. Please send a report if you give a report at meetings.

#### V. Cabinet Member Reports

##### A. Secretary of Student Fees Cahanin

1. Secretary Cahanin has been in contact with the Budget Review Commission Members.
2. Some members of the Budget Review Commission haven't gotten back to Secretary Cahanin or responded to emails. Wendy Bates is contacting the departments to find out if the representative is contacting and meeting with them. Wendy Bates will get back to Secretary Cahanin by the end of the week.

3. With this information, Secretary Cahanin will be able to set up the Budget Review Commissions Mid-Semester meeting or meetings to get people up to speed and make sure the members are working towards are meeting in January.

B. Secretary of Public Relations Rotz

1. Pack the House Dracula was a success. Secretary Rotz congratulated Senator Davis and the Programs and Recognition Committee for their hard work.
2. The bulletin board outside of the SGA office has been completed.
3. Secretary Rotz has been working with Secretary Tortoriello on creating a link on the website for RSO of the Month.
4. The Underrepresented senators' RSO Halloween cards are complete.
5. Next week, Secretary Rotz will be working with Secretary Cail on making promotional items for Diversity Week. Secretary Rotz informed ex-officios that if there is anything specific you want stated about your day, please let Secretary Cail know and it will be added to the flyers.

C. Secretary of Programming Zerfas

1. The office is cleaned up from Homecoming. The tubs of supplies are stored in the office.
2. The Homecoming report is almost complete.
3. Secretary Zerfas is starting Pack the Place. Any ideas are welcomed.
  - a. Vice President of the Assembly Krug suggested volleyball would be a good Pack the Place.

D. Secretary of Diversity Affairs Cail

1. The events for Diversity Week are as follows: Monday, 7 pm, Founders Suite, APAC Tea Tasting. Tuesday, 7 pm, Ballroom, BSU Real Talk. Wednesday, 7 pm, SSB 375, Pride Gay Marriage Rights. Thursday, 7 pm, SSB 375, ALAS Taste of ALAS. Friday, 10-3 on the quad, ARH Indian culture.
2. Secretary Cail is meeting next Monday at 5pm in the office to discuss diversity language and definition of Underrepresented. Anyone is welcomed to provide input.

E. Secretary of Information Technology Tortoriello

1. There is a new computer in the Assembly Officers' office.
2. There are more pictures on the SGA pool.

## VI. Advisor Report

### A. Advisor Olshak

1. Advisor Olshak will conduct midterm one-on-ones with senators the week of 11-17. Cabinet member one-on-ones will be the week of 12-1. These will be half hour meetings, and they are required.
2. Operations Manual final edits are being collected. Manuals will be placed on flash drives next week. Please stop by to see Tammy starting next Thursday to get your flash drive.
3. Senator Lund wanted to know if when we receive the flash drives we will be checking the hard copy manuals in.
4. Advisor Olshak said yes.

## VII. Committee Chairman Reports

### A. Civic Engagement Committee (Senator Preston)

1. The Mock presidential debate ran smoothly. Thank you to Senator Spialek and Senator Abdalla for moderating the mock debate.
2. The Civic Engagement Committee is now looking into a "Town of Normal" Campaign. This campaign would be educational and encourage community service.
3. Election Extravaganza is next Tuesday night at 7:30 in Schroeder 138 co-sponsored by the Political Science Club and C.O.M.M. Club

### B. Finance and Allocation Committee (Senator Spiek)

1. Absolute Deviation Weekend received \$0.
2. The Korean Student Association's "Welcome to Korea" event received \$710.
3. The Redbird Fencers "Friday Night Foil" in Champaign received \$0.

### C. Policies and Procedures (Senator Long)

1. The committee's bill regarding amendments to the ex-officio by-laws will be coming at the next meeting.
2. The Policies and Procedures committee is looking forward to renewing the student election code.

### D. Programs and Recognition (Senator Davis)

1. Homecoming and Pack the House were successes! Thank you everyone.
2. Programs and Recognition will now be planning the SGA Holiday party.

VIII. Senator Coordinators

A. Off-Campus Senators (Senator Miller)

1. The off-campus senators held their October constituent contact event this past Saturday. They tailgated and collected recycling surveys.

B. On-Campus Senators (Senator Abdalla)

1. The on-campus senators will be having their next event in Hewett Hall. They will be serving donuts on the morning of Friday, November 7 because Hewett Hall does not have a dining center.

C. Underrepresented Senators (Senator Whittington)

1. The underrepresented senators are finishing up the October RSO Halloween card contact, which they will be putting in RSO's mailboxes tomorrow wishing them a happy and safe Halloween.
2. The Underrepresented senators will be having a meeting next week to start work on their November event, and they have also been working on a bill for RSO's called I saw you in the News.

D. Graduate Senators (Stephanie Winzer)

1. Graduate senators met with the graduate students today to discuss reactivating GSA.
2. The graduate senators are planning a Sunday dinner with SGA graduate senators at Alexander's on Sunday November 16 for all graduate students.
3. Senator Winzer is looking for a faculty advisor for GSA. .

IX. Ex-Officio Reports

A. ALAS

1. No Report

B. APAC

1. APAC is changing their November 4 event to a Japanese theme. It will include Calligraphy, origami, and rice balls.

- C. ARH
  - 1. ARH will be conducting an Indian event with the Indian Student Association and Unity on each campus.
  - 2. ARH has started up a soccer league with UHS and Rec Services. There are 22 teams.
  - 3. ARH is finishing up the room and board fee review.
  - 4. ARH is one of the finalists for the GLACURH Large School of the Year.
  - 5. Senator Spiek asked if the soccer league is only for on-campus students.
  - 6. ARH said it is not just for on-campus students.
- D. BSU
  - 1. BSU's Vote Smart event was last night.
  - 2. Fall Fest is tomorrow night from 3-7 at the Boys and Girls Club.
- E. Pride
  - 1. No Report
- F. Student Trustee Bagnuolo
  - 1. The Board of Trustees put in capital budget requests to the state.
  - 2. The Board of Trustees improved a new contract for President Bowman with a salary increase.
- X. Information Items
  - A. Secretary Cail moved to make Diversity Week Information Item F.
    - 1. President Mason seconded.
    - 2. President Mason then moved to make this information item d before President of the Assembly nominations.
    - 3. Vice President Flaherty seconded.
    - 4. Motion passed unanimously.
  - B. "I saw you in the news."
    - 1. Senator Long moved this into Action Item A.
    - 2. Vice President Flaherty seconded.
    - 3. Motion passed unanimously.
  - C. Alumni Newsletter
    - 1. President Mason moved to postpone this until November 12.
    - 2. Executive Director Bixby seconded.
    - 3. Motion passed unanimously.
  - D. Abolishment of Redbird of the Month
    - 1. Senator Lund moved this to Action Item B.
    - 2. Senator Leigh seconded.
    - 3. Motion passed unanimously.
  - E. Diversity Week
    - 1. President Mason moved to make this Action Item C.
    - 2. Secretary Spialek seconded.
    - 3. Motion passed unanimously.
  - F. President of the Assembly Nominations
    - 1. Senator Whittington nominated Secretary Spialek.

2. Senator Miller nominated Senator Preston.
  3. Senator Abdalla nominated Senator Carnahan but Carnahan denied.
  4. Senator Long nominated Senator Sullivan.
  5. Candidates spoke and were asked questions.
  6. Debate followed.
  7. Vote was taken.
  8. Secretary Spialek will be the next President of the Assembly.
  9. Senator Lund moved to take a three minute recess.
  10. Vice President of the Assembly Krug seconded.
  11. Motion passed unanimously.
- G. Civic Engagement Chair Elections
1. Senator Merth declined her nomination by the assembly Officers and encouraged the Assembly to vote for Senator Lund.
  2. Senator Lund spoke for five minutes.
  3. Discussion followed.
  4. Vote was taken.
  5. Senator Lund will be the next Civic Engagement Chair.

XI. Action items

- A. Vice President of the Assembly Krug moved to pass the "I saw you in the News" bill.
1. Senator Whittington seconded.
  2. Friendly amendments were made accordingly.
  3. Senator Carnahan moved to previous question.
  4. Senator Sullivan seconded.
  5. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Senator Dumelle moved to accept the resolution abolishing Redbird of the Month.
1. Senator Davis seconded.
  2. Senator Winzer wanted to know if we have done everything we can to market this program.
  3. Vice President of the Assembly Krug said there is no efficient way to market the program that is why they are trying to abolish it.
  4. Senator Leigh said we should take it in a different approach.
  5. Vice President of the Assembly Krug said they have exhausted their options in Programs and Recognition.
  6. Senator Long said she has seen this program struggle and encouraged the Assembly to vote yes.
  7. Senator Long moved to previous question.
  8. Vice President Flaherty seconded.
  9. Motion passed with one nay.
- C. Cail moved to accept the resolution authorizing SGA's participation in Diversity Week.
1. Senator Dumelle seconded.
  2. Friendly amendments were made accordingly.
  3. Senator Lund moved to previous question.



4. Spiek seconded.
5. Motion passed with one nay.

XII. Adjournment

- A. Student Trustee Bagnuolo moved to adjourn.
- B. Senator Spiek seconded.
- C. Motion passed unanimously.