

General Assembly Meeting  
February 27, 2008  
7:30PM-9:36PM

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

**Present:** President Horstein, Vice President Martin, Chief of Staff Neville (came at 7:32pm), External Relations Director Clark, Finance Director Osolin, Public Relations Director Rotz, Technology Director Tortoriello, Speaker Cassata, Deputy Speaker Graham, Secretary Mason, Senator J. Krug, Senator Moore, Senator Nippa, Senator Anders, Senator Bixby, Senator Cail, Senator Candir, Senator Thorgesen, Senator Ruscitti, Senator A. Mason, Senator Ray, Senator Decker, Senator Griswold, Senator T. Krug (left at 8:30pm), Senator Long, BSU, ALAS, APAC, ARH, PRIDE, Trustee Cekander

**Not Present:** Senator Menzies

**Approval of Minutes**

- I) Senator Long motions to approve the minutes.
  - a. Senator Thorgesen seconds.
  - b. Motion passes unanimously.

**Administrative Reports**

- I) President Horstein's report:
  - a. He has distributed petitions and educational pieces about the Constitution.
    - i. People should let him know if they need more copies.
    - ii. Two committees still need to get back to him.
    - iii. The Daily Vidette should have an article about it tomorrow.
    - iv. The new Constitution is on the SGA website for people to review.
    - v. The official count needed for ratification is 18,983, so he wants to get 20,000 signatures.
    - vi. This is very important for this year's Association and all of them to come.
  - b. He is being counseled by Michael Zajac and Ed McKibbon on the off-campus housing issue.
    - i. He is meeting with Vice President Adams on Monday,
      1. They are moving forward with meeting the top three property managers.
      2. He is working with Councilman Scott and Councilman Fritzen.
  - c. He is looking to give the Redbird Renter's Union Ex-Officio status.
    - i. He thinks everyone that has helped has done a great job.
  - d. He thanks all of the minority RSOs over the past couple of weeks who have been throwing great events.
    - i. This include BSU, Black S.T.A.R.R., and Enlightenment.
  - e. The Police Chief of Normal wants to meet with him on Friday.

- II) Vice President Martin's report:

- a. He talks about the responses he has received from the Night Operations survey, but he is waiting to get more responses.

III) Chief of Staff Neville's report:

- a. She thanks everyone who came to the Platform Party.
  - i. She is typing up a report of the conclusions that were made.
- b. She is planning Passing of the Gavel.
  - i. If people are bringing more than two people, let her know.

IV) Speaker Cassata's report:

- a. He reminds people that everything needs to be in by this Friday to go to the Executive Committee, and then it will be on the agenda.
  - i. It will make Assembly Meetings more efficient.
- b. Vice President Martin asks if Senator Broderick is still part of the Association.
  - i. Chief of Staff Neville says that she sent in a letter of resignation.

V) Deputy Speaker Graham's report:

- a. The email went out.
  - i. She apologizes about the late notice.
  - ii. The Executive Committee decided that it was time-sensitive material with NIU, the Housing Bill, and Pack the Place.
- b. Tammy has compiled the statistics from the parking surveys.
  - i. The next step will be creating a report and sending it to Maggie Nelson and Steve Bragg.
- c. She is working on creating an SGA alumni newsletter.
  - i. It will have our accomplishments from this year.
  - ii. The SGA Advisement Team have been working with Alumni Relations to get all of the names and addresses.

VI) Secretary Mason's report:

- a. He has a Diversity Week resolution, and will be talking about it later.

VII) Finance Director Osolin's report:

- a. No report provided.

VIII) Technology Director Tortoriello's report:

- a. The clickers are still not fixed.
  - i. They are installing a new program.
- b. He updated minutes on the SGA website.

IX) External Director Clark's report:

- a. The Uptown Parking Committee is coming to a close.
  - i. Recommendations are being formalized in the next meeting and then to the Town Council.
- b. He is meeting with Ed McKibbin tomorrow to discuss the "Know Your Rights" project.

X) Public Relations Director Rotz's report:

- a. No report.

XI) Advisor Olshak's report:

- a. He reminds everyone that the use of all office supplies and office space in regards to next year is off limits.
  - i. Everything must be kept out of the confines of SGA.

XII) Advisor Zompetti's report:

- a. No report.

### Committee Reports

I) Civic Engagement- Senator Nippa

- a. They are gathering signatures for the Constitution tomorrow at 3:30pm.

II) Finance and Allocation- Senator T. Krug

- a. Tonight they had hearings for the Opportunity Fund.
  - i. They heard from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Society of Student Anthropologists, the Acafellaz, who submitted two requests, and UNITE.
- b. The balance before tonight's meeting was \$18,243.16.
  - i. Tonight they allocated \$3,093.
  - ii. This leaves them with \$15,150.16 for the remainder of the year.
- c. Their Program Fund Hearings are almost complete.
  - i. They are on track to allocate about \$200,000 in program requests that benefit the ISU community as a whole.
  - ii. Their final deliberations are next Wednesday from 7-8:30pm.
    - 1. After that meeting, all of the RSOs that requested money will be notified of their allocations.
- d. Their hearing tonight:
  - i. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority requested \$3,674, and they were allocated \$0.
  - ii. Society of Student Anthropologists requested \$2,000, and they were allocated \$800.
  - iii. Acafellaz requested \$522 for their end of the year concert, and they were allocated \$372.
  - iv. Acafellaz requested \$533 for their high school tour, and they were allocated \$233.
  - v. UNITE requested \$2,463, and they were allocated \$1,688.
- e. Senator J. Krug asks why they did not give Zeta Phi Beta any money.
  - i. He says it was a request for money to their national conference in Las Vegas.
    - 1. They could not answer how it would benefit students.

III) Programs and Recognition- Senator Bixby

- a. Senator Ruscitti asks if they have the resolution for Redbird of the Semester.
  - i. They are looking for the original sponsor first.

IX) Policies and Procedures- Senator Moore

- a. They are currently working on the Ex-Officio By-Laws.
  - a. He just compiled everyone's comments concerning the document.
  - b. He plans on sending them out to the Ex-Officios for their thoughts.

- c. He hopes to have them on the agenda for the next Assembly meeting.

### Senator Coordinator Reports

- I) On-Campus Senators- Senator J. Krug
  - a. They did not have their meeting last week due to the NIU Vigil.
  - b. Their next meeting is this upcoming Tuesday, and they will be planning their next constituent event.
  - c. She is still looking into the Off-Campus Housing Fair.
- II) Off-Campus Senators- Senator Thorgesen
  - a. They will be participating in the Off Campus Housing Fair.
  - b. The Off Campus survey ended last week.
    - a. They will be compiling the data.
  - c. Senator Ruscitti asks if they had received more feedback.
    - a. He says they did not because not all Senators sent out their email last week.
- III) Underrepresented Senators- Senator Long
  - a. They successfully distributed their first RSO newsletter, the *SGA Spectator*.
    - i. She thanks all of the Underrepresented Senators, especially Senator Griswold, and Public Relations Director Rotz.
    - ii. The second one will go out the Monday after Spring Break.
    - iii. They are writing a bill for this to continue into future Associations.
  - b. They have done some benchmarking on the implementation of a Good Samaritan policy.
    - i. They will be creating a survey to generate some student feedback on alcohol use/abuse and whether or not people contact emergency services.
  - c. They found out that a lot of their contacts for RSO presidents according to the Student Involvement Center is wrong.
    - i. They are working to correct this problem.
- IV) Graduate Senators- Senator Mason
  - a. They held their first office hours this week.
  - b. They received their first constituent contacts in response to the SGA update sent out last week.
    - i. They are very excited about the interest graduate students have shown in the Housing Bill.
    - ii. Unfortunately, some graduate students are not receiving SGA emails they day they are sent.
      - 1. They are working on resolving this problem.
  - c. They are starting the planning process for a Graduate Career Fair.
    - i. They printed a list of all the businesses in attendance at the Undergraduate Spring 2008 Career Fair.
      - 1. They created an email template to send to possible businesses.
    - ii. They plan to email all graduate students next week to assess the interest in having this fair.
  - d. They have also started discussions about the possibility of having a social event at the comedy club for graduate students.
  - e. President Horstein says that we are very good at writing resolutions.

- i. We had to help Academic Senate Faculty Senators.

### **Ex-Officio Member Reports & Updates**

- I) Asian Pacific American Coalition (APAC)
  - a. Last weekend they raised \$197.
    - i. They raised more than \$100 than last year.
  - b. They have a Game Night on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- II) Association of Latin American Students (ALAS)
  - a. Tomorrow they are having a social at the Rec Center at 7pm.
  - b. Their formal is Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. President Horstein says SGA should be talking to Ex-Officios about what is troubling their constituents.
    - i. Ex-Officios should mention this in their reports.
- III) Association of Residence Halls (ARH)
  - a. Their annual Charity Ball, Under the Venetian Moon: A Masquerade Ball, is coming up.
    - i. It will be held March 1<sup>st</sup> from 8-10pm in the Old Main Room.
  - b. They had their blood drive in West Campus yesterday, and they had about 50 donors.
  - c. They are working to set up all of their fundraising efforts for next year now.
- IV) Black Student Union (BSU)
  - a. She thanks everyone from SGA who attended their events last week.
  - b. Their next General Assembly Meeting is tomorrow at 7pm.
    - i. They will be talking about changes in black families.
- V) People Realizing Individuality and Diversity through Education (PRIDE)
  - a. Last weekend they had a conference.
    - i. They learned a lot, and their President got information about running their own conference.
  - b. They have a bowling night tonight.
  - c. Their next meeting is the Drag Workshop.
    - i. It will help people that do not know how to dress in drag yet.
  - d. Vice President Martin says they could apply for co-sponsorship money for their conference.
- VI) Student Trustee Cekander
  - a. They had their Board of Trustees meeting.
    - i. They approved the demolition of Central Campus, renovation of Hancock Stadium, renewal of health insurance, and the stepping down of their chair.
  - b. Advisor Zompetti asks if the drawings for Hancock Stadium are still on the website.
    - i. What they want it to be is on the website.
  - c. Senator Long asks if the renovations on Stevenson have been halted.
    - i. He says that it has been difficult, so they have had to change some things.
      - 1. The issue is not the money.

### **Information Items**

- A) Vice President Martin motions to add 101 to Information Item C.
  - a. Senator Ruscitti seconds.
  - b. Motion passes unanimously .
  
- B) Secretary Mason motions to add Resolution Authorizing SGA Participation in Diversity Week to Action Item D.
  - a. Senator Ruscitti seconds.
  - b. Motion passes unanimously.
  
- C) Chief of Staff Neville motions to add Executive Staff Appointment to Information Item E.
  - a. Senator Ruscitti seconds.
  - b. Motion passes unanimously.
  
- D) Vice President Martin motions to add Secretary of the Assembly Accountable to Information Item F.
  - a. Chief of Staff Neville seconds.
  - b. Vice President Martin explains the job of the Secretary, and some things still need to be done, and keeping up with timelines.
  - c. Motion passes 8-6-3.
    - i. Senators Nippa, T. Krug, Anders, Moore, Thorgesen, Decker, Graham, and Cassata vote yes.
    - ii. Senators Griswold, J. Krug, Ray, A. Mason, T. Mason, and Bixby vote no.
    - iii. Senators Long, Cail, and Ruscitti abstain.
  
- E) Vice President Martin motions to take a 5 minute recess.
  - a. Senator Nippa seconds.
  - b. Motion denied 5-10-0.
    - i. Senators Anders, Moore, Nippa, T. Mason, and J. Krug voted yes.
    - ii. Senators Graham, Candir, Long, Ruscitti, Bixby, Thorgesen, T. Krug, Ray, Decker, and A. Mason voted no.
  
- F) Chief of Staff Neville motions to suspend the normal order of business and jump to Executive Staff Appointment.
  - a. Senator Thorgesen seconds.
  - b. Motion passes unanimously.
  
- G) Executive Staff Position Appointment- Chief of Staff Neville
  - a. She has a very good candidate for the position; she is very qualified.
  - b. Lindsey Hyde, the nominee, speaks on her own behalf.
  - c. Senator Thorgesen motions to move to Action Item B.
    - i. Senator Nippa seconds.
    - ii. Motion passes unanimously.
  
- H) Legislative Branch By-Laws- Senator Moore
  - a. He goes over the main changes.
  - b. Senator Long motions to move to Action Item B.
    - i. Senator Decker seconds.
    - ii. Motion passes unanimously.

- I) RSO of the Month- Senator Bixby
  - a. Senator Decker says the resolution recognizes Habitat for Humanity.
  - b. Senator Anders motions to move to Action Item C.
    - i. Senator Griswold seconds.
    - ii. Motion passes unanimously.
  
- J) Resolution Authorizing “Common Sense 101”- Vice President Martin
  - a. He wants to build positive relationships in the Town of Normal.
  - b. It has been approved by Finance and Allocation.
  - c. Deputy Speaker Graham motions to move to Action Item D.
    - i. Senator Griswold seconds.
    - ii. Motion passes unanimously.
  
- K) Diversity Week Resolution- Senator Ted Mason
  - a. Deputy Speaker Graham motions to move to Action Item E.
    - i. Senator Bixby seconds.
    - ii. Motion passes unanimously.
  
- L) President Martin motions to suspend the normal order of business and move to Action Item B.
  - a. Senator Bixby seconds.
  - b. Motion passes unanimously.
  
- M) Secretary of the Assembly Resolution- Vice President Martin
  - a. He says that all of the resolutions are wrong up to this point.
  - b. The Student Body President should be able to sign the resolutions to make them official.
  - c. External Relations Director says there is not sponsor on it.
    - i. Vice President Martin says he is the sponsor.
  - d. Secretary Mason says that all of the minutes are updates on the website.
  - e. Senator Nippa asks the original vote record could be obtained.
    - i. Vice President Martin says the Advisors have the voting record.
  - f. Senator Long asks if it is up to the sponsor to correct the legislation.
    - i. Vice President Martin says it is up to the Secretary.
    - ii. Advisor Zompetti says that it is the Secretary’s job to keep track of the official record.
  - g. Vice President Martin motions to move to Action Item F.
    - i. Senator Nippa seconds.
    - ii. Vice President Martin motions to do a roll call vote.
      - 1. Senator Griswold seconds.
      - 2. Motion passes unanimously.
    - iii. Motion passes 13-2-2.
      - 1. Senators Cassata, Graham, J. Krug, Moore, Nippa, Anders, Bixby, Cail, Candir, Thorgesen, Ruscitti, Ray, and Decker vote yes.
      - 2. Senators T. Mason and Griswold vote no.
      - 3. Senators A. Mason and Long abstain.

**Action Items**

A) Housing Bill- Senator J. Krug

- a. It has been revised, and she thinks it is much better.
- b. Senator Ruscitti motions to approve.
  - i. Deputy Speaker Graham seconds.
- c. External Relations Director Clark asks if she received actual numbers of concerns from constituents.
  - i. Senator J. Krug says people responded to emails, and many people have talked to SGA members personally.
- d. External Relations Director Clark wants to put the emails into the Bill.
  - i. Deputy Speaker Graham says it is possible to add certain quotes from the emails into the Bill.
  - ii. Vice President Martin says that it may not be effective to put emails into the Bill; the emails are only to sway out votes.
  - iii. Chief of Staff Neville says to put the information into the cover letter, and not the Bill.
  - iv. Advisor Zompetti suggestions adding that the Deputy Speaker should send the emails to the Secretary in order to file them with the resolution.
  - v. Senator Ruscitti offers the friendly amendment to have the Deputy Speaker forward the constituent email to the Secretary of the Assembly to file with the Bill.
    1. Deputy Speaker Graham seconds.
  - vi. Senator J. Krug moves to previous question.
    1. Senator Ruscitti seconds.
    2. Motion passes unanimously.

B) Executive Staff Position Appointment

- a. Senator Ruscitti moves to previous question.
  - i. Senator Nippa seconds.
  - ii. Motion passes unanimously.
- b. Motion passes unanimously.
- c. She is sworn in by President Horstein.

C) Legislative Branch By-Laws

- a. Deputy Speaker Graham motions to approve.
  - i. Senator Ruscitti seconds.
- b. Senator Moore changes the removal of the committee chair section to have specific people in the committee.
- c. Vice President Martin offers the friendly amendment to change the review committee for Assembly Officers.
  - i. Senator Moore seconds.
- d. Vice President Martin offers the friendly amendment to let an Assembly Officer to pick who Senator-at-Large.
  - i. Senator Moore accepts.
- e. Senator Ruscitti moves to previous question.
  - i. Senator J. Krug seconds.
  - ii. Motion passes unanimously.
- f. Motion passes unanimously 17-0-0.



D) RSO of the Month

- a. Senator J. Krug motions to approve.
  - i. Deputy Speaker Graham seconds.
- b. ARH asks why they are receiving the award when the activities were done in another month.
  - i. Senator Decker says that it is because they did a great job and were the only ones who applied.
- c. Deputy Speaker Graham says that the point is to brag about what Habitat for Humanity did.
  - i. It does not meet that goal.
  - ii. It is also not specific as to who is putting the release into the Daily Vidette.
- d. Vice President Martin says it does not talk about what Habitat for Humanity has done.
- e. Senator J. Krug thinks it should be more detailed, but she thinks they are a good candidate.
  - i. She motions to postpone the resolution until the next Assembly Meeting.
    1. Senator Ruscitti seconds.
    2. Motion passes unanimously 17-0-0.

E) "Common Sense 101"

- a. Vice President Martin motions to approve.
  - i. Deputy Speaker Graham seconds.
- b. Vice President Martin reads the original resolution.
  - i. Please see attached documentation.
  - ii. He took out the name of Off-Campus Senator Broderick, except for the line stating she helped.
- c. President Horstein offers the friendly amendment to add "and Neighborhood Association of Normal" after City Manager on line 86.
- d. Vice President Martin says that this has seen success in other campuses.
- e. Senator Long asks how long the program will run for.
  - i. Vice President Martin says that this is just a pilot period.
  - ii. It is not a Bill.
- f. Trustee Cekander asks what "tremendous response" means.
  - i. Vice President Martin says that people at other schools know what the program is.
- g. Senator Thorgesen moves to previous question.
  - i. Anders.
  - ii. Unanimously.
- h. Motion passes unanimously 17-0-0.

F) Diversity Week

- a. Secretary Mason motions to approve.
  - i. Deputy Speaker
- b. Senator Ruscitti moves to previous question.
  - i. Senator Anders seconds.
  - ii. Motion passes unanimously.
- c. Secretary Mason is changing the sponsor from Secretary Mason to Senator T. Mason.

- d. Secretary Mason is changing lines 71 and 76 from “Secretary Mason” to “Senator T. Mason.”
  - e. Motion passes unanimously.
- G) Secretary of the Assembly Resolution
- a. Senator Ruscitti motions to approve.
    - i. Senator Nippa seconds.
  - b. Vice President Martin goes over several grammatical errors that he has changed.
  - c. Senator Griswold thinks we should vote no because this has been an embarrassment tactic.
    - i. She thinks everyone has slacked at some times, and it was never put into a resolution.
    - ii. It was bad timing, it should have been brought up before.
  - d. Senator Thorgesen says that it is easy to think that this is personal, and should think about it professionally.
  - e. Senator J. Krug says that people have resigned due to not doing their jobs, and it was not brought before everyone.
  - f. Vice President Martin says that this has been discussed before.
    - i. It is not about the timing.
  - g. Chief of Staff Neville says that people voting yes would make the resolutions due Friday.
    - i. People want others held accountable.
  - h. Senator Long offers a friendly amendment to change the due date to March 21.
    - i. It is not accepted.
    - ii. Senator Long makes the amendment hostile.
      - 1. Deputy Speaker Graham seconds.
      - 2. Motion Martin to have a roll call vote.
        - a. Senator Ruscitti seconds.
        - b. Motion passes unanimously.
      - 3. Motion passes with 14-2-1.
        - a. Senators Cassata, Graham, T. Mason, J. Krug, Moore, Nippa, Bixby, Candir, Thorgesen, A. Mason, Ray, Decker, Griswold, and Long vote yes.
        - b. Senators Anders and Ruscitti vote no.
        - c. Senator Cail abstains.
  - i. President Horstein thinks that there is not an accurate historical record.
    - i. This is what everyone in here has voted on.
  - j. Senator Mason asks what the formal statements were and was there a date set before.
  - k. Senator Griswold thinks that voting for this to be passed does not need to go into the records.
  - l. Senator Griswold moves to previous question.
    - i. Senator Ruscitti seconds.
    - ii. Motion passes with two nos by Secretary Mason and Senator Nippa.
  - m. Speaker Cassata motions to do a roll vote.
    - i. Senator Ruscitti seconds.
    - ii. Motion passes unanimously.
  - n. Motion fails 3-7-7.
    - i. Senators Anders, Nippa, and Ruscitti vote yes.
    - ii. Senators T. Mason, Candir, Moore, Ray, Decker, Griswold, and Long vote no.

- iii. Senators Cassata, Graham, Bixby, Cail, J. Krug, Thorgesen, and A. Mason abstain.

### **Consent Items**

- A) Late Night Policy- Vice President Martin
  - a. Senator Ruscitti motions to approve.
    - i. Senator Long seconds.
    - ii. Motion passes unanimously 17-0-0.

### **Passing of the Gavel**

- A) Senator J. Krug says they are buying food based on how many people have signed up for the gymnastics meet.
  - a. If people are going to go to the meet, they need to sign up by tomorrow if they want to eat.
- B) Vice President Martin says that his resolution was not a personal attack on the Secretary, but he wants people to be held accountable.
  - a. Abstaining is saying that a person does not know enough to vote or it is a conflict of interest.
- C) President Horstein says that people should vote, and try not to abstain unless there is a conflict of interest.
- D) Senator Long says that March is Music in Our Schools Month, so she encourages people to go see a show.
- E) Senator Anders says he is fundraising, and people can donate to him if they wish.
- F) Senator Cail says Creative I.N.K. has its third issue coming out soon.
- G) Deputy Speaker Graham tells Vice President Martin his resolution and Night Operations survey are great.
  - a. She compliments BSU on all of the work they have been doing.

### **Adjournment**