

***General Assembly Meeting***

***August 20th, 2023***

**A D V O C A C Y ● U N I T Y ● L E A D E R S H I P**

**Call to Order:**

*-Land Acknowledgement*

*“Illinois State University was built on the land of multiple native nations. These lands were the traditional birthright of Indigenous people who were forcibly removed and have faced centuries of struggle for survival and identity in the wake of dispossession and displacement. We would like to acknowledge that we are on the lands that were once home to the Illini, Peoria, Myaamia, Kaskaskia, Odawa, Meskwaki, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations. Due to colonial encroachment and displacement to the Fox, Potawatomi, Sauk, Shawnee, Winnebago, Ioway, Mascouten, Piankashaw, Wea, and Kickapoo Nations were forcibly removed. We also express honor to those Indigenous people who we may have excluded in this acknowledgment due to erasure and historical inaccuracy.”*

*-Roll Call*

*-Approval of the minutes:* (5/19/23)

-Motion: POA Fulton

-Second: Senator Blair

-Motion to table Bill #3

Vote: unanimous pass

**Executive Officer Reports**

*President (E. Monk)*

* I just want to thank all of exec for how the retreat went yesterday, I would also like to thank Senator Roy because of the work that was done on our welcome week event, I would also like to thank Lewis Gadomski because of his personal resignation. I would also like to run a search for the Watterson senator and there are still blank spaces for other vacancies. There will be upcoming presidential cabinet members appointments. We are going to be lobbying for mental health awareness day for schooling systems. We will be working with the legislative bureau. I have also reached out to every public university here in Illinois and SIUC along with UIUC will be there to help with this project. Thanks Senator Myers and Tasdan for the work they have done.

*Vice President (S. DeNeve)*

* Short introduction of who she is and what she will be leading. She is working on the Emerging leader program. Anyone interested please contact Sarah! If you want to be a mentor, there will be an application sent out soon. Please help fill seats for external committee. Sorry for not being here yesterday but I am so excited to be here with you all.

*Chief of Staff (J. Ririe)*

* Thanks everyone for the retreat yesterday. And thanks Zach Roy for the work on welcome week. Bad news, MCOT training we must do another day because they were unable to attend our summer retreat.

Senator Smith: Can we clock the welcome week hour?

COS Ririe: yes

**Assembly Officer Reports**

*President of the Assembly (M. Fulton)*

* Every other upcoming SGA, legislation will be due the Friday before the GA. We have received a programing sheet update in teams. Do what you please and I hope we can get out of here quickly.

*Vice President of the Assembly (E. Beddow)*

* I hope you all had a great summer. Last night I sent out constituent contact form, please have that done by the end of the month, you only need to document 2 of the 4 required hours this month.

*Secretary of the Assembly (M. Blum)*

* Re-sending out onboarding presentations to the assembly. Very excited to be back and start this new position. Asks for patience for the Exec team from everyone and says to talk to them all if there is any need!

**Advisor Report**

*Dean of Students (A. Morgan)*

* Good morning and welcome back, couple of reminders, start the semester strong, stay hydrated this week it’s supposed to be hot! And advisors should be reaching out soon! Ex-officios please work with RSO advisors. He will not be here next Wednesday!

**Executive Cabinet Member Reports**

*Secretary of Diversity Affairs (VACANT)*

*Secretary of College Affordability (VACANT)*

*Secretary of Information Technology (VACANT)*



*Secretary of Governmental Relations (VACANT)*

*Secretary of Public Relations (VACANT)*



*Secretary of Sustainability (VACANT*

*Secretary of Programming (VACANT)*

*Secretary of Judicial Affairs (VACANT)*

*Secretary of Non-Tradition Student Experience (VACANT)*

*Secretary of Administrative Compliance (VACANT)*

**Senator Group Coordinator Reports**

*On Campus Senators (L. Bounds, N. Lummis, B. Gonzalez)*

* No report

*Off Campus Senators (M. Blum, E. Bedow, B. Myers, Z. Roy, A. Schoth, C. Blair)*

* No report

*Academic Senators (J. Holmes, N. Nepomuceno, L. Gadomski, M. Fulton)*

* No report

*Student Life Senators (T. Bever, R. Russell, K. Tasdan)*



**Internal Committee Chair Reports**

*Membership & Outreach (VACANT)*

*Policies & Procedures (VACANT)*

*Finance & Allocation (VACANT)*

*Civic Engagement (VACANT)*

**Ex-Officio Reports**

*ALAS (J. Zarco)*

* *I have somewhat of a report, Multicultural event today from 1-4!*

*PRIDE (L. Bonilla)*

* The MCC had a few updates over the summer, their gender affirmation closet had a major update! There is a new check out system for students who may need!

*APAC (A. Martil)*

* *No report*

*BSU (J. Wilburn-Johnson)*

*ARH (VACANT)*

*CPC (J. Rizzi)*

*IFC (R. Corbin)*

*Student Trustee (A. Ebikhumi)*

The board met at the end of July and approved their annual contracts. Highlights, masters in physics and college of engineering moving along and available here at ISU. The university as at good financial sitting. There are national problems with higher education funding. POC and white male teacher numbers are at a decline. New presidential search for this upcoming fall. If you remember from the May meeting, there will be soon approval of the south campus dorms.

* Senator Myers: Do we have a balanced budget for this year since we are in good financial standing?
* Trustee Ebikhumi: We are doing well, and we have plans for the upcoming years!
* Senator Myers: Can you talk about the enrollment decline?

- Trustee Ebikhumi: Just based off the past few years ‘national high schools and college enrollment have declined.

**Parliamentarian appointment**

- Motion to end debate: Senator Roy

- Second: Senator Lummis

- Vote: Unanimous yes

-YAY BRAXTON new parliamentarian!

**Information Items**

-2023 Budget:

VP Ririe: I am going to go line by line to explain to you all what I budgeted for. General printing budgeted $600, office supplies: $1000 which is a budget decrease from last year, meeting room rentals: $65000, apparel: $1700 consistent with last year’s budget, ELP $3000 dial down on food, fall retreat $400, Winter retreat $750, passing of the gavel $900, promotional items $1500, festival ISU $200, Homecoming $200, Lobby day $1050, Cosponsor ships $500, civic engagement $2500, Diversity week $1000, Mental health $2325, TurboVote $1000, General initiatives $8625, Parking $200

* Senator Roy: do you have any ideas for apparel yet?
* COS Ririe: not yet we will do that in the fall, it is consistent with last year.
* Senator Myers: can you explain what a line item is?
* COS Ririe: Basically, I can move around the money as needed.
* Senate Blair: Can you explain the last one?
* VP DeNeve: Basically, we have this money to help students who need parking when visiting the health services.
  + Senator Nepomuceno: why is the winter retreat so much more expensive.
  + COS Ririe: We just budgeted well with this retreat.
  + Representative Bonilla: So currently we don’t know how to help the parking services?
  + VP DeNeve: I have someone I can reach out to, and we can start that project
  + President Monk: Are cosponsor ships basically where outside organizations need sponsorship from us?
  + yes
  + VP DeNeve: Are we able to move some more money around for ARH.
  + COS Ririe: Yes
  + Senator Roy: I have an issue with apparel being $2000 can you make it $1000 even?
  + COS Ririe: yes of course
* Motion to move to action item: Senator Myers
* Second: Senator Tasdan

**Secretary Discussion**

President Monk: Over this summer I talked with some senators about how these hours can be used in more valuable ways. We will be amending the bylaws to add election duties to admin compliance, so we will not have an appointment for that this Wednesday. My original idea was a secretary of elections but that was controversial. The admin compliance will serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of SEC in the spring, and they will re-write the election code this next year.

* + Motion to amend agenda to remove secretary discussion.
    - Motion: Senator Myers
    - Second: Senator Lummis
* **Bill #2:**

Senator Tasdan: So over the summer former ISU president Dietz serves on the school street food pantry board, there is a new member on the board Elaine Sapick, so they want SGA to support them in some more ways. We have done food drives, add in more volunteer events. A big banner of theirs blew away so we can financially sponsor them for a new banner maybe. The big thing is with the start of the school year is they are trying to get Big reusable tote bags for the food pantry, the full price would be $2375, could we pitch in $100? We made sure to check the dean of student’s office if we can do this, they said yes as long as SGA sorts it out.

* POA Fulton: There is more room in the budget if we decide we can give more money to them when it is an action item.
* Representative Zarco: With that amount of money being spent how many bags will be produced?
* Senator Tasdan: It is $4.75 to make each bag and we are pitching in $1000, that will be paying for about 210 bags, almost half of their bags.
* Senator Myers: Is this something we are going to be able to continuously sponsor throughout the year?
* Senator Tasdan: Yes of course I am sure they would appreciate that.
* Senator Bounds: What does the banner have on it?
* Senator Tasdan: It is helpful with the food pantry announcements.
* Senator Nepomuceno: Do these bags get returned or kept?
* Senator Tasdan: They are kept!
* Senator Myers: Does the school street food pantry need any more help marketing?
* Senator Tasdan: They said sometimes on big food drive events they need most help with social media promotion or volunteering.
* VPOA Beddow: I have volunteered with them before and basically what you do is they have you keep it so you can come back and use the bag! We should plan volunteer weeks for SGA.
* Motion to action item: POA Fulton
* Second: Senator Lummis
* Vote: Motion passed Unanimously
* **Amendment #4:**

Senator Blair: We tried to amend the constitution last year and we all saw how hard it was. We all saw it needed to be changed. The state of Illinois petitions by a ballot referendum. Instead of having to get thousands of signatures, I believe it is more democratic to provide students with a simple yes or no if they like the amendments. I will bullet point how the process works: step 1 someone wants to make an amendment, when we vote on the amendment it goes through, I used all possible votes incase an abstention is used as a vote no, because it is such an important thing, I believe there should have been a higher bar set for the voting. At the next election for SGA, it is a ballot survey, if 2/3rds of the student body (or majority) it will pass and will go into effect into the next SGA. That is how it is intended to work.

* POA Fulton: do we still need all of the “signatures” still?
* Senator Blair: we have AT LEAST 2 weeks to get the votes, so we will interpret that as it is AT LEAST two weeks to get the signatures and get it passed. We do need 10% of the student body.
* Senator Bever: How will this be getting out the best to the student body?
* Senator Blair: We need to all just work together and get everyone to uphold their constituent contact.
* Senator Bever: What in the amendment will make us get constituent feedback, basically I am trying to cover our backs, what is stopping us from passing something without reaching out to the students.
* Senator Blair: So, are you talking about the new or old system? The new system is based off 50% or 2/3rds of constituent feedback. We can pass whatever we want as an amendment but if the student body gives us that direct feedback that will be the most helpful.
* Senator Bever: what would be the entire process of the constituent contact.
* Senator Myers: so that is basically a part of an amendment, there is no formal listed way that we need to reach out to students.
* VPOA Beddow: I understand what you are saying, because it can cause confusion about what they will be voting for.
* Senator Blair: I think what you are worried about is that when students don’t know what they are voting on, but if we pass this, we need to add a section to the SEC code about the nuts and bolts of the process for the new ballots. So, if this were to pass there will be future leg written. We would hopefully put a direct link about what will be changed and new or removed. Because this would be a ballot issue, we would have until the spring to campaign for the ballot. We would have in the SEC code a basic description of what it is about.
* VP DeNeve: So, what if we have a lot of unopposed races and only 700 people vote would that be the amount of people that vote on it.
* Senator Blair: I understand why that would be a concern, but if that were happening it would be more of an internal mishap for not having enough student outreach. This gives the student body and opportunity to ACTUALLY have a say on if they like the amendment.
* Senator Myers: I worked with someone last year about how we will be very honest and clear with our student body what they would be voting on.
* VP DeNeve: I got lucky my freshman year because of COVID and there was only a small percentage of people who voted so I am concerned about the fact that if we are unable to reach that goal can we amend the voting percentage?
* Senator Blair: I am more open to a referendum system because if all students vote yes, they all believe that it looks good, so the margins of even those small numbers can show our work.
* POA Fulton: We cannot amend this right now as an information item.
* Senator Myers: We have the entire year to get this done, would you be amendable to table this until next week?
* Senator Blair: Yes, I am fine with that, but I want it to take as much time as needed.
* President Monk: Do you have plans with the IT department about adding the amendment voting to the ballots.
* Senator Blair: Yes, they can do this, it would be like any other SGA election because it is just “candidate A and B but yes or no”
* Senator Fulton: Please be respectful with senator Blairs work on this.
* Senator Roy: I agree with VP DeNeve about having a referendum percentage for the vote.
* POA Fulton: Since it will be a new system, we can do whatever we want.
* Motion to table amendment: Senator Blair
* Second: Senator Myers
* Vote: unanimously passed

**Action Items**

**2023 Budget**

* Senator Roy: I would like to amend the amount of money for the apparel.
* COS Ririe: Friendly and amendable
* VP DeNeve: Point of affirmation for ELP and there are concerns, reducing it by $1000 is still efficient because I believe it is fair to be able to give them a good and fun program, I want to do the action ropes course, volunteering events, meetings in the bone reduced from the bone because it is expensive, we will be meeting probably only once a month now, I would prefer if we kept the money amount where it is at.
* COS Ririe: I agree with Sarah because we discussed the funds, and we brought it down to everyone’s liking.
* Senator Roy: I think you guys did a good job funding this.
* Motion to vote on action item: Senator Myers
* Second: Senator Lummis
* Vote: Unanimously passed

**Passing of the Gavel**

-POA Fulton: Thank you all for being here, I promised you all more efficient and fast meetings, thank you all for your patience, if you want to see changes to the amendment please reach out to Cobi.

-Senator Bounds: Thank you to exec team for the retreat and thank you to Josh for the sexual harassment training because this is a change that needs to be made

-Dr. Morgan: Go to MCC event today!

-Senator Tasdan: Thank ya’ll for the approval of the school street food pantry

-President Monk: I am so excited for this association it will be a great one!

Adjournment of the Meeting: POA Fulton

Second: Senator Myers

**Stop Time:**

10:14 am

8.20.23