

***General Assembly Meeting***

***XXXXXXXXX, 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:* (8/23/23)

-Motion: Senator Myers

-Second: Senator Blair

**Executive Officer Reports**

*President (E. Monk)*

* I hope that classes are off to a great start! I would like to thank Exec for a great retreat we did a really great job with doing that. I would also like to reiterate the excitement that I have for this year’s association. I have been sending a lot of time to see how we can better this association because there was a prevailing disposition that we need to be against each other. We have stopped helping the students have started fighting with each other, we need to feel empowered as an association. I would like to thank my nominations for my secretary appointments today, we have a few returning faces. Meeting with Dave Koehler for a project update.

*Vice President (S. DeNeve)*

* Happy first week of school. I will keep it short and sweet. For ELP if you know anyone who wants to join, please send them the link to our form, it’s on the Instagram page. Also, if you want to be a mentor, please apply for it. This will only be monthly this year and would be a great way to get students involved. External committees please help us find students who would like to serve on them. Link is also in the bio.

*Chief of Staff (J. Ririe)*

* Hope you are all doing well. First budget update. Fall retreat was under the budget. Please update your VPSA emails.

**Assembly Officer Reports**

*President of the Assembly (M. Fulton)*

* Agendas moving forward will be on the TEAMS. Committees also have chairpersons now so please make sure that everything is uploaded into the TEAMS group.

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

* Keeping it short. Don’t forget to fill out constituent contact forms. They are linked in your email.

*Secretary of the Assembly (M. Blum)*

* Stay on top of office hours and update your office ours int the TEAMS excel sheet. Also if you need help with onboarding and joining the TEAMS page please reach out to Chief of Staff Ririe and I.

**Advisor Report**

*Dean of Students (A. Morgan)*

* Not here

**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, P. Hofstetter, R. Russell, K. Tasdan)*

* No report

**Internal Committee Chair Reports**

*Membership & Outreach (VACANT)*

*Policies & Procedures (VACANT)*

*Finance & Allocation (VACANT)*

*Civic Engagement (VACANT)*

**Ex-Officio Reports**

*ALAS (J. Zarco)*

* Next Wednesday August 30th ALAS will be tabling for festival ISU. I know that there was a lot of support for mental health awareness month. Check out Redbirdwell.org for mental health help and awareness resources.

*PRIDE (L. Bonilla)*

* PRIDE will also be tabling at Festival ISU, table 30 A. Welcome event also the same day from 7-9, more info on the Instagram.

*APAC (A. Martil)*

*BSU (J. Wilburn-Johnson)*

* BSU Tabling at festival ISU!

*ARH (Deneen)*

* Prepping for new programs and trying to fill vacant executive positions. New GA meting set ups, coffee and community. Partnering with the office of sustainability, teaching leadership skills. Introducing the leader shop, giving students the opportunity to learn about more leadership experiences. Dorms are now three person rooms, so no students are living in the lounges anymore.

*CPC (J. Rizzi)*

* CPC has been busy with recruitment but it’s finally over, Upcoming Philanthropy events: will be posted and reported soon as they come.

*IFC (R. Corbin)*

* Fraternity recruitment has been started and is going well this year! Sigma Pi is hosting their Greek Olympics in September with plenty of involvement activities. PKE is making a campus return this year. We will be getting a new representative in thee coming week for IFC as Ex-Officio Corbin has to step down from his position due to personal reasons.

*Student Trustee (A. Ebikhumi)*

**Appeal:** Paige Hofstetter

* Appeal for semester GPA being below the 2.0 mark. She is here asking for a second chance from the association. She had a hard semester with mental health reasons which made it hard to focus on school. With support she is ready to come back into the association. If she is to continue to struggle, she will step down from her position. She promises to continue to be vulnerable with her mental health.

Questions:

* Senator Myers: I wanted to make sure I understand that we can only have the appeal for a semester GPA not cumulative.
* Senator Blair: I applaud you Paige for stepping up and taking accountability. Was there anything else that has been going on other than what was mentioned in your speech.
* Paige: Like I stated my mom and my past relationship. It was very challenging to get through alone.
* Senator Blair: You mentioned that this happened last semester, when did you find out about your GPA.
* Senator Myers: When did this get brought to your attention?
* Paige: I was reached out to by Dr. Morgan and Mik and we talked about future plans.
* Senator Blair: Is there anything else you need from us?
* Paige: not exactly, just your patience. If you are good at math, please help with that.
* Senator Roy: I know you were in the association since your freshman year, have you seen any academic problems since then?
* Paige: my freshman year, just the transition was hard but otherwise no
* Senator Blair: Is there anything else you want to do to help you achieve?
* Paige: If this was me a few years ago it would have been a different story, but now I am in a better place and I am continuing to grow on myself. I need to understand what actions I need to take when I get in those positions.
* Senator Bounds: I struggle with depression to and talk to a therapist, how has your passion for SGA effected your health?
* Paige: SGA is one of the reasons why I do keep going and do keep pushing. Being in SGA means representing students that have trouble in this world. I know I can put in the work to better the university for these students.
* Senator Blair: isn’t it your job to oversee grading?
* SOA Blum: No, Dr. Morgan oversees grades and GPA’s multiple times throughout the semester and if anything pops up with a red flag, I am informed. From there I communicate with the person who was flagged about their next steps. I was emailed by Dr. Morgan in the end of July once everything was settled and from there, I contacted Paige immediately. It is not my job to inform the entire association of the problem, for the other person discretion.
* Senator Blair: This is the core question I have; can you today serve your constituents right here and now at the state you are in mentally?
* Paige: Yes, I do believe that I can help. I have left other organizations and my big priority is SGA and school.

Motion to end questioning: Senator Russell

Second: Senator Tasdan

Debate period:

* Senator Holmes: Senator Hoffstetter has a bill on the agenda right now but that is not possible with her being vacant of her position.
* Fulton: If she does not get voted back into the association Senator Bound will become the lead sponsor on this bill.
* Senator Roy: Zoe and I have created this amendment for this purpose, and I think the spirit of the bylaw is to help students. I think we need to confirm her.
* Senator Blair: point of neutrality, this is such a personal thing, and you can’t take that part out. We have known Paige for over a year, and you can’t make this decision without feeling emotion. We are not voting on whether Paige deserves to be there, We are voting on if Paige can represent her constituents. Please keep that in mind
* Senator Bounds: point of affirmation, we are working on mental health days for students, it would be hypocritical for us to ignore her menta health problems and vote if we should vote based off biased opinion. We are voting if she can represent her constituency.
* Senator Bever: Point of affirmation, Paige is very passionate, one of the most passionate ones I know. She was working up until the day she emailed us about her vacancy. She shows dedication by leaving the organizations already instead of just saying she will. She had a rough semester, it happens.
* Senator Tasdan: Point of affirmation, if one person didn’t care about this position then they would not be going through these stakes by hiding it, but I would have done the same.
* Senator Myers: Point of affirmation, originally, I was not pleased with her lack of transparency, but looking back it is understandable, we have all been there.
* Senator Bound: point of neutrality, just because your issues with mental health manifest in a certain way, they may not resonate the same for someone else.
* Senator Fulton: Point of information, she will be meeting with an advisor reagularly so it won’t act as nothing happened.
* Senator Russell: I have only been here for a year but paige has always been supportive and accountable and she does a really great job with what she is doing
* Senator Bever: point of information, is the advisor someone else other than her advisor?

Motion to end debate: POA Fulton

Second: Senator Russell

Vote: 12 yes, 6 no, 3 abstain

Paige is reinstated

Secretary Appointments:

* Haley Cepek: I have worked with the sustainability club with volunteer events and the share shop, was secretary last year, helped with earth hour event, with the committee we did trash clean ups and went to sugar creek to remove a lot of overgrown invasive plants. There is a lot more that I want to do this year, I came in not knowing what was going on but now I feel like I can do a lot more this year. Reducing single use plastic in the bone, and residence halls.

Questions: none

Motion to end questioning: Senator Holmes, Second Hofstetter

Debate:

* Beddow: Point of affirmation she is the perfect person for this job!

Motion to end debate: Senator Myers:

Second: Tasdan

Vote: unanimous yes

* Alex Duffy: Stayin cool? I am a junior PR major; I would like to thank the association for considering my application and President Monk for supporting me. As a past senator I Know the tasks with this job, monthly SGA newsletter, merch and can verify our insta account, work with WZND and TV10 to start a podcast. This summer I worked in Morris to produce infographics and did a lot of event planning. A lot of civic engagement and leadership roles. Ability to work well on a team, SGA, classroom or on flag football field, works well with a team.

Questions:

* Senator Fulton: what programs do you use?
* Duffy: I like Canva, I think there is value in getting Canva pro, there is a lot you can do
* Senator Myers: mentioned partnerships with WZND and tv 10, it was noticeable that they would come to SGA meetings, would they be attending, or would you send memos?
* Duffy: journalism is a profession we need to value more, and I would like them to come into our meetings as they can. I am versed in press releases and memos.
* Senator Holmes: you mentioned Canva pro but we get adobe express for free which is like the same thing
* Senator Fulton: if you aren’t a graphic design major Canva makes more sense for Duffy to use
* Senator Blair: can you commit that you will put our agenda in the meme war.
* Senator Hofstetter: I love the merch plan but how can we keep it at a lower price
* Duffy: A lot of websites produce shirts, to order, I am ok with going through another site.
* Representative Bonilla: I just want to say if you are a college student you can get Canva for free
* Senator Beddow: as the past pr sec, it is a tough gig, I just want to say that you impressed me. Can you talk about your plan to get a committee for yourself
* Duffy: the benefit of having me in this position is I have a lot of connections within the college of communication. I would like to do what president monk has been doing with his monthly blast emails. I don’t want it to just be students because PR is everything.
* Senator Nepomuceno: I was the PR sec before Emma, the main thing I struggled with creating a podcast even with a committee was a very difficult challenge. How would you manage the workload?
* Duffy: I think it is collaboration with M and O and pr committee and senators, the podcast is a snapshot of the university, not just SGA, we would be interviewing people from all different organizations.
* Senator Holmes: motion to end questioning.
* Second: Senator Blair

Debate:

* Senator Tasdan: point of neutrality, we may be able to seek the answer of who let the dogs out
* Motion to end debate: Senator Smith
* Second: Senator Gonzales

Vote: unanimous yes

Governmental relations

* Sam Majika: Junior political science major, thanks the association for allowing him to speak of his ideas, and president monk for his nomination of this position. Has been in gov since high school, was in model UN and worked on many campaigns. Focus on building and strengthening partnerships with city government. Create events that bring local elected officials and staff to give them opportunities to speak to students and let them ask questions. Meetings with elected officials for lobbying efforts. Goal is to be a resource for members of this association, he wants to empower his fellow students. When members feel like they belong they make students feel like they belong.

Motion to end questioning: Senator Myers

Second: Senator Smith

Debate:

* Senator Blair: point of affirmation, he is a very dedicated person to what he does.
* Senator Myers: After hearing him and his ideas I think he will be a great help, with the mental health bill and 24-hour notice
* Senator Beddow: I really admire him; he was turned away from SGA at one point, but he never stopped his accomplishments.

Motion to end debate: Senator Fulton.

Second: Senator Myers

Vote unanimous yes

Patrick Flores: Not going to read his speech, was this position last year. Was very successful within the diversity field. Elected on the exec board for special Olympics and wants to do more. Connections all over Illinois state. Wants to add on to diversity week, more than one day. Event coordinator of the special Olympics

Motion to end questioning: Senator Russell.

Second: Senator Myers

Debate: motion to end debate: Senator Myers

Second: Senator Holmes

Vote: unanimous yes

Abel Ninan, sec of IT: Junior in business informational systems, very passionate about what he does. He is a townie. Works at Mpoint support. Does IT support for executives and VIPs of ISU. Helped with board of trustees and Pres Tarhule. Since I have been at ISU I have learned my love for it. I loved being able to see the background stuff about ISU. I want to update the website first thing. I want to record the meetings and YouTube live it. Wants to embed it into the SGA site. Wants to add more to the website and add the logo. Automate a way to upload docs. Talked to Soto about his prior experience.

Questions:

* Senator Fulton: Sec of IT s a very hard job, how long will you need to get the website updated.
* Ninan: I don’t care if its 4 am I will work on it.

Motion by Senator Fulton

Second by Senator Bounds

Debate:

* Senator Hofstetter: He genuinely seems great!
* Flores: We talked about doing livestreams can we do that?
* Senator Fulton: yes
* Senator Bever: I have known him for a while, there is only one student who can work with exec and VIP people need IT he is the only person to do that job. Hardest worker I have known so far. Incredible respect for him.

Motion end debate: Senator Fulton

Second: Senator Russell

Vote: unanimous yes

Princy Patel: Senior molecular and cellular major, premed track, international student from India. Moved to the US during her freshman year spring semester. She faced a lot of struggles and fueled her passion to help international students like her. Is an International Student Ambassador. The transition from moving to another country is hard, wants to make an international organization for international students to use as a resource. Work on the financial stress. Wants to work more with transfer student RSO’s.

Motion to end questioning: Senator Fulton

Second: Senator Russell

Motion to end debate:

- Senator Holmes: I work with her personally and she is one of the hardest working student managers.

- Senator Roy: Affirmation, wanted to find an international student for the role. Nominated her himself.

- Senator Nepomuceno: motion to end debate

Second: Senator Bounds

Vote: Unanimous yes

Ross Vancil: Sophomore legal studies and political sciences, ELP mentee, SLAC. He gets how expensive it is to be a student, but he wants to take small steps to address other issues with the expenses of college. First thing is the amount of money for flex dollars. Encourage the school to allow students to adjust their own funds for their flex dollars. Resources fair again, having a give away or prices. Textbook affordability committee, goals to share textbooks to help with expenses. Creating an affordable option. Encourage the hunger free and swipe out hunger programs for our campus to help students with food insecurity.

Debate:

* Senator Tasdan: This job is what you make of it, but what do you want to prioritize first in your plan.
* Ross: the flex dollars, talked to someone already and they were receptive of it.
* Senator Lummis: motion to end.
* Second: Senator Myers

Debate:

-Bounds: point of affirmation, he is incredibly focused on his work.

Motion to end debate: Senator Holmes.

Second: Senator Hoffstetter

Vote: unanimous yes

**Information Items**

* **Amendment 4:** 
  + Myers: two changes in the amendment, 1st allow sec of admin compliance to revise SEC at the end of the year. Not big on executive power but this has been crafted in a way that will allow protections to be made. Get rid of parking and transportation and judicial affairs. We can allocate our funding to secretaries who need the hours.
* Questions:
  + VP DeNeve: why are we removing Judicial affairs?
  + Senator Myers: they run into a lot of confidentiality issues, they speak to ISU and normal police, when the police are involved in a situation this sec cannot be a part of this because it is an on going investigation
  + Senator Holmes: I feel like the sec of Judicial affairs gave a lot of students the opportunity to have a say in the student conduct code and be the advocate
  + Motion to end questioning: Senator Fulton
  + Second: Senator Holmes
* **Bill 3:** 
  + All day event on September 11th, to help students with mental health awareness. 2,325 dollars from SGA, working with EMDH and ARH
* Questions:
  + Senator Blair: the snacks line item, is $750 enough for snacks for this event?
  + Senato Hofstetter: EMDH brought this into action so I can take it up with them
  + Senator Holmes: this takes money from general admissions line item, there is a mental health line item.
  + Senator Hofstetter: I left it there because I wasn’t sure what we would be doing with it.
  + Representative Bonilla: is the speaker better this year?
  + Senator Hofstetter: yes
  + Senator Holmes motion to move to action item
  + Second Senator Lummis

**Action Items**

**-**Bill 2:

- Senator Tasdan: We were sent the link for the bags, and said we can amend the amount, should we amend the money now or later?

- Senator Fulton: does this include shipping?

- Senator Roy: is there a line item this money is coming from?

- Senator Tasdan: Can we take it from general initiatives

- Senator Roy: amends the line item

- Senator Hofstetter: how many bags do we get?

- Senator Tasdan: it is 190 bags

- Senator Myers: this is awesome

- Senator Fulton: slay

Holmes motion to move to a vote

Second Senator Myers

Vote: unanimous pass

Amendment 4:

Motion to end debate: Senator Fulton.

Second: Senator Russell

Vote: unanimous yes

- Senator Fulton: next meeting you will see amendment 3, if you have any changes, please email Paige as soon as you can.

**Passing of the Gavel**

**Adjournment of the Meeting:**

**9 pm**