

STUDENT ASSOCIATION MEETING
State University of New York, College at Geneseo



Student Association meetings are Wednesdays at 6:15 pm in the College Union Hunt Room. All are welcome to attend.

MINUTES #15, Wednesday, December 1, 2010

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Executive Committee

President:	Doug Sinski
Vice-President:	Tom Sochia
Directors:	
Academic Affairs:	Meghan Pipe
Business Affairs:	Mark Petrie
Inter-Residence Affairs:	Mary Bock
Public Relations:	Jake Griffin
Student Affairs:	Will Labate
Student Programming:	Nick Spengler
Temporary Advisor:	Dr. Robert Bonfiglio

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Dir. of SA Programs,	
Personnel & Finances:	Kate Rebban
Administrative Assistant:	Nancy Chirico
Graphics Coordinator:	Kristen Fuest
Program Advisor:	VACANT
Service Manager:	Dianne Krenzer

57 53-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$825 from Budget Increases, Account 1099, to GOLD Account 1015 to fund Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Luncheon for January 17th, 2011.
First of Two Readings

57 ***Open Discussion***

57 ***Adjournment***

Call to Order: 6:15 P.M.

Approval of the Agenda:

53-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$825 from Budget Increases, Account 1099, to GOLD Account 1015 to fund Martin Luther King Jr. Day of service luncheon for January 17th, 2011.

First of Two Readings

Passes 7-0-0

Approval of the Minutes:

Passes 7-0-0

Updates

President, Doug Sinski updates: A lot of protesting went on last week about the cuts. The protests in front of Erwin were not that productive, it's better to go to Albany to appropriately express how you feel, so talk to Will if you are interested. Next week there will be an "ugly sweater" meeting to celebrate the ugly holiday sweater, and the opening of the Goodwill store. Also this is the second to last meeting of the semester so if you need any money from us, oops, this is the last week. Also, Hanukkah is going on right now, so Shabbat Shalom. If you need me this weekend I will be at the hockey game. My important update is that next semester meetings will be at 6:30 P.M., not 6:15 P.M.

Vice-President, Tom Sochia updates: This week we are going through stipend reviews, which so far have been great. On Thursday, tomorrow, Student Senator Caucus has invited Provost Long to talk about the change from a 5 course 4 credit curriculum to a 4 course 4 credit one. We will be sending out a survey to the student body so that there's a more accurate representation of what they want at the Student Affairs Committee. Also I met with President Dahl with Will.

Director of Business Affairs, Mark Petrie updates: No new updates.

Director of Inter-Residence Affairs, Mary Bock updates: This week I met and talked with Dr. Bonfiglio. For IRC, Coffee Talk is next Thursday, December 9th upstairs in Starbucks after Mics and Mocha.

Director of Public Relations, Jake Griffin updates: Cheerleading come see me after the meeting.

Director of Academic Affairs, Meghan Pipe updates: Last night we had our AAC meeting, which is the second to last for this semester. Next week we have 1 order of business for our last meeting. We have a holiday representative retreat, so anyone from an AAC club is invited. We will be filling out holiday cards for soldiers and sending them out. If you want to get involved then talk to me after the meeting and stop by on Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. in the Hunt room.

Director of Student Affairs, Will Labate updates: Like Tom said, he and I met with President Dahl and we talked about issues with the budget. We are doing a big budget advocacy campaign next semester. On March 1st we will be taking a bus trip to Albany to tell legislators that what they're doing to the SUNY system is wrong. This is when we should express our feelings about the cuts and that they should give us back our money, so keep that date in your calendar as SA will be sponsoring the bus trip. Speaking of advocacy, last week we got a total of 2100 signed letters by students which are going out to legislators. Also, Japan Knight is coming up so buy tickets in the Union Lobby.

Director of Student Programming, Nick Spengler updates: Tomorrow night at 7:00 P.M. in the Ballroom will be "Faces of War" presented by AC, so stop by to see what they have to say. Mary, have you ever seen "Dinner for Shmucks"? Oh I've got the cure for that! After Japan Night it'll be presented by KINO.

Kate Rebban, Director of SA Programs, Personnel, & Finances updates: No new updates.

Dr. Robert Bonfiglio, SA Executive Committee Temporary Advisor updates: Not present.

Open Updates

Tyler: To go off of what Tom said, the Student Affairs Committee and the Senate will be holding focus groups at the beginning of next semester. These focus groups will discuss with the student body the changes and consequences to come, and we will have a report ready by March for the entire Senate and student body.

Malcolm: Brief comment on Will's update just so everyone knows the March 1st date is tentative for SUNY-Palooza.

Kate: There are only 2 more check rounds of the semester, so if you need checks out get them out by December 15th.

Claire: There was a survey that went out today about the Program Advisor position which is beneficial to me, the SA, and to you guys. It is a way to know if I'm doing a good job and if you need anything else from me.

GAGG: Running GAGG is the first full weekend of the next semester. It's \$5 for student to get in and its 3 days of just perpetual gaming.

Old Business

44-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$500 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to SA-Programs, Account 1002 in order to pay for next semester's budget advocacy efforts.

Second of Two Readings

Will: Especially in lieu of the program cuts, this is even more urgent. We are asking for \$500 for costs to develop 2 poster campaigns for next semester. We need to publicize numbers to call to express feelings to legislators, and the other campaign is to advertise for the bus trip to Albany. Last year it was dismally attended and I feel that the more that the students know about it, the more likely the chance that they would want to attend. It's critical that more students hear about the trip.

44-1011: *Second of Two Readings*, Passes 6-0-1.

New Business

46-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the Fundraising Request by Womyn's Action Coalition, Account 1903 to collect food items that will be donated to Chances and Changes.

First and Only Reading

I'm Lizzie, from WAC. This program sounds familiar because GEO did it last year. This year WAC is working with GEO. We have it approved by Chip Matthews. We will be in the Union from 11:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. on Monday, December 6th –Friday, December 10th, collecting food items. We are not collecting any funds, just food and we are donating it all to Chances and Changes.

Tom: For fundraisers that don't require budgetary things, we don't need to do a reading. In the future just turn it in and we'll sign it.

46-1011: *First and Only Reading*, Passes 7-0-0.

47-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate \$30,000 from Reserves, Account 4000 to SA-Programs-*Study Abroad Scholarships*, Account 1002 in which \$5,000 will be used towards scholarships and \$25,000 will be put towards an endowment.

First of Two Readings

I'm Patty Hamilton Rodgers. The reason why I'm here is because we have a wonderful opportunity that we haven't had in 24 years. This opportunity to come up is a new partnership between the SA and Study Abroad. Last spring an endowment for the SA merit scholarship was made. I sat down and talked to the SA Exec Board about what direction we want to go in and we decided on Study Abroad scholarships. We'd like to have as many students as possible to have that opportunity. Finances are sometimes problematic. Currently we have \$2,000 in scholarships. This allocation would take \$30,000 and break it up and give \$5000 immediately towards Study Abroad. Then \$25,000 would go into endowment so that in 5 years we can continue this fund. I spoke to the Study Abroad office and they said that this would help a lot.

Will says that this would be an excellent way to use student's money. This scholarship would be a great thing for the college and for the SA.

Doug says when Patty first approached me we initially thought of the Study Abroad scholarship. This is because the SA wants to provide for the students, and this provides a really good benefit to them. When it's fully endowed it funds itself to eternity, and everyone wants to study abroad so this is a great opportunity to promote the SA and what we're out to do for you guys.

47-1011: *First of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

48-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the Resolution on budget cuts by the State of New York.

First and Only Reading

Will: One of the cool things that the SA can do is put out resolutions in addition all the other things we pass. If you go to a page on your agenda it contains a resolution on the budget cuts. Obviously this has affected us a lot and as an SA we give students a voice and by putting out this resolution we stand together by saying what we want. Again, basically it says how we've cut these 3 departments. The reason for these cuts is that the state has cut our budget so many times and we are not able to function properly as a powerful higher education system. Listed below 1-5 are the proposals that we want the state to adopt. The first is to stop cuts. The second is restoration of all the money to SUNY that was taken so that in the future we can open faculty lines that closed. In the past they have raised the tuition to take the money to fill state coffers, and this tells them not to do that anymore. It also says that for any increase in the future it will have to be rationalized. In addition to this, the passage of legislation must be keeping same state effort as before, and there should be an installation of a suspension of bungee-aid. The state gives about 24 million to the budgets of private schools. The rest of this resolution outlines how Geneseo is one of the best public liberal arts schools in the country and how these cuts are going to stop NYS from having that distinction.

Malcolm says although I am most certainly supportive of what the resolution says I have to confess some surprise. Decisions are made by those who show up and it's hard to have your voice heard if you don't show up. 2 of these people mentioned in the resolution were at the Binghamton SUNY fall conference, where this exec committee had sent no representatives. We could have had a voice before these program cuts were in place, but it was not a priority for anyone here that Geneseo was represented.

Justin says this is a very effective tool with which we can help legislators understand. We used this in the past and I think it will help a lot for this situation.

Tom says I want to commend Will because the resolution is very well written.

Will says since it's not a monetary concession we can all vote on it, including Doug.

48-1011: *First and Only Reading*, Passes 8-0-0.

49-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the changes to the Alliance for Community Enrichment Constitution and By-Laws.

First of Two Readings

Will: We're changing 2 things about ACE. We're throwing out all rituals of order because at ACE it's more informal. It's a discussion based group and we don't use rituals of order, which works more effectively for us. We formally added Slavic Club and SEAA to ACE, so we are adding them to our list of members. GCCC is also to become a nonvoting member of ACE, as they are a non SA funded group. They won't have voting rights so they can't allocate money from ACE. They can only collaborate with other groups on projects that are only SA funded groups.

Tyler asks do all non SA funded groups, when they ask for membership into ACE, become nonvoting members? Or is that subject to discretion?

Will says I know other groups have asked to be but the way the constitution is laid out is that only SA funded groups are allowed to vote. Section 3 subsection A voting of the constitution, only ACE representatives who are part of SA funded organizations are allowed to vote. That was changed as well so that if you want to vote you have to be SA funded.

Tom asks does this mean now that for example, if Pride wanted to get funding for an event they can collaborate with GCCC and then be allowed to get funding?

Will says you're asking for a specific event. The whole purpose of that clause is so that groups that want to use ACE money collaborate for that money.

Active Minds asks how do you become a part of ACE?

Will says you'd have to submit a rationale of how your group matches with the ACE mission and how they could contribute to ACE. You'd do that before business, before an ACE meeting. Then it would go through a 2 week reading process. We'd ask you to come in, then we vote 2 times on it, and then you have to be amended to the constitution to make you an official part.

Kate says it's my experience that for past constitutions, during the next semester there will be a new person in charge, and Robert's Rules will end up coming back in. Is there really a reason to remove it? It's a good way to run a meeting if there is a new person there.

Will says we have not run any meetings with Robert's Rules. I've been to meetings in the past, and it's always more of a forum discussion. Since it hasn't been used, we are technically in violation of our constitution. In order for us to stop being in violation, we need to remove it. If we suspend it at every meeting, why should it be there in the first place?

Kate suggests could you approve some form of Robert's Rules and keep it just so that it's there, and you can always easily suspend it?

Doug says I'd like to see copies of all your minutes that say that you suspend Robert's Rules.

Will says I'm amenable to an amendment that has some adopted form of rules of order.

Doug says come back to us next week with something, we'll figure it out.

49-1011: *First of Two Readings*, Passes 6-0-1.

50-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the changes to the USAEC Guidelines; Non-Substantial Changes.

First of Two Readings

First I will give the reasoning as to why I divided the changes into 3 separate readings. It's because there are a lot of them. This reading is on non-substantial changes, they are all typos or clarifications. For example on the third to last page, article 1 section B the guidelines state the USAEC can have no less than 5 members on the committee. However the SA constitution says 3 so for the sake of continuity and to have a committee at the beginning of every year we want to change it to 3 as well. Article 1 to section D we want to change to "right" rather than "ability". Article 3 section B 2 to no force. Article 8 section C changing we declare elections to start not only during the voting process, but at the very beginning once paperwork is in. Article 11 section b, this is simply a pet peeve of mine, some people who study abroad do not know that Geneseo is in EST. We changed it to EST because it's easier to look up on the internet and to make things easier so they don't get kicked out for not knowing the time zone.

Will says being the last person who went abroad I know what EST is, just want to clarify.

50-1011: *First of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

51-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the changes to the USAEC Guidelines; Substantial Changes.

First of Two Readings

We went over this throughout the semester and all of these changes were made with all present members of the committee, 4-5 members usually. Article 9 section E subsection 1, adding another subsection about list serves. We have had problems by using non-moderated or student run list serves. Certain candidates are approved while others are not and it makes an imbalance of exposure. Last

year a friend of mine put a message on her sorority's list serve regarding my candidacy, and it made a big issue with the current chair of the ACC at the time. We would like to clarify that in saying you're not allowed to use non-moderated sites. Article 9 section E deals with Facebook. We can have 1 Facebook group for a campaign for each member and each party. This is to keep complaints over solicitation from coming in. Article 9 section E subsection 4 we want to make another subsection just to clarify that you're allowed to have one for your individual candidacy so that you don't vote for an entire party as a whole. Article 6 section A, this is non-substantial, candidates running for freshman place are not required to meet the GPA requirements because they don't have GPAs registered with the college.

Malcolm asks alteration to article 9 section E sub-section 4 where it says and 1 party is allowed to create 1 Facebook group, is it supposed to say each party?

Tyler says I'll amend that.

Meghan makes motion to amend reading.

Motion seconded.

Motion passes 7-0-0.

Malcolm asks with regard to the last change can transfer students 1st semester be included in the exemption?

Tyler says I'm going to refer that to Kate. We didn't think of that.

Kate says I don't think they do.

Will asks can I clarify? The alteration is for the class officer USAEC guidelines, so you would need to propose an additional change to the SA exec guidelines for transfer students because if there are 2 USAEC guidelines there needs to be another one for SA exec. So for next week could you add that in?

Tyler says yes.

Will says for the first alteration I know that there has been a lot of contemptuous election issues. To avoid that I think that this is really important, but the first one, since there is very little turnout for SA elections, for more turnout I think that it would be great if people could use as many list serves as possible. Would the USAEC be amenable to changing entire list serve clauses to that any list serve can be used but they must give equal opportunity to any candidate running for that position? I think it would be great to publicize the election and if the candidate doesn't allow another candidate to put their air on, it's that candidate's responsibility to use their own time.

Tyler says I believe that the committee should have the ability to make changes whether it's in this room or not. I'll bring it up to them this Friday. I would be amenable to changing that, but I have to refer to my committee.

Meghan says when I looked at this I split it up into 2 parts: one that I agreed with and one with which I had hesitancy. The second part, the need to not send messages on non election related Facebook groups. I wondered why there could only be 1 Facebook group for a campaign and 1 for a party. In the past voter turnout has been a really big problem and limiting the number of groups on the internet is a prohibitive measure as far as getting the word out.

Tyler says USAEC is of the belief that each candidate only needs one with their name on it. Then they can try to get as many people into that group as possible.

Doug says if I wanted to make 11 Facebook groups for my campaign, if I wanted to invite all 8 of my friends to them all, who's to say that I can't do that? It's prohibitively restrictive.

Tyler says it makes it easy for USAEC to monitor these groups. We want to make sure that people stay within the lines so to speak, I know that I wouldn't like to join 11 Facebook groups and try to monitor all of them all at once.

Mary says I think that Facebook is its own thing and if people want to have 15 groups with their names on them, they can. I don't think it's your position to tell them that they can't have as many groups as they want. If people join these groups then they are the ones who are opening themselves up to getting 15 messages a day from this one candidate. To me I see it as power for you to restrict people.

Tom says now with Facebook groups you don't invite people you are putting people in the group. I've been getting notifications for things that I've been added to without asking. For that reason I wouldn't be that opposed to having just one.

Will says I don't believe that as an institution we should be governing anything on Facebook at all, as it's a social platform. Why don't we say whatever happens on Facebook stays on Facebook. I don't think that it's constitutional; it goes against basic freedom of speech

Jake says what about you just suggest that you can create election groups but if you're going to use a group that you're simply a member of you can't use that group to endorse elections. You have to create your own election group and then use that.

Tyler says I would be amenable to that. I would like to go through my entire committee before making a decision.

Chris says in response to Will, I'd like to say that when you agree to run for a position and be a part of this process you are agreeing to abide by their guidelines. You are agreeing to what they're saying that you have to do, you're giving up those rights by your agreement to participate in the process and if you don't want to give up those rights then you shouldn't be a part of the process. Part of campaigning is the more you look like you have a large group, more likely people will jump on the bandwagon because they want their vote to matter. If you have a bunch of groups it will become a race to see who could make themselves look bigger.

Tyler says the reason why the guidelines are in place isn't for power but to keep things in order and to make things easier for candidates and the entire committee. It's very stressful for everyone involved for court proceedings and formal complaints.

Meghan says my main concern in both the subsections for 9 E is that this is prohibiting the word about elections to get out. Voter turnout is awful and it's consistently awful and by limiting these measures of marketing to so few outlets is bad for the whole campus. I think that there should be regulations about how people do these things. However it's important to keep in mind that if we're

prohibiting ways for candidates to get their names out there, it's bad. Everyone should be actively involved in what's going on. If the information is not readily available it will not be found.

Dom says I don't see any rationale or if it's ethical about prohibiting more than one Facebook group. I always see messages on how terrible the turnout is.

Mary says I think that the reason why there have been so many formal complaints is because people go through and look in the guidelines and look for things that others did wrong, so if you take this out, then it won't be a highly contentious thing.

Will says can we motion to strike these 2 with the pending approval of USAEC?

Doug says no.

Will says we should pass it this week and we can fail it next week.

Tom says just so we're clear I would like to see if it could say is allowed to make Facebook campaigns for their campaign and can also say something that if it's not an official campaign that you're not allowed to send mass messages, so that there's that restriction but we're not riding on any rights to Facebook group-age.

Will says I just want to say that Facebook is an ever-changing thing. If people want to do an event, things change so it's hard to regulate that period, so let's regulate nothing. If USAEC could look at article 9 sub-section F about all forms of publicity not mentioned, that causes a lot of problems because it's up to the discretion of USAEC chair. This clause gives USAEC the ability to do whatever it wants when it comes to people's campaigning rights. Would you be willing to talk about section F with your committee?

Tyler says absolutely.

Mark says motion to call to question?

Motion seconded.

Motion passes 7-0-0.

51-1011: *First of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

52-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the changes to the USAEC Guidelines; Governance Changes.

First of Two Readings

This is not nearly as abrasive as substantial changes. These are regarding the way the committee governs itself specifically regarding referenda. There is a lot of authority that is left up to the chair. The referenda are important to the body and the SA and the majority rule is often the best way to go about things in order to cause the least problems possible. Article 3 we want to add section G USAEC decisions must be made by 2/3 majority of all committee members, they must all be there or there will be no vote. Article 3 section H, in event that it doesn't reach 20% referenda, the vote will be extended for another 2 days, and if necessary then further extensions will be made. In some cases in the past, referenda have not reach the voting requirement necessary for it to be valid. If voting volume requirement is not reached it will automatically fail. It is a common practice in the past to extend referenda for a few days to get proper representation of the entire student body. This ensures that the practice will be followed. Article 5 we want an addition of section E to further clarify it.

Mary asks in the first one if there a reason why you specify extensions?

Tyler says yes because pretty much every decision is to determine whether to extend. It's a specification to make sure that everyone knows that we are also including extensions

Mary asks all, doesn't that include all?

Tyler says yes.

Mary says I just don't want us to be narrowing down too specifically.

Tyler says I would like to have it say to strike including referenda extensions because all is pretty encompassing.

Mary makes a motion to do so.

Motion is seconded.

Motion passes 7-0-0.

Will asks Tyler could you get all changes to all 3 of the resolutions before Sunday? Could any changes be typed up by Sunday?

Tyler says yes

Malcolm says looking at the addition of section H to article 3 I am somewhat disturbed by the language of the second sentence would read as if say you've only got 18% of the student body after the extension you could extend it indefinitely, even until you've gotten the result you want on the referendum,

Tyler says we did not think of that when we thought about it so we will discuss it further

Will says to include another article or another subsection saying once volume requirements has been met it closes.

Doug says we'll talk about it.

Tyler says I have to discuss it with the committee first.

52-1011: *First of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

53-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$825 from Budget Increases, Account 1099, to GOLD Account 1015, to fund Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Luncheon for January 17th, 2011.

First of Two Readings

There will be a keynote speaker in the morning about MLK and his teachings and how they relate to leadership and service, and then GOLD workshops which are relevant to said thing, then followed by lunch. Then there will be a service opportunity in which we will probably do something such as preparing first aid kits for the economically disadvantaged. We will also be including senior citizens and other community members in this service. I encourage you all to RSVP to that if you haven't already. We are capping it at 100 in order to put a number on the catering. Catering is looking to be \$8.25 a person for sandwiches of various kinds, salad and a drink.

53-1011: *First of Two Readings*, Passes 6-0-0.

Open Discussion

None.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lena Freed
Recording Secretary