

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



Student Association meetings are Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the College Union Hunt Room. All are welcome to attend.

**MINUTES #24, Wednesday, March 2, 2011**

<i>Executive Committee</i>	
President:	Doug Sinski
Vice-President:	Tom Sochia
<b>Directors:</b>	
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
<i>PROFESSIONAL STAFF</i>	
Dir. of SA Programs,	
Personnel & Finances:	Kate Rebban
Administrative Assistant:	Nancy Chirico
Graphics Coordinator:	Kristen Fuest
Program Advisor:	Claire Wright
Service Manager:	Dianne Krenzer

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93	90-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$983.07 from SA Programs-Student Conferences, Account 1002 to Womyn's Action Coalition, Account 1903 to attend the National Young Feminist Leadership Conference at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. from March 11 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> . <i>Second of Two Readings</i>
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First of Two Readings
- 93 94-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$5,000 from SA Reserves to Budget Increases, Account 1099 to replenish funds.  
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- 93-94 95-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$2,105 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to SA Programs, Account 1002 to create a new program-*The Gentlemen Practice Tour featuring Buddy Wakefield* on April 28<sup>th</sup>.  
*First of Two Readings*
- 94-101 ***Open Discussion***
- 101 ***Adjournment***

**Call to Order:** 6:31 P.M.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

95-1011 to the front of new business due to the person who is presenting has a class that he needs to attend.  
94-1011: right before 95 because we won't have any money to allocate if we don't.  
Passes 7-0-0.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Passes 7-0-0.

**Updates**

**President, Doug Sinski updates:** : The bus trip was fantastic. Our message to Albany was to cut funding aid because that's state appropriations going to private institutions. If the state will cut us again then please raise our tuition to cover the gaps. If your parents ever ask you what's going on, you tell them that you're trying to do something about that because we're not apathetic.

**Vice-President, Tom Sochia updates:** Club Sports will be getting an email soon so watch out for that. In the senate Provost Long wanted to hear student input on the opening days, like your first weekend as a freshman and the summer reading and the things that could improve. We want more students going to those and participating more. If you have any comments email me savp@geneseo.edu. We passed something regarding new policy and probation periods and withdrawing from classes. It'll be officially in the Dean's office. Dr. Dahl said that it was the best organized trip in the 16 years since he has been here.

**Director of Business Affairs, Mark Petrie updates:** The only group that hasn't signed up for budget review is LSA so if you could do that that'd be great.

**Director of Inter-Residence Affairs, Mary Bock updates:** Congrats to Will for planning a super successful bus trip yesterday it was wonderful. We talked to lots of senators and got our points across a little bit at least.

**Director of Public Relations, Jake Griffin updates:** Next week is the referendum March 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. You're all on the Facebook group, thanks for inviting your friends. I'm pretty sure everyone knows how serious it is to vote yes for the fees.

**Director of Academic Affairs, Meghan Pipe updates:** We did not have a meeting last night because we were mostly on the bus trip to Albany. Thanks to the 76 students that did attend. It was an interesting experience and by sheer numbers we definitely made an impact. Advocacy didn't stop yesterday: stay active and aware.

**Director of Student Affairs, Will Labate updates:** Like Tom, Mary and Meg said the bus trip went really well. We got to meet with about 40 different legislators yesterday and we really got our point across and we were well received by almost all of them. Thank you all for coming. Thank you for representing your school and the SUNY system..

**Director of Student Programming, Nick Spengler updates:** I have a fantastic event coming up this Friday night. I myself will refrain from telling you about it because the legend himself who planned it will announce it.

**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**

James Clark: KINO is now giving away Ke\$ha tickets. There will be 2 pairs of tickets given away at the Harry Potter event this Friday. The event starts at 7 P.M., doors open at 6:30 P.M. We will give away tickets to make sure that we don't have more people than we have seats. Make sure you get there early.

Doug: Also several professors from Hogwarts will be there, notably Provost Carol Long and maybe some others.

James: Possibly headmaster Dr. Dahl himself. He might be dressed as a muggle.

Doug: Over my dead body.

### Old Business

62-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the new Stipend format that will take effect during the 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years.

*Second of Two Readings*

Tom says this is the 3rd time you are hearing about this. The only changes in stipends are seasonal positions which are AC. Through stipend reviews we talked to AC people about it and they were all for the change.

62-1011: *Second of Two Readings*, Passes 6-0-1.

87-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$715.45 from SA Programs, Account 1002 to Geneseo Model U.N., Account 1914 to attend the Five Colleges Model United Nations at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts from April 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>.

*Second of Two Readings*

Justin says nothing has changed from last week. We would like the \$715.45 so we can lower the financial burden on the delegates that want to attend. We have been attending for 4 years and we made it as cheap as we possibly can.

87-1011: *Second of Two Readings*, Passes 6-0-1.

88-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$1,018 from Permanent Equipment, Account 2000 to Geneseo Crew Club, Account 1402 to purchase two cox-boxes.

*Second of Two Readings*

Same as last week we just need cox-boxes so we can hear the coxswains.

88-1011: *Second of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

89-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$211.50 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Geneseo Crew Club, Account 1402 to pay for microphones and shipping for the cox-boxes.

*Second of Two Readings*

We need them too.

89-1011: *Second of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

90-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$983.07 from SA Programs-Student Conferences, Account 1002 to Womyn's Action Coalition, Account 1903 to attend the National Young Feminist Leadership Conference at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. from March 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.

*Second of Two Readings*

WAC says same as last week we're going to be attending the conference during spring break. We are leaving Friday and coming back Monday.

Doug asks would you be able to make a presentation during Open Discussion about what you learned?

WAC says yes.

Mary says just see me afterwards we'll work something out.

90-1011: *Second of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

### New Business

94-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$5,000 from SA Reserves to Budget Increases, Account 1099 to replenish funds.

*First of Two Readings*

Mark says this account is nearly depleted so I want to put \$5000 in it so you can put on your wonderful programs.

Doug says this is a perfect example that we need to increase our mandatory fee because we are using our Reserves right now.

Mary says congrats to all you guys for spending the money and using your fees to further your college experience.

Doug says I think it's definitely an indication of the growing connection between SA exec and the funded organizations that everyone feels comfortable coming together and using the money to better their experience at wonderful liberal SUNY Geneseo.

94-1011: *First of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

95-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$2,105 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to SA Programs, Account 1002 to create a new program-*The Gentlemen Practice Tour featuring Buddy Wakefield* on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

*First of Two Readings*

Mike Roff says you can look over the rationale and the pricing. Buddy Wakefield and the Gentleman Practice tour in Sturges auditorium April 28<sup>th</sup>. Buddy Wakefield is a 3 time individual world champion slam poet. I'm going to have a clip and show you a bit of what that is. He is internationally acclaimed. He has been all over the world and he has toured with a lot of very big name slam poets. What makes it most important to have him here this semester? This is his last tour before a definite hiatus. His performance is incredibly funny for people who haven't seen him during his revival tours (during the past 2 years). I am going to play for you his

somber poetry and then talk about student interest in this program. He essentially is a poet that talks about self acceptance and being the best that you can be. Before this he was a one of the head business executives at a bio technics firm. He wasn't happy with his life so he started touring the country. He is someone who followed his dreams and made it. I think it's an important voice for Geneseo students to hear. The Facebook group already has 185 attendees without any other advertising. One person says "I would love to get more alternative artists who aren't into Ke\$ha". Another person says "I don't have the words to express how I felt about seeing him at a tour last year". "If he doesn't come back to Geneseo I will spend a week crying myself to sleep". We think this event is something that is possible to be a huge hit. I'm the PR share for Sig Tau and I have done a lot of advertising for lots of events. This event already has some momentum behind it because it has been successful before. I think that we have a good stand for this event and we have a good turnout already and that's without even having it be promoted. As far as promotion goes, we are going through GLK for promotion and tech, they will help us out.

Will says I want to say that it sounds like bringing him to campus would be absolutely amazing. SA doesn't just fund Ke\$ha: it funds so many different things on campus. Bringing someone like him will have a wide appeal and would be very interesting. We don't want to make that person cry themselves to sleep.

Doug says I will cry myself to sleep if the referendum doesn't pass.

Nick says it's a lot of money but it's great to see the amount of work that you put into this. You went through everything already; you brought it to us very well prepared.

Tom says I also wanted to say that it's really great that you got him for so cheap it seems. That's great news so we're not even spending as much as we should be.

95-1011: *First of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

91-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the fundraising request by Slavic Club, Account 1915 to raise up to \$150 for Chances for Changes.

*First and Only Reading*

Slavic Club says 8<sup>th</sup> of March is international Women's Day in Eastern Southern Europe. We want to celebrate it. We are collaborating with WAC about this. We are asking for money to sell flowers to raise money for Chances in Changes.

Mary asks are you asking for money? Or just requesting that you can earn this?

Will says point of clarification: the money has already been allocated by ACE this morning so this is just the approval for fundraising to purchase flowers.

96-1011: *First and Only Reading*, Passes 7-0-0

92-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$150 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to fund a start-up budget for the Sports Medicine Club.

*First of Two Readings*

Dan says Sports Med Club just got started, we just had a meeting last week. We had a whole bunch of warm up exercises. We just need simple items like tape and bandages like it says, and need a little money to get started.

Will asks what do you do at your club?

Dan says sports injuries related things. There's a room on the way to the gym with stuff that helps to treating injuries.

Kate asks are you working with the Athletic Department?

Dan says not really it's mainly to educate ourselves. We can go down and help and we can learn but right now we are just a separate club.

Kate asks if someone is interested they go to where they are supposed to?

Dan says if we go down there we are not employees we are just learning how to do it.

97-1011: *First of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

93-1011: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$953.11 from SA Programs, Account 1002 to Japanese Culture Club, Account 1901 to attend the Sakura Matsuri Conference in Washington, D.C. from April 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>.

*First of Two Readings*

Sarah says we are requesting funds to go to D.C. for the festival which is April 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. It's a giant festival, one of the largest exhibitions of Japanese culture. There are tons of products, music, dance and food. We have attended for the past 4 years and this will be our 5th. We volunteer there. We've done stuff such as run the day care center. We could be taking surveys or tickets this year.

Basically it's very beneficial because it's one of the largest cultural exhibits where we can help out and be a part of, it's a great way to network and interconnect with other clubs.

Mary asks so there's no regular charge?

Sarah says no since we're volunteering.

Mary says you guys should see if you can put it in your budget for next year if you haven't already had your budget hearing.

93-1011: *First of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

### Open Discussion

Rob says I'm the USAEC Chair. Ground rules are: 5 minute speeches with 3 minutes for questions and answers. If there are more questions you can make a motion to extend that period of time up to 7 minutes. Anyone can make a motion.

Tyler Ocon (through Skype): I'm running for SA Vice President. First of all I'd like to thank Lena for letting me take over the laptop for this. Next year I want to bring in the best academic year for budget advocacy. I want to extend recruitment by bringing other SUNY schools into it. I want to bring more students into the Senate and give them more representation. I want to make students feel welcome in the Hunt Room at 6:30 and have them involved in which direction SA should take. I want to tackle the procedures for daily business, make it less of a hassle for receiving funding or whatnot. We're here for the students so we want to have direct action. On top of that I want to tackle the task of opening a log with all students regarding the possibility of having club representatives make decisions. We would consider restructuring. We want to make sure that students in clubs representation stays the same but it's also about having fun. It's important to make sure that SA can provide for them, and I would do everything that I can to make sure that SA is all about the students.

Tom says since you've been gone the Senate has created this all-faculty senate separation from the actual senate. Do you feel like you should try and get the student senators to work with this?

Tyler says I definitely feel that the faculty should be discussing with the students. We need to make sure that they get an awesome education; I feel that it's vital to make sure that the students have a big voice in the college.

Justin Shapiro: I'm running for Director of Academic Affairs. On campus I currently serve as treasurer of MUN, and am director of projector affairs and squash affairs (not real) and treasurer of AAC. I served on it for one full academic year so I believe that I have a good idea of how the standing committee works. I have some ideas of what I'd like to improve and what I want to change. In terms of programming I want a life rep debate: I heard it on a liberal elitist podcast it's an idea where representatives from every academic department come to the ballroom and speak about the skills you learn from each department. Real world practicality, I think that's a cool idea. It would be my job to forge strong relationships between the academic departments and the students themselves. In terms of SA for all those of you who are in IRC the Student Association has a motto which is "Not for Ourselves Alone". I think it's important for every candidate to remember that they are not working for a placard, they aren't working to put their Audrey Hepburn poster in the office. They are working for the student body. I am the person that can represent you best for AAC and SA. I'm not pretentious, I'm just running and hopefully you'll vote for me.

Tom says I know that for the past couple of years you have been really advocating the budget

Justin says yes I love lobbying, I love working on that. I think it's important for students who are interested to remain involved and it's important to extend that involvement to the rest of the student body. There should be a greater amount of involvement, not just people who have to go to SA. I'd like to extend anti-apathy policies.

Meghan says one difficulty that I found is engaging clubs to come together under AAC since everyone has their own club. To come into a group setting gets a little difficult, so do you have any ideas?

Justin says I'm sorry if this sounds somewhat rehearsed. It would start during the summer. AAC is the representative body of the academic departments and I think that AAC will begin to forge a greater connection over the summer meaning publicity, which is kind of a catch-all phrase. Assuming students know about it by using any social media I can use. Hopefully it'll go to the club levels who will want to take part. An important point is this isn't the reps jobs, just AAC job. I think it's an important job for AAC people to forge greater connections with clubs to attend meetings, making minutes more accessible.

Malcolm says given your comments on importance of representation and your admirable involvement in such things as statewide budget advocacy trips, don't you feel it's important for students to be represented in statewide student government?

Justin says that's a loaded question. I do feel like it's important to be brief.

Lindsay Hebell: I'm running for Director of Public Relations. I'll start out with a question: how many of you are members of the Student Association? In theory all of you should have raised your hands. As full time students that pay our fee we are all members. The fact that not all of you raised your hands and that I've talked to a lot of people on campus that don't know is a reason why I'm running. I want to increase PR of Student Association. I want to become SA's social media guru. We don't have a Facebook SA page, that's the first thing I want to change. Not only to benefit the current students to have a link between them and the exec board, but it's a way for students to tell us how we are doing. Another aspect I'd like to expand upon is the blog. A lot of people don't even know that it exists. It's a way for me to expand upon thing on the Facebook group with things that you wouldn't normally be able to do. I have experience in making a blog. Last semester in my PR class I created a blog for the Lauderdale Health and Counseling Center which went well. I'm a communications student and I plan on doing PR as a career so I'm really passionate about it. I'm currently the SRA of Ontario so I'm also really involved in res-life. I'm also on the AC board as one of the Limelight/Accents coordinators so I have ability from advertising and planning events. I have a solid 4 semesters of experience on AC which has helped me to develop my leadership skills. I'm dedicated and even though I'm unopposed I would be honored to get your vote.

Will asks if you are going to be blogging and Facebooking, can the SA tweet too?

Lindsay says someone asked me that earlier and I would have to be honest and say that I don't have a lot of experience with Twitter but I can expand upon it.

Mary asks you said a lot about getting a blog going, how would you go about promoting that?

Lindsay says currently it's at the bottom of our webpage. I'd try to position it so that when you're on the webpage it would be easy to find. I would do a social media mix and pull in Facebook with it, mention on Facebook updates that the blog is new and to please check it out.

Malcolm asks do you feel that it is important for Geneseo to be represented in statewide student government?

Lindsay says definitely. I'm open to working on all aspects of PR for SA. If you felt that that was lacking, part of the SA exec board's job is to listen to the students and what they want to be seeing on campus next year.

Carly Annable: I'm running for Director of Inter-Residence Affairs. I've been a part of IRC for 2 years. I'm on the exec board. After spending years being a part of them and talking to Mary Bock extensively I believe that not only am I qualified but this is what I want next year. IRC provides a valuable service to the on-campus community. Residence halls wouldn't be able to put on as many or as high quality programs as they do without our funding. I want to take a larger leadership role as a whole.

Mary asks you mentioned about leading IRC but what about sitting on this exec board and being a part of the decisions? And balancing what's best for your club with what's the best for the general student population.

Carly says in my time at Geneseo I've been involved in a wide range of organizations. I'm vice president of the sophomore class, I am on exec board for Alpha Phi Omega as well The Lamron. I have a good idea of what the average student wants out of their SA. I also feel that I'm a very approachable and open person so I encourage people to talk to me if they have any feelings in general.

Malcolm asks the position that you're running for is one of 4 statutory student seats on the board of directors; what are your thoughts on that position?

Carly says personally I've taken an interest on CAS Board of Director's because I think that it's important to have a stake in what I'm eating. All I can say is that I feel that in IRC I'm going to make an effort to bring more of what I'm being told and what we're talking about back to IRC assembly and bringing that to SA exec. I can understand why we previously have not attended student statewide government and I think that maybe in the future we will.

Jake asks I know both of those jobs take up a lot of time will you have enough time?

Carly says I have been thinking about this even before I considered running. I have experienced being overwhelmed, I applied to be an RA so I'll find out about that, but I'm not taking on anything else. IRC is my focus for next year and I will weigh the pros and cons and see how I feel about it once I find out if I got a position.

Heather Bristol I'm running for Director of Student Programming. It's also the chair of AC, of which I'm currently a member. I'm the Contemporary Forum coordinator. I make a lecture series on campus to the students and the community at large. My main goal (one of a few) is to help the members of AC as well as the organizations on campus in general, to help them be more aware of the resources that are available to them through collaboration with each other. I haven't had the chance to work with SEAA yet which is a part of ACE as well as Gold, and one of the members is an RA who told me about Eric Libely who I'm interested in bringing here. That's an example of the collaboration between IRC, AC and Pride. I feel that I have a good understanding of the coordination that can happen between committees and I will make people be more aware of these sorts of opportunities. That enables other groups on campus to bring better performers, better speakers, to put on programs that will guarantee a better turnout. Also I will help get SA's name out there more so more students know about SA. Also I feel that the different standing committees need to be brought to the forefront more because all of the organizations matter and they can work together to bring greater programs to campus. On the SA webpage there are not links to the standing committees, and I think that's an example of the lack of connection between committees with each other and with the SA.

Nick says AC consists of many different programmers. One programmer putting on his event couldn't succeed if others didn't come and help out. We've had problems in the past with the fact that other programmers don't help out or don't attend. How do you help to foster brotherhood here?

Heather says from the beginning I want to create a greater sense of friendship and oneness with the board so that it doesn't feel like an obligation to go to the event. They need to make sure that they know what it's like when others don't come. I want a collaborative event during the semester encouraging them all to attend each others, it will help them to realize how important it is. I want to encourage, from the beginning, part of the planning process what each board member feels would be beneficial for the different events.

Malcolm says my question.

Heather says yes.

B.J. Goehle: I'm running for Director of Student Programming. If you do end up voting for me it's going to say Bernard, that's my real name. When I first came on campus I got involved right away in hall council as vice president for the last 2 years. I was also on IRC as a voting rep. I also work at CAS over at RJ. I'm a student supervisor there which has given me the ability to lead people, to supervise, and to teach them how to do their jobs better. I was appointed vice chair by Nick Spengler at the beginning of the semester. I fell in love with the atmosphere that is AC. I fell in love with its mission, I believe in it wholeheartedly. Providing quality programs to everyone on campus is vital because we work for you guys. If I get elected I don't work for myself I work for you. If there is something you want to see on campus come talk to me. If there's a program that you want help with I would like to believe myself a very approachable person. Also I would control the class drawing funds. This is something that in discussions with Kate I was a little shocked about how it worked. When you come to me you ask me if I think that it's a good idea to give you money for something you want to do. I don't like that idea. I don't want to be the only voice saying that you can have this money. An idea I have been thinking of would be next year I'd want to get people from each class council together to discuss what money they want to pull before making a verdict. I'm not the judge or executioner: it's your guy's mandatory fees, not mine. Going back to AC, it's surprising when you're out there talking to students not involved in SA, and when you say you're on AC they don't know what you're talking about. Until you say you're the people that put on the concert, people are like "oh yeah". They don't know what else we do. They don't know about the great KINO movies. They don't know about special events such as Siblings Weekend or the Lipsync. They don't know about Limelight or the great events that are put on each year. We do great things and people should know about it. My first thing I would do is to work with Kristen who is the SA graphics person on reworking the website to make it more accessible to people. I want to try to create a forum where you guys can post ideas online that you want to see happen so that there's always constant communication between the AC board and the students. One of the other things, I'm a big fan of comedy. Comedy has been underrepresented in the

past few years, I would really push for bringing that back to campus, bringing more comedy acts here. I'm sure that there are other people who like to laugh. I have a ton more ideas and a lot of things that I really want to push forward but in 30 seconds I'll open it to questions. I'll answer the question I know I'll get from Malcolm. I get why we didn't send people to SUNY student assembly. It's a broken system in my opinion but it's a system that you can only fix by going there and voting so I would send people there with the hopes of fixing it so that it could be more effective for everyone.

Nick says Activities Commission functions as a group of programmers that have their own independent objectives. Each of the programs wouldn't be successful if the other people didn't show up to make sure that other people attended.

B.J. says AC like you said is a group of programmers who work by themselves but we all need to work together. We need to bond a little bit, at the beginning of the year we went on a retreat. I was a new person this year and I didn't know anyone on the board. That retreat really fostered a sense that I belonged, and that I was part of a community. It would start with retreats, it would have open communication between all the board members letting each other know that we are there for each other.

Logan Thompson: I'm running for Director of Business Affairs. This is a position that entails putting together things such as the agenda, making sure that we're not spending too much money or that we're keeping track of the money that we're spending, as well as conducting budget hearings. I'm an economics major so that's something I'm interested in going to. I've worked jobs that need such skills. I was a commissary manager which means that I had to make sure that our budget was balanced. I had a \$75,000 budget that I had to make sure was spent as it should be. Granted there is a much larger budget that SA is in charge of, but I have experience in keeping track of those sorts of things. I would also be in charge of the treasurer training, making sure all your treasurers know how your budgets work and how the paperwork works for budget increases, etc. I would work very hard as I am someone who is currently a treasurer. I understand how difficult it might be sometimes to figure out exactly how different funding works and I would work hard to make sure that all the treasurers and all the organizations know how your money can best be spent. I think it's important to send someone to the SUNY student government as B.J. said to try and fix the system.

Jake asks how is your schedule for next year looking?

Logan says as some people in this room know I used to spend copious amounts of time working for R.J., but I have basically withdrawn from that job. However my class schedule is worked out I won't be taking more than 15 credits if that next semester.

Will asks to increase transparency and to let students know about what SA does or will be doing, would you be willing to put a draft agenda on the door to the SA office so that anyone who enters knows what's going to be happening on a weekly basis?

Logan says that's a great question. I walked in today not knowing what would be happening. I think it's important to let everyone know what's going to be going on in meetings before they happen. So yes I would be interested in letting people know or sending out emails to other clubs (unless they don't all have an email address).

Brittany Wolf: I'm running for Director of Business Affairs. I'm a sophomore math major. I love working with numbers and policies regarding numbers and I pick up on them quickly. The biggest thing I'm involved in is IRC. I serve on the exec board as a National Communication Coordinator. My job is to be a liaison between Geneseo and college campuses across the northeast part of the United States, so I have experience in working with lots of people on an exec board because we always bounce ideas off each other. Holding treasurer training wouldn't be a hard task for me. From being on IRC this year and last year as a representative I understand just how important having this money available to all organizations across campus do so many great things is so vital. This all isn't possible unless you have treasurers who know what's going on. From being on IRC I have my own budget to work with so I've realigned money and asked for fundraising approval for all stuff that is passed through SA exec board. Being on my job this year I have learned many of the roles that the Director of Business Affairs needs to be aware of. This semester I was appointed to be on the budget review committee and we held discussions this weekend and will be next weekend. It gave me firsthand experience as to how to run these meetings and what things to look for. My approachability would certainly help. Financial policy can be really confusing as it's a lot of info and a lot of pages, for anyone it can be a hassle. Working with any new clubs, trying to start a new budget, if I can make this easier for you I want to do that. Coming up here in front of SA can be hard, and so I think that there's no reason why anyone on this campus should be held back from doing something or getting money. From being on IRC I hold office hours in the SA office so I'm familiar with the office and how it works. I have to work with Kate and Nancy. I think strong relationships with these 2 women are crucial, you need to make sure that all communication is going and there's nothing that is being left out. They know me I know them and I know we have good working relationships which would make the transition run much more smoothly. I love the atmosphere in the SA office. I love hearing about what's going on about what affects me and all of you guys. Ever since I've been getting involved I've known that I wanted to be on the SA exec committee. The past few years have built me up to being on this board. I talked to Mark about the roles and duties that come with this position and I feel like I have so much to contribute and it would be such a privilege to represent you all on this committee.

Doug asks how do you feel about vuvuzealas?

Brittany says it's a Bb I hear.

Mark asks do you think that it's important for SA to participate in SUNY wide student government?

Brittany says I do.

Malcolm says you talked about treasurer training in the fall. I'm a member of an organization that elects its officers at the end of the fall semester to take office shortly after the spring semester starts and another organization lost our treasurer early on. Given your comment about treasurer training I was wondering if you had any training for spring semester?

Brittany that's something to look into and to form, if it comes down to one and one working with then I am all for it. I wasn't even aware that some clubs do that. If anyone is elected or has to resign I would be more than willing to work with them.

Mike Cooke I'm running for SA president. I'm currently the president of my class and the IRC Program Coordinator. The first thing I want to talk about is representation the miscommunication concerning it. A lot of people will tell you that you're represented by these 8 people. In addition you're represented by the standing committees, their sub-committees and the senate. Some people want to create another committee to represent us; however I don't feel that that's necessary because articles 8-11 give you more power than any committee possibly could. If you'd like to ask me afterwards about this that would be fantastic. Representation on a larger scale, this year Geneseo did not attend the SUNY Student Senate for good reason: we don't agree with the way that its run. Its effectiveness is questionable but as president I would be willing to attend those as a voting delegate as that's the first step towards making the changes that we want to see. SUNY is facing huge budget cuts and is made up of 64 colleges with lots of students. There is power in the collective and if we're going to get the money that we need to continue we need to have a good relationship with those other schools. That being said I attended the Albany advocacy trip yesterday. To step away from that I am going to talk about something that hasn't been said a lot. If the change from the 5 to 4 course load takes place, I am in full support of it. It's good because it allows you to satisfy your grad requirements faster as well as exhibiting what a liberal education is about. We will be able to take a ton of classes and explore your interest. I'd like to work with the administration to create an exploratory learning program such as being able to take classes for 1 credit and focus is on getting real knowledge, expanding interest and helping people to make decisions about their major with no homework or tests. Additionally as Programming Coordinator I've had problems with advertising and attendance at events I've put on. One thing I think is that SA should invest in a new advertising platform. I'm a visual-base person, so we should work to replace the "Whats-Up" digest. I've seen a great form of this from RPI, I've seen the direction that I want to go in, and I think it would create more attendance for programs we are already putting on. My last bit is that I am the youngest candidate running for president. I will only be a junior next semester, and as much as some people might consider that to be a disadvantage, if I were elected, as a resident on campus, transition would be easy, and if elected a second time I could continue the work that we are doing.

Doug says you know president is a very dynamic role, it's up to each individual person to come into their own. How would you use your strengths to maximize your effectiveness?

Mike says as Program Coordinator I have a committee but I've taken on a lot of that roll on my own. I've had to work with a lot of different people to get things done and moving. As president I could foster good relationships with the administration and good communication within the board, I think that I would do everything I could to make sure that we had our most effective year.

Christina says you mentioned the desire to form the 4 credit class system. You have these ideas but how will you implement them? Who would you talk to about this?

Mike says I would start with Dr. Bonfiglio because as of now I've never really had to work with administration before and he is the only person I've ever met in person. I think that that's something that should be a focus of the administration because we are a liberal arts college and there is a tradition here that we want to uphold and continue. The transition into the 4 course is not something that is going to stop and the way that we go about it is very important.

Pride says as far as exploratory classes, how do you think that that fits in with what SA stands for and their priorities?

Mike says the thing is that every person who attends this school full time is a part of the SA. In my opinion the main role of the president and the SA is to advocate for the students. There is no issue that is too large or too small that we shouldn't throw out opinions to.

Meghan says in addition to the many roles you'd take on as president, you are the leader of your 7 board members. How would you facilitate that relationship where we all have our very different roles?

Mike says well I don't personally know everyone that's running for next year, but it think that I've gotten to meet everyone and we all seem like wonderful people. I think that there are some roles that I don't understand every aspect of that position but obviously I would have to. I think that good communication throughout the board is going to be very important, especially as I would take on the role to facilitate any ideas that any of the board wanted to see happen, or anything that their committees have come up with.

Justin asks would you consider reintroducing the SA motto?

Mike says yes I think it's really cool and Chip used the same slogan for the leadership symposium. It's something that everyone should know.

Doug makes a motion to create more time for questions.

Lindsay asks as IRC Programming Chair this year what has been your most successful program and what have you done?

Mike says Rocky Horror is always the most successful program; it's something that a lot of people know about before they get here. This year I planned for a larger number of people than usual, and they did come. I think that everything could be advertised more effectively. There are some things that I put on that were not as well attended as I would have liked. Coffee Talk is always good because people's friends come but I want to see more of the average student.

James asks what do you see as more important for programming: quantity or the quality of the program?

Mike says both are very important. Every program costs something. I would not pay money to put on bad programs and I would not pay money to put on programs that are not successful. For example the Union now does Mics and Mocha every Thursday, which makes Coffee Talk unnecessary. I would no longer put on Coffee Talk: it's something that is already being done. I think that we have quality programs that are not being attended which are the main problem.

Malcolm asks what about your role on the CAS Board?

Mike says I don't think people understand that CAS controls everything from dining halls to vending machines to your laundry. I have walked into my laundry room to find that the washers are broken. I know Mark Scott and I think he is very good at what he does in advocating for us and getting things fixed when they should be. CAS is a relationship that is very important and a lot of students don't understand why. They affect a lot more than the dining halls.

Malcolm says if there are scheduling concerns with going to a SUNY Assembly conference there are students that want to go. Will you ensure that they are fiscally supported so that no one's mother has to starve for a week?

Mike says I think that is absolutely a loaded question. That being said, I believe it's important that our participation in SUNY Student Assembly is important. Conflict meaning if I was not able to go, I would appoint a member of the board to go in my place. I would support any student who wanted to go but that being said student fees are not my own to control so I think that there would have to be a discussion about it. However, I do believe that our attendance is important.

Nick Pesce I'm running for SA president. I am involved in Student Court and I am the President of the founding fathers of Alpha Kappa Psi. I've come here today realizing throughout these speeches that my ideas differ from the current executive board. I'm going to talk about bringing change. I'm going to talk about giving you guys the opportunity for you all to have a voice on campus. For a long time you guys came in here every week and you listen to everything that goes on: you can give your opinion, however you don't have the ability to say something and mean something because this select few is the few that votes on it. It would be similar to the Student Senate, not exactly that type, but I've done a lot of research while on the Court which I tried to put together in this binder. It's a compilation of the guidelines of the top SUNY schools as well as public and private institutions in the country. Representatives in the organizations can vote: that is something that I would like to bring to Geneseo because we've never had something like that. It would be shifting the power to you guys so that your time would mean something every week. Also, in terms of the different organizations, I want to bring them together. The best way to do that is through various forms of communication that Geneseo has to offer. It's important to show what's going on and to have collaboration between groups. At the end of the day it can make your events better with better turnouts. Right away I would make a huge effort to go to the different organizations to meet the people in your groups, to find out your goals and try my best to try and make them a reality. It's important that your voices are heard because your voice is just as important as anyone's up here. You should feel that way when you come to these meetings. In terms of the referendum I hope it passes, without it it's going to be very difficult to run things next year, and I do support the increase. If it does pass I would move to put a lot of that back into the Reserves to look out for the future, to make sure that we could sustain ourselves as best as we could. If the referendum didn't pass, I think it's important that we need to decide how the money is allocated and spent as a group. I want to change the atmosphere a little bit. I want people to know about SA, as soon as you get to school you're informed about what's going on. It is important for us to know what you think about everything. Not everything is set in cement, in terms of revising or just looking at the constitution I would want to set up a committee immediately and go around to the different organizations, talk to people off campus bring them into the argument, bring as many people in to the fold as we can, maximize involvement as much as we can. James asks if you want to have everyone here to vote, then what would be the purpose of SA exec?

Nick says the purpose of SA exec is serving as a guide, maintaining order, not just at these meetings but in general. Dealing with the day-to-day stuff. I don't know all the details yet, I have looked over other governing docs to get ideas, nothing I have been thinking of is perfect but I'd like to look into it more.

Meghan says in the face of all these changes, you would be inheriting a system that's already in place and you wouldn't be in charge of the new system until March. What would you do up until that point?

Nick says during the time before changing the constitution, I would be trying to change the atmosphere even by changing the layout of the room just so that everyone is looking at each other. I think that there's a disconnection between the ways that meetings are held, people don't seem that interested. Recently when I visited the IRC meeting I saw the enthusiasm of the people that night, they all wanted to have something to say and they were all bouncing ideas off of each other. A lot of things would have to stay the same in the beginning because people wouldn't be given the right to vote immediately, but I'd be pushing for the involvement of everyone, working towards making sure that the constitution composed would be the best.

Meghan says as president you would have all of your duties and then be in charge of the facilitation of things group of people. How would you go about facilitating that relationship?

Nick says that's something I feel very comfortable with. In my fraternity I've been president since it was started. It's my job to bring everyone together. We have 75 members currently and between exec officers we have 15-16 positions. I have to make sure that everyone's working together and communication is going on. I send out emails and text messages nonstop so that everyone is constantly up to date. In terms of discussing things with everyone else on the board, their opinions are just as important and valuable as what I have to say, so I want to make sure that everyone is heard and they can say what they want to say.

Doug makes a motion to extend time for questions.

Will says yesterday candidates for exec were on the bus trip talking to their legislators. It is currently one of the most important issues. Where were you, did you have a reason for not attending?

Nick says I had prior commitments with my fraternity. Pledging just began so I have to be here for that. There were also chapter meetings here which I had to attend. For school we were told specifically that we had to be here. I'm not belittling the bus trip and I don't think that it wasn't important. It's not that I don't believe in what's going on with the SUNY budget cuts, but I had to be here. Justin asks would you be in favor of reintroducing the SA motto?

Nick says yes I do. I had written in my speech that SA is an association of students, which is why I'm saying that you should all be able to have a concrete vote. As a member of this organization I believe that there is a good reason why that statement should come back.

Doug asks how many SA meeting have you been to this year?

Nick says I'm not keeping track.

Doug says to ballpark it.

Nick says 10.

Doug asks how many have you been to before this year?

Nick says more than that.

Christina says your fraternity has come up a lot during your speech as a way to develop your strengths. It's a reason why you didn't attend a very important bus trip. Would it impede your ability to be president of SA?

Nick says when we got started with it last year I told the school that I would make sure when I was finished being president or when I graduated that it would stand on its own two feet. Last year it was all about getting it here because the school wasn't too keen on another fraternity even though it's its own niche type thing. The whole thing about this year was that the people we are inducting in the frat are people that will continue it and next year's leaders will take over where we left off. Yesterday was the beginning of our pledging, we are not a part of the IGC and we don't start at the same time as Greek week. Since meeting all the rushes I've had to make sure they understand the way the frat runs, make sure that they get the values so if I had to step down they can keep the organization up and running once the next leaders have graduated as well. I'm dedicated to it this year, there's a good chance I won't be stepping down, but there are 3 possible people that might take my place. It's an immediate concern but it won't be by the end of the year because I have taken enough precautions.

Christina says you've been talking about giving the representatives tonight a vote. However it is true that the representatives here tonight do not represent the entire student body, but the organizations which they come from. How would you go about representing the entire student body?

Nick says that's been a thing that's a part of SA. A lot of people feel that the only people that come are the students that care to get involved. Now I am looking to bring in a lot of people that aren't necessarily involved by going to talk to them. I'm not going to go to meetings, but I'm going to hold forums in the ballroom where we try to bring as much of the actual campus to make sure that they're putting us as a group in the right direction. Essentially it's taking the votes from a few people but it's still not everyone. That's the idea I have written out but it's not the perfect model for it. It would need to be looked into. We must look into possible changes as SA has been this way for a very long time..

Nick Spengler I am running for SA president. Most of you recognize me as the AC Chair. The majority of you must show up to these meetings to see me. Today I'm standing up here as 33% of the candidates that are running to be your SA president. I'm going to open my speech by touching on what qualifies me, what experience I have. Freshman year I was an IRC representative. I attended SA meetings for no reason. For 3 years now I have attended every single SA meeting where I didn't have a test conflict. Freshman year I became very heavily involved in IRC. I went to a conference through them, went to every meeting, and I had a great time. I also then got a little involved in AAC. I attended several meetings and ran for exec board, which turned out to be dismal as I lost that position. Then I decided to devote my time to IRC instead. I became coordinating programmer for res-life council. That was one of the best things I've ever done with my time at this school. I wanted to further involve myself on this campus after that year. Then I decided to run for AC. I ran for Director of Student Programming and I got that position. What I want to touch on with my speech is that this is one of the best learning experiences I've ever had. I walked into AC with a lot of ideas and goals. AC taught me a lot. I learned a lot about SA, the way it functions as well as me as a leader. My goals walking into AC were unrealistic, I couldn't accomplish those even within a year. I learned how unprepared I was then, but walking into this position now I know that I am a lot more prepared. As a Director of Student Programming I sat on this SA exec board all year. I'm not walking into this unknowingly. I know the policies, I've been working with it since freshman year now. I think that I am highly qualified for this position as your SA president. One of the characteristics that is necessary for the job is the ability to represent the student body. As AC Chair I think the AC members can contest that I have attended about 90% of AC's programs. That's a lot of programs. I would love to devote that time to SA president. I would love to attend every program that I can for every SA group. I want to learn student opinions and to talk to as many students as possible as it would be my job to represent you all. I am well aware of the financial policy and the constitution.

Justin asks would you consider reintroducing the SA motto?

Nick says yes I heard that speech at IRC and I love that motto.

Meghan says in addition to all of your roles you are in charge of surveying as leader of this board. How would you go about leading a group of fellow directors?

Nick says as Chair of AC, I lead a group of about 16. It's another moderately sized group that I lead. They are all strong leaders, they work independently and they work in a group very well. I have great experience working with and leading a board. I put on retreats now, which I would have to put on forth his board as well. I am coming off a position on this board and I could easily walk into this position of chairing this board of 8. Not easily it would take a lot of work.

Will says you currently serve on the SA exec committee. What experiences do you feel that you would bring from serving this past year to if you were elected serving as president next year?

Nick says I would say to answer that vaguely, every experience. It's all going to carry over. One of my strongest things is that I have been to all the exec meetings. As far as experience goes for my specific position, I have a lot of AC experience that I want to carry onto the next board as well as what went wrong with this year's board.

Shakti asks what happened with the programming of the lip sync? We were shocked when 2 hours before it was supposed to happen we learned that it wasn't happening. Then the date got changed to the same date of the conference to Albany.

Nick says with the date changing, we had multiple student groups complaining that there was poor advertising for the events. They were all asking us very nicely if we could change the event date. We decided to change the event on their behalf, it came out very late and it was a mistake on our part. Switching it to that date, my programmers switched it to that before they were informed of the day of the bus trip, which was a miscommunication.

Shakti asks do you think that the advertising has been improved after that?

Nick says I went through measures to make sure that everyone was contacted after that.

James says just as a clarification the ballroom was only open on that date. The programmers didn't have a choice.

Will says the majority of this board and the majority of the people went on the bus trip yesterday. I just wanted to know why were you not on the bus trip?

Nick says I did not because I'm a bio major and I had a lab that I could not miss.

Christina says a lot of changes have been proposed by certain candidates for the structure of SA. They believe that students will have a greater voice. What do you think of those changes, what would you do?

Nick says I personally am not fully in favor of changing SA as it is currently structured. We sit with 7 voting members that vote on everything. I've heard the voice to bring the vote to other people as well but these changes are brought forth because people see the way that other schools function. We function the way we do and it's unique and I'm proud of it. We've functioned successfully like this for many years.

Malcolm how do you feel about the CAS Board of Directors?

Nick says as far as plans for that position I am definitely looking forward to having my voice on that board. I have no particular plans that I want to implement through it, but I am excited to hear what they have to bring up. I want to bring student representation to there, and I want to hear what everyone else to say about CAS.

Malcolm asks if elected and if the referendum passes, will you ensure that if there are students who wish to attend the SUNY assembly that fiscally they can without anyone's mother having to starve for a week?

Nick says if I receive applications for this and people show interest then I have no reason to say no to funding it through SA funds.

Malcolm asks do you think that we should attend?

Nick says yes I feel we should attend.

Doug says those are all of the candidates on the ballot however there is someone who is still interested in running for SA Director of Student Affairs. The USAEC Chair cannot introduce them.

Stasia Monteiro I am running for SA Director of Student Affairs. I'm really enthusiastic about running. As you may know one of the main responsibilities is to be the ACE chair, which brings together cultural groups and puts on dinners on campus. I would be in charge of some budget advocacy things as well as working with off campus students. I'm the current president of Pride which is one of the ten ACE groups. I've been working on some really great programs. We have had the largest group membership this year that we've ever had. This year we've been really successful in promoting our organization and promoting education about LGBT. A question was raised when I spoke with ACE about the potential to favoritism. Will himself worked on the Pride e-board before this job. I have also worked for Sig Tau Delta, Yoga Club and I'm an RA on campus so I have a lot of diverse situations where I have to treat people equally, and though I may not agree with people's actions I have to treat them fairly. One thing I noticed with being an RA is that through the application process and interviews we often ask the applicants what they think diversity is. We get a lot of terrible answers; some people don't know what it is at all. Some people said that ACE is diversity and it is but it's not the only representation of diversity on our campus. If people believe that ACE is diversity then we can have a role in educating the students on what diversity is, then they can all learn that we are not the only diverse role on campus. That's where a lot of my passion lies. I wasn't able to make the budget advocacy trip; I had a presentation to make and a review session for a midterm tomorrow. But I do believe that budget advocacy is very important and I want to get more students to care about it and to get involved to make a true difference for our school. As far as off campus students go I would like to communicate more because I know a lot of off campus students that come on campus to go to class and then go home. We can work to get them to feel at home on our campus as well and not itching to just leave all the time. I guess my work with people especially as an RA would make me a good candidate for this position for all the different positions with which I work with people.

Justin asks do you foresee your time as an RA posing a conflict?

Stasia says I don't. I say that because I am an RA but I'm also an exec board member for 3 different organizations and I have a part time job. If I am elected I would take off the part time job and only be doing the board and the RA position. I would have a good ability to balance this.

Doug asks can you please spell your name for all these people as you are a write in candidate?

Stasia says being a write in candidate means that I'm not on the ballot. When you go to vote, when you get to the Director of Student Affairs my name is Stasia Monteiro.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8: 45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lena Freed  
Recording Secretary