

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 #23, Wednesday, March 3, 2010

<i>Executive Committee</i>	
President:	Haleema Murtaza
Vice-President:	Nicholas Kaasik
Directors:	
Academic Affairs:	Brian Hartle
Business Affairs:	Mark Petrie
Inter-Residence Affairs:	Melissa Kaye
Public Relations:	Mathé Kamsutchom
Student Affairs:	Hamza Murtaza
Student Programming:	Corinthia Kotlar
Advisor:	Tamara Kenney
 <i>PROFESSIONAL STAFF</i>	
Dir. of SA Programs,	
Personnel & Finances:	Kate Rebban
Administrative Assistant:	Nancy Chirico
Graphics Coordinator:	Kristen Fuest
Program Advisor:	Danielle Akins
Service Manager:	Dianne Krenzer

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107	84-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$1650.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Pride Alliance, Account 1906 to put on a cultural event called Pride Night. <i>Second of Two Readings</i>
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108	87-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$1,600.52 from SA Programs, Account 1002 to Japanese Culture Club, Account 1901 to cover costs associated with the Japan-America Society and Washington D.C.'s Cherry Blossom Festival from April 9-11 th . <i>First of Two Readings</i>
108	88-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the Budget Realignment by Japanese Culture Club, Account 1901 to move \$169.92 from Line 20, <i>Programming</i> to Line 10, <i>Supplies</i> for fabric and sewing supplies for new costumes for their dance team as well as miscellaneous supplies for the office. <i>First and Only Reading</i>
108-109	89-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the attached resolution concerning the budget of the college and the proposed legislation in favor of the Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act. <i>First and Only Reading</i>
109	90-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$260.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Shakti, Account 1926 to cover costs associated with their annual dinner, Sangamam, which will be held on April 17. <i>First of Two Readings</i>

109-110 91-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the appointments of Dayshawn Simmons and Katelyn Conway to the Undergraduate Student Association Elections Committee (USAEC) for the remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year.
First and Only Reading

111 ***Open Discussion***

111 **Adjournment**

Call to Order: 6:15 PM

Approval of the Agenda: Approval 7-0-0.

Approval of the Minutes: Approval 7-0-0.

Updates

President, Haleema Murtaza updates: Running for positions? Please come talk to us. Elections are in full swing. Open Discussion will be speeches from candidates next week.

Vice-President, Nicholas Kaasik updates: If interested in VP come talk to me. College facing budget deficit, some of AAC clubs will not represent programs in two years time.

Director of Business Affairs, Mark Petrie updates: Budget Hearings going pretty well. Only one slot open on Thursday. Friday make appeals. After spring break, grace period for Purchase Orders will be done.

Director of Inter-Residence Affairs, Melissa Kaye updates: Buying 2 Alpacas, you can still buy t-shirts and pins. Rollerskating

Director of Public Relations, Mathé Kamsutchom updates: If you can email with anything you have planned, I'll update the calendar with events. Met with candidate for SA elections. Further educate yourself with SA guidelines.

Director of Academic Affairs, Brian Hartle updates: Geology club sectional conference over spring break. Biology club is visiting a zoo in Toronto, open to all students. SA beginning budget advocacy.

Director of Student Affairs, Hamza Murtaza updates: LAX Dinner, Cultural Extravaganza

Director of Student Programming, Corinthia Kotlar, updates: Sibling's Weekend

Kate Rebban, Director of SA Programs, Personnel, & Finances updates: Not present.

Tamara Kenney, SA Executive Committee Advisor updates: None.

Open Updates

Amnesty – Our concert last Friday was a great success.

Ice Hockey – Women's Ice Hockey will be hosting its last game of the season this Sunday, March 7th at 1:30pm. vs Oswego in the Wilson Ice Arena. Please come and support us!

Geneseo's Best Dance Crew finale is this Saturday at midnight in the CU Ballroom.

GSTV - GSTV's annual telethon is this Friday to Saturday from 2pm to 2pm in the Union.

Old Business

83-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$160.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Women's Ice Hockey Club, Account 1417 to cover the increasing costs of referees and home games.

Second of Two Readings

Mallory – We are requesting a budget increase, \$110 going to home game fees. Our times for the games will be 2 hours instead of 1.5 hours, giving us more time to play. The referees' cost increased also. The remaining \$50 will go towards mileage for other games.

Doug – Good luck.

83-0910: Second of Two, reading passes 7-0-0.

84-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$1650.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Pride Alliance, Account 1906 to put on a cultural event called Pride Night.

Second of Two Readings

Pride – This year, April is gay pride month. We would like to increase our line to put on a cultural night.

Mary – Are you using the ACE drawing fund at all? – No. Haleema – Something like this wouldn't be used for ACE because it's not a collaborative program.

Brian – As we will see in the next reading, they are asking for \$1,650, but arguably they will raise \$1,350, so its like we're giving them \$300.

84-0910: Second of Two, reading passes 7-0-0.

New Business

86-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the Fundraising Request by Pride Alliance, Account 1906 to raise up to \$1,350.00 from ticket sales for Pride Night on April 3rd.

First and Only Reading

The money we raise from ticket sales will be going right back into SA, the rest isn't going to a charity or anything.

Mark – When will you be selling the tickets? – The week before, so the end of March into April. The painted wall will be used for advertising too.

86-0910: First and Only, reading passes 7-0-0.

87-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$1,600.52 from SA Programs, Account 1002 to Japanese Culture Club, Account 1901 to cover costs associated with the Japan-America Society and Washington D.C.'s Cherry Blossom Festival from April 9-11th.

First of Two Readings

We have a few changes. The initial price was \$1,451, but due to a change of driver, we need to rent an extra vehicle, so we're no longer taking our own vehicles. We need to rent 4 vehicles, so the total is now \$1600.52. The Japan American Society is an organization to bring cultures together. The Cherry Blossom Festival is something we've been going to for the past 3 years. There are performances, Japanese cuisine, and this year we will be taking surveys, and assisting them in the breaking down and setting up of stages. We're asking for half the value of lodging and transportation. We will be sending down a team of dancers to perform for them on their stage, which we did last year too. It's a great way to get our name as a club and a school out there into the D.C. community. We will be sending 26 people.

Mark – Motion to change the reading to \$1600.52, motion passes 7-0-0.

Nick – Are all participants definitely going? – We believe there will be no other changes. An executive board member withdrew last night so we'll be working on it immediately.

Tamara – Can you submit copy of the fact that you are performing and volunteer forms? – Sure.

Model UN – We know about the importance of conferences, and I think this is an exceptional opportunity.

Nick – According to SA polices, can you just stop by the SA office sometime soon to fill out release forms and travel? UP sometimes have to do background checks.

Tamara – It's not so much of a personal background check as a check on the driver's record.

87-0910: First of Two, reading passes 7-0-0.

88-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the Budget Realignment by Japanese Culture Club, Account 1901 to move \$169.92 from Line 20, *Programming* to Line 10, *Supplies* for fabric and sewing supplies for new costumes for their dance team as well as miscellaneous supplies for the office.

First and Only Reading

We are requesting to realign our budget for the dance team to prepare some new costumes that we don't have money for currently.

Tamara – What are the office supplies? – That is a mistake. The person who was filling that out must have been misinformed. We are intending to just use for sewing and fabric supplies.

88-0910: First and Only, reading passes 7-0-0.

89-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the attached resolution concerning the budget of the college and the proposed legislation in favor of the Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act.

First and Only Reading

Nick – As per the request of the president of the college and the fiscal reality of the college, I have presented this proposed legislation.

Tamara – Why have you only talked about faculty layoffs and not staff layoffs?

Brian – Motion to include all other forms of staff layoffs, motion passes 7-0-0.

Brian – By supporting this, are you asking all of us to give our energies to the effort? – We're obviously in the symbolic measure of asking for all of you to support us. This is our future, this is our degree.

Brian – This is ultimately the value of the degree you graduate with, and this legislation will help us maintain our level of education here. Just take one minute of your day to sign a letter or come to our tables.

Mathé – Does everyone know what this is? Is there a way we can post it somewhere? – With SA exec permission I can put it on the blog of the SA website – The blog is sa.geneseo.edu, so feel free to look at it once Nick posts it.

Swing Dance – Can we put posters on campus that people can see? – Absolutely. Last time we had flyers in classrooms, people writing on black boards. This time we will be continuing those efforts, and we will be advertising the bus trip to Albany. Getting face time should do a great deal.

Tyler – As a college senate member, and someone who stood out in the freezing cold for this, I am in total support of budget advocacy. I feel like if we support this, and the student body gets behind it, we can be very successful in this.

Tamara – When will you be doing the letter writing? – On a weekly basis, we will bring letter writing to the Union – Keep track of the number of letters you write too. It is very helpful.

Brian – If you want to help out, come talk to us. It doesn't take many to reach every classroom.

Haleema – Now that you know about this, announce it in every classroom, write it on the black boards.

SEAA – With spring break coming up, other SUNYs have asked for students to get petitions signed from family members. This doesn't only affect college students. It affects everyone. Petitions signed adds to support. – Great idea. Home districts are important. . What about sending out mass emails with names of people to write to? – Great idea.

Brian – I just want to commend Nick for spearheading this and he is an integral part of budget advocacy.

89-0910: First and Only, reading passes 6-0-1 with Nick abstaining.

90-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$260.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Shakti, Account 1926 to cover costs associated with their annual dinner, Sangamam, which will be held on April 17.

First of Two Readings

Our annual dinner's theme is a village feast atmosphere, and we'd like to set up long tables for a family style feasting. Half of these long tables are in Holcomb, and the other half are in the Union. To get them from Holcomb, the set up costs \$380. Last year set up costs were \$180, which is why we are asking for the increase up to \$260. These tables will be beneficial to the audience, and they can interact with the show. It will provide a very different experience. With the transport of tables, with long tables we need 2 people, so we're charged for that.

Brian – Are you sure the college hasn't thrown out the tables in Holcomb? – Yes, we've talked to them about it.

Sarah – Are you aware this is the same night as Relay for Life? – Yes, our dinner ends at 9. We have a team for relay, so we're going there right after.

Nick – I guess this is a sign of budgetary times that we need to charge people to move tables.

90-0910: First of Two, reading passes 7-0-0.

91-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the appointments of Dayshawn Simmons and Katelyn Conway to the Undergraduate Student Association Elections Committee (USAEC) for the remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year.

First and Only Reading

USAEC is at the minimum number of committee members right now, so we think the more the merrier for counting votes and lots of other things going on with elections. Both candidates were recommendations. Katelyn is a past SA exec member and has a lot of experience. Dayshawn was a candidate last year and knows about policy.

Brian – How were these positions advertised? – They were not advertised for this cycle, but normally at the beginning of the year.

Ray – Current time appointments? Is it the fact that low on numbers? – No

Brian – Why was there no advertising when before there was? – Tom – No publicity on openings because less than 24 hours previous we had 2 resignations. Off database when I initially started the committee, so I went through my memory because we need people who understand things and had previous knowledge of the policy.

Ray – How many on the committee now? – 6

Brian – When did you receive the resignation letters? What were the reasons? – They resigned within an hour and half of each other Sunday evening. I sent out an email to them because they had not come to any committee meeting. I said if they were to continue on that they should meet the obligations, and that I prefer they would resign if they couldn't meet duties.

Tamara – Are you willing to send out a What's up to add more people to the committee? – Yes, there is a maximum of 10 for the committee so we still have some spots.

Brian – Why was that not done at first? Do you mean the Sunday 3 days ago? – Yes.

Nick – What is the total number of people who have parted ways with USAEC? – We started with 10, and now there are 4.

Brian – So because of the resignations last week, this reading under items of business was rushed because we were working out kinks, and we had no ability to see this beforehand. I am deeply troubled as to the process of election of candidates. At the minimum, USAEC doesn't need to have more than 3 committee members. I want people to think about how the decision came about.

Ray – SA constitution lays a minimum, and it has already been shown that USAEC has its own. – Haleema – it is under the SA document. The document lays a foundation, but we can build upon that foundation. Ray - USAEC is violating policy. With Katelyn on the board I think she will be biased. On April 1st last year, when voting on the changes to USAEC guidelines, Katelyn was in opposition, wanting me to be basically impeached.

Mark – I consider that as more what she was taking into account. If you think she can be biased that's your opinion, but a lot of things happened last year I think.

Katelyn – If anything I feel like that makes me a stronger candidate, because I was voting based on policy. It was no personal issue whatsoever and I don't believe it makes me biased.

Brian – Can you just speak to what else the candidates might have on their plate? – Dayshawn – I am involved in IRC as vice chair, and am an RA in Dante House. I'm also on CAS board that meets once a month. Katelyn – IRC's CAA, and NRHH. I have plenty of time for this.

Mathé – I think Tom touched on this, but because of no advertising, how did you know to apply for this position? – Tom - Due to the incurred absences and the unprecedented number of candidates this time, I reached out to them. I knew that these two have the policy knowledge and have experience, and have free time to dedicate to the committee. It's a lot of work on our part, so really, the more the merrier.

Brian – I have a bit of concern on this. Did you reach out to just these individuals? – I contacted more. I contacted Dan Bach, but he didn't want to be a part of it, also Jason, the president of Club Sports, an AAC representative, and someone else I can't think of right now. These were people who wouldn't need on-the-job training.

Dayshawn - I reached out to Tom initially and I let Tom know I was interested, so that's why he contacted me.

Mathé – I'm sorry for all the questions. Elections can be a hot topic and it's important that the elections committee doesn't have certain biases, and it's important to clarify. I just wanted you to understand why the questions are asked.

Brian – I am very concerned primarily because past precedents say we advertise for positions. The guidelines changed 3 weeks ago, and I urge the exec board to consider the process by which this was reached. Both are very qualified candidates. But since it was not opened to the entire campus, I don't believe that we have the best candidates. More people were not contacted and who didn't have access could be better. Try to reconcile that.

Ray – Tom I want to commend you, I know how crazy it can be in your position.

Dayshawn – I do want to reiterate that USAEC has not reached it's full capacity, so if they feel more people can be on the committee, we can open up the other spots.

Mary – I do understand where you're coming from, but we're getting into a time crunch with elections, and we need someone to help count votes, etc.

Tom – I absolutely will work with Exec if we want to appoint more people next week granted they meet the requirements. It's not just in depth knowledge of the guidelines but there are cases that they have to know SA policy and sometimes the college policy. It's not just knowing one document.

Brian – As the SA constitution says, you only need to have 3 people. Microcosm of government and Tom had a 60% fail rate just for the record.

Mathé – Going back to what Dayshawn was saying, if they are open to do a What's-up email and have other people join the committee as elections are undergoing that would be great.

Mark – First of all, Tom shouldn't have to keep the bar at 3, the 6 that left are not necessarily failures. It is nothing that has to do with Tom, because some went abroad, some had to step down for other reasons.

Melissa – I believe we are voting on if Katelyn and Dayshawn are qualified candidates.

Nick – This is critical to SA, do you, Ray, feel that these two candidates would hinder you as a running candidate? – I don't think it would allow a fair judgement if Katelyn was on the committee.

Melissa – To be fair that is only one candidates' opinion.

Haleema – As the chair of the committee, you are not voting on what a candidate thinks and not on how a process was reached.

Travis – To put these two candidates on the committee takes away two spots for potential candidates. It should wait until some sort of advertising happens to get the right committee.

I don't really know how the process works, because I'm new to SA, but if you send out an email, how are you going to reach out to others if there's a need for an intimate knowledge of USAEC guidelines? You'd have to consider people who don't have that knowledge. – Haleema – A person submits an application, writes why he or she is suitable, I study the qualifications, time commitments, and make the decision and present. Tom said he wants people who have background and knowledge, but I don't base my judgment on that.

Brian – To approve the appointment, we don't see the applications that come in. Don't you think we should have a chance to look at the applications?

Hamza – The position entails that you find candidates for the positions in your committee. When you present it to SA, we trust that you've looked at the candidates thoroughly and have picked the best ones suitable for those positions. I think that the applications shouldn't have to be presented to the executive committee. That would take too much time and energy.

Dayshawn – I appreciate the concerns. Back to Haleema's question, you're really just thinking about the quality of Katelyn and myself in this vote.

Travis – I still think it's an issue, even if they are highly qualified, it takes away the opportunity for others. There may be other people who are just as qualified.

JCC – How many people did you contact this week for this position? – 7 or 8 people were contacted through various methods. 5 through email, and 2 face to face.

Mark – Tom is the chair, and he knows the job better than anyone besides maybe Haleema or Ray. For me when I select a budget committee, you vote on it, and that's all you're capable of doing.

Brian – Point of clarification, I'm not targeting this group in particular. I've been troubled by this type of thing before.

Katelyn – I agree with the concerns. I think to advertise openly is great, but we're running out of time to train people for the position.

Tom – Just as a side note, there is one more SA meeting before elections.

Brian – In terms of candidates there are only 2 or 3 more than last year.

Dayshawn – It will be a more fair election with more people involved.

Mark – Call to question, seconded by Brian.

90-0910: reading passes, 4-1-1, with Brian against and Mathé abstaining.

Open Discussion

Dean McKeever – I'm here to talk about initiatives from the Dean of the College. A lot of what I'm going to be talking about might not affect you but parts absolutely will. The first is academic probation. The first way to get on academic probation is if your GPA is at a certain point. The second is if you fall below full time status. Nationally, most colleges separate out by hour. Sometimes a good student may in one semester have to drop below the standard of 12 credits, and it will say on that student's transcript that he or she is on academic probation. Students going on to other graduate schools and other positions, it puts those students in an awkward position to try and answer why they were on academic probation. They may think of social rather than academic probation. We separated the two policies which is written up in a new document to allow students to progress in their degree and it will not harm the student who can't stay above 12 credits (due to family issues, etc). Last semester, a lot of students had difficulties with the flu. This will also capture students who are in some ways abusing the system. Full time students sometimes drop down, going barely under the wire taking 3 courses, doing ok and then it takes them way longer to finish, which ultimately denigrates the degree because they are taking fewer courses. It is easier to perform when you only take 3 courses. It is an inequity in the system, and creates problems in terms of completion towards degree factor. We have a very high rating for 4-5 year graduates. It's not the same for students graduating like that. The degree deserves the reputation of Geneseo. Students lagging behind eventually will suffer a suspension. It is better as students if they fall below the hours will have nothing written on their transcript. There will be a letter cautioning them but nothing on their transcript. Second part of the policy is the formula for what GPA you need to progress on without probation. I've looked at policies across the country, and we have a complicated policy. Our policy hurts students, with what seems like giving them a break. It creates a problem because it gets harder for them to dig out of the hole. What we will be presenting before the senate is a flat 2.0 GPA to graduate and if not, they are placed on academic probation. 1st year students are not put on academic probation the first semester. Students get in denial, which causes the problem. Being in good standing fools them and helps them believe they are not in a difficult place. They would understand that they need to take this seriously and not avoid the problem if there was a flat rate for GPA.

Questions?

Ultimate Frisbee – Would there be early intervention systems? – The difficulty is if they're not on probation, things don't fall in to the fall semester because they're not on probation,. If they are on record, we can immediately take care of it. The difficulty is first semester students don't think they're in any sort of difficulty. I have meetings with students every week. I want to get to them as soon as possible. I dream of an early warning system 3-4 weeks in to the semester where professors can let us know who is at risk.

Model UN – The resolution will put all first year students on academic probation? – No, just anyone who falls below the 2.0 GPA based now on credit hours. They have to build a certain number of hours to get on academic probation to begin with. This will raise the standard for everyone.

Nick – With the 4-6 year graduation rate, how does Geneseo's rate with that compare? What will be the impact on that with this new system? – The national rating is very good. We're probably within 82% for 4-year graduates. My biggest concern is when students come in and with a little nudge towards maturity they could do better. Some people have said they just don't want to leave Geneseo and we have got to nudge them along. If Geneseo is not a match, that's a case where this place isn't for them, someone will help them to make this their match or find a school where they can do well.

How will this affect financial aid? – Financial aid took a look at the programs, and they think this will help students. What will happen is it will encourage students to understand the severity of it. Those are federal standards and will make them understand that it's a problem for them. The petition is approved mostly for those students.

Doug- I think this is a very intuitive policy and gets rid of the notion that it's my first semester and I have a free pass. – Most Geneseo students are type A personalities. I think we need to get them to be serious from the beginning.

Secondly, we have scheduling changes. We want to do a survey from students to figure out how we are doing. The start times we will not deal with. We are concerned about what is going on when you go to register like overlaps, or you can't get into something that you need. We need to find out if we are making progress, and where problems still exist. The survey gives a good demographic. Ask specific questions about specific problems and about problems with the survey as well. We'd like to try to get this up before the end of the semester. Take a look at it, and if you have anything to add or questions we're not asking, we want to know. It will be a better instrument if you tell us what you need. There may be things we are missing. Brian will collect them at the end of the meeting. What I hope happens is that we'll need help getting students to respond to it. Probably we shouldn't have too much difficulty so we can continue to help you. Thank you.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 7:45PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Arthur
Recording Secretary

