

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 #17, Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Page Business Meeting Agenda
Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes

Updates

Old Business

44-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SA COMMITTEE allocate up to \$810.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Geneseo Area Gaming Group, Account 1922 to provide funding for the Magic Draft Event.
Second of Two Readings

46-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SA COMMITTEE allocate up to \$539.00 from Permanent Equipment, Account 2000 to SA Tech, Account 1004 to purchase a Gx7 Power Amplifier.
Second of Two Readings

New Business

48-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SA COMMITTEE allocate up to \$493.25 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Ultimate Frisbee, Account 1411 to buy new discs.
First of Two Readings

49-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SA COMMITTEE allocate up to \$1659.20 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Ultimate Frisbee, Account 1411 to pay for gas reimbursement.
First of Two Readings

50-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SA COMMITTEE allocate up to \$150.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Geneseo Model UN, Account 1914 to pay for additional hotel costs for the McGill conference.
First of Two Readings

Open Discussion.

Dr. Robert Bonfiglio, Vice President for Student & Campus Life

Adjournment

Executive Committee

President:	Carly Annable
Vice-President:	Justin Shapiro
Directors:	
Academic Affairs:	Dara Gell
Business Affairs:	Casey Howard
Inter-Residence Affairs:	Silvia Roma
Public Relations:	Forrest Regan
Student Affairs:	Sadie Baker
Student Programming:	Matt Bower
Advisor:	Patty Hamilton-Rodgers

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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

Call to Order: 6:15 pm.

Approval of the Agenda: Agenda amended in Old Business for 44-1213 from \$990.00 to \$810.00. Passes 7-0-0.

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes amended under Open Updates from “non-University Centered” to “non-University Center” and “indicative of” to “insulated from”; under New Business from “Malcolm” to “Malcom” and from “along” to “alum”. Passes 7-0-0.

Updates

President, Carly Annable updates: This past week, I attended the Limelights and Accents event. That was amazing, so congratulations to Limelights and AC for that. I also attended “Mr. Geneseo” and wrote a poem for it, which was pretty cool. Great job with that as well. Today is the day that the SUNY Board of Trustees is supposedly voting on the new resource allocation model. I will let you know, as soon as I know, how that went. I have been text messaging with our SUNY Assembly rep. I will put it out on all the news feeds, all the social media stuff, once I know.

Vice-President, Justin Shapiro updates: I haven’t gotten through the uniform proposals. Clubs and teams who submitted uniform proposals, it will be gone over this weekend and hopefully you’ll know by the end of Study Day. Second of all, the SOFI Task Force meeting went pretty well. We had a good turnout. The next SOFI Task Force meeting will be this Monday. Fill out your SOFIs. They are important. They are used for faculty inspection, tenure, evaluations, and awards. It’s also empowering for the student and allows for students to state their opinion because the Board of Trustees mandates that student opinion be used in tenures, awards, and promotions. So make sure to fill out your SOFIs. In the meeting with Dr. Bonfiglio on the 11th, we’ll discuss the Good Samaritan policy so if you have any questions about that, bring it up to me.

Director of Business Affairs, Casey Howard updates: Student Association Finance Advisor Committee application is due this Friday. They will basically be helping to coordinate the training sessions for organizations for the next fall semester and conducting budget hearings for the clubs and organizations in the spring. The application is on tinyurl.com/safinance. Also, if you have any check requests for this semester, they are due next Wednesday if you want to get them before you go home.

Director of Inter-Residence Affairs, Silvia Roma updates: Thanks to all of you who came out to “Network Your Way to an Opportunity Today” and for those who came out to “Mr. Geneseo”. We raised just about \$200.00 for Hurricane Sandy relief. This Monday from 9:30 to 11:00 pm in RJ is the Midnight Breakfast. It’s always organized by the freshmen class. If you want to have professor and faculty serve you breakfast, come and eat at Midnight Breakfast. Also, for those of you who live in residence halls, 24-hour Quiet Hours start on Monday at 10:00 pm all the way through finals. Good luck on finals.

Director of Public Relations, Forrest Regan updates: As I mentioned last week, Referendum dates are from March 11th to 13th. You should all vote “yes” to the referendum. You should all start thinking about who you want for SA exec positions. Also, what came in the mail this week were some bumper stickers with the SA logo on it, so if you want the SA logo all over your things, come to the SA office and get some.

Director of Academic Affairs, Dara Gell updates: I’m really proud to say that we sent over 700 letters to the Board of Trustees. We got a bunch more since then. That means we have people on campus who care about this issue and are will willing to sign to advocate for this issue. Now, what the Board of Trustees do with the issue is another question but at least we’re attempting to do something about it before it’s too late. Take our your twitters if that’s what you do with twitters and follow @aacsunygeneseo.

Director of Student Affairs, Sadie Baker updates: The Alliance for Community Enrichment has decided that we want a mascot. Therefore, there will be a competition with a prize of, unknown as of yet, gift card. You must come up a cool mascot for ACE and also come up with image of mascot that will go on promotional items, our logo, and things like that. We would particularly like submissions from members of ACE clubs.

Director of Student Programming, Matt Bower updates: During the CU&A dinner event this past weekend, Activities Commission Limelight and Accents won an Innovative Marketing Award. I never announced who won Activities Commission elections. Chelsea Markowski won Arts and Exhibits, and Megan Kiliet and Sarah Duplor won Limelights and Accents. Thank you to those who came out to hear the “Members of RPO” show. I think it was one of the coolest shows that we’ve had in a long time and it was a really great success. As for this weekend, we have “Ted” on Friday at 10:00 pm in the Ballroom. On Saturday, check out the Holiday Jubilee starting at 9:00 pm. Also, come to the Midnight Breakfast in RJ on Monday. It’s starting at 9:30 pm.

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

Patty Hamilton-Rodgers, SA Executive Committee Advisor updates: I will be serving at the Midnight Breakfast so please come see me.

Open Updates

Matt: If you're interested in taking the trip to New York with Livingston CARES in January, talk to me after the meeting. The pricing and details have been finalized. We're only going to be able to take 50 people, so the sooner you talk to me the better.

Matt: The Community Health Alliance will be selling some metal work by Haitian artists tomorrow and Friday in the Union. It's going to go to a good cause and make good holiday gifts.

Silvia: The applications for RA positions are currently available and opened yesterday. Reslife website has all the information for the application.

Carly: Next semester, all SA meetings are going to start at 6:45 pm on Wednesdays in the Hunt room. Today is the last meeting for this semester.

Dara: Last night at AAC, we elected a new vice chair, Effy. She is co-president of Amnesty International. She was our secretary, so that means we now have a secretary position open. It was our last meeting for AAC so just think about it for next year. If you want to get involved with AAC, elections for the position will probably be held the second week we get back.

Malcolm: I just want everyone to realize that if the Mayans are right, this is the last SA meeting ever.

Carly: Motion to suspend Robert's rule. Seconded by Justin.

Dr. Bonfiglio: I'm happy to be here. I'm the Vice President for Student & Campus Life. That means that the things that don't have to do with academics is delegated to me by the President to oversee and do the best possible job that we can for you. That includes things like Residence Life, College Union and Activities, SUNY governance, Career Development, Athletics and the Health Center. I also attended the Limelight show and I commend Matt and AC. I will never see another cellist that good again in my life. I want to commend Carly and all of you who participated in the letter writing campaign.

Carly: Just to cut in for a moment. I just got updates on the resource allocation model and they didn't vote on it because they didn't have quorum.

Dr. Bonfiglio: I like to come to the Student Association meeting at least once during the year. I have worked with the Student Association for many years. I was part of my Student Association many years ago and I have been working with student affairs ever since. I'd be happy to answer any questions you have about any issue related to student life. Don't ask me about budget allocation model, I attest it but I'm not sure if I can explain it. I'm here to talk about the Student Opinion survey. Once, every three years, SUNY administers the Student Opinion survey across all the Comprehensive colleges. It's four pages long and has tons of questions about the college experience. Do any of you remember taking the survey? 600 students did last spring. I think that it's important that you know about how students feel about the Geneseo experience. I'm only going to talk about the co-curricular stuff because that's what the President delegates to me. If you're interested in the academic experience, write to the Provost. This is what is delegated to the student affairs areas. I've listed here strengths and weaknesses. There are 12 Comprehensive colleges in SUNY. Therefore, scores are ranked from 1 to 12. I would consider anything in the top 3, or the top 25% to be strengths of this institution as judged by you. These were chosen as strengths: personal involvement opportunities, personal safety/security on campus, opportunities for leadership development, student union/campus center, clarity of rules, sexual assault prevention programs, parking, etc. This is relative to the other SUNY institutions.

Two areas where we ranked near the bottom were for counseling services and our athletic facilities. I don't know if that comes as a surprise to you but it certainly comes as no surprise to me. We do not have a surplus of athletic facilities and the demand on this campus for personal and psychological counseling is great. We do not meet that demand as well as students feel it is met on other campuses. Basically, these are issues of money. I looked at 5 iterations of this survey. I've been here since 1999 and it's been administration 5 times. In 2012, we've had all time high scores in career planning services, all time high in alcohol and drug abuse programs, and sexual assault prevention programs. Although there is still room for improvement, people have recognized the efforts and changes made in those areas. Although athletic and recreational facilities were ranked lower than the mean, they are still higher than before. Also since the last time we did the survey, we added new tennis courts, a new outdoor track and so on. So we have made some investments there. Also ranked at an all-time high are recreational/intramural programs, residence hall programs, clarity of residence hall rules, and parking. This is also relative. The bus system had a tremendous impact on residents who bring cars on campus. Ten years ago 75 % of students who came to campus brought a car. Today only 35% of our residents bring cars because you can take the bus to go places.

Sadie: Is there a way the survey controls the effect of the economy and how many students are bringing cars onto campus?

Dr. Bonfiglio: The survey is developed and composed by the American College Testing Association – the people who bring you the ACTs. So I'd like to think that the survey that accounts for changes in economy and personal financial situations, but probably not.

We saw a decrease in cars immediately when we starting buses ten years ago, so during the glory years of the economy. But you make a good point. Safety and security was rated at an all-time high in the last survey. The most important things in the survey related to my job is safety and personal involvement. If you're involved in the life of the college, it's going to be a better college. You're going to be making a difference in how this college functions and you're going to be committed to the progress and success of the college. We have consistently been ranked number one in the Comprehensive colleges due to the opportunities that you have, the personal involvement opportunities available, and the clubs, organizations that you can be a part of, the quality of the student governance, and the quality of the relationship between administrators and the students. This is really important too: respect for students by non-teaching staff. We have an expectation that we will be respectful of all students at all times. And I have that expectation that students will have respect of us too. Even though we are in positions of authority in some cases and you may disagree with us, we hope that you will disagree with us respectfully. Sometimes I cringe when I read things in the minutes, like we should drag the Athletic Department in here and take them to task about the Hockey club. We know about the Ice Hockey Club and we're trying to fix it. I spoke with Carly and the head of the Hockey Club about it. We're trying to get it right. Other colleges are dealing with the same problems; look at the local papers on Long Island about soccer clubs and their inability to get fields. I would ask that when you speak up in meetings, you do so in a respectful way because what you say is preserved in posterity in the minutes. Freedom from harassment on campus is a student issue. Make sure this place is a place where you have freedom to learn and be yourselves. We had an all-time high for this. Acts of racial prejudice is rare. Although the college doesn't officially sponsor religious and spiritual programs, we have clubs and organizations that express interests of students. Student government was rated at an all-time high. Student input in college policies and plans. On Friday we had a College Council meeting. College Council ultimately is the highest governing party. It's job is to pick the president, although the Chancellor is trying to change that. Our student government is always represented at that meeting. It's my job to represent students at other meetings that students aren't privy to. Here are items where we show a big increase in your opinion, a significant jump in scores. These areas include parking facilities, sexual assault prevention programs, alcohol and substance abuse, personal safety, and opportunities for community service. I was pleased to hear about Livingston CARES and the trip to Staten Island to help with Hurricane Sandy relief. Another way to look at ranking is where we're at compared to other Comprehensive colleges. Our parking services, student union services, and clarity of rules were ranked second best compared to other comprehensive colleges. We still have more work to do in certain areas like career development. Look at the sexual assault programs. Last time we had the opinion survey it was next to worst according to you. Things may change. The graphic name of the college may change. The people who sit in the chairs may change. But our quest to provide the best possible student experience in SUNY hasn't changed. When I came for my interview back in March of 1999, I was asked what my mission was. I said that the college has a great academic reputation; we would like the campus experience to have a similarly great reputation. When I saw these results, I found it quite affirming because I think we have moved quite a bit in that direction.

Sadie: I was wondering what you are currently thinking about what we are below on and how you're thinking of addressing that.

Dr. Bonfiglio: That's a good question. The two areas we were particularly low on were athletic facilities and counseling. We have an athletic facilities master plan. The stadium construction is one part of the master plan. The total cost of doing everything in the master plan is \$45 million. I don't think that I am going to live to see the completion of \$45 million worth of changes. I don't think that the college is going to commit to that level of money for athletic facilities. But there are other plans in progress. We're trying to raise money to convert the Onondaga fields for a dedicated place for rugby. Other clubs like Quidditch and Ultimate Frisbee Club can use that space. We're working with the local village people to build a YMCA on campus which would create more gym space and would be a bridge between the community and the college. Regarding counseling, we need more counselors. I asked the President for more staffing and he's thinking about it. The money has to come from some place. We already cut some academic programs. We're certainly not going to cut anymore. We're going to have to be creative to address these other issues. I will go out on a limb and say that I'm pretty confident we're going to have additional staff in counseling next year.

Casey: Does SUNY do anything with the results of this survey or is it just for the respective campuses?

Dr. Bonfiglio: SUNY has an institutional research office and they will study these findings and perhaps make some adjustments to the survey. But we never hear from them to change or fix something about the school. It's really for the college itself. Some SUNY schools use the survey for marketing purposes. She said that she's taking it to the President of NCC and the President is considering it.

Dara: I'm really pleased to see that our numbers are so high, especially for sexual assault prevention.

Dr. Bonfiglio: I mean the students pushed us. Part of my job is to know when to be pushed. Two weeks ago, I contacted Monroe Community College and asked the vice president there if she would join me in proposing to our presidents that we share a violence prevention specialist. The individual would spend half their time on each campus.

Matt: Since we're talking about the excellence at Geneseo, would it be possible to use the numbers for academic and co-curricular experience as an argument to include academic achievement in the budget allocation model?

Dr. Bonfiglio: I think that the President, our Vice President, and finance administration have all made very rational and valid arguments about the flaws with the allocation model but I don't think any more additional data is going to make a difference. I do think that you should know that our academic experience is something that I'm not responsible for. Our academic experience is ranked first within the 12 Comprehensive colleges. They already know this.

Malcolm: Thank you sir for coming in and sharing this information with us.

Dr. Bonfiglio: Any more questions about campus life and student experience? I went to a meeting with my fellow Vice Presidents last week. We talked a lot about hazing, emergency preparedness, campus security and safety, allocation model, and the spring festivals and the problems that colleges are having. Thank you for inviting me. I'm in Erwin 221 if you ever want to pay me a visit. My email is bonfig@geneseo.edu. I answer every email I get, even spam. Thank you.

Carly: Reinstate Robert's rule

Old Business

44-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SA COMMITTEE allocate up to \$810.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Geneseo Area Gaming Group, Account 1922 to provide funding for the Magic Draft Event.

Second of Two Readings

Connor: My name is Connor McLoughlin and I'm the SA rep for GAGG. We're requesting money so that we can host a free Magic Draft. It's a really fun event where everyone gets together and opens up some cards to play card games. We decreased the amount of money that we're requesting to \$810.00 because we were able to confirm that we would get the boxes of cards for \$90.00. So we're buying nine of those.

Is this open to all students?

Connor: It is open to all students. There is no preregistration. You can just show up.

Matt: I know you had an issue with GLK and whether you booked the event with them. Can you discuss in more detail the issues?

Joan: Sure. I also included an explanation. First off, we booked the Ballroom, as well as the other space necessary, in April last semester. Although we had not originally put in a request, we had confirmed with GLK that we would be running this event. When it was time to officially put in a request, we were going to put it in with one of our other events, RPG night. It was then that they said that we shouldn't bother putting in a request because it would fail to begin with. Hence why there is no request record. However, this event was confirmed with them on several occasions and it was only until very recently, the past month or so, that they wouldn't host it because there was a conflicting event. They didn't want two GLK events running at the same time. Especially since Spa Night happens to be a particularly popular event for them. Spa Night is in the Lobby but we have booked space in the Ballroom and we have booked space upstairs in the Union to manage the high amount of attendance.

Justin: You know that there is no tax on this right?

Joan: Yes.

Malcolm: Just as a point of reference for SA, every student that attends is getting what is essentially a \$15.00 value for free.

Second of Two Readings, Passes 7-0-0.

46-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SA COMMITTEE allocate up to \$539.00 from Permanent Equipment, Account 2000 to SA Tech, Account 1004 to purchase a Gx7 Power Amplifier.

Second of Two Readings

George: I'm George from SA Tech. We are requesting \$539.00 to purchase a new power amplifier for two subwoofers that we bought in a previous reading. The reason that we have to buy the amplifier is because JBL discontinued the speakers. Applied Audio gave me new speakers that were \$300.00 cheaper but were a little bit more powerful than what our current equipment can handle. So we need a new power amplifier; it's more powerful and only really going to cost us \$250.00 on top of the original reading.

Matt: Since in the end this is going to allow us for more powerful speakers, will it allow for a more diverse range of DJs and bands to play in the Knight Spot?

SA Tech: The biggest difference you will see an improvement in, will be in the Ballroom. So, bigger bands that come in the winter, Spring Fest, and Back Jam since those are outside events. The old speakers we currently have are less than stellar so this would help us in sound quality of various artists that come through Geneseo.

Malcolm: This question is for Casey. How much money will be left in Permanent Equipment after this reading if it passes?

Casey: \$45,000.00

Matt: I think it's inevitable that we have to buy them because we already made a financial commitment. Although this is an unfortunate situation, there is the benefit that Activities Commission programming and programming in general that use these speakers will be improved.

Second of Two Readings, Passes 7-0-0.

New Business

48-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SA COMMITTEE allocate up to \$493.25 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Ultimate Frisbee, Account 1411 to pay for gas reimbursement.

First of Two Readings

Sam: My name is Sam and I am the President of Ultimate Frisbee.

Greg: I'm Greg and I'm the Treasurer.

Sam: We already have a line in our budget for disc fundraiser. This money will allow us to buy more discs. It is cheaper per disc to buy a larger order. Overall, this will increase the money that we make back for SA.

Justin: What is the price per disc that you will be selling at?

Sam: Either \$7.00 or \$8.00.

Greg: If we get the increase, we'll be buying them at \$4.80 a disc.

Casey: You think you'll be able to sell all 200 discs?

Greg: We had like 30 and we were able to sell them under a month. I don't think that we will have any difficulties.

Malcolm: Just out of curiosity, how much money do you already have in your discs line?

Greg: \$993.00.

Matt: How much do the discs cost before the \$4.80?

Greg: I think it's about \$6.10 a disc.

Dara: How do you sell these? Where's your market?

Greg: We sell them to students on our teams and alumni. Our biggest source is the players from other teams at tournaments.

Silvia: Did you guys think of buying 150 discs, generating profit, and seeing where that takes you?

Greg: It's the same price to buy 150 discs as it is to buy 100 discs, so it's only cheaper to buy 200 discs.

Justin: If this were to be approved, would you change the price you sold the discs at? Or would you leave it at \$8.00?

Sam: Probably leave it.

Forrest: These are customized discs right? So will they have the SA logo on them?

Sam: No. We have never done that previously.

Kate: No, that would be advertising.

Carly: And the market is outside.

Malcolm: I think in cost effectiveness, we are talking about a significant drop in price per disc, it's a good thing. They will be able to generate a profit which would be able to go back into our desperately needed Reserves. I think that's a good thing.

First of Two Readings, Passes 7-0-0.

49-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SA COMMITTEE allocate up to \$1659.20 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Ultimate Frisbee, Account 1411 to pay for gas reimbursement.

First of Two Readings

Sam: If you look at your agenda, there is a gas chart attached. It lists the tournaments that we expect to go to in the spring semester. It lists the prices at \$.20 a mile which we know is not the maximum but we are traveling a lot of miles. We understand that this is a lot of money to ask for but that's one of the reasons why we're stepping up our fundraising efforts. Gas money definitely has been the biggest bonus for the team this year. The women's team traveled to Gettysburg in the fall which is the farthest place the women's team has ever gone before. There were girls who have never gone before. At that point in the season, it's difficult to find people who will make the financial commitment to a large trip like that. It was a big swaying factor that we were able to cover the gas and the hotel rooms for the tournament which is something new this year.

Dara: Have you looked into other methods besides cars, like buses or trains? Something that might be more cost effective since your team is growing?

Greg: Unfortunately, a lot of the places that the tournaments are held at are not places that buses and trains will go to regularly. We also need to be flexible with our timing because we're not sure when our games are going to be until a day or two before a game. We can't book anything that far in advance.

Sam: I haven't done anything specific in cost analysis but we haven't considered that in the past because from personal experience, it doesn't seem like it would be cheaper. We are filling at least five people to a car, so I think that it's the cheapest option.

Dara: I meant like school buses.

Sam: Someone would need a bus license and no one on our team has one. The short answer is no, but I'm not sure if that would be a viable option anyways.

Malcolm: You mention in your typed rationale that your team was allocated \$800.00 for gas reimbursements for this semester. I was just wondering if you were allocated gas reimbursement money for next semester.

Greg: That's a typo. It should say for this year.

Malcolm: When you were putting in your budget last spring, even if you were having more tournaments than expected, you knew the four for the spring right? How come the allocation for gas is only a third of what you're asking for overall?

Sam: This was a first year asking for a gas budget, so we didn't really have an idea of how quickly we would use it up. Also, in the beginning of the semester, we were giving the max reimbursement per mile, but now we're decreasing it because it does use the money really quickly. We will be trying to make a more accurate estimate this year.

Greg: Our Treasurer last year had no idea what they were getting into.

Casey: This is only for future tournaments right? You haven't already used this money right? People haven't already driven and need the money.

Greg: No.

Silvia: For the next reading, would it be possible to have information about the tournaments you went to this semester? Just so we can see where you guys were this semester and how many miles you traveled, to compare to where you're planning on going next semester.

Greg: Sure. We can do that.

Matt: If you do not receive funding since it is a significant amount of money to ask, how many tournaments will you be able to attend next semester?

Sam: I guess I would like to see it passed for some amount of money. If we have to reduce it, I'm willing to work with you guys to a number that sounds good with everyone. It's hard to say how our plans would change. The numbers that we raise for it is really what is going to determine how many tournaments we go to.

Casey: Do you have any other planned fundraisers for next semester?

Sam: Yes. We have an indoor tournament every year. That's a big fundraiser. I'm not sure how much we'll make but that's mid to late February.

Greg: Our budget says that we're going to make about \$800.00 on it.

Justin: How much have you fundraised so far?

Greg: We've only been able to raise money from the water bottles and discs from last year. I don't know the exact amount.

Malcolm: Is it your intent to be selling the discs that you're purchasing from the last reading at each of these four events?

Greg: Yes. Absolutely.

Justin: Have you sold the jerseys so far?

Greg: Yes, all of those as well.

Dara: You say that gas is a big attraction for members. Do you know off hand how new membership has been affected by this? Will you be able to get that by the next reading?

Sam: Yeah. You mean where they would come to tournaments and not just practice?

Justin: Regionals and sectionals are accounted for differently so I hope you're not including regionals into this reading.

First of Two Readings, 7-0-0.

50-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SA COMMITTEE allocate up to \$150.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Geneseo Model UN, Account 1914 to pay for additional hotel costs for the McGill conference.

First of Two Readings

Model UN: After talking to Kate and the hotel, we decided to reduce to the amount of amount of money being requested to \$150.00. They don't go by our exchange rate and go by an exchange rate of .95 so we don't have leeway with that. Essentially what happened was that there was a mistake made in our budget. We usually take 20 delegates to Georgetown. What we said this year was that we would take 20 delegates to McGill because it's more spaced out and it's a better conference. So what we did was we increased the number of people at McGill from 16 to 20 and reduced the amount at Georgetown. We took away a hotel at Georgetown but a hotel was never added to McGill. We recognize it's our mistake so we realign a lot of our money within our budget. So all the excess money left over, which wasn't much, has been realigned. We're also prepared to take away parking and gas from the conference to further offset it. The only issue is that the hotel won't budge on when they want the money and they want to be paid by December 21st. We're willing to compensate for that but we can't lay out \$4,000.00 and SA has to layout that money for us. So that puts us in a terrible situation. Essentially we need \$150.00 just so we can book this hotel by December 21. That's why we're hoping to waive this reading so that it can be paid within the next few days before break starts.

Silvia: I just want some explanation. Why did you lower the amount from \$364.70 to \$150.00?

Dara: so then, if you're decreasing, then would that increase for students?

Model UN: Because we're making a concession and taking out parking and gas from McGill. Plus our numbers were higher when we put in our rational. It's really complicated where the little bits of money are coming from.

Dara: So if you're taking away that part, are the dues coming from the participants going to be increased?

Model UN: No. Hopefully not. The problem was that if the money wasn't offset, then it would cost people like \$180.00 which is a huge inconvenience and expensive. That might cause people to drop and that would be a poor reflection on us.

Dara: But it's the parking that I'm specifically asking about. It's in Montreal, so are you going to offset that by asking for people to pay?

Model UN: At the moment we were hoping to make due with moving from Five Colleges but that was another issue with moving that because it's a different conference.

Justin: I don't know much about Model UN. I know that two or three years ago, the hotels moved because it was a cheaper alternative but it doesn't seem to be the case here.

Model UN: Actually, Kate and I looked at the hotel costs last year. The Marriott cost us \$215.00 a night whereas the Sheraton is costing us \$202.00 a night.

Justin: Have you looked into any other hotels in the area?

Model UN: We did but a hotel where we need to be is a lot more expensive. We're booking at a conference rate. If we weren't, then this hotel would cost us \$240.00. You have to declare that there are four people in the room because you don't want to lie to them and say there's only one person in the room and then see a troop of 20 people walk upstairs and get thrown out of your hotel. Essentially we looked at a few hotels but it's the area we need to be.

Matt: If we allocate this \$150.00, will this be above the 50% that we allocate in SA for conferences?

Model UN: No.

Silvia: Why this route? Why ask for the budget increase rather than realigning from another conference and then coming back and asking for an increase when we actually have two weeks to do a reading? So like moving \$150.00 from Five Colleges and then coming back and asking for that \$150.00 when we actually have time to do a two week reading. That way we're not put into a situation where we have to make a decision in waiving?

Model UN: I mean I guess, but I didn't even consider that because it's a clerical error and it has to come from within the line itself.

Moving it out of there, we would have to take twice as much away. Couldn't we not move the full \$320.00 from Five Colleges but we could from McGill because it's in the same line?

Kate: Right.

Model UN: So we would have to take double the money away.

Kate: You would take half of each line of Five Colleges.

Casey: If you had \$600.00 in Five Colleges, you could still take \$150.00.

Model UN: Yeah, but in turn, wouldn't you be asking for a lot more money back?

Casey: In short, no.

Model UN: If you look at it price wise. Five Colleges is \$1,500.00 more while this one comes up to \$6,000.00. Traditionally, that's the one that we can take a lot of people to and that's the one that we do really well at. I just don't want to put that conference in danger. If I don't get that increase, I would have to tell people that we go to one less conference and I didn't even consider that an option.

Casey: Looking over the invoice, I have two questions. The invoice was issued October 23. So why are we here in December?

Model UN: Well the invoice was October 23, but we don't go until January 23 so our Treasurer just thought we had time. I guess she didn't realize the mistake was there. On top of that, the hotel wants it by December 21, which we didn't realize. Generally for our other conferences, we pay for it with a check when we get there or a couple of days before. They want this a full month before. It should have been done; it's just a mistake.

Casey: Also on the invoice, there's a \$220.00 bag fee for each person bringing two bags.

Model UN: It's not an option. We called today and they just put that on with the taxes. The taxes in Quebec are really high, but it's costing more because the hotel doesn't use the current exchange rate.

Justin: That doesn't change if you use a credit card?

Model UN: No.

Kate: It'll change just a little bit.

Model UN: But the credit card surcharge will be offset by us. We would even compensate for this too if we had too, but we can't ask SA to go that much above budget to lay out.

Dara: Can you talk about the alternate system if someone were to drop? And can you address the concerns regarding SA being paid back if they put out this money for you? Could you talk about your paying rate and collecting money from delegates?

Model UN: Sure. We've never hadn't had our dues in before we left for a conference. And there are alternates but if we had to raise the money, and didn't get the increase, we would have to fill a lot more spots than if we did get the increase. People would drop out because it's more expensive. If people do drop out, we have alternates who would definitely go. I don't think it is right to deprive the people who were ready and selected to go just because of a monetary concern.

Sam: We only go to four conferences each year. To put two of them in jeopardy just because the SA Board doesn't want to waive one reading for \$150.00 is sort of ridiculous. I think that waiving the first reading is the only option at this point unless moving money around is possible.

Forrest: Could I just ask for clarification from Casey regarding the process of realigning budgets?

Casey: Basically because it's coming from line 20, it would just be a memo.

Forrest: Would it delay the money at all? Would it hurt the conference, to do a realigning of the budgets?

Model UN: I don't think it would hurt anyone.

Dara: I do not speak as a member of SA exec at this moment. I was partially responsible for the budget creation. I apologize sincerely and it was absolutely a mistake. I was concerned about why you chose not to realign money from Five Colleges, but I do respect that you don't want to put that conference in jeopardy. I apologize for this error.

Silvia: I just want a point of clarification from Kate. I know we talked about the 50%. So let's say they wanted to realign \$150.00 from lodging from Five Colleges to parking for McGill, could they come and ask for that same \$150.00 again or would they only be able to ask for 50% of that?

Kate: They would ask for 50% because what's on that budget is the total expense.

Matt: I also ask for a point of clarification? When we're talking about the Five Colleges being in jeopardy, are you talking about a future reading not being passed by SA if you approach us in the spring semester?

Model UN: Essentially about bankrupting that conference and making it contingent on that reading when it may not pass.

Malcolm: From my perspective, I think that the club has explained very well how the mistake happened in the first place, and it happened in such a way that it won't happen in future years. Furthermore, I think that the situation with realigning is complicated enough that it may be better not to go through that route whether or not it works. The reading is small, only \$150.00, so I would support waiving the first week of the reading.

Sam: In regards to Matt's point, if they transferred that money and then came to SA, they can only get 50%. So it makes a lot more sense to ask for the \$150.00 now so that you don't put the conference in jeopardy, you pay the hotel on time, and you deal with the budgetary issue in the next budget review.

Silvia: I guess it's a lesson learned. This happened and it's an unfortunate situation that this occurred. My concern with this reading is that there was a mistake that could have been noticed on October 23. I think that it's a lesson to all clubs and organizations to look at all invoices thoroughly when you receive them, and come in immediately if there are any issues because this is a big issue especially at the end of the semester where we don't have a lot of time to make a decision and we're forced to make a decision. So, my advice is that people look over paperwork they receive very carefully. This is a situation we could have looked at two months ago.

Sam: I mean that it's easy to say at a SA exec perspective, but a lot of these clubs and organizations are not experts at rules, regulations, and how everything is broken down. And a lot of times it takes getting to that point. I think that yes it would have been nice to notice. I think it would be unfair not to waive the reading because of that.

Dara: I fully agree with Silvia. I think that Model UN have always prided itself on being very responsible. We have two SA exec members on Model UN and we have always worked really well with SA. This is a bad moment for us. It's fully our responsibility and the mistake of multiple people and we recognize it.

Matt: I motion to waive the first reading. Second by Casey.

Matt: The reason is that I was hesitant because of SA policy but I was persuaded by the rationale. I think our goal is to serve the students and this serves the students in the best possible way. So I think we need to break policy for this.

Malcolm: I can also add that over the past three years, Model UN is one of the clubs that have their stuff together the most, so everyone messes up from time to time.

Motion to waive the first reading passes 5-0-2, Justin and Dara abstain.

Malcolm: Should there be a motion to amend?

Silvia: I motion to amend the reading from \$364.70 to \$150.00. Second by Matt.

Motion to decrease to \$150.00 passes 5-0-2, Justin and Dara abstain.

Kate: If week two passes, please come in with the credit authorization form and the proper documents.

Silvia: I just want to emphasize my comment before that this isn't necessarily attacking Model UN. I just want people to be aware of their budgets, responsibilities to their club, and what their rights are. I think that being part of Casey's committee and going to budget trainings and things like that is really important to a club.

Malcolm: I would like to thank Model UN for doing their best to fix the mistake.

Dara: I think that it's a good thing to note, that if you have any questions regarding your budget, immediately come and talk to SA exec and Casey.

Second of Two Readings, Passes 5-0-2, Justin and Dara abstain.

Open Discussion

Casey: An idea that I had to make decisions more equitable in Student Association is to have everyone vote. Basically allowing the reps to vote about who gets funded and the other issues that SA handled. I want some feedback as to if that's something you're interested in.

Melissa: I think that a lot of people would support that. Being a rep for ACE last year and then moving to SA wasn't a change that I particularly enjoyed. You guys value our opinions but I think that having a vote would make us feel more involved and feel like it's more important to come.

Sam: Just as we were required to send a representative every week, I think people would be more motivated and appreciate the time to attend. I think that having a vote would make students more supportive of each other.

Jason: I'm going to second that. As of right now, this feels more like a chore to me because this is a sports practice day as well for me. An actual vote would mean a lot.

Malcolm: My feelings are rather mixed. I do see a strong and good element to this. We've had some good SA execs in a row the past few years but every few years, there is an elitism that occurs in the way SA is structured. This type of change would go a long way to mitigate or eliminate that. However, with that being said, I'm a little weary of the potential for danger. Not that I think that this concern is something that should stop it because overall I think that it's a good idea. I'm concerned about what something like that might mean for the Reserves; what happens if the referendum fails. I mean, we got a little into this discussion during the concert reading. I'm concerned about future readings like the concert, where it looks very good in the short term but may have a detrimental effect in the long run. I'm concerned that it'll be easier to drain and empty the Reserves and then have the referendum fail and not be able to preserve a skeleton Student Association. I would just ask that extra precautions be built in to SA financial policy if this type of change were to occur.

Steve: How do you anticipate in doing this because from my understanding, it would have to be a Constitutional change? Would you do something in bylaws? A Constitutional change would require a referendum.

Casey: This is something that would require a longer discussion than right now.

Dara: It wouldn't be an individual vote where every member gets a vote type of situation, because that would defeat the purpose of the SA exec board. We were thinking of larger, majority votes. We would also be interested in seeing if it's just reps that get part of the vote or if it's anybody in the room and so on. Would that motivate more people to come or would that negatively impact the stacking of the room?

Malcolm: There might be a middle ground where everyone in the room, whether or not you're representing a club, can have a vote, and have less danger to the Reserves. I think there was something that Nick proposed last year where polling was done on every reading. I know that it was discontinued because it would cost money but maybe it's something that SA wants to put into the budget. Maybe use the clickers that some classes use. That may be a middle ground. Then you wouldn't have to change the Constitution because it would still be the SA exec that has the final vote. We could show our opinion before you vote.

Matt: From a social psychology perspective, the voting should be anonymous because hand-raising may influence other people's votes.

Sam: I think that only each club representative should have a vote because it's far too easy to stack the room.

Chris: I was going to agree with that.

Malcolm: Perhaps there could be some mechanism for people who regularly attend regardless of their affiliation to vote. For example, I'm here of my own free will and I come to every meeting, even when I'm sick. People like me should be given a vote. I do think that packing the room is a concern but if there were some kind of "attend this many times and get a vote" kind of thing, that might be an option.

Silvia: Could I get a raise of hands for an advisory vote? [A majority.] And now binding. [two hands raised.]

Casey: For clarification, a binding vote would not be equal to the exec board votes. Your votes would all be equivalent to two votes. That would be a binding vote.

Carly: Basically if you're all in support of this, we're going to try and hash it out. We're not going to give you all the logistics right now.

Dara: But think about it and talk to us.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Choo
Recording Secretary