

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



Student Association meetings are Wednesdays at 6:45 pm in the College Union Hunt Room. All are welcome to attend.

**MINUTES #23, Wednesday, February 27, 2013**

Page Business Meeting Agenda

***Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes***

***Updates***

***Old Business***

62-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$320.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to SA Programs, Account 1002 to start a new program to fund Relay for Life's SA tech fees, costs for decorations, and a DJ.

*Second of Two Readings*

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*Second of Two Readings*

***New Business***

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*First and Only Reading*

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*First of Two Readings*

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*First of Two Readings*

***Open Discussion***

***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:** 6:45 pm.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Amendment to reading 68-1213 from “Account 2000” to “Account 4000”.  
Passes 7-0-0.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Amendment in Updates for Sadie Baker: “African people with disabilities” to “international rights of people with disabilities”, “Quality in Uganda” to “Equality Uganda”, and “LBGT” to “LGBT”.  
Passes 7-0-0.

### Updates

**President, Carly Annable updates:** I just want to echo what Dara said. On Friday, they will have a state of the budget speaker come to the Hunt Room at 10:30 am. If you are interested in seeing how the budget is going to shape up for the next year, I highly recommend that you be there. I’m going to be there and it’s going to be fun. I also want to remind everyone that contracts are supposed to be in to the SA office four weeks before the event. There is a legal reason for this. Different parties need to look at it and there may be some negotiation involved in some cases. I do not like rejecting contracts so please send them in four weeks before your event. Also, if you have a contract for your event, you cannot advertise for your event until you get the green light. We don’t want you advertising for an event that may potentially not happen.

**Vice-President, Justin Shapiro updates:** Today’s public forum didn’t work out as no one came. There will be another one later this semester. I’m still working on Medical Amnesty so look forward to the letter writing campaign coming up in the next few weeks. There will be a club sports meeting on March 5th in CU 329 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, but it probably won’t go until 8:00 pm. All club sports have to come to the meeting. We will be revising the bylaws so we don’t have to meet every month.

**Director of Business Affairs, Casey Howard updates:** Budget review is still going on this week. We had hearings this past week. We still have about a dozen more left on Friday. The committee will get together next week to put together a proposal that will be made public to all the clubs. However, it won’t be made available until after the referendum, hopefully, passes because if we don’t have the money to allocate then there’s no point in letting you know how much money you could have gotten. Expect those in your club mailboxes just before spring break and the appeal process will be after spring break.

**Director of Inter-Residence Affairs, Silvia Roma updates:** I met with Dr. Bonfiglio yesterday. For those of you who live on campus, they are getting rid of the college’s movie channels so that we can get other channels that students want. If you live on campus, and you have any suggestions for channels that you want, then email me at sairc@geneseo.edu.

**Director of Public Relations, Forrest Regan updates:** The referendum is from March 11th to the 13<sup>th</sup>. The referendum is less than two weeks away; it’s not this coming Monday thru Wednesday but next Monday thru Wednesday. It will start off Monday night in the Ballroom with a band playing. There will be computers to vote. Vote yes to the referendum! Go talk over with your clubs about the referendum, why people should vote yes on it, and how your club gets funded. I highly encourage all of you to do that.

**Director of Academic Affairs, Dara Gell updates:** There will be a free reading for the play *Eight* this Friday at 8:00 pm in Sturges Auditorium. It’s about Proposition 8 and the court case that ruled it unconstitutional in California. It’s written by the Oscar writer who wrote *Milk*. It’s about LGBTQI. It’s about rights there and it’s free. The day after will be Equality Uganda. MAPS is putting on a health care disparity monologue and are looking for actors to take part in that. It’s like the Vagina Monologues but about issues regarding the healthcare system and about people not having access. If you’re an actor or have a really strong desire to be part of this play advocating for health reform, then get in contact with MAPS at maps@geneseo.edu. The governor’s meeting has been rescheduled to this Friday at 10:30 am in the Hunt Room. The speaker will be Leecia Eve who is the Deputy Secretary of Economic Development for the Governor. The GREAT Day submission deadline is March 8th. We are still looking for volunteers for Monday, April 15th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Finally, regarding the Professor Recognition Ceremony that AAC works on together with the Teaching and Learning Center, we are getting ready to send out surveys and receive professor nominations. My Communication Coordinator and Vice Chair are looking for people who are interested in helping with the Ceremony to form a committee. You can gain great experience, put it on your resume, and professors really appreciate being nominated by students. If you’re interested, email aac@geneseo.edu or come talk to me.

**Director of Student Affairs, Sadie Baker updates:** Shakti’s cultural dinner is this weekend on Saturday. Doors open at 5:30 and dinner starts at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$6.00. There will be delicious foods such as beef kebobs and some kind of wonderful sounding mango dessert. It’s going to be a fantastic event and I strongly recommend that all of you attend. On the same day, somewhere else and at a slightly different time, is Equality Uganda. It’s going to be a really cool event. There is going to be two parts to it, so if you don’t make it to one part, you can go to another. It will be in Wadsworth from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Mr. Luzau Balowa will be giving a free lecture on the state of LGBTQI awareness and rights in the Ugandan community. From 8:00 to 9:30 pm, there will be a benefit concert for Uganda Gay Rights and will have performances that highlight gay composers and performers. The tickets are \$5.00 for

students and \$20.00 for the public. Next weekend, Pride and LSA are bringing in a speaker. I will have more information on that next week. You should also look out for the Hip Hop Symposium that is coming up. ACE is funding the keynote speaker who is a gay, black, and Jewish hip hop artist and he ties his background into his art. KASA's cultural dinner is on March 9th. Also, on March 25th, Upstate Escapes is sponsoring a trip to go see Maya Angelou speak at RIT. This so this may be one of the last times to see her speak.

**Director of Student Programming, Matt Bower updates:** AC election applications are due March 15th by 4:00 pm. I would definitely encourage those who are interested to apply, especially engaged freshmen and sophomores. We have a very senior heavy board this year, so we definitely want to recruit some highly motivated individuals. Tomorrow, AC's speeches will be made in the Kinetic Gallery. It will be open to the public. The art gallery opened yesterday and it's a very cool and eclectic mix of art. I find them particularly enjoyable so maybe you can come tomorrow and look at them during the speeches when someone isn't particularly a very good speaker.

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

**Patty Hamilton-Rodgers, SA Executive Committee Advisor updates:** Vote yes to referendum.

### Open Updates

Steve: This is concerning elections. Campaigning was supposed to start today, and I sent an email out about this, but because we weren't able to get the GPA waivers as a staff member in the Dean's Office was out sick, we haven't gotten those. We will hopefully get them tomorrow, at which point I will email all of you and everything will resume. Hopefully the speech that Matt mentioned will still be on. I'm looking forward to that at 7:00 pm in the Kinetic Gallery.

Forrest: Could you go over when the rest of the speeches will be?

Steve: IRC is at 8:00 pm in the Hunt Room on March 4th. AAC is also in the Hunt Room at 7:00 pm on the 5<sup>th</sup>. SA is at 6:45 pm a week from today.

Sadie: I strongly encourage those running to come and give speeches at ACE at 8:00 pm.

Chris: A few weeks ago, it was announced that GLK is not doing grants anymore. I talked to GLK recently and they said that they don't have much money but they still have a little bit so it's worth checking with them.

Casey: I just want to jump off of that, because I talked with GLK today. For clubs and organizations that want to have an event, GLK still has some items and resources in their office in the Union, so they can still help you out to some capacity. Therefore, if your organization is looking to program, you can always ask GLK and you can always ask for a budget increase from us.

Shakti: Just to reiterate what Sadie said, Shakti will be having their dinner this Saturday. We've been working really hard. We will be selling tickets in the Union all week, so Thursday and Friday, and maybe at the door. Also, we need some help cooking, so if you're interested, you can email me at rsa2@geneseo.edu or come up to me after the meeting.

Silvia: This weekend, I will be in Boston for a conference representing IRC. I'm very excited. I'm presenting a program and I will be here next week with more updates on what happened.

Malcolm: A couple of announcements have been reemphasized. I would just like to reemphasize the most important which has only been given once. Vote yes in the referendum on March 11th thru 13th. Everyone in this room is a beneficiary of the funds that are collected by keeping the activity fee mandatory. If the referendum fails, we are going to have a bad time next year. Or I should say you're going to have a bad time next year because I'm graduating.

### Old Business

62-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$320.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to SA Programs, Account 1002 to start a new program to fund Relay for Life's SA tech fees, costs for decorations, and a DJ.

*Second of Two Readings*

Jessica: Hopefully, all of you know that Relay for Life is not a running event. We do need a track and it's an all-night fundraiser. It's actually the biggest fundraiser on campus. This year is our second year in the ice arena and it's much bigger than the gym which is where it used to be held. Having a bigger venue, which is great because we have about 1,100 people come, we need more materials, which is why we're asking for \$320.00 from SA. The money is for the stage, the decorations, and the DJ.

Malcolm: I have a question for Casey. This is relevant for several readings and not just this one and this seems the best time to ask it. At the moment, before this reading and any of the other readings today are approved, how much is left in Budget Increases?

Casey: I anticipated this. Actually, I counted it after this reading and Budget Increases stands at \$60,908.00.

Matt: I know that Relay for Life is a large event on campus. We should support it because it's a good cause.

62-1213: *Second of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

63-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$283.86 from SA Programs – Conferences, Account 1002 to fund SUNY Geneseo Quidditch at the Quidditch World Cup from April 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.

*Second of Two Readings*

Rob: I'm Rob Terreri.

Miles: I'm Miles Shadman.

Rob: You guys heard this last week, but we're just going to go over it quickly again. We're breaking our reading into two or three separate parts because it's such a large trip and we're still working out the details for transportation and the like. This is specifically for the lodging. We're staying at Ramada which is about ten miles away from where we're going to be playing. It's one of the cheapest and cleanest hotels that we could find in the region.

Miles: There was one hotel that was cheaper but there were many complaints in the last two or three weeks about cockroach infestations. So we decided not to go.

Silvia: Let's say you're flying down to Florida and this hotel is ten miles away. How are you making sure that you have transportation?

Rob: We're flying down and renting cars.

Silvia: And do you have someone that can legally rent a car?

Rob: Yes. How it works in Florida is that you have to be 21 and there's a \$10.00 fee or something like that.

Malcolm: I have three questions. One is definitely for Quidditch, one is definitely for Casey, and one can be for either. First, for the gentlemen from Quidditch, given the expensiveness of airfare nowadays, what happens if for whatever reason, this reading passes but your airfare reading doesn't? Are you sure you guys would still be able to go? In other words, you won't be wasting our money?

Rob: If SA were to turn down our airfare, we would still find a way to get there because we qualified and we put in a lot of effort trying to get to the World Cup. Even if our members had to drive there, we would find a way.

Malcolm: My second question, specifically for Casey, is how much is in the Conferences line?

Casey: That's one that I didn't look up but definitely enough.

Malcolm: Do you think it's enough for this reading and for Conferences for the rest of the semester?

Casey: I can't speak towards that because I'm not clairvoyant, but I would say it should be fine.

Carly: Not to mention that most of the time, people who are coming in for Conferences, come and talk to Kate first. We would know ahead of time if we have enough in that line.

Casey: I have been working with them way before this came here.

Malcolm: My final question, I'm not sure who this should be directed to but I have a sense it might be Casey, how does fiscal policy exactly work with the multiple reading structure that Quidditch is looking for? Is multiple readings for Conferences allowed, or once you lock in the funds for Conference, is SA prohibited from allocating more funds for that conference in some way?

Casey: No, they aren't prohibited from more funds but there's no guarantee that the other readings will pass. Therefore, if today's reading passes, they will get the funds for lodging but this reading has nothing to do with the next reading. But they still keep the cap of \$2,500.00 that we will provide. In Financial Policy, \$2,500.00 is the maximum that we can provide for a Conference.

Malcolm: So this reading would bring it down to?

Casey: \$2,217.00.

Rob: It's more risky to break up the readings but we don't want to lose our hotel. If we wait to figure out the transportation, then we might lose the hotel because of the prices constantly going up. It's just easier to break it up.

Malcolm: So the reading is kosher with the financial policy?

Casey: Yes. They just need to keep the \$2,500.00 cap.

Dara: Why are you not doing the airfare right now?

Rob: We're still going through our options on traveling. We were going to work through a travel agent but we found that it's cheaper to order tickets on our own. The reason we broke it up is because we found right away where we're going to stay but we're still exploring our options for travel.

63-1213: *Second of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

### New Business

65-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the Budget Realignment Request from Community Health Alliance, Account 1927 to create a new sub-line entitled Healthy Cooking Classes at IFC.

*First and Only Reading*

Grace: Hi. I'm Grace and I'm the Treasurer for Community Health Alliance. We are a service organization on campus made up of students interested in health and the health field. We mostly partner with local organizations off-campus to promote health and wellness in our community and globally. Because we don't do much on campus, we found an opportunity to partner with the Director of the Interfaith Center to start healthy cooking classes for students both on and off campus. We want to show students that live on campus what they can do with one pot and one knife. And for the students who live off campus, who have a kitchen and don't know what to do with it, we want to show them what they can do for cheap prices and things like that. We have a line in our budget for a different project that we're not going to use all of. We're going to use some funds from this and some from the Interfaith Center. We really hope to partner with Wegmans. They've expressed some interest but they're currently going through some management changes, so it's not definite just yet. But if we can get them to help us, that would be really great. The first class, if this is approved,

will be on March 12th. We're going to do this as a series. There will be two in April and hopefully Wegmans will work with us for those.

Malcolm: How much funds is needed for this line that you're taking funds out of? Are you sure you're going to have enough funds left?

Grace: No. But I created this before that was known. We're going to work it out.

Silvia: Could you explain what the whole Community Health Alliance line is and what it functions as?

Grace: We're a newer student organization. We started my freshman year. The budgets that we've had in the past couple of years are kind of for things that we foresee doing. HOPE is an organization that is run by a professor on campus and in the Northern part of Haiti. During our first year that we were recognized as a club, we held a Haiti week. Last year, we didn't do as much but we kept the line there. Now we're actually doing a lot more.

Casey: I just want this to be clear. There will probably be a budget increase request soon?

Grace: Yes.

Shakti: Will there be any fee to attend these cooking classes?

Grace: No. We think we can have about 25 to 30 people. We'll send out emails through the What's-Up Digest and have a Google Doc sign up. Also, if you see posters, you can email the organization to reserve a spot. We just ask that if you have Tupperware, you bring it, but everything else will be covered. It's to give people a change of scenery and food options. I budgeted for the first class already and I think that it'll probably be about \$75.00 for the food and some money for printing.

Forrest: Did you put this new line in for your budget for next year?

Grace: I didn't put it in for the proposal but I did put it in at the budget hearing. So, yes it is there. Proposals are due early.

Casey: I would typically not be in support because it would be a silly way to spend money that would need to be replenished but due to the timing I think that it's fine.

Grace: I can talk to you after the meeting about what we plan to do about our budget.

Justin: I think that the proposal is fine. I trust your organization to do this.

Shakti: I think this is a really good idea.

Grace: This will be vegetarian and carnivore friendly. There will be different themes for each one.

65-1213: *First and Only Reading, Passes 7-0-0*

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*First of Two Readings*

66-1213: *First of Two Readings, Fails, no representative present.*

67-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$350.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Korean American Student Association, Account 1911 for KASA's Annual Poker Night.

*First of Two Readings*

Philip: I'm Philip from KASA and I'm the ACE rep. This is Paul. As you heard, GLK's a bit low in their budget. We're asking you for \$350.00 for Poker Night. We do this every year and it's been pretty successful. This money will go towards prize funds. The prizes are incentives and create a positive and competitive atmosphere. The winners of the competition will receive prizes. There are three prizes in total that will be purchased with this money.

Dara: Is it legal to gamble like this?

Paul: There's no buying or anything. It's all free.

Carly: There's an equal chance for everyone.

Matt: What is the average turnout for this event?

Paul: We get about 150 people but we cap it off at 150.

Malcolm: Will you guys be instructing people, for those who show up and want to play but don't know how?

Philip: Yes.

Chris: If you need any poker chips, I think we still have a huge box of them sitting around. So if you want any of them, you can contact us.

Paul: We do have some from GLK.

Sadie: I just want to highly encourage all clubs that need funding and expected to receive it from GLK but cannot, to come to ACE for these budget increases.

67-1213: *First of Two Readings, Passes 7-0-0.*

68-1213 BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$40,000.00 from SA Reserves, Account 4000 to SA Programs, Account 1002 to fund the Geneseo Foundation's Research and Travel Grants.

*First of Two Readings*

Bill Brower: Thank you all for having me here today. I thought that I would start by introducing myself. I'm here because my colleagues couldn't make it. Lisa Feinstein is doing grand jury duty up in Rochester and Anne Baldwin is extremely sick. I'm here to represent them in Advancement. My name is Bill Brower and I am the new Vice President for Advancement here at Geneseo. I started

in September. It's been a great five months being here with you. I came over from Hamilton College over in Clinton, NY. That's my alma mater. I grew up in Southern New Jersey and went to a small public high school. I had the opportunity to go to Hamilton and it really changed my life. I love my alma mater. I was a History major, ran cross country and track, served on the academic honor core, and was Chair of the Intermural Council. I moved to Boston and worked there for twelve years at *Perkins School for the Blind* and started doing development and advancement work there. I was invited to work at Hamilton and I jumped at the chance to work for my alma mater. I was there for sixteen years and did a lot of work in the development office. I was not looking for a job but I got a call in June about this job in Geneseo and I ignored it. I got another call from a President of a public liberal arts college in Maryland who is a friend of mine. He had gotten to know about Geneseo when he came here for the middle states accreditation process and he said I should really look at it. I respect him a lot so I did and really started to follow up on your college. I brought my son, who is a senior in high school, and he liked it, which told me a lot. He's an applicant for the Class of 2017 so we're keeping our fingers crossed. I still live in Syracuse so I commute over most days. My wife and I have three boys who are all in high school. They are all doing well so we didn't want to disrupt that. I do a lot of driving to be here with you. When I think about why I came to Geneseo from a place like Hamilton, of all the SUNYs, I knew that Geneseo was among the best but I didn't know how strong it was. Geneseo really looks like one of the private liberal arts colleges in the state of New York. When I think of Skidmore, Vassar, Colgate, Union, Hamilton, and when I look at Geneseo, I think it's stronger than some of the other private liberal arts college. When I looked at the performance on the Advancement side, it's not comparable. The alumni of Geneseo don't support your college like the alumni do for other private colleges, either with dollars or the percentage of alumni who contribute. Even at a place like St. Lawrence, while I think Geneseo is a better school, their alumni participation is 30%. Last year at Geneseo, it was a little less than 9%. We're involved in a capital campaign which is very successful. We're going to end the campaign in June and \$22 million will have been contributed which is extraordinary for this college. The previous campaign was about \$7.5 million. That's a significant improvement but it needs to be a lot more. When I was interviewed, what I said was that the day your campaign ends on June 30, a new campaign will start. That's the way you need to do it in the business. You know, we're trying to really create a culture of philanthropy here at Geneseo where one doesn't really exist. I'm not sure exactly why it doesn't really exist. I think in part, the alumni think that the state is doing it. I think that the people in this room know that that is not the case. Your tuition is going up but the state funding is going down. You have this pool of money that you're distributing to each other and you're being really careful about it because there's not a lot of it here. We need to be careful about how we spend our money. This brings me to the point of thanking you, as the students of Geneseo, for what you've done for each other since 1989 through this program of supporting student research, study abroad, and other things that you have done. I'll get into the power point. I'm not extremely familiar about these figures but I'll do my best to answer any questions. I can also take the questions back to folks who work more directly with these figures. As I get into this, you will see how many people have been supported by your generosity since 1989. I think your most recent support put the contributions over a million dollars. You are the major donors here at Geneseo. If you think about the parents and alumni who give support to the school, the students are the most generous supporters. I think that's part of the equation that makes Geneseo special and it's not something I'm familiar with from Hamilton. I didn't do this presentation at Hamilton to our Student Association. I think this is unique to public schools and the level of generosity is unique to Geneseo. Tonight I've seen you work with each other to support each other in what's important to you. And I'm going to ask that you support each other in something else that's important to you and that's research and study abroad grants. Part of the story is that since 1989, this program has grown substantially. The demand has grown. More and more students are requesting support to do research and study abroad. Your support has increased and the private support that's coming through has increased. I've talked to people about this process and I want to make it clear that this is not a matching program in any way. The Foundation, and the people who are making gifts to the college, are going to be supportive of this regardless of the decision you make. We hope that you will support each other and the really neat things that you do for research and study abroad. I think there are more margins of excellent scholars. They're not budgeted in the state or college budget. That's why we're here to talk with you. This chart just reemphasizes what I said. Almost 2,400 people have been supported since the 1989 academic year and it's over a million dollars. It's grown over time and it's because students who are coming here want to do this kind of thing in addition to their co-curricular and curricular activities. I think this is important because your students want it. Last year, according to Anne Baldwin, the max award was lowered a little bit but demand was high. There were a record number of applications last spring. In the current academic year, over 204 awards were made and the total approached over \$100,000.00. Anne put together a number of graphs. I think this is the number of awards from 2008 and 2009, so you can see that the trend is up. It was down a little bit last year overall, but it is trending up. This is the amount of money that the college has spent through your support over the last five years. This is the average award. It was down a little last year because they lowered the cap on what students could apply for. I think over time, we'd like to increase it back to what it was like before. We would like to get it back to \$650,000.00. This graph shows the way that applications come in. The biggest group of applications comes in during the spring and we're going to add a fourth deadline for people who want to do research and travel over the summer. This is the group of people who determine the award recipients from the grant proposals. I think that it is a competitive process but it's also a kind process. This group and Anne's office want to coach students. If students propose a grant that needs some work, Anne is willing to work with students to get a proposal that can be funded. It is competitive but it is also a process where we want to see students get this money. Carly and Casey are also on the subcommittee, which is part of the group who make the decision about funding the experience. That brings me to the request. I do this really respectfully and humbly. The Foundation would like to ask you for \$40,000.00 this year to provide the types of academic experience that students are demanding and that really enhances the educational experience here at Geneseo. They help make Geneseo the best SUNY. Just to give you a sense of the impact this money has, you need an endowment of almost a million dollars to generate this kind of money. When I say those words at Geneseo, it's significant. Endowment here is about \$23 million total. This is a huge thing that you consider every year. It's touched thousands of lives. I really want you to know that you're doing it in partnership with us. I would not have come here if I did not believe that Geneseo could get better at encouraging private individuals who love this place to be as generous as they are at the private colleges. I

can't give any reason why we can't do a lot better. In the next issue of the *Scene*, the Chairman of the Foundation Board has written an op-ed talking about this. I think the title of it is "Where is Everyone?" When polling Geneseo alumni, 96% said that they had a good or great experience here and they love the place and the alumni participation is 8.5%. There are a lot of reasons for that and there are a lot of ways to increase that. It's about changing the culture and creating a culture about giving back. You all do that. I see all the volunteer work you do and the kinds of things that you're asking money for. That is part of the DNA here. People give back, they look beyond their own self-interest, and I think over time, part of our job in advancement will be to get the entire alumni family to include Geneseo as part of their top philanthropic priorities. It doesn't have to be the top one. You're all going to go out and be active leaders in your communities, but we would like it to be in the top three. If we can do that, then over time, the experiences of the students who come after you will be even better than the ones you're having. And hopefully, someone from the Chess Club won't miss a meeting where they're asking for \$76.00. The Student Association will always be here to make important decisions but we need help from alumni and the seniors after they graduate. The 25 people in my office can't do it alone. That's my pitch. I will do my best to answer questions but again, my facility with the details is not what Anne's is or Lisa's is. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

Malcolm: Fair warning sir, I have a number of questions. Thank you for coming here and presenting to us. And thank you for working with us in the state. I'm sure our funding from the state isn't exactly what you're used to. The subcommittee that's distributing the awards has two numbers from deactivated departments that are being phased out: Computer Sciences and Communication Disorders and Sciences. I was wondering if that was creating a problem in that the faculty members are no longer exactly attached to the institution and have no long term interest here anymore? They're not going to be here in a year or two.

Carly: To be completely honest, when they put this up and I heard that there are professors from Communication Disorders and Sciences and Computer Science, I was shocked because I didn't know that any of the professors there were from that. There really isn't any animosity or things along those lines. Actually, Dr. Pacheco is the Chair of it and I am constantly overwhelmed by how stringently he pays attention to how these readings are coming through and how seriously he takes this funding and the fact that the money that we give every single year isn't a definite thing. He takes his job very seriously and I can't vouch enough for how high quality this committee actually is.

Malcolm: Is the committee reformed every year?

Carly: Yes

Malcolm: My next question is, at one point you said that this is not a matching thing in any way. But on the letter that is attached to the agenda here, in bolded letters, the Geneseo Foundation states once again that they would match this commitment. This is a problem that I recall having last spring too. Granted it's before you got here, the Foundation has this habit of saying that this isn't a matching thing and we're going to give the money anyway and then every single piece of written documentation they produce say that the Foundation contribution will only match what the SA puts in and it drives me a little nutty to hear that dichotomy again.

Bill: I apologize for that. I see the letter here and I see what you're saying. I think that it's a mistake. I think it shouldn't say that. And I would like to, over time, provide more funds for this kind of thing. When I think about the cases for support at Geneseo, it includes scholarship support, based on need and merit, more opportunities for the kinds of things these students are applying for, travel opportunities for students and faculty, and much more. Over time, I'd like to do a lot more than \$40,000.00 and will do my best to do that.

Malcolm: But sir, for the moment, can you go on the record that no matter what SA does, the Foundation will assuredly be putting \$40,000.00 in this program?

Bill: Yes.

Patty: Don't focus on the word "match". That's a common advancement term. I know last year, we got way off the rail because the word "match" was interpreted as the Foundation was holding that money hostage until SA gave the money. Don't think about it that way at all. That's a common advancement term that is used often when it's appealing to other entities that if they put up this much, we'll match that. By no means will the Foundation ever hold that money hostage. Last year, the Student Association gave a certain amount and the Foundation gave much more. Please don't focus on that word.

Forrest: I was wondering if you know what the rates were for research and travel grants at Hamilton

Bill: I can find out. But it's different there because their budgets are larger for students. I don't want to say the numbers but there is a lot of money over there and families that can pay it pay a lot more. What I like about Geneseo is that there is more opportunity for bright kids from middle class families to come to a place like this. For places like Colgate and Hamilton, that's where families are getting squeezed and there's no opportunity for the students. I think a lot of it is budgeted. There are endowments we worked on over time. There is a wonderful endowment for students who are studying the sciences to do summer research. So this process that we go through here, they don't go through over there. There is a very strong, unrestricted, annual fund over there. That's money that's given for "use it where you think you need it most". I think Hamilton's annual fund supports this kind of thing, but it's budgeted. It's written into the college's budget. It's just a wealthier place. There's just more opportunities for things like this. That's why it's more motivating to me to provide opportunities like this to Geneseo students through private funding.

Silvia: Thank you so much for coming in today. Is there anything in place that someone from SA executive committee will always be part of the committee ever year given how much money SA contributes?

Carly: Yes, it's mandated. Because there was so much controversy last year, I asked if anyone else on SA exec wanted to be on it and that's how Casey joined. But someone from SA exec is always mandated to be on the committee.

Chris: I'm curious as to what exactly these grants are going towards. Maybe if you can give me an example? I know that Anthropology majors, as part of their requirements, have a summer archeological dig. I don't know if any of this money goes towards that. I know of a lot of people who have done summer research as you said. Could you give us an example or two of things that would be funded? And are there any other grant programs, on the state and federal level, which students can apply for to defer some of the cost.

Bill: I'm not sure if you can tell in the lighting here but my face has turned very red. I've tried to get the broad understanding of this. When I talked to Anne, we definitely talked with stories. In part, what my colleagues in Communications do is tell stories. Telling the best and most compelling stories about what you are doing will encourage other people to give. I don't know any of those stories as I stand here tonight. We can get the whole list of all the research that was funded and share it with the Student Association.

Chris: But it's research that's being funded?

Bill: It's mostly research and travel.

Carly: We actually have a number of recipients in the room right now.

Grace: Can I just give an example? Last semester I did a directed study with a professor in the geography department. I'm a Biochemistry major so that's something that's really cool. I got to attend the Middle States Geography Conference and present my research. I got a travel grant that reimburses the cost of going to that conference. This semester, I applied for the full amount and hope to receive it to go to Haiti to do research in public health with the whole community partner that was mentioned earlier. So those are just two examples.

Josephine: For undergraduate students at Geneseo who are not working with faculty, this is essentially the only way to receive research and travel money. I have been a recipient two times and I have also applied this year. I'm a Communication major and this year we have 16 students applying to attend the Eastern Association Communication Conference. Sixteen is double the size of any delegation from any school, public or private, in the Northeast. So Geneseo has a great reputation in the communication field for that reason and without the grant money from this year, and previous years, we would not have that reputation.

Dara: Do you know how many students get turned down?

Carly: None. The process is that they don't want to turn students down. If their rationale has problems, they will fix their rationale until it's good. So everyone who gets funding goes through the entire process and turns in something of high quality in the end. But the idea is that the students turning in proposals, this is their first time so we want it to be a learning process from the beginning to the end.

Casey: The mentality is to reduce the amount if necessary to accommodate as many applicants as we can. We would reduce the amount so that everyone gets something.

Dara: Is there any way you can ask Anne Baldwin or Lisa to look up and bring numbers of how many students receive multiples of these awards? And how many are receiving them for the first time this year. I just want to know the general spread of these awards.

Bill: So, looking at the past five years, how many students have gotten more than one and how many have only received one?

Dara: Yes. That would be wonderful. Thank you.

Silvia: Also, just an average number per student.

Malcolm: Why is this coming to SA right now? What determines the timing of when the request comes to SA? Why is this coming in the last week of February? Last year they came in April. I'm curious as to why not a little later or why not a little earlier? Why right now?

Bill: I would say that if SA would like the Foundation to come at a specific time of the year, then we could do that. I came in September, but we would like to work with you so we can adjust that. As you are very generous supporters, we should treat you that way. If it's better to come in September or October we can do that. I'm not sure why tonight I'm standing up here except that people told me that I should be here tonight.

Casey: This year in particular, we had gotten correspondence from Lisa around the time of the concert reading.

Carly: The beginning of last semester is when we sat down with Anne and Lisa to discuss this. We requested that they come in the beginning of last semester. For some reason, that I don't know why, we didn't get contacted until the week before the concert reading. Since the concert reading is generally a three hour long process, we kindly asked for her to push it back a week. And then for some reason, which we don't entirely understand the logistics of, we're getting it now.

Bill: Part of it may be on me as someone who is new because I am really encouraging my staff to do their work in a different way. It's a way that I've seen work in another place, so there is a learning curve for them. I've been pushing a lot the past five months.

Patty: Historically, because I was part of Advancement, this is about the time we came in, because it was partnered with the scholarship. Now the scholarship is fully endowed. But this is about the time we would know how much money we would have going forward. The past two years, in all honesty, there have been a lot of transitions with the Foundation's relationship with SA.

Malcolm: Why is there not another reading on the agenda in decreasing Budget Increases and putting that straight into the Reserves to fund this directly? And hence keep SA on budget for the year rather than dip into the Reserves and go potentially over budget?

Casey: At this point in the Financial Policy, and it's something that I'm looking into changing, we don't have a way in reabsorbing money and moving it out of something. We just don't have an avenue to do that, and I'm looking into changing that. That's just not how it works. Traditionally, and I've talked to Kate, this is how it's been done. The way I've looked at it, and the way I want you to look at it is that the money we don't spend in Budget Increases is what then goes back into Reserves. We still look at it as though it's coming from Budget Increases because that's what we allocated for the academic year.

Patty: The money that this is funded from is the Reserves. For lack of better terms, this is from the money left over at the end of the year. All the money that hasn't been used gets put into the Reserves account. The check we are writing is for next year, so we look at the request as though we are taking the money from what is left at the end of this year.

Malcolm: Given that next week has a full agenda to begin with and speeches for SA, has there been any discussion about taking a week off? Doing week one tonight and doing week two, two weeks from now?

Carly: I mean we haven't really talked about it. We could. The rest of the stuff on the agenda is not going to take a lot time. It's something we can talk about afterwards.

Malcolm: Just to clarify though, when you get back to me, there will be another reason why I'd advocate moving it back one more week.

Sadie: This is something I'd like you to pass on to Lisa and Anne. I'd like to know the spread of the distribution of grants by major. Can you speak to the way in which the research and travel grants level the playing field for students of different socioeconomic status?

Bill: I think that socioeconomic status of the students at Geneseo is what is. These grants reward people who are hungry and are motivated for more. They are rewarding people who are taking what is already a great educational opportunity and make it better through the support of SA and the private support that flows through the Foundation. I want to be really clear about that. It's a lot of people who are giving money to the school through the Foundation. I don't know that these level the playing field in an economic way. Geneseo levels it already by tuition. This is an extra.

Matt: I was curious about percentages by major, because maybe it's better to have professors from majors that a majority of the applicants of the grants are in. Like for example, psychology is a very predominant field. Perhaps it would be more representative to have faculty from each of the departments.

Patty: Every department has a representative on the Research Council. From the Research Council, they create subcommittees. This is one subcommittee and they each do different things.

Bill: I think what you're saying is that if there were a large number of psychology majors as applicants for the grants over the past five years, then it would make more sense to have a psychology professor on the subcommittee because they would be more versed in the merits of that proposal. So that's a good question.

Malcolm: My next question is for Casey: given the funding shortfalls that GLK has run into, and the fact that clubs will have to come to SA, in addition to other funding requests we'll see, how likely is it that we'll stay within the \$20,000.00 in the Budget Increases after we make an account for this?

Casey: So you're asking me another clairvoyant question right? We should be fine. I just want to remind you that we still haven't tapped out all of the 2012-2013 allocation. We still have a little bit of wriggle room left in this year before we would have to go into the Reserves.

Malcolm: Again. Because we went into the Reserves in the fall.

Casey: It's not really from Reserves because it would be coming from the academic year.

Malcolm: But it says Reserves.

Casey: Because it wasn't allocated. Because it wasn't allocated, it has to come from the Reserves.

Malcolm: How much is currently left in the Reserves? And how much does it cost to run SA for a year? In other words, what is SA's annual budget?

Casey: There is \$309,000.00 in the Reserves currently. This doesn't include things that we own which would be included in the assets. It takes just under \$1.2 million to run SA. Essential staff and insurance goes over the \$309,000.00.

Malcolm: With the Reserves in such dire straits, if the referendum were to fail, isn't it incredibly reckless to make such a large contribution the week before the referendum? Before we find out if we're good for another two years? Shouldn't we perhaps wait until we know the results of the referendum before we make such a major commitment because we're in trouble as it is?

Casey: To be fair, I agree with that. But if we fail, that knowledge is not going to save us from being any less screwed. Regardless, even if we didn't spend it, and the referendum failed, we would have to do a lot of restructuring anyways. Nothing would function the way it would. None of the clubs would have any money. We would barely have any money. I don't think of it in those terms because hopefully Forrest and everyone here will do a good enough job to make sure Geneseo isn't in that position next year.

Malcolm: I'm sorry but do I understand your answer correctly in saying that because we're already in a reckless position, why not be a little more reckless?

Casey: No. What I'm saying is that it's not reckless because if the referendum doesn't pass, everything has to change. So you can't look at it from how we operate now.

Malcolm: You just said that essential personnel and insurance alone costs more than we have in Reserves. And that is a terrifying statistic.

Carly: I think you made it really clear that you think we're not particularly in a responsible position with the budget right now. I agree, but for the time reason and the number of questions, I'm going to give others an opportunity to ask some questions.

Chris: My response is just to Malcolm. I believe the mechanism for that is to wait for the second reading and then table the second reading until after the referendum which is then a question better left for next week.

Malcolm: The reason I'm bringing it up now in terms of mechanism is that if we know that next week we're going to table it, then we can determine that now and send you home a little early next week instead of doing a reading that everyone knows is going to be tabled. That is part of the reason why I'm bringing it up now. It's a courtesy thing for you sir more than anything else. This is part of why I'm trying to discuss pushing it off now.

Dara: I just want to thank Mr. Brower again for coming. That was just a wonderful reading. The things you said about Geneseo is quite lovely.

Dara: I just want to explain why we hesitated last year and what makes me pause this year. The mandatory student activity fee is everything that we are running off of. The reason that we're hesitating a bit is because we want to make sure that this large bulk of the mandatory study activity fee is benefiting a large enough population. I don't want a large amount of the fees strongly benefiting a small number of people. There could be a place that this money could go that perhaps would reach more students. I'm not saying that I believe that's the case and I'm not saying that I'm not in support of this but I want to explain why perhaps we take more pause.

Silvia: I just want to kind of touch upon the GLK grants. GLK grants are typically quite small. The smallest one is \$300.00 and the large one is \$1,200.00. Typically in GLK, people don't request and use in full that amount of money. Also, GLK still has a lot of supplies that they can provide to clubs and organizations so you wouldn't necessarily need to purchase all those items in full. I wouldn't necessarily be too concerned about the GLK financial troubles. I don't think the issue with GLK is a big enough concern to not look at this reading in its full \$40,000.00.

Malcolm: Last year, when this came up, there was a lot of passionate debate about whether to support or cease to support this program and both sides had good arguments. I feel that the larger question isn't about whether or not to support the reading. I won't go into the merits of both right now because I think the larger question is whether we can support this reading. Can we afford to give the money this particular year? And in that context, I'm referring to the referendum. Will the referendum pass? Frankly, if we knew for a fact that the referendum would fail, it would be irresponsible, if not flat out impossible, to pass this reading. If we knew it would succeed, then yes, we would be able to pass this reading without a problem. Unfortunately, there is the issue that we don't know and it's put to a campus wide election. Though we may not have failed a referendum in the past, the referendum requirements still set a bar that requires a participatory turnout of over seven times the national average for turnout in campus elections. It requires a super majority of those who are voting to vote in favor of continuing it. This is a high bar that has to be passed every two years. The mere fact that we met it so far doesn't mean that we will continue to meet it. Therefore, I feel incredibly strongly that the final decision on this should wait until we have the election results and we know for sure what our budget state for the next two years is going to look like.

Silvia: I'm not necessarily in disagreement with you Malcolm. I think that you make a very valid point. That being said, if the referendum does not pass, we have to restructure the entire way we run Student Association. We would have to rethink everything we do, in every single way. The cost that Casey stated for the essential staff would also have to change. So that number may not be the most accurate way in describing how much money we would be spending next year was the referendum to fail. I'm not completely opposed to tabling the reading until after the referendum. My only concern is that we would be pushing the reading very late. That leaves us, if I'm thinking of my calendar correctly, after spring break. That's a very long time to be holding off on this. It would be about a month and that is a significantly long time.

Chris: I actually have a question. I haven't heard a single thing against approving this assuming the referendum passes. Assuming that it passes, does anyone have an issue with approving this reading? Because if not, we can't know if the referendum will pass or not so it seems that any discussion of this reading until we know about the referendum is pointless. And didn't Malcolm say that the last one didn't even come to us until the beginning of April?

Silvia: Yes, it did come to SA really late, but that was what caused the main issue. So pushing it off another month can cause even more problems.

Dara: To the point of any problems with it, I think that it goes to the heart of what I previously said. The fact that a large portion of the mandatory student activity fee is going towards perhaps a very small and specific type of people makes me hesitant. If I found that it really was a very small group of people, I think that that is a compelling argument. It's perhaps not a discussion we should have now but next week because I realize we are sort of talking in circles.

Matt: I want to voice my opinion, because I won't be here next week and I will be in Chicago. Last year, like Dara is suggesting, it concerned me that it was such a small group of people that a lot of money is going to. But the more I thought about it, the more I think that this is not just for the benefit of the individual student's experiences but that it merits our institution. I think that the fact that Geneseo students are going to these prestigious conferences help to bolster the college. There are two aspects to this. We are helping a small group of people, but we are helping them substantially and we are also helping Geneseo. I think that this is something I would vote yes for.

Casey: I want to straw poll the room, for just this week alone, of people who approve and disapprove the reading.

Silvia: One thing that I like about research and travel grants is that every student who applies receives at least a portion of the grant that they apply for. This is really important to me because this is coming from the mandatory student activity fees, every student that applies should receive something. Also, to add to Matt's comment, especially regarding the travel grants, there is a trickle-down effect because what the students learn at the conferences is brought back to Geneseo and shared.

Olivia: I think that the idea the referendum could fail shouldn't deter the SA from giving this money. Because if the referendum does fail, clubs won't have money there won't be any money to give next year. Whereas if we give the money now, it's a gift that will continue to give and it will give some students an opportunity. If the referendum were to fail, there would be no money to give so why not give that money now.

Malcolm: Directly responding to that last point, we're going to have an x amount of dollars if the referendum does fail. We will still have something. We would have whatever's left over from this year. If we don't spend the \$40,000.00, then it's added to what we have. We would have \$39,000.00, whatever is left over in the Reserves, and the \$40,000.00 which will let us run a minimal SA of some kind. Obviously we would have to restructure and yes, we'll have to cut costs like maniacs. But in such a situation, every penny is vital.

Chris: Once again, it seems to come down to the referendum. Is there some mechanism so that we can make this reading contingent on the referendum passing?

Casey: It is possible to change that if they wanted to.

Justin: Part of the problem that Silvia raises is that the reason it was so frustrating last year is because we simply had no funds. Something that I'm surprised hasn't come up yet in the conversations is that fact that there's also \$45,000.00 because the concert was cut from the original request. We sort of made a commitment to this reading during the concert reading. We made it almost implicit that this would be funded. With that said, I think Dara made a good point. It has to be contingent on satisfying the student body.

Matt: Part one is that I think that if and only if the referendum passes, this reading should pass. Part two is that I think in reference to travel grants, it is important because it helps students experience and see places that they would otherwise not see because they can't afford it. There is also a cultural aspect that I think benefits the individual in their development as a person.

Forrest: The idea that we should make this reading be contingent on the referendum passing, I don't agree with that. Everything is contingent on the referendum passing. It's like the school getting rid of your major because they're worried that the state will cut their funding, and the state cutting our funding is more likely than the referendum failing. If you're worried about the referendum, what

everyone should do is go and vote yes to the referendum. If you're worried, you shouldn't try to shut down the system now but try to advocate for the betterment of the system.

Malcolm: I see three ways we can make this reading contingent on the referendum. We can table it for after the referendum, modify the reading to make it contingent on the referendum passing, or, this is my new idea, there is nothing stopping SA from holding another meeting on Thursday to finish this reading. Whichever way SA wants to go, I would recommend that SA chose one of these options.

68-1213: *First of Two Readings, Passes 6-0-1, with Casey abstaining.*

### Open Discussion

Carly: SA received this letter and box from the Ronald McDonald House and I want to read it. It says: "Dear Friends, Last fall, Ronald McDonald House of Charities held our annual donor appreciation event. At that event, individual companies and organizations that have supported the Ronald McDonald House Charities at the leadership level over the past twelve months were recognized for their contributions to the success of this organization and presented with a Pillar Society gift. Please find your gift enclosed. The Pillar Society was formed to acknowledge Ronald McDonald House's leadership donors. In building a superstructure, pillars are used to support that structure over time. By joining an elite group of donors, you are a pillar of Ronald McDonald House Charities. You are providing a foundation that will grow over time and continue to offer the best possible support to families facing the illness or injury of a child. Over the next year, plans to grow the Pillar Society will continue. It is a pleasure to acknowledge your unique and important role in the Ronald McDonald House Charities Family and thank you. Sincerely, Carol Anne DeMoulin, Executive Director". Casey will now present you with your award.

Josephine: I'm going to defer to Shawn and Dan since they actually started the charity auction that we have in running GAGG. Danny and I coincidentally happen to be in the year where we receive this award but really all of the credit goes to Shawn and Dan who we asked to be here.

Shawn: I've been honored to be the GAGG advisor ever since I've worked at the college now for almost 15 to 16 years. I was a student before that and President of the club and involved with the club. We started the convention that we run now for 17 years when I was a student. A couple of years in, Dan had this idea that we should have a charity auction during the convention – something that we can have at our convention while we're having fun with all the attendees there and that can benefit an organization. Dan had a very particular organization in mind when he chose that, for reasons I'll let him explain. It's been a great time every year, working with the students who make it successful. I just want to say thank you to all of them.

Dan: I find it interesting that you're having a discussion about what is very pivotal on your alumni giving back. I am one of the founding members of the Geneseo Area Gaming Group and the convention that is largely referenced is largely run and supported by alumni. Of course students are running it. It was created with the idea to allow students to have an avenue to get the skills and experiences in running a convention. The alumni are there at all times to offer support and show what works and what the students can learn. The other conventions that happen in the area are struggling because they don't have that support level there. So it shows that you are absolutely right. You need to have that community element. The club is called the Geneseo Area Gaming Group because the community around here really creates it. We decided to start a charity auction. I chose to champion the Ronald McDonald House personally because I stayed a number of months at the Ronald McDonald House because a dear friend of mine had been in a car accident and needed to spend months there for brain surgery and tests and such afterwards. The organization is so generous. We've been very proud to have been able to raise over \$30,000.00 over the years from the conventions.

Shawn: They couldn't be here tonight, but we have three other alumni who have been deeply involved in the convention. They have been auctioneers for the 12 to 15 years that the charity auction has been going on. I think that 75% of the auction comes from watching the spectacle of watching them auction items off.

Dan: We've gotten \$20.00 for a rubber band.

Shawn: It's true. Mike Kosha, Jones Hazam, and Joe Denagie are all auctioneers and they have been integral to this process. They are all alumni of the college.

Dan: Please know that what you do here does make a difference.

Carly: I just wanted to make sure you guys were recognized for this because I know that this is a significant honor. I do know that other clubs and organizations do things and also donate significant amounts but I thought it was really great that the Ronald McDonald House was recognizing you guys. So thank you.

Malcolm: I just have a couple of procedural questions. The first is for Casey. The question relates to the reading that automatically failed. Although it is about that reading specifically, it is also a general procedure question in case they come back or there is another situation like that. In a case where they budgeted, like \$150.00 in this situation, and they expect to bring in funds through fundraising or dues, and I understand that you're budgeting the difference, what happens if the club in question fails to raise that much money? How are their expenses covered?

Casey: They don't have that money to spend. In their budget, it looks like they have \$150.00 to spend, but only if they bring in the \$74.00 in their income line. That's why we are allocating \$76.00 from the activity fees. They couldn't just put in a request for all \$150.00 because they only have \$76.00 from SA.

Malcolm: So they can't purchase their clocks and their boards and the equipment that they need to actually run the organization in this particular instance until they've actually held events that they can't run without the equipment. Isn't that a catch-22?

Casey: That's how they've arranged their budget. If they changed the way they do their budget, their income line would read differently.

Malcolm: In this case would it be a catch-22?

Casey: If they don't have clocks or boards, then I suppose so. I don't really know about this club and I don't know if they have things already.

Malcolm: The question is a more general question anyways. My second question is for Matt. Especially with you out of town next week, and I hope you have a good trip, I was curious if there has there been any progress with the AC Vice Chair position, carrying over discussion from last week's meeting.

Justin: I'm still looking into it. I'll have an answer for you next week.

Malcolm: Okay, thank you.

Matt: I just wanted to announce that you should look in *The Lamron* tomorrow for the spring concert announcement.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Choo  
Recording Secretary