

21 September 2020 Senate Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM

Quorum is met

Approval of the Minutes

- I. No minutes to approve at this time.

Community Comment

- I. No one from the community to comment.

Committee Updates

- I. Technology
 - A. *Chair Doran:* One initiative that we started last spring is a laptop rental program. We're just starting out. We're trying to see the demand and what laptops we need and our budget. With the transition to online classes, we want students to have access to the newspapers we have on campus. We are hoping to transfer to online newspapers after Thanksgiving. We will work with PR to make sure students know about it and how to use it. Once the committee gets together, we want to work with students and faculty to make sure their online work is going well.
- II. Finance
 - A. *Director Johnson:* I've begun writing the application questions for the Finance committee and began writing a by-law amendment for funds reallocation this semester. Our current contingency for this year is sitting around \$64,000.
- III. Anti-Racism and Racial Justice
 - A. *Proposed Chair Guidry:* Our committee is new, so we haven't started on much. We're working on reviewing the police department and campus safety relations. We will take students' voices to make the campus environment more safe and welcoming. We are hoping to give out a report at the end of the semester. I've written the questions for the application
- IV. Health and Housing
 - A. *Chair CarlsonSather:* The one thing I'm working on this year is establishing communication with the president of SRF as well as the business we are working with to hopefully install the machines for free menstrual products to students in gender neutral or individual bathrooms in the campus center.
- V. Inclusive Excellence
 - A. *Chair Lim:* We have been working with PR for gender neutral bathroom signage and maps. We are collabing with Q&A to get map ideas. Because I was able to

get the list of buildings with gender neutral bathrooms, I'm hoping to work with ResLife to get more because there are very few.

- VI. Student and Academic Affairs
 - A. *Chair Patterson*: I'm just reaching out to different offices on campus, notably the CARES Office and Faculty Senate, to see if they need help from Senate. I do plan on reaching out to other departments too once students return to campus
- VII. Environmental Sustainability
 - A. *Chair Jeremiason*: The President's Council is hopefully pushing forward with solar panel construction, electric bike rentals, and the initiative to remove Linnaeus's name from the Arboretum. They are working with Radicals and Inclusive Excellence with that, and they have pushed it off to a Board of Trustees committee.
- VIII. Public Relations
 - A. *Interim Chair Gottlick*: The biggest update I have is that I have gotten into contact with Zach, the president of Q&A for ideas for the signs and maps of the gender neutral bathrooms.
- IX. Ethics
 - A. *Ombudsperson Menke*: The election for the other Norelius spot was officially today, but I either forgot to send out the link or it didn't get sent out. I will send it out again, and the voting will end at 10PM tomorrow. We also have a by-law amendment we want to get through.

Old Business

- I. No old business brought up.

New Business

- I. Election of Senate Speaker
 - A. *Senator Bokhoree*: I would like to nominate myself.
 - B. *Senator Yeboah*: I would like to nominate myself.
 - C. *Co-President Doran*: The nominees can give a quick speech as to why they should be speaker
 - D. *Senator Bokhoree*: I would like to be speaker to facilitate communication between Senate and Cabinet and to be able to give my opinion on both.
 - E. *Chair CarlsonSather*: One of your roles as Speaker is to voice the entire student body. How will you be a voice for the entire student body and not just your own opinions?
 - F. *Senator Yeboah*: By making sure everyone is heard, giving people a chance to speak in a respectful way in which we all try to understand everyone's perspective in any situation

- G. *Senator Bokhoree*: I feel as a Speaker, I will probably do a good job as transferring information and giving an equitable platform for members of the community and the Senate to speak.
- H. *Co-President Doran*: This position will also serve on the COVID Student Advisory Committee.
- I. *Co-President Concepcion*: Are you available at 2:30 on Fridays for Cabinet meetings?
- J. *Senator Yeboah*: Yes
- K. *Senator Bokhoree*: Yes
- L. *Chair Jeremiason*: What characteristics do you think you have that will make you a good speaker?
- M. *Senator Yeboah*: I am always willing to listen to anyone and I have a background in policy debate.
- N. *Senator Bokhoree*: I am also a very good listener because I have a background in debate and Model UN and I'm also a scientists which will help with the COVID committee
- O. *Co-President Concepcion*: How will you act as a bridge between cabinet and senate?
- P. *Senator Bokhoree*: I would be at the Cabinet meetings to take notes about what has been said and communicate that to people and have a way for them to tell me what they think
- Q. *Senator Yeboah*: Being at the meetings and having my contact information available for anyone to be able to communicate that to the Cabinet in any manner.
- R. *Chair Jeremiason*: Do we know the background on their experience with student senate?
- S. *Co-President Doran*: It is the first year in Senate for both of them.
- T. *Senator Sukhram*: How has the Speaker done their job in the past?
- U. *Co-President Concepcion*: The Speaker has occasionally held office hours mostly to gather info in a social way and they are another voice on Cabinet. They are another perspective of Senators on Cabinet. It's not super structured in a certain way, but this year will be slightly different with the COVID committee.
- V. *Co-President Doran*: They also serve as a representative for Gustavus for the Minnesota Association of Private College Students.
- W. *Senator Walfrid*: I felt that Senator Yeboah was modestly more prepared in the thought she put in her answers
- X. *Senator Almusawy*: I came in late due to class. Is it too late to apply for the position?
- Y. *Ombudsperson Menke*: It is up to the co-presidents.
- Z. *Parliamentarian Braun*: I second Ombudsperson Menke's comment
- AA. *Co-President Concepcion*: I say we give him the exact same questions.

BB. *Co-President Doran*: I say we ask him those questions right now.

CC. *Chair CarlsonSather*: How will you be a voice for students?

DD. *Senator Almusawy*: I will hold office hours because it is important to get to know who you are the voice for

EE. *Co-President Concepcion*: Are you available on Fridays at 2:30?

FF. *Senator Almusawy*: Yes, nay have to leave just a few minutes early

GG. *Chair Jeremiason*: What characteristics make you a good candidate for this position?

HH. *Senator Almusawy*: I also have a background in debate. and I'm a very passionate speaker.

II. *Co-President Concepcion*: How will you make yourself available to the students?

JJ. *Senator Almusawy*: I will go out of my way to make myself available for whoever needs me.

KK. *Chair CarlsonSather*: His answers were very well prepared, but he also had an advantage because he had the ability to hear what we thought about the other nominees.

LL. *Senator Baring*: Chair CarlsonSather took the words out of my mouth

MM. *Chair Jeremiason*: I agree with what Chair CarlsonSather said, but he also was not present in hearing the other candidates' responses. I think he was very well prepared.

NN. *Senator Sukhram*: Do the Cabinet meetings only last an hour? Is it a hard stop?

OO. *Co-President Concepcion*: It is not a hard stop. Sometimes it's twenty minutes, sometimes 50. Him leaving a few minutes early will not affect it.

PP. *Senator Baring*: Would it be a prudent time to make a motion to adjourn debate?

QQ. *Senator Hietpas seconded*.

RR. *Senator Baring*: Call to question

SS. *Senator Sukhram*: I wanted to bring up one last point that I think Senator Alumsawy spoke very well and was able to get his points across in a timely manner.

TT. *Co-President Doran*: All in favor of electing Senator Almusawy as the Senate speaker, raise your hand?

UU. *Director Bluhm*: We have 11 for majority

VV. *Co-President Doran*: All in favor of Senator Bokhoree?

WW. *Director Bluhm*: We have 1

XX. *Co-President Doran*: All in favor of Senator Yeboah?

YY. *Director Bluhm*: 1

ZZ. *Co-President Doran*: Those abstaining?

AAA. *Co-President Doran*: A vote has been taken. Congratulations to new Senate Speaker Almusawy.

BBB. *Speaker Almusawy*: Thank you

II. By-Law Amendment - Inclusive Excellence Students at Large

A. *Senator Baring*: Motion to bring the by-law amendment to floor

B. *Senator Hietpas* seconded

C. *Ombudsperson Menke*: Article I, Section 14 is describing the responsibilities of the Inclusive Excellence Chair. It only goes to point f. We would add point g to add a student at-large to the IE committee. The idea is to give more student representation on the committee.

D. *Senator Baring*: I think this a good amendment and I know that the student at-large for the Environmental Sustainability committee, and it has been very successful.

E. *Co-President Doran*: All those in favor?

F. *Ayes*

G. *Co-President Doran*: Opposed? Abstentions? The amendment passes

III. Approval of Public Relations Chair - Sophia Gottlick

A. *Co-President Doran*: Interim Chair Gottlick, can you tell us a little about yourself and why you want this position?

B. *Interim Chair Gottlick*: I'm a senior poli sci major. I have a good bit of experience in PR. I work in the chaplain's office and work with advertising and social media. I had an internship last summer working in PR. I'm excited for the opportunity to work with the Senate and to connect the Senate with the student body. I feel in past years the communication between senate and the student body has not been the best.

C. *Senator Hietpas*: Do you have any experience in Senate?

D. *Interim Chair Gottlick*: This is my first time in Senate.

E. *Chair CarlsonSather*: Experience in Senate is not always necessary, and I think her previous experience with the position is great

F. *Co-President Concepcion*: So far she has done a great job working with us. All her work has been great. I'm hopeful she will be confirmed.

G. *Chair Lim*: I've been working with Sophia a lot. She's fantastic. She's on top of the ball, she's been on top of emails.

H. *Senator Hietpas*: She seemed very confident in her abilities and her experience was very good.

I. *Senator Bokhoree*: How would she be communicating from Senate to the Student body?

J. *Co-President Concepcion*: She would be designing content for social media, mainly our instagram. She would keep up a board in Campus Center. And she would work on the Gavel Gazette. And she would work with any other Cabinet members and Senators with what they need, like she has been doing with Chair Lim.

- K. *Co-President Doran*: All those in favor of approving?
- L. *Ayes*
- M. *Co-President Doran*: Opposed? Abstentions? With that she has been approved.
Sophia, you have been approved as the Public Relations Chair
- IV. Approval of Anti-Racism and Racial Justice Ad Hoc Committee
 - A. *Senator Hietpas*: I motion that we bring the approval of the Anti-Racism and Racial Justice Committee to the floor.
 - B. *Senator Baring seconded*
 - C. *Senator Nelson*: I think it is imperative to approve this committee to create a safer campus.
 - D. *Senator Baring*: Sensing that the body is in unison, I would motion to vote.
 - E. *Senator Bokhoree*: To just have a report by this committee, I think just having a report seems a little unproductive. I would like to see more from the committee.
 - F. *Ombudsperson Menke*: I agree with the previous speaker about needing a more tangible product with this committee, but I believe this committee is a good start to put this type of work in the student's hand. I see this as a great first step to some positive actions
 - G. *Co-President Concepcion*: In response to a previous speaker's concerns, there is more language that the committee has for an outline. There would be steps of action taken after the report.
 - H. *Senator Sukhram*: Are we voting on everything that was talked about yesterday?
 - I. *Co-President Doran*: We are voting on the creation of the ad hoc committee.
There usually isn't any language on an ad hoc committee, but because it has been in the works for so long, we have an outline started. Now would be the time to amend it if you have an issue with the creation of the committee.
 - J. *Chair CarlsonSather*: I would like to second that the report will be the main responsibility of the committee, it will create more function after the fact.
 - K. *Senator Baring*: Motion to vote
 - L. *Senator Nelson*: second
 - M. *Co-President Doran*: All those in favor?
 - N. *Ayes*
 - O. *Co-President Doran*: Opposed? Abstentions?
 - P. *2 ayes*
 - Q. *Co-President Doran*: It passes. Now to approve a chair.
 - R. *Proposed Chair Guidry*: This is a really good foundation, We need more action on campus. As someone who has been affected by racism, college campuses should be a safe space for everyone. I have always tried to be more inclusive in my environment. For some people, campus is the only safe space they have. I believe my passion for racial justice and my experiences will be beneficial.

- S. *Speaker Almusawy*: Do you have anything specific you should address with the school?
- T. *Proposed Chair Guidry*: One thing that came up is officer training and how it should be more extensive. I don't know the specifics, but I'm hoping that officer training and its connection to campus safety will lead to better interactions.
- U. *Senator Bokhoree*: I heard you talk about a survey you would conduct. I want to keep in mind that our campus is predominantly white, and if you are taking survey inputs, you should look at the small sample size of people of color which wouldn't make a great sample size. How would you make up for that?
- V. *Proposed Chair Guidry*: I do recognize that and that will cause discrepancies in the data. I hope in the future, we can find a different or better way to conduct a survey or get student voices. I do take that into consideration and I want to make sure that the voices that need to be heard will be heard.
- W. *Speaker Almusawy*: You could have a question for race/ethnicity in the survey to be able to distinguish between white students and students of color. It can still be anonymous.
- X. *Proposed Chair Guidry*: I really like that suggestion. I hope this conversation keeps happening. There isn't one perfect way this can happen.
- Y. *Speaker Almusawy*: I think she seems very passionate and she seems to care about the subject and would be good to lead this committee.
- Z. *Chair Lim*: I was on the committee for selection for this position. We were really impressed with how much she wanted to help and we wanted a candidate that wasn't afraid to have difficult conversations
- AA. *Chair Gottlick*: She comes across as a very intentional and caring person that isn't scared to have those difficult conversations that have been a long time coming. I think she would be great at spearheading this committee.
- BB. *Co-President Doran*: All in favor?
- CC. *Ayes*
- DD. *Co-President Doran*: Opposed? Abstentions? She has been approved.
Congratulations, you have been approved.
- V. Gus Bus Funding Reallocation
 - A. *Director Johnson*: As we are not keeping the Gus Bus running this semester, we have about \$15000 that has been unallocated that we need to allocate to benefit the entire Gustavus community.
 - B. *Senator Baring*: Will it go back into the contingency?
 - C. *Director Johnson*: Yes
 - D. *Senator Bokhoree*: Do we have any idea of any departments or organizations that are lacking funds?
 - E. *Director Johnson*: My idea is that this money is made up of student activity fees and I was hoping that we should try to benefit the entire student body in a

distributive means. Like giving it to an underfunded department or org or like a scholarship. We also have time to figure this out.

- F. *Advisor Ruble*: I would second what Johnson said. We have time. We don't have to make a decision tonight. I would recommend you go back to your constituents and then bring that back to Senate next week or the week after. And maybe the Finance committee can take the top ideas. I'm very much in favor of thinking outside the box in how to allocate these funds.
- G. *Chair Patterson*: We could address food insecurity on campus. We could do a food bank or something like that.
- H. *Director Johnson*: I just wanted to add that we have the \$20000 long-term impact fund that has already been allocated that we can use.
- I. *Senator Walfrid*: We could use some of the funding for quarantine housing. I know that the infection rate will increase as the semester goes up.
- J. *Chair CarlsonSather*: When I was at the Board of Trustees for Student Life meeting, they mentioned they do have more housing for returning campus COVID cases. They've accounted for the influx of people.
- K. *Speaker Almusawy*: Didn't they kick people out of Prairie View?
- L. *Advisor Ruble*: We have housing for quarantine in Southwest and other places and have even talked about contracting hotels. I don't think anything is happening with Prairie View
- M. *Speaker Amusawy*: I wish maybe we could have a 2-week quarantine in a hotel or something like that for students to help slow the spread.
- N. *Director Bluhm*: I have a friend that was supposed to be in Prairie View that got an email today saying they were being relocated for quarantine housing.
- O. *Senator Olono*: Not a lot of insurances will cover testing, so maybe some funds could go to that.
- P. *Advisor Ruble*: Health Services will not charge students.
- Q. *Chair CarlsonSather*: I suggest that we motion to table.
- R. *Co-President Concepcion*: We do not have to table as we are not in a motion.
- VI. *Senator Sukhram*: Chair Guidry, should we ask a campus safety member to serve as a student at large on the ARRJ committee? I charge the committee to have one of the student at-large positions of the committee to be a student employee of campus safety.
 - A. *Senator Olono seconded*
 - B. *Senator Sukhram*: I think it is very important to have somebody that works with campus safety to be on the committee with previous experiences of campus safety
 - C. *Advisor Ruble*: I think it should stay a suggestion because some campus safety employees may not be interested in the position
 - D. *Senator Sukhram*: I just wanted to suggest it, not make anything binding.
 - E. *Senator Olono*: I really like the idea of this, as a senator, I have gotten emails about students not liking campus safety and feeling targeted. I think if we were to

have a more welcoming environment, we could have more positive things come out of it.

Announcements

- I. *Co-President Doran:* A great way to reach out to constituents is email aliases. Feel free to reach out to them and let them know you are their representative.
- II. *Chair CarlsonSather:* Bringing a motion is the best way to talk about something, but you can also bring it to a chair. Also, practice safety measures when moving
- III. *Chair Lim:* LineUs auditions are coming up. We are looking for actors and a business director
- IV. *Director Bluhm:* We are missing committee preference responses from Senators Baring, Hietpas, Holmes, Lohr-Pearson, Nelson, Pozdnyakov, Seyala, and Yeboah.
- V. *Co-President Doran:* Please correct us if we are pronouncing your names wrong.
- VI. *Advisor Ruble:* You all are student leaders and role models. There are two things I ask you to remember. Practice covid safety measures to keep the health of our community. Please please please be cautious. Secondly, we are going into election season, and things can get pretty heated on campus. I just ask you to listen to others. As a senator, how do you express yourself on social media and how do you contribute positively?
- VII. *Senator Olono:* I just wanted to give a quick shoutout to a new org on campus called IGNITE. It's just to help women in leadership, whether in politics or anywhere else.