Senate Meeting Notes 10/08/14:

Called to Order: 8:35 P.M

• All future meetings will begin at 8:35 P.M.

Opening Roll:

• Minutes approved for last three weeks.

Public Comment:

• Lee Stanton: Will the senate entertain for future meetings adjusting tables to accommodate higher attendance at Senate meetings.
• Sen. Markisello: We added two tables this week, will be addressed.

Opening Remarks:

Sen. Markisello:

• Attendance has been great the last few weeks. We intend to keep this meeting short.
• Joe Zumbo presentation tonight will be very important, follow up to questions with Sen. Markisello or Mr. Zumbo.

Sen. De La Cruz:

• Committee schedule will be finalized in coming weeks.
• Communication problems should be brought to the attention of either Senate Chair or Vice Chair.

University Report:

• No Report

Judicial Report:

• No Report

Board of Finance Report:

• Met already twice.
• Sen. Markisello was elected chair and Sen. De La Cruz elected vice chair.
• Reviewing all contracts before them.
• More work to do in the Spring.
Executive Report:

Gender and Sexuality Concerns

- Coming out reception will be in two weeks on 10/23 at 8 PM in Campus center Ballroom.
- 11/7 annual luncheon with guest speaker on how to be more inclusive.
- We are 25th in the nation for LGBT friendly schools.
- Bringing Elector to campus, works to get women elected to student government in March next semester.

Community Affairs and Outreach:

- Pine Hills clean up this Sunday, senators should share Facebook event.
- Raffling off free Dippikill weekend to student group.
- Pine Hills clean up will receive media coverage.
- Planning for Breast Cancer Walk, chartering bus tomorrow.
- Tabling “Think Pink” week in the near future.
- Putting on other events, YMCA Greek panel 10/21 from 5:30-7:30 in University Hall.
- Northeastern food bank volunteering.

Academic Affairs

- Job Fair in SEFU Arena coming up.
- Last Saturday APD appreciation night, good turnout, good event.
- Incidents in classes last week where students in need of medical attention did not receive needed attention. Working on setting standards for when these situations arise in the future.

Multicultural Affairs

- Working with other groups for Multicultural Awareness month.
- Mini cultural carnival upcoming.

Programming

- Moved speaker series to spring semester. Working on date in February.
- 10/11 tabling at pep rally. Representing Student Association.
- Trying to do mini Speaker series in November, Ebola related.
- Working on Fall Fest 11/22, off campus. Looking at Armory.

Legislative Affairs
• Had very successful event today for Voter Registration. Registered over 300 people on campus thus far.
• Mayor of Albany and Pres. Jones came to the event.
• Important for everyone to vote, SUNY initiative.
• Distributing Voter Information.

Communications:

• Legislative Affairs event was very successful.
• Contacting media outlets for Pinehill Clean Up.
• Working on getting Wal Mart to accept SA Purchase Orders.

Dippikill:

• Sent E-Mail out to all UAlbany Students and Faculty Members.
• Ordered Dippikill merchandise.

Student Group Affairs

• Having senators go to new clubs senate meetings to review clubs.
• Working to have some sort of event this semester to help student groups meet each other.

Comptroller:

• Working on MyInvolvement, getting fully updated.

Pres./VP:

• Commends Directors for all their hard work.
• Advocated for trying to get buses to stop by Empire. Spoke to people at Student Success, will fight for.
• Trying to get buses to stop at SEFCU.
• Went to Townhall meeting hosted by middle earth on teenage drinking, good turnout.
• Receiving e-mails from various University and outside officials commending SA on successes.
• Trying to have more signs posted around campus for voters on Election Day.

Marketing → Slide Show Presentation

• Created SA promotional material
• Apologized for lack of attendance at Senate meetings this year.
• Attended Orientation events to let new students know about SA.
• Met with Arleny from Frat. And Sor. Affairs.
• Designed T-Shirts for Block Party, rejected by OSI. SA Executive shirts.
• Designed fliers for multiple events.
• Marketing budget has decreased dramatically over the last few years.
• Budget was $26,000 last year, now it is $15,000.

Questions for Marketing Director James Scott:

Sen. Dunleavy: How do you fit other obligations into work with SA?
Dir. Scott: Has strict schedule that he adheres to.

Sen. Faver: Why haven’t you sent liason to senate meetings?
Dir. Scott: Had meetings with Francis and Marc, recommended bigger team. Scott wants smaller higher quality team. In future will send liason.

Sen. Henderson: How much is left in budget?
Dir. Scott: $260

Sen. Schwab: Concerned about giving more money when so much spent with not much done.
Dir. Scott: Has personal connections with marketers, we won’t need money for certain things.

Sen. Schwab: How about things that are usually covered by Marketing if no money left?
Dir. Scott: Learned moving forward to be more careful in how department spends money. Less money spent than last year.

Sen. Terezakis: will budget last through the rest of the year?
Dir. Scott: Doesn’t forsee future budget problems.

Sen. Faver: In the future what if other posters etc. get rejected?
Dir. Scott: Fliers were rejected because they were too close to an event campus doesn’t want to relive. Looked like Fountain Day, want to distance themselves.

Sen. Dunleevy: With all connections stated, did you plan on asking these people for contributions before almost entire budget used? Is this your back up plan?
Dir. Scott: Willing to pay for things out of pocket. Not back up plan.

Zumbo Presentation:

• Student Activity Fee at public institutions must follow U.S Constitution in allocation.
• Lawsuits in past against university over use of student activity fees.
• Supreme Court ruled Student Activity Fee must be applied in a Viewpoint Neutral manner.
• Speech can be limited in a content neutral manner.
• Student Activity Fee allocation cannot be decided by referendum.
• Governments cannot have unbridled decision maker for student activity fee allocation.
• Many procedural mechanisms to ensure student activity fee is allocated in a Viewpoint Neutral manner.
• Denying money based on things like prior bad behavior of applicant is viewpoint neutral and therefore acceptable.
• Even advisory referendums are not allowable.
• Establishment Clause vs. Viewpoint Neutrality.
• We need to make sure funding decisions do not favor a popular or traditional viewpoint.

Questions for Mr. Zumbo:

Dir. Stanton: What qualifications can be judged by SA in student group allocations?
Zumbo: Avoid anything that impacts viewpoint, biased towards majority or traditional viewpoints.

Sen. Markisello: All groups for first two semesters at $250. Is blanket policy like this disallowed?
Zumbo: That sounds fine.

Committee Reports:

Rules and Admin:

• Met last night.
• Had great conversation, meeting Sun. at 5:15. Open to public.
• Had discussion regarding attendance of Directors.
• Read 52-1 of Stipend policy in SA Constitution.
• Some directors have not been meeting twice monthly report requirement.

Appropriations:

• Met before Senate.
• Meeting Sunday with Student groups who requested funds.
• Senators should direct groups looking for funds to SA office.
• Two requests so far.

Government Operations:

• Met last night, went over by laws.
• Proposing sub-committee on ethics.
• Has power into investigation.
• Investigating Executive Branch for situation that occurred but cannot elaborate.

Community Outreach and Engagement:

• Not dependent on SA equivalent, will be having own events.
• Planning other events for this year. Food drive for Albany community.
• Meetings on Wednesday at 8 PM.

Constituent Relations:

• Met today at 8:00. Will figure out time that works for everyone after this meeting.
• Discussed creating memos for new student group meetings.

Legislative Agenda:

• Motion to combine bill and resolution by Sen. Choudhury.
• Objected by Sen. Schwab.
• Senate voted by voice vote to combine.
• Motion to skip reading by Sen. Choudhury.
• Passed by unanimous consent.

Bus Stop Resolution:

Sen. Henderson:

• Spoke to President Agyemang about bus stopping by Empire.
• Petition with 548 signatures.
• Wrote Bus Stop Resolution.
• Kevin Wilcox added.

Bill/Resolution passed by unanimous consent.

Old Business:

• No Old Business.

New Business:

• Motion to move to Executive Session by Sen. Chowdhury to evaluate one director.
• No objection to moving into Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Entered at 10:02 PM
Executive Session Ended: 11:01 PM

Closing Remarks:

Sen. Markisello: Thanks for bearing with us, thanks to Directors.

Closing Roll:

Senate Adjourned: 11:08 PM.