

MINUTES<sup>1</sup>  
 USG Senate Meeting  
 Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm. Meeting held in Wang Center Room 201.

Agenda item 1.0: Attendance

The roll was called:

Senator David Adams	Present
Senator Oluwasegun Adedapo	Present
Senator Emily Alcott	Present
Senator Shon Augustine	Present
Senator Lance Bertrand	Absent
Senator Tiffany Bibby	Present
Senator Nicholas Ela	Present
Senator Ray Fan	Present
Senator Frank Fanizza	Present by Proxy (Anay Thodge)
Senator Max Gunther	Present
Senator Eric Lau	Present
Senator Anna Lubitz	Present
Senator Adam Meier	Excused Absence
Senator Sean Moore	Present
Senator Corey Platt	Present
Senator Masood Rustemi	Present
Senator Alexandra Santiago	Excused Absence
Senator Najee Simmons (PPT)	Present
Senator Priya Sohi	Present
Senator David Szeszler	Present
Senator Andrew Tausz	Present
Senator Ryann Williams	Absent

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President Mark Maloof	Present
Executive Vice President Deborah Machalow	Present
Treasurer Thomas Kirnbauer	Excused Lateness (7:30 pm)
Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Allen Abraham	Absent
Vice President of Communications Farjad Fazli	Absent
Vice President of Student Life Deron Hill	Absent
Senior Class Representative Emilisa Trotman	Excused Absence
Junior Class Representative Dennis Nmecha	Absent
Sophomore Class Representative Christopher Priore	Absent

Quorum established.

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<sup>1</sup> Typically, minutes should only contain the essentials of a meeting. This includes the meeting time and location, a list of those who attended, as well as a record of all motions made and their outcome. Debate (or a summary of debate) is usually not included. I include it here at the request of the Chair. Mistakes and omissions are likely, so Senators are encouraged to e-mail the Secretary with corrections prior to the next Senate meeting, so that the record reflects what was actually said at the meeting and so corrections can be made efficiently.

### Agenda item 2.0: Announcements

The Chair announced that Senate reports are now past due. The Chair thanked Senators who have submitted their reports; they will be published on the USG website.

The Chair reminded Senators to check their e-mail regularly to deal with pressing business.

The Chair admonished Senators regarding meeting their obligations with respect to committee business.

The Chair announced that President Maloof has exercised his veto powers regarding the SBVAC contract (Agenda item 11.0).

The Chair announced that a photographer from the Statesman would be present at the meeting.

If anyone has a problem with being photographed, please let the Statesman representative know.

### Agenda item 3.0: Approval of the Minutes (09/15/2011 Meeting)

- Senator Lau moved to approve the minutes for the 09/15/2011 Meeting.
  - Motion approved without objection.

### Agenda item 4.0: Class Vector Change Presentation

#### **Presentation by Dr. Mark Aronoff**

- Dr. Aronoff began his presentation by thanking the Senate for putting him first on the program, so that he would not snore during the meeting.
- Dr. Aronoff: If you go to some inferior institutions, such as Harvard, Yale, etc., they have 13 weeks of classes or less, whereas Stony Brook has 14 weeks of classes and 1 week of exams.
- Within SUNY, almost everyone has 15 weeks / semester, consisting of 14 weeks of classes and one week of exams.
- Dr. Aronoff discussed the fact that current class times meet at odd hours, specifically at “8:20 am” or “9:40 am,” not on the hour or half-hour, like most other scheduling.
- Dr. Aronoff: I have instigated this – coming up with a better class schedule than what we have now, working with Scott Sutherland (Chair of Undergraduate Council,) Estie Arkin (Professor of Applied Math – her specialty is scheduling) and with an Assistant Dean, in order to come up with a new schedule that would start classes on the hour or half hour.
  - This would have a variety of benefits and advantages – increasing campus lifetimes from Wednesday (currently) to Monday and Friday.
  - Other advantages include eliminating 6:50 am classes, increasing usable class meeting times by 5%, and other advantages listed in Dr. Aronoff’s written proposal.
  - Some disadvantages include reducing transitions between classes from ten to seven minutes for back-to-back classes on MWF. MWF classes would also meet for 53 minutes, 2 minutes less than the current 55 min meeting time.
  - This is a recommendation being made to the Provost, the official who decides when classes meet. In fact, since June, Dr. Aronoff has been discussing this idea with many individuals and entities.
  - Dr. Aronoff regrets not being able to speak to the USG Senate sooner.
  - Dr. Aronoff’s plan is to meet with the new Provost as soon as he can, and if the Provost approves, this new schedule would be in effect for next September. Planning for September 2012 is done in October 2011.

- One other thing – this schedule will make it easier to mesh with the laboratory schedules (lab courses run for 3-6 hours.)
- As our budget shrinks, classes get larger and are offered less frequently. Hopefully, this new regime would decrease conflicts in terms of scheduling classes.
- Provost needs to hear from students.
- Questions:
  - Senator Moore: Monday campus lifetime seems to be odd to me. Wednesday is a better day.
    - Dr. Aronoff: I agree with you, but if we use that slot for campus life time, this schedule will not work. That is one of the considerations of this proposed schedule.
  - Senator Gunther: One of the proposed positives was that changing MF 12:50 – 2:10 pm time slot to WF. Would it be worth considering keeping that slot where it is, in order to eliminate the need to change the slot for campus lifetime?
    - Dr. Aronoff: That MF slot is the least used slot and is poor from an educational “continuity” standpoint. The hope is that a WF slot would be much more attractive for both faculty and students. The change to the WF slot also makes it easier to schedule some of the lab slots. What you are saying is reasonable, but what I would suggest is trying the Monday campus lifetime, and seeing how things go.
  - President Maloof: Have you showed this proposal to Dean Stein or other administration officials responsible for Student Life?
    - Dr. Aronoff: I spoke with Dean Stein early on. He did not indicate that moving the slot from Wednesday to Monday was a bad idea, and he was positive about the potential of Friday’s campus life time drawing more students to campus.
  - Senator Platt: The 6:50 am class meeting on TuTh would be substituted to a 7:00 am MWF slot. Is that correct?
    - Dr. Aronoff: I believe that is a mistake on the proposal here. There is no 7:00 am slot. That class would meet at 8 am.
  - Senator Adams: If I have a question that I need to ask my Professors after class, I find that it would make it tough for me to make my next class, and even tougher now that the transition time is 7 minutes.
    - Dr. Aronoff: I agree with you. However, there would only be four transitions with 7 min in between in the new schedule, so basically, this would only really affect a few students, but is a valid point.
    - Senator Adams: I appreciate that, but many students, particularly commuters, try to stack their classes in that manner to reduce the need to go to campus.
    - Dr. Aronoff: I think this will affect some people, but I believe it will affect fewer people under the new schedule format.
  - Senator Bibby: I believe this is an excellent idea. Many students take the freshman Biology classes. I think it is a good transition that will make it easier for students to

- schedule classes. I also like the idea of two campus lifetimes instead of the one we have now.
- President Maloof: Speaking as a science major, I think many of the classes are listed far away from each other. I would hope you could cluster these classes closer together, particularly in view of the reduced transition time to get from one class to another.
    - Dr. Aronoff: What we will be able to do, if we have this schedule and new scheduling software, is to be able to do exactly what you are asking for – namely having classes meet in such a way as to make it easy for them to get to all their classes.
    - President Maloof: Would we get this software in time?
    - Dr. Aronoff: I do not want to make that promise. The data is easily translatable. By September 2013, we would also have the newly renovated lecture halls in Old Chemistry. Three 250 seat lecture halls in the center of campus will help considerably in scheduling.
  - Senator Szeszler: Is not the Old Chem torn down, and there will be a new building in place?
    - Dr. Aronoff: Yes and no. Technically, due to rules regarding renovation/new construction, the construction in Old Chem is considered a renovation.
  - Chair: Is there any objection to my making a statement? (*Seeing none, the Chair proceeded*):
    - I perceive that the MF slot is not popular because of the courses that choose to meet at that time.
    - Dr. Aronoff: It does not matter what course is planned for those slots. For whatever reason, students do not like taking courses at that slot and instructors hate scheduling and teaching the MF slot.
    - Chair: Which segments of the faculty have been consulted about this? For instance, the WWII simulation class would not be protected under this change?
    - Dr. Aronoff: I cannot guarantee that this course would be protected in the form that it is in now. My general concern is always for the 98-99% and not the 1%. I am sure that Prof. Barnhart would find a way to make the schedule work under new circumstances. There would have to be courses that would have to adjust.
  - Dr. Aronoff: How would we be able to get a “Sense of the Body” as to this matter?
    - Chair: We could do a non-binding unofficial vote.
    - Dr. Aronoff: That is what I would like to do, if possible.
  - *EVP Machalow vacated the Chair for this part of the meeting. PPT Simmons in the Chair.*
  - Chair: The floor is open for debate on the new proposal.
    - Senator Adams: I move to table debate until a written resolution is submitted.
    - Motion fails for lack of a second.
  - EVP Machalow: I believe that Dr. Aronoff has made a great presentation, but I cannot support this proposal. The campus lifetime on Wednesday is important to students and changing to a Monday and Friday schedule would be of great detriment. I am also opposed to the reduction of transition time to seven minutes, which would make it

more difficult for students to get to their next class or have the opportunity to meet their Professors. Personally, I think this is a silly proposal and considering that tuition and fees are increasing, we should not feel that we are getting less “bang for our buck,” in terms of 53 minute classes.

- Senator Platt: I believe that having three less minutes of transition would not affect a student’s ability to ask a professor a question, as they would like be late either way. I am interested in trying two campus lifetimes instead of one.
- Senator Bibby: I am in favor of the change to two campus lifetimes per week.
- Senator Lubitz: Wednesday campus lifetime is a tradition on campus. What about the Commuter Student Association, which meets during that time? It is necessary for students to have a break during the middle of the week.
- Senator Szeszler: I like this schedule in general, particularly the opportunity to be able to schedule 5% more classes, and I do not think the 7 minute transition time is a big issue. That said, I believe there is great strength of feeling regarding the Wednesday campus lifetime schedule.
- President Maloof: I believe commuter students would miss out on the ability to enjoy the Friday campus lifetime. While it would give us more opportunity to retain students on campus by planning events then, I don’t know how people would take it. It is also not known what effect having campus lifetime events on Monday will do.
  - President Maloof: In terms of the positive, I think the 7 minute transition is not a big deal, and we will benefit by having classes on the hour and half-hour, which would mesh better with Professors’ office hours.
- Senator Gunther: I think that I, and others like me, would not attend Friday afternoon events, nor would I go to Monday campus lifetime events if I did not have classes before that on Monday. That is the part of this proposal which is most in contention. As for all the other aspects of this proposal, I am in favor.
- Senator Tausz: I have mixed feelings overall. Our number one focus should be classes, and when this frees up an extra time slot for classes, that is an excellent option. The seven minute transition does worry me – I have a pair of class where ten minutes is not enough to get from one class to the other. I am concerned about the campus lifetime issue, but I believe our number one concern should be classes.
- Senator Lau: I think having classes on the hour and the half-hour is very useful, and would help us better manage our other responsibilities and manage our time better – in terms of our clubs, off-campus work, etc. I feel that the seven minute transition is not a big deal, particularly as most Professors already give grace periods for the first few minutes of class.
- EVP Machalow: I think my experience is that my Professors have never given students a grace period for arriving late. Are there any accommodations for students with disabilities in terms of being able to make the seven minute transition periods?
- Senator Adams: I would like to ask Dr. Aronoff another question, with the Chair’s permission.
- Chair: Go ahead.

- Senator Adams: Can we have a Tuesday/Thursday campus lifetime?
  - Dr. Aronoff: I think we need to make it clear. The Friday campus lifetime is mostly a tool for faculty to schedule colloquia on Friday afternoons, and is to make it possible for all faculty to be able to attend then.
  - Senator Adams: I would like to second everything regarding what Senator Gunther has said, regarding the difficulties of commuter students in attending MF campus lifetime events.
- Senator Rustemi: Why can't we just cancel the WF class, if that will rescue Wednesday campus lifetime, which is the biggest issue?
  - Dr. Aronoff: Listening to what people have been saying, as I said, the main reason for moving campus lifetimes on Monday is to get rid of the MF class slot, which is the least in demand. It might be that moving it to WF will not make it any more popular. Having listened to the discussion, I believe I will go to the Provost and say that students really want the Wednesday campus lifetime, which would entail keeping the Wednesday campus lifetime and removing the WF class, moving it back to the MF slot. I actually think that this is not unreasonable, and I will present to the Provost both of these options.
- Senator Tausz: I move that we have an informal vote on the proposal at this time.
  - Approved without objection.
- *EVP Machalow returned to the Chair.*
  - Informal vote on the proposal in principle: 13-3-1. (Yes-No-Abstain)
  - Informal vote on a modified proposal which keeps the campus lifetime on Wednesdays: 16-0-3. (Yes-No-Abstain)
    - Dr. Aronoff: I will make the USG Senate's recommendation very clear to the Provost, and I have been personally convinced that what you are asking for is not unreasonable.
- Motion by Senator Simmons to amend the agenda, moving agenda items 7.0 and 8.0 to 5.0 and 6.0, and renumbering current agenda items 5.0 and 6.0 to 7.0 and 8.0.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 17-1-0. (Roll Call #1.)

**Agenda item 7.0: Event Grant Applications**  
**-AIChE**

- Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the application.
- This is an off-campus trip regarding the AIChE Fall National Tournament.
  - Senator Adams: Because they requested over \$4000, say we gave them \$1500 but they still cannot go, would the funds return to our grant pool?
  - Treasurer Kirnbauer: Yes, the funds would return to the general pool in that case.
  - Senator Adams moved to approve AIChE's event grant application.
    - Senator Adams moved to allocate an additional \$500 to AIChE.
      - Motion approved unanimously. (Roll Call #2).

- Main motion also approved unanimously. (Roll Call #3). Total allocated: \$1500.

### **-Science Fiction Forum**

- Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the application.
- Science Fiction Forum may appear before the Senate again with a Fall Revisions request.
  - Senator Adams moved to approve the Science Fiction Forum grant application.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 17-0-1. (Roll Call #4). Total allocated: \$1000.

### **-Soccer Club**

- Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the application.
- The money is needed for the Soccer Club to pay for the tournament entry fee.
- Senator Moore moved to approve the Soccer Club grant application.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 18-0-0. (Roll Call #5). Total allocated: \$1000.

### **-SBU Ballroom**

- Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the application.
- This is an on-campus event and the club is not asking for the maximum possible.
- Senator Adams moved to approve the SBU Ballroom (Halloween Ball) grant application.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 18-0-0. (Roll Call #6). Total allocated: \$200.

### **-USG Asset Grant Application**

- Treasurer Kirnbauer presented the application.
- Bowling Club assets – some of which were not approved by the Budget committee as they were inappropriately termed as assets whereas they are merely accessories.
- The comments and descriptions on the asset grants are provided in the written document.
- The Budget Committee recommended \$4923.26 out of the \$8652.00 grant request be accepted.
  - Senator Sohi moved to suspend the rules to allow the President of the Bowling Club to speak on the Senate floor. (Requires 2/3 for passage.)
    - Decision: The motion was approved by a vote of 17-1-0. (Roll Call #7).
  - Josh Graham (President of the Bowling Club) was recognized to make a statement.
    - Getting new equipment every season gives us a competitive edge in these competitions. Every season we need to buy new equipment to help us, since we need every edge we can have, even one pin can make the difference between winning and losing a tournament.
    - We have only had an established team for two years now. We want long-lasting and professional jerseys so we can make a statement at these events.
    - None of the bowling balls will be individualized. We will be purchasing the balls from local business.
  - Senator Adams: Do you have more than one person bowling at the team at any time?
    - Mr. Graham: There are five individuals bowling at any one time, and we also bring additional members to serve as substitutes.
    - Senator Adams: Do you need all the bowling balls you have requested?
    - Mr. Graham: Two balls are needed, as each has a particular purpose.

- Senator Moore moved to suspend the rules and allow the meeting time to extend to 9:15 pm. (Requires 2/3 for passage.)
  - Motion approved by a vote of 16-0-2. (Roll Call #8).
- Senator Platt moved to approve the grant request to the Bowling Club.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 18-0-0. (Roll Call #9). Total allocated: \$4923.26.

**Agenda item 8.0: Handball National Tournament Grant**

- Tabled without objection.

**Agenda item 5.0: Confirmation of Elections Board Nominees**

**-Theresa Leong**

- President Maloof presented the nomination.
- Senator Sohi (Vetting Committee) recommended the candidate's confirmation.
- Senator Adams moved to confirm the candidate.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 17-0-1. (Roll Call #10).

**-Ariam Frezghi**

- President Maloof presented the nomination.
- Senator Adams (Vetting Committee) recommended the candidate's confirmation.
- Senator Adams moved to confirm the candidate.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 16-0-1. (Roll Call #11).

**-Jillian Genco**

- President Maloof presented the nomination.
- Senator Lubitz (Vetting Committee) recommended the candidate's confirmation.
- Senator Adams moved to confirm the candidate.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 17-0-1. (Roll Call #12).

*EVP Machalow recused herself for the next nomination. PPT Simmons in the Chair.*

**Adrianna Grancio\*** (\*Pending Approval of the Vetting Committee)

- EVP Machalow presented the nomination.
- President Maloof: Was the vetting committee approval granted prior to the Senate meeting?
  - EVP Machalow: Yes.
- Senator Gunther moved to confirm the candidate.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 16-0-1. (Roll Call #13).

*EVP Machalow returned to the Chair.*

**Daniel Huang**

- President Maloof presented the nomination.
- Senator Simmons moved to confirm the candidate.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 17-0-1. (Roll Call #14).

**Brittaney Overbeck**

- President Maloof presented the nomination.



- Senator Adedapo moved to confirm the candidate.
  - Motion approved by a vote of 17-0-1. (Roll Call #15).
  
- Senator Adams moved to immediately consider Agenda item 11.0.
  - Motion approved without objection.
- Senator Adams moved to allow consideration of the Stony Brook SBVAC contract, such approval needed because the item was not submitted to Senators before the 2 pm deadline.
  - Motion approved 10-0-8. (Roll Call #16).
- Senator Adams moved to commit the Stony Brook SBVAC contract to the Budget Committee.
  - Motion approved 17-0-1. (Roll Call #17).

Meeting Adjourned at 9:11 pm.

