

## MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

### USG Senate Meeting

Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:19 pm. Meeting held in SAC 302.

#### Agenda item 1.0: Attendance

The roll was called:

Senator Allen Abraham	Present
Senator Tahir Ahmad	Present
Senator Ory Baum	Present
Senator Spenser Cushing	Present
Senator Samuel Cushner	Present
Senator Frank Fanizza	Present
Senator Christian Giraldo	Present
Senator Mahyar Kashan	Present
Senator Sidrah Khan	Present
Senator Thomas Kirnbauer	Present
Senator Yan Leyfman	Present
Senator Deborah Machalow	Present
Senator Kirin Mahmud (PPT)	Present
Senator Shivani Rampersad	Present
Senator Masood Rustemi	Present
Senator Najee Simmons	Present

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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 even 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.

Senator Harminder Singh	Present by Proxy (Moiz Khan)
Senator Priya Sohi	Present by Proxy (Sarah Sheikh)
Senator Michael Spinelli	Present
Senator Peter Stratoudakis	Present
Senator Russell Williams	Present

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President Matthew Graham	Absent
Executive Vice President Alexander Dimitriyadi (Chair)	Present
Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Jennifer Chan	Absent
Vice President of Communications David Mazza	Present
Vice President of Student Life Peter Molloy	Absent
Senior Class Representative Dexter Daniel	Absent
Junior Class Representative Emilissa Trotman	Absent
Sophomore Class Representative Neville Hall Jr.	Absent

Quorum established.

**Agenda item 2.0: Announcements**

The Chair announced that the date on the Agenda should be “October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010” and not “October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010.”

The Chair made further announcements as to deadlines for candidates seeking fall election positions and mandatory Senate reports.

**Agenda item 3.0: Approval of the Minutes from 10/14/2010**

- Senator Cushing moved to amend, by striking items 7.0 through 11.0 on the agenda.
  - Decision: Approved without objection.
- Senator Machalow moved to amend the 10/14/2010 minutes, by striking “Gramm” and replacing with “Graham” under “Agenda item 6.0, Bullet point 1, sub-bullet point 1.”
  - Decision: Approved without objection.
- The date on the draft minutes from 10/14/2010 was corrected (replaced October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 with October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010.) This was done by unanimous consent.
- The minutes were approved as amended, by unanimous consent.

#### Agenda item 4.0: SUNY Assembly Voting Delegate Nominee from the Senate

- Senator Cushing was nominated by President Graham.
- Senator Ahmad moved to confirm the nomination of Senator Cushing as a SUNY Assembly Voting Delegate.
  - On the motion: 20-0-1. Nominee confirmed.

#### Agenda item 5.0: SUNY Assembly Voting Delegate Nominee from Judiciary

- Chief Justice Cordero was nominated as a SUNY Assembly Voting Delegate.
- Senator Cushing moved to confirm the nomination.
  - On the motion: 19-1-1. Nominee confirmed.

#### Agenda item 6.0: Appropriations Act #2

- Senator Mahmud presented the appropriations act.
  - SAC Commuter Commons Renovation.
  - The Senator discussed the deficiencies in the current state of the commuter lounge, as well as planned improvements should the renovation proceed.
    - Planning on increasing seating.
    - Eco-friendly and durable fabric.
    - Carpets have not been changed since the erection of the building. They will be replaced.
  - Senator Ahmad:
    - Do you know the expected date of completion?
      - If passed tonight, the renovations will be done by the end of Winter Break.
    - Senator Machalow asked about the highlighting on the act.
      - EVP: This is how I received it from the Budget Committee.
    - Senator Machalow asked (of the Budget Committee) as to why the name of the lounge would not be changed.
      - Senator Cushing: The Budget committee felt it best that the name be retained, while still acknowledging USG's contribution to the renovations.
    - Proxy Moiz moved to amend Section 4 by striking: "Student Activities Center Commuter Commons,' or SAC Commuter Commons.'" and inserting: "Undergraduate Student Government Commuter Commons,' or USG Commuter Commons.'"
      - Senator Fanizza: The name should be retained.
      - Senator Ahmad: We are simply paying for the renovations; there is no need to change the name.

- Senator Kashan: I believe changing the name would discourage commuters from coming. We should keep the name.
- VP Mazza: I think it is obvious that changing the name will not discourage commuters / graduate students from coming. We do a great deal for the campus community and should have our name displayed.
- Proxy Khan: The name does not imply that only undergraduates can enter. That does not make sense.
- Senator Ahmad: I want to hear what my fellow Senators, who have not spoken yet, want to say.
- Senator Baum: I feel that having it called the SAC Commuter Commons makes more sense. We should have recognition for providing funds to the renovation, but we do not need to change the name.
- Senator Rampersad: I agree with Senator Baum. We should keep the name the same. The renovation by USG will be acknowledged.
- Senator Simmons: I don't think the name change would cause any confusion as to usage, but I don't see the point in changing the name.
- Senator Williams: I agree that the name should remain as it is now.
- Senator Cushing: I do not think there would be any confusion with a name change.
- VP Mazza: Is anyone here confused? Honestly? Really?
  - *\*Several Senators raised their hands.\**
- Senator Giraldo: I think it is time to start claiming credit for the things we do.
- Senator Leyfman: A hybrid name might be a good solution.
- Senator Kashan: I think most Senators know that the name change does not mean a change in who can use the facility, but other students who are not so involved might be discouraged from going there.
- Senator Abraham: I am pretty sure that Orientation leaders can tell students where to go to work/relax, including the commuter commons, regardless of its official name.
- Senator Rustemi: I think the name change would create more confusion as to the location of the commons.
- Senator Khan: I don't think there will be any confusion. Even non-USG officers would know that they are allowed. I don't think that it is worthwhile though to change the name and change the tradition.
- Senator Stratoudakis: We don't have to trumpet our good work. There might always be rumors about USG's work.
- EVP: One problem with the ALIRRT act was that students believed that the University paid for the discounted tickets, not USG. It is therefore appropriate, in my opinion, for us to claim credit where it is due.

- Proxy Khan: The name change will promote USG and allow students to see USG in action.
- Senator Ahmad: We, as USG, do a lot of good things here. WE provide funding to numerous clubs, but we don't tell them to mention us every time. We should not have to renovate parts of campus in order for them to know our name. The lounge will still say that USG provided funds for the renovation.
- Senator Kashan: I completely agree with Senator Ahmad. We are working our way up, we are becoming more involved and more people know about USG this year than last year. Through clubs and events we will gain more recognition.
  - Senator Khan moves to end debate.
    - Motion passes by a vote of 19-1-1 (Two-thirds majority achieved.)
  - On the motion to amend, the vote was: 5-15-1. The amendment failed.
- Senator Khan moved to approve Appropriations Act #2.
  - Senator Kashan: I believe it is important that we all vote in favor of this. Commuters are an important part of our community, and all students are welcome in the Lounge. I believe all Senators should vote in favor.
- Appropriations must be by roll call vote. On the motion to approve "Appropriations Act #2", the votes were:

Senator Allen Abraham	Y
Senator Tahir Ahmad	Y
Senator Ory Baum	Y
Senator Spenser Cushing	Y
Senator Samuel Cushner	Y
Senator Frank Fanizza	Y
Senator Christian Giraldo	Y
Senator Mahyar Kashan	Y
Senator Sidrah Khan	Y
Senator Thomas Kirnbauer	Y
Senator Yan Leyfman	Y

Senator Deborah Machalow		Y
Senator Kirin Mahmud (PPT)		Abstain
Senator Shivani Rampersad		Y
Senator Masood Rustemi		Y
Senator Najee Simmons		Y
Senator Harminder Singh	Vote by Proxy (Moiz Khan)	Y
Senator Priya Sohi	Vote by Proxy (Sarah Sheikh)	Y
Senator Michael Spinelli		Y
Senator Peter Stratoudakis		Y
Senator Russell Williams		Y

- The motion was approved by a vote of 20-0-1.

Agenda item 7.0: ~~Undergraduate Student Government Statesman Contract 2010-2011~~

Agenda item 8.0: ~~Undergraduate Student Government SBVAC Contract 2010-2011~~

Agenda item 9.0: ~~Undergraduate Student Government SB Child Care Contract 2010-2011~~

Agenda item 10.0: ~~Undergraduate Student Government Response Contract 2010-2011~~

Agenda item 11.0: ~~Undergraduate Student Government NYPIRG Contract 2010-2011~~

Agenda item 12.0: **Open Agenda**

- Senator Cushing moved to suspend the rules and consider: “Undergraduate Student Government Stony Brook Science Fiction Club Grant 2010-2011” since it was not submitted to the Senate before 2 pm on this day.
  - Proxy Khan: Point of Order – the Rules need not be suspended in order to consider this matter.

- Ruling by EVP: In my interpretation, it is not a suspension of the rules, but a 2/3 vote is required to override S202 2 and 3 of the USG Code.
- Senator Machalow: I move that the Senate override S202 of the USG Code, in order to consider “Undergraduate Student Government Stony Brook Science Fiction Club Grant 2010-2011”, a motion which requires a two-thirds majority.
  - Debate:
    - Senator Khan: This motion is to allow the Senate to consider this appropriation.
    - Senator Machalow: I encourage my fellow Senators to approve the override, so we can consider this important legislation.
    - Senator Simmons: Which document is the grant application?
      - Senator Cushing clarified which document pertained to the actual appropriations.
    - The motion to override S202 of the USG Code, in order to consider “Undergraduate Student Government Stony Brook Science Fiction Club Grant 2010-2011” was approved by a vote of 20-1-0.
- Senator Cushing presented the legislation (Undergraduate Student Government Stony Brook Science Fiction Club Grant 2010-2011.)
  - Very old club on campus.
  - They have one of the science fiction book collections around. We would like to preserve the collection and a lot of the items on the grant are to further that goal.
  - Senator Kashan: Is the grant going towards buying more books?
    - No, it is to preserve the books and allow for better equipment to view the movies and other entertainment.
  - Senator Ahmad: What is the location of the library? There are a few pricey items, how would they be secured? Who would be present to keep a watchful eye over these items? What is the condition of any related items – meaning for instance, what is the condition of the old equipment at this time?
    - Location: Basement of the Union. The previous location had more room but the current space has shrunk considerably, prompting the need for more bookshelves. There is a lock on the door which is used when the room is empty. When the room is open, there are many club officials present.
    - Was the furniture cleared by the facilities officials in the Union?
      - Not sure.
    - DVD/VHS recorder will not be used for “piracy.”
  - Senator Ahmad: What is the budget committee doing to ensure there is a standing audit process, or a way of keeping track of the items being requested?
    - Senator Cushing: This is merely to give them the grant funds. The new “ALLOCATE” system would keep track of their inventory.

- Senator Ahmad: Point of Information: Would the inventory be kept by ALLOCATE?
    - Yes, if the vouchers go through ALLOCATE. However, there is no guarantee that anything going in before November 1<sup>st</sup> will be in the system.
  - Have the furniture items (couch), been cleared through the relevant administrative officials?
    - No.
  - Proxy Khan: I don't think that there is a reason to give funds for the bookshelves/couch as they are fire hazards? We should not give furniture out before checking with the Director of Facilities for the Union.
- Senator Fanizza moved to refer "Undergraduate Student Government Stony Brook Science Fiction Club Grant 2010-2011" to the Budget Committee for further review.
    - Senator Ahmad: I would hate that we would have to approve only parts of the grant, before the proper checks are made. Once they are done, I hope it would be brought back to the Senate for further debate.
    - Senator Machalow: Is a club held directly to the buying the items specifically requested in the grant, or do we just give them money?
      - EVP: The USG Treasurer is supposed to enforce this aspect, although there is no other rule regarding grant requests being spent specifically according to their grant application.
      - There is nothing to bind a club, other than the enforcement of the Treasurer, to purchase grant items in accordance to their grant application.
      - The main concern is that there are very specific guidelines regarding fireproof bookshelves/furniture, which require more expensive items.
    - The motion to refer was approved, by a vote of 16-5-0.
  - Proxy Khan: Is it possible to amend Bylaws without an Act?
    - The EVP referred to the USG Constitution, Article IV, Section 1, C., 2., which stipulates that "Senate legislation shall include, but not be limited to, any by-laws of the Executive Council, the Senate, or the Judiciary."
    - The Chair also referred to the requirement in Robert's Rules of Order, that prior notice be given, before introducing amendments to by-laws.
  - Motion to allow the Senate to consider: "Appropriations Act #3 for Fiscal Year 2010-2011"
    - Requires 2/3 vote (per USG Code S202).
    - Senator Spinelli presented the appropriations act request.
      - Senator Fanizza: Is this for only one issue?

- It is for one issue, the idea is to have one issue per semester.
- Senator Ahmad: Is the club registered?
  - Yes, it is registered as a media club.
- Senator Kashan: Five hundred copies is a small amount. How would they gain exposure?
  - They would be centralized to the SAC.
- Senator Machalow: Why is \$180 going for the layout? Why can't students do it themselves?
  - Magazine layouts are different, graphic-intensive, and require more technical ability. No students in the group are skilled enough to accomplish the feat?
  - Who is on the E-board?
    - Senator Spinelli is the President. He listed other members of the Executive Board.
- Senator Abraham: Did you look for any graphic design students?
  - Yes, I did, but no student stated that this project was within their skill set.
- On the motion to allow consideration of the act:
  - Senator Ahmad: Does the Budget Committee believe it is feasible to offer "The Mix" the requested funding?
    - It is feasible, and is over the amount that a typical SSC club would receive by \$50.
- EVP: Section 107 of the Financial Bylaws. Part B:
  - If an organization is new... it must first receive recognition from the Special Services Council. Our by-laws prohibit funding this club.
- Senator Spinelli: How can a club be recognized if there is no SSC?
  - EVP: I would suggest you work on the legislation to create a SSC.
- No further debate: On allowing consideration of debate, the motion was approved by a vote of 14-5-2. (Two-thirds majority achieved.)
- Proxy Khan moved to approve Appropriations Act #3 for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.
  - Senator Abraham: The EVP has stated that we are not legally allowed, according to our by-laws, to provide funding.
  - Senator Machalow moved to amend by removing "\$180 (Layout)" to make the final amount \$620.
    - Senator Spinelli: I want to further talk about the layout. Basically, the layout of a magazine is a complicated process. Anyone with graphic design experience can tell you that amateurs cannot create magazine layouts.

- Senator Giraldo: I believe we should go through with the original intent. IF the project requires a professional graphics designer, I believe it should be given.
  - Senator Spinelli: This layout is a template. The club needed help to plan out the layout. The template can therefore be edited and changed in the future, without the need for professional assistance.
  - Senator Kashan: We don't pay every semester for the template for our club. It is important to have a professionally made initial template, which can be modified slightly in the future.
  - Senator Ahmad: When are the SSC provisions going to be brought to the floor? (to Senator Ahmad)
    - Senator Abraham: We are working on it and have had a lengthy debate on how it is structured. The basics are finished, but we are still working on revising the finishing touches. I hope to be able to bring it to the floor next week.
- On the amendment, the vote was 0-20-1. The amendment failed.
- On Proxy Khan's motion to approve Appropriations Act #3:
  - Senator Machalow moved to removed "funds" from the act. Approved without objection.
  - Senator Rampersad: Could the issue still be published if we wait for the SSC by-laws to be revised?
    - I do not think there would be enough time to publish it this semester.
  - Senator Abraham: I urge the Senate not to vote for this appropriation, as it is contrary to the by-laws.
  - Senator Khan: Point of Information:
    - I do not think it is worth risking breaking the by-laws.
  - Senator Simmons: I believe all Senators respect the students who worked on this matter.
    - Senator Abraham: POINT OF ORDER: Questions regarding judicial process.
  - Senator Ahmad: I believe that it is unfair to other students seeking to create clubs if we were to approve this appropriation tonight. I urge our Senators to complete the revisions ASAP, so that we go through normal channels to consider appropriations legislations.

- Senator Stratoudakis: I believe we would be seen as corrupt if we were to approve this. The by-law revisions should be ready next week.
- Senator Spinelli: I believe that legally it would still be possible to appropriate funds.
- Senator Ahmad: There is a proper channel for appropriating funds to new clubs. This is not the proper channel.
- Proxy Khan moved to end debate.
  - Unanimously approved.

- Roll Call Vote on approving Appropriations Act #3:

Senator Allen Abraham		No
Senator Tahir Ahmad		No
Senator Ory Baum		No
Senator Spenser Cushing		Abstain
Senator Samuel Cushner		No
Senator Frank Fanizza		No
Senator Christian Giraldo		Abstain
Senator Mahyar Kashan		No
Senator Sidrah Khan		No
Senator Thomas Kirnbauer		No
Senator Yan Leyfman		No
Senator Deborah Machalow		No
Senator Kirin Mahmud (PPT)		No
Senator Shivani Rampersad		No
Senator Masood Rustemi		No
Senator Najee Simmons		No
Senator Harminder Singh	Vote by Proxy (Moiz Khan)	Abstain
Senator Priya Sohi	Vote by Proxy (Sarah Sheikh)	No
Senator Michael Spinelli		Abstain

Senator Peter Stratoudakis

No

Senator Russell Williams

No

- The motion failed, by a vote of 0-17-4.
- Senator Machalow: Members of the Academic Affairs committee are requested to stay at the end of the meeting.
- Senator Abraham requested that members of the Programming Committee remain at the end of the meeting.
- Senator Fanizza: There is an awesome Haunted House going on tonight in Greely College, 8-10 pm.
- Senator Kashan: I applaud the active participation of all Senators.
  - Business from the Gallery:
    - Brendon (NYPIRG):
      - Registered a bunch of voters this year and will be getting students out to vote this Tuesday.
      - Textbooks: Very expensive. NYPIRG works on throughout the year. Working on cheaper options for students, by informing faculty of ways to get cheaper textbooks.
        - New editions are not substantially different, yet drive up prices. NYPIRG ushered a law that requires publishers to inform faculty of changes in different editions.
        - NYPIRG is working on an open-letter to faculty to inform them about their rights when dealing with publishers. Many students have also signed up for that.
- With no further business for consideration, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.