Student Government Senate
Tuesday, November 25th, 2014
Session Minutes

I. Call to Order
   a. The meeting was called to order at 4:43 pm.

II. Roll Call
   a. Presiding Officer Reyes conducted roll call. With 19 of 22 senators, we met quorum.
   b. Christopher served as Pro Tempore.
   c. Hollis served as Parliamentarian.

III. Approval of the Minutes
   a. Minutes were approved with 0 corrections.

IV. Communications and Announcement
   a. Senators
      i. Nippon: I went and met with Dr. Johnson to talk about getting a room and making it available for senators. He told me to follow up in an email. He seemed positive about it. We can follow by email and get a room for the College of Science.
   b. Non-Senators
      i. Liz Trahan: I am the writer for Driftwood, the student paper. As a member, we strive to write news. We have new editors and staff; we make mistakes. We’re not a tabloid. When you contact with news, please make sure it is accurate and doesn’t make your organization look like it lacks character.

V. Presiding Officer Communications and Announcements
   a. I was disqualified from the elections so I will not be a senator or acting vice president. I have prepared a written statement that I took the time after I made the agenda to write. I would like to read it to you all. Reyes read the statement, in summary, it explained that it was his own fault that he did not turn in the final expenditure report on time, but he would like the change the Code of Laws to extend the time for the final expenditure to be turned in. The bill will be up for discussion in New Business then he will ask for the suspension of Rules and Procedures to vote on it.

VI. President Pro Tempore and Committee Reports
a. President Pro Tempore
   i. Christopher: I hope you all think about election process and get it in time and follow the rules. We can move forward and get better. Like everything else, think about what you’re doing. Don’t make rash decisions or moves.

b. Committee Reports
   i. Lee: Finance: I was out for two weeks; we’re at the end of the semester and its crunch time. I apologize for my absence. We had the Mini Baja and Model UN bills. My committee met and debated and we fully support these bills or anything tabled to help over-all majority of the populous. I hope to do the best job I can as chair.
   ii. Hollis: Constitutional Committee *report attached*

VII. Presentation by Joy Ballard and Josh Lambert, Political Science Department
a. The reason we are here is because Poli Sci will receive budget cuts. We found a lot of student upset about this. We recognize and are aware about the turning point of this school. Education is also getting cut. Anyone that doesn’t think they can get cut is naïve. We’ve taken a stance to oppose these cuts. We felt this is the necessary avenue to pursue those interests. We are upset because of way we were told. Fos didn’t talk to us. He had the department chair to talk to us. Without them telling us, we would’ve read it in newspaper. This is public knowledge. The major points are that they haven’t figured out how much each program costs. In the press release, they say they didn’t find the cost for each program. 15% of the opinion was external demand. That’s how much we are needed in the outside world. They said that was hard to measure. Another 25% is alumni and admission alignment. They didn’t contact our alumni, we contacted them, and they didn’t know and have taken a stance to help them. The other main issue is the 4 program categories. 1 & 2 are safe, 3 is to restructure and 4 is to cut. The PhD program is in the third. There are 19 under us, but we’re getting cut. We had no representation in the faculty senate. The University needs to answer why this happened. There are 40 of us. Our program is the only one in the UL System. There’s only Tulane and LSU left in the state with our program. Tulane costs $25k. We are losing a very valuable program. We hosted a senate poll party. It was in the NY Times. We have data of things that happen in NOLA. We produce these statistics. From the PSGSA, we’ve talked to alum, started a petition that will be attached with letters to Fos and the Provost. We would like dialog of the meeting. We have another petition for support from alumni and other programs. It’s not just about us; it’s not a single goal for poli sci. Students deserve the right for a say in this. Everyone can get cut. I’d like to stress it’s not just about poli sci. We need a strong SG for the ability and say to weigh on these issues. If we aren’t concerned about this, who will be? Those drawing up the budget don’t have the same things in mind. It’s not just about poli sci or for grads, its about all of us.
i. Lee: I am a huge supporter of your cause. The reason I got into SG was because I’m in the physics department and they were on the chopping block. Are they cutting budget with y’all in it?

ii. PS: There’s no real answer.

iii. Lee: There are no clear cut answers, I tried to get a parking lot fixed and that was an uphill battle. We all understand.

VIII. Executive Reports, Judicial Reports, Advisor Reports

a. President

i. I’m glad to see some of you remembered its Tuesday. Let’s try to look through the darkness and see pride. Two Executive Orders have been signed. One allotted $423 to cosponsor the alum/associate past president luncheon. The past presidents talked about the state of UNO. The next one was for $763.28 to intermural flag football and soccer. They didn’t have enough time to come to you, so they came to me. I have the Sec of State report, I’ll read that during her time. I’d like to talk about the faculty committee report. My major complaint of the committee was that there was no staff or student input in the metric. It’s a recommendation to provost, and then its reported to Fos. Fos hasn’t made a decision yet, which is why he hasn’t talked to you. I know that he severely disagrees with one of section 4’s, which mean he can ignore more. It’s not about funding. It’s that UNO has 84 programs. That’s too much. We are set up so that we can have 74,000 students, but have 9,400. The faculty committee was set up to figure out what UNO can provide the best education for, what students we should be attracting to UNO, what programs are good for our mission statement. I’m not saying I agree with it, that’s just what they were set up for. All students are upset by the report, and they are justified. We are guaranteed the right of student self-governance. We in our own constitution, we are to protect that right of self-governance. I was under the impression that the senate will write a resolution. I believe that’s still the plan. I talked to Kemker at the council meeting. He is aware that the student anger is coming. You have to realize the some programs have to leave, but we have the right to make those decisions as well. I’m happy that poli sci came here to bring awareness. We have the voice. We went from 30% to 70% paid by the student, not the state or school. Therefore, we should demand 70% of the voice.

1. Lee: Dr. Tar is my boss. We met and he asked me and fellow officers how to gather student input about programs and I told him that I’m well versed about the university and don’t jump on the bandwagon. He wants students who are educated. That was the last
I heard of it. Is there a procedure of cuts; is there a debate to ask questions?

2. Teagle: Officially no. This is a growing thing. We’ve never had this in place before. There’s no way to review the current programs. Other schools do. The issue is that they had to put this procedure into place and had to get the report done by November 1. It was an unrealistic deadline. I was unable to gather if it was a self-placed goal or not. A lot of the problem is that they didn’t give themselves enough time. They didn’t get enough cooperation necessary to make these decisions.

3. Time extended.

4. Lee: How was the committee picked?

5. Teagle: It was the same way everything else is. Faculty who have extra time volunteered then they were appointed by the senate. I solidly appreciate the amount of work that the faculty does with limited raises, but there is an applied sense of arrogance. They operate with a sense of authority without consideration. I sit in the meetings, but don’t have a vote. They grant us consideration to have equal voice, but they don’t have to listen to me. We are often ignored. Faculty senate wants to be involved in budget cuts, but don’t have patience to deal with academic reorganization. That’s protected by faculty. Everyone I’ve worked with is working towards a better UNO. Without our voices, there can’t be true representation.

6. Joy: Can you tell me about how it affects students in the programs?

7. Teagle: We have a law to protect student in a program. There’s an academic threshold. For grad students the threshold is a lot more at the beginning. For undergrad, there’s a point in the program the students have to reach. Any program getting restructured, all those students can continue catalog as long as you pass threshold. There will be pressure to transfer into alternative programs. No forcing, but pressure. If you pass the threshold, I was told you would be safe.

8. Joy: When you enter into your masters, you’re supposed to get to finish with the PhD. I came here for my masters, and then I’ll have to move. I understand it’s a different program, but it should be considered.

9. Teagle: We could ask for bridge concepts to be extended. This isn’t a decision. Even if a decision is made, it won’t be immediate. The closest it will be in effect is 2016. That’s a guess on how other
things move. The UL system has to agree, and then it has to go to board of Regents. There’s time involved in the process.

10. Time extended.
11. Josh: What’s the threshold of grad programs is it once you’re in the program?
12. Teagle: The threshold varies from department to department. There are few rules that carry over from college to college. When the program will be cut, that’s when they determine the threshold. Except in undergrad.

b. Treasurer

c. Secretary of State
   i. Attached.
      1. Aucoin: For those in the fall term, this is last meeting?
      2. Teagle: Yes. New officers will be Dec. 2nd.
      3. DiMaggio: Can old senators come up for appointment on December 2nd to be appointed?
      4. Teagle: Yes.

d. Judicial

e. Advisors
   i. Sipe: The Zeta Phi Beta probate is tonight at 6:30. The Divine 9 is important to our culture. It’s entertaining, they’ve been practicing steps. If you’re interested in the Student Tech Fee, talk to me or to Teagle. Hunter can tell you what the committee is like and the type of decisions they. That committee requires more students than faculty or staff to be a part of it. If you have contacts with the UCC, they are being evaluated by an outside source. We are hosting a potluck lunch, you can come, but you have to bring food to come. Remember there’s a lot of talk of action, but not actual action. If you care about something, do it. If you have ideas, write it. With your decisions today, think about SG as a whole, it’s not just about you.
      1. Johnson: How long is the potlock?
      2. Sipe: 11:00 - 1:30.
   ii. Motion to move Nomination and Appointments to now.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business
   a. B.F14K022
      i. Like Fernando said, it’s extending the days for the expenditure deadline, to better accommodate the review and filing of the expenditure money. It’s changing it from 8:00 AM to 3 business days. We’ve already lost one VP,
Fernando has done great job. Kristin said we still have to report even if its $0.

1. Teagle: Are you aware this is an expos facto law. By the last line, it will be for Fall 2014, to make it effective it would be an expos facto law. According to the law. No bill of expos facto law can be enacted. To bill of expos facto law. This bill is against law of the US constitution and that is supreme to our law.
   a. Hollis: Would any of you like to make a friendly amendment
   b. Teagle: Only the author can make a friendly amendment.
   c. Christopher: I motion to table this indefinitely.
      i. UC.
      ii. Objection
      iii. Withdrawn.
      iv. UC.

XI. Nominations and Appointments

a. Joy Ballard, Senator, College of Liberal Arts
   a. I’m a poli sci master’s student. I’m a TA for comparative politics. I moved down here for school. I love the city and excited to be here.
      You don’t have a grad student on, we’d like to be represented as well.
      i. Cormier: Where are you from?
      ii. Ballard: Bircada, Ms.
      iii. Johnson: How many spots are open on COLA?
      iv. Hunter: 2

b. Motion to hear second candidate then vote on both so LeeAnne can check grades.
   a. Approved.

c. Josh Lambert, Senator, College of Liberal Arts
   a. I am president of the poli sci organization. I graduated from Auburn. Went to Mandeville High. I’m studying international relations. I’m here to try to get more voices heard about issues.
      i. Christopher: Can you talk to us about issues you’ve seen at UNO and how you’d like to see them addressed?
      ii. Lambert: The biggest issue in our department is a mood of negativity of the future for our university and feeling helpless about it. When we found out about the chopping block, didn’t know where to go. One area we need to improve on is morale.
      iii. Lee: Are you familiar with any part of the university besides poli sci?
iv. Lambert: I’m not. I’m in Milneburg. We are trying to reach out to departments, its not just our fight, it’s everyone’s.

v. Lee: All depts. Have the same problem
1. Joy Ballard, with a roll call vote of 19 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, she is appointed.
2. Josh Lambert, with a roll call vote of 19 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, she is appointed.
3. Point of Information: Christopher: You need to get sworn in. Also, schedule next semester accordingly to make our meetings.
4. Point of Information: Talbert: Are meetings at the same time next semester?
5. Christopher: Yes.

XII. Open Forum
a. Talbert: I’ve noticed for several weeks and have been delaying, hoping that it would be resolved, but I noticed we have set times for different parts, I noticed people aren’t taking that in regards. People are going out of their boundaries. They are adding something to what wanted to say. I feel people put work into setting timeframes; we should use that wisely and not overstep boundaries.

b. Christopher: I am very happy that we had a good semester. We have a great committee rolling. SG doesn’t end for our committee. If you want your input, talk to us or sit in on our meetings. I want to say I’ll miss those that are leaving. Have a good thanksgiving.

c. Aucoin: Payne, you’re the only one leaving. We’ll miss you. Since this is the last meeting, we reserve adjournment for you.

d. Macloud: I am still working on the resolution. Violet, we should talk. I can’t do this on my own. I’m ignorant on this. Email me cmacloud@uno.edu.

e. Cormier: Can we give Fernando a round of applause for a semester well done?

f. Teagle: Senate needs to be aware that your leadership structure is changing next meeting. Senators will be changing. On December 1st the Pro Tempore, Acting Pro Tempore, and Parliamentarian will be gone. That puts Violet up at Presiding Officer. First thing to address is filling those vacancies. We will have elections within the senate. Those being disqualified from the election, that doesn’t mean you’re in poor standing. Reyes, I encourage you to come up for reappointment. This isn’t a goodbye who was disqualified. Fernando wasn’t the only person. I remind everyone that the law is the law. It’s not like Rules and Procedure, it can’t be suspended or ignored and it can be harsh. If you have a problem with the law, you need to change them legally and ahead of time. Budget committee was the second most complained about thing. It’s no coincidence that that are 20 clauses
long. They need to be addressed. You, as the senate, needs to address this and recognize the changes and change them

g. Lee: Anyone who didn’t run in the elections, if you go up for reappointment next week, fill out your forms now.

h. Teagle: Last week, Advisor Sipe told you she’d like you to make nominations for homecoming and if you had nominations to tell Kristin. Kristin, Alyssa, and Jessica has put forth nominations for homecoming. This was without any input from me, the nominated me and Alyssa. They came up with the team name of Bills of Glory. In the future when Sipe says to do something, do it.

i. Lee: What is the difference between budget committee and finance?

j. Teagle: The budget committee is primarily allocation from the body from funds received from the ‘87 Resolution. The treasurer and the budget committee create line items.

k. Hunter: Finance is to check special allocation and budget does year long. The Student Tech Fee idea is the same. We get a budget for a year for the student tech fee and it funds awards and allocations. Anyone who is interested in funding look into the STF. We got paper for business and funding for org sync and we were told we’d get funding from SIL and Housing. That’s less money from SG.

l. Cormier: Can we give a round of applause for Violet?

m. Teagle: Last year, you remember the system in state offices for financial expenditures forced a budget freeze. Something new happened with the budget short fall. The newspapers say there were no budget cuts to UNO, but after July 1st there was an insurance decision. They said, here’s $1million. It’s not part of the budget because of the $100 million budget shortfall, the government took the $1 million from us. I found out that means 10 jobs will be lost. That’s in addition to those lost last year.

n. Time extended.

o. Teagle: They issued a new budget freeze and I don’t know what that means. Normally budget freezes don’t affect us unless it’s from the state. Jindal is the state of Louisiana, we have no clue how that will affect the budget. I asked Fos and Lasen and they are going to a meeting this week, because no one knows how that will affect the restricted budgets. We have to be ready and vigilant. I’m making the fight in Baton Rouge and COSPB. In school, we have to make sure funding is going to the right sources. Pressure and change needs to come from Baton Rouge. We have to get through this together next semester. If I’m not in the hospital or dead I will do my part. The issue is I will do my fight as long as senate gives authority. My voice carries weight, our voice carries mountains.

p. Sipe: If there are students who advocate for people, you can write proclamations for people to show students value those people. Email people’s supervisors, the more positivity people have, that’s a little more protected they are.
XIII. Adjournment
   a. Brandon Payne: Motion to adjourn.
      i. Meeting was adjourned at 6:17pm.