



Student Government Association Senate
Monday March 5th, 2018

- I. Call the meeting to order
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 12:05
- II. Roll Call
 - a. There were 23/26 senators present. We met quorum.
- III. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. The minutes were not approved because there were none.
- IV. Communications and Announcements
 - a. Senators
 - i. 1. Senator Mariano Graduate Student at Large: I would like to announce two events that will be happening on campus.
 - >March 14th, 2018- Pie Day: A big event for mathematicians. We are partnering with a lot of places on campus such as the department of athletics, the library, UNO Federal Credit Union. We will have 314 pies for a pie eating contest. There will also be events like pie competitions, pie quiz bowl, and watching the movie Pie. This will be held mostly at the library.
 - >April 6th, 2018- This will be presented by the UNO Anime Club. We will be holding a “mini convention”. More info will come in the future.
 2. Senator Jayson Ray College of Business:
 - > Monday March 12th, 2018: We will start selling raffle tickets.
 - > Wednesday March 14th, 2018: We will be holding out event Shave a Skull. Proceeds will go to our philanthropy Leukemia Lymphoma Society.
 - b. Non-Senators – No Announcements
- V. President Pro-Tempore and Committee Reports
 - a. President Pro-Tempore
 - i. The governance committee would like to change their meeting time. I will announce that as soon as it has been decided. We are working on constitution reforms, and anybody is welcome to come.
 - b. Committee Reports
 - i. Rules- No report
 - ii. Facilities- We met up with the nominees for our committee, and we are going to be voting on them today. We came up with some ideas. We are going to be tabling Wednesday. We would like some help in front of library, if anyone will. It is basically a questionnaire to get people’s opinions on facility services. We need someone at 11 AM to help with tabling in the UC on Wednesday. We will have

snacks and juice. We also plan on meeting with Sodexo.

QUESTIONS-

Senator Nolan Sherman College of Science- Q: So, that is this Wednesday at 12pm? Yes, but we need help at 11 am.

Senator Wesley Cognevich College of Science- Q: Don't we have a meeting at 1 on Wednesday? Yes, but I plan to be finished by 1.

iii. Finance- No report. He was appointed today.

iv. Affairs- No report.

VI. Executive Reports, Judicial Reports, Advisor Reports

a. President

i. No report.

b. Vice-President

i. Senate Operating currently stands at \$13,982.05

c. Vice-President of Legislative Affairs

i. I hope y'all had a great retreat! Elections are coming up, so please stay tuned for information from Lauren Lane.

d. Vice-President of Programming

i. Silent Disco is Wednesday March 7th, 2018 at 7:30 pm.

e. Judicial

i. No report

f. Advisors

i. Last weekend, we had a retreat. We had about 12 senators present and went to the baseball game after. We began writing three pieces of legislation: a compound resolution, a proclamation, and a bill. Be on the lookout for all of these things at the next meeting. I will let the senators give you more information on those. In open forum, we discussed how we really need to start marketing seats. We figure the best way to do this is by "word of mouth". So, tell all of your friends, and feel free to bring someone who might be interested to a meeting. Please remember to use appropriate language during the meeting. April 11th is ULS day at the legislature. I fully expect to see all of my Senators there. President Dr. Nicklow says he will help with class excuses. We will take a bus to Baton Rouge. You will get a free polo, free lunch, and you will get to talk to your legislatures about higher education and why UNO is important. We will probably leave here around 10:00, and the sign up is on SGA's website. The student lounge is now open. Elections are coming up and starts in three weeks. If you are thinking about going for a higher position, start thinking about it now. Budget requests were due on Friday. We have received about seven vendor requests for a total of a little over a thousand dollars. We still need people on the budget committee. Please talk to Jill if you are interested. Meetings are going to start being held in Kirschman Hall R22. We have 26 senators, so we need more room to have public meetings. Proud Privateers is an event that recognizes a faculty member for their great work. I need you all to send in nominations by Wednesday March 7th, 2018. The event is March 21st, 2018.

QUESTIONS

1. Senator Mariano: Will the Driftwood be updated?
2. Ballard: Yes

VII. Old Business

- a. No Old Business

VIII. New Business

- a. B.S.18C002: SJP Speaker Bill (Cory Pitalo and Joey- President of SJP) We have an unique opportunity this month to feature a speaker from the International Solidarity Movement. It will be two speakers who are making the East Coast tour. Since 2001, thousands of volunteers from around the world have joined the International Solidarity Movement to participate in Palestinian led non-violent resistance against Israeli human rights violations. ISM needs more volunteers, so they are coming to North America to find more people. We got in touch with ISM, and they are interested in coming to UNO to speak next Friday, March 16th at 12:30. We were hoping to get the support of the Student Council. We are simply asking for \$250 to sponsor this event. It will be open to the public, and it's really a relatively minimal fee.

QUESTIONS

1. Senator Huy Vu, College of Sciences: This will fund for one for one speaker. However, the bill has 4 speakers on there. Can you explain that?
2. Joey: When we were figuring this out, they gave us a list of four possible speakers that could come. Now, we have the information for who will be actually speaking.
3. Pitalo: In addition to that, Amina asked me that question right after the bill was sent out, and I answered her back.
4. Cognevich: In the bill, it says the remaining money will go to SGA. My question is how much is the actual price for the speaker?
5. POINT OF INFORMATION – Ballard: That is standard language that is on every bill that is turned in. That is the required language.
6. Cognevich: Even so, is \$250 the actual price for the speaker? Like they stated this?
7. Joey: Yes. I have the invoice from ISM.
8. Senator Joseph Ligier (J.D), College of IDS: I am new. So, does SGA typically sponsor an event that is so vertical and controversial?
9. POINT OF INFORMATION – Ballard: That is at the end of the day up to the Senate. If student allies of Israel brought a bill, I would expect you to give the same amount of thought. At the end of the day, it is up to you what you want to fund, but any organization can bring up a bill. We will review it but yes.
10. Cognevich: Has there been a precedent set for polarizing political things?
11. Ballard: We have funded things for SJP before. Yes, now the polarizing of this issue depends on your political stance. I think that this is a human rights issue more than a political issue. Yes, we have funded SJP events before.
12. Cognevich: Any other political events?

13. Ballard: In my time here, no other political event has asked for money.
14. Senator Alisha Feldman College of Business: I just want to state that universities are historically and typically places where we can speak out about human rights.
 - i. Initial Debate: Oppositon – NONE
 - ii. Pitalo: I don't think it is a 100% true about not sponsoring anything political recently.
 - iii. Support for this Bill
 1. Mariano: At the end of the day, we are just voting on whether we could fund this bill or not.
 2. Sherman: I would like to second what Mariano stated.
 - iv. Amendment to Propose
 1. John-Michael White: I would like to propose a friendly amendment, just to clarify who the actual speakers are and also to remove a couple points of accidental bolding and capitalization, which I believe don't really need a vote. Correct?
 2. Ballard: It does not need a vote. Majority rule is fine
 3. Amina: Okay, lets raise our hands.
 4. Vote was unanimous. Amendment passes
 - v. Roll Call Vote: 21 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstained. Bill Passes

b. B.S. 18C001: Pet-A-Puppy Bill

White nominated Hannah Joy Miller as temporary Pro-Tempore, and this was seconded by Jayson Ray.

White and Leah Primeaux

Primeaux: This is an event where we invite an animal shelter to campus to raise awareness about fostering animals. It is an adoption event. We would like a tent to keep the dogs in a shaded area and to keep them hydrated.

White: This is a reoccurring bill, and it has been passed by the Senate in past years.

Amina: How much are you asking for?

White: We are asking for \$270.

QUESTIONS

Sherman: Were prices for tents compared throughout different companies? Like is this the cheapest?

POINT OF INFORMATION – Amina: The University of New Orleans typically goes with the same company, CHAPS. We do not have storage on campus.

President Watkins: How will this event be advertising?

Primeaux: We plan to use social media, and we also printed out big posters to hang up. We are collaborating this year with the Pre-Vet Society.

Vu: Is this event open for every student?

Primeaux: Absolutely. It's a campus wide event. You don't actually have to be a student to attend this event.

Senator Kenady Hills, College of Liberal Arts: How many tents will this be covering?

White: It is just one.

- i. Initial Debate: Opposition
 - ii. Support for this bill
 1. JD: I sponsored an event like this at LSU, and the outcome was excellent. Will this be around finals?
 2. Primeaux: We typically have this event around midterms. We kind of missed the date for this one. So, we plan to have it at the end of March.
 3. Mariano: I support
 4. Vu: I support
 5. Hills: I support because it is a great de-stressing event. Also, the puppies are so cute!
 6. Primeaux: More shelters are participating this year so more puppies!
 - iii. Amendment to Propose
 1. Mariano: I sent an email to Senator Mason. We have discussed an amendment for this bill. First, changing the name to De-Stresser Event. Also, clarification on the line items. The tent is \$225. I would like to propose an amendment to have the tent listed as 225 and the delivery fee as 45.
 2. Ballard: Friendly amendment, so we can just do a hand vote.
 3. Hand Vote: Majority rules. Amendment passes.
 - iv. Role Call Vote: 23 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstained. Bill Passes!
- VIX. Nominations and Appointments
1. Senate Appointment

Amina: I would like to motion to remove Nathan Nguyen because he is not present.

White: I second.

 - a. Mason Poche- Freshman-At-Large
 - i. Introduction: I am a freshman. I am a double-major in Political Science and Theatre.
 - ii. QUESTIONS
 - Sherman: Why do you want to be on the senate?
 - Poche: I am highly interested and intrigued into the political aspect of Senate. I also would like to get more involved on campus, and this seems to be the best option.
 - Mariano: What makes you want to run for a seat for Freshman at Large and not Senator for Liberal Arts?
 - Poche- I was offered to run for both, and I kind of just chose one.
 - POINT OF INFORMATION – Amina: When we were discussing what position he would take, I already had about 8 applications for Liberal Arts. Liberal Arts seats are completely filled.
 - Christine Bourgeois, Freshman at Large: Are you in any other organizations on campus?

- Poche: I am an Orientation Leader. That is my only other on campus organization I am involved in.
- Cognevich: What year are you in?
- Poche: I am a freshman.

ii. Debate

- Mariano: How many seats are available?
- Amina: All the Freshman at Large seat have two. So, we will fill the seats with this appointment.
- Bourgeois: He is one of my good friends. He was really nervous just nervous just now. He is really interested in SGA, and he wants to make a change at UNO. He is excited.
- Cognevich: You said that all the Liberal Art seats were filled. I thought that there was one seat available.
- Amina: We filled that seat at the last meeting.
- Vu: I would like to raise support. He is an Orientation Leader, and we need more people to fill the seats.
- Hills: I was a Peer Mentor for his class last semester. He was very pleasant and sweet.

iii. Role Call Vote- 21 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstained. Welcome Senator Poche!

2. Sodexo Committee Appointment

Amina- I would like to propose this as a slate.

Cody Kyser, Rules: I second.

- a. Wesley Cognevich: I have been a project manager for many years, so I think that I would be very affective at getting things to happen.
 - b. Raphael Mariano: I would like to make it a more strategic opportunity for this process.
 - c. Hannah Miller: The reason I would like to be on it is because the UC is so clean. I would like other buildings to be just like that. I would like to help figure that out.
- i. Role Call Vote- 21 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstained. Slate Passes!

3. Head of Finance Chair: Cory Ashby

- a. Introduction by Ashby: Amina told me she needed somebody. Also, based on the description of the job, it looked like something I could do. Primarily reviewing budgets and sending that out to my committee and just being the first person knowledgeable on the subject. I am a small business owner. I started a business about seven years ago, and it still exists today. I have managed \$100,000 budgets before. I am already doing a good job on the Senate. I brought in two new senators. When SGA mentioned they didn't know what to do about funding, I helped them make that bill happen. I am committed to doing well.

QUESTIONS:

Cognevich: What is your major?

Ashby: My major is music.

Cognevich: Have you taken any statistics or economics classes?

Ashby: No, but I file my own taxes every year. I also fulfilled my math requirements.

Cognevich: You are a small business owner. Is the business still profitable?

Ashby: Yes, it is still a profitable business.

b. Debate

-Cognevich: My concern is Senator Mariano has been on the committee longer and seems like he has more experience.

-POINT OF INFORMATION- Nobody on the committee has tried doing this position because no one on the committee wants to do it.

-Amina: I have approached Mariano, and he has a very heavy plate. Also, Sherman also has a very heavy plate as well. Ashby has approached me about this position, and he asks many questions. So, I think that he would be great.

-President Nigel: Could you clarify what Head of Finance does?

-Amina: They would run the Finance Committee. He would review the bill before I send it to the entire Senate. He gives it to his committee and makes sure that everything is done the most efficient way. They could deny a bill before it actually makes it to the Senate.

-Amina: Motion to hand vote

-Vu: I second.

c. Hand Vote: Majority rules. Congrats to new Head of Finance!

X. Open Forum

a. Mariano- Last retreat was amazing! I would like to remind everyone that motions to extend time can be debated

b. Bourgeois- The retreat was great, and I'm sorry to whoever missed it. We went to the baseball game. I would like to say that we have great sports facilities here, so we should try to go out to these more.

c. White- There was a lot of Proxy's today. We only met quorum because of Proxys. Please ask your Proxys to look at bill, so you will not have to abstain.

d. Kyser- On Saturday, we did kind of a bill writing exercise. President, can you take over?

e. Watkins- Basically, we began a committee to write a resolution in opposition to getting rid of DACA. If you don't know, DACA is a program that protects students brought here illegally when they are younger. This protects their rights from their papers being release, and President Trump is currently trying to get rid of that program. We're basically doing what some schools have already done and taking a public stand against such acts. This would act as a public statement that could be released to the press. If you are interested on sitting on this committee we will be meeting on Wednesday at noon to discuss the language.

g. Cognevich- What is the overall meaning of the bill?

h. Kyser- Basically, a compound resolution makes a statement on behalf of the SGA who represent the student body. It would basically be putting the stance on this issue. I would like to get more input to make sure we create a more accurate stance for what we think and what we

vote on. Ultimately, this has to be voted on. SGA President signs it as well, which makes it compound. Basically, that goes to the University President and is a public statement.

i. Watkins- Basically, it will say “UNO will always be a place for everyone, regarding race, sexuality, where you are from.”

XI. Adjournment – 1:07 pm
Kyser- Motion to Adjourn
Bourgeois- Second