



Student Government Association Senate  
Monday January 22, 2018  
Session Minutes

- I. Call the meeting to order
  - a. Meeting was called to order at 12:01 by Vice President of Legislative affairs Amina Batiste.
- II. Roll Call
  - a. Roll was called. Twelve senators present. Quorum met.
- III. Approval of the Minutes
  - a. Minutes were approved.
- IV. Communications and Announcements
  - a. Senators
    - a. No communications or announcements.
  - b. Non-Senators
    - a. No communications or announcements.
- IV. President Pro-Tempore and Committee Reports
  - a. President Pro-Tempore
  - b. Committee Reports
    - a. Senator White: Governance committee will begin looking at constitution reforms. If you are not on governance but have an interest in this committee contact Senator John-Michael White.
- VI. Executive Reports, Judicial Reports, Advisor Reports
  - a. President
    - i. President Watkins: No Report
  - b. Vice-President
    - i. Vice President Edwards: The current senate operating account is at \$16,367.63.
    - ii. Senator Aucoin: Where did the extra money in this account come from?
    - iii. Vice President Edwards: Privateer Camp and TRL did not spend their entire budget, and that money was returned to the account.
  - c. Vice-President of Legislative Affairs
    - i. Vice President Batiste: The executives had a training last week at Leadership Development Retreat. The executives are working to plan this semester's senate training, more information will be provided later. There has also been some discussion of moving the meeting times to Friday's at 2 or 3 pm. This change will be discussed in open forum.
  - d. Vice-President of Programming
    - i. Not Present.

- e. Judicial
  - i. Not Present.
- f. Advisor
  - i. Advisor Ballard: Welcome Back Everyone! I have several announcements today so please listen carefully and save questions for the end. SGA is hiring new Clerk of Court & Student worker. The position will be 20 hours per week. Please remember that you cannot be the clerk as well as a senator, but you could be a senator and work for the office. You may send your resume and cover letter to me if interested, and please encourage any friends to apply as well.  
 The website has been completely updated, so please look at it and let me know if you see anything that needs updating. I will begin putting the agendas on the website BEFORE meetings. For this reason please be sure you are submitting all of your bills on time.  
 Leadership Retreat is set for February 23-25. This is a great for student leaders to make new connections and learn valuable skills, please make plans to attend.  
 We do have a homecoming team this year! Tyran Strahan is our homecoming court nominee. Please make plans to attend the SGA Tailgate at the arena for the homecoming basketball game on Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup>.  
 Update on tablecloth bill: Nine new organizations turned in applications and their cloths have been ordered.  
 Travel fund, this last semester we were able to send 35 students to academic conferences, and all have been paid. There is about \$16,000 left for spring semester. Please tell your friends to apply if they are attending any type of conference, they can receive up to \$500 each.  
 The university is hiring a new Dean of Students. There is an open forum today at 1:30 in Lib 407 as well as tomorrow, come meet the applicants.  
 Questions?
  - ii. Senator Aucoin: How are the open positions being advertised?
  - iii. Advisor Ballard: Open positions are being posted on our social media, as well as posted with career services and various departments.
  - iv. Senator Aucoin: Are we going to resume Lunches with Dr. Nicklow in the future?
  - v. Advisor Ballard: Yes, thank you for reminding me. Feb 26th at noon, the SGA will meet with Dr. Nicklow. There will be 15 spots available for that lunch, so please only sign up if you know you can attend. I will be sending out an email to all of you.

- V. Old Business
  - a. None
- VI. New Business
  - a. None
- VII. Nominations and Appointments
  - a. Lauren Lane

- i. VPLA Batiste: Lauren is not present, do we want to table until she can be present.
- ii. Senator Kyser: Will postponing this affect the election timeline?
- iii. Advisor Ballard: No, it will not.
- iv. Cory Pitalo: I have a concern about the elections process and wanted to ask some questions.
- v. VPLA Batiste: Do we have a motion to table?
- vi. Senator Aucoin: Motion
- vii. Senator White: Second
- viii. Roll call vote to table unanimous.

#### VIII. Open Forum

- a. VPLA Batiste: Let's discuss moving the meetings. The time change has been discussed as well as moving to every week.
- b. Senator Aucoin: If changed should be changed to time in constitution, Fridays at 2:00, but Fridays are bad in general. The turnout was bad and we will always have class scheduling issues. Tuesday afternoons at 4 was best possibility since I was in the senate, but I am opposed to change unless changed to what constitution says.
- c. Wesley Cognevich: I think it would be a bad idea to move. Everyone knew ahead of time what meeting time was and planned their schedules accordingly.
- d. President Watkins: There are 12 people present, which seems to be a good turnout. I do not see an issue.
- e. Advisor Ballard: I do not care about the day of the week, but I do advise that we move back to meeting every week. If the committees are not properly functioning, then we are voting all bills that no one has ever seen. If we had meetings every week then we could present the bill one week, and then vote on the bill the next. We should never be voting on things in new business.
- f. Senator Aucoin: Committees are not working as they should, but I believe the priority should be getting meetings to work correctly. If we cannot then I agree to meet every week, but I would prefer every other week with functioning committees.
- g. Wesley Cognevich: Everyone has phones; put a recurring reminder in your phone there should be no excuse to forget.
- h. VPLA Batiste: I will set up the calendar invites to send you a reminder 4 hours before the meeting. I am working on a list of committee members.
- i. Senator White: Is there any rules to force people to attend committee meetings?
- j. VPLA Batiste: If you miss a meeting, or committee meeting it is counted as an absence. You are allowed three total absences per year before you are removed.
- k. Cory Pitalo: I have couple of concerns of election process. When I talked to the people in the office, they said I did not have to really campaign. I told people that was the case, and many people did not know about elections. I got three people to submit paperwork. I would just like to talk to the new commissioner about the system and how to advertise more and get more people to run. I did

not even get an email saying that I was a senator. No shade, just wanted to put that out there.

- l. Advisor Ballard: Some of these issues could stem from the SGA not having an advisor. I was hired in October and so elections were right after that and some things just fell through. We normally depend on candidates' campaigns to advertise elections, but yes, perhaps we could do more. I am very open to suggestions. No excuses, last semester could have ran better, but you can help make a difference now.
  - m. Senator Aucoin: It is possible to become a senator without going through elections. You can just fill out the form and we can see if they are a good fit next meeting.
  - n. Cory Pitalo: They had already submitted paperwork. Should they resubmit the form?
  - o. Advisor Ballard: We still have their forms, and they should be approved for the next meeting.
  - p. Christine: People do not look at the monitors the Driftwood. The way you advertise needs to change. Students do not use those anymore.
  - q. Senator Aucoin: I would like senators to announce what is going to their college more. You can use the channels within your college to tell students information.
  - r. VPLA: Motion to Adjourn
  - s. Senator Aucoin: Motion
  - t. Senator Kyser: Second.
- IX. Meeting was adjourned at 12:32 pm.