



Minutes

Oakland University Student Congress
Eveslage/Malile Administration
Legislative Body Meeting Agenda
Oakland Room, Oakland Center
Monday, January 30th, 2012
4:00 P.M.

- I. **Call to order:** 5:03pm
- II. **Roll Call:** Quorum met
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. **Guest Speaker**
 - a. Judith Abesler, from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
 - i. Ms. Abesler explained that the CETL is a program to help OU faculty with teaching, by getting feedback from the students. The SET forum is where they will hear from students about what is working in the classroom, and what is not. This will meet once per month and the first meeting will be Thursday, February 9 at noon in EH 200. Ms. Abesler needs students to sign up to be at this meeting and would like some members of OUSC to be there.
 1. Ms. Alwardt: Are there any online forms to fill out with concerns and input on professors on your website?
 - a. Ms. Abesler: No, but that is a great idea and something to look into.
 2. Mr. Eveslage: I think that this is a great program and very useful. Thank you for coming.
 - ii. Adrienne LaMilza, from the Brooks for Congress Campaign
 - i. Adrienne and explained that Preston Brooks will be running for U.S. Representative for the 8th District. They are looking for help with the campaign, not through money donations, but through volunteering time. If anyone is interested go to their website at brooks4congress2012.org.
 - ii. Preston Brooks spoke on his platform, planning to take the money out of politics and returning power to the people.
 1. Ms. Malile: Everything costs money in a campaign, how will you get name recognition?
 - a. Preston: I want to prove that people can be elected without spending a lot of money. I am not accepting donations, but I am looking for volunteers.
- V. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 23rd, 2012:** approved
- VI. **Comments from the Gallery:** none
- VII. **Old Business:** none
- VIII. **New Business**
 - a. Election Bylaws Update Part 1, C.B. 12-04 *presented by Mr. Nick McCormick*
 - i. Mr. McCormick: These amendments were created to fix some of the loopholes that were found in past elections and to make the election process and validations system more fair and accountable, and to maintain the integrity of the election.
 - ii. Mr. McCormick: first, the elections commissioner cannot be reached for elections related issues outside of her office hours, office phone, and OU email.
 1. Mr. Eveslage: What about being available if in the office but not during posted office hours? What does Lisa think?
 - a. Ms. Vecchio: I think that we should leave it at posted office hours. This is reasonable and if there are problems with this in the future, other administrations can change this.
 - iii. Mr. McCormick: second, no voice amplification means should be used by candidates campaigning, unless cleared by the elections commissioner. This is, and has been in the past, disruptive to university activities and students.
 1. Mr. Hanna: What about if a student organization allows a candidate to speak at their event? They should still be allowed to do so if given permission by the org.
 2. Mr. McCormick: That is a good point; I will revisit this and change the language.
 - iv. Mr. McCormick: third, no campaign material should be taped or tacked to any surfaces in or outside of the OC, including bricks.
 - v. Mr. McCormick: fourth, campaigns may only place table tents in the Pioneer Food Court and

OC expansion area, and can be reserved through the CSA.

- vi. Mr. McCormick: fifth, the Validations Committee can only discuss and judge on the stated bylaw infraction on the submitted grievances.
- vii. Mr. McCormick: sixth, The Validations Committee may request additional information as needed when making a judgment and this must be given directly, without unneeded details.
- viii. Mr. McCormick: seventh, defines the place to find the official elections bylaws that all will be held accountable to.
 - 1. Ms. Vecchio noted that it states “election committee” and should say “election commission”.
 - a. Mr. McCormick motioned to change the language from “election committee” to “elections commission”; this was seconded, and passed.
- ix. Mr. McCormick: The eighth line item will need to be revisited.
- x. Mr. McCormick: ninth, the sanctioning points for the Validations Committee will be changed from a point average system, to a point accumulation system. They will also be accompanied by a sliding scale system to render a percentage of vote reduction for each point accumulated. 1-5 points, 2% per point deduction of votes. 6-9 points, 3% per point deduction of votes. 10 or more points, 4% per point deduction of votes, and committee has ability to declare ticket invalid. Also, if a ticket receives a violation worth 5 points (the maximum) they will be declared a void ticket.
 - 1. Mr. Gamble: what if they receive 10 minor, 1 point, violations?
 - a. Mr. McCormick: Then the committee can decide to eliminate them or they will receive a 40% vote reduction off their total.
 - b. Mr. Gamble: is that too harsh? Students are voting and taking away that many votes may not be completely fair.
 - c. Mr. McCormick: That is a good point, but we have looked at this in many different ways with difference punishments and this is the most fair we have created.
- b. SAM Conference Presentation, *presented by Ms. Malile and Ms. Wolf*: Ms. Wolf and Ms. Malile presented what they did at the SAM Conference last weekend. The next conference will be February 17-19 at Saginaw Valley, whoever would like to come please let them know.
- c. Approval of Elections Committee Members:
Ms. Juronoc: Motion to combine line items i.-vii.. Seconded by Ms. Arellano. Passed.
 - i. Meri Maka, Anna Cassar, Emily Collins, Yasmine Shitta, Scottie Shermetaro, Rachel Kern
 - 1. Ms. Vecchio: all the members listed have shown excitement to be a part of the commission. They are hard workers and will be great for this commission.
 - 2. All members were approved.

IX. Discussion Topics

- a. *Discussion Topics related to Comments from the Gallery Related to Business of the Day, Guest Speakers, & submitted Statements of Student Concern*
 - i. Ms. Alwardt: A student mentioned something about getting clocks back into the classroom.
 - ii. Mr. Sklar: There was a \$21 million anonymous donation to OU.

X. Reports

- a. Student Body President – Mr. Benjamin Eveslage: Need signups for the Catalyst Conference.
- b. Student Body Vice President – Ms. Elisa Malile: Had one on ones with the E-board last week.
- c. Student Activities Funding Board – Mr. Brandon Hanna: If anyone needs office hours, come see me.
- d. Student Program Board – Mr. Jermaine Conaway: Thanks to everyone to volunteered or came out to Casino Night. I have been holding meetings with my E-board members.
- e. Legislative Affairs Director – Ms. Samantha Wolf: Started planning for OU Day at the Capitol.
- f. Multicultural Affairs Director – Ms. Emilia Allen: Volunteers are needed for Taste of Africa. I am in the process of restructuring my committee.
- g. Financial Affairs Director – Mr. Michael Allison: About \$6,000 was spent on the Homecoming Tailgate, Student initiative, banners, MLK t-shirts and buses, and readership program.
- h. Student Services Director – Mr. Brett McIsaac: Student of the Month is Melissa Brode.
- i. Visual Communications Director – Mr. Alejandro Herrera: I will be working on updating the bylaws.
- j. Marketing Director—Mr. James Shermetaro: Have been promoting SCVNGR.
- k. Administrative Assistant – Ms. Lisa Vecchio: Assembled the Elections Commission. The deadline for

submitting the Declaration of Candidacy is extended by a week and will be due Monday, February 6 at 5pm.

1. *Questions related to Executive Reports:*

- i. Mr. Kaakarli: Is the Catalyst training mandatory?
 1. Mr. Eveslage: No, but if you will be going, it is mandatory that you sign up.
- ii. Mr. Kaakarli: Do we need to fill out the paper and online Declaration of Candidacy form?
 1. Ms. Vecchio: No, either one of them.
- iii. Ms. Halsell: Who were the winners for the Tailgate contest?
 1. Mr. Eveslage: TKE, 6 East Vandy, and the Post.
- iv. Ms. Thompson: Will some of the questions on SCVNGR be fixed?
 1. Mr. Shermetaro: Yes.
- v. Ms. Arellano: What is the date for Taste of Africa?
 1. Ms. Allen: Friday, February 10.

XI. Updates

- a. Steering Committee- Ms. Alexis Halsell: Deadline for submitting agenda items is Friday.
- b. Judiciary Committee- Ms. Natalie Juronoc: none
- c. Scholarship Committee-~~Mr. Jason Dunn~~
- d. Research and Review Committee-~~Ms. Maria Willett~~
- e. Residence Hall Association President-~~Mr. Robbie Williford~~
- f. Congressional Archivist- Mr. Wesley Gamble: none
- g. GSA Liaison- Ms. Michele Alwardt: February 11th is a volunteer training at LGBT center in Ferndale. February 14th is the Valentines Party. February 26th is an AIDS Memorial. March 23 at noon is the Marriage Protest. April 3 at 7pm is the Drag Show.
- h. Greek Council Liaison - Ms. Natalie Juronoc: Theta Chi pinning ceremony is this week and Mr. PhiSignificant is on Friday at 7pm.
- i. *Questions related to Updates:* none

XII. Comments from the gallery

XIII. Announcements

- a. OUSC Meetings are on Monday at 4:00 in the Oakland Room
- b. The next OUSC Meeting will be Monday, February 6th.
- c. Legislator of the Month:
 - i. Ms. Vecchio: January Legislator of the Month is Maria Arellano! She has been so helpful ever since she became a legislator and is always in the office and at all events.

XIV. Adjournment: 5:21pm