

Minutes
Oakland University Student Congress
Wolf/Williford Administration
Legislative Body Meeting Agenda
Oakland Room, Oakland Center
Monday, October 22, 2012
4:00 P.M.

Call to order: 4:01pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Quorum met.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 15st, 2012: Approved.

Comments from the Gallery

Devon from the Undergraduate Admissions office came to OUSC to find volunteer for the Hometown Grizzlies initiative that involves current OU students going to visit their high school or community college to talk about their Oakland experience. It is a volunteer program that requires the volunteers to have a 2.5 GPA and be in good judicial and financial standing. Those interested should attend the informational session on Wednesday, October 24th at 5pm or Friday at 5pm, both in Lake Superior B. The volunteer would be responsible for contacting their high school or a faculty member. Volunteers are also not expected to know OU criterion for acceptance to the university; they are just supposed to talk about their OU experiences thus far.

Miss Jean Ann Miller came to OUSC to talk about Make a Difference Day, which is Saturday, October 27th from 8am to 4pm. It is the largest day of service in the nation. Registration is at 8am and they hope to be leaving for their sites at 9am. There are several locations for volunteering, including Detroit, Pontiac and on campus. Anyone can register at www.oakland.edu/volunteer and registration ends Friday. The volunteers receive breakfast, lunch and a t-shirt. Transportation is also provided. Students can choose their location and the CSA's goal is to keep groups intact. Miss Miller suggested volunteers to wear warm clothes and to bring work gloves if possible. There are waivers available for those that are under seventeen years of age.

Old Business

C.B. 13-03 New Table Cloths, presented by Legislator Natalie Juronoc

This is the second reading of the bill. Legislator Juronoc repeated what she had stated at the last meeting. The bill will to require \$490 from uncategorized for new table clothes which are important for branding and marketing.

Discussion: Legislator Gamble asked why OUSC is only ordering two tablecloths. Ms. Rachel Boye stated that two is all OUSC needs, and one can serve as a back up for the other. Ms. Boye also said OUSC also has plain black table clothes that can still be used.

Vote: Approved.

C.B. 13-04 Women in Islam, presented by Legislator Nusrat Zaman

This is the second reading of the bill. This event is going to be on with the Muslim Student Association. The event is on November 6th.

Discussion: Legislator Willett asked if OUSC would be acknowledged on the poster and Legislator Zaman said OUSC's name would be on the posters. Legislator Gamble asked how far along MSA is in planning. Legislator Zaman stated she had already ordered food and booked the room.

Vote: Approved with one legislator abstaining.

C.B. 13-05 Venetian Masquerade, presented by Legislator James Shermetaro

This is the second reading of the bill. Legislator Shermetaro stated that the bill asks OUSC for \$2,5000 to pay for the performers at Venetian Masquerade.

Discussion: Legislator Gamble stated that he thinks two weeks should be necessary before events to come before OUSC. He urged other legislators to be hesitant is passing bills such as this one where there are only days to market it effectively. Legislator Ploe asked Mr. Scottie Shermetaro how much was left in uncategorized. Mr. Shermetaro stated that the budget is fluctuating because OUSC just received the SAFAC funding which was \$860 higher than projected, but there is about \$11,000 left in uncategorized. Legislator Gamble also stated that OUSC would be hard-pressed to vote down the bill, but he wants to see a difference in time before events in the future and Legislator Willett agreed.

Vote: Approved with three legislators abstaining.

C.B. 13-06 Pride Packs, presented by Legislator Maria Willett

This is the second reading of the bill.

Discussion: There needed to be a number added onto the bill, C.B. 13-06 because the form was incomplete.

Vote: Approved.

C.B. 13-07 SAM Dues, *presented by Legislator Maria Willett*

This was the second reading of the bill. The bill is about the SAM dues. The dues increased for justified reasons. The dues will result in better activity for the organization.

Discussion: Legislator Ploe asked if the dues will automatically be budgeted in our future budgets, and Miss Alwardt said they will.

Vote: Approved.

New Business

C.B. 13-09 Lyrical Rap Battle, *presented by Legislator Joey Namou*

Legislator Namou spoke about the bill. The event would be on November 29th from 8-11pm in the Banquet Rooms. There will be light refreshments and food and the event is open and free to OU students. The bill is asking \$2,500 from OUSC to fund the food, prizes and drinks.

Discussion: Miss Samantha Wolf asked if Legislator Namou had considered co-sponsorships. Legislator Willett also inquired about co-sponsorships to bring down the cost of food which is currently half of the budget for the event. Willett also asked about the educational aspect of the event that is required of an OUSC sponsored event. Legislators Willett and Gamble wanted a break down of the budget. Namou yielded to Miss Amera Fattah. Fattah stated that the goal was to do a totally different event that challenges the current stereotypes about rap music. The educational aspect comes from the challenges given to the rappers during the competition. Namou and Fattah are not disclosing more because it is meant to be a secret for the performers. Fattah also asserted, and Legislator Gamble agreed, and they wanted this to be an OUSC put on event only. Mr. Brandon Hanna also stated that sometimes co-sponsors are flaky and fall through. Legislator Willett stated she would be in more support of the bill if the cost of food came down because food is unnecessary. Legislator Namou and Fattah stated they wanted food at the event and the food would be spread out throughout the night. There is also a sponsorship from channel 95.5. Legislator Juronoc also made suggestions for co-sponsorships. Legislator Ploe stated she would appreciate more event details and Miss Fattah refused. Legislator Namou also stated that there will be tabling to find performers and they already have interested parties; the goal is to make this event annual. Legislator Juronoc motioned to end discussion, seconded by Legislator Gross and approved.

C.B. 13-10 Legislator Nametags, *presented by Legislator Blake Williams*

This is the first reading of bill. Legislator Williams stated the nametags would be individualized and it would help promote events and it looks professional. The cost for twenty-three nametags \$265 for 23. Legislator Mitchell wanted to know if there would be stipulations about how much legislators need to be contributing in order to get a nametag. He also wanted to know what will happen as people change or leave the organization. Williams stated he hoped for it to be in the future budgets and it's only \$12 per nametag and that is reasonable. Legislator MacDonald suggested to use the jackets OUSC is ordering soon as a replacement for nametags. Legislator Gamble stated that jackets are inappropriate for some events and nametags look more professional. MacDonald then suggested that they be generic, which Williams and Gamble did not agree with. Legislator Thompson stated that since they passed \$2,500 for Venetian Masquerade they might as well pass something that is actually for the legislature. Mr. Williford stated he only wears his nametag or administration meetings or important functions. Legislator Juronoc stated that since E-Board gets nametags and the legislature "never approved that bill", this discussion was pointless in her opinion. Mr. Williford stated that nametags for E-Board happen every year, the Administrative Assistant every summer orders business cards, nametags and door plates. Executive Board also has meeting with administration which legislators usually do not, E-Board puts in more hours every weekly, and the nametags were in fact in summer budget. Therefore, the legislature did approve it. Legislator Juronoc motioned to end discussion. Legislator Willett motioned for a discussion on the motion. She stated that there should be no motion unless Legislator Mitchell can finish his sentence which was interrupted. The legislature then voted on the motion and it died. Legislator Mitchell said he wanted to make sure these nametags were not about flaunting the positions. He thinks they are good for others because it lets the students know who legislators are. Legislator Juronoc motioned to end discussion again, and Legislator Gamble stated that motions cannot be used to interrupt others' thoughts. Miss Bumhoffer stated she thinks the nametags could be an alternative to the jackets if cost is really an issue to OUSC. Legislator Ploe also stated that each bill provides an opportunity for the legislature to vote no so using prior bills as a precedent to pass new bills is completely ridiculous. There was no more discussion.

Approval of Daniel Rochon to the Research and Review Committee, presented by Legislator Patricia Rockentine

Legislator Rockentine spoke on Legislator Rochon's behalf, stating that he is a great committee member and would appreciate him being approved. Legislator Rochon stated that he finds this committee important and would love to be apart of it.

Vote: Approved.

C.B. 13-11 Post-Event Funds, presented by Legislator Wesley Gamble

This is the first reading of the bill. This bill is to make it so that money allocated for an event will be automatically transferred back to uncategorized instead of having to write a bill to move it. The money would only be moved after the event is over and all expenses have been paid.

Discussion: Mr. Scottie Shermetaro felt that the bill would make things easier for when there is a line item budget and it would help make his job easier. He tries to currently update the general body constantly. He will continue to always have the budget on google docs and announce the uncategorized amount at meeting. This would also mean a more accurate number. Mr. Scott asked about the difference between a line item and an event as it would pertain to the bill. The general consensus is that with line-items, some things need to stay where they are constantly. i.e. Presidential discretionary. Mr. Shermetaro said "event" is better and more clear wording and everything else we can continue to manage based on precedent.

Legislator Ploe asked about adding payroll to this bill but there are others things that need to be explored before doing that. Miss Wolf suggested adding that the President and Financial Affairs Director decide together to help weed out the ambiguity of the bill. Legislator Gamble also stated that OUSC does not need to continuously pad our uncategorized; it is meant to be spent.

Discussion Topics

Discussion Topics related to Comments from the Gallery Related to Business of the Day, Guest Speakers, & submitted Statements of Student Concern

Miss Amera Fattah received a suggestion to add a door between the lounge and bathroom in basement of OC and maintenance will be putting in door soon. She also received feedback about the Bear Bus start and end times and Mr. Desrochers is going to be addressing that.

Guest Speaker Daniel Opsommer on "Students Reinventing Michigan."

Mr. Opsommer is the Associate Director as an advisor to the organization which is in its second year. He is a graduate of MSU from 2010. He previously covered state legislature Mark Meadows who represents the 68th district. He is here to tell the general body about a non-profit annual scholarship competition and they are behind this year on spreading the word. It is only Mr. Opsommer's third week with the group. He is currently reaching out to student organizations and the Poli Sci department. Those interested can apply as an individual or work within groups. There is also no limit to group sizes and a mentor could assist anyone. Questions: Miss Wolf thanked Mr. Opsommer for coming and she encourages legislators to go and participate to learn about Michigan to help solve the problems and earn a scholarship. She also assured Mr. Opsommer that OUSC can push the competition through our various social media sites and Miss Fattah stated that she would put it in her upcoming newsletters.

Advertising for events, presented by Legislator Maria Willett

Legislator Willett wanted to talk to legislators before writing on bill about the current issues about bills and marketing. She stated that there are events on the magnets that were planned and marketed before being approved by the legislature which she saw as very disrespectful as voting is the legislators right and duty. Willett wants to make a deadline for these bills and she suggested two weeks. Legislator Gamble agreed. Gamble was happy Willett brought this issue up. He said it is unacceptable to only have a few days to market an event. Miss Boye stated that events already need two weeks for marketing. There were also co-sponsors for events, which is why marketing was done. Miss Arellano also stated that if the legislature denied funding the event would still happen, just without performers or other things. Miss Arellano also asked that legislators be direct with her about legislator issues with her events. Willett stated that this was to help in the future, not dwell on the past.

Reports

Student Body President – Ms. Samantha Wolf

Miss Wolf thanked legislators for their extra dedication and work. Their work is appreciated and noted. She also thanked them for their response to her email about evaluations. She also spoke to Dr. Russi and he will be attending an OUSC meeting next semester. There is luncheon coming up for SAFAC leaders to do a "show and tell" about OUSC. She also thanked anyone who attended the SET Forum. The next SET Forum is November 13.

Student Body Vice President – **Mr. Robbie Williford**

Mr. Williford thanked Legislators Rockentine and Gross for their one-on-ones.

Student Activities Funding Board – **Mr. Brandon Hanna**

Not present.

Student Program Board – **Mr. Nicholas McCormick**

Not present.

Legislative Affairs Director – **Ms. Michelle Alwardt**

Miss Alwardt encouraged everyone to do the competition for the scholarship. There is a SAM Conference this weekend and she wanted to have more people to go with her. She has also been working on her elections events. There also is a meet and greek from 5-7pm in the OU Incubator for the upcoming election.

Multicultural Affairs Director – **Ms. Maria Arellano**

Ms. Arellano thanked those that attended Trip to Detroit. She is continuing to work on the Venetian Masquerade.

Financial Affairs Director – **Mr. Scottie Shermetaro**

Mr. Shermetaro reported that OUSC has spent about \$32,000 and we are saving a lot on payroll. SAFAC allocation was also \$860 over the expected amount.

Student Services Director – **Ms. Amera Fattah**

Miss Fattah pressed OUSC about increasing bear bus ridership.

Visual Communications Director – **Mr. Ethan Scott**

Mr. Scott has started Carnivale planning.

Marketing Director—**Ms. Rachel Boye**

Miss Boye asked everyone to make Venetian Masquerade a status on Facebook.

Administrative Assistant – **Ms. Emily Collins**

Ms. Collins got her first prizes for exam cram thanks to Miss Rachel Boye. There is also an outing this Friday 4:30pm.

Advisor Report – **Ms. Allison Webster**

Miss Webster was happy with the OUSC discussions at meeting. There is an SPB Poet event this Wednesday at 7pm and she wants everyone to sign up for Make a Difference Day. The last student organization training is Thursday at noon.

Questions related to Executive Reports

None.

Updates

Steering Committee – Lauren Tibbits

Not present.

Judiciary Committee – Aws Polina

Legislator Polina announced that only two people didn't do their hours. He asked E-Board to put more tasks on the board in the office. He also stated that event planners and committee heads can also sign off on hours.

Scholarship Committee – Maria Willett

Legislator Willett is trying to come up with awards for the student body such as the Spirit Award.

Research and Review Committee – Patricia Rockentine

Legislator Rockentine reported that OUSC as a full board but anyone can still refer interested members to her. Legislator Stafa will be up next week to be added to her committee. She is also redoing the manual for legislators.

Congressional Archivist – Darias Thompson

No update.

RHA Representative – Katie Bumhoffer

Miss Bumhoffer announced that there is a movie night tomorrow in the Vandy Lounge at 8pm.

Tailgate Committee-Madeline Knapp

No update.

Questions related to Updates

None.

Comments from the gallery

None.

Announcements

OUSC Meetings are on Monday at 4:00 in the Oakland Room

The next OUSC Meeting will be Monday, October 29th
Adjournment: 6:08pm