

# Minutes

**Oakland University Student Congress  
McGuinness/Caver Administration  
Legislative Body Meeting Agenda  
Oakland Room, Oakland Center  
Monday February 13, 2006  
4:00 P.M.**

**I. Call to Order  
4:03 pm**

**II. Roll Call**

**Absent:** Mia C. Evans, Stephanie Mungo, George Nahas, Derrick Putansu  
(Commuter Council Representative)

**Quorum: Met**

**III. Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2006**

**Allen:** My apologies; forgot to include Student Service's Committee Special Report. Sent out minutes about 45 minutes ago, yield to Peter Vitale.

**Vitale:** Motion to postpone minutes until next Meeting, February 20, 2006.

**Motion: Approved**

**IV. Approval of New Legislators**

**a. Emily Corbishdale**

**Corbishdale:** Majoring in Public Administration, Minor Political Science, Attended a College republic Meeting found out that being a part of OUSC rewarding, can help students, opens doors for involvement. I want to leave Oakland with a sense of pride, not just a bachelor's degree.

**McGuinness:** Are there any areas you think could be improved, what issues would you like to see our attention directed to?

**Corbishdale:** Steering Committee, likes order and organization; student services, get more people excited and involved. Financial Aid Office, haven't had pleasant experiences.

**Proffett:** What ideas do you have since we already have dealt with financial aid?

**Corbishdale:** Research all of the problems, talk to more students before I give ideas.

**Proffett:** What other ideas do you have besides dealing with financial aid?

**Corbishdale:** More events, and ways for students to volunteer.

**Fallis:** Commuter or live on Campus?

**Corbishdale:** Commuter

**Fallis:** What other organizations are you a part of?

**Corbishdale:** College Republicans

**Fallis:** What else would you get involved in because steering committee is full?

**Corbishdale:** Student Services

**McGuinness:** How is your time commitment?

**Corbishdale:** My schedule permits me to go above and beyond; perfectionist; don't do what satisfies people, do it to the best of your ability.

**M. Miller:** What is your favorite program that OUSC has done this year?

**Corbishdale:** Meadowbrook Ball

**Legislator: Approved**

**V. Comments form the Gallery**

**VI. Old Business**

**a. C.R. 06-11 (Affirmative Action Resolution-Kubicek,previously postponed)**

**Kubicek:** motion to amend the resolution to state whereas statement (WHEREAS, Oakland University Student Congress has acknowledged that affirmative action benefits the staff and faculty at Oakland University, therefore benefiting the students and enhancing the educational experience that the university provides; and)

**M. Miller:** Good amendment, and ties into what all sponsors are saying, and why it benefits Oakland University and it's students

**Ewing:** If the MCRI passes in Michigan, does that end all programs or will it cease to be a requirement

**M. Miller:** Affirmative Action is not forced on anyone; we wouldn't be able to participate in particular programs.

**K. Miller:** Like the amendment because it ties it back to the University; keep the personal agendas and political views out of it.

**McGuinness:** It would take away the university's autonomy of how they want to run the university, will eliminate several programs...ex. King-Chavez-Parks Programs, Project Upward Bound Progam; amendment is very accurate in saying that it impacts students and faculty and staff.

**Amendment: Passes**

**Resolution: Passes**

**b. C.R. 06-12 (Affirmative Action Resolution-Mersol-Barg, previously postponed)**

**Mersol-Barg:** Shouldn't tell students what to think, but give them the tools to make their own decisions; educate, not dictate; I think it is inappropriate to take a stance.

**M. Miller:** We just passed the resolution that would contradict this resolution, and we should take a stance. We are student government, it's our job to educate; we have the opportunity to examine facts and do what's best of the students. The past resolution doesn't dictate. We are not dictating; we are doing what's best for the students.

**Point of Personal Privilege: Danielle Fallis**

**Waquad:** If the past resolution wasn't passed, I still wouldn't support this resolution. If we don't take a stance on anything it would cripple the organization.

**McGuinness:** There have been ballot proposals every year, and since 2000 OUSC has taken a stance on a particular ballot proposal.

**Ewing:** I'm in the middle of a lot of research, which is why I didn't support the previous resolution. There are many nuances that we still need figure out; I think that educating the student body is great, but it would seem funny to some people that Congress said vote no...but here's some information.

**Mersol-Barg:** Disagree with precedent set in the past, my resolution takes a stance, and says that this issue is important, taking a stance but giving information is contradictory. It's a matter of ensuring that OUSC serves the students in the matter of our capacity.

**Porter:** Every Bill takes a stance in some shape or form, Mark made a good point about knowing all the information, but this had been up for approval for a while now, we could "Goggle" and much information would come up. It is pointless to have this conversation, I call to question.

**Motion: FAILS**

**M. Miller:** We are not an educational body, that is not the role of this body or government. Congress has already taken a stance on Affirmative Action, and there are a lot of people that have sponsored the resolution. Maybe we should amend the resolution.

**K. Miller:** I don't think there is anything wrong with Congress taking a stance on this proposal. I think it's in the best interest of the students to encourage the students to vote "no"; just giving information does not draw students' attention.

**Zatkoff: Yield to Dean Maurer**

**Dean Maurer:** I wish that as my student representatives you would stop telling me what to do. Stop taking a stance on issues that you can't control. Take a stance on Financial Aid; that's something you can control.

**Mersol-Barg:** There is very strong language in my resolution. I don't think it's appropriate that OUSC takes such a stance.

**Cummings-Stuckman:** I was one of the people also supporting Proposal 2; educating didn't help, taking a stance is what got students out; there is a positive way to do this and this is how we do it by making a decision.

**Roatarius:** Reiterate the language of the previous resolution; doesn't say that we urge the student body to do anything technically.

**Kubicek:** Met with Mr. Mersol-Barg; if questions needed to be asked they should've been asked, so I call to question.

**Motion: Passes**

**Resolution: FAILS (*Mersol-Barg with rights*)**

**Mersol-Barg:** Taking a stance was a backlash, and made students lose trust in the Oakland University Student Congress, it is unfortunate.

**(Ewing: I am not opposed but I don't have all the answers) <let's the records show>**

## **VII. Discussion Topics**

### **a. Discussion Topic of the Week-Affirmative Action Issue**

**Redmond:** A lot of people were for affirmative action, and some people said that they weren't directly affected by it; and I got one response

against it, he said submission into jobs shouldn't be based on whether you're black or a woman.

**McGuinness:** Spoke at the Residence House Council meeting, and encouraged students to attend the meeting. Met with the Dean of Students and he was the past director of the Center for Multicultural Initiatives, past Office of Equity, and understands the needs for a diverse campus.

**K. Miller:** We don't solely depend on affirmative Action, and I'm sorry that you don't feel represented, but it's not Congress' job to represent all students but we should represent what's best for the students. I think it is an ignorant statement to say that the students will vote a certain way because student congress took a stance; it is insulting to the students.

**Mersol-Barg:** I got mixed reviews; some said yes, some said no, others said that OUSC shouldn't take a stance. I'd be interested to see the response to the stance that OUSC has taken.

**M. Miller:** A lot of people have no idea of what Affirmative Action is. There was a young lady that was against Affirmative Action until I explained to her what it was.

**K. Miller:** Not student Congress' job to represent the opinions of all students; didn't mean previous statement "not to represent all students"

**McGuinness:** African-American Students are underrepresented, and it is our responsibility that all students are represented. Each student should have the power to be heard.

**K. Miller:** I thought that while talking Affirmative Action, I think that the CMI's Mission Statement only has African-American, Latino-American, Native Americans; what about Asian Americans, women and the LGBTQ community?

**Porter:** CMI represents all minorities, although it isn't written. Everyone needs to do their research on Affirmative Action.

**K. Miller:** CMI doesn't help with other programs with minority students, but they have a hand in the African-American Celebration.

**J. Miller:** I received mixed reactions on Affirmative Action; that is due in part of students not knowing; I don't know everything myself; I encourage everyone to do the same (educate themselves)

**Mersol-Barg: Motion to close discussion**

**Motion: Passes**

**b. Selection of next Discussion Topic of the Week**

**Redmond: Student Congress (2)**

**McGuinness: Benefiting from change in University Policy concerning earlier registration (0)**

**M. Miller: Career Service's Office (informing students) (0)**

**J. Miller: Financial Aid Concerns (12)**

**c. Additional discussion topics related to Guest Speakers, Comments from the Gallery, & submitted Statements of Student Concern**

**VIII. Reports**

- a. Michael McGuinness- Student Body President

- b. Kori Caver- Student Body Vice President
- c. Brendan J. Stevens- Financial Affairs Director
- d. Lindsay McCullough- Student Activities Funding Board Chair
- e. Madalyn Miller- Student Program Board Chair
- f. Katie Miller- Student Services Director
- g. Saman Waquad-Legislative and Multicultural Affairs Director
- h. Krupa Ujla- Public Relations Agent

**IX. Updates**

- a. Montrell Porter, Disciplinary Chair
- b. Adam Panchenko, Research and Review Chair
- c. Stelanie Marshall, Scholarship Chair
- d. Joshua Miller, Steering Committee Chair

**X. Comments from the Gallery**

**Jessica Henry:** President of SPIN; would like to be put on the agenda to discuss topic of environmental progress of this university.

**Kubicek:** Are you available next Monday @ 2:30 for the Student Services Committee Meeting, we are working on environmental programs.

**Jessica Henry:** My Vice President will be able to attend, we have a lot of issues, but didn't want to bombard the committee.

**McGuinness:** Discussion Topic of the Week for environmental awareness, someone could also suspend the rules, or you could come in and be yielded to for a presentation.

**Jessica Henry:** We have a presentation that we would like to present to the university, but we want students' and student congress' support.

**Gammicchia:** Line item will come up March 1<sup>st</sup> for Constitution, Ally Day is coming up.

**K. Miller:** Clarify what S.A.F.E. Ally is please.

**Gammicchia:** Students and Faculty for Equality, LGBTQ awareness.

**XI. Announcements**

- a. S.A.F.E on Campus' "Ally Day II" is this Friday, February 17 from 12 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. in the Gold Rooms. Contact Samantha Hardenburgh, [hardenbu@oakland.edu](mailto:hardenbu@oakland.edu), for more information.
- b. Elections packets are available in the CSA office now, and tomorrow is the next Orientation Session, which will be in the Wellness Classrooms of the Rec Center.
- c. Financial Aid Office Director Cindy Hermson will be here next Monday to speak to Congress about the Financial Aid Department. Come ready with questions and/or comments.

**XII. Adjournment**

**5:54 P.M.**