

Minutes of the Oakland University Student Congress
Legislative Body Meeting
11 February 2008
Oakland Room, Oakland Center

Legislators Present: Mr. Brown, Mr. Costakes, Mr. Cruz, Ms. Dillworth, Mr. Fitzsimmons, Mr. Medaugh, Mr. Miller, Ms. Ray, Mr. Spedoske, Mr. Thomas

Legislators Absent: Ms. Gura

Executive Board Present: Ms. Dayag, Ms. Fallis, Mr. Griffin, Ms. Muhammad, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Twardy, Ms. Vanderford

Executive Board Absent: Ms. Kukuk

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:09 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Chair Jameelah Muhammad conducted the call of the roll and all of the members were present except Ms. Gura of the Legislature and Ms. Kukuk of the Executive Board. Ms. Kukuk arrived late.

III. Action Items

Minutes from 28 January 2008 and 04 February 2008 approved by voice vote.

Guest speaker, Theresa Rowe, Chief Information Officer, University Technology Services. Ms. Rowe is present to speak on the recent problems with the Oakland University e-mail system. A number of solutions are available, each with its "pluses and minuses." UTS is attempting to find a low-cost solution that will keep any tuition increases for technology as low as possible. Mr. Meyer, Student Body President, poses a question regarding storage space. Ms. Rowe responds that UTS is definitely looking at e-mail with more storage space. Mr. Twardy, Student Services Director, poses a question on the OU wireless service. Ms. Rowe responds that any slow load times should be reported to the appropriate personnel, either the Residence Halls or the UTS Help Desk. Ms. Fallis, SAFB Chair, poses a question on OU wireless services, asking which buildings are wireless and which aren't. Ms. Rowe responds that about 65% of the campus is covered by wireless and a map is available on the UTS website. Ms. Fallis follows up with concerns on about O'Dowd and Varner Halls. Ms. Rowe stresses that time and location must be documented to help resolve any wireless service problems. Mr. Meyer poses a question about when e-mail services are expected to improve. Ms. Rowe responds that UTS hopes to have the problem solved by Summer 2008.

Mr. Brown, Legislator, poses a question about slow load times on Moodle. Ms. Rowe stresses that Moodle and e-mail are separate and that anyone with Moodle problems must report them in order to have their issues addressed. Ms. Fallis poses a question, inquiring why UTS decided to go with the Moodle system when the test group of students, of which Ms. Fallis was a member, did not like it. Ms. Rowe responds that faculty and many of the students they have interacted with do "like" Moodle, and that sometimes students telling UTS they don't like Moodle really means "they don't like online learning." Mr. Twardy poses a question about differences in service in different buildings and different areas of buildings, as sometimes computers do not work in different rooms in the same building (hard-wired

computers). Ms. Rowe responds that UTS is attempting to provide equal service in all areas and that there should be few differences in performance. Mr. Medaugh, Legislator, mentions that he has adapted to Moodle. He then points out that in the Oakland Center between 11:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. it is virtually impossible to do anything wireless-internet related. Ms. Rowe thanks him for his input and states it is a very useful information. Mr. Medaugh follows up by stating that he has switched to forwarding his e-mail to his Google Mail account. Ms. Ray, RHC Representative, addresses the situation Moodle, stating that she has had problems in the past with professors requiring something be done on Moodle but the system is then down. Ms. Rowe introduces the UTS member in charge of the Moodle environment. She stresses that problems must be reported in order to be addressed. Ms. Fallis inquires whether UTS is in charge of website design for student organizations. Ms. Rowe responds that this falls to Communications and Marketing.

Ms. Rowe inquires whether there are any student concerns with the University switching to a new service based on Google or Microsoft Live. Mr. Medaugh states that he believes that if a new system works, there won't be many concerns. Mr. Meyer states that he believes the only issue may be advertisements that will accompany such a new service.

Comments from the Gallery commences.

Ms. Joann Bautti-Roche from the Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) addresses the body on the issue of adding Gender Identity Expression to the OU Non-Discrimination Policy. The GSC is in discussions with University officials on how to go about this. A meeting will be held to discuss this issue next Monday at 10:30 A.M. Ms. Bautti-Roche asks if OUSC can sign a letter of support for her to bring to the meeting. Mr. Spedoske, CC Representative, mentions that normally OUSC would produce a resolution, but we have no time to do so in this case. Mr. Twardy states that an informal letter might be appropriate. Ms. Kukuk, SPB Chair, says that since this is the first step, a resolution would still be appropriate.

Confirmation of SPB Executive Board Members commences.

Mr. Jonathan Jenkins: Ms. Kukuk mentions Mr. Jenkins is only a freshman, but is incredibly involved. He has been her "right hand man" for quite a while now and has been incredibly helpful. Mr. Jenkins addresses the body and introduces himself. Mr. Brown, Legislator, inquires, "How is the pay over there?" Mr. Jenkins responds that he is glad to do the job for no pay. Ms. Fallis thanks Mr. Jenkins for his outgoing attitude and warm relations with Congress. She inquires about any new ideas he might have for SPB. Mr. Jenkins mentions events involving the Pistons, as well as mascot events in the Oakland Center. He also highlights an upcoming Roller Skating Party to publicize SPB events.

-Mr. Jenkins is approved by voice vote.

Mr. Sean Dunlap: Ms. Kukuk mentions Mr. Dunlap is an RA and is very involved. He has jumped into the position and is already hard at work.

-Mr. Dunlap is approved by voice vote.

Confirmation of Committee Members commences.

Mr. Medaugh, Legislator, makes a motion to combine the question on items A, B, and D. The motion is seconded and approved by voice vote with no debate.

Mr. Fitzsimmons introduces Mr. Cruz, Legislator, who wants to join the Research and Review Committee. Mr. Cruz states that he would like to join the committee and has wanted to for several weeks. Ms. Dayag inquires whether Mr. Cruz would join the Legislative Affairs Committee under similar circumstances to those that placed him on the Research and

Review Committee. He says he would consider it. Ms. Dillworth introduces Mr. Fitzsimmons, Legislator, who would like to join the Scholarship Committee. Ms. Fallis inquires whether Mr. Fitzsimmons, being a member of many committees, should be filling so many positions if others might not have positions yet. Mr. Fitzsimmons responds that he is only the Chair of the Research and Review Committee at the moment and has plenty of time. Ms. Dayag introduces Mr. Fitzsimmons, Legislator, who would like to join the Legislative Affairs Committee. There are no further questions.

-The combined question is approved by voice vote.

Mr. Miller introduces Ms. Ejona Gashi, student, who wishes to join the Elections Commission. Ms. Fallis expresses concerns about whether Ms. Gashi is able to fulfill the duties since she expressed interest in helping with an Orientation Session held Wednesday February 6, 2008 and did not attend. She suggests postponing the confirmation. Mr. Miller addresses Ms. Fallis' concerns and assures the body that Ms. Gashi is interested and is able to do the job. Mr. Meyer supports Mr. Miller.

-Ms. Gashi is not approved with the necessary 2/3 majority required.

Old Business commences.

C.B. 08-15, Ballot Referendum Question, second reading.

Mr. Medaugh, sponsor of the legislation, introduces the question.

Mr. Medaugh motions to amend, as follows: "Item Number 3 under Background Information: Improvements to Career Services and science laboratories, among other ideas, have been suggested should funds be retained by the University." Seconded.

-Amendment approved by voice vote.

Mr. Meyer expresses concern about introducing the ballot question when OUSC may advocate for a position at the Board of Trustees meeting on February 28, 2008, when the students may vote for something different during the March elections. Mr. Twardy states that it is better to say that OUSC wants the Board of Trustees to do *something* with the money, not "sit on it." Mr. Twardy yields to Mr. Meyer. Mr. Meyer says that his desire is to tell the Board of Trustees to both do something with the money and what to do with it specifically. Mrs. Szura states that holding the referendum will allow Mr. Meyer to tell the Board of Trustees that further ideas will be available soon. Mr. Medaugh supports this position. Mr. Meyer maintains that he does not want conflicting messages to appear at the end of March. Ms. Fallis says that if OUSC members are polling their classes, they should really be doing it and not just saying what they want individually and saying that it is what the students want. If this is going on the ballot, make sure that what we say at February 28 is what will come out in the March election results. Mr. Twardy stresses asking student opinion and says that we can "have it both ways" by waiting for the referendum results. Not only will this referendum tell the Board of Trustees what the student body would like done with the money, but will encourage people to vote as well. Mr. Spedoske believes the referendum will back what OUSC says at the end of February. Mr. Spedoske yields to Mr. Meyer. Mr. Meyer again stresses consistency. He states that the Board of Trustees does not want to do anything with the delayed payment funds until June, but that in the mean time OUSC is under a time crunch with the February meeting. He states that he disagrees with the referendum. Mr. Medaugh states that after the February Board of Trustees meeting, there is no Board of Trustees meeting until after the elections. As such, June is actually more of a real deadline. Further, if the student body does not have a say, they may disagree with whatever position OUSC takes. Mr. Medaugh yields to Mr. Meyer. Mr. Meyer states that June is only a possibility. OUSC needs to act now and we cannot wait just in case. Ms. Fallis stresses that

students and OUSC must attend the Board of Trustees meetings to pressure the Board to act and return the money to the students in some way. Ms. Ray says we must take a completely different course and throw together a rally within the next week to get students' opinions now. Using a survey may be a good idea. Ms. Ray yields to Mr. Twardy. Mr. Twardy states that he is "way ahead of you [Ms. Ray]." He has been in communication with RHC and other about attending the Board of Trustees meeting. Ms. Ray again stresses that using a survey prior to going to the Board of Trustees meeting will be useful because it will give OUSC a true idea of student opinion. Ms. Ray yields to Ms. Fallis, who supports the idea of a survey. Mr. Fitzsimmons states that any surveys will be online. Mr. Fitzsimmons yields to Ms. Fallis. Ms. Fallis says that both hand-written and online surveys will be better, because it is more comprehensive.

Ms. Dillworth with a Point of Personal Privilege to be excused.

Mr. Spedoske supports the idea of a paper-based survey. He states that he is conflicted about the need for a ballot referendum. Mr. Spedoske yields to Mr. Twardy. Mr. Twardy understands Mr. Spedoske's concerns. He states that if the surveys are conducted properly, then the ballot referendum will reflect the opinions of the surveys. Mr. Medaugh says that if OUSC continues with this referendum, it will only be beneficial. Ms. Ray wants to know if students will be upset that they have to vote after already filling out a survey. Ms. Vanderford asks if OUSC is doing a referendum for certain. The answer is yes.

Aye: Brown, Costakes, Cruz, Fitzsimmons, Medaugh, Ray, Spedoske, Thomas

Nay:

Abstain:

Legislative Debate and Question of Congressional Court Nominees commences.

Mr. Medaugh motions to postpone until after the SAFAC discussion. The motion is seconded and approved by voice vote.

New Business commences.

C.B. 08-16, a Budget Amendment, first reading.

Mr. Fitzsimmons, sponsor of the legislation, introduces the question. Mr. Fitzsimmons yields to Mr. Meyer, who explains the event in greater detail.

There is no discussion.

C.B. 08-17, Ballot Referendum Question, first reading.

Mr. Meyer, Student Body President and Chair of the Student Activities Fund Assessment Committee, introduces the question.

Mr. Medaugh states that he was present at the SAFAC meeting where this decision was made and supports many of the changes. He questions how the money from the Special Projects Fund is controlled and why it is not on the referendum question. Mr. Medaugh yields to Mr. Meyer, who states that the SPF is something controlled by SAFAC and does not have to go through the referendum process. Mr. Spedoske offers his support for the referendum question as is. Mr. Meyer reminds everyone that SAFAC has another meeting tomorrow in Lake Superior Room A if anyone has further questions.

There is no further discussion.

Legislative Debate and Questioning of Congressional Court Nominees commences a second time.

Mr. Spedoske asks if there are any further steps in the procedure. Mr. Spedoske yields to Mr. Medaugh. Mr. Medaugh states that after a vote, this is the end of the process. Mr. Spedoske confirms that this indeed will be Mr. Medaugh's last meeting as a Legislator if he is approved. Mr. Thomas inquires what Mr. Medaugh will be doing in his time in the Court. Ms. Ray asks why Mr. Medaugh wants to do this as opposed to being a Legislator. Ms. Ray yields to Mr. Medaugh. Mr. Medaugh states that he has always been more interested in this, and that now that it is available he wants to do it.

Mr. Medaugh is confirmed as an Associate Justice to the Congressional Court by the necessary 2/3 vote.

Ms. Vanderford with a Point of Personal Privilege to be excused.

IV. Discussion Items

Mr. Twardy speaks on Statements of Student Concern. No further information has come forward on the concern over SPB. Another Statement of Student Concern has been put forward concerning insufficient tutoring on Economics in the Academic Skills Center. Ms. Ray states that clarifying the problem would be helpful. Mr. Twardy agrees. Ms. Fallis states that she is currently trying to get help with Economics tutoring right now as well and it may be scheduling, as the times are very "random."

V. Reports and Updates

Mr. Meyer, Ms. Muhammad, Ms. Fallis, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Twardy, Ms. Dayag, and Mr. Miller of the Executive Board were present to give their reports.

Mr. Fitzsimmons of Research and Review and Mr. Miller of Steering were present to give updates. The position of Judiciary Chair is currently open and no update could be given.

VI. Other Items that May Come Before the Body

No comments from the Gallery.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

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I. Call to Order

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-Ms. Gashi is not approved with the necessary 2/3 majority required.

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C.B. 08-15, Ballot Referendum Question, second reading.

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Ms. Dillworth with a Point of Personal Privilege to be excused.

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Aye: Brown, Costakes, Cruz, Fitzsimmons, Medaugh, Ray, Spedoske, Thomas

Nay:

Abstain:

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Mr. Medaugh is confirmed as an Associate Justice to the Congressional Court by the necessary 2/3 vote.

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Mr. Fitzsimmons of Research and Review and Mr. Miller of Steering were present to give updates. The position of Judiciary Chair is currently open and no update could be given.

VI. Other Items that May Come Before the Body

No comments from the Gallery.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.