

Minutes of the Oakland University Student Congress
Legislative Body Meeting
03 March 2008
Oakland Room, Oakland Center

Legislators Present: Mr. Brown, Mr. Costakes, Mr. Cruz, Ms. Dillworth, Mr. Fitzsimmons, Mr. Miller (not voting), Ms. Ray, Mr. Spedoske, Mr. Thomas

Legislators Absent: Ms. Gura

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

Executive Board Absent: Ms. Dayag

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:04 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Chair Jameelah Muhammad conducted the call of the roll and all of the members were present except Ms. Gura.

III. Action Items

Minutes from 18 February 2008 approved by voice vote.

Guest speakers: Ms. Joann Bautti-Roche, Mr. Jay Kaplan, and Mr. Sean Kosofsky.

Ms. Muhammad yields to the Guest Speakers. Ms. Bautti-Roche, of the OU Gender and Sexuality Center, explains the purpose of the visit by herself and the other speakers. Ms. Bautti-Roche, Mr. Kaplan, and Mr. Kosofsky are present to explain the concept of Gender Expression and Identity and to field questions in relation to the resolution that will be debated by the body later in this meeting; said resolution calls for the addition of Gender Identity and Expression to the OU Non-Discrimination Policy. Ms. Bautti-Roche explains the concept of Gender Identity and Expression, and mentions that many universities and cities in Michigan have adopted such policies, including the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan, and others. Ms. Muhammad yields the floor to Mr. Meyer for a question. Mr. Meyer inquires what "further funding" the university will be eligible for, referencing a comment by Ms. Bautti-Roche. Ms. Bautti-Roche and Mr. Kosofsky explain that several foundations and organizations will provide grants and other financial assistance to university programs only if a school includes these policies in their internal rules and regulations. Mr. Brown gains the floor for a question and inquires whether the inclusion of this wording in the OU policy will open the university to legal action since the wording is not included in state legal codes. Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Kosofsky field the question and explain that the policy will actually not cause any additional litigation and will deter incidents of discrimination that might have otherwise caused legal action based on equal protection issues; if the university already addresses the issue in its internal policies, it prevents some potential litigation against the school. Mr. Kosofsky also explains that these policies will not only relate to transgender individuals, but the entire range of potential issues, including "women who do not wear earrings and make-up and are discriminated against for not being feminine enough," and others.

Comments from the Gallery commences.

No Comments from the Gallery.

Judiciary Committee Summary of Congressional Court Nominees commences.

Mr. Miller gains the floor to introduce the nominees.

Legislative Debate and Questioning of Congressional Court Nominees commences.

Mr. Spedoske gains the floor and inquires of Ms. Guralczyk how she heard about the Court and what made her decide to apply. Ms. Guralczyk responds that a friend who lives on campus referred her to the position. Mr. Meyer gains to floor to offer support for the nominee. Ms. Fallis gains the floor and inquires on Ms. Guraczyk's background (year, major, etc.) and what she would like to do while on the Court. Ms. Guralczyk responds that she is a sophomore and Political Science major. She explains that as the Court is a new entity, her goal is to help get it up and running.

Ms. Fallis gains the floor and inquires what made Mr. Hagar interested in and qualified for the Court, and what prompted him to apply. Mr. Hagar responds that he saw publicity in the library and then visited the OUSC website. He states that he believes he is qualified because as a math major, he is interested in many of the same issues that will be vital on the Court, including the use of deductive reasoning. Ms. Fallis asks a follow-up, inquiring how long Mr. Hagar has left at OU. Mr. Hagar replies that this is his first year as a graduate student, so at least one to two years. Mr. Spedoske gains the floor and inquires how Mr. Hagar's background (previous OUSC experience) will affect his perceptions and whether it will benefit him. Mr. Hagar responds that although things have changed on OUSC, the Court is a brand new part of OUSC. His familiarity with legislation and with the Constitution and Bylaws will be beneficial, he believes. Mr. Hagar does not believe his previous experience with OUSC will be a detriment in any way.

Confirmation of Committee Members commences.

Mr. Miller gains the floor to introduce the 6 nominees to the Validations Committee.

Ms. Heather Brothers, Mr. Mark Medaugh, Ms. Lori Marsh, Mrs. Sara Webb, Ms. Christina Linguidi, and Professor David Dulio are approved by voice vote to the Validations Committee.

New Business commences.

C.R. 08-10

Ms. Muhammad yields the floor to Mr. Spedoske, the sponsor of the legislation, who introduces the resolution. Mr. Miller gains the floor to offer his full and complete support for the resolution. Mr. Spedoske gains the floor to explain the next steps after this resolution is passed, which include further meetings between Ms. Bautti-Roche and various university administrators.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Dillworth, Thomas

Ms. Dillworth is excused with a Point of Personal Privilege.

IV. Discussion Items

There are no discussion topics.

V. Reports and Updates

Mr. Fitzsimmons gains the floor to give a special report on the February Student Association of Michigan Conference.

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

Mr. Brown of Judiciary, Mr. Fitzsimmons of Research and Review, and Mr. Miller of Steering were present to give updates.

VI. Other Items that May Come Before the Body

No comments from the Gallery.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 P.M.