



Minutes
Oakland University Student Congress
Meinberg/Iwanski
Gold Room C, Oakland Center
Monday, August 11, 2014
5:30



- I. Call to order 5:54 P.M.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
 - A. Legislator Nate Catey
 - 1. Not Present
 - B. Legislator Brittany Hall
 - 1. Present and Voting
 - C. Legislator Madison Kubinski
 - 1. Not Present
 - D. Legislator Matthew Light
 - 1. Not Present
 - E. Legislator Kristie Nixon
 - 1. Present and voting
 - F. Legislator Jeffrey Schuett
 - 1. Present and voting
 - G. Legislator Andre Sykes
 - 1. Not Present
 - H. Legislator Laina Townsend
 - 1. Present and voting
 - I. Legislator Nick Walter
 - 1. Present and voting
 - J. RHA President James Buzzo
 - 1. Present and voting
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 7, 2014
 - A. Vote: 6 yay, 0 nay. Minutes pass
- V. Old Business
 - A. Fall Budget 2014, *presented by Mr. Harris*
 - 1. Mr. Harris said that the previous fall budget meeting went very smoothly. There have been a few changes since the previous meeting. Since the Multicultural Affairs Director stepped down their budget should change. The Island Festival should remain on the budget, because it is a co sponsorship with Student Program Board. The Moulin Rouge event was removed. The Diversity campaign will change to be Multicultural Initiatives. He continued that since for the creation of the fall budget the Executive board came together to approve event ideas the new member of the board will submit their ideas to the eboard and then once they are approved a bill will go up for approval. He said that the smoking initiatives are something that the board did not get enough information about and

was therefore removed from the budget. This made the uncategorized total \$14,598. He stated reminders about the budget, the Executive Board pay changing to \$9.25 per hour, \$3000 for readership contract. Lastly the Congress had discussed sending the Multicultural Affairs Director to NACA with the Student Program Board, but since the gender of the new multicultural affairs director is unknown there can be no decision until then.

2. Legislator Nixon moved to add funds for Scholarship Fund of \$1500 to the budget. Seconded by Legislator Schuett. Legislator Nixon said she wanted two scholarships--\$400 for Overcoming Obstacles, people that have dealt with a lot of life struggles but continue to persevere and attend college and \$700 for the Unsung Hero Award, students that do philanthropy work. She also allocated \$200 per scholarship for advertising. She planned to advertise at the financial aid office and through organizations that do philanthropy work. Mr. Pokrefky said that he has information to distribute that contains marketing information and costs for marketing events and initiatives. Legislator Hall was in support of the scholarships however she believed that the two scholarships should be equal in value, therefore neither winner is better than the other. Legislator Townsend agreed with Hall that the two scholarships should be equal values. Townsend also thought that the totals should be larger because there is money in the budget for it. (Legislator Nate Catey entered). Mr. Johnson asked how many people would win the scholarship because when Student Program did the OU's Got Talent event they had to have lower prizes because if could have effected need based scholarships. Legislator Nixon said she wanted to make sure there is a disclaimer on the advertisement. Legislator Schuett thinks this was a good idea for a scholarship, and reminded that in winter 2014 there was an American Heroes Scholarship for \$500. Legislator Schuett made a friendly amendment to increase the total to \$2500, two scholarships worth \$750 each and \$1000 for advertisement purposes. Ms. Meinberg said that she thought \$750 is too much for a scholarship, she noted that the School of Education scholarships are no more than \$500, and Student Congress should not have scholarships that exceed the value of a department. Ms. Hock said that \$1000 for marketing is too much because it is more than allotted for Student Congress events of \$400 per event. Mr. Johnson reminded the Congress that there was full support of the ideas however it needed fine tuning. Legislator Hall agreed with Mr. Johnson that this was a great idea however it needed to be fine tuned, that \$1000 is too much money for marketing and not everyone is in agreement of the totals for the scholarships. Legislator Nixon had concern because she wanted to get these done very quickly. Ms. Iwanski noted that there is a lot of money in the uncategorized budget and there are weekly meetings in the fall semester and that graphics forms still must go to Ms. Peterson a month before marketing begins. Legislator Schuett asked how many more readings there would be of the fall budget. Ms. Iwanski said this is the second reading and therefore they would be voting. Mr. Harris was concerned that there was more money allocated to the marketing than the scholarships and that a

lump sum total of scholarships allowed the scholarship chair to do whatever they want and that removed the checks and balances part of Student Congress. Ms. Hock was concerned that Legislator Nixon had not been working on the details of the scholarship the entire summer. Mr. Garcia saw no problem with the scholarships going on the budget now. Legislator Walter asked how the American Hero scholarship money was allocated. Schuett said that it was presented to congress as a bill. Legislator Nixon struck the motion and added that she was never aware of the things that needed to be done for the position and was never trained. Mr. Johnson wanted to make it clear that there was full support for the scholarships; however it should be the best scholarship.

3. Legislator Hall said that she was working on the tailgate with Mr. Pokrefky and Ellen Searle and that they are running low on money. Hall motioned to add \$500 to the tailgate making the total \$4500. Seconded by Legislator Schuett. Ms. Hock asked what things the money would be spent on. Hall said blow games—soccer, football, baseball and basketball—food, t-shirt giveaway, and mock bar. Mr. Harris noted that in the past the tailgates were \$5000 so he recommended that change. Hall made a friendly amendment to increase the total to \$5000. Vote: 7 yay, 0 nay. Motion passed.

4. Vote: 7 yay, 0 nay. Budget passed.

B. SAF Percentages, *presented by Ms. Meinberg*

1. Ms. Meinberg said that the SAF Percentages that were voted on in the previous meeting needed two readings therefore it needed to be voted on again.

2. Vote: 7 yay, 0 nay. SAF Percentage passed.

VI. New business

A. Oakland University Student Congress Constitution, *presented by Ms. Iwanski*

1. Ms. Iwanski presents constitution for the first reading. Changes are highlighted in red for all to see. Ms. Iwanski points out changes to the appointed agents/executive board section. She also draws attention to the succession of power and rankings. Also changed housing/Greek positions saying it has to be an elected member of the organization. Pokrefky disagreed to adding to make 7 eboard members. He thought it should give the next administrations to right to be choosey. Shouldn't add this to the branch, they should remain appointed agents. Iwanski said that diversity and inclusion is the same as multicultural however this is the accepted term in the higher education community. Appointed agents were not removed? Executive branch 2 a 1 c. May appoint any executive board member. Iwanski said the appointed agents' are for special projects. And these members have gone past that. Johnson thinks this is a huge amount of direct power to the present. Appointed agents are to give the position a chance then they become a eboard member. Iwanski said if it isn't in the constitution it should not have to be appointed. Meant so the appointed agents position would change. They were expected to follow that same things as an executive board member. Appointed agents don't have to follow rules and regulations. Townsend asked why the SPB chair not a part of eboard, but SAFB chair is. Mr. Johnson said that

they were trying to make them their own organizations. Polled a lot of schools to see how their funding and program boards were structured. Funding board has a lot more power, needs the oversight of congress. SPB would be hindered. Nixon asked what if we made A1C it was “a maximum of 8” or limit. Iwanski said no matter what they need to be approved by the legislators.

2. Mr. Harris asked for clarification on why the SPB chair can be their own organization, but SAFB cannot because SPB has a lot of money too. Townsend doesn't understand why the SAFB chair isn't moving away. Hall said that in the previous year Phil Johnson wanted them to split however the current chair Jorge Garcia doesn't. Mr., Johnson explained that SAFB gives money to over 200 orgs. He is a funding board SPB is a programming board. Makes a lot of sense for a program board to separate. The chairs feel strongly this way. Johnson said SAFB summer vs. fall and winter is completely different. Garcia is the chair over the summer, but his committee and eboard have a lot more power during the year. There are lots of checks and balances. Budget must get approved by eboard. Provision that has to get approved by us whether they are a part of us or not. Walter continued to clarify. A totally different org must follow rules of executive committee. Most control over student org existence.

3. Mr. Johnson returned to the Appointed Agents executive board situation. Under C it may be redundant 2 a 1 c should also directly specify they must be approved by legislature. Referred to 2 a 2. Johnson said that the position not just the individual. Iwanski entertain motion 2 a 1 c 1 “Any executive board position appointed by the student body president must be approved by legislature” Townsend moved. Nixon seconded. Vote 6-0, motion passed.

4. Peterson said that last time we spent a lot of time on this in previous constitution meetings. Executive board positions should be things that are completely necessary to the org running. Multicultural was not necessary to make it run. Motion to remove diversity and inclusion. No second.

5. Nixon still thinks there should be a limit. Iwanski said with this contingency the maximum is unnecessary. Walter agreed with Nixon, thinks there should still be a limit just in case there are issues in the future. Pokrefky agreed with having a limit, but the appointed agents are unlimited. If there is a limit on eboard there should be limit on Appointed Agents. Mr. Harris said from a financial point it may cost a lot adding positions. Walter said that there is confusion for appointed agents. Appointed agents have a lot of power. This proposition is that there is an option to have more important eboard members and special projects appointed agents.

6. Mr. Pokrefky asked if 1 a, chief spokesperson, update of wording.

7. Ad hoc is to remove a committee once its purpose has been fulfilled. Mr. Pokrefky and Ms. Iwanski. Iwanski said there are different committees to senate, it means president appoints them. It makes sure that there is a position that can appoint members to any ad hoc committees. Hall standing is a long term, ad hoc

is short term. Iwanski said university senate requests members, so this is an update to make it how it really is.

8. Mr. Harris asked why the president and vice president are listed in the first section of the constitution and no other eboard members. Mr. Johnson said role of Vice president and president do not, and cannot change. Other member's roles change. Legislator Walter asked what the congressional court. Mr. Johnson said that the court was doing the same thing as the judiciary. Ms. Iwanski said it is an ad hoc committee.

9. Pokrefky said we went through this last time. He disagrees with having an RHA and Greek Council. RHA only represents housing. Greek only represents Greeks. All other legislators are supposed to represent 100% of the student body. Mr. Buzzo said that the way he looked at it is that all legislators do not have to be from a certain background. If there was a legislature of all commuters the 15% would no longer have a voice. Johnson said that now they have the position being voted so it makes it a lot better. They would have people they have to answer to. Mr. Harris thinks Greek life is a really large percentage of campus and he thinks that Greeks are more visible on campus so we should value them. Iwanski said that these are two governing bodies of large pieces of campus so it important to have them here. Townsend thinks it is important to remember that we have commuters on campus that we need. Two very important populations that need to be represented and these two groups are very involved. Nixon said that the new president of the university said that he wants campus life and activity to grow; these are orgs we want to grow. Walter said that he doesn't think there was this concern of the orgs not having a voice until last year. He also said that even though these orgs are important they do have a voice at student congress. Largest percentage of involved students. Doesn't think it is fair that they get to vote and have an additional voice. Should not have an additional advantage on the legislature. Townsend said that these are the people that are involved on campus. She agrees that there are plenty of people that commute that want to be involved. But Greeks and housing are a majority of the people that are involved. Removing their vote is going to piss people off. Orgs fighting. Walter said that the discussion is not taking their voice away, because they have a vote in the legislature. They have a right have a voice but not two voices. Townsend completely disagrees with legislator Walter. Mr. Pokrefky disagreed with legislator Townsend because we cannot assume all commuters don't want to be involved. Only represent a piece of the body. Victoria Franso ran as a legislator to represent the Greek population. Mr. Buzzo said that a person involved in housing can be on OUSC, and she does not represent the all housing students. RHA president's job is to represent the entire housing community. Meinberg said that she thinks we are here to represent the students and the students want to see these positions. Mr. Johnson said that historically commuter council has existed since the 80s or 90s but it died out. That is why it has been removed. Don't think of RHA as the same as they did last year because they have done a lot of restructuring. James job is to directly represent

and give updates from all of housing. These people are held accountable in their own orgs. James said that he and Stephanie have been working on their constitution, with an informal and formal meeting. Some students will open up to RHA, before they will come to congress. Ms. Hock highlighted the governing body aspect. Nixon said that to her the most important reason to have these is because they are big organizations that have a big impact. This can keep good relations that can work together. Seems like commuters vs. housing and that isn't what it is about. Hall said that she agrees that these two reps should be on the legislature and have a vote. Would like to bring back commuter council because there is nothing for commuters to look out to. Initiative for the year is to bring back commuter council. These governing bodies should work together. Townsend motioned for five minute recess. Nixon second. Ms. Hock disagreed and thought we should just keep going. 4-2. Passed. .

10. Recess Roll Call

- a) Legislator Nate Catey
(1) Present and Voting
- b) Legislator Brittany Hall
(1) Present and Voting
- c) Legislator Madison Kubinski
(1) Not Present
- d) Legislator Matthew Light
(1) Not Present
- e) Legislator Kristie Nixon
(1) Present and voting
- f) Legislator Jeffrey Schuett
(1) Present and voting
- g) Legislator Andre Sykes
(1) Not Present
- h) Legislator Laina Townsend
(1) Present and voting
- i) Legislator Nick Walter
(1) Present and voting
- j) RHA President James Buzzo
(1) Present and voting

11. Walter spoke about the double representation of RHA.

- a) Pokrefky agrees with not agree with representatives on the student congress body.

12. Johnson about impeachment, about the contradiction to the 2/3 vote to impeaching a legislator of the one above it. He wants to add that the impeachment of a legislator should go to the judiciary committee before it goes to the legislature. President Meinberg made of point of information that stated her version of the proposed Constitution had Article III, C, 3 stricken. This cleared up confusion because of the colors (green, red, black) of the document. Legislator

Hall pointed out that we may be discussing Article III, C, 1, b. A confused Congress decided to revisit this at a later point. Legislator Walter received clarification on the Judicial Branch composition of three or five associate justices. Mr. Pokrefky raised the question of the Student Body President nominating Judiciary Branch members. VP Iwanski clarified the reasoning behind this. Legislator Walter motions for Article V, D, 1 and 2 to replace everywhere it says Student Body President to Judiciary Chair. Seconded by Legislator Nixon. Passes unanimously. Legislator Walter motions to strike Article V, D, 2, b. Seconded by Legislator Townsend. Passes unanimously. Legislator Hall asked why the committee added “simple” before majority (in Article XI, A, 1, c). VP Ms. Iwanski clarified that this translates to simple majority of OUSC; not the student body. Legislator Hall and VP Iwanski will discuss and research this more outside of meeting. This concludes the first reading of the proposed changes to the Constitution.

- B. Nominations for Tailgate Chair, *presented by Ms. Iwanski*
 - 1. Mr. Johnson said that this should be tabled. Legislator Townsend motioned to table the nomination of the tailgate chair. Legislator Nixon proposed nominating Legislator Hall to the position. Townsend struck her motion. Legislator Townsend nominated Legislator Hall to the position of tailgate chair. Legislator Hall accepted the nomination. Seconded by Legislator Catey. Vote: 6 yay, 0 nay, 1 abstain. Legislator Hall is now the tailgate chair.
- C. Approval of Steering Committee, *presented by Legislator Kubinski*
 - 1. Ms. Cassandra Hock
 - a) Vote 7 yay, 0 nay. Cassandra Hock is now a member of the Steering Committee.

VII. Discussion Topics

- A. *Discussion Topics related to Comments from the Gallery Related to Business of the Day, Guest Speakers, & submitted Statements of Student Concern*
 - 1. Mr. Johnson said that he had concerns about parking and the University Dr. closure and how to share this with students.

VIII. Legislator Townsend motioned to end meeting. Seconded by Legislator Walter

- A. Vote: 7yay, 0 nay.

IX. Adjournment 8:37 P.M.