



Minutes
Oakland University Student Congress
Meinberg/Iwanski
Gold Room C, Oakland Center
Monday, August 25, 2014
5:30



- I. Call to order 5:36 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. Present and voting
 - D. Legislator Matthew Light
 1. Not Present
 - E. Legislator Kristie Nixon
 1. Not present
 - F. Legislator Jeffrey Schuett
 1. Present and voting
 - G. Legislator Andre Sykes
 1. Present and voting
 - H. Legislator Laina Townsend
 1. Present and voting
 - I. Legislator Nick Walter
 1. Present and voting
 - J. RHA President James Buzzo
 1. Not present
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 11, 2014
 - A. Vote: 6 yay, 0 nay. Minutes pass
- V. Old Business
 - A. Student Congress Constitution, *presented by Ms. Iwanski*
 1. Ms. Iwanski apologized for the confusion in distribution on the different versions on the constitution. She said she felt most comfortable with the one that she displayed at the meeting. She reminded everyone that all changes are in accordance with the changes recognized on the minutes. Ms. Ploe said that she was not present at the previous meeting and wondered if there were any major changes made. Ms. Iwanski referred to the meeting minutes that were approved. Ms. Webster made the recommendation that since there were few changes made at the previous meeting there was no need to move section by section. Iwanski opened the floor to general discussion on the document. Mr. Pokrefky mentioned that at the previous reading there was discussion about creating a maximum

number of Executive board members, he thought that the President and Vice President should have the option to choose their number of executive board members. Ms. Webster asked why there would need to be a maximum because the legislators would have to approve the total number of Executive board members and if they disagreed on the amount they could not approve the members. Mr. Pokrefky said that the Legislative Affairs Director and the Diversity and Inclusion Director should be removed from the executive board positions so that the next president would not have to specifically have to appoint these exact members, he used the example that he personally thought the tailgate position is very important and if he were president he may want to appoint the tailgate chair to be a member of the executive board that year. Ms. Webster said that they should stay because the legislative affairs director is the foundation of Student Congress and the Diversity and Inclusion Director is important specifically to this institution. She added that the Tailgate Chair for example does not hold enough weight to be the foundation of Student Congress. Legislator Kubinski asked for clarification on the idea to change the constitution to reflect a maximum number of members. She also said that with a limited budget the President is restricted to a lower number of Executive Board members. Ms. Ploe spoke on behalf of the committee that created the new Constitution and said that initially the Appointed Agents positions were created to allow for flexibility however now many of the Appointed Agents have been a part of Student Congress for years and were given the same responsibilities as Executive Board members therefore this update just reflects what is actually happening. Mr. Pokrefky asked how Ms. Peterson the Visual Communications Director would be treated differently under the changes in the new constitution. Ms. Ploe said that no-matter-what everyone that currently serves would be included because the organization could not function without it. She added that Appointed Agents are supposed to be things the organization cannot function without. Ms. Iwanski reminded members to not speak unless called upon. Legislator Walter asked Mr. Pokrefky if there should be a maximum number of positions without naming the positions. Pokrefky said that all positions were important but he wanted there to be more power for the President and Vice President. Ms. Peterson said that in the beginning of the discussion Mr. Pokrefky was saying that the Diversity and Inclusion Director and the Legislative Affairs Director should be up to the discretion of the President and Vice President. Legislator Townsend said that she did not understand why there should be a maximum because this is a growing university so there shouldn't be a limit on the creativity in the future. Ms. Ploe said that a big problem is that not everyone is comfortable being on the executive board and not being paid she entertained the motion to add Article II, Section A, 1, d Any position may be left vacant upon approval by the legislature. Legislator Hall said that it would look bad for the organization if the Diversity and Inclusion Director Position were ever left vacant. Mr. Johnson said that if no changes are going to be made then conversation should keep moving and not remain on one

topic. Ms. Ploe said she was under the impression that this was an open discussion that anyone could change topic at any time. Mr. Iwanski said that she did not want to change discussion topics until the previous topic is covered.

2. Legislator Sykes said that he did not understand why there was Diversity and Inclusion Director but lack of Multicultural Affairs Director. Ms. Iwanski said that it was an update on terminology consistent with the university.

3. Mr. Johnson noted the change in Constitution amendment procedure, saying that the change the committee made removed the need for changes in the Constitution to be approved by the Board of Trustees. He added that if this portion upsets the Board of trustees and they deny the position this process may need to begin again. Legislator Kubinski said that the Board of Trustees is not made up of students therefore it should be taken out. Legislator Sykes said that he disagreed with Kubinski because Student Congress should keep a positive relationship with the Board of Trustees. Ms. Iwanski said that needing the Board of Trustees to approve the constitution makes it a lot harder for Student Congress to make updates. (Legislator Nate Catey entered). Legislator Schuett asked Ms. Webster how many times the decisions Student Congress makes are presented to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Webster said that Student Congress works with the Board of Trustee student liaisons. Ms. Ploe mentioned the possibility that this piece of the constitution originated from when Student Congress was the only organization that was giving money from the Student Activities Fund. Ms. Hock reminded everyone that changes cannot be made without motions.

4. Mr. Garcia asked how long of a time span it took from when the previous Multicultural Affairs Director Jessah Rolstone stepped down from her position until the next person was appointed and put up for approval. He asked this because of section 9 of the constitution that referred to vacancies. If there was a short amount of time to have a permanent replacement then there would be no reason to have an interim position, because having two appointing processes was too much.

5. Legislator Hall referred to Article 11, discussing the amendment procedure, adding a simple majority vote because it causes more confusion. Hall motioned to amend article 11, A1C to strike the word simple. Seconded by Legislator Kubinski. Vote: 7 yay, 0 nays. Motion passed.

6. Mr. Johnson said that article 3, C may be missing something because both the line of determination of office directly overrules the judiciary committee. This gave the opportunity for the president to skip over the legislation and change to immediate removal. Ms. Iwanski said that this change for C, 1, B was in the constitution before but had been rearranged to be in the correct section. Johnson said that “removal due to absence” moving to this section does not mean anything specifically. Legislator Schuett asked why there wasn’t referral to the judiciary chair in this process. Legislator Walter motioned to change C 1 of this section to read “removal due to absence.” Seconded by Legislator Sykes. Sykes thought that

Section C1A was very specific, but C1B was very vague. Ms. Ploe agreed with the change in the motion. **Vote: 7 yay, 0 nays. Motion passed.**

7. Ms. Webster said that the end of the section that was previously voted on needed to include “must automatically be put up for removal.” **Legislator Schuett motioned to amend section 3C1A to add “Any legislator who acquires 3 unexcused absences from Student Congress during term of office shall automatically be brought for removal by the judicial chair.”** Seconded by **Legislator Walter.** Ms. Iwanski recommended a change in the terminology. **Schuett changed his motion to read “judiciary committee chair.”** **Vote: 7 yay, 0 nays. Motion passed.**

8. Legislator Sykes asked about Article 3 discussing composition and the fact that the elected member of the Residence Halls Association still remained in the constitution after the discussion from the previous year that turned it down. Townsend said that this was discussed in the legislator meeting held before the general body meeting. Legislator Hall said that a lot of different ideas were brought up about double counting populations on campus. Ms. Webster said that RHA and Greek Council are the only two other governing bodies on Oakland’s campus therefore they should have a seat on the student congress legislature.

9. Ms. Meinberg entertained a motion to spell out all the acronyms. **Legislator Hall moved entertained motion. Legislator Kubinski seconded. Mr. Johnson said that some abbreviations are given and therefore no longer needed to be spelled out. Hall changed her motion to reflect Mr. Johnson’s comment. Vote: 7 yay, 0 nays. Motion passed.**

10. Schuett asked for clarification to understand Article 3, termination of office. He said that as it stood the legislator in question would not be given a vote in their own removal. Ms. Ploe said this was because if a person was being charged with something they may automatically vote in their own favor. Ms. Iwanski said that this would remove the bias in forcing a person to vote against themselves. Schuett said this clarifies it but does not justify it. **Legislator Sykes motioned to strike the last time of Article 3, 2 B “Legislator being charged shall not receive a vote on their removal decision.”** Ms. Ploe said that a person in the United States would not have the ability to make the decision on their own guilt. Mr. Garcia said that he had seen the voting removal of a person from other student organizations and the person in question is allowed a vote. **Vote: 4 yay, 3 nays. Motion passed.**

11. **Vote:**

- a) Nate Catey: Yay
- b) Brittany Hall: Yay
- c) Madison Kubinski: Yay
- d) Jeffrey Schuett: Yay
- e) Andre Sykes: Yay
- f) Laina Townsend: Yay
- g) Nick Walter: Yay

VI. New business

A. Approval of Student Activities Funding Executive Board, *presented by Mr. Garcia*

1. Legislator Hall motioned to combine line items 1-5. Legislator Walter seconded. Vote 7 yay, 0 nays. Motion passed.

2. Audits Director- *Mr. Jeffery Cox*, Archivist- *Mr. Marc Jacobs*, Meetings Coordinator-*Ms. Jordan Belanger*, Marketing Director- *Ms. Madison Kubinski*, Organization Liaison- *Mr. Nick Walters*

a) Mr. Garcia said that he has been working with all these people for the past few weeks and they have all been doing great. Vote: 7 yay, 0 nays.

B. Approval of Multicultural Affairs Director, *presented by Ms. Meinberg*

1. Ms. Erin Ward

a) Ms. Meinberg said that there was a large process with applicant and Ms. Ward is the best person for the position. She was professional, would fit in well with the group. She is in her fourth year at Oakland, lives on campus, and is an Elementary Education major. She wants to focus on cheap and easy ideas for multicultural awareness and inclusiveness. Some of her ideas were using an online website to send postcards across the world. Create a logo for multicultural awareness on campus; she was excited to work with everyone.

b) Legislator Sykes thanked her for being there and asked if she had any experience working with multiple organizations on one project. Ms. Ward said she had little experience working with several organizations to complete one event but she was currently on the executive board of her sorority which gave her understanding of how to get people included in events and excited about them. She said that she does have event planning experience. Kubinski asked if she had any previous experience with multicultural organizations. Ms. Ward said she had not necessarily been a part of multicultural organizations but she was aware of the exclusion of organizations across campus. She wanted to work towards inclusion of everyone however the Greek Life example she gave was just an example. Kubinski asked if Ms. Ward had ever planned a large scale event. Ms. Ward said she worked as an Assistant Photographer at the Sigma Pi formal, therefore she understands the importance of contacting multiple members, including renting equipment and space. She knows that it takes a lot of communication to effectively run an event. Schuett commended her for coming in front of everyone to speak and asked what were some of the initiative ideas she had planned for the position domestically. Ward said that she had an idea to print a world map and have people sign their country of origin to get people talking and spark conversation. She also said she could organize students to record stories and videos of where people are from to increase awareness on campus. Legislator Townsend asked if Ms. Ward planned on incorporating the LGBT community on campus as a part of her position. Ms. Ward said it was not something she planned on focusing on, but she would be open to working with the

Gender and Sexuality Center. Townsend asked Ms. Ward her biggest weakness and how she combats it. Ms. Ward said it was getting nervous in front of large groups and being meticulously early, she combats it by using the time she has when early to an event or meeting to be productive. Legislator Hall said that dealing with a legislature that is very tight knit how Ms. Ward planned to incorporate herself into the group. She said she would like to be constantly available and keep open lines of communication, she wanted to make these people her friends not just her coworkers. Mr. Johnson asked for one word that would describe Ms. Ward. She said thoughtful because she is always thinking all her actions out and how they will affect everything around her.

c) Vote:

(1) Legislator Catey: Abstain

(2) Legislator Hall: Yay

(3) Legislator Kubinski: Nay

(4) Legislator Schuett: Yay

(5) Legislator Sykes: Nay

(6) Legislator Townsend: Nay

(7) Legislator Walter: Yay

(8) 3 yay, 3 nay, 1 abstain

(9) Annie Meinberg: Yay

(10) Ms. Ward is now the Multicultural Affairs Director

C. Approval of Validations Committee, *presented by Ms. Hock*

1. Legislator Walter motioned to combine line items 1-7. Seconded by Legislator Hall. 6 yay, 0 nays. Motion passed.

2. Student Representative- *Ms. Emily McGee*, Student Representative- *Mr. Ethan Scott*, Student Representative- *Ms. Dara Grenon*, Student Representative- *Mr. Tim Brown*, Clerical Worker- *Ms. Lori Marsh*, Administrative Professional- *Ms. Grace Wojcik*, Faculty member- *Ms. Jennifer Coon*

3. Vote: 6 yay, 0 nay. All passed.

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*

B. Mr. Johnson said Complaints regarding the road closure. Do not think will be open for move in. Sep. 13. Complaints regarding the Student Worker hours. If you were to work 40 a week in summer and 25 all school year then the school would need to provide benefits.

VIII. Reports

A. Student Body President- *Ms. Annie Meinberg*

1. There will be a retreat on the 26th with RHA, OUSC, SPB and SAFB.

B. Student Body Vice President- *Ms. Elizabeth Iwanski*

1. Had been doing a lot of interviews, the food service committee and at the Board of Trustees meeting there were two new members appointed.

IX. Quorum lost. Adjournment 7:24 P.M.