



**Minutes**  
**Oakland University Student Congress**  
**Hanna/Ahmed Administration**  
**Legislative Body Meeting Agenda**  
Oakland Room, Oakland Center  
Monday, March 24th, 2014  
4:00 P.M.



- I. **Call to order:** 4:04pm
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Roll Call:** Quorum met
- IV. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 17th 2014:** 1 nay, 16 yay. Approved.
  - I. Legislator Hall moved to amend meeting minutes from last meeting to have approval of SPB constitution to under old business, seconded by Hock. Vote: unanimous. Approved.
- V. **Comments from the Gallery**
  - I. Two ladies spoke on behalf of Haven, Oakland County's center for domestic violence and sexual assault. They stated that April is recognized as sexual assault awareness month and they asked student congress to declare this month as stated. Nationally, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men are sexually assaulted; while 1 in 4 women experience an attempted rape. They stated that they have the support on campus from their peers and would like to get recognized by the administration.
  - II. Joanna VanRaaphorst spoke on her behalf for running for state representative for district 45 in Rochester and Rochester Hills. She stated that she has been a guest speaker for many orientations in the past. VanRaaphorst showed concern for funding for k-12 and college educations. She mentioned that 75% of tuition is normally paid by the state and the other 25% is paid by the students. Though, that has changed and completely flipped backwards. VanRaaphorst stated that she is looking for feedback on concerns with funding and left cards for an internship opportunity.
  - III. Ruth Paula, a leadership consultant in the CSA, gave the legislature opportunities to volunteer on campus. One opportunity is on April 11<sup>th</sup> for Kids against Hunger. She is looking for one hundred students to attend the event at 9am in the banquet rooms. She commented on student congress's willingness to value service projects and give back to the community and mentioned that she hopes to have a partnership in the future. Legislator Boye asked how she can register for the event. Paula stated that all the events are on Grizz Orgs, or she can email Emily Delano at [delano@oakland.edu](mailto:delano@oakland.edu). Legislator Laux asked what time the volunteer opportunity for Gleaner's will be on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Paula stated that the gift shirt for commuters will be from 9:30am to 11:30 am, and the other half of the day will be volunteering at the facility.
  - IV. Amy Ring, former student body vice president, and residence director for the student apartments, spoke on behalf of the changes to the constitution. Ring stated that she had some concerns regarding the changes to the RHA representative. Ring mentioned that she fully supports bringing the two sides of campus together to work effectively as a team. She understood that the decision was not made maliciously, but to clarify what was already written. Ring stated that the term "ex-officio" means that that person has voting privileges. She asked why student congress wants to take away that right. She noted that it will be impossible for anyone to know where OUSC will stand in a few years, and that it is easy to assume that housing students will serve on congress for years to come. She stated that 10% of campus is made up of housing residents, and student congress is taking away that vote. She noted that it is insulting to the residence halls and it is not a positive way to move forward with the relationship. Regardless of the outcome, she stated that she wants to move forward positively and be able to work together.
  - V. Ms. Alwardt mentioned how happy she was that a lot of people have come out to speak on the matter, though the decision has already been voted on and it is too late to make a difference. Ms. Webster provided clarification by stating that the changes have already been made and it is up for the student body to vote on it. She stated that student congress

will move on regardless of the vote. Legislator Boye mentioned that the legislature, including the RHA representative, have discussed the decision two weeks before the vote, and does not understand why it was not discussed when it was an issue. Mr. Kennamer stated that he tried to voice his concern, but was declined by the legislature. Legislator Hock asked Kennamer why he did not bring it up during the first reading on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Legislator Searle stated that the reason why the legislature decided on this was because the RHA president is not chosen by the students, they are chosen by the housing director, and because of this, and they should not have a vote.

- VI.** Andrew Baker, chairmen of the College Republican Club, spoke on behalf of their initiative to repeal the smoking ban. Baker stated that OU cannot enforce a policy that contradicts what the state says. Baker mentioned that they want to adjust the policy and create designated smoking areas around campus. They have gathered almost 400 signatures stating that they agree with their repeal. Legislator Searle expressed her concern with the lack of G numbers from students and asked if they were the majority of students and what they wanted. Baker stated that the list contains emails from students. He also mentioned that a lot of the signatures are from non-smokers. Baker stated that he would like the support of student congress. Legislator Laux stated that he has a resolution that will supplement the petition.
- VII.** Sandra Alef, as an advocate for University Housing, spoke on behalf of the constitution. She stated that one of the things that pacified her is that her staff members are legislators which represent Housing. She asked the legislature how they can enforce a policy and be the voice as well. She mentioned that the only students consistently at RHA meetings are the executive board members, RA's and Nightwatch are not required to be there. Her job is to be the liaison, and stated that student congress is taking away their voice. She mentioned that OUSC is always represented at RHA meetings. She noted that since the changes have been made, that students should go to the Board of Trustees meeting to ask them to make the changes.
- VIII.** Taylor Williams, student, stated that student congress is playing off of student indifference, mentioning that 88% of students have no idea what is going on. Casey Weibell, leader in Housing, stated that he goes to RHA to get his voice and opinion out. Weibell noted that it is unconstitutional to take away the rights and it is a lack of communication between OUSC and RHA. Stephanie Emptage, grad assistant in Housing, spoke as an advisor to RHA. Emptage mentioned that Mr. Kennamer did not know he had voting rights until a month ago. She stated that it is not fair that OUSC is the voice of Housing when RHA cannot be in attendance. Jean Ann Miller, director of the CSA, commented on the long standing history of OU. She stated that she has never known when RHA did not have a vote, or a seat on congress. She noted that OUSC and RHA are two of the most powerful student organizations on campus and does not understand why one is not supporting the other. Mr. Hanna stated that the student body president and vice president do not get voting rights, though they still have a voice, and stated that RHA will still have a voice at meetings.
- IX.** Legislator Iwanski asked when RHA was an elected position. Sandra Alef stated that three to four years ago, two organizations were merged to make RHA, which was a paid position that came with a board plan. Legislator Hock stated that the RHA president cannot be impeached, like the student body president. We lose checks and balances. Hock stated that congress is not trying to enforce anyone into agreeing with the constitution. She also mentioned that she was uncomfortable with Sandra being on validations since she is such a strong advocate for the constitution. Sandra stated that nothing is written otherwise in the constitution.
- X.** Legislator Townsend stated that there has been a lot of miscommunication on both ends and does not agree with pointing fingers. She noted that it is not going to solve the problem. She mentioned that the issue is that the RHA president is not an elected position and they are not held to the same requirements. She suggested looking forward for a compromise, possibly amending the bylaws to have him be at the same level of requirements as the legislators and on the RHA side, having an elected official represent Housing. Legislator Boye stated that the RHA representative should be reporting back to

the students so there should not be a lack of communication. She mentioned that there is a portion in the agenda where they get to speak, and it is not hidden that RHA president was an ex-officio member. She stated that the constitution has always been available to all students. James Buzzo, student, stated that it is not the job of RHA to read the constitution.

- XI. Legislator Johnson stated that in this tense situation, there has been more than enough time for RHA to come up with a middle ground. He also mentioned that when student congress had a recess between meetings, there was ample time to come to him with concerns. He also stated that the RHA representative should know the constitution. Ms. Alwardt stated that “I did not know” is a very poor excuse. The motivation behind the change was to make positions equal. She stated that there has been a lot of chances to speak and no one is trying to shut RHA out. She suggested that everyone just ask students to read the constitution, as there are no more steps to take at this point.
  - XII. Legislator Sykes stated that the first meeting on the constitution was on March 10<sup>th</sup>, giving the RHA president time to relay the information back to Housing for discussion. He stated that the lack of information was not on behalf of OUSC. Legislator Johnson stated that congress does not have the ability to vote on anything further, as it is up to the student body now. Samantha Wolf suggested amending the bylaws to clarify the proper processes for putting up balloted initiatives. Mr. Hanna stated that everyone is here for the betterment of the student body. He mentioned that publicly denouncing each-others organizations will hurt them in the long run. He asked everyone to remember why they came here.
  - XIII. Matt McClure stated that Greek Week starts next week.
- VI. **Old Business**
- I. Approval of SAFB Constitution, *presented by Mr. Phillip Johnson*
    - i. Ms. Webster asked to discuss the constitution next week. Legislator Laux moved to table the approval of the SAFB constitution and SPB constitution until next Monday, seconded by legislator Ellis. Vote: 12 yay, 1 abstain. SAFB and SPB constitutions tabled until next week.
  - II. C.B. 14-21 OUSC Tailgate, *presented by Legislator Josh Pokrefky*
    - i. Legislator Pokrefky stated that he did not show the split of money due to vendors cancelling on him. If anyone has concerns as to what the money is going toward, you can contact him. Vote: 11 yay, 1 nay. Bill passes.
  - III. C.R. 14-05 Smoking Education Resolution, *presented by Legislator Ellen Searle*
    - i. Legislator Searle stated that she wants to uphold support of current policy as it stands, and wants students to get educated on the policy. Searle stated that she wants to use the administration and have students get together to fix the problem of tobacco related litter. Legislator Williams moved to strike line item b under section 1 stating that “OUSC will affirm its support of the current smoking ban”, seconded by legislator Laux. Legislator Laux stated that if we pass the resolution, we will not be able to create a smoking area on campus. Legislator Laux commented on the prohibited language against a piece of legislation, and that we should not be in the practice of doing so, as we would be contradicting ourselves. Ms. Webster asked about the two similar bills supporting opposite ends of the spectrum, and suggested the two parties come to terms outside of meeting. Can pass both resolutions as long as that piece is stricken. Legislator Searle stated that initially she was very opposed to the idea of smoking areas, and left it in to let the legislators decide. Vote: 8 yay, 1 nay, 2 abstaining. Line item stricken.
    - ii. Legislator Searle stated that the smoking ban has not been enforced, and it is early to make changes on the policy; not enough time to judge how well it is working out, some things that the dean of students can do to help. Sykes moved to strike line item 2, seconded by Johnson. Searle stated that the reason why it is in there is that the dean of students act upon the complaints from students. Laux stated that for purposes of the future, it should be struck. Shawn Czeswki, police cadet, regarding smoking policy, reason why still see smoking, policy is voluntary, state requires students not to smoke in buildings, no state law stating that smoking isn’t

allowed outside. Hanna stated that motions are time consuming and should table it to stop wasting time. Arellano stated that students wanted to have a change of culture, moving forward with this, going against what the administration was doing in the first place. Kubinski mentioned that UofM is smoke free, and researched how that is done at other universities. Michelle stated that it has been a discussion topic during a SAM conference. Not only one with non-smoking policy, amount of litter and butts have grown since ash trays have been taken out. Kubinski called to question. Vote: 9 yay, 3 nay. Approved.

iii. Webster stated that the smoking ban only came into effect this fall, all new projects/initiatives take time to make an impact. Give it some more time before trying to fix it. A student from the gallery stated that bills are dramatically different. Smoking policy is prohibiting freedoms, bills cannot co-exist. Iwanski stated that nothing happens immediately, should not be going against the policy. Searle stated that regardless of what happens with the resolution, need to make sure that students understand what the policy is. Vote: Unanimous. Approved.

## VII. New Business

### I. C.R. 14-06 Smoking Resolution, *presented by Legislator Andrew Laux*

i. Legislator Laux stated that it is the right of students to choose what they do. Interest of the students. Work to amend the current policy, it is amendable. Have designated areas for students as well as ash trays in those areas to reduce tobacco related litter. Williams stated that he is in favor, and moved to extend the distance to 50 feet instead of 25 feet, seconded by legislator Laux. Zaman moved to change wording to at least 50 feet. Vote: Unanimous. Approved.

ii. Iwanski asked which specific spots are designated areas. Laux commented that is specifically stated parking lots, determined if this is passed. Take this to board of trustees, bring interests to play, where it starts. In those specific areas it would be a great spot to place the ash trays as well. Address needs of both administration and students who have the right to smoke. Iwanski noted that a lot of students pass through that area, concerned with students who find the smoke irritating. Laux stated that there is open air, less likely for students to reap results from smoke. Searle expressed her concern with time to determine if policy has been effective, wait at least a year before thinking about this resolution. A lot of people don't want to be around smoking regardless. Does not support it. Hanna stated that we are overstepping boundaries in line item 1. No say over current non-smoking policy. Laux stated that he can see the concern, didn't feel that it was a demand to the administration. Come to them with measure of concern, administration will want to listen and work together. Williams moved to move line item 1 under Whereas, seconded by legislator Laux. Student: very clear that OUSC is not endorsing the college republicans. Vote: Unanimous. Approved. Vote: 8 yay, 4 nay, 1 abstaining. Resolution passes.

### II. C.R. 14-07 Sexual Assault Awareness Month, *presented by Legislator Andre Sykes*

i. Legislator Sykes spoke on behalf of the bill stating that April will be sexual assault awareness month. Hanna suggested that we proclaim April to be Sexual Assault Awareness month on campus. Laux moved to add the "at Oakland University campus" at the end of the resolution. Vote to add: unanimous.

ii. Alwart noted that he should change the grammatical error. Searle stated that the bill says that the university has already planned this with events through student organizations. Hanna stated that this was addressed already but needs to be announced by the Board of Trustees, so we should pass this resolution so it will happen. Vote on the resolution: Unanimous

### III. C.B. 14-22 Golfing for Our Heroes Bill, *presented by Legislator Andre Sykes*

i. Legislator Sykes spoke on behalf of his event, golfing for our heroes, a mini golf event, students bring non-perishable foods and clothing and get to play golf. Company gave price for \$500, total cost is \$604.30. Williams asked how many participants? Andre stated that he expects between 50 and 75 people at one time. Event goes from 2pm-6pm. April 14<sup>th</sup> during general body meeting. Co-supported

by SVOU. Williams asked if he is reaching out to veterans or anyone in general? Target audience? Andre stated that he is asking the whole campus. Working with SVOU for a long time, want to do it for the Michigan Veterans Foundation. Alwardt expressed her concern with timing, new eboard will be getting approved at that meeting. Zaman stated that it needs to be changed to C.B. instead of C.R. Williams stated that it has to be friendly amendment. Kubinski asked if there was any way to move the date or is it solidified? Hanna expressed his concern that it is during the general body meeting. Searle moved to make a friendly amendment to change resolved to enacted. Arellano stated that there will be no Facebook event up, until after bills are passed. Andre stated that he is willing to store the food items in his dorm. Arellano stated that there needs to be a different solution, talk to rec center, used to have a reserved spot. This is the first reading of the bill.

VIII. Legislator Laux moved to end the meeting. Legislator Iwanski asked why the executive board reports are being submitted minimally. Ms. Alwardt stated that the greetings are the same every time. Vote: Unanimous. Approved.

IX. **Adjournment:** 7:39pm