

Minutes

Oakland University Student Congress
McGuinness/Caver Administration
Legislative Body Meeting Agenda
Oakland Room, Oakland Center
Monday 2006
4:00 P.M.

- I. **Call to Order**
4:05
- II. **Roll Call**
Quorum: Met
- III. **Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2006 and February 13, 2006**
February 6 Minutes: Approved
February 13 Minutes: Approved
- IV. **Approval of Committee Members**
 - a. **Justin Zatkoff-Steering Committee**
J. Miller: open spot due to Legislator Redmond's Resignation; many people wanted position, need of a congressional committee gave him the spot
- V. **Student of the Month Parking Spot Drawing**
Kubicek: Motion to Postpone until after Guest Speaker
Motion: Passed
- VI. **Comments from the Gallery**

Jordan Twardy: Don't feel that OUSC should tell students how to vote, overstepping boundaries, is not Congress' job; your duty to recognize/serve all students. Not trying to "Diss" Congress, think you do a great job, should serve all students

Jennifer: Vice President of SPIN, was suppose to attend meeting; can I meet after the meeting?

K. Miller: Yes
- VII. **Guest Speakers**
 - a. **Cindy Hermson, Director of Financial Aid**
Hermson: Office has been changed, looks different, have had phone calls answered quickly, Oakland Post interviewed students the day after school started, this will always be a busy time. Students received good, quality advising. Students applied late for Financial Aid, many students had documents; documents cannot be processed immediately. Past due balances shouldn't have been a surprise, OU policy does not allow students to apply if they still have an account balance. Reaction from students are very positive right now. Make certain you fill out a Spring/Summer financial aid form, and if there are past due balances they will not be able to register for Spring/Summer. In late March there will be no more business staff in the office other than the cashier's office. Three financial aid workshops March 6, 8 and 9th after Spring Break. Still pleading for your help to get students to fill out their financial aid forms early, and get account balances taken care of.

Ewing: New Staff; do you feel there is enough staff, or could you use more? Do you have a training system in place for employees?

Hermson: We still have to add four additional staff members; they will take care of business operations (behind the scenes). I am concerned about the staff, we have lost one financial aid advisor.

Ewing: Have you explored ideas for financial aid website to provide more information for documentation needed?

Hermson: We do currently keep students aware; for example, borderline students, if their grades aren't high enough currently. We will put typical document list on the website. Staff training: during interviewing, we are looking for someone who has quality financial aid experience. Most employees are coming from good schools where they are familiar with federal and state regulations. Updated on laws and regulations: We have a weekly staff meeting; very good network within the office. We also take advantage of federal training sessions.

McGuinness: Effective way to reach students: sit down with the OU Post and write a guest column; How are the phone lines, are there any formalized procedures to maintain and keep track of students' concerns?

Hermson: We are collecting data on phone system. Last week feature was added to give students their average wait time on the phone lines. Going through advisors to see what students are talking to them about. Mr. McGuinness is advocating for students at many administrative meetings, he is aware of issues. Thank you for the support.

Evans: Improvements are helpful for me. Have you formerly written anything out to students to inform them of changes?

Hermson: We have not, but I can provide that.

Fallis: Some students were being skipped over because of their names being skipped over after waiting for 3 hours.

Hermson: We do try to call off first in the office, and then out in the hallway to call names. If a student had missed their call and their names and time they entered are on the list they will be called next. I was unaware of that particular complaint.

McCullough: Do you have the same person doing training for new employees?

Hermson: Yes, also includes job shadowing.

McCullough: Is there one particular person they shadow?

Hermson: We don't do job shadowing with those hired in the past year.

Vitale: Is the students' hesitance the reason for the long lines at the beginning of the semester? How long does it usually take to process applications?

Hermson: Some of it was due to the bills sent out right before final exams. We need a change with the billing schedule. Late applications; accurate, on time applications should be stressed to students. We're re-evaluating our messaging system; trying to see if students know the difference between state and federal tax returns. A few days, the system is really automated; manual Review after that. At this time it takes about

seven days. Around heavy processing time, there is a two week processing period, and we don't go beyond that.

Kubicek: Would you expand on independent status?

Hermson: Federal Law you must provide parent's information, dependence, veteran etc.; if you're parents don't want to give paperwork, you won't receive financial aid. There are some cases when parents can't give that information; physical mental health, both parents deceased. It's a case by case basis. Must be documented by a third party. This is the law; parents responsibility. Foster care student; or legal guardian up until 18.

Evans: Suggestion: Have you considered making the need for specific documents more clear or get as specific as possible. Elaborate on documentation.

Hermson: Fear of lengthy award letters; will send paper award letters. Separate attachment with award letters.

VIII. Student of the Month Parking Spot Drawing

Tamara Kukuk

Fallis: motion to postpone my resolution until next meeting

Motion: Approved

IX. New Business

Point of Personal Privilege- Waquad

a. C.B. 06-12 (Bylaws Amendment, first reading)

Mersol-Barg: Bylaws Amendment to have a roll call vote

J. Miller: Motion to Amendment; having written bylaws you must have some sort of title for sections under each article.

Motion: Passed

Evans: I think this is about making people vote with the masses; and have an influence on the way that people vote.

Mersol-Barg: It's done on a national and state level so why shouldn't we do it here? I think it allows people to do what they feel is correct.

Ewing: We owe it to the students to stand by our vote. They should be able to see how we vote.

Fallis: Roll Call makes our stance stronger, but first whereas clause was dictating to congress what to do.

J. Miller: Yes, the steering committee believed it to be the best course of action. Not a new development.

J. Miller takes the gavel

Caver: never disagreed with it; Roberts Rules set precedent; I felt that this being over ruled would benefit the body. Our job is not to judge anyone around the table for the way they vote. Yield to McGuinness.

McGuinness: This is the appropriate course of action; I feel that Ms. Caver was in the right.

Caver assumes gavel

Stevens: Humorous that the idea of national governmental bodies to back this resolution; we tried to do the same thing with alphabetical seating and it was turned down. Ticks me off!

Point of Personal Privilege: Stevens

Zatkoff: Yield to Dean Maurer

Maurer: Like the Bill that Student Body to know how you voted.

Porter: Motion to suspend rules for gallery members to tell what they think of the proposed resolution.

Motion: Approved

Jordan Twardy: Good idea

Renee Blackburn: Don't think it is a good idea, I would get intimidated by someone else's vote.

Time Atwood: Good idea

Porter: Motion to reinstate rules

Motion: Approved

J. Miller: The comparison for a national and state government is apt; there is no apt comparison to national and state governments with the seating arrangements. Yield to Ms. Evans.

Evans: Why be opposed to meshing as a Congress; why are we oppose to that type of thinking? Indulge ideas because you want that same respect.

Bailey: This Congress is a body, aside from the President and Vice President, we are not looked at on an individual basis. I don't understand the problem with the way we vote now.

K. Miller: Agree with Brendan, and really agree with Mia. It will be a time factor to have everyone to call out their vote. We have the option to do roll call vote, and in the past the motions for a roll call vote have consistently failed. Yield to McCullough

McCullough: Maybe we should add the alphabetical seating chart; and it would make the roll call easier possibly.

Vitale: We should have a Roll Call vote because we should be held accountable; if we should have alphabetical seating let's do it in the proper manner.

Proffett: If this bill is passed what will you do to ensure that the conflicts brought up will not happen?

Mersol-barg: listening to Mia, there is faction vs. faction; I don't see it as a conflict.

Mersol-Barg: When the seating chart was proposed I thought about it. It was not relevant at our level. Legislators are held accountable at the national level; and it is irresponsible that we haven't been doing this.

McCullough: Maybe we should add the first resolved that the legislative body will sit in order.

Kubicek: So moved

Kubicek: Motion Withdrawn

Point of Personal Privilege: Panchenko

Ewing: Will it be fair to the students that they will not be allowed to see why we are doing what we are doing. My personal logic for supporting this is for the students not with the government. I don't like the idea of putting the seating chart into this bill because of their differences. Yield to Fallis

Fallis: I'm not sure that the students really care because no one is here. I'm not sure if the students will utilize it if passed.

J. Miller: We're all student leaders; shouldn't we feel independent enough in our own minds not to be intimidated. Having a difference of opinion is not a bad thing. Yield to Tim Atwood

Atwood: If you can't vote for what you believe in you shouldn't be in Congress. Elections are coming up, and I think that students would like to know who they are voting for and why. How will students know, will it be put into the Post?

K. Miller: Everyone had a chance to attend the retreat in that type of setting. The steering committee feels that their idea is blatantly disregarded. Not my intention to purposely shame anyone. We need to all get along in a work atmosphere, so that we can accomplish our goal. What will it hurt to have a seating chart?

Point of Personal Privilege: Bailey

Kochenderfer: If this bill passes; I think we should have assigned seating, because students cannot read name cards far from the gallery and it will make voting more organized and easier to follow. I can see the role call will cause "finger pointing" which could make divisions in Congress. I don't think it will change the way people vote at all, because it currently seems that Congress members vote upon their true feelings. I don't see anything wrong with the way that we vote now.

Mersol-Barg: Something you have to deal with as a student leader is pointing of fingers.

Vitale: Motion to amend Bill on third 'Whereas' to strike 'blatantly disregarded' and replace it with 'overruled'

Amendment: Passes

Fallis: Will this bill get rid of silent ballots?

Ewing: Standard operating procedure; will automatically go into a Roll Call Vote.

Porter: Yield to Ms. Evans

Evans: Angelica's questions were not answered. Is there any way that there be a better, lengthy, more professional response instead of tossing it to the side because you feel it irrelevant.

Mersol-Barg: I don't see a problem with a roll call vote. If people can be swayed so easily they have no business being on congress.

b. C.R. 06-13 (Student Life Lecture Board resolution)

McGuinness: Would impact many students; yield to Evans

Evans: This is a suggestion; the outside participation that we've had led success at these last two lectures.

Ewing: Motion to call to question

Motion: Approved

Resolution: Passed

c. C.R. 06-14 (Michigan Civil Rights Initiative resolution) <Postponed>

Point of Personal Privilege: Mersol-Barg

d. C.R. 06-15 (Course Evaluation resolution)

Ewing: Motion to Postpone until next meeting

Motion: Passed

X. Discussion Topics

a. Discussion Topic of the Week

Zatkoff: Motion to adjourn

Motion: Passed

Meeting Adjourned: 6:07 P.M.