

SGA SENATE MEETING THURSDAY January 31, 2019 4:45 PM

- I. **Call the meeting to order**- 4:51 PM
 - Chase Howard; Parliamentarian, nominated by Tay Williams for this meeting
- II. **Roll call**- Did not meet quorum; At this time VPLA White asked for a point of information, to allow the meeting to continue and if a senator wondered in and motioned to be present, he would count it on the roll call and we would then meet quorum and be able to vote on New Business. Advisor Joy Ballard said yes.
Re-do Roll Call- still no quorum; met quorum at 5:00 PM
- III. **Approval of minutes**- Could not until quorum is met, once quorum was met they were approved.
- IV. **Communications and announcements**
 - a. **Senators**- no
 - b. **Non-senators**- no
- V. **Committee reports**
 - a. **Governance**- no
 - b. **Rules**- no
 - c. **Finance**- no
 - d. **Student affairs**- Christine Bourgeois Sophomore At Large - Meetings will be Mondays at 2:00 PM; if there is a scheduling conflict let me know. (in the middle of this report we met Quorum at 5:00 PM) We discuss a lot of different things, and it is a great time and very discussion based.
 - e. **Facility services**- no
 - f. **On campus dining and housing**- no
- VI. **Executive reports, Judicial and Advising**
 - a. **President**- No she is in Washington DC at a conference
 - b. **Vice President**- Maddie Roach/ Job is to handle budget; retreat is either March or April. Number for account Senate Operating Account which is money we spend on general bills like for clubs and organizations- \$300,096.64, Reserve Account is for one-time expenditures that usually last about 5 years has approximately \$300,000.
 - c. **VPLA White**- Any questions for Roberts Rules will be explained if you need them to be explained. The retreat will explain Robert's Rules. Make sure you are on the email list. Bills must be submitted by 4:30 on Monday's. Agenda will be sent out the next morning at 9 AM to the latest that way everyone has time to review and prepare meetings. The meeting time was originally 4:45 PM and we agreed as executives to push it back 5 minutes to 4:50 PM to give people who have classes time to make it to the meeting. There are senators who have families and jobs in the evenings so we are trying to make it as confinement as possible but to also keep in mind our other senators as well. If you do wonder in later make sure you motion to be present so we can recognize you and make sure you can vote on important bills. Also if you leave but still want to vote so we can meet quorum fill out a proxy form but if you cannot motion to be proxy and give another senator your voting preference so we can still vote on new business.

Wesley K. College of Sciences- We are meeting outside of business hours, and our advisor is outside of her business hours so I just wanted to bring that to people's attention.

VPLA- Thank you.

- d. **VPP**- Jeneal Banks/ Homecoming is next week that's what we have been working hard and planning for the past couple of weeks. And months. Monday is a free customizing license plate event in the UC atrium. Tuesday Housing is hosting a homecoming game sign making event at the Dorms, Wednesday is our "Are you Smarter than A Homecoming Court member?" in the UC, Thursday Night is our Paint Party in the Innsbruck Suite from 8PM-11PM its 100% biodegradable paint and it will be a lot of fun. Friday is our pep rally in the UC Atrium hosted by Student Government. Saturday is out game and court will be crowned around halftime of the men's game.
- e. **Judicial**- No Report.14:48
- f. **Advisors Joy Ballard**- This is not my usual advisor report, however some things have been brought to my attention that I think I need to address I know there are many new senators and guest in the room, but I think this needs to be on the record, and I believe in transparency. There are many rumors going around SGA, the disorganization, and myself. I want to clear up a few things.
First, we control what is being said about us. These rumors are coming from within the organization to campus and that is unacceptable. In the 80s the state of Mississippi was having a PR problem, and they changed the Welcome to Mississippi signs to read, "only positive Mississippi spoken here." That might sound funny, but my home state is 50th in most things, so it was important that they set a message that in our public spaces we were going to talk about what we did right. You all joined this organization for a reason, so in public let's start talking about the good. There is plenty of it. So speak positive SGA. That being said, my second point is that I am not here to speak positive and ignore the bad. The rumors are not all wrong. The senate is disorganized, the communication has been poor, and we need to get it together. I need my veteran senators to step up, and hold everyone accountable. An organization with the power and money that you possess, needs to start acting like you know how to manage that. Otherwise you look like you can be taken advantage of, or appear undeserving. So it is time to step up, make changes if they need to be made, and start functioning as you are supposed to. The second part of many of these rumors, is that in some way the disorganization has been caused by me. I am here to set that straight, by setting out clearly what my job is. I am the coordinator of student governance. That title is very intentionally not student government. While SGA does pay a portion of my salary, I do not solely work for the SGA. I spend most of my days in meetings outside of the SGA office. As meetings are now being held outside of regular business hours, my office hours may be a little more flexible. If you need information you should email that request. I am always happy to help in the office when I am in the office, but for official request I suggest you email for the

quickest response. My duties with SGA are the following: I supervise the 9 student workers SGA employees, I handle SGA finances that must run through the University, I administer SGA programs such as academic travel funding and managing the Captain's Quarters student Lounge, I attend all official meetings, I offer advice when asked, and I ensure that you are following SGA rules as well as university policy. I AM NOT responsible to keep rosters, book rooms, manage calendars, interpret the laws, keep minutes, make copies, or send official emails. All of those duties are assigned to other people in the SGA rules. While my job is to insure you are following the rules, I cannot do that if I am the only person who knows them. So I challenge all of you to read those documents, come to me with questions (that is my job) and let's make SGA better. On that note, until at least the end of the semester, my advisor report will be a constitutional lesson to make sure you all at least know the most important things.

I took this position because I believe strongly in student governance, but the foundation of a strong student government is students. I cannot make a student government, as I am a staff member. I believe it is unethical for me to overstep these confines of my job description. I hope that is something that we can all agree on and appreciate.

VII. **Old Business**-none

VIII. **New Business**

- a. **BS19A1 Music Department Bill**- Cory Ashby, Alisha Feldman, Brent Rose- This is a bill to allocate \$1500.00 from the Senate Operating Account to assist the Music Department in hosting a day of panels and performances as part of the 2019 Ableton University Tour on March 14, 2019. Ableton is the world's premier electronic music software, used by musicians, producers, composers, songwriters, and performance artists across the globe. They have offered to host an interactive workshop series at UNO, training students and staff in their software and techniques. This bill would allocate funding to compliment both Ableton's and the UNO Music Department's investment in the event, providing funding for 3 New Orleans musicians who use Ableton Live to co-facilitate workshops alongside Ableton's team, culminating in an evening public performance at the UNO Performing Arts Center.

Christine B Sophomore at Large - SO you're asking SGA to pay

Motion to question?

Objection

Hand vote for objection: 4 yes 5 no 7 abstentions.

Nicky Cao College of Liberal Arts- who will be performing?

Ashley Bloom, singer song writer, abulton.

Martin Masekowsky

Charlie

There would like a concert and a dance party; looking for

Wesley K. Colle of Science- Fund matching was a metaphor?

Answer: Yes, Just a metaphor; just meant we will get services not exactly money.
Motion to Question? This was seconded.

Vote Result: 13 yes 0 no 1 ob

- b. **BS19A2 WAT Bill- Aicha Feldman, Chelsey Shannon, and UNO Press.** This is a bill to allocate 3228.00 from the Senate Operating Account to assist UNO Press in promoting the UNO Write-A-Thon 2019 through our campus newspaper the Driftwood and other printed materials. The Write-A-Thon will be hosted on March 20-21, at the University Center, the UNO Press is registered with the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership. the UNO Write-A-Thon 2019 is necessary to the UNO community because the event will raise money for the UNO Foundation's student scholarship fund, in addition to the accounts of whichever departments/organizations choose to participate. The Write-A-Thon will build campus camaraderie by convening participants to write together, and (optionally) facilitate and attend various writing-based workshops.

Christine B Sophomore At Large- Where is the quote for printing the poster/maps?

Chelsey Shannon- We haven't approached them for a quote yet until we knew what budget we were working with.

Christine B Sophomore At Large- Point of inquiry Would that mean we would have to table this because they don't have an exact budget?

John Michael VPLA- Does that qualify as a quote?

Joy Ballard Advisor- The email is fine because it is in writing, SGA cannot give blanked funds for things, we need to have proof of exactly what we are paying for.

Christine B Sophomore At Large- If you had to table this for next week, just so you have time to get a quote

Aicha Feldman COB- I think we could do that.

John Michael VPLA- Point of information if the funds are time sensitive you can elect to eliminate current blanked funds and then pass the bill and re-introduce another bill once the funds are determined.

Christine B Sophomore At Large- Before that happens, I am the distribution manager for the driftwood and we just had a meeting and they are trying to decide if the paper is important enough and if anyone is reading it, so do you have any other means of marketing other than the driftwood just before you invest in the driftwood.

Chelsey Shannon- No, we didn't I just chose the driftwood because it is a university organization and I wanted to support it.

Alicha Feldman- So I can amend it and just go forward with the driftwood money? And come back with the rest of the funds.

John Michael- Yes you would just have to fill an amendment form-

Wesley K College of Science- I would like to motion to table

JD- second

John Michael- no objections?

Alicha- Objection

John Michael- Ok, we will do a hand vote.

RESULT: Tabled

- c. **B.S.19.A.3 Travel Funds Bill- Christine Bourgeois, Cory Pitalo, Ryan Williams.** This is a bill to allocate nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) from the Senate Operating Account to assist the Government Association Academic Travel Budget to provide academic travel grants to students during the Spring and Summer semesters. The Student Government Association currently allocates \$30,000 each year through the Central Budget Committee to help fund academic travel opportunities for students; academic travel is defined as any travel opportunity that will enrich a student's educational experience. This is including but not limited to: academic conferences, leadership conferences, organizational development conferences, research presentations, and organization competitions; this past Fall semester, SGA has already allocated over \$25,000 to these types of opportunities; this bill will add \$9,000 to the current budget, for a total of \$39,000 this fiscal year. individual students and student organizations are in need of these funds, because it is important now more than ever for students to enter the job market with the skills and experiences that come from academic travel.
- Christine B Sophomore At Large-**
- Kevin B College of Business-** Is this money only for the organizations that already asked for money? Or is this extra for other organizations?
- Christine B Sophomore At Large-** So the 9,000 is being taken from the operating account and put into the student travel fund so all the organizations asking for money won't empty it, there will be leftover.
- Nicky Cao College of Liberal Arts-** how much does each student org get and is there limits?
- Christine B Sophomore At Large-** Yes, point of inquiry
- Joy Ballard Advisor-** \$500 per student \$5,000 for up to a group of 10 or larger
- Nicky Cao College of Liberal Arts-** is this per semester? Year?
- Joy Ballard Advisor-** per year. We put 30,000 each year we never ran out before, we sent 69 students to conferences all over, so currently we are \$100 over.

Nicky Cao College of Liberal Arts- My second question is there a measure to make sure it isn't always the same students going on the trips? I feel like it disadvantages new organizations because they are not aware of the funding.

CB Sophomore at Large- There is limitations

Nicky Cao College of Liberal Arts – If you are only asking for \$9,000 wouldn't that money run out quick because one group could just take half the budget?

Christine B Sophomore At Large- Yes, but it is first come first serve so we cannot help who completes the paper work and gets the funds first.

Ryan Williams Graduate Student At Large- We are asking only \$9,000 because the Senate operating budget is only about \$30,000 , so we did not to take too much of that.

Christine B Sophomore At Large- We will eventually try to move the budget accordingly to help with the academic travel fund problem.

John Michael VPLA- Point of information

Samantha Lewis Graduate Senator- Do you have any other plans for the rest of the semester or will you come back and ask for more?

Christine B Sophomore At Large- No this is to cover people who are waiting and a little bit more for more people to have the opportunity, after this we will just discuss as a Senate to expand the budget for Academic Travel.

Nicky Cao College of Liberal Arts- Following up with Samantha is there any other route to raise funds? And since the funds are first come first serve, wouldn't it be unfair to other organizations if one organization just got all the money especially since Robotics club already went last year?

Christine B Sophomore At Large- It is a firsts come first serve basis and we can't control when people apply and when they go on trips and also we will try to discuss how to get more funds so other organizations get a chance. And all other organizations who have went on trips have went for educational purposes not for fun. I just used Robotics club as an example.

John Michael VPLA- Would any senator yield their time for them to speak? If it is about support or opposition wait until debate this is only for questioning.

AUDIENCE? We want to send students to the robotics club convention it will be \$3100, so if this bill doesn't pass, we will not be able to go or have funding?

Joy Ballard Advisor- Robotics wants money, robotics may not get money. It is first come first serve so people who are next have already bought plane tickets, and because we have never ran out some organizations rely on this. So therefore the \$9,000 will help some of the students already on my desk and the possible organizations that come after on a first come first serve basis. After all the funds are gone, I will have to send out a mass email saying we are out, mostly because this is the first time we ran out of Academic Travel money.

John Michael VPLA- As a point of information, we never promised money we cannot follow up on correct?

Joy Ballard Advisor- No, we never promised money but they acted on good faith because we always had it.

AUDIENCE? Those that are already on your desk they are next in line?

Joy Ballard Advisor- Yes, they are.

JENEAL BANKS VPP- Is it true that these funds are prepaid and SGA refunds those funds up to the amount?

Christine B Sophomore At Large- Ys, anything we give is a reimbursement, we never give extra spending money.

Samantha Lewis Graduate Senator – Is there a reason why the number is so specific?

Christine B Sophomore At Large- Because we only have so much in our operating account, we didn't want to take too much.

Nicky Cao College of Liberal Arts- Is there a way to reset the files on your desk and make orgs resubmit their paper work to give other organizations a chance?

Joy Ballard Advisor- I cannot change the first come first serve rules, that is exactly how they are written, and student government would have to resolve that issue.

John Michael White VPLA- Point of information that would be something we would have to change it in rules and procedures in the fall semester?

Desmond Leblanc Audience - The organization that applies for the funding are they aware of the funds? Then they know that there is a chance that there won't be reimbursement?

Mohammad – How does an organization get in line since there is already 3 organizations in line for the funding?

Joy Ballard Advisor- I don't have 3 organizations I have 3 people, which is very different, and that's if this passes.

TIME

John Michael VPLA- Point of information once time is called you have to stop speaking and cannot complete your thought. Any senator can object time and extend it with a second then we will do a hand vote for extra time.

J.D. Ligier- Second

Alicha Feldman- I would like to object and move to debate.

HANDVOTE FOR 2 MINUTES TO SPEAK or to DEBATE

RESULT DEBATE:

John Michael VPLA -DO ANY SENATORS RISE IN OPPOSITION TO THE BILL?

Nicky Cao College of Liberal Arts- unfair for people who come after, I understand first come first serve but well established organizations would be well aware of this benefit and it take away from under established organizations.

Wesley K College of Science- Point of information, new organizations cannot just pop up there is a process and it takes a lot of time to start an organization.

Nicky Cao College of Liberal Arts- I just think it isn't equitable for under developed organizations, it's more for organizations that already are aware of this service.

Mason Poche- Is this an opposition of the bill or opposition of the travel funds?

Motion to question

RESULT: Bill passes

Christine Bourgeois Sophomore at Large motioned to table the rest of the bills until the next meeting, it was opposed by J.D. Ligier. John Michael White VPLA called for a hand vote to either continue the meeting or table the rest of the bills for next meeting.

RESULT: continue with the meeting.

- d. **B.S.19.A.4 SGA Regalia Bill-** tabled
- e. **Senator Ligier motioned to suspend Robert's Rules and talk about the next 5 bills as a whole, as he is the author of all the bills and they are the same purpose but vote on each one separately because they are different buildings. The motion was seconded. J.D. Ligier and David Dupree are authors of the next 5 bills.**
- f. **B.S.19.A.5 LA Wifi Bill-** This is a bill to allocate \$35,900, (including a 10% overage allowance of \$3590.) from the SGA Reserve Account, for the one time expenditure to provide the Liberal Arts Building an approximate 10x increase in WiFi speed and bandwidth, through equipment, cable runs and contractor work
- g. **B.S.19.A.6 Library Wifi Bill-** This is a bill to allocate \$57,600, (including a 10% overage allowance of \$5760.) from the SGA Reserve Account, for the one time expenditure to provide the Library an approximate 10x increase in WiFi speed and bandwidth, through equipment, cable runs and contractor work
- h. **B.S.19.A.7 Education Wifi Bill-** This is a bill to allocate \$28,150, (including a 10% overage allowance of \$2815.) from the SGA Reserve Account, for the one time expenditure to provide the Education Building an approximate 10x increase in WiFi speed and bandwidth, through equipment, cable runs and contractor work
- i. **B.S.19.A.8 Cove Wifi Bill-** This is a bill to allocate \$10,250, (including a 10% overage allowance of \$1025.) from the SGA Reserve Account, for the one time expenditure to provide the COVE dining area an approximate 10x increase in WiFi speed and bandwidth, through equipment, cable runs and contractor work
- j. **B.S.19.A.9 UC Wifi Bill-** This is a bill to allocate \$10,250, (including a 10% overage allowance of \$1025.) from the SGA Reserve Account, for the one time expenditure to provide the UNIVERSITY CENTER (UC) an approximate 10x increase in WiFi speed and bandwidth, through equipment, cable runs and contractor work. The technology of Internet wifi, in this building, is >10 years old, and becoming an increasing problem for proper Internet workflow for students and faculty. The ACS Department has exhausted all funding, and grants (\$166,000) on the first step of a core upgrade, and adding a 2nd firewall for privacy and security. Acknowledging that this allocation will benefit all students, especially those in the largest academic major on campus.

Samantha Lewis Graduate Senator- Each bill you have id 166,000 your total for the whole project?

J.D. Ligier College of IDS- Yes it is total for the network core.\

Jeneal Banks VPP- How much will this be in total?

JD Ligier College of IDS- \$166,000 is the best estimated total for all bills.

Nicky Cao College of Liberal Arts- Point of Inquiry- how much does SGA have?

John Michael White VPLA- SGA has two accounts a Senate operating account and a reserve account. Senate Operating Account which is money we spend on general bills like for clubs and organizations- \$300,096.64, Reserve Account is for one-time expenditures that usually last about 5 years has approximately \$300,000.\

Wesley K College of Sciences- There is no STEM buildings included on here and I lose connection constantly in STEM buildings and so does other people , so I think it is unfair that other buildings get boosted WiFi and not the STEM buildings. Why not any of the STEM buildings?

JD Ligier College of IDS- I tried to pick common areas where students are. I couldn't put everything down unfortunately because frankly I wouldn't have enough money to do that. Also since STEM receives grants they can afford to boost their own wifi.

Wesley K College of Sciences- Point of Inquiry so Liberal Arts does not receive grants?

Joy Ballard Advisor- Sarcastic Question but yes.

Samantha Lewis Graduate Senator- Why would we need wifi in places that students don't have class and the library were there are desktop computers.

JD Ligier College of IDS- Because people work their and like to use their laptops to study.

Nicky Cao College of Liberal Arts- Did you do surveys to ask students about these locations and did you ask UNO if they would fund the wifi first?

JD Ligier College of IDS- The school doesn't have a lot of money to redo this, they are asking us to help because they have exhausted the money from spending the money on the core for the wifi so we just have to finish the rest. This is for the students and SGA is to look out for the students. No I did not take a census, but you can vote no on certain areas to not have wifi.

Kevin B College of Business- How long after the funding will it take to set this up?

David Dupree- We are hoping this calendar year.

Bryce Hartlin College of Sciences- If the wifi has been here for 10 years why hasn't it consistently been updated?

David Dupree- We just haven't had the funding

Wesley K College of Sciences- Have you done a wifi coverage survey?

David Dupree- We have a map

Wesley K College of Sciences- Do wide open areas get more coverage than hallways and rooms?

Anna Rusnik- Did you inquire what the grant money can be spent on? Because we do get a lot of grant money but it is for research not wifi.

David Dupree- STEM colleges do get specific grant money for things like wifi and indirect funds to satisfy needs in those colleges.

Alicha Feldman College of Business- Can we get this publicized that UNO SGA has Boosted wifi across campus?

JD Ligier- No it was an oversight maybe we can add it or make a bill

Jeneal Banks VPP- Could you elaborate how the need for this wifi assessed other than looking at technology, has students put in input?

David Dupree- We have calls daily about wifi and our yearly survey these problems came back from students faculty and staff.

Desmond Leblanc- What is the percentage of the money of the technology fee that goes toward technology?

David Dupree- We do not know that at this time

Desmond Leblanc- Has the Administration looked at the Technology fee as a possible means to pay for the wifi enhancement.

David Dupree- Yes we talked to technology fee voted to spend money on the project, but the only had so much and gave us what they had left.

JD Ligier- The student technology pays for everything from research and TA's to Microsoft. They pay for a lot more than just generic technology.

Wesley K College of Sciences- The life cycle is 10 years for this router, and its been about 15-20 years since then. Have they been putting money aside all these years to cover eventual expenses?

David Dupree- In our budget we can't put money aside since we are non profit. But the technology fee is controlled by students

Nicky Cao College of Liberal Arts- Can you just make it where administration has to pay this money, because this is not SGA's responsibility this is something the University should be accountable for not SGA.

JD Ligier College of IDS- Much of the reserve account is carried over from year to year and we just found out we have a lot, with that being said waiting on the administration it will never happen. As student government we look out for the students not the administration.

John Michael VPLA- We cannot get administration to pay anything they don't want.

Samantha Lewis Graduate Senator- What will you do if you don't get the money requested?

David Dupree- We will try to find other sources.

Samantha Lewis Graduate Senator- Did you survey anyone because I work and have class in the education building and the Wi-Fi is fine.

JD Ligier College of IDS- Well I am a Senator for College of IDS which is in the Education Building and It would be wrong of me not to help them out with this bill and get WIFI for them.

Samantha Lewis Graduate Senator- Can we motion to table until we get all the information we need for this bill because we don't know signal strength and all what is needed for these buildings. Motion to table until the next meeting.

IX. Nominations and Appointments-

a. Anna Rusnik- College of Sciences Senator

Result: Approved

X. Open Forum-

John Michael VPLA- If any of you are new senators please see me after the meeting. Considering the amount of bills and money on the floor, we did pretty good, please be respectful of people in the room, including gestures and faces, I can remove you from the meeting and your vote won't be counted. But of course I don't want to do that so please be respectful.

Aicha Feldman College of Business- Please come prepared to meetings and read bills and agenda that way maybe things can go a little faster.

Nicky Cao College of Liberal Arts- Is open forum anything that needs to be said?

John Michael VPLA- Yes, it is anything about the betterment of SGA as a whole.

Nicky Cao College of Liberal Arts- Recently John Bel Edwards came and there was a lot of cops and I think SGA should have made a statement and warned the student body before we got to the galley because there was so much. Someone needs to be accountable for the things the cops were doing, especially blocking doors and things like that.

John Michael VPLA- That would be in a resolution that you can make, you can talk to me about this after.

Aicha Feldman College of Business- Please read the minutes so we can get through the tabled bills.

John Michael VPLA- If someone keeps asking questions, you can refuse to answer because they are on the minutes, the only problem would be if the minutes aren't done in time.

XI. Adjournment-

6:28 PM