

Student Government Association
Thursday September 5,2019
Session Agenda

I. Call the Meeting to Order 5:00 PM

Nicklow's Speech Before the meeting has started: I just really wanted to have the opportunity to say thank you for your leadership, not every student on this campus or any campus stands up and says they want to represent the student body, so I wanted to personally thank you all for that and the important role that you play. I feel like you are all my partners at this university and so I am going to help you and you help me and we can talk about issues and find solutions because in the end we are all here for the betterment of the University. Don't be afraid to ask us to help with qualtrics surveys or campus reachout for certain issues if we can help you arrange events or meetings just let us know. There is a lot going on obviously that's why you all have to have the meeting in this room and not the UC but what makes a successful campus community is campus engagement, so one of the things i hope you can do this year is to engage and help students to be more involved. I always worry about the student who is not involved or in an organization because those students are actually unlikely to finish statistically. My goals this year: I am about to announce our enrollment figures yesterday was the last day for our federally defined census date. We are for the 2nd or 3rd year grown since pre Katrina, but its not the best numbers. So I have a new plan initiative to grow our enrollment numbers its called Impact UNO, and we are putting that together and have groups working on drafts and revisit out master plan is to basically picture how we want our campus to look like in 3 to 5 years. We need to start updating residence halls and buildings to make them better for the students on campus, and we haven't done much of that so it is time that we do. The third major initiative is that we are in a silent phase in a \$50 million dollar fundraiser for scholarships and state funding. That is how we fund things that the state stops funding and not have to cut scholarships or people. My other major initiative is around diversity and inclusion, I don't want any student to feel like they don't belong. That sounds simple but its not, we have issues on the student level and the faculty and staff level, the first step in that is bringing on an Associate Dean for Student and Diversity Affairs also an Associate Provost for Faculty and Diversity Affairs. Had a good open forum today with some students and got a lot of good feedback and help with feedback on fees. Not raising fees but specifically uncapping fees and textbook fees. Do you want me to take questions?

Anna Rusnak COS- It is a little bit off topic but i was just wondering why the parking pass for campus went up 30% in comparison to last year?

President Nickow- We increased it because our enrollment figures and the people who drove to campus didn't amount to the amount of money that we needed to make with the parking pass. The parking pass also allows for roads to be updated and parking lots and to maintain everything. Most colleges in this area make you pay \$300 plus to park on campus, so quite frankly this is not a lot compared to other Universities. My son is \$600 a semester to park.

Kenady Hills SAL- I have one question for you about the luncheons for SGA with the Senators, I'm coming to the understanding that the Senators are chosen by the SGA President and I feel like that is a breeding ground for discrimination. Christine may be fine and equal when picking senators but we do not know who will be after Christine, and it can be a red flag for discrimination.

President Nicklow- I hear you and understand and I am open to find other ways to do this, what I am trying to do is to simply create a venue for open dialogue and that is useful to me. The reason I did not want to pick the senators was that I did not want you to think I was excluding anyone and as your president christine would be a better pick for picking the senators but maybe we can find another way to do this.

Desmond Leblanc COLA- Correct me if i'm wrong, that fee had to be raised for repairing roads and parking lots but there is a fee called the campus enhancement fee that was put into our fee bill i think spring of last year.

President Nicklow- It is also an aid to repair roads, but it is not sufficient enough because it is more many other things not just infrastructure, so it will be a debt game before we get money for that from that specific fee. Also our police is stepping up now to enforce parking violation so be aware. That money can also be used too. But we also have issues about visitors or people with no parking passes that park anywhere, I also more than ever we need to know who is on our campus. We used to not be able to track that because parking was not enforced. We have an open door to my office so if you need to ever discuss anything

Kenyatte Cannon COS- I have some friends at Pplace and they say that they never feel completely safe because she has night classes and has to walk back to pplace alone or in the dark and the police do not patrol back there.

President Nicklow- They do not patrol because it is not our property, but we station outside outside the gate so they can see who is coming in and out. We are also working with them to put up more cameras. It is a concern with me i called to owners of Campus Village and tried to see if I could buy back the mortgages and get a donor to support them, its financial company they refinance mortgages every year and its a \$40 million dollar purchase so that won't happen anytime soon, but we try to get people at the gates for safety. The rest of campus I am feeling really good we have a very safe campus city wide and in comparison to places like LSU, their statistics are way worse than ours.

Julianne Romero Clerk of the Senate: Hey y'all so whenever he calls roll can you all say here because a lot of you all didn't last time and it was hard to get the roll in the minutes, also when you speak say your name and college or position, if you don't know this yet what your position is, just at least say your name I can fill in your position later.

II. Roll Call

Cannon- Here

Cognevich- Here

Heuer- Here

Hills- Here

Leblanc- Here

Melancon- Absent

Ngo- Here

Owen- Here

Pitalo- Here

Rollins- Absent

Rusnak- Here

Thamard- Here by Proxy

Vitali- Here

White- Here

Williams- Here by Proxy

Yarbrough- Here

14 out of 16 senators present we meet Quorum

III. Approval of the Minutes

1. See minutes from August 29,2019 in your email

Minutes are approved

Cognevich makes temporary appointments for today's meeting:

Parliamentarian- Desmond Leblanc

John Michael Second

John Michael Pro Tempore

Kevin Heuer Second

John Michael White called order because the Approval of the Agenda was not on the agenda.

IV. Approval of the Agenda (added)

John Michael- Add senate officers to appointments so we can start to have committee meetings.

Cory Pitalo Second

Agenda Approved

V. Communications and Announcements

- a. Senators-

Kevin Heuer COB- Next week on tuesday college of business business carnival we will have free hotdogs please come and support! It is the college of business attempt to have more involvement on campus.

Desmond Leblanc COLA- I am hosting the Open Forum for COLA next week at 5:00 PM in Liberal Arts building 140.

b. Non-Senators- None

VI. Committee Reports- There are no committee reports besides On Campus Dining and Housing because Committees do not have heads and therefore did not meet.

- a. Governance- no
- b. Rules-no
- c. Finance-no
- d. Student Affairs-no
- e. Facility Services-no
- f. On Campus Dining and Housing-

John Michael White - Made a verbal appointment with Jess who is the area coordinator of south hall in the residence halls, And I was contacted by someone from chartwells as well to have a meeting with residence halls one week and next week with dining, so it would be bi weekly for both campus dining and housing.

VII. Executive Reports, Judicial Reports, Advisor Reports

a. President-

Christine Bourgeois President- Campus dining explained meal trades there are signs at most dining places on campus that explain them. Picking senators it is a problem and I am trying to find a way to write something permanently stating that. Lastly, i'm working with Debrah Hadaway and student affairs to relocate the food pantry and food insecurity which is basically if they are having trouble with food and groceries. Please let me know if you have ideas on relocation places.

Kenady Hills SAL- Thank you for listening to me and getting on that quickly.

b. Vice President-

Maddie Roach VP- Senate Operating Account is \$44,984 for the whole year so divide that in half for both semesters it is \$22,492 and any access from this semester will roll over into next semester.

Reserve \$ 390,779.72 these are the numbers from last year, but depending on enrolment it might change because we might need to move money to supplement enrollment numbers.

John Michael SAL- Can you repeat the reserve number?

Maddie Roach VP- \$390,779.72

c. Speaker of the Senate-

Cognevich- I don't have much to say Committees I need y'all to start meeting, there are bills that need to be discussed and we need to be able to review them before they hit the floor and anyone willing to be on rules committee please let me know.

d. Vice President of Programming- none

e. Judicial- none

f. Advisors-

Joy Ballard - we had t shirt swap \$56 and over 100 shirts, we had our first voter registration drive add election information on the services we offer as requested by Dr. Golz, we registered 7 people and helped 2 people change information which is really good, speaking that there are many people on campus daily to register people to vote. upcoming next week open forum in library 420 12:15 to discuss the election process for people to run in SGA; all paperwork and 1 on 1. Actual elections on October 3rd, tonight is block party go out and support, I normally try to have a constitutional fun fact is on decorum; It is really important that we follow roberts rules because if we do not keep order then it is hard for minutes to come accurate because we cannot hear who talks or whose turn it is in the meeting. So please wait to be called and state your name and position so they can be as accurate as possible for Julianne.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

a. B.F19I001- Paper Lantern Night Bill- UNO VASA

Linh Ngo- September 6th at 7PM All proceeds will be donated to Messengers of Love they help with Schools in Vietnam everyone is invited. This event has been going on for 11 years, and it's supposed to bring good luck.

Kenady Hills SAL- How many people attended last year?

Ngo- 200 but it was on a Saturday so we might not have that many people this year.

Support: Cannon COS- I think it's a great event and that they celebrate their culture and its really nice.

Hills SAL- Food was fantastic lot of food lots of fun, and the performances are fantastic you all should really go and I support this bill.

Opposition: No one

Cannon- Yes

Cognevich- Yes

Heuer- Yes

Hills- Yes

Leblanc- Yes

Ngo- Yes

Owen- Yes

Pitalo- Yes

Rusnak- Yes

Thamard- Yes by proxy

Vitali- Yes

White- Yes

Williams- Yes by proxy

Yarbrough- Yes

14 yes 0 no : Bill Passes

b. B.F19I002- Business Carnival Bill

Kevin Heuer COB- \$1,085.33 from senate operating account a dunk tank and inflatable basketball thing, air hockey, and giant connect four, and food (hotdogs) The purpose is to increase awareness and involvement in COB and a showcase for COB Student Orgs this year we are dunking the administration faculty professors and advisors for donations to the privateer pantry specific amounts Students \$1 per ball and \$5 to hit button, faculty \$5 for 3 balls and \$10 to hit the button and a professor said if we reach \$250 for pantry either die her hair blue or additional \$250 and assistant dean of the college will be incharge of these collections so it will be someone reliable.

Hills SAL- what is the fee for event?

Heuer- Free just donations for dunk tank

Bourgeois President- Where will it be?

Heuer- in between kirchman hall and milneburg

Hills - what is the number of people you expect?

Heuer- Last year 200 people but we didn't market well just in the middle of the atrium we have an italian renaissance horn throwers it was fun and that will bring traffic on a tuesday.

Support

Opposition

Amendments

Cannon- Yes

Cognevich- Yes

Heuer- Yes

Hills- Yes

Leblanc- Yes

Ngo- Yes

Owen- Yes

Pitalo- Yes

Rusnak- Yes

Thamard- Yes by proxy

Vitali- Yes

White- Yes

Williams- Yes by proxy

Yarbrough- Yes

Vote: 14 yes 0 no bill passes

c. PA.F19I001- Procedural Amendment- Committee Duties

Kenady Hills as Temporary Presiding officer

John Michael Second

Anna Rusnak- Adds accountability for committees to do what they have to do and failures to come to meetings will count as an absence, the VPLA can create and disassemble ad hoc committees as needed.

Support:

Opposition: White SAL- I like the heart but there are a few sections that need to be removed; first of all the VPLA has a soul discretion and can create or destroy any ad hoc committee I think that should be the duty of the entire senate not just the presiding officer because usually the committees are made up of individual senate members not including the VPLA. I also don't see the need to remove or create one since they are not committees with power and go over more specific issues. Also under section one and section c and a : a valid reason must be decided to bring a legislative instrument to the author I kind of would like to have an explanation of what a valid reason is and who decides that. And the section d says if the legislative instrument is illegal itself will be ejected entirely with decided reasons, and that brings my issue with the bulk of the rules of the finance committee, I think rules should also specifically cite what rule is in violation and then bring it to judicial to decide whether or not it is in violation. In finance it says that the committee is supposed to verify all money and make sure the paper work is consistent which is great but I honestly think debating monetary requests should be the responsibility of the senate. It is odd that one committee has the ability to prevent the senate from seeing a bill and discuss it because they think it is not worth it.

Motion to extend time Desmond Leblanc

Madison Owens COLA Second

Cognevich SS: Where it says part E the legislative instrument its self is illegal you have to cite all reasons when you go down to rules if it fails you cannot put it to the floor you must cite all reasons. You don't rewrite it, it restates it. Finance section II, note it says it says its purpose is to debate the merits this has nothing to do with whether it passes. As it is right now the verbiage of II under finance thats already in our rules and procedures thats how it is currently written and then ad hoc committees the method right now is that VPLA appoints the committees makes the committees that how it is written.

Time:

John-Michael

Desmond motion to extend time

John Michael Seconds that

Rusnak COS- as head of finance we never debated the merits because we deemed it unnecessary and when i read it was part of the amendment I didn't agree with it also.

Opposition:

John Michael SAL - i still think it should be the senate to disband and create the senate i understand the VPLA can but it should be the senate to make a committee and vote on it and then the VPLA's duty to fill that committee. So i will most likely be proposing an amendment to get rid of section a, and also the finance committee debating the merits of the monetary request should be the duty of the senate so I will probably make an amendment to remove section G.

Desmond Leblanc COLA- Didn't you say the VPLA had the ability to add or take away committees and that is in the rules and procedures.

Cognevich VPLA- Yes I believe so.

John Michael SAL- SO you don't know if that even is a rule?

Cognevich VPLA- I couldn't say yes or no.

John Michael SAL- I would also be fine with tabling this and discussing it between meetings since we don't have committees.

John Michael SAL Motion to table

Madison Owens Soph at Large Second

Desmond Leblanc COLA Opposed

Hand Vote: tabled

Yes to table No to end discussion

- d. Code of Laws Reform 2019
- e. Rules and Procedures Reform 2019
- f. UNO SGA Constitution Reform 2019

Suspend Robert's Rules to discuss all together as a slate.

Cognevich VPLA- Has anyone read any of it?

John Michael SAL- I read it but you don't say complete it

Cognevich VPLA- Do these need to sit on the agenda for a week before they are voted on?

Joy Ballard Advisor- Technically not but as your advisor i strongly recommend it because the constitution gets sent to the entire student body on the ballot.

John-Michael SAL- The table of contents weren't updated at least on the constitution.

Desmond Leblanc COLA- I think all of them are like that

Joy Ballard Advisor - table of content can be automatically fixed when it is finished.

John Michael COLA- I do appreciate that it is much more manageable and how it is cut down. I do need to cross reference to see what has been cut.

Desmond Leblanc COLA- After meeting there was a comment in the Code of laws about senate officer stipends are we taking that out or is it staying and if it is will we get those stipends?

Joy Ballard Advisor- It has always been there but it was never funded. There is a lot of unfunded mandates we liked the concept

Wesley Cognevich VPLA- It allows for accountability that was the idea for leaving it.

Desmond Leblanc COLA- So now that we are here in the present is that a possibility to get it funded.

Joy Ballard Advisor - The Budget committee can definitely put it in the budget for the spring but the stipend would not be available until then

Desmond Leblanc COLA- I just feel like if we will keep it in the constitution we need to abide by it.

Joy Ballard Advisor- I like the concept , but if you take 6,000 out of the budget t pay senators that is 6,000 you do not have for projects.

Desmond Leblanc COLA- Is this something we can fund through the reserve account?

Joy Ballard Advisor- no

Desmond Leblanc COLA- the reason i asked because you have to use reserve for things funded up to 5 years

Joy Ballard Advisor- Theres special permissions to take things to take money from the reserve and the paper work process would take a lot of time.

Wesley Cognevich VPLA- Could be a bill.

Desmond Leblanc COLA- Okay

Joy Ballard Advisor- I mean if the constitution passes with this in it and yall want stipends then we can do it. Just up to yall because it is yalls money yall spend it how yall see fit.

John Michael SAL- Would you say that there is anything in the new code or rules and procedures that is heavily contingent to the constitution passing?

Wesley Cognevich VPLA- no , we tried to take things out of each document so it wasn't repeated.

Desmond Leblanc COLA- Do we have a chief communications officer?

Wesley Cognevich VPLA- Yes that is head of student affairs.

Desmond Leblanc COLA- I just want to say we worked really hard on the constitution reform and its easier to sift through the documents than last year.

Kenady Hills table code of laws and John Michael Second to table code of laws

Kenady Hills table R & P and Kevin Heuer second table r&p

X. Nominations and Appointments

- a. KC Simms - College of Liberal Arts Senator - table
- b. Committee Head Appointments

John Michael White SAL (Governance) I was VPLA last year and on governance the year before and I have a good understanding of all the SGA Law and would like to be in that leadership role of head of governance.

Desmond Leblanc (Rules) I am very humbled to do such a big task and look forward to it, and hope you all vote me in.

Kenyatte Cannon COS- I am up to be head of (Student Affairs Committee) and want to leave a mark here as it is my last year, and I feel like this is the right fit for me.

Kevin Heuer COB (finance)- I made sure to participate in all committee discussions in rules but i still want to be part of Finance and as I am a business major I feel like it makes the most sense.

Questions:

Madison Owens Soph At Large- How is John Michael head of this committee and housing and dining?

Wesley Cognevich VPLA- So the facility services and on campus dining and housing are ad hoc

Madison Owen SAL- So are we going to get rid of those?

Wesley Cognevich VPLA- No so its just ad hoc so he can be head of both since it is ad hoc.

Julianne Romero Senate Clerk - What committee is Kenyatte going for i didn't get it?

Cannon COS- Student Affairs

Debate:

Kenady Hills - I support all of them but I highly support kenyatte

Vote:

Cannon- Yes

Cognevich- Yes

Heuer- Yes

Hills- Yes

Leblanc- Yes

Ngo- Yes

Owen- Yes

Pitalo- Yes

Rusnak- Yes

Thamard- Yes by proxy

Vitali- Yes

White- Yes

Williams- Yes by proxy

Yarbrough- Yes

Vote: All pass

XI. Open Forum

White SAL- Pretzels with the president takeaways they are trying to implement a new optional fee to help students pay for books easier as of now \$25 / credit hour fee with that they can go to the bookstore; you are allowed to opt out and you can opt back in to it once. For consistency stakes with companies you can only opt out once. Uncapping certain fees after 12 hours the fee will not increase and they want to increase

Joy Ballard POI- it is the same amount per credit hour, there are 9 uls systems you can not charge tuition over 12 hours, then in 2017 they suspended caps on fees, now they want to remove that cap the fee

White SAL- As a final point they didn't say the increase from 12 to 15 hours, but it is an 140 dollar increase as of now.

Leblanc COLA- I am 100% against any uncapping or boosting fees for any reason unless they tell us what account it is going to and coming from, let's not forget this school is deemed the working class school from around the city. People like that UNO is flexible and affordable. So increasing fees or adding fees is unnecessary, if it isn't broke don't try to fix it.

Wesley VPLA- When you make that argument they will talk about fixing things?

Heuer COB- With the book fees are people owning the books or renting?

Joy Ballard Advisor- From what I understand they have to return the books at the end of the semester.

Wesley Cognovich VPLA- Did anyone ask about professors discretion to get books?

Joy Ballard Advisor- A publishing company does not own the books it's a books store, so they can choose their own book. Teagle had the best explanation it's like medical insurance for books.

Julianne Romero Clerk of the Senate- I found that it was useful maybe for freshmen classes or general ed, but then again not everyone takes general ed classes each year as recommended. The way they get their money is by charging per credit hour but you only need one book so they get access to money.

Heuer COB- Also if anyone damages or writes in the books it is now not as expensive as untouched. And then they would have to pay for a bad book

Wesley Cognovich VPLA - and all these classes use the same book.

Hills SAL- Make sure you talk when people have bills we talk and act like we care.

TIME:

Cognevich VPLA- Motion to adjourn

Kevin Heuer-Second.

XI. Adjournment 6:25 PM