

I. Call the meeting to order 5:01 PM

II. Roll Call

Name of Senator Here, Absent, Proxy

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Alford | absent |
| Billiot | here |
| Cannon | Here by proxy |
| Cao | Here by proxy |
| Crenshaw | here |
| Fretz | here |
| Hills | absent |
| Jackson | Here by proxy |
| Johnson | Here |
| Jones | Absent |
| Karkoutli | Here |
| Lair, B. | Here |
| Lair, C. | Here |
| Leblanc | Here |
| Melancon | Absent |
| Mott | Here by Proxy |
| Ngo | Here |
| Owen | Absent |
| Pitalo | Here |
| Phillips | Here |
| Rusnak | Here by Proxy |
| Smith, Bradley | Here |
| Smith, Brendon | Here |
| Snow | Absent |

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| Stackhouse | Absent |
| Stevenson | Absent |
| Stewart | Absent |
| Thamard | Absent |
| Vitali | Here by Proxy |
| Williams | Absent |
| Yarbrough | Here |
| Cognevich | Here |

III. Approval of the Agenda-

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Haley Fretz GAL- Change is it good to be available at 5 because I wanted to make sure he was available for the meetings since he has an important role.

V. Communications and Announcements (3 min; non-SGA-related)

Joy Ballard- We have an event February 16 with the sga volunteer center is volunteering at Barkus. We will be working the sign in table as well as walking the parade route to keep the puppies in line. If you are interested in volunteering please contact sga.uno.edu we can sign you up. Volunteer hours go on your transcript.

Smith Bradley and Smith Brendon motion to be recognized. Leblanc Seconds both.

Senator?- What time is it from?

Ballard- 12-5

VI. Committee Reports (3 min + 3 min Q&A)

a. Governance- no report

b. Rules-no report

c. Finance-no report

d. Student Affairs- no report

VII. Other Reports (6 min + 3 min Q&A)

a. President- Christine Bourgeois-President's Report

The next President's Lunch is March 24th. If you would like to take part in that, please let me know. If you've already gone, you're at the bottom of the list, but if you'd like to attend again and no one else says they'd like to go, you'll be priority. If you are emailed an invitation, please respond even if it's a no so someone else can RSVP in time. SGA was presented with an issue about the operation future of the Driftwood. The executives have a draft of a resolution on a possible solution. I will share a memo sent to me by Dr. Golz, our Dean of Students, with all the details of the issues, as well as the draft in open forum to freely discuss and ask questions from the senators.

b. Vice-President- Maddie Roach- The current amount in the senate operating account is 13,537.81. Joy and I are working on Budget request things for the meeting, if you don't know part of our budget we allocate money to student orgs and departments can request money through an application with attached budget information to get things paid for. A committee will be put together for this meeting in march or april.

c. Speaker of the Senate- Wesley Cognevich - With the parliamentarians seal of approval i will establish as precedent that anytime we do not meet quorum i will not count absences. Only if we do not meet quorum and there is nothing on the agenda. On that note we have nothing on our agenda, please talk to student organizations, we have money to spend for our students so lets get some bills. Let's try to keep something on our agenda.

d. Vice-President of Programming- Jalyn welsey will read from email -Last night we hosted Trap 'N Paint with PBSU. We had a great turn out and time.

Our next event is "Comfort Zone", we will have free chair massages, diy aromatherapy, and free food. This is a really good time to just come and unwind with SAC. This will be Tuesday, February 11 from 12-2.

On Thursday (2/13/2020) in the Library Breezeway from 12-2 we will be doing a "Galentine's Event named: Message In A Bottle" along with this being a nice gesture for Valentine's Day this will also be a way to bring more people into SAC.

Thursday night from 7-10 we will be partnering with the African Caribbean Student Organization to host & play Family Feud. This is a part of the celebration for black history month. Join us in winning African inspired prizes such as dashikis, tapestries, and more.

SUCbAUF Updates

As of Monday, the SUCbAUF theme is: Crawchella. SUCbAUF is Thursday, April 16 in the Quad from 3:00-8:00 pm. As previously mentioned we will be hosting a kickball game of alums vs students, beginning at 5:15 pm. (WE'RE REALLY EXCITED!!!)

In previous years, for SUCbAUF SAC hosted a t-shirt fundraiser where VIP passes were given to people who purchased shirts. As of now we are planning not to do the fundraiser. And instead have a shirt giveaway.

Up until February 14, 2020, we are taking submissions for shirt designs, with our crawchella theme. If your design is selected it will be placed on all SAC paraphernalia, 2 VIP Passes & a \$25 bookstore gift card.

Lastly, crawfish at SUCBAUF is not unlimited this year. All students will receive 5 tickets upon entry. Once all 5 tickets have been used they will have pay \$15 for more tickets.

For all things SAC email us at sac@uno.edu.

Fretz GAL-What day is crawchella?

Cognevich- April 16th

Phillips JAL- Why is it not unlimited this year?

Cognevich- I imagine because they spent a fortune the last several years , thats my guess

Ballard Adv- Actually, normally the amount of crawfish has been limited to a budget, this year there will be more crawfish than ever before because Subcauf is merging with Crawfish Mambo so they amount of crawfish will be higher because of the amount of people who will be there and the budget will be higher. Alumni willnow help sac fund subcauf. What i can say is that you will get 5-7 tickets for trays of crawfish. It is rare a student gets more than 7 trays unless they are putting it into a garbage bag, to prevent that it will be 5-7 tickets. It should still be more than enough crawfish for you to eat, and there is no rule that you take your friends tickets if they only eat 2 trays of crawfish. It's really to try to give more crawfish to more people.

e. Judicial- no report

f. Advisor- Joy Ballard- My first update for y'all is that the game room downstairs has a pest problem so there is no food allowed. New senators may not know this but wwe funded the game room and still fund it so I like to keep you all updated. I've had a few complaints do some good PR and tell them to be cleaner and stop leaving their food everywhere they can bring food in there again. We still have a lot of travel funds, so if you want to go to a conference or know someone who wants to go to a conference, fill out an application. It is \$500 per student you have to pay upfront but it will be reimbursed up to \$500. We still have \$20,000 in it. Last week yall spent \$9,000 dollars in a course of an hour. This is great, and don't think I am saying the opposite because I am always asking y'all to spend money. The problem was all those events were this week, so I got into the office monday and had to write 7 contracts all of which are still not completed because not all of them had the proper documentation that was needed. So I have events on this campus that don't have contracts that we have to pay for, that is the very reason that we set up these rules about the number of days before events to happen that a bill can be submitted. Not that we are trying to be mean but we need time to do things and make things happen. And quite frankly, yall arent the ones calling organizations telling them they cannot have their decorations that is me. I am the one on the phone telling them this I don't like being that person , and I don't think it is fair for the senate to put me in that position because they cannot follow their own rules. There is lots of new people and I know that I will forgive it this time, the events are happening we are paying for everything we can. I am in a little trouble with Accounts Payable but thats okay. Moving forward there is 30 DAY deadline for events, There are 60 Day deadline for events that cost more than \$5,000. All of those are written in rules and procedures. If you are on a committee that approves bills you can not approve them until they meet those guidelines without special permission. Now if you email me and say this event is happening and they need catering I can make that happen I have a great relationship with catering. But let me make that call. Because I do not have a great relationship with amazon and it does nto matter the event or what I say I can not get them to get me things faster. If you need an exception let me know I can try but don't not ask and then I have to spend a week apologizing about my senate passing things that shouldn't be passed.

Leblanc COLA- What was the first line item you were talking about that was my question.

Ballard- Captains Quarters?

Leblanc COLA- Yes, you said it was filthy does our cleaning company go in there and clean?

Ballard- Yes once a week, and my employees also clean up at the end of the night. The problem is there is little I can do about french fries inside the couch, once a week I get them to deep clean.

Leblanc COLA- Does the cleaning company just take out the trash?

Ballard Adv- Yes they take the trash out everyday, but on any given day 50-70 students are hanging out which is great i love servicing students and it's a need we surveyed students but it's just not clean because of all the students down there..

Leblanc COLA- Any update on the reserve account?

Ballard- No, the when the new AP signs off on all the stuff i need her to sign that was sent late i will talk to her, I need these things signed now because they were turned in late.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

X. Nominations and Appointments

XI. Open Forum (12 min; for the betterment of SGA)-

Bourgeois- Memo from dean of students and drafted compound resolution will give senate opportunity to edit and add January 24th: As we've previously discussed, the Driftwood has been operating at a financial deficit for many years. Though student affairs staff have tried to work closely with Driftwood student editors and business managers to cut costs and increase revenues, it has become increasingly clear that our current method of operating the Driftwood is not working. I am writing to you to bring your attention to this issue and to ask for your assistance in determining how to best move forward. Historical perspective: The Driftwood receives \$1 per full-time student in funding from student fees. When this student fee began, \$1 was likely sufficient to run a student newspaper; however, this amount has remained stagnant and has not kept up with the cost of inflation and/or the cost of staffing and operating the newspaper. Over time, operating costs have shifted, but have not dramatically changed. In general, student fees cover approximately 30% of the Driftwood operating costs. Each year, a student business manager is responsible for generating revenue by selling ads as an additional means of covering the remaining 70% of Driftwood operating costs. Unfortunately, ad revenues have not been consistent.

The advisor is a part-time employee, paid for 10 hours per week. The majority of the advisor's time is spent with staff identifying story ideas and laying out the paper; there is not much time left for advising/teaching the mechanics of journalism or overseeing fiscal operations. The Driftwood budget accounts for only 20% of the advisor's salary; the remaining 80% of the salary is paid from the student affairs budget. The financial picture for the Driftwood looks even bleaker when the full expense of the advisor's salary is added to the Driftwood operating Expenses. In 2015, Driftwood student worker awards were increased because it was difficult to recruit and hire students at the amount previously paid. New positions have been added each year, increasing the overall student worker awards expenses. Student worker awards currently account for 64% of the Driftwood operating expenses. Despite the current award structure, Driftwood continues to have difficulty recruiting and hiring student workers – an editor-in-chief wasn't identified until the week before classes started for Fall 2019. The Driftwood expenses have exceeded revenue in four of the last six years. When expenses exceed revenue, the deficit

continues to grow. To date, the Driftwood is carrying forward a deficit of \$168,452. The Driftwood, as currently funded and operated, will not be able to cut costs or increase revenue to begin working towards resolving the deficit in any meaningful way. Current financial situation To date, the Driftwood has collected \$0 in ad revenue for 2019-2020. The editor-in-chief from fall semester is not currently enrolled, so a new editor-in-chief was identified for spring semester. The business manager position also turned over this semester. While the new staff are highly motivated, it is unlikely that they will be able to recover financially from the lack of revenue generation during fall semester. It is highly likely that the Driftwood will end the year with expenses exceeding revenue, again adding towards the growing and unsustainable deficit. Where do we go from here? The Driftwood is a student newspaper supported by student fees. The operation is essentially being “starved” because the student fees are not enough to support a properly run paper, and clearly ad revenue is not keeping pace with operational costs. The Driftwood also carries a budget deficit of over \$168,452. If the students at the University of New Orleans value a student newspaper and want to ensure its continued operation, something has to change. I’m writing to ask the Student Government Association to engage with students to determine whether students value the Driftwood and want to see it continue operating. If the answer is yes, then we need to determine how to provide the Driftwood with the financial support to overcome their budget deficit and continue to grow and develop the talent pipeline of student journalists, business managers, and editors. It may be difficult for SGA to fully assess the impact of the Driftwood on campus and the extent to which students value the student newspaper while also creating a plan for making the paper (should it continue operating) financially and operationally viable before the end of the semester. One possibility that I encourage you to consider is to pause the operation of the Driftwood for the 2020-2021 academic year and create a task force that could include students, faculty, staff, and alumni to spend the next year assessing the operation of the Driftwood and its impact on the campus and alumni community, review media operations at other similarly-sized public universities, and create a proposal to be implemented in 2021-2022. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and recommendations. Here is the compound resolution: This is a compound resolution on behalf of the Student Government Association at the University of New Orleans to address the financial state and direction of the student newspaper, The Driftwood. Whereas, the Driftwood receives \$1 per full-time student in funding per semester from student fees. This fund currently only covers approximately 30% of the Driftwood’s operating cost. Whereas, the Driftwood expenses have exceeded revenue in four of the last six years. This has lead to a deficit of \$168,452. Whereas, the Student Government Association suggest that the Driftwood take a 1 year hiatus for the fiscal year July 1 2020-June 30 2021. Whereas, this hiatus will give the Driftwood an opportunity to regroup and create a strategic plan addressing the debt and future of the student newspaper. Whereas, This will also give time for the university community to review the demand, benefits, and opportunities provided by the Driftwood student newspaper through a task force. Whereas, the Student Government Association’s mission is to enrich experience at UNO through representation, advocacy, programing, and funding services and events that improve campus life. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF THE NEW ORLEANS STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION: THE SGA RECOMMENDS THAT THE DRIFTWOOD CEASE OPERATIONS FROM JULY 1, 2020- JUNE 30,2021, WHILE A TASK

FORCE WITH UNIVERSITY WIDE REPRESENTATIONS REVIEWS OPERATIONS, DEMAND, AND BENEFITS. AT THE END OF THIS HIATUS, THE TASK FORCE WILL SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE DRIFTWOOD STUDENT NEWSPAPER. , we will put it out either today and tomorrow to have it on the agenda next week for you to vote on it. I know a lot of people have proxied talk to the person who proxied. It's a big step and statement for sga to make and we need to get feedback. We will also be sending out a poll. This is a resolution doesn't mean they will listen but it is a strong statement.

Leblanc COLA- Will the poll be sent out to the entire student body?

Bourgeois- Yes, it will be all services they will give their feedback and the driftwood will be one of the services.

Lair, Bessie COE- Will there be information about driftwood specifically ?

Bourgeois- Im not quite sure how it will be set up, ill turn the convo to joy.

Ballard Adv- This is something not just related to the driftwood, student affairs has asked to me to come up with a poll because the 87 referendum is were this money comes from, some of our funding comes from here, the driftwood and other services. But this document has not been revised since 87, so clearly the students of today want services that students in 87 did not and vice versa. We will list a whole bunch of services we offer and we will have students rank them to what matters to you. I think if students don't know what it is it will be ranked differently.

Time

Motion to extend time by 10 minutes Leblanc

Fretz second

Ballard Adv- It will be coming from the university not sga it will be sent to not every student it will be a sample so we meet every demographic, so we get answers from everywhere not just a certain set of people.

Leblanc COLA- I have a few series of questions. I do think the poll is a wonderful idea, due to the fact that driftwood is a major issue i think it would be good to highlight them in the poll someway due to the fact that that is the main reason that has come up. When we put multiple things in a poll, it will not be good for responses.

Ballard Adv- This is not to recommend a hiatus, this is purely for the task force to understand what is a need and what is working and whether we bring it back. These will not be available quickly enough to go with the decision we make.

Bourgeois- If I may add, this is something that has been sent to SGA for our response specifically, the poll is just for the task force. The resolution next week if the senate agrees or not, it is to give the senate enough time to talk to students around the campus to see where students and us stand on it.

Leblanc COLA- Is there ever been a recommendation for the driftwood to be added to the social app and make it digital?

Cognevich VPLA- It is already digital.

Ballard Adv- Since the closing of the wall, the usage of the app has plummeted.

Leblanc COLA- Well once we decide to bring it back with barriers can we do that.

Cognevich VPLA- That would be part of the task force decision. We definitely need people to PR about this , maybe get the student affairs committee to be head of this.

Leblanc COLA- Okay, i was just putting these recommendations out there so people know.
Lair, Bessie COE- I agree the social app idea is good, and freshmen have to use it for their freshmen classes like UNIV

Crenshaw COS- Everyone uses their phones now anyway so making it digital would be a good idea.

Bourgeois- Digital has been brought up multiple times the debt itself was never revealed because i don't think they realized the debt. I want to focus on whether or not the students use the app and if they would use it digitally. I think suggestions about keeping it is good, but we need input, the exec stance is they need a break to work this out.

Cognevich VPLA- We are looking for a yes or no right now about the driftwood. Later will be decisions to make it digital or whatever right now it is just a yes or no to keep it and whether or not people use it.

Fretz GAL- I have two questions: For the hiatus idea is their idea and they are looking for our response for that?

Bourgeois- the hiatus idea is our idea because they have no solution

Fretz GAL- Why is it that you won't tell us what she suggests in that paper.

Bourgeois- I wasn't keeping it from you all, it was just I thought it would be lengthy so I stopped. She recommends, in the memo at the end, "One possibility that I encourage you to consider is to pause the operation of the Driftwood for the 2020-2021 academic year and create a task force that could include students, faculty, staff, and alumni to spend the next year assessing the operation of the Driftwood and its impact on the campus and alumni community, review media operations at other similarly-sized public universities, and create a proposal to be implemented in 2021-2022" we put that in the resolution also. Sorry for not making it clear.

Fretz GAL- Will we still be collecting that \$1 per student while they are on hiatus.

Cognevich VPLA- Yes that is a whole process to take that away. It will be applied to their debt.

Karkoutli COS- I was wondering what you meant by overcoming their deficit? Are they trying to pay back this?

Cognevich VPLA- This number comes from their debt since 87 referendum from their operation

Ballard ADV- It existed before that i would say.. But the debt is from the 87 referendum. They used to operate from selling ads.

Cognevich VPLA- Yes the ad revenue this semester is \$0, who is the debt to, where is the debt, its just money from student affairs that they have paid to keep them operating over the years. It is in the memo they add stuff year after year. Did students ask to fund that? No. it just comes from a fee, are they trying to pay that back? That is for students to decide. This debt is only on paper, it is to the university and student affairs/

Billiot COLA- You want us to go out and get opinions from students for the next agenda correct?

Bourgeois P- Yes and we know it is impossible to collect opinions from everyone on campus, they are asking for an opinion quickly, so that's why it is a week.

Billiot COLA- I was simply confirming that we have our task and we meet back next week to discuss.

Bourgeois P- Yes

TIME 12 min Leblanc , Johnson second

Lair Bessie COE- How would they pay back the university if we took back the newspaper.

Bourgeois- That would be something to discuss later when we get answers. It wouldn't be our problem it would be collectively talked about in the future.

Leblanc COLA- Motion to adjourn

Fretz GAL- Second

XII. Adjournment 5:45 PM