

# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

State University of New York, College at Geneseo  
Funded by Mandatory Student Activity Fees and the Student Association



## MINUTES—Tuesday, November 30, 2010

### *Call to Order:*

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

### *Approval of Agenda:*

Agenda approved: Passes unanimously.

### *Approval of Minutes:*

Minutes approved: Passes unanimously.

### *E-Board Updates:*

--Justin, Treasurer: Bio Club, need bus invoice by Friday.

### *Club Updates:*

*English:* no new updates.

*PRISM (Math):* Held Thanksgiving Holiday Party, another party sometime this week.

*Speech Path:* Has been meeting on several occasions, about recent events ☹ sign petition!

*Political Affairs:* No new updates.

*Econ Society:* no new updates.

*Philosophy:* Discussing education this week.

*Psychology:* Voted for a new VP during meeting.

*SOTA:* no new updates.

*English:* no new updates.

*Geology:* no new updates.

*Sociology:* no new updates.

*Chemistry:* last meeting of the week!

*Geography:* Geography awareness week was a success!

*Biology:* should be getting clothes soon; Niagara trip was great!

*Physics:* no new updates.

*History:* no new updates.

*French:* Still planning trip to Montreal.

*Anthropology:* Taking pre-orders for sweat shirts.

*School of Business:* Finance Club is visiting Xerox.

*Astronomy:* no new updates.

### *Executive Board*

<i>Chair:</i> Meghan Pipe	aac
<i>Vice Chair:</i> Doug Weber	daw7
<i>Treasurer:</i> Justin Shapiro	jfs1
<i>Secretary:</i> Iwona Drapala	iad1
<i>Comm. Director:</i> Kathryn Guyette	keg13
<i>Advisor:</i> Provost Carol Long	long

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## ***Provost Time:***

Cutting majors was done because Geneseo is facing serious deficits, despite doing many things over the last three years to keep the budget strong. Operating costs have been cut 13% across the board, and there was a 10% cut in the adjunct budget. It is better to do some major cuts, rather than to “bleed” across the whole campus.

The deactivation allows for a 3-year transition period.

Questions:

Q: If decision process started in the spring, with graduate students coming in January, why weren't they notified?

A: The decision wasn't final until the Monday before it was announced. The graduate students have all been admitted, and will be supported.

Q: What if you want to add a major?

A: Deactivation means you don't accept new majors, but deans office can make cutoffs if a student is already engaged in the major, towards it, will put an appeal process.

Q: Is there any idea if programs may be reinstated?

A: At this point, no, because we need to reduce base budget, so it's not just a one-time thing.

Q: Our graduate program is a year and a half process where grads help undergrads, and without graduates, undergrads won't be able to do evaluation, so freshmen now won't have the help of the graduate students; education won't be the same. What will be done?

A: In the third year will, will make sure the students get what they need in terms of support.

Q: Do professors in these fields have incentive to stay in Geneseo?

A: Faculty is devoted to place and students, and if possible they will stay.

Q: What were the criteria for the decision?

A: Centrality, overlap, quality, cost...and several others.

Q: What are the 45 positions that have been cut?

A: All across the campus, maintenance, secretaries, all positions vacated by retirements, 9 faculty positions also vacated by retirements.

Q: What about general education classes?

A: students will still be able to take them.

Q: How many years before reserves run out?

A: After 3 years, there will be a budget, with a possible small increase in tuition. SUNY is developing a reserves policy that limits the amount schools will be able to keep.

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Q: What will happen to studio art?

A: It is deactivated as of now, but it isn't clear yet if it will be phased out entirely.

Q: Will there be other departments "on the chopping block"?

A: Not currently.

Discussion:

It all goes back to state legislation, its not administration's fault. The best way to get desirable results is to vote.

SUNY is an unusual structure. Because we're a state agency, we don't have control over tuition or fees, we don't deal with unions or contracts... our options are more limited than one might think.

## ***Treasurer's Time:***

Off campus: 3097.25 dollars

On campus: 2167.92 dollars

## ***Old Business:***

None

## ***New Business:***

14-1011: \$280.00 to Geology to cover cost of 20 extra students at dinner.

First of two readings.

Anyone in the major or interested the major can come. It's a great time, and a great way to meet new people. It is a fun time, where seniors can get "roasted," by the professors, etc. There is a vegetarian option. Normally the meal is \$20, but it has been cut to \$8 per student. 20 additional students have been added to the list, so Geology Club is asking to cover the cost of those 20 students, do that they can pay 8 dollars like everyone else.

Questions:

Q: Who makes roasts (for students)?

A: The professors make fun of some students.

Discussion: none

Vote: passes

## ***Open Discussion:***

--Will Labate, SA Director of Student Affairs

Discussion:

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a sponsored bus trip to Albany to protest cuts. It's important to voice opinions. Opinions can also be voiced by filling out a letter that tell legislators to stop the cuts, request that the money that's been cut from SUNY not be taken away, and that money from raised tuition not taken away.

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\*\* Will handed out packets of three letters to be mailed, that representatives signed.  
Last week, got over 2100 letters signed.  
Letters are in the office!

Questions:

Q: How much will these buses cost?

A: Buses will be free! There may be a deposit, but it is to make sure students are going.  
It's a one-day thing, but it really gets legislators to hear our concerns.

Q: Is this going to do something?

A: If legislators get enough letters, the thought will be in the back of their mind that students are upset. They can't just ignore us.

Carol Long, Provost: Student voices do make a difference in legislature.

Will: This year, with the new governor and legislature, is the time to speak up. If they issue cuts again, many schools will cease to be effective

Justin: This is democracy in action. Legislators do listen.

Will: Go to SA meetings every Wednesday in the Hunt Room, to participate!

--Adopt A Family

AAC has adopted a family, and received a list for suggested items for the family. If each club gives a few dollars, we'll have money to give them gifts.

Questions:

Q: Are they all local?

A: Yes, but they want to maintain some anonymity.

Q: When will it be due?

A: Money will be due by Tuesday at around 3.00 PM. That way, we'll have time to get the gifts, and maybe some cocoa, tea, music, etc.

We're also thinking about sending out holiday cards to Soldiers. They need to be postmarked by the 10<sup>th</sup>. Club members are invited for free food and crafting!

Stop by SA office, 316 CU, at the end of the hall, to give the money to Nancy. Or, put it in AAC mailbox, or Meghan's mailbox.

There will be a template e-mail so that you can send them out to clubs and invite other members.

--Open position: AAC Communication Director

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That's right! The AAC Communication Director position is open, as our current Communication Director is graduating! We need someone who can do some good marketing for things like Collegebowl, or Rock Your Semester, as well as plan bus trips to other campuses for speakers, look for grants to pay for those buses, etc. Spread the word! You don't need to be a member of AAC to run. Elections will be on December 7<sup>th</sup>!

***Adjournment:***

7.44 PM