

STUDENT ASSOCIATION MEETING

State University of New York, College at Geneseo



Student Association meetings are Wednesdays at 6:15 pm in the College Union Hunt Room. All are welcome to attend.

Executive Committee

President:	Brendan Quinn
Vice-President:	Jarah Magan
Directors:	
Academic Affairs:	Diana Zuniga
Business Affairs:	Adam Gross
Inter-Residence Affairs:	Vinita Mishra
Public Relations:	Chad Salitan
Student Affairs:	Jason Park
Student Programming:	Nicholas Guy
Advisor:	Tamara Kenney

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Dir. of SA Programs,	
Personnel & Finances:	Kate Rebban
Administrative Assistant:	Nancy Chirico
Graphics Coordinator:	Kristen Fuest
Program Advisor:	
Service Manager:	Dianne Krenzer

MINUTES #23, Wednesday, April 2, 2008

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102-103	New Business
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103	78-0708: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the fundraising request of the Inter-Residence Council, account 1201 for the Applebee's fundraising on 14 April 2008 to raise up to \$112.50. <i>First of two readings</i>
103-105	Open Discussion Dr. Christopher C. Dahl, President & Dr. Kenneth H. Levison, Vice President for Administration and Finance
105	Adjournment

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 pm with all members of the Executive Committee present.

Approval of the Agenda:

Dan: The fundraiser is on April 14th for the reading 78-0708, not April 15th.
Agenda was approved 6-0-1 with Adam abstaining.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved 7-0-0.

Updates

President, Brendan Quinn updates:

He met with Dr. Dahl yesterday and talked about SUNY and campus issues. Brendan also met with Dr. Bonfiglio to talk about Club Sports issues and the chalking issue. Chalking is allowed on campus. Tamara added that chalking on sidewalks is okay but please refrain from chalking on buildings since chalk does not come off of the bricks. The SA exec board has been elected. Danielle Forrest, President, Dean McGee, Vice President, Dan Bach, Director of Business Affairs, Amanda Durmandy, Director of Public Relations, Katelyn Conway, Director of IRC, and Rebecca Coons, Director of AAC. CAS is thinking about putting a red box in the Union. Brendan met with Marilyn Moore to discuss athletics issues.

Vice-President, Jarah Magan updates:

Jarah has a CSA meeting and a college senate meeting next week. She will be meeting with Dean for training.

Director of Business Affairs, Adam Gross updates:

The last meeting of the semester is 4/30. If you have a two week reading that you want addressed, it will have to be submitted by 4/17. The latest is 4/24 for a one week reading. The budget will likely come out on Monday. From Monday until Friday, Adam will accept appeals. The budgets will be in mailboxes.

Director of Inter-Residence Affairs, Vinita Mishra updates:

After the meeting, there will be Karaoke in Erie hall. She will attend the Geneseo Dazzle Days on Saturday. Saturday, IRC will be in the Union ballroom from 10pm to 2am for ice cream and roller skating.

Director of Public Relations, Chad Salitan updates:

Chad is starting an online suggestion box so people can voice any complaints about SA, CAS, administration, etc. The comments will go directly to SAPR and will continue after this exec's term. It is on the SA website and is anonymous.

Director of Academic Affairs, Diana Zuniga updates:

AAC is holding the second annual Geneseo Values picnic on 4/16 during all college free. They will be discussing the seven values of Geneseo. If anybody's interested in coming or facilitating the talks, talk to Diana or e-mail her at aac@geneseo.edu. The Provost came to speak at their meeting last night. There will be an online book exchange that should be up for Spring 09.

Director of Student Affairs, Jason Park updates:

Jason presented the first draft of the ACE constitution at today's ACE meeting. He got a lot of good feedback but there's a lot of work that needs to be done. He congratulated the newly elected board. He will start training Sarah.

Director of Student Programming, Nick Guy, updates:

Siblings weekend is coming up. Saturday will be Bee-Movie at noon. 8pm is Forms in Motion. Brand New will be performing with Reel Big Fish on 4/20. 4/26 is Spring Fest on the College Union Patio. He is accepting forms for AC positions until 4/8. If you have any questions about the positions, contact Nick for more information. Elections will be next week.

Kate Rebban, Director of SA Programs, Personnel, & Finances updates:

Kate finished the staff evaluations this week and the draft of the budget. There are two budgets frozen, Pride Alliance and BSU.

Tamara Kenney, SA Executive Committee Advisor updates:

She attended the student affairs committee meeting. She is working on reviewing the budget.

Open Updates

Club Sports Association updates:

They will be voting on the draft of the constitution and the by-laws next Wednesday at their meeting. Also there will be an election for the e-board positions. Men's Rugby had a tournament this past Sunday. They lost to Brockport and they withdrew from the

tournament due to injuries. Cheerleading competed at Hofstra on Saturday. They won the competition. They are also working on a fundraiser.

USAEC updates:

Class officer elections will be available through Knightweb until 11:59pm Wednesday April 2nd.

Korean-American Student Association updates:

Their annual dinner is on April 12th. The theme this year is “Best Korean Week Ever”. The doors will open at 5:30pm and the tickets are on sale in the Union and also at the door. The Dinner will start at 6pm.

Pride Alliance updates:

Drag Ball will be on April 26th at 9pm in the Knightsport. Dress in drag and if you want to perform, email Pride Alliance.

MiNT updates:

Their new magazine will be available at Milne and the Union on Friday.

Student Music Association updates:

They are holding their Composium on Friday the 18th at 9pm in the Sturges Auditorium. If anybody has music they composed themselves and want to perform, contact SMA.

Shakti update:

Their annual dinner will be on 4/16. The theme is Wedding. If you have any suggestions for the menu, email shakti at shakti@geneseo.edu. Their dinner will start at 5:30pm.

Old Business

76-0708: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$784.80 from Student Association, account 1002 the Organizational Conference Line, line 20 to Amnesty International, account 1910 to support the attendance to the *Get on the Bus* conference in New York City on 10 & 11 April 1008.

Second of two readings

Mark explained that Amnesty International is planning to go to the “Get on the Bus Day” in NYC. It is a day of education and activism. In the morning there will be panel speakers and the second half is 5 targeted actions they will be participating in. Last year, there were 12,000 participants. They were able to get the 3rd driver but they had 4 people drop out and one new member interested so they have 12 people in total. The total allocation will be \$664.80.

Questions:

Jarah asked if the 12 people is final and that there will be no more changes. Mark said he was sure. Adam asked how Mark calculated this. Mark said he went back to the form and recalculated the meals, price of registration, etc. Adam asked about the train tickets. Mark said it will be \$132 instead of \$165. Nick asked where they will be staying. Mark said they will be staying at David’s house in Fishkill. Nick made sure that they were aware that even though they are away from the college, they are still under SA policies and rules of the college. Will asked if the issue of the dual transportation was dealt with. Adam explained that the SA exec approved it since there’s no where in SA policy that explicitly says double forms of transportation is not allowed. They also said the intent of Amnesty International was good. They are staying in Fishkill and saving the cost of the hotel. Chad said they are going to clarify this in the financial policy and dual transportation will not be allowed.

Discussion:

Jarah made a motion to amend the reading to say allocate up to \$664.80. The motion was seconded by Jason. The reading now reads allocate up to \$664.80 to Amnesty International. Adam said this is a fantastic opportunity for Amnesty International and that it’s good that they are getting out there and utilizing the conference fund. Kate asked how many people will be in each of the vehicles. Mark said 2, 5, and 5.

76-0708, second of two readings, passed 7-0-0.

New Business

77-0708: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$214.96 from Student Association, account 1002 the Organization Conference line, line 20 to Pride Alliance, account 1906 to support the attendance to the Equality and Justice Day in Albany, NY on 29 April.

First of two readings

Leigh brought the names of the people going, agenda for the conference, and copy of the e-mail stating included registration costs and transportation. There is one less person going to the conference so the total will be \$194.96. The conference is about issues that directly affect Pride’s members and is in line with the organization’s goals. Speakers at the conference include transgender activists Donna Rose, Kelly Camlin, pro-choice representative, Alexander Robinson from the National Black Justice Coalition, Alan Coppel, and other selected officials. The point of the conference is to get education on bills regarding marriage equality, gender expression

non discrimination act, dignity for all students act. They will also be lobbying to the House of Representatives and state senators to move these bills forward. The defensive marriage act gave the right to each state to refuse recognition of same sex marriages performed in other states. Currently, there are 2462 rights withheld for people in same sex relationships. They are equal citizens and deserve these rights. The gender expression non discrimination act includes gender identity in already existing NY State human rights law. It provides safeties and includes them in equal opportunity employment. The Dignity for All Students Act amends the education laws in order to afford all persons in public schools an environment free of harassment and discrimination based on actual or perceived race, national origin, ethnic group, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, and sex. This conference is in line with Pride's push for transgender awareness on our campus. Pride was able to push and achieve gender neutral guest bathrooms in all residence halls. Leigh said Pride believes that by providing funding for Pride Alliance to attend Empire Equality and Justice Day, they will be able to learn about important legal issues that directly affect our community. They will be trained on how to lobby, meet representatives face to face, and hear speeches by aforementioned people, attend cultural activities and workshops on youth and college involvement on the movement, and they will be able to bring all of this information back to the population at Geneseo to continue to educate people and be more inclusive.

Questions:

Nick asked how they are getting there. Leigh said they will be driving to Rochester and take the bus offered by the Genesee Valley Gay Alliance. Adam asked where they will park. Leigh answered that the Rochester Gay Alliance has their own parking lot. Brendan asked who they are lobbying with. Leigh said each individual will lobby to their correlative representative of their home address. Nick made sure that \$40 is \$15 for registration and \$25 for the bus. Jason asked how many people are going. Leigh said she miscounted and there's 10 people going so she withdrew the previous amendment. The reading will still read allocate up to \$214.98. Nick asked if the two cars will fit all 10 people. Leigh said there will be 5 people in each vehicle and she will bring the list with the vehicle information for next week's meeting.

Discussion:

Jarah said she supports the reading but with her interpretation if their budget is frozen, they cannot incur any expenses. By passing the reading, it would mean that they are incurring an expense. Nick said he does not interpret it that way and it just means that the organization cannot make any financial transaction during that period. This is a great opportunity for them and he is very much in support of it. Vinita said this sounds like an overall great conference and there's a lot of information that they can bring back. 77-0708, first of two readings, passed 5-1-1 with Jarah voting no and Diana abstaining.

78-0708: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the fundraising request of the Inter-Residence Council, account 1201 for the Applebee's fundraising on 15 April 2008 to raise up to \$112.50.

First of two readings

Dan, the Campus Relations Coordinator, explained their fundraiser. They are holding Legends of the Hidden Temple with Late knight on 4/26. This is another opportunity to do a fundraiser. This is like the Pizza Hut fundraiser. People will go to Applebee's, show them our voucher, then IRC will receive 10% of the total purchase excluding tax, tip, and alcohol sales. All of the money will go towards the Legends of the Hidden Temple program. Questions:

Nick asked Dan to bring the vouchers in to the meeting next week.

Discussions:

Chad said it's great to see another fundraiser.

78-0708, first of two readings, passed 5-0-2 with Nick and Vinita abstaining.

Open Discussion

Dr. Christopher Dahl and Dr. Kenneth Levison spoke during open discussion to discuss about the college budget and the state budget. Dr. Dahl gave us up to the minute information regarding the state budget. Leaders of both houses and the governor are debating how much money to restore from cuts in all portions of the New York state budget. He has more recent numbers than even the SUNY system lobbyists. He thanked Jarah, Brendan, and Andrew Riser for lobbying on SUNY lobby day on 2/26. He feels that representation from our students is very powerful. They went to Albany to ask for what Geneseo needs and what SUNY as a whole needs. He took us through the college budget as a whole and also explained about the portion of the budget the state is debating about and lobbying for in the state legislature and the executive branch. The College's all funds budget is a very complicated budget. The all funds budget is \$105 million a year. Certain portions are state operated and paid for by state tax dollars. Two items that make up the college all funds budget that we won't see are revenues from the Foundation and grants, and the CAS budget. Other than that, there are 5 parts to the budget. The state purpose budget, this is what we talk to the state legislature about. The Income Fund Reimbursable (IFR) budget that comes from fee revenues and a separate budget pot. That money is appropriated, but we must get authorization from the legislature in order to spend it and it comes from the fee from athletic fees, parking fees, health fees, etc. Dormitory Income Fund Reimbursable budget (DIFR), comes from room rent. The SUTRA account, State University Tuition Reimbursement Account is from summer school money and some other revenue. We generate most of the state purpose budget through tuition, fines, and interest, so total campus revenue is 58 percent. We only get 42 percent of the one fifth of the state budget. That shows you how badly SUNY and Geneseo are supported by state tax dollars. 60% of our money is money that we generate ourselves. So don't let anybody tell you that we're a drag on the New York state budget. The NY State budget is a drag on our budget. IFR \$10 million, all of that comes from you. DIFR \$15.9 million. SUTRA summer session and the catch all bag \$2 million. Our total operating budget for public purposes (does not include the Foundation or CAS) is \$72 million dollars. Dr. Dahl said it always annoys

him when people say how much of an expense SUNY is to the state. 25.9% of the total operating budget comes from state tax dollars. 74.1% comes from money we generate ourselves. This is the general context when we go to Albany. Brendan asked what the state support was like 30 years ago. Dr. Dahl said 30 years ago, there was 90% support and as recent as 15, 20 years ago, 80 percent. When Dr. Levison started in 1985, there was 80 % support. In the 70's early 80's it would've been 90 percent. SUNY did not charge tuition until 1965. Dr. Levison said tuition was originally charged as guarantees for bonds that were used to build the university. Dr. Dahl said if you add everything, debt service, CAS budget, foundation, sponsored research, other university wide things; you get to the total of \$105 million dollars. The state support is a mere 36.4% opposed to the 64% that we generate ourselves. This is the general context when talking about the Geneseo budget in relation to the state budget. Dr. Dahl then went through the process by which we get to the state budget. We are currently almost at the end of the process. It may be done by Friday midnight or Monday. The process of the state budget SUNY puts together goes through the following sequence. First, the SUNY trustees respond to a call letter from the governor's office. The trustees vote a budget request and send it to the governor. The governor's budget people then puts the budget request together and do what they want with it; reduce it, whatever but they have never added to it. Then that results in what is known as the executive budget which the governor presents in budget message roughly in the middle or end of January. The executive budget goes to the assembly and the senate as possible budget bills. Then the senate and the assembly produces budgets of their own which then go back up to the governor for a kind of conference. Then the assembly, the senate, and the governor's office hammer out a state budget bill which then is turned into law and voted up, down, or vetoed. SUNY came in with \$64.8 million in base level funding for salaries, additional money to cover for additional enrollment, and for more equipment. Other schools do this but we do not increase enrollment if we don't have the resources for it. For contracted salaries, enrollment, and research, there is a fund called the empire innovation research fund. The Exec governor's budget gave us \$26.3 million for salaries and none for the other things. SUNY requested \$116.7 million for program initiatives. This is for the 2000 additional faculty that they're asking for SUNY and CUNY. Our share of that would've been \$63 million, which would go to better money for EOP, special diversity programs, and what could be more important than that in the 21st century. Another \$10 million for research grants, research faculty, money for safety and security after Virginia tech and 9/11, increased counseling staff to deal with tragedies, instant communication, and we also requested a tuition increase of 5%, logical on the grounds if we're going to ask the state for most of \$116 million we should tax ourselves at some point and we'd prefer small predictable tuition increases to what has happened historically. There were no tuition increases for 7-8 years and then a 28-35% increase in a single year. So, what do we get? We get no funding. If we put all of these numbers together, the reductions in spending in various areas in the executive budget left us \$33.3 million in the hole. Whole budget for SUNY and state tax dollars support, the adjusted current year base level is \$1.2 billion. \$26 million added to that number. \$33 million subtracted, end up with the governor's budget of \$1.14 billion dollars. That's where the \$34 million dollar is subtracted which is the short-fall in the state operations budget. There are two budgets. One budget pays for salaries, equipment, and all sorts of things on campus. The other budget is the capital budget which is for building construction and renovation. If you get lots of money for capital you can't spend it on hiring more faculty or salaries. SUNY proposed a strong 5 year budget request in the capital budget. \$3.75 billion for critical maintenance. \$99 million dollars would be Geneseo's share. Dr. Levison said that fund would be spent on Bailey reconstruction, Doty infrastructure improvements, handy cap access, Letchworth renovation, and a whole bunch of things. Dr. Dahl said we also requested \$2.5 billion for new buildings, \$.5 billion for green initiatives which would reduce our carbon footprints but it does cost some up front investment to achieve environmentally sound and friendly buildings. Also, we asked for a lump sum reserve since most of our buildings are 35 years or older which needs fixing. The governor's budget recommended \$550 million for critical maintenance, which would be \$2.75 billion for 5 years. \$1.6 billion for strategic initiatives compared to the \$2.5 we asked for. \$.075 for greening initiatives and no money for reserve. We asked for what we needed on the capital budget and what we got was not what would meet our needs but it was the largest five year capital plan in the history of the state for SUNY. What's also happened with the state budget is that when Governor Patterson came in, he realized that things are going badly on Wall Street and the economy with the sub prime mortgage and so on so there was a cut of \$800 million from the state budget. Negotiations about those cuts and our reduction of \$34 million morphed into \$83 million, and that's what we're trying to get mitigated when Brendan, Jarah and administrators went to Albany. In response to our need, \$90 million was made available to the higher education committees in the assembly and the senate. It was used to make up something like \$200 million in cuts. \$46 million of that money was allocated for increased funding for community colleges. Also the TAP was restored, EOP restored, and rather regrettably, the Bundy Aid was restored which gives private colleges financial aid for out of state students. Why should NY state tax dollars be spent on that? Total money from the \$83 million dollars put back according to Ken Lovell as of 6pm tonight was \$28.3 million dollars leaving \$54.7 million in shortfall. He thinks he can find another \$2 million to put back. This would result in cuts in the 31 state operated campuses and that would translate into a cut of \$500,000 to \$800,000 for Geneseo. That's not good for next year. It would not lead to lay-offs or cancellation of classes, but it will hurt our programs in a wide variety of ways. It's not clear how much of that we can reverse, if at all. It looks like that part of the negotiation is finished. It's not the worst budget we have seen but if you take anything away from this presentation, there's three points he would like us to remember. First, the state depending on which set of numbers you use, only covers between 2 to 36 percent of the total cost of Geneseo. The rest of the money comes from you, from our grants, federal assistance and a whole variety of different things. Secondly, the legislature is in a fairly tough spot, but we really need to do a better job of restoration because higher education is very important to the future of the state. That's the case we made. Your ability, when you graduate from Geneseo, to help put NY State's economy and civil life into a successful mode for the global economy of the 21st century is absolutely vital. Even in bad times, it makes sense to invest in higher education. It was supposed to be the year of higher education under Governor Spitzer but it has been a disappointment. It has to do with tensions between ever increasing appropriation for K-12 education and higher education. We get the short end of the stick because people's property tax does not go up if we get a decrease. Thirdly, always remember that there are always two budgets; operating and capital

budgets. The capital budget is very important in terms of kind of facilities we need on this campus and deserve on this campus. We need to watch both of those processes as carefully as possible in the state legislature. He thanked all of SA for inviting him and he congratulated the outgoing and newly elected officers of SA. He thanked all the members of SA for their partnership that our students over the years have had with the college administration and faculty associations and unions in trying to represent a united front to do the best we can for Geneseo and SUNY. Nick said when Governor Spitzer was here, he talked about big plans for SUNY like monetizing the lottery and creating an endowment. He asked if Governor Patterson had the same intentions. Dr. Dahl said Governor Patterson is a supporter of SUNY. We had him as the commencement speaker at last year's graduation and he was able to spend quality time with graduates of Geneseo. He is a friend of SUNY and Geneseo. It is hard to know what will happen with monetizing the state lottery. That was something special that Spitzer had cooked up and Patterson supports it. Eliot Spitzer's Budget Director, Paul Francis, still in Governor Patterson's office, was the brains behind the endowment idea. That's a great idea. What you also have to remember about that idea is that even if the thing sailed through the state legislature and somebody had paid \$4.5 billion for the state to take over the portion of the state lottery, even if that had been the case we wouldn't see a dime until there was years worth of interest. Levison added that it didn't go into the budget for Spitzer. He was pushing it but he didn't know how he was planning to actually actualize it. The second thing that is not in the budget critical to what Dr. Dahl was saying is what they call the SUNY compact. According to Dr. Levison, it is a very bad idea from his stand point. Any initiative, any increase beyond the base would be funded from three sources under the compact. First from tax dollars, second from some kind of rational tuition policy with small gradations every year, and third would come from philanthropy and from efficiencies. The problem with this plan is that the governor was not willing to talk about tuitions this year and efficiency does not produce money, it produces cost avoidance. Also, philanthropy is a one time money that cannot support operations and the whole structure that he was trying to build was not anywhere in this budget. Dr. Dahl said the SUNY compact was not the brightest idea through some kind of arrangement where if you increase tuition, you guaranteed at the same time the state tax dollars get increased. The \$116 million dollar programs initiative was a package that would have been paid for by this elaborate SUNY compact. Tamara asked if there are no lay offs where the cuts will be coming from. Dr. Dahl said a cut of \$300,000 to 500,000 would be accomplished by hiring freezes and some whacking of what are known as OTPS budget which is a budget for supplies and small equipment. We always have vacant positions and when we have had as much as \$1.2 million dollars in cuts to accommodate, we have put on a hard hiring freeze. If there's any vacancy in any departments, we just do not fill it. In his mind, this college's primary budget need is more faculty lines. We need to lower faculty/student ratio so that all students can take advantage of honors quality education, which involves direct work with faculty on projects and small classes rather than large lecture classes. What happens if we have to free lines and not fill them is that the student faculty ratio of 19 to 1 starts to creep up. Dr. Levison said that 77% of the state budget is for salaries and there's only so much we can take from other things. Dr. Dahl said the 77% is for salaries for people that clean the buildings, primarily the faculty, and all of the staff. We are pretty lean in the number of administrators and most people working at the college are faculty members and student professionals like Tamara. He said we are just very proud of the quality of Student Association and the way faculty/staff/administration generally try to work together to mutually solve problems and share our common ideas and discuss our differences. That is what makes Geneseo great. The two great things are the quality of students and faculty, and how we do things in a collegiate fashion to solve problems. We do not necessarily agree on everything but that's what makes this campus great. We may have the only college senate where there's full student representation and your presence in SA is important and the student representatives in the senate have the same voting authority that faculty and administration has.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm. Thank you for coming and see you next week!

Respectfully Submitted,
Nobu Iwata
Recording Secretary