

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.

<i>Executive Committee</i>	
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
<i>PROFESSIONAL STAFF</i>	
Dir. of SA Programs,	
Personnel & Finances:	Kate Rebban
Administrative Assistant:	Nancy Chirico
Graphics Coordinator:	Kristen Fuest
Program Advisor:	
Service Manager:	Dianne Krenzer

MINUTES #27, Wednesday, April 30, 2008

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127	96-0708: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the Student Association Budget for the 2008-2009 academic year, with total expenditures of \$1,253,656.75, representing \$859,844.70 in mandatory activity fees and \$393,812.05 in other income generated from Student Association organizations and services. <i>Second of two readings</i>
127-128	97-0708: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the attached By-laws of the Student Association <i>Second of two readings</i>
128	98-0708: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the attached AAC constitution. <i>Second of two readings</i>
128	New Business
128	Open Discussion Changing "Crossover" of the Guard
128	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:

Agenda was approved 6-0-1 with Adam abstaining.

Approval of the Minutes

Chad: minutes were approved 6-0-0 last week, not 7-0-0.

The minutes were approved 7-0-0.

Updates

President, Brendan Quinn updates:

Brendan has been training Danielle and Dean. He has been wrapping things up. He attended Springfest. He met with Dr. Bonfiglio on Thursday and talked about campus issues with Danielle for next year.

Vice-President, Jarah Magan updates:

She attended the last College Senate exec meeting. Dean also attended the meeting. Dennis Showers will be charing it next year. Next Tuesday will be the last college senate meeting at 4pm.

Director of Business Affairs, Adam Gross updates:

None.

Director of Inter-Residence Affairs, Vinita Mishra updates:

Vinita attended Shakti's dinner. She congratulated them for doing such a great job. "Legends of the Hidden Temple" in the Kuhl gym went absolutely amazing. She thanked everybody for attending. IRC had their elections this Monday. The secretary position is still open for next fall if anybody's interested in running for the position. She attended the Student Health Advisory Board. The health center will be adding an extra day to the reproductive health center as early as next semester on MWF cycle. The Director of Health Center, Heidi Levine, is very interested in hearing your opinions and suggestions about the health center. They may start an online suggestion box.

Director of Public Relations, Chad Salitan updates:

The bus captain application for the vacation bus program will be online next semester. The tickets will be on sale on Saturdays to ensure fairness and phone sales will not be allowed. The report of the surveys taken this semester for the water bottles is up on the SA website. The survey will be repeated next year to get student input in administrators' hands. There will be a connection between SAPR and Dr. Bonfiglio's office in the future.

Director of Academic Affairs, Diana Zuniga updates:

Diana joined Pride's trip yesterday to Albany and learned about legislative acts such as the marriage acts and dignity for all students. To learn more about these acts, access prideagenda.org.

Director of Student Affairs, Jason Park updates:

Jason attended Sangamum. He has been training Sarah.

Director of Student Programming, Nick Guy, updates:

KINO is showing "Godfather" in South Hall quad at 9pm on Saturday. The rain location is Newton 204. Springfest went very well. He will be attending the CAS Board of Directors meeting on study day. If you have any issues you want Nick to bring up to CAS, contact him. AC received an award from the President. AC had more than 7,000 attendees to their events this semester, just like last semester. Nick thanked everybody for attending AC events.

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

Memos are in organization mailboxes regarding end of the year wrap up information. The prospective Programm Advisor will be interviewed at 2:45pm in room 325 on Thursday.

Tamara Kenney, SA Executive Committee Advisor updates:

Tamara went to the rugby field with Dean to see what they can do with the field. They may shuffle it up a little bit and relocate it. It may not be the perfect but a temporary solution. She received the SA advisor award.

Open Updates

Club Sports Association updates:

They held their end of the year elections. Jen is getting end of the year reports from all the clubs.

Pride Alliance updates:

Their event, Drag Ball, was very well attended. Some of their members went to the Equality and Justice Day in Albany. They were able to network with other schools.

Model United Nations updates:

The Model United Nations club received an outstanding club award from the President.

Shakti updates:

Sangamum went really well. Sam thanked everybody that attended and all the multicultural groups that helped.

Danielle Forrest updates:

Applications for USAEC, Student Court, CAS Board of Directors, and Recording Secretary appointments are available for next year.

MiNT updates:

The last magazine of the year is up on their website, <http://www.geneseo.edu/~mint>.

Geneseo Environmental Organization updates:

They elected their new e-board. They have a new position, eco rep. The eco rep will be a liaison between Residence Halls and the recycling coordinators. They planted 9 trees around campus on Friday and attended the work day with the Genesee Valley Conservancy on Saturday. GEO also received an award from the President.

Black Student Union updates:

Their basketball tournament will be held this Saturday.

Old Business

92-0708: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the attached Constitution of the Alliance for Community Enrichment (ACE).

Second of two readings

Jason presented the new constitution for ACE. ACE, Alliance for Community Enrichment, has been moved to under the Director of Student Affairs. Jason attended the ACE meeting today and asked for any last minute changes the members wanted to see approved. For the constitution he received none.

Questions:

Chad proposed a friendly amendment to Article 4, Section 1 part B. Instead of full week, full week when classes are in session is more appropriate. Jason accepted the amendment.

Discussion:

Jarah commended Jason for all the work he did for the constitution. Nick thanked the ACE groups for their input on the constitution. It was a good collaborative process.

92-0708, second of two readings, passed 5-0-2 with Jason and Diana abstaining.

93-0708: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the attached By-laws of the Alliance for Community Enrichment (ACE).

Second of two readings

Jason submitted the by-laws of Ace. He went to the ACE groups to ask if they wanted to make any changes to the by-laws. He attended the ACE meeting today and there were some amendments they would like to pass. Section 1 letter b 1, wording will be changed. Section 1 letter b 2 will be completely removed from the bylaws as well as section 1 letter c 1, "organizations may request from the ACE budget if and only if it is not outlined in their budget. Nick and Jarah objected to the changes. Chad made a friendly amendment on Section 4 letter A part 3 to have the wording more clear on Bad Financial Standing by adding "to an ACE meeting". Jason accepted the friendly amendment.

Discussion:

Jason explained that the ACE groups expressed that these rules put on strict limitations on how ACE functions currently so they wish to have those restrictions removed. Jarah said that if it's something in their budget they need to come to SA for the money like all other groups. Leigh said that she understands her concern with fairness but in all fairness, ACE groups and underrepresented groups work to create a safe environment since that is part of their mission statement and a part of the college's mission statement. By providing them with this fund of money that is targeted towards groups that need additional help should be a priority and should be awarded. Jarah said SA is not stopping the groups from getting the money. This will increase the money that the groups are given and trying to give the groups a lot of benefits. Chad said he really understands what Leigh is saying but SA cannot put other groups if they see their mission statement as serving the community better. We cannot discriminate and we have to treat all the groups equally. Joe said this limitation is going to force groups funded by SA and ACE to create two sets of programs separately thus force them to spend twice as much time into programming. It's going to be detrimental because we are students first and we cannot expect to spend all this time on programming. We are not event planners and this will be detrimental to our academics and quality of programs will be conflicting. Also, SA is viewing this in eyes of fairness not equity. ACE is requesting equity. Nick said SA is not asking ACE to do

more programming. ACE is for some things. This year some of the dinners were supplemented with ACE but events like “Gay Fine by Me” will still be funded by ACE. Joe said it wouldn’t be since it is in Pride’s budget. Nick said ACE was formed about 15 years ago so the multicultural and underrepresented groups can effectively program together. ACE created ACE because ACE wanted ACE. SA is not detrimental to ACE. We are doing what is right for you. David disagreed with what Nick said about SA doing what is right for SA. Nick said this is what we were elected to do. He said he has an overall sense of SA organizations as a whole and while he cannot say that he knows ACE better but he knows what all SA organizations have to go through. SA is making Clubs Sports come to SA meetings. He said it may look like we are forcing things but we are just trying to make everything all fair for SA. Leigh said she is a member of Pride Alliance and club sports. Pride Alliance does a lot more for the community than rugby. Being a member of Pride, we need a lot more extra help while rugby does not. She also said that ACE does not need to be in line with what ACE was 15 years ago. Perhaps more investment can be put in to what current goals are and maintain the essence of ACE. Melissa said you say you are not pressuring us to do more but in reality you are. The ACE budget will be cut if we do not use it. Tina Kim was one of the only events that was funded by ACE and was not in ACE groups’ budgets. You are asking us to do more events so the budget doesn’t get cut. LSA has done 32 events this year and we cannot do those plus events for ACE. It’s impossible to do that and be students at the same time. Adam encouraged non-ACE groups to speak up since this does influence non-ACE budgets. MTC said MTC has to go through with the rules to keep their budgets and have enough money for the main stage productions. How much money we have affects what musicals we can do. As a member of SA getting money, it would be equitable if all SA groups were treated equally. We still come to SA and follow all policy. Jen said she agrees with what Debbie said. This is not fair to all the other organizations that have to follow policy. This elevates the underrepresented groups above everybody else and that is not fair. David asked if anyone on the board has seen a history project during teach in or any of the FARI presentations. If you saw them you would realize that just being a minority or underrepresented groups is often hostile. To be fair, you have to do something about the campus body. ACE is here so that these clubs can have an equal footing. Being a minority student on campus is difficult. So few people actually know much about culture and some people say that they have never seen a black person until they came here. Making everything equal is sort of impossible. There are way too many ignorant white people. Nick said that is the rule. David said that is the truth. He said he is not saying ignorance is a bad thing, they just have not learned yet. Because a lot of people are ignorant, that can lead to bad things and there are a lot of stereotyping on campus. Brendan said we must be civil even if we disagree. Melissa said we are just asking for what we were promised. We were told that nothing is going to change. We just want what was promised us. Lindsay said she knows ACE was formed 15 years ago but diversity on this campus 15 years ago was a lot lower. Diversity on this campus has grown and the groups have started going on their own ways but we are still together. We do not have any administrative help on this campus to have diversity. These clubs are pressured to have these educational things about our own culture. Other clubs are not pressured to educate and push forth what our campus oath is. Dean said the argument that ACE groups do more than any other clubs is not true. Every other organization is important. He said he respects what SA is doing with fairness however; the real debate has to be around the timing of this. The end of next year to implement this change would be more plausible. Chad asked about Robert’s Rule of Order and if the motion can be changed. Brendan clarified that as long as Jason agrees, the motion can be changed. Leigh said we are not breaching SA policy. We are not renegade groups. We are following SA policies and this is not about us not following it. Andrew, from Shakti, said framing this around minority versus everybody else is not fair. First of all, ACE was never illegal. It is not like we were not following policy. The constitution and the by-laws were done without ACE members and without the consent of the ACE chair. These amendments, we staunchly oppose. He asked how they would like it if a document was taken away from you and rewritten and thrown back to you. We are standing up for what we had before and what we have been doing. We do not want this clause because we do not want this clause limiting our clubs. Jarah said just for the record, that did happen to Club Sports. They opposed it from the beginning but when they understood that SA was trying to help them, CSA agreed. We are not limiting your funds. We are broadening your funds. SA has a larger budget and we never had a budget increase fail. We are not forcing you to program more. She said she is trying to help the organizations be as amazing as they can be. Donat said nobody is complaining about the budget we have. We accept what we have. We are complaining that nobody consulted us about the change and it is also bad timing. We do not have any time to change it. Jarah said this is when constitutions change, at the end of the year. We are just trying to broaden. Vanessa said the point is that we are not fine with this. We are not fine with our by-laws. Adam said we have a bunch of different individuals on the SA exec committee. Jason is involved with KASA, Diana is a part of Pride and despite that we all decided that this is fair for SA. Donat said that’s just input of two people and that does not mean you have the authority from all of the multicultural groups. Adam said we were voted by the students and this is our job. Brendan pointed out that there is no unanimity yet and that there has not been a vote yet. He noted that there were disagreements even among the exec committee. Melissa said SA is forcing this constitution. If we knew this was going to happen, we wouldn’t have made the shift to be under SA. The way it was run before was fine. Nothing was going to change but it completely changed when we got the constitution. Joe said ACE groups already have a tough time spending their entire budget. There’s a long history of a hard time spending that money and further restrictions on how we use that money will be atrophy to the budget. We are concerned with losing that funding source for minority groups who need this funding when they need to address concerns. Ahmed, the current ACE chair, said one, the system is working now and 2, this happened after the ACE budget was approved for the next year. Pat asked why this was being pushed through at the end of the year. Why not leave it for next year and watch the changes take place. Why now when discussion can be better resolved for next year. Jen said she did not mean to offend anybody. As a non-ACE group, she is just voicing the opinion that all groups should follow the same rules. Ahmed said by having ACE in existence, it is already unfair to the other groups. ACE has money and other groups don’t. Jen said when club sports goes to conferences, they use the club sports line but if club sports want to increase an aspect of our budget, we have to come to SA. Leigh said going to a conference is like putting on a program. The rugby made it to nationals but we did not get the money to go to a national championship. We do not have national championships for gay

people, we put on programs. Chad said he understands where ACE is coming from but we have 30 groups that have to deal with the same process. Chad suggested adding “effective May 1, 2009” after Section 1 part C letter 1. Jason took back his motion and decided to add “effective May 1, 2009” to be put in clause Section 1 letter c 1. Donat asked Dr. Bonfiglio how he felt about multicultural groups having different funding for different events. Dr. Bonfiglio said SA has made an effort to rectify, to make consistencies in their programs but their efforts are perceived in a different way. It is not perceived in a positive way. He said he thinks that they have to vote and he will not tell them how to vote but the sentiment of the group is pretty clear. Donat said they are supposed to be representative of the student body and ACE is objecting to what they are doing. It is not what the students want. Dr. Bonfiglio said they think it’s best for the whole student body. Chiara explained why there is such resistance. She said it is SA coming to tell them how they should run their affairs. So the same thing happens to club sports. SA is coming to multicultural groups and telling us how to run our affairs. It is reflective of what happens in the larger society where the white powers that be come to tell non white organizations how to run their affairs. As an institution promoting diversity, you are supposed to be promoting autonomy of underrepresented people’s ability to graduate from this institution and allow them to be autonomous and successful in this world and country dominated by white privileged. She said she believes this is hindering our autonomy and roots of this opposition is something that needs to be not taken lightly. This is an institutionalized issue. Brendan reminded everybody that we are talking about the motion to have the clause be effective May 1, 2009. Trisha said there is a lot going on with this reading. It is not just about placement of having these limitations forced on underrepresented groups but also how financial policy is applied. She said she doesn’t think any amount of discussion tonight is going to resolve the core issues of representation and oppressive structures but I think in order to get something accomplished we need to try and focus back on how ACE needs to be structured fiscally so we can work together to get the best programming that we can possibly do. Because the old SA board are hearing this, know the tension and intense feelings that is going on and she said she would love to see new and old SA board come to ACE next year so we can resolve these issues. Ahmed said ACE did come up with a compromise. We are still willing to compromise. We are not here to get our way, we are willing to compromise. We need this period to adjust. This is so radically different from what we are accustomed to. One year is a fair compromise. Adam, from Pride, said he really believes that this will help ACE in the long run but we need to have a discussion about this. By having it effective May 1, there is the option to follow financial policy and see if this does help. Dean said these changes were brought to ACE by SA. A compromise was brought up and this will give them an adjustment period for them to learn how to do a budget increase. Adam said we have hit a brick wall and he moved to question. Nick seconded.

The motion to move to question passed 5-0-2 with Jason and Diana abstaining.

The motion to amend the by-laws was approved 4-1-2 with Jarah voting no and Jason and Diana abstaining.

Jason explained section 1 b 3. SA would like that to be put in to create zero liability for individual groups. Joe suggested adding language to say that doesn’t apply to supplies. He added “excluding supplies for an event”. Jason accepted the change.

Discussion:

Nick said it has been a rough couple of weeks. He thanked ACE groups for challenging this. He said he hopes that next year ACE groups do utilize SA budget increases and that programming excels beyond what it is now. He thanked everybody for the discussion. Ahmed said the compromise is what we need to adjust. Andrew thanked the SA exec. At the end of the day, we are just students. Regardless, he said he hopes that exec remembers what was said today and accurately represents ACE groups in the future. Brendan said he is not supposed to comment but he agrees that we are all students at the end of the day.

93-0708, second of two readings, passed 5-0-2 with Jason and Diana abstaining.

94-0708: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the attached Constitution of the Inter-Residence Council (IRC).

Second of two readings

Vinita explained that there is nothing different from last week. IRC brushed up their policies, changed officer duties so it’s reflective of what the officers actually do, changed the due date for letters of intent, and added in a clause about following all SA policy, SUNY trustees, State and Federal laws.

Discussion:

Nick said these are valuable changes and it will help out IRC in the future.

64-0708, second of two readings, passed 6-0-1 with Vinita abstaining.

95-0708: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the attached By-laws of the Inter-Residence Council (IRC).

Second of two readings

Vinita said everything is same as last week. They made some formatting changes, changed ad hoc committees to help with the advocacy aspect of IRC, changed business to be due Friday to accommodate Hall Council meeting times, and due date of receipts, how to contact reading representatives in an event of change, permanent supply, durability on permanent items, and they changed their “logo policy” to “publicity policy”.

Discussion:

Nick said these are valuable changes that will help out IRC in future endeavors.

Jason thanked Vinita for all her work on the constitution and the by-laws.

95-0708, second of two readings, passed 6-0-1-with Vinita abstaining.

96-0708: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the Student Association Budget for the 2008-2009 academic year, with total expenditures of \$1,253,656.75, representing \$859,844.70 in mandatory activity fees and \$393,812.05 in other income generated from Student Association organizations and services.

Second of two readings

Adam explained that by taking \$170 times 5109, the number of FTE's equivalents, times 99% equals \$859,844.70. Significant changes: An extra \$30,000 went to concerts. This increased the concert account dramatically. Also, last week we amended to restore the Women's Ice Hockey's initial budget. It is \$560.00 not \$540.00. Since the dollar amount is different, it has to be voted on. Adam proposed that their budget be formally changed to \$560.00 for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Jarah said it was our intention to restore their budget. Voting on the motion to amend, passed 6-0-1 with Adam abstaining.

Question:

Will asked if we run a budget surplus. Adam said any surplus will go to budget increases. Will asked where the surplus money at the end of the year goes. Adam said the unused money will go into the reserve account. Brendan said it goes in the reserves in case the referendum fails, there is some money to support programming. Kate said there was some extra money since there was one open staff position and the extra 1% automatically goes to the reserve. Will asked if we ever run a debt. Nick said we are audited every year. Chad added that our budget is not like the federal budget. Brendan added that if the surplus gets too high, we can take that amount and give it to special programs. In the past, we have spent money on upstairs of the library, renovating the McClellan house, and CoPA.

Discussion:

Chad commended the budget committee for all their work. He said there is one problem with the public safety aids budget. It has to be looked at for next year.

96-0708, second of two readings, passed 6-0-1 with Adam abstaining.

97-0708: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the attached By-laws of the Student Association

Second of two readings

Brendan explained the changes to the by-laws. He said many of the changes are beneficial to student groups. The meal money for conferences is raised since it hasn't been raised in a while. When organizations raise excess money, they will be able to request to use 100% instead of 50%. Two changes, page 5 and part 6 on nondiscrimination. Dr. Bonfiglio suggested change in the language; add "ideological" after "political". This policy is important because the Supreme Court says we have to have this. SA cannot look at the beliefs and the mission of the club when deciding if they get funding or not. It is illegal. One other change is on page 23, section 16. After b, add C about frozen budgets. We need to be clear about what it means. Most of the other changes are typos and word changes.

Questions:

Dean suggested that instead of requiring unanimous vote to change the fanatical policy, 2/3 vote should be adequate. Brendan responded that with the exception of student court guidelines like impeachment, everything else requires a majority vote. However, the rules of SA should not change every time the majority has a different view. When the auditors came, they said there are two threats to this organization. One being the president changing every year and different people interpreting the rules every year. If one person feels that something should not be a rule, that is significant enough of a dissent. We need to have consistency. This must have as high of a threshold as possible. Pat said it is arrogant to think that the changes this board made are so perfect. Brendan said all the changes in the last two years were approved unanimously. We are never going to stand up here and say that the financial policy is perfect. Next year and after that, if they decide a change is necessary, it will happen if everybody votes. The GSTV representative said she looked over the by-laws and asked if it was appropriate for the reimbursement of gas to be \$.22 per mile when gas is going to be about \$4 this summer. Brendan said that is something SA talked about. He said he is not opposed to the change. Kate said the table of contents does not match. Brendan said that should not even be in here. Kate also said that ethical use of equipment should be before investments. She also mentioned that the other threat of this organization is the consignment system and the sheer amount of cash that comes in from fundraising and dinners.

Discussion:

Nick said he does agree that financial policy has to be held to the higher standards but unanimity is too high of a standard. He said one person can stop a change. Five of the 6 voting members still have to say yes in order for the change to pass. Nick made a motion to change Section 1 letter A so that it must be approved by SA exec committee through two weeks of open business meetings with no more than one voting member voting in opposition. The motion was seconded by Chad. Brendan said one person who would oppose is still voted by the student body. This is an extraordinary document and it should be subject to the highest kind of vote. Chad said this leaves vulnerability for one person to stone wall a process. Dr. Bonfiglio suggested that the amendment should be worded in a positive. Nick said the problem is that there may not always be 6 voting members. For example, we had a interim director in the beginning of the year who could not vote. Dean said this is the fairest way. Diana said she is opposed to the amendment and agrees with Brendan. She said the document should be held to the highest standards. Vinita said for the reason of allowing one person to stone wall a process is not the most effective way. Unanimity would hinder changes if unforeseen circumstances is caused by one vote. Adam said as we saw with the ACE discussion, we need to try to avoid tyranny of the majority. Sometimes, there are cases where one person objects to the change and that person can have a different perspective than rest of SA. We are here to make those changes and we are here for the students. The changes Brendan set forth are right. Leigh said unanimity will create compromise and growth comes from compromises. Will Sankey asked how to impeach a member of the e-board. Brendan said to impeach a SA exec member, a student must gather signatures of 20% of the student body with clear and legible charges and of what they've done is gross

incompetence and disregard for SA. The Student Court hears the case and majority plus one of the justices must vote to remove an exec member. Voting on the motion to amend the clause does not pass 3-4-0 with Nick, Chad, and Vinita voting yes and Jarah, Jason, Adam, and Diana voting no.
97-0708, second of two readings, passed 6-0-0.

98-0708: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the attached AAC constitution.

Second of two readings

Diana explained that they combined two positions; Vice chair with the newly created position and Secretary with Communication Director.

Discussion:

Nick said he is glad to see that AAC evaluated their needs and wished them luck for next year. Jason commended Diana for her work on the constitution.

98-0708, second of two readings, passed 6-1-0 with Diana voting no.

New Business

None

Open Discussion

Changing of the guards.

The current exec board took turns thanking each other, all the representatives from the clubs that attended the meetings and the entire faculty and staff that helped them out throughout the year especially Tamara Kenney, Kristen Fuest, Dianne Krenzer, Nancy Chirico, and Kate Rebban.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. Thank you for coming to all of the meetings this year! Congratulations and Good Luck to the graduating SA Execs!

Respectfully Submitted,
Nobu Iwata
Recording Secretary