

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.

**MINUTES #15, Wednesday, November 18, 2009**

Page	Business Meeting Agenda
58	<b><i>Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes</i></b>
58	<b><i>Updates</i></b>
58-59	<b><i>Old Business</i></b>
58-59	48-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate \$559.20 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Black Student Union, Account 1902 in order to purchase jackets and t-shirts for the G-Steppas. <i>Second of Two Readings</i>
59-62	<b><i>New Business</i></b>
59	50-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate \$94.79 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Model United Nations, Account 1914 due to an increase in the Harvard Conference cost. <i>First of Two Readings</i>
59-61	51-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the changes to the Undergraduate Student Association Elections Committee per the attached document. <i>First of Two Readings</i>
61	52-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the probationary status of Geneseo Men's Tennis Club for the 2009-2010 academic year. <i>First and Only Reading</i>
61	53-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate \$542.00 from Permanent Equipment, Account 2000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters, Account 1803 to purchase a Dell computer for everyday office use. <i>First of Two Readings</i>
61-62	54-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the changes to the Geneseo Student Association Student Court Guidelines per the attached document. <i>First of Two Readings</i>
62	55-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the probationary status of Geneseo Cheerleading for the 2009-2010 academic year. <i>First and Only Reading</i>
62	<b><i>Open Discussion</i></b>
62	<b><i>Adjournment</i></b>

*Executive Committee*

President:	Haleema Murtaza
Vice-President:	Nicholas Kaasik
<b>Directors:</b>	
Academic Affairs:	Brian Hartle
Business Affairs:	Mark Petrie
Inter-Residence Affairs:	Melissa Kaye
Public Relations:	Mathé Kamsutchom
Student Affairs:	Hamza Murtaza
Student Programming:	Corinthia Kotlar
Advisor:	Tamara Kenney

*PROFESSIONAL STAFF*

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

**Call to Order:** 6:15PM

**Approval of the Agenda:** Approval 7-0-0.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Approval 7-0-0.

### **Updates**

**President, Haleema Murtaza updates:** As Corey said, the concert is free. If you have any questions or concerns please come see me about it. I met with Dr Bonfiglio today and MTC can you please see me afterwards? Thank You.

**Vice-President, Nicholas Kaasik updates:** Please call your representatives about the SUNY budget cuts and tell them what you think about the cuts. The senate is going to assign the problem with course overloads to a subcommittee. Please contact myself or any of the senators with concerns.

**Director of Business Affairs, Mark Petrie updates:** CSA Ski Team's budget is no longer frozen. Sat on fee review committee on Tuesday.

**Director of Inter-Residence Affairs, Melissa Kaye updates:** IRC's delegation to the NEACURH did an absolutely phenomenal job. They won second place in banner, third place in focus project, top ten program and excellence in first year programming. I attended the protest today and great job to everyone who was involved. Coffee Talk is this Thursday at 8PM in the Grind! Come check out some great music, including the Love Handles, and some free food.

**Director of Public Relations, Mathé Kamsutchom updates:** No new updates.

**Director of Academic Affairs, Brian Hartle updates:** I lobbied at our district senator's office on Friday. International Relations Club has started its own publication to be distributed on campus. Geology Club is hosting its holiday dinner at the Yard of Ale. I am meeting with my executive board to continue our work revising the constitution and by-laws. I braved the cold on Sturges quad last night and woke to a living nightmare. The board of trustees recommended a tuition increase of two percent. This means you can expect a \$100 tuition increase on top of the \$620 increase from last year. And you can reasonably expect the state to take this money to fill its coffers. I strongly encourage you to work with our budget advocacy team as we are just getting started.

**Director of Student Affairs, Hamza Murtaza updates:**

**Director of Student Programming, Corinthia Kotlar updates:** Get your FREE tickets to Gym Class Heroes before they run out!!!! Mac's Place will be holding a concert with the Awesomlies at 7:30 on Friday.

**Kate Rebban, Director of SA Programs, Personnel, & Finances updates:** Checks will be available on Tuesday next week. Check requests are due on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, for the next check run of Dec 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Tamara Kenney, SA Executive Committee Advisor updates:** None.

### **Open Updates**

Will – Today, Budget Advocacy on Sturges Quad had over 120 students. Students called the governor, signed letters, and chanted. It was a good time, and people will be camping out again tonight. Rochester News 9, 10, and 13 were all here covering the story.

BSU- BSU's Masquerade Ball was a success.

Pride – Pride's Second Chance Prom was a big success. This week is Trans Remembrance Week. In Newton 204 at 7:30 tonight we will be showing a movie, and on Friday we will be passing out ribbons to raise awareness against violence to Trans people.

### **Old Business**

48-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate \$559.20 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Black Student Union, Account 1902 in order to purchase jackets and t-shirts for the G-Steppas.

*Second of Two Readings*

Powerpoint –We are no longer asking for money for the t-shirts. We are just looking for the amount for the jackets, which is a total of \$559.20. They are not personalized, and will be the property of SA. They will be purchased from Special Tees. We are a sub-organization of BSU, we do have a constitution, but we're not looking to get recognized by the college. We're thinking about doing financial penalties and financial dues for our team. The jackets are an essential part of our uniform, and directly impact the placement we receive at competitions. Jackets would decrease the financial burden on members in the future. We have a rubric for Rochester

Step Off, which is a huge competition for all of Rochester. One of the judges from the last 2 years has handed me the rubric, just for verification purposes of how we are judged. This is a good allocation of funds because the jackets will be used for years to come, and kept with step team down the road. The jackets will help us get more points, and also serve as a promotional item to identify us as the step team, and advertisement for our team and school while we're at competitions. This request is not setting a precedent because other organizations are not being scored based on appearance.

Melissa – So “uniforms/costume” is a part of the points? – Yes.

Brian – On one of the slides, you said the jackets will be used as promotional items, but we would be able to approve it only if you were willing to do what club sports team does. They do not wear them on campus. If you think about having a fundraiser to purchase t-shirts, you could use those for advertising. – We'd just use them for performances then, and we would always sign them out first so we know who has them.

Corey – How will you deal with size issues? – Shedia - We are going to do one size up. They're not really fitted so I could fit into a small but I would get a medium, so just mediums and larges.

Nick – If the step team increases in members, can we be sure that no more than 12 jackets would be purchased until there is a dues system? – We plan to finish the constitution and implement dues to buy them in the future.

48-0910: Second of Two, Reading passes 7-0-0.

### New Business

50-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate \$94.79 from Budget Increases, Account 1099 to Model United Nations, Account 1914 due to an increase in the Harvard Conference cost.

#### *First of Two Readings*

The \$94.79 increase is because the cost of the conference is more than we have in our account. The discrepancy is \$300, but we brought it down to about \$190, because of cheaper parking and hotel costs. We're asking for about \$100 to cover half of the left over costs. This is the largest conference we go to, with over 3,000 students from all over the world. It is a prestigious conference, and we've won a lot of awards there. It's one of our biggest conferences.

50-0910: First of Two, Reading passes 6-0-1, with Nick abstaining.

51-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the changes to the Undergraduate Student Association Elections Committee per the attached document.

#### *First of Two Readings*

Tom – Here are the recommendations for new USAEC committee guidelines. We're looking for student input as well. These guidelines play a significant role in determining who sits in SA every year as well as other elections. The guidelines are no longer one document, and instead are two documents, one is strictly for SA Exec and Student Assembly, and one is for Class Officers. It is hard to understand the documents, and we got rid of the vagueness, to condense it to something readable. There is a further addition of the necessary paperwork, such as the Acknowledgement form. This was inserted by Ray Lord, but they never actually included it into necessary paperwork, so I inserted that. There is the addition of Articles 10 and 11. There is an addition to Guidelines requiring materials to be approved by the USAEC chair. There is a clause taken from SUNY Purchase election guidelines for a clarification of the internet policies. Various rewording in some areas to create consistency.

Specific changes:

Article 2, B – added that all appropriate paperwork must be filed before the candidate's name would appear on the official ballot.

Article 6, C – added “Please consult Article 10 and 11 for the Rules of Candidates running from abroad or student teaching.”

Article 8, A - added “Candidates running may NOT organize themselves into a party. Voters do not need to vote for the entire party.”

Article 9. This is the core part of the guidelines. Rules regarding campaigning – all material must be approved by the USAEC chair as well. We wanted the chair to play a more active role in the process. Section E– added the use of list-serves would be in accordance with the professional staff moderators who control the list-serves. Web based campaign materials must adhere to the guidelines. This is to protect the candidates from unfair remarks, etc. No candidate may use a computer for any campaigning purposes during the period of voting. Section I – No campaigning allowed within any buildings where USAEC will be tabling starting at 11:59 the day before the election. Section J – If a candidate deliberately violates any of the restrictions on publicity, candidate will be disqualified.

Article 10 – Student Teaching. Candidates must pay student activity fee before they could be on the ballot, even if they were exempt from paying it previously.

Article 11 – Studying Abroad. Candidates must pay student activity fee before participating in the elections process. Candidates can select a designee to collect signatures and speak on behalf of the candidate.

Brian – Article 6 section C, I think you meant to say candidate or voter. You're asking candidates to just be more in contact with you, so would you agree to respond to them within 12 hours? I think that's appropriate to make sure things are dealt with in a timely fashion. – As I've learned through one election, and personally, I completely agree.

Will – Also maybe having designated office hours prior to election? Study abroad, paperwork section D, what about signing of the ballot, how would that work? – Once your designee has been approved by USAEC, everything that should be happening on campus would be taken care of by your designee, with the exception of the paperwork. That's how it would work, and the designee would handle that part.

Melissa – What do you mean by a deliberate violation of policy? – That was a concern brought up, and it wasn't resolved until 2 days ago, simply because as you've seen, the chair will be in constant consultation with the candidates to prevent such circumstances happening, so if the chair and committee haven't approved it, it is a deliberate violation. – Internet policy? Does that include something as small as a status update? What about a note on my Facebook? – No active campaigning after 11:59pm the day before the election, but it does go down to something as small as a status update. You don't have to delete things from the past, just no more should happen after that time.

Corey – Article 9 part E. I understand about posting things about other groups, and people outside the elections process, but I was wondering how you would handle that, web based campaigned materials, and then you can't use a computer? – Obviously USAEC can't enforce these guidelines to, lets say your friend, so as a candidate you would have to worry about what other people are saying. It just applies to the candidates themselves. No using of computers is only for the period of voting once Knightweb becomes active, then the candidates couldn't spur interest in voting.

Brian – Just Article 9 section E, guidelines is misspelled.

Will – In the unlikely event, that two declared candidates tie in an election, looking at the guidelines, how would it work? – Article 1 – if you are declared, undeclared, or write in candidate, you have to abide by the guidelines. Two write in candidates tying must be handled the same way as two declared candidates, so tied procedures would be the same – Run off as if they were two candidates? – Correct, the election would only be open to those who received at least 10% of the vote for that position. The ones that haven't received 10% of the votes can't be on the other ballots.

Jeff – As far as the deletion of parties, how do you stop 2-3 candidates acting like a party but not calling themselves a party? – My feeling is that USAEC could not reasonably enforce that, it would create so many headaches. I would not want to see that in here, because it does allow people to form unofficial parties, but the committee saw this as a positive step in the right direction with the deletion of the party names on Knightweb. The USAEC way of enforcing it is if Candidate A and Candidate B were on the same party and Candidate A violated the procedures, B is also violating the procedures. That was something that needed to be addressed, and this is our way of dealing with it.

Nick – Article 3 Section C – This section was not changed, but I seek an understanding from the committee – As I interpret the rules, the referendum must be specific and many petitions must be approved.

Charlie – Article 9 Section I, what buildings does that encompass for tabling? – At the beginning of elections at the interest meeting, candidates will be informed which buildings will be considered designated voting places, which are usually the Union and dining facilities. USAEC will be in those buildings with a table and a computer having people vote as they go to eat, or to a meeting, so that's why its where we will be tabling, and by practice they should be in those buildings.

Melissa – As far as student court, can the questions asked to one candidate be forwarded by email to all candidates? – Yes. – Also, the definition of deliberate, and what is your reasonableness for proximity, decided yearly? – My position rotates every year so it would be up to the committee to decide what's reasonable – 11:59PM day before elections, same as Section H? – Yes, I will insert the same example there.

Tamara – In regards to list serves, people could use them and they would be monitored by professional staff person? – Yes. – How are we going to make sure each moderator does it the same way? – Our intent is that the candidate would forward the email to the chair to contact the moderator, and then the chair would screen the message to the guidelines.

Will – Article 14, Section C, complications with this. What if there is a tie for SUNY SA, how do you do a write off and a write in candidates, and how do you determine if we can't reset the voting machines? Couldn't put the peoples names in as the elections progress on Knightweb. You can't just put in new names for the position, a whole new system would have to take place, resetting the entire system – Because on the start of elections USAEC would deem between A and B as time of election, the chair has the right to extend the elections, not in case that CIT gives Kate and chair an actual voting tally. It is probably a very close count, but within a slim margin, with G numbers, in the case of 40 people, sometimes they are off by 4 or 5, which is a pretty large margin of error. The process would give the committee time to actually look at results, tally them, sign off on the results and post them, go back to CIT for a new election, and under guidelines, that election would be closed. – G numbers invalid so they can't vote any more? – Those who voted wouldn't be excluded from voting again, rerun where everyone votes again. In the case of a write-in, people choose between those that were given. I don't see the virtue in it. I will talk to my committee about that clause, and I would suggest to them to remove that part so that anyone can vote for it. – And clause 3 as well, you would have to reset Knightweb if you had to do another election.

Nick – Article 6 Section D, subject to removal from the ballot. I'm worried that it's excessive, maybe if they violate before it could be a warning. Article 8 Section A, may not organize into a party, perhaps it could read that a party would not be recognized by USAEC and would not appear in the ballot, Article 9, Section C, I'm concerned it gives the chair too much authority, and may only disapprove it if it's clear. Article 9 Section E, I think you should look over it again, about posting a Facebook status update, I'm not sure we should restrict that, maybe amend it and not so restrictive, Section I, active campaigning, Section J, maybe a warning system before disqualifying. Article 11, also in title, add those who are interning and other not present students. – I have answers for all of those.

Will – Article 9 Section A, SA equipment. Does this apply to list-serves that are funded by SA organizations? – Are you saying that a list serve can be deemed as SA property? – Maybe it should apply to SA funded organizations – This section says you will no longer be able to use a list serve that is not moderated, so almost no SA list serves are staffed by professionals, like Model UN. It is not fair for Model UN to send out an email to vote for someone that would have to deal with whomever is elected, eliminate that you can cause trouble this way. Any student doing so would be in direct violation of the guidelines.

Melissa – I think parties on Knightweb have no value, so I like how Nick worded it. Could you publically acknowledge in speeches – USAEC cannot feasibly enforce that. At the same time, by outlawing parties, it eliminates speeches and Facebook pages. When 2 or

more are in a group that is a party, it would be illegal to do those official acts as a party, but I can't prevent person A and person B from running together. – I think you should put it in the guidelines the way Nick put it.

Nick – I think it shouldn't be a problem if you don't put parties on Knightweb, they just didn't officially recognize it as a party – You can't have your opinion on competency for running on someone else. For instance, person A might be admired, candidate B is going to be great, it influences the decisions of individuals that should be looking at qualifications of individuals running for office.

Jeff – I agree with Tom's interpretation.

Shedia – I agree with Nick, I think parties have a positive impact on others. If there is a bad candidate with good candidate, a party makes it easier to see who you would like to work with. Limiting it in the campaign is sucking the life out of what elections are about. People from all over standing by one cause or we want to work together. Yes, on the ballot it is suggestive, but for advertising and campaigning it makes it easier for flyers and such. – It's the whole enforcement, it negatively impacts all 9 individuals. You are responsible to vote for those with the qualifications. We are responsible for making sure SA is not already harmed before they start working together.

Melissa – I disagree, I think people should be voting on individuals based on goals and what they say rather than on parties.

Brian – Idea if you have multiple people on the same piece of paper, 3 or 4 posters that happen to be overlooked, not a huge detriment to that party. In the grand scheme of things, I don't see it as a big issue.

Claudia – Be careful of biases, I think not only giving it a chance to see what might happen I don't think it's the best way because you're competing against that person, I'm pretty sure they can work together and they won't eat each other.

51-0910: First of Two, reading passes 4-0-3, with Brian, Nick and Mathé abstaining.

52-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the probationary status of Geneseo Men's Tennis Club for the 2009-2010 academic year.

*First and Only Reading*

VP for Tennis Club – Tennis Club has been active since 2005. We ran into some attendance problems last year, so this year we want to be back into SA on probationary status.

52-0910: First and Only, reading passes 7-0-0.

53-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate \$542.00 from Permanent Equipment, Account 2000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters, Account 1803 to purchase a Dell computer for everyday office use.

*First of Two Readings*

For Big Brothers Big Sisters, we need a computer for confidentiality reasons. Our computer is 6 years old, and our monitor is 10 years old, it is huge. We are looking to SA to help us by funding a new Dell desktop. Ours stopped working 2 weeks ago, and then it started working again, but we're not sure how long it will last before breaking again. We need all files to be saved and we have a new mandatory database system. We can't comply with those requirements with this current computer. Extra cost is for shipping.

Nick – Maybe you could get the shipping costs for next week? – Yes. – Is this the cheapest option? – This was the one recommended by CIT, and it was the best deal I could find when I researched for comparable systems. It's also energy efficient.

53-0910: First of Two, reading passes 7-0-0.

54-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the changes to the Geneseo Student Association Student Court Guidelines per the attached document.

*First of Two Readings*

Student Court is looking to re-ratify our constitution. Article 1, F is a clause to Justice who participates in studying abroad. Before, we had no process for studying abroad. "A temporary justice would be appointed for the term of absence. Upon return from study abroad, the Justice will be allowed to return to the court. The temporary Justice shall then receive first consideration in filling open spots on the bench due to graduation or another Justice studying abroad." We added this for more continuity.

Article 2, Section 2, G – added "Keep a file of all formal actions taken by the court." This will help future courts in the long run.

Article 8, C – In regards to impeachment, the old constitution did not allow the justice accused of wrongdoing to submit any testimony, so we added that they could submit a written testimony to the executive session which would then go to SA Exec.

Also, we added that the public has the opportunity to submit questions at informal hearings which the Court may ask if it so chooses. This way the public opinion is still heard.

Deletions: No requirement for chief justice to attend SA meetings – We don't feel like we need to be here each week, and that the minutes are available for us to read. It's something we have discussed earlier. Article 7, Section 1, H – amended to read that the SA Executive Committee choose to enact these sanctions. Redundancies are also deleted.

Will – Point of clarification – attendance at SA meetings was deleted? – Yes.

Tom – SA Exec is both executive and legislative, so your recommendation seems to imply that as it stands SA is all three branches of government. Article 2, section 1 A. Student justice should be acting as judicial branch. – We didn't change it there because that's what it says in the SA constitution. Student court has not been getting a lot of power, and we haven't been getting a lot of cases to deal with.

Tom – I'll contact you, what's your email? - [MRG8@geneseo.edu](mailto:MRG8@geneseo.edu)

Will – I understand about Student Court being more active, I think the clause to come to SA meetings should be still in the constitution. I feel that since we're all here and it's a very important meeting, you should be here, and the minutes won't convey exact

procedures – If we are talking about SA Exec being executive and legislative branches and us being the judicial branch, I don't see that it's necessary.

Tamara – I agree, maybe attending once a month, just to say whether you heard a case or not and give us an update. - I think that would be reasonable. Jeff- going along with that, you could have any justice attend, and have them rotate if you wanted.

Will – We're viewing here, so there is a precedent for you to be here.

Brian – How long have you served as a justice? How many cases have you seen? – This is my third semester, and we had one case of elections last year – How many times do you meet? – Once a month – Does it really kill you to come to the meeting once a month? – That's a good compromise.

Melissa – To be honest, I didn't know the student court existed before this year, so I think maybe you could come do an open discussion or something about what you do on campus.

Will – At this point you'd have to do new guidelines to the SA constitution. From my experience going to SUNY SA conference, Geneseo is unique because there is no check on the power of one body. Other schools always have a check. We could relook at the guidelines to include another body, a formal judicial branch to have a check on the executive powers.

Haleema – Article 1, F, First consideration, conflicts under discretion of who to appoint as temporary justice. For the Court meetings, can you apply to the constitution to have minutes, just to know that you met?

Will – If that part of the clause was stricken, if the temporary justice applies to run again, the new president is going to take it into account, by any incoming SA president – Continuity on our part is important. Haleema – That's something you would make clear to the SA president. Brian – It's also something that could be added in end of the year report.

54-0910: First of Two – Reading passes 2-0-5, with Brian, Mathé, Nick, Corey, and Hamza abstaining.

55-0910: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE approve the probationary status of Geneseo Cheerleading for the 2009-2010 academic year.

*First and Only Reading*

Due to a Treasurer error last year, we missed our budget reading, so we're looking to be on probationary status. We're also asking to use our uniforms and the music that have been issued by SA.

Nick – Who are you requesting funding from? Is this just for after you pass the probationary period? – Yes.

Kate – This budget you submitted, if they approve probationary period, they're not actually giving you the budget – That's just a sample as to what our budget would look like.

Mark – If you want to use uniforms, you need to submit a memo and we'll talk about using them.

55-0910: First and Only, Reading passes 7-0-0.

**Open Discussion**

None.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:14PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Arthur  
Recording Secretary